

The Wrybill

Canterbury Regional Newsletter



November 2019

What's on at Birds NZ Canterbury:
November to December 2019

Field Trips

Saturday 16 November - Ashley-Rakahuri River survey. This is supported, but not organized, by Birds NZ. Meet at the Cones Road bridge picnic area by 8:30 am for a briefing before a 9 am start. The survey is usually finished by lunchtime. All volunteers need is reasonable fitness and the proper gear to be out on the riverbed in a changeable spring. Please contact Bev (birdiebev@xtra.co.nz or 03 313 7009) if you can assist.

Sunday 8 December - Lake Ellesmere Summer Wader Count. We'll meet at 8:30 am at the lake end of Embankment Road where we'll be divided into teams. All going well we should be finished by lunchtime. Please book with Sandra (sandraw67@gmail.com or 358 5706) by December 1 so she has time to organise teams and ensure the entire area is covered. Sunblock, water and sunhats will likely be required.

Saturday 15 February - Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere Annual Bird Count. This is a collaborative effort between a range of agencies including Birds NZ and is coordinated by the Waihora Ellesmere Trust. Please book with them at manager@wet.org.nz and let them know if you have a scope.

Rambles

Tuesday 12 November - Kaiapoi River. Meet at NCF Park (corner of Raven Quay and Courtenay Drive, Kaiapoi) at 9:30 am. We will walk along the riverbank to the confluence of the Kaiapoi and Waimakariri Rivers. Please contact Bev (birdiebev@xtra.co.nz or 03 313 7009) if you plan on attending.

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.

Monday 25 November - This will be our final evening meeting for the year. Colin O'Donnell from the Department of Conservation will talk to us about the long-term benefits of predator control in forests and wetlands.

eBird Breeding and Behaviour Codes

Though breeding/behaviour codes are not compulsory for the Bird Atlas they do add useful data to your observations. For instance, by noting a singing bird changes in timing of singing over the years can be recorded.

The various codes and explanations for when to use them can be found at https://help.ebird.org/customer/en/portal/articles/1006850-breeding-codes-behavior-codes?b_id=1928. They are mostly self-explanatory, though FL (recently-fledged young) refers to all young birds that have come out of their egg and left the nest, whether they can fly or not. Thus, ducklings and waders that leave the nest soon after hatching and are attended by an adult should attract the FL code (and, according to eBird protocols be counted). The highest (most significant) breeding code should always be chosen.

One code F (flyover) is not a breeding code, but can be used to denote a bird that flew over while you were observing, but without using the habitat you were observing in – as in migrating or commuting birds.

How to add the codes to your observation on a PC

- Insert the number of birds seen and/or heard (or X, but only if you are unable to count or estimate).
- To the right of the bird name click 'Add Details'.
- Under the bird name a box appears. On the 3rd line marked 'Add data...' click 'Breeding Code'.
- Another box appears, which has a downward-pointing triangle at its right-hand side.
- Click on the triangle and a drop-down menu unrolls.
- Click on the required breeding/behaviour code. If you wish to change the code click on the triangle again. To delete your breeding code click the X on the far right of the Breeding Code line and confirm your deletion in a pop-up box that appears.
- Move onto the next species you observed.

If you know the letters of the code this can be typed into the box that appears after clicking Breeding Code, as a short-cut.

How to add the codes to your observation on eBird Mobile

- On the species list screen when compiling a submission press on the species name (to the right of the + sign or number observed).
- An observation details screen appears. Press on 'Breeding code'.
- A Breeding Codes screen appears, with a drop-down list.
- Press on the correct breeding code. You may need to sweep up or down. The higher breeding codes are lowest on the list.
- The observation details screen reappears. Press 'done' in the top right corner to return to the species list.

To delete a breeding code from a species choose 'Breeding code' on the observation screen for the species and choose 'No Breeding Code' at the top of the drop-down list, then press 'done'.

To change a breeding code, for example if you hear seven or more individuals of a species singing, or you see a bird collecting nesting material after selecting singing, on the observation details screen choose 'Breeding code' and select the new breeding code from the drop-down list, then press 'done'.

With practice adding breeding codes takes only a few seconds, but adds significantly more data in many cases, and is well worth the effort.

