

The Wrybill

Canterbury Regional Newsletter



May 2019

What's on at Birds NZ Canterbury: May to July 2019

Field Trips

Saturday 18 May - Washpen Falls. This is a 2-3 hour loop track on a working high country farm. Moderate fitness is required. It is meant to be filled with native bush and bird life - not to mention a waterfall. Since this track is on private property there is a cost of \$10 per person which includes the use of walking sticks and a track guide. Contact Sandra at birds.canterbury@osnz.org.nz or 358 5706 by 15 May if you would like to attend.

Sunday 16 June - This is our annual winter wader count at Lake Ellesmere. It's bound to be cool and muddy underfoot so dress appropriately. Please book with Sandra by Sunday 9 June so she has time to organise the teams. The rain date will be Sunday 23.

Sunday 14 and Saturday 27 July - These will be the first official group trips as part of the Atlas scheme. Come along and learn the best methods to use to survey a 10km square. If you can make it on Sunday contact Nick at christchurchnzbirder@gmail.com or text on 021 111 9885. If you can go on Saturday contact Sandra. Book no later than a week before the trip please.

Rambles

May 21 - Ashley Estuary. Meet in the car park at Waikuku Beach.

June 13 - Halswell Quarry. Please note that this ramble will be on a Thursday, not a Tuesday. Meet in the car park by the toilet block.

July 16 - Styx Mill Reserve. Meet in the car park on Styx Mill Road.

For all rambles, please be at the meeting place by 10am. Contact Bev (027 3184 713 or birdiebev@xtra.co.nz) if you intend to come.

Indoor Meetings

Evening meetings take place at 7.30 pm on the last Monday of the month at Mahaanui Area DOC Office, 31 Nga Mahi Road, off Blenheim Road, Sockburn. Plenty of parking is available.

27 May - Archie McFarlane a PhD student at the University of Canterbury will speak on his research into Conserving small island populations of endangered New Zealand birds; can genetic rescue prevent the "Extinction of the Spanish Habsburgs" scenario?

24 June - This will be the Canterbury launch of the New Zealand Bird Atlas Scheme. Come along to learn what it is, why it's needed and, most importantly, how you can get involved.

29 July- Bruce McKinley, the President of Birds New Zealand will update us on various aspects of Birds NZ business as well as talking to us on a five minute bird count project in Dunedin.

Ashburton Lakes Survey

The Ashburton Lakes survey will be held on Saturday 20 July, with the postponement date Sunday 21 July. While this trip is not organized by Birds NZ, it is an event that we support. If you are interested in attending, please contact either Don Geddes (don.geddes@fireandemergency.nz or 027 4224 7313) or Peter Howden (howdenpeterj@gmail.com or 03 303 6072).

Changes to the Committee

Although many faces stay the same there have been a few changes to the committee as a result of the AGM and the need to find a replacement Treasurer. The complete who's who is as follows.

Regional Representative - Sandra Wallace

Regional Recorder - Nick Allen

Treasurer - Jan Walker

Committee - Bev Alexander, Janet Burton, Eleanor Gunby, Ron Nilsson

We would like to welcome Janet to the committee and thank Jan for taking on the role of Treasurer. Many thanks to John Allan for his work as Treasurer over the year and especially his efforts over the last year to get the Marj Davis Scholarship up and running. We wish him all the best for his forthcoming move and future endeavours.

2019 RR's Report

I am pleased to be able to report that the Canterbury branch continues to be in good shape. We currently have 137 members (including 26 grace members), making us the second largest branch in the country. Pleasingly our number of members is up on the same period last year while the number of grace members is down. The West Coast branch which we administer currently has 13 members, a

slight decrease over last year.

The monthly meetings are the most popular of the events that we run with 25-30 people typically attending. In 2018 we were treated to many talks on local birds such as Kaki, Black-fronted Tern, Kea, Hutton's Shearwater, and birds of the Botanic Gardens. We also heard about those further afield – in the Congo, Sumatra, Borneo and the Chatham Islands, in addition to an engaging talk on the importance of genetics in conservation. Bev's mid-week rambles attract anywhere from 5 to 12 people. In the past year they ventured to many spots inside Christchurch, as well as Otukaikino, Harts' Creek and Liffey Springs. Despite poor weather and lack of interest leading to a few cancellations we ran eight main field trips over the year. With the exception of the trip to the Otira Valley most of these struggled to reach double digits. I'm always open to suggestions as to how we could attract more people to these trips.

We also assisted with counts of the Ashburton Lakes and the Ashley River as well as the Farewell to the Godwits event, a KCC trip and several public relations events in North Canterbury. As always Bev is a stalwart at these events and I'd like to thank her for this.

