



The
Ornithological Society
of New Zealand (Inc.)
Otago Branch

**Special February Otago OSNZ Memo from Regional Representative
(in place of Newsletter)**

Routeburn Weekend Field-Trip, 19-21 March 2010

The farm cottage at Routeburn Station just beyond Glenorchy, has been booked for the Otago Anniversary weekend. This comfortably accommodates 6 or so and there is room for camping too. Our last trip there in 2008 was absolutely fabulous so here is another chance to experience this area. This is a great base from which to explore the Dart and Rees Valleys, lower Routeburn and Greenstone tracks and Lake Sylvan. Birds that we would hope to see include mohua, robins, kakariki, falcon, kaka. It will be interesting to compare our bird list with that of the spring one from 2008.

Thanks to Louise for helping to organise this weekend. The cost will be approximately \$100 per person. **Please could those interested let Mary Thompson (464 0787) know as soon as possible.**

Indoor Meeting; Wednesday 24th February at 8.00pm
Birds of Broome by Jamie Wood

This is the first meeting of the year and we are very pleased to have Jamie Wood as our speaker. He has made a special effort to organise travel to come to speak to us. I am sure his slides will be great and his experiences of birds of Broome and North West Australia should make us all jealous! So it would be great to have a good turn out.

Birds of the Southern Fiords

From 19-25 January, Mary and Sue went on an Eco holiday trip on the Breaksea Girl- a 14 berth motor sailing boat - from Doubtful Sound down to preservation Inlet, then back via Chalky, Dusky and exploring the arms of Doubtful; all in glorious, unusually fine, calm conditions. My bird list had 27 species. Anchor Island, which is now a predator-free sanctuary, was alive with birdsong and encounters with birds from the moment we stepped on shore-robins, bellbirds, flocks of mohua, kaka and kakariki. In comparison, Astronomer's Point, where Captain Cook set up camp in 1773, was devoid of birds with much evidence of possum in residence. The sea stretch from Chalky to Dusky was just rough enough to encourage albatross and shearwaters - the boat was followed by several Bullers and White-capped Mollymaks, then we encountered a flotilla of about 20 albatross resting on the water, amongst them several Southern Royals.



Fostering the Study, Knowledge and Enjoyment of Birds