Nick Allen (Regional Recorder)

Finch Calls

This is the first in hopefully a series of articles to aid the identification of common species by voice in the field. In closed habitats like forest and scrub as many as 90% of bird individuals are not seen so being able to recognise and identify

calls and songs is important if one is to tell which species are present and in what numbers, for example for bird censusing and atlasing.

Chaffinch

The main call is a sharp 'pink' generally used as a contact call <https://www.xeno-canto.org/201522>. The call is very short, though often repeated. It is a little like the chirp of House Sparrow. However, that species usually gives a two-syllable call 'chirrup' <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/01%20-%20Unknown%20Title%20-%20Unknown%20Artist.mp3> though it can be shorter. The 'pink' call probably led to the finch family name. Etymologically finch came from the German fink.

Another common short call of the Chaffinch is the rain call, which is probably a type of anxiety call. The name of the call came from it supposedly being associated with imminent rain, though the species seems to give it whatever the weather, whether rain is likely or it is set fine. The call is 'wheet' with a rising pitch <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%200465%20Chaffinch.mp3>. Silvereve calls can sound similar http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/03%20-%20Track%203%281%29_1.mp3 but the Chaffinch is much clearer and brighter. The rain call can vary with location, but the example in the recording is the typical one.

The common flight call is a rather quiet 'chup', sometimes repeated: <https://www.xeno-canto.org/208082>. It is quieter than a Greenfinch call and not rapidly repeated.

Chaffinches have a short but cheerful song often rendered chip chip tell tell tell cherry-erry-erry tissi cheweeo <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/18a.mp3>. It has been likened to a bowler in cricket running and bowling a ball.

Greenfinch

The main call is a flat trill (it doesn't vary in pitch

over the trill) that has a lush whistle-like quality <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/19a.mp3>. In structure it is similar to the trills of Redpoll, but that species' calls are much dryer and rattling in tone (see Redpoll).

The flight call is similar to the main call, being short bursts of lush whistled trill: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%200582%20Greenfinch.mp3>

Another common call is a drawn-out tweee, which is probably an anxiety call. All the finches in New Zealand except Chaffinch utter this type of call, and it can be difficult to tell the species making it except that they all tend to add more specific calls, the lush rolling whistled trill in the case of Greenfinch:

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%200082%20Greenfinch.mp3> and <https://www.xeno-canto.org/448249>

The song is a rather unmusical dzweee, sometimes rendered 'cheese' or, perhaps more memorably 'greeeen' <https://www.xeno-canto.org/207300>. It is usually interwoven with rolling whistled flat trills and often with canary-like musical notes: <https://www.xeno-canto.org/484649>. The dzweee is a little like the 'wheesht' song of Long-tailed Cuckoo http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/39%20-%20Track%2039_2.mp3 but that call has a more screaming/shrieking nature than Greenfinch.

Lushness is a recurring theme for many of the Greenfinch's calls. In a way this matches the greenness of the male's plumage and helped me easily link sound to species.

Goldfinch

Most Goldfinch calls are tinkling and metallic in nature, much like the tinkling of gold coins. The main simple call, sometimes rendered 'tickle-it', fits into this category: <https://www.xeno-canto.org/441070>, as does the flight call: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%200580%20Goldfinch.mp3>.

Like the Greenfinch the tweee call tends to be

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interspersed with tinkling calls, allowing identification to species: <https://www.xeno-canto.org/496334> . In Goldfinches this call may be given in alarm or maybe for communication within a flock. Another non-tinkling call is made when one individual is being aggressive to another, a buzzing call more similar to Redpoll calls:

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%20909%20Goldfinch.mp3>

The song is a melodious metallic tinkling cadence mixed with rapid trills and Canary-like notes:

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/20%20-%20Goldfinch.mp3>

Redpoll

This small brown finch often gives dry biscuit-like calls and song, resembling its plumage. The contact call is a short trill made up of sharp almost squeaky notes, slower and lacking the rolling whistling quality of Greenfinch, and sometimes followed by a dry buzzing call:

<https://www.xeno-canto.org/90382> . The sequence has been likened to the opening notes of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, at least in structure. The flight call is similar, usually interspersed with dry trills: <https://www.xeno-canto.org/443697> . Redpoll song is a long chain of trills and buzzy notes often given in flight as the bird flies in a wide circle, probably around the boundary of its territory, or from the top of a tree

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%20525%20Redpoll.mp3>

The Redpoll also has a twee anxiety/flock communication call similar to Goldfinch and Greenfinch:

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%20640%20Redpoll.mp3> and <https://www.xeno-canto.org/281792> . Again, the calling bird will usually give its identity away with calls distinctive to Redpoll.