Health and Safety has been the trickiest issue that has arisen this year. We've put policies in place that will hopefully ensure everyone's enjoyment and safety without being overly intrusive. We are the only region that has had to report incidents to Council for the last year – not a record I'm keen to see continued!

On a more positive note our banding project is going strong. Last year we held 23 sessions in Halswell Quarry, banded 584 birds and recaptured 68. The two most common species were Silvereyes (227) and Sparrows (156), with smaller numbers of most other common passerines. One of the trainees has gained a Level 2 certification and one or two other trainees are nearly there. Many thanks to Peter Reese for the time, energy and expertise he

devotes to the project. It could not happen without him.

The big achievement of the past year has been the finalisation of the Marj Davis scholarship. Marj was a former member who left the branch a generous bequest. We have invested the bulk of this money and are using some of the interest to fund a scholarship to assist postgraduate students. Applications close in a few days time and we hope to announce the first recipient next month. John Allan put many hours in to bringing this scholarship to fruition and I'd like to thank him for his efforts.

Looking to the future a small group of us are putting together plans for the 2020 Birds NZ conference, which is being held here in Christchurch. If you've never attended a conference before this will be an ideal opportunity. Before that we have the launch of the New Zealand Bird Atlas scheme to look forward to. I'm hoping it will encourage all of us to get out birding. It will be a great chance to contribute to a large data set which has the potential to help set priorities for bird conservation and research for many years to come.

Finally, I've already acknowledged the work of John and Bev but I'd also like to thank the other committee members – Nick, Ron, Jan and Eleanor – for their work and support over the past year.

By Sandra Wallace

Nesting Box Query

A keen member of the public is interested in learning more about nesting boxes, specifically why the ones he has put up aren't being used. If you think you can help, please, contact Sandra so she can put you in touch.

Key Points of the Young Birders/Birds New Zealand MoU

Young Birders New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation run entirely by teenagers, devoted to encouraging young people to become interested in New Zealand's incredible bird life.

Our team are all hugely passionate about birding, conservation and the environment as a whole. Thus, we feel strongly about supporting and engaging other youth to share in this passion with us.

We use social media to share conservation stories, both good and bad, we have an email list which anyone can join and our largest venture is New Zealand Fledglings, our online magazine. This is free, filled with information on birds, fun stories from our members and other bird related content.

Young Birders NZ is very excited to announce we'll be signing an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Birds New Zealand. This will give us support to continue our hard work. It will also be of benefit to Birds NZ, as it allows us to work in collaboration in a more structured way to engage young people in the Society and its activities.

This MoU will be signed at the Birds NZ 2019 Conference/AGM. In light of this we want to make sure that every member is comfortable with the key points of this MoU beforehand.

These are as follows:

* YBNZ Youth Members will become non-financial members of Birds NZ, thus increasing the youth membership of Birds NZ and giving more young people easy access to the Birds NZ magazine and Notornis.

* Birds NZ will provide support, including financial, to Young Birders NZ in order for us to continue our work encouraging young people into the ornithological field.

* YBNZ will nominate one representative to

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attend Birds NZ Council meetings, this representative will put forward the views of Young Birders NZ members.

* Birds NZ will continue to lead the organisation of and financially support an annual 'Youth Camp'.

* YBNZ will actively, where appropriate, contribute to the organisation of activities such as 'Youth Camps'.

* Both organisations will, where appropriate, promote each other to their audience e.g. in respective magazines, in promotional content, websites etc.

We will endeavour to have the full, signed MoU online after the 2019 AGM, for you to read.

The whole team at Young Birders NZ is very excited about this, and we're looking forward to working closer with Birds NZ after this MoU has been signed.

If there are further questions about this MoU, please direct them to george.hobson@youngbirdersnz.com

Recent Happenings

Our first field trip of the year was, as usual, the annual all-bird survey at Lake Ellesmere in February. While it was bitterly cold, and a bit rainy at first, everyone persevered to get the count done. The total of Bar-tailed Godwits was higher than that of the previous five surveys. Besides them, few other Arctic migrants were seen on the count, perhaps due to the weather conditions. Grey Teal numbers were very low, down by two thirds from the 2018 count. However, Pied Stilt numbers were almost double the number counted last year. Thanks to all our members who participated in the survey. Full results from the count can be viewed at the Waihora Ellesmere Trust Website -

<http://www.wet.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-Bird-Survey-Results.pdf>.

For March's fieldtrip, six members spent the weekend in Twizel, exploring the surrounding area. One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the Tasman Delta that yielded seven Black Stilts among other species. Those who attended also got to meet up with DOC staff to learn about the current state of the species and its management.



A Black Stilt (this one taken at the Ashley Estuary).
Photo credit: William Harland.

April's field trip was to a few birding spots around the Arthur's Pass area. Only four people attended the trip, however the weather was excellent and those who went had a good day out. Both Lake Lyndon and Lake Pearson were a bit low, but Lake Pearson had a good variety of waterfowl and a Great Crested Grebe that came reasonably close. Highlights from a short walk between Hawdon Shelter and the school huts were some calling Yellow-crowned Parakeets and a falcon that harassed some harriers overhead. While no Brown Creeper were spotted, the rest of the usual birds were seen.

In February, we were treated to a fascinating look at the life of a Shining Cuckoo. Jim Briskie looked at ten key stages in a Shining Cuckoo's year – what we know about them, what we can speculate about based on what is known about similar species, as well as everything which remains unknown. There was lots of fascinating detail included in the talk – the signs that suggest the Shining Cuckoo uses visual clues to

find host nests in which to lay eggs, the speed with which they lay eggs as a way to avoid attack by the host species, the way Shining Cuckoo begging calls mimic that of Grey Warblers and how their odour profile also appears to be similar, and what GPS data as well as an isotope analysis of feathers has to teach us about where the Kaikoura Shining Cuckoos spend their non-breeding season. It was great to see a good turnout at this talk and the number of questions which were asked indicated that everyone found it of great interest.

Once the formalities of the AGM were concluded, March's members night began with a scientific talk as Marion Donald shared some results of research into the Tui pollination of flax from a microbial perspective and especially the impact of urbanisation on the microbes. Following that several members kindly shared bird photos from their recent travels - Brian Darlow to Tanzania, Nick Allen to Australia and William Harland to Auckland. Janet Burton also shared a few pictures she had taken of a White-winged Black Tern at the Waimakariri River.

It is a shame that poor weather resulted in a low turnout for April's meeting. Ron Nilsson provided us with an excellent lesson in how to find an extinct bird - everything from learning all you can about the bird, the key to picking likely locations, the logistics of expeditions (lots of gear is required to keep ten people safe and fed for a week or more- and that's before you add in the gear needed to hopefully find your bird- and getting it and everyone to remote locations can be quite a mission), plus the importance of keeping spirits up and persevering when the hoped-for elusive sighting doesn't materialise. Many "extinct" birds have been rediscovered worldwide and there's lots of believable evidence to suggest the South Island Kokako could yet be among them. If you'll like to keep up-to-date with the latest reports check out southislandkokako.org.

February's ramble to Yarr's Bay was attended by nine members. Highlights included some of the Arctic migrants – six Pectoral Sandpipers, a

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and four Red-necked Stints. A large group of forty Royal Spoonbills flying over were also nice to see.

March's ramble to Brooklands Lagoon was attended by a much smaller group of members than the previous month. A good total of twenty-nine species were seen all up. The usual variety of waterfowl, waders and passerines was spotted, including at least eighty Pied Stilts.

Health and Safety

In order for everyone to have an enjoyable time on field trips and other activities we first need to make sure everyone stays safe. Here's how you can do your bit.

1. Wear clothing appropriate for the activity such as plenty of warm layers, hat and gloves in winter; sunhat and sunglasses in summer. Bringing a raincoat is always a sensible option. Footwear needs to be suitable as well – think sturdy soles and good ankle support for many walks especially on hills, something that can get wet and muddy especially at Lake Ellesmere in winter. Walking poles could be helpful to some on steep and/or uneven ground.
2. Be honest and open about your physical abilities. Not all trips will be suitable for everyone. If you have a preexisting medical condition that could impact the trip (such as – but not limited to - asthma, allergy to bee stings, diabetes) please notify the trip leader of the condition, any problems that could arise and what the trip leader and others may be required to do to assist you. This information will be kept confidential unless a medical event requires it being shared. Make sure you bring whatever medications you may need.
3. Bring enough food and drink for the event plus a little extra in case the trip takes longer than planned. Fresh water is not always available and dehydration can be a concern in summer so bring your own drinking water.

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4. Listen to the health and safety briefing given at the beginning of each trip. Keep your eye out for any unexpected hazards and talk to the trip leader and others if you have any concerns along the way. Let the trip leader know of any accidents or near misses.

5. Stay with the group at all times unless you have talked to the trip leader and have their okay.

6. The trip leader reserves the right to decline participation in any trip if they have concerns about anyone being unable to participate safely or not being suitably equipped.