Further reading/sources:

New Zealand Birds Online

Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds

The Sound Approach to Birding: A guide to understanding bird sound by Mark Constantine & The Sound Approach

Xeno Canto, www.xeno-canto.org

Nick Allen (Regional Recorder)

Recent Happenings

Our evening meetings continue to be well-attended. In August we were fortunate to have two main presenters. Richard Holdaway began the evening talking about the capabilities of his new camera, a Nikon P1000 Coolpix, with a 125x optical zoom plus 3 times digital zoom. Richard played a series of short videos which showed remarkable definition of features such as feathers and eyes. In slow motion it was possible to more clearly see a breakdown of behaviour including a dunnock eating grass. Grant Davey from the Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group then shared with us a video highlighting the work of the group. If you couldn't make the meeting the video can be viewed online (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HggRWaACglc&t=5s>). Grant told us that the group will soon have over 500 traps along the river and that while the number of predators caught per 100 trap nights is down, this is due solely to a decrease in hedgehogs. The number of other predators caught is stable or, in the case of rats, rising. Grant reported a rise in the number of harriers which was a cause for concern. There was a strong correlation between areas of bare gravel and bird numbers meaning weed control is vital. Richard Holdaway ended the evening by sharing a poster on taxonomy "Hidden diversity in the New Zealand avifauna: Have we saved the North and South Island saddlebacks?" which he

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presented at the Birds NZ Conference in June. Thanks to David Thomas for his technical support during the evening.

In September Anita Spencer from DoC spoke to us about bittern at Te Waihora. Anita was a last minute replacement speaker and did an excellent job with just a couple of hours notice so extra thanks are due to Anita. DoC is working on a bittern project at Lake Ellesmere, which locally is one of the best areas for bittern, aiming to develop methods to find and monitor the birds, define the threats to them and learn more so decision making can be better informed. What's interesting about bittern is how little we know about them and how difficult they are to study due to their cryptic nature. At Lake Ellesmere for instance, the team have not yet been able to trap and tag any females so haven't been able to monitor nests and learn anything about nest survival. Overall, bittern numbers are declining. They are sight feeders and need shallow, clear water to feed so weed encroachment, the rise of steep sided drainage ditches, and koi encroachment are a problem for them. Harriers seem to be another significant threat.

October's meeting was actually held at the beginning of November due to Labour Day. Peter Jahn spoke on his work involving monitoring Great Spotted Kiwi using acoustic recorders in the Hawdon and Nina Valleys. This followed a translocation of 8 adult birds from the Hawdon to the Nina. He used the same protocols as were used in the monitoring conducted prior to the translocations. More detectors picked up kiwi calls but the number of calls detected per hour declined. Peter spoke of how some detectors picked up a call on the first or second night but then not again, while others detected nothing until the tenth night. Since acoustic recorders are often left out for only a few nights they miss detecting birds that are actually present. Acoustic monitoring does have several advantages being cheaper, less labour intensive and less intrusive than radio telemetry and more reliable than call counting by people.

Weekend field trips have been poorly attended of late. September's trip was cancelled due to insufficient interest while in August and October Bev and Sandra made the trips alone. In August they headed north, making 21 stops in six different squares, while in October they gathered data for six Atlas squares, this time in and around Ashburton.

Numbers attending rambles are also down but are slightly higher than on field trips. In August three members took a ramble around Calder Green Reserve, observing 19 different species. In September the ramblers went to Tutaepatu Trail and spotted 31 species. Various spots around Lake Ellesmere were explored in October's mid-week ramble. Helmeted Guineafowl were the surprise observation that day.

Recent Sightings

Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report August to October 2019

This report covers the period 1st August to 31st October 2019 and is compiled from reports posted onto eBird and the Birding NZ internet discussion site. 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) Lewis Hut, Heaphy Track: 2
11/9 RH-W. Arthur's Pass: 1 19/10 DRo.