7. Any health and safety incidents or concerns must be reported to the trip leader or RR immediately.

Recent Sightings

Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report February to April 2019

This report covers the period 1st February to 30th April 2019 and is compiled from reports posted onto eBird, the Birding NZ internet discussion site, and New Zealand Birders Facebook page. Your regional recorder would welcome news of any interesting bird sighting, unusual behaviour or searchable sources of other sightings. Email christchurchnzbirder@gmail.com.

Key to letters after bird names:

A = all reported occurrences (for rare/scarce species or escaped/released species etc)

S = significant numbers/occurrences (for species regularly encountered in the regions)

V = vagrant

Great Spotted Kiwi (A) N edge of Waimangaroa: 1 2/2 RN, 12/2 RN. Kiwi Saddle, Lake Sumner FP: 2 30/3 MRo.

Cape Barren Goose (A) Lower Styx Road: 2 5/2 TC, 6/2 AS. Travis Wetlands: 1 26/2 GBe, 27/2 KRo, 2/3 MH, 3/3 DT, 6/3 NA, 10/3 GB, 7/4 ACo, 9/4 BA, 10/4 KR, 13/4 JC. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 1 5/2 AC, 6/2 PC, 16/2 PC, AS.

Mute Swan (A) Pegasus Bay Winery: 1 30/3 PCr. Ashley Estuary: 3 18/3 Birds NZ Canterbury, 2 16/4 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 5 8/2 BA, 2 15/2 BA, 10 8/3 BA. Bexley Wetlands: 1 16/4 VS, AC. Bromley Sewage Ponds: 5 1/3 KRo, 5 6/3 MRo, 5 25/3 NA, 5 31/3 BA, 4 13/4 JC, 2 27/4 NA, KR, DT, AS. Avon-Heathcote Estuary, windsurf area: 5 23/3 ACo. Lincoln Wetlands: 5 23/2 PR, 8 12/3 PR, 10 1/4 PR, 10 2/4 JW. Irwell RM: 8 16/2 BA. Wolfes Road: 4 19/2 Birds NZ Canterbury, 4 14/3 CL, MR, 4 16/3 ACo. Coopers Lagoon: 25 6/2 AC, PC, 9 16/2 CP, SK, 10 2/3 JB, 12 6/4 BA.

Muscovy Duck (A) Pegasus Bay Winery: 1 30/3 PCr. Riccarton House reserve: 1 20/4 ZC. Linwood Canal: 1 14/4 ACo. Heathcote River nr Tunnel Road: 1 13/4 JC. Westlake Reserve: 1f with 1 possible hybrid young (with Mallard-type bird) 4/2 PR, 2 16/2 CP, SK, 2 1/3 PR, 2 3/4 PR. Liffey Reserve, Lincoln: 2ad 6ch 1/2 ACo. Tai Tapu village: 1 20/4 RM, 23/4 RM, 25/4 RM, 26/4 RM, 27/4 RM.

Blue Duck (A) Kawhaka Creek: 2 2/2 CP, SK. Mid Styx River Hut: 2 4/3 DG. Cronin Stream (Wilberforce catchment): 1 7/3 DG.

Northern Shoveler (V) Bromley WTP: 1m 26/4 JC, ACo, 27/4 PC, NA, BA, KR, DT, AS, AC, 28/4 VM.

Grey Teal (S) Washdyke Lagoon: 686 19/2 PSa, 895 25/3 PSa.

New Zealand Scaup (S) Pegasus Wetlands: 230 8/2 BA. Wairepo Arm, Lake Ruataniwha: 200 10/3 NA.

Helmeted Guineafowl (A) Collins/Sergeants Roads, nr Lincoln: 2 9/2 ACo. Embankment Road: 1 (or 2?) 16/2 JC. Timberyard Road: 2 10/3 BA.

Peafowl (A) Factory Road, Sefton: 3a 4f 23/2 BA.

Chukar (A) Mount John: 5 3/3 JBa, one covey of 9 including at least 2 juvs 10/3 NA.

Turkey (A) Timberyard Road, Lakeside: 1 1/3 DT, 6 10/3 BA, 4 16/3 JB, 5 ad 1 chick 28/4 NA.

Australasian Crested Grebe (A) Lake Pearson: 1 2/3 TCo, 1 11/3 CL, MR, 1 14/4 Birds NZ Canterbury, 15/4 VS, AC. Kaiapoi Ponds: 2 (1 on nest) 2/2 NA, 2 4/2 GM, DP, BA, 5/2 TC, 6/2 BA. Roto Kohatu: 1 25/2 JB, 5 21/3 BA, 7 18/4 BA. Lake Forsyth: 8 2/2 CC, XC,

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7 4/2 TC, 7 9/2 MQ, 6 ad 3 jv 2/3 PR, 20 13/3 CL, MR, 5 14/3 BA, JW. Coopers Lagoon: 2 6/2 AC, PC. Lake Alexandrina middle reaches: 2 22/4 NA. Lake McGregor: 11 ad 6 jv 22/4 NA. Lake Alexandrina south end: 5 24/4 BA, 2 26/4 BA. Lake Tekapo, south end: 4 1/3 DA, 2 22/4 NA. Hayman Road, Lake Pukaki: 4 14/4 RS. Lake Middleton: 2 5/4 MT, 3 15/4 RS. Lake Ohau: 2 15/4 RS. Kelland Ponds: 2 9/3 SY. Lake Ruataniwha, Wairepo Arm: 9 3/2 GV, 2 7/2 PR, 4 8/2 QZ, LG, 2a 3ch 8/2 LZ, 3 3/3 JBa, 2 9/3 SY, 5 ad 2 juv 10/3 NA. Lake Aviemore: 2 3/3 JBa.

Yellow-eyed Penguin (A) South East Bays, Banks Peninsula: 3 14/3 AC.

Little Black Shag (A) Ashley Estuary N arm: 1 23/2 KR. Ashley Estuary southern bay: 2 3/3 JB, 1 7/3 BA. Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 1 6/2 MN, 1 6/4 BA. Kaiapoi Ponds: 8 4/2 GM, DP, 4 9/3 BA, 5 27/3 BA. Seafield Lagoon, Brooklands: 2 10/2 AS. Travis Wetlands: 3 12/2 HS, 8 13/2 HM, 1 2/3 MH. Horseshoe Lake 2 20/2 BA. Lake Kate Sheppard: 4 14/2 BA, 3 16/2 ACo, 2 16/4 VS, AC. Avon R nr Hawke St: 3 4/3 NA. Avon-Heathcote Estuary northern arm: 8 9/4 JB. Bromley Sewage Ponds: 4 25/3 NA, 10 9/4 JB, 4 13/4 ACo, 18 27/4 BA. Barrys Bay: 2 19/2 TG. Little River: 2 21/4 KR. Harts Creek walkway: 1 13/4 KR.



Little Black Shag at Waikuku. Photo credit: William Harland.

Pied Shag (S) Ashley Estuary: 48 17/2 NA, 60 16/4 VS, AC. Lake Ellesmere Opening: 60 6/2 AC, PC.

Otago Shag (A) Ashburton RM: 1 26/3 AC. Timaru Harbour: 1 21/4 AC, CC, XC. Waitaki RM: ~120 25/4 KR.

Spotted Shag (S) Kaiapoi Ponds: 1 (at non-coastal location) 10/2 BA. Ashburton RM: 7660 26/3 AC.

Australasian Bittern (A) Styx RM marshes: 1 10/2 AC, AS.

White Heron (A) Ashley Estuary: 1 6/2 BA, 3/3 NA, AM, 3/4 BA, 13/4 ACo, 16/4 VS, AC, 21/4 AL, 22/4 BA. Pines Beach: 1 28/4 BA. Travis Wetland: 1 21/3 KR. Linwood Canal: 1 14/4 ACo. Little River: 4 roosting together in a gum tree opposite the café next to the railway station 21/4 KR. Lake Forsyth: 1 1/2 NM. Selwyn RM: 1 14/3 CL, MR. Coopers Lagoon: 1 6/2 AC, PC. Lake Middleton: 1 15/4 AS.

Reef Heron (A) Point Kean, Kaikoura: 1 16/2 PS. Kaikoura Peninsula: 3 22/2 AC, PC, AS, 1 8/4 GDe. South Bay, Kaikoura: 1 8/3 JN. Albatross Encounters Pelagic: 4 7/2 MN, 1 12/2 TC, 1 17/2 KY, 1 18/2 PS, 2 5/3 SY.

Cattle Egret (A) SH67 E of Orowaiti Lagoon: 2 30/4 DT. Drain Road, Lakeside: 1 16/2 BA, 2 22/3 BA. The Lake Road: 2 9/2 ACo, 3 12/2 ACo, 1 28/4 NA.

Glossy Ibis (V) Ashley Estuary: 1 3/4 BA.

Royal Spoonbill (S) Ashley Estuary: 23 19/3 BA, 43 3/4 BA. Wolfes Road: 110 26/4 SW. Lower LII Pools: 87 10/2 NA.

Marsh Crake (A) Northbrook Ponds, Rangiora: 1 11/3 BA. Kaiapoi Ponds: 1 2/2 NA. Clare Park Wetlands: 1 4/4 DT, FG. Travis Wetland: 2 12/3 KR. Harts Creek: 1 12/2 ACo. Taumutu Wetlands: 2 13/4 KR. Ohau Delta wetlands: 2 3/2 GV, SH, CB.