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Cape Barren Goose (A) St Anne's Lagoon: 1 1/9 NA, 2 14/9 AW, MR, 2a 1ch 15/9 'Wazzagonewild', 1 21/9 AC, 2a 1ch 7/10 AG, 2a 1ch 19/19 JB CMe, 2a 1ch 24/10 DR, 2a 1ch 29/10 CH. Pegasus Bay Walkway, Kairaki: 1 20/10 BA. Dorie, Kingsburys Road #10: 3 19/10 AS, MF.

Mute Swan (A) Pegasus Wetlands: 6 8/8 BA, 2 8/9 BA, 3 11/10 BA. Bromley Oxidation Ponds: 1 28/8 PC, 18/9 GM. Ernlea Terrace Spa Lake: 2 19/9 NA. Lincoln Wetlands: 1 9/8 PR, 2 28/9 PR, 2 8/10 JB, 1 22/10 PR. Kaituna Lagoon: 2 5/8 DH, 2 imm 7/8 JB, 7 9/10 RC. Clarkes Road: 2 11/9 DT, 2 22/9 DT. Harts Creek: 2 9/8 FG, DT, 1 21/9 SC, 1 28/9 FT, 2 19/10 NA, H&RC. Gullivers Road, Taumutu: 1 13/9 PR, 5 21/9 PC. Fishermans Point, Taumutu: 2 16/10 JB, BA, JW. Dorie, irrigation pond cnr Longs & Kyle Roads: 1 11/8 NA. Eiffelton, irrigation pond 217 Windermere Rd: 1 imm 4/8 NA. Spider Lagoon: 2 22/9 KRo, BR. Cnr Meyers Pass & McHenrys Road, Hakataramea Valley: 2 30/8 AT.

Blue Duck (A) Lewis Hut, Heaphy Track: 1 11/9 RH-W. Kawhaka Creek hydro outlet: 2 16/8 PCr, 2 31/8 AC.

Muscovy Duck (A) Cam River, Kaiapoi: 6 17/9 BA. Radcliffe Road #296 MF, AS. Avon River, Riccarton House: 1 12/9 NA. Ernlea Terrace Spa Lake: 1 19/9 NA. Westlake Reserve: 2 and 1 hybrid 6/8 PR, 2 and 1 hybrid 21/8 PR, 2 24/8 BA, 1 11/9 PR. Lincoln Wetlands: 1 9/8 PR, 1 8/10 JB. Otanerito Bay: 1 7/10 PC. Kinloch Road, Little River: 3 7/8 JB. Fishermans Point, Taumutu: 3 13/9 PR. Tinwald Domain: 5 19/10 SW, BA.

Northern Shoveler (V) Pegasus Wetlands: 1m 7/8 BA.

Helmeted Guineafowl (A) Timberyard Road, Lakeside: 6 16/10 JB, BA, JW.

Peafowl (A) Mona Vale Street, Waikari: 6 7/10 BA, SW. Otukaikino Track: 2 13/10 BP. Stewarts Gully: 1 14/10 ACo. Sawyers Arms Road, #448: 7 19/10 KRo. Living Earth, Bromley: 2 28/8 PC. Ashton, Terrace Road #126: 2 19/10 BA.

Chukar (A) N of Mt John: 4 17/9 BK.

Golden Pheasant (A) Lake Road nr Colletts Road: 1 m cross with probably Lady Amherst's Pheasant 6/10 GN, Lower Lake/Lakeside Ridge Roads i/s 2 19/10 JB.

Turkey (A) Schoolhouse Road, Kaikoura: 2 30/10 SK. Glentui Falls, Mt Thomas Forest: 1 14/8 DT. Wyllies

Road, Saltwater Creek: 1 25/9 BA. Timberyard Road, Lakeside: 24 25/8 NA, 4 2/10 BA, 7 19/10 JB.

Australasian Crested Grebe (A) Tutaepatu Lagoon: 2 18/9 Birds NZ Canterbury. Kaiapoi Lakes: 2 2/9 BA. Lake Pearson: 2 31/8 BA, 4 29/9 EG, 4 3/10 RC. Lake Lyndon: 2 31/8 BA, 2 3/10 RC, LC, 2 29/10 CH. Roto Kohatu: 5 5/8 DH, DT, 2 13/8 BA, 3 16/9 SW, 1 1/10 BA, 3 4/10 JB. Lake Forsyth: 2 7/8 JB, 14 12/9 SA, 3 14/9 FT, 6 7/10 Birds NZ Canterbury, 5 9/10 RC, 13 10/10 JD. Halswell River, Motukarara: 1 26/9 PC. Kaituna Lagoon: 22 4/8 NM, 6 21/9 KM, 4 9/10 RC. Halswell River: 1 26/9 PC. Drain Road, Lakeside: 3 19/10 JB. Harts Creek: 2 21/9 SC, 2 28/9 FT, 3 19/10 NA, H&RC. Lake Selfe: 1 5/8 JS. Lake Tekapo S end: 3 17/9 BK, 1 18/9 BK. Lake Alexandrina: 1 17/9 BK. Lake McGregor: 5 17/9 BK. Lake Ruataniwha: 1 10/8 CM, 1 9/10 RG. Kelland Ponds: 2 10/8 CM, 2 9/9 DT. Wairepo Arm: 3 31/10 CH. Cnr Meyers Pass & McHenrys Road, Hakataramea Valley: 1 30/8 AT.

Yellow-eyed Penguin (A) Long Bay: 1 7/10 PC.

Salvin's Albatross (S) Off Kaikoura: 200 associated with a large trawler 21/9 AC, NM.

Southern Fulmar (S) Albatross Encounters pelagic: 7 (usually encountered in ones and twos) 14/9 AE, NM, PC, MR, AW, GM, 7 20/9 AE.

Cape Petrel (S) Washdyke sewage outfall: 1000 20/9 PC, NM.

Grey-backed Storm-Petrel (A) Off Kaikoura: 1 21/9 AC, NM.

Little Black Shag (A) Karamea Estuary: 1 15/10 DR. Ashley Estuary: 2 2/10 RC. Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 1 18/8 NA, KM. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 11/10 BA. Lake Lyndon: 1 29/10 CH, EF. Akaroa: 1 3/9 JB, 27/9 RG. Barrys Bay: 1 27/9 RG. Selwyn RM: 1 10/9 JB. Harts Creek: 2 18/8 NA, KM.

Otago Shag (A) Washdyke Lagoon: 1 9/9 DT.

Australasian Bittern (A) Yarrs Flat Reserve: 2 11/10 AS. Harts Creek: 2 20/9 PC, NM, 1 21/9 PC, 2 28/9 FT, 2 19/10 NA, H&RC.

White Heron (A) Ashley Estuary: 1 3/8 JB, 5/8 DH, 17/8 BA, 19/8 GM, 14/9 BA. Tulls Road, Waikuku: 1 14/8 BA, 26/8 BA. Taranaki Paddocks, Waikuku: 1 3/9 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 8/8 BA, 8/9 BA. Seafield Lagoon, Brooklands: 1 12/8 AW, 22/9 AW, 6/10 SLLT Bird. Lake Forsyth: 1 7/8 JB. Kaituna Lagoon: 1 4/8 NM, 19/8 JD. Timberyard Road: 1 18/8 BA, 25/8 NA. Lower Lake Road, Taumutu: 1 9/8 FG, DT. Wainono

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Lake Road: 1 20/9 PC.

Reef Heron (A) Kaikoura-New Wharf to Fyffe House: 1 14/9 AW. Albatross Encounter pelagic: 1 27/9 AE, 3 14/10 AE, 1 17/10 AE. Paia, S Kaikoura Coast: 2 24/8 PC, NM.

Cattle Egret (A) Drain Road, Lakeside: 5 18/8 BA, 6 29/9 BA. The Lake Road, Lakeside: 5 9/8 FG, DT, 5 16/10 JB, BA, JW, 4 19/10 JB.

Marsh Crane (A) Waimakariri River, Macintosh's Hole: 1 5/8 DH, DT, 2 8/8 BA, 2 19/8 GM, 2 20/9 GN. Kaituna Lagoon, SE corner: 1 9/10 RC. Taumutu Wetlands: 1 18/8 KRo.

Spotless Crane (A) Macintosh's Hole: 1 19/8 GM. Harts Creek: 1 21/9 PC.