Spotless Crake (A) Clare Park Basin Reserve, Mairehau: 1 26/3 KR, AC. Harts Creek Walkway: 1 13/4 KR.

Pied Stilt (S) Wolfes Road: 760 1/2 AC, ~800 22/3 BA. Crescent I: 602 4/2 AC.

Black Stilt (A) Ashley Estuary: 1 2/2 BA, MD, 6/2 JC, MN, BA, 8/2 AS, 13/2 TC, 17/2 NA, 18/2 BA, KY, 20/2 KR, AC, PC, 23/2 KR, 24/2 JBa, 3/3 NA, AM, (banded KOR/KY) JB, 7/3 BA, 12/3 CL, MR, 13/3 CL, MR, 16/3 BA, 18/3 Birds NZ Canterbury, 19/3 BA, 28/3 BA, 1/4 BA, 3/4 BA, 8/4 BA, 16/4 VS, AC, BA, 22/4 BA. Brooklands Lagoon: 1 6/3 SY. Lake Tekapo S end: 2 3/2 GV. Lake Murray: 2 3/2 GV, 2 3/3 JBa. Tasman

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Fan: 2 3/2 GV, SH, CB, 12 18/2 WS, 15 24/2 GD, 6 1/3 DA, 4 2/3 DA, 2 14/3 DE, 20 17/3 GDe, 7 30/3 JW. Hayman Road, Lake Pukaki: 1 14/4 RS. Lake Poaka: 3 10/3 SY. Pukaki Canal nr Dry Stream: 2 4/2 CL, MR. Lake Marino: 2 24/2 GD, 1 4/3 CL, MR, 1 5/3 CL, MR. Washdyke Lagoon: 1 25/3 PSa.

Pacific Golden Plover (A) Embankment Road: 20 7/2 TC, 8 8/2 DT. Crescent I: 20 4/2 AC, 9 6/2 AC, PC, 7 16/2 PC, AS.

Black-fronted Dotterel (A) Waipara RM: 1 2/2 NA, 3ad 2jv 12/2 BA, JB, 3 23/2 KR, 2ad 2jv 26/2 DT, 1 16/3 DA, 3 6/4 MRo. Ashburton RM: 1 26/3 AC. Washdyke Lagoon: 2 26/4 PSa.

Wrybill (S) Kaituna Lagoon: 1 14/3 BA, Wolfes Road: 128 10/4 ACo, 45 16/4 VS, AC, 43 26/4 SW. Washdyke Lagoon: 1 26/4 PSa.

Whimbrel (A) Ashley Estuary: 1 20/2 KRo, AC, PC, 23/2 KR, 26/2 DT, 16/4 VS, AC, 22/4 BA.

Hudsonian Godwit (V) Wolfes Road: 1 1/2 AC, 3/2 TC, 10/2 NA. Crescent I: 1 16/2 PC, AS.

Bar-tailed Godwit (S) Ashley Estuary: 101 17/2 NA. Brooklands Lagoon: 147 3/3 AW. Wolfes Road: 151 3/2 TC. Crescent I: 240 16/2 PC, AS.

Turnstone (A) Wakatu Quay, Kaikoura: 20 1/2 JB. Point Kean, Kaikoura: 11 13/2 TC, 1 16/2 PS, 4 25/2 CL, MR. Kaikoura Peninsula: 3 22/2 AC, PC. Ashley Estuary: 1 18/2 BA, 1 20/2 KRo, AC, PC, 2 26/2 DT. Crescent I: 3 4/2 AC, 2 6/2 AC, PC, 2 16/2 PC, AS.

Lesser Knot (A) Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 1 20/2 KRo. Wolfes Road: 1 1/2 AC. Crescent I: 7 4/2 AC, 6 16/2 PC, AS.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (A) Wolfes Road: 1 3/2 BA, PC, 1 9/2 TC, JB, 1 11/2 ACo, 1 19/2 Birds NZ Canterbury, 1 16/3 ACo. Washdyke Lagoon: 1 25/3 PSa.

Curlew Sandpiper (A) Embankment Road: 1 8/2 DT. Wolfes Road: 1 3/2 JW, 10/2 NA, 11/2 ACo.

Red-necked Stint (A) Embankment Road: 3 7/2 TC, 4 16/4 VS, AC. Wolfes Road: 27 3/2 PC, JW, 3 9/2 TC, 4 19/2 Birds NZ Canterbury, 23 16/4 VS, AC. Crescent I: 17 16/2 PC, AS.

Sanderling (V) Ashley Estuary: 1 2/2 BA, 6/2 JC, 17/2 NA, 18/2 BA, 20/2 KRo, AC, PC, 23/2 KR, 3/3 NA, AM, 28/3 BA, 16/4 VS, AC.

Pectoral Sandpiper (A) Wolfes Road: 6 3/2 PC, TC, 4 9/2 JB, 6 10/2 NA, 6 11/2 ACo, 6 19/2 Birds NZ Canterbury, 2 14/3 CL, MR, 3 22/3 BA.



Sanderling at the Ashley Estuary. Photo credit: William Harland.

Red-necked Stint (A) Embankment Road: 1 5/2 DP, 2 8/2 DT. Wolfes Road: 3 1/2 AC, 24 10/2 NA, 11 11/2 ACo, 9 16/3 ACo. Crescent I: 5 6/2 AC, PC, 17 16/2 PC.

Pomarine Skua (A) Kaikoura Peninsula: 1 22/2 AC, PC, AS.

Little Tern (V) Quail I/King Billy I tidal flats: 1 24/3 NA.

Gull-billed Tern (V) Wolfes Road: 2 1/2 AC, 2 2/2 ACh, 2 4/2 JC.

White-winged Black Tern (A) Waimakariri River nr West Melton Aerodrome: 1 28/2 DT, FG. Bromley Sewage Ponds: 3 24/3 AC, 1 26/3 AC, 3 27/3 ACo, JC, 1 28/3 PCr, 2 31/3 BA, 2 4/4 PC.

White-fronted Tern (S) Lake Ellesmere Opening: 1523 6/2 AC, PC.

Common Tern (V) Lake Ellesmere Opening: 1 6/2 AC, PC.

Barbary Dove (A) Marshlands Road: 1 2/3 MRo, 20/4 BA. Travis Wetland: 1 10/3 JBa, GBe, 1 4/4 DT, FG. Cnr Waterholes & Springston-Rolleston Roads: 1 22/2 PC.

New Zealand Pigeon (S) Kaiapoi Ponds: 1 4/2 GM.

Shining Cuckoo (S) Halswell Quarry Park: 1 11/2 PC.

New Zealand Falcon (A) Schoolhouse Road, Kowhai Bush: 1 3/3 TCo. Ote Makura Valley W of Goose Bay: 2 21/2 DT. Kiwi Saddle, Lake Sumner FP: 2 30/3KRo. Arthur's Pass village: 1 10/2 DG, 1 11/3 CL, MR.

Hawdon Shelter: 1 14/4 Birds NZ Canterbury. Okains Bay: 1 27/2 PG. Flea Bay Saddle: 1 18/3 PC. Lake Lyndon: 1 28/2 DF. Cattle Stream (Rakaia Headwaters): 1 2/2 DT. Fox Glacier village: 1 26/2 JBa. Hooker Valley: 2 23/4 GL. Hooker Glacier Track: 1 18/2 WS. Tasman Glacier Lake: 2 22/4 GL. Ohau C, Lake Benmore: 1 3/3 JBa. Te Waonui Forest Retreat,

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Franz Josef: 2 10/3 DD. Waihi Gorge Campsite: 2 21/2 BAn. Monro Beach Track: 1 10/2 MN. Lake Moeraki area: 1 8/3 SY.

Kea (S) Mumm Creek area N of Seddonville: 2 3/2 RN. Mount Murray, Doubtful Valley: 5 2/3 Aco. Hawdon Valley: 2 7/2 KR. Whitehorn Pass: 2 7/3 DG. Harman Hut: 2 5/3, 6 6/3 DG. Park Morpeth Hut: 2 6/3 DG. Cattle Stream (Rakaia Headwaters): 4 2/2 DT, Pakihi Walk, Okarito: 1 2/2 CP, SK. Forks-Okarito Road: 3 22/2 PS. Te Waonui Forest Retreat, Franz Josef: 1 9/3 DD. Franz Josef Glacier walk: 1 10/2 MN. Sefton Biv: 2 24/4 GL. Hooker Valley: 2 23/4 GL. Sealy Tarns: 2 5/3 CL, MR. Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge: 3 9/3 SY.

Kaka (A) Maruia Springs: 1 8/3 JBa. Lewis River valley: 2 9/3 DT. Kiwi Saddle, Like Sumner FP: 1 30/3 KRo.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (A) Prices Valley: 11 7/2 TC, 19 16/2 CP, SK, 11+ 3/3 PR, 16 10/3 JBa, 13+ 14/3 BA, 3 22/4 HM. Okuti Valley: 17 25/4 JC.

Yellow-crowned Parakeet (A) Boyle River ~3km E of Boyle Settlement: 1 20/4 DT. Kiwi Saddle, Lake Sumner FP: 2 30/3 MRo, KRo. Mount Murray, Doubtful Valley: 1 2/3 ACo. Hawdon Shelter: 3 14/4 Birds NZ Canterbury.