Black Stilt (A) Ashley Estuary: 1 5/8 DH, 18/8 NA, KM, SA, 19/8 GM, 24/8 EG, 1/9 AC, 3/9 BA, 14/9 BA, 28/9 BA, 29/9 BA, 2/10 RC, 14/10 BA. Cass River Delta: 5 12/10 LR. Lake Tekapo, McGregor Inlet: 2 17/9 BK, 2 12/10 LR. Lake Tekapo SE bay: 2 2/9 ACh, 3 17/9 BK. Tasman Fan: 8 5/8 PD, 49 9/8 DS, JS, PS, 2 13/10 LR, 5 18/10 GB, 4 31/10 CH. Poaka Wetlands west: 1 28/9 KR. Lake Poaka: 1 14/10 LR. Kaki Lagoons: 1 31/10 CH.

Pacific Golden Plover (A) Clarks Road: 4 30/10 NA.

Large Sand Dotterel (V) Ashley Estuary: 1 14/10 JH, 15/10 GM, NM, BA, 16/10 KR, MR, PC, 17/10 IS, 19/10 NA, KRo, 21/9 DT, 26/10 BA.

Black-fronted Dotterel (A) Conway River, Conway Flat: 1 24/8 PC, NM. Conway RM: 1 24/8 PC. Kowai RM (Pegasus Bay): 3 2/9 NM. Ashworths Beach: 1 3/8 JB, 2 9/8 JB. Taranaki Paddocks: 1 5/8 DH, DT, 1 7/8 BA, 3 18/8 NA, KM, 2 19/8 GM, 3 19/8 BA, 2 24/8 PC, NM, 2 10/9 BA. Ashburton RM: 2 19/10 SW, BA. Washdyke Lagoon: 1 28/8 PS, JS, 5 24/9 PS, JS.

Wrybill (S) Clarence RM: 1 21/9 NM. Ashley Estuary: 3 5/8 DH, 1 17/8 BA, 11 18/8 NA, KM, 7 24/8 EG, 24 3/9 BA, 11 14/9 BA, 7 28/9 BA, 5 29/9 BA, 7 2/10 RC, 8 12/10 BA, 6 14/10 BA. Wigram Retention Basin: 3 flew over travelling NE 16/9 NA. Clarks Road: 12 11/9 DT. Embankment Road: 29 31/8 KRo, 90 7/9 LR, 62 15/9 KRo, 28 16/9 BA, 28 17/9 NM. Rakaia RM: 1 11/8 NA. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 4 12/9 SA. Washdyke Lagoon: 6 28/8 PS, JS, 1 24/9 PS, JS, 5 16/10 PS, JS.

Marsh Sandpiper (V) Jarvis Road: 1 18/9 AC, PC, KR. Clarke's Road: 1 22/9 DT. Embankment Road: 1 15/9 KRo, 17/9 NM, 18/9 'Wazzagonewild', 28/9 ACo, 3/10 SWr, 10/10 ST, 27/10 NA, 28/10 ACo, 30/10 NA,

BA, PR, ST. The bird associated with Pied Stilts and seemingly stayed loyal to one small area of Greenpark Sands.

Bar-tailed Godwit (S) Ashley Estuary: 192 (higher than usual count, close to high tide) 19/10 NA. A large number of juveniles were reported this spring from numerous sites around New Zealand.

Turnstone (A) Point Kean, Kaikoura: 12 24/8 MB, 22 1/9 NA. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 1 12/9 SA, 2 13/10 NM, 5 14/10 AC, 1 15/10 MR, KR, 1 16/10 ACo. 5 22/10 DT, 12 27/10 NM.

Lesser Knot (A) Clarks Road: 2 30/10 NA.

Embankment Rd: 5 28/10 ACo. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 11 27/10 NM. Generally a poor showing this spring.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (A) Clarke's Road: 1 22/9 DT. Embankment Road: 2 28/9 ACo. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 1 13/10 NM, 1 14/10 AC, 1 15/10 PC, 2 15/10 KR, MR, 1 16/10 ACo.

Curlew Sandpiper (A) Clarks Road: 1 11/9 DT.

Embankment Road: 1 31/8 KRo, 1 26/10 NA, 2 28/10 ACo. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 2 13/10 NM, 2 14/10 AC, 2 15/10 PC, KR, MR, 2 16/10 ACo, 2 19/10 KRo, 2 22/10 DT, 1 27/10 NM.

Red-necked Stint (A) Clarke's Road: 2 22/9 DT.