Rock Wren (A) Cattle Stream (Rakaia Headwaters): 1 3/2 DT. Sefton Biv: 1 24/4 GL.

Tui (S) Churchill Street, Kaikoura: 1 (unusual in urban Kaikoura) 27/4 DT.

Yellowhead (A) Hawdon Valley: 13 7/2 KR.

New Zealand Robin (S) Carrington Hut (upper Waimakariri R): 1 8/3 DG.

Common Myna (A) Cnr New Brighton Rd/Hawke St: 1 26/2 AC, 1 28/2 ACo. Hawke Street: 1 27/2 PC, 3/3 DT, 31/3 BA, 27/4 KR.

Cirl Bunting (A) Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway: 1 2/3 GD, 1 31/3 BD. Halswell Quarry Park: 1m at entrance 19/2 JW, 1 23/2 GM, 1 28/2 LZ, 2 1/3 NA, 1 13/3 PR.

BA Bev Alexander, NA Nick Allen, DA Dorian Anderson, BAn Bob Andrews, JBa James Bailey, GB Graham Beck, GBe Grahame Bell, CB Cynthia Berg, JB Janet Burton, ACh Annette Ching, ACo Adam Colley, JC Jack Colley, AC Andrew Crossland, CC Chelsea Crossland, XC Xavier Crossland, PCr Patrick Crowe, PC Phil Crutchley, TCo Tim Coles, TC Tony Cummins, ZC Zion Cooper, BD Ben Daly, DD Diane

Davies, MD Mark Dettling, GDe Gerard de Jong, GD Geoff Dobbs, DE Deb Eiger, DF David Flaspohler, LG Liqing Gan, TG Tricia Gardner, DG David Gooding, PG Peter Gordon, FG Fraser Gurney, MH Maureen Howard, SH Sharon Hull, SK Stuart Kelly, AL Anne Lambe, CL Christine Lepage, GL Graeme Loh, RM Remy McConachy, AM Andrew Mackenzie, GM Greg McKenzie, VM Vaughan Morrissey, NM Niall Mugan, HM Hannah Murdoch, RN Richard Nichol, JN Joe Nirschl, MN Michael Noble, CP Carla Perkins, DP David Price, MQ Michael Quartly, PR Peter Reese, MR Michel Robert, KRo Kenny Rose, MRo Matt Rose, KR Kieran Rowe, PSa Paul Sagar, ASc Annie Schofield, RS Richard Schofield, AS Antony Shadbolt, HS Hamish Spencer, PS Philip Steinhoff, WS William Stephens, DT David Thomas, MT Mary Thompson, GV Greg Vassilopoulos, JW Jan Walker, AW Alice Waterhouse, SW Steve Wratten, SY Sandy Yayanos, KY Kuang-Ping Yu, QZ Qiang Zeng, LZ Lei Zhu.

Marj Davis Scholarship Recipient

We are pleased to announce that Peter Jahn is the recipient of the inaugural Marj Davis Scholarship. Peter is completing the final year of his PhD at Lincoln University. His research topic is Acoustic Monitoring and Occupancy Analysis for Great Spotted Kiwi. We're pleased to be able to provide some support for this research and look forward to seeing the results.

Submissions

The next edition of *The Wrybill* is due out in early August. The editor invites members to submit their contributions - articles and/or photos - by July 20 for inclusion in the next issue. Submissions don't have to be about exciting trips overseas or about finding rare birds - even reports from our monthly field trips, rambles and meetings are much appreciated.



A group of members trying to determine if the flicker of movement we saw could have been a crane. Photo taken at November's ramble last year.

Photo credit: Di Leighton.

Canterbury Region Contacts

Regional Representative: Sandra Wallace

31 Westmont Street, Christchurch 8041

Ph 358 5706

Email: birds.canterbury@osnz.org.nz

Regional Recorder: Nick Allen

11 Seagrave Place, Christchurch 8041

Ph 03 358 5994

Email: nick_allen@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer: Jan Walker

305 Kennedys Bush Rd, Christchurch
8025

Ph 322 7187

Email: shesagreen@gmail.com

The Wrybill Editor: Eleanor Gunby

31 Westmont Street, Christchurch 8041

Ph 358 5706

Email: eleanor.gunby@gmail.com

Additional Committee Members:

Bev Alexander

63 Golding Ave, Rangiora 7400

Ph 03 313 7009

Email: birdiebev@xtra.co.nz

Ron Nilsson

Ph 942 6484

Email: kokakodreamingstill@gmail.com