Embankment Road: 4 31/8 KRo, 2 15/9 KRo, 1 16/9 BA, 5 17/9 NM, 2 18/9 'Wazzagonewild', 2 20/9 BK, 1 28/9 ACo, 27 20/10 ACo, 32 22/10 DT, 19 26/10 NA, 41 28/10 ACo, 36 30/10 NA. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 8 12/9 SA, 32 13/10 NM, 30 14/10 AC, 30 15/10 PC, 32 16/10 ACo, 19 19/10 KRo, 6 22/10 DT.

Little Stint (V) Embankment Road: 1 22/10 DT, 28/10 ACo, 30/10 NA, BA, PR, ST. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 1 13/10 NM, 14/10 AC, 15/10 'wazzagonewild', PC, KR, MR, 16/10 ACo, 19/10 KRo. The bird was in bright alternate ('breeding') plumage and really stood out among the Red-necked Stints it associated with.

Sanderling (V) Ashley Estuary: 1 5/8 DH, 18/8 NA, KM, SA, 19/8 GM, BA, 24/8 EG, 3/9 BA, 28/9 BA, 2/10 RC, 12/10 BA, 14/10 BA, 16/10 KR, MR, PC, 19/10 NA, KRo, 21/9 DT. The long-staying individual that has been present since December 2018.

Pectoral Sandpiper (A) Embankment Road: 1 18/9 'Wazzagonewild'. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 1 22/10 DT.

Black-billed Gull (S) Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 2500 12/9 SA. A colony of at least 130 nests formed on the foundations of a demolished high-rise building in Christchurch CBD on Armagh Street between

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Colombo and Manchester Streets by the end of October, AC. Another sizeable colony formed at a similar time on the Ashley Estuary between Ashley village and Rangiora, MB, BA.

Little Tern (V) Embankment Road: 1 24/9 MA, 20/10 ACo.

White-winged Black Tern (A) Waimakariri R, Weedons Ross Rd: 1 27/10 KRo. Waimakariri R ~1 km upstream of crossbank: 1 12/10 EG, SW. Bromley Oxidation Ponds: 1 31/8 AC.

Barbary Dove (A) Bottle Lake Forest: 1 13/8 KR. Marshlands Road #375-435: 2 26/9 BA. Wairakei Road #556: 1 22/9 GA.

Shining Cuckoo (S) McLeans Island Road nr Orana Park: 1 16/9 NM. This was the first record of the season. The species was then rather sparse until the second half of October, as per usual.

Long-tailed Cuckoo (S) Tinwald, Grove St: 2 (A Long-tailed Cuckoo flew into a window and was stunned, no broken bones felt, recovered after 15 minutes and when it flew off it was joined by a second Long-tailed Cuckoo) 24/10 ES.

New Zealand Falcon (A) Heaphy Valley nr Lewis Hut: 1 11/9 RH-W, 1 12/9 RH-W. Clarence Valley N of Lake Tennyson: 1 28/9 NBT. Kaikoura Peninsula walkway: 1 24/8 MB. Molesworth Sta, Mitchell's Cutting: 1 17/9 DB. Inland Rd nr Conway Bridge: 1 20/10 MB. Conway River, Conway Flat: 1 24/8 PC, NM. Conway RM: 1 24/8 PC. Tophouse Road, Clarence Valley: 1 22/8 DB. Upper Otira Valley: 1 20/10 DRo. Sugarloaf E of Cass: 1 26/9 MBo. Okuku Pass Road: 1 4/10 BA. Limestone Track, Marsden WC: 1 24/8 RH-W. Hokitika-Kaniere Tramway nr Kaniere: 1 16/8 PCr. Summit Road nr Governors Bay: 1 25/8 PC. Motukarara: 1 16/8 PC. Hororata Road, Coalgate: 1 25/9 SW. Rakaia Gorge: 1 24/8 DT. Clyde River valley: 1 12/9 NBT. Lake Tekapo SE bay: 1 2/9 ACh. Cass River nr Godley Peaks Sta: 1 1/9 NMo. Hooker Glacier Track: 1 30/8 MW. Whitehorse Hill Campsite: 1 6/10 GL. Mount Cook village: 1 29/8 MW. Twizel, Kaki Lagoon: 1 19/10 GB. Ridge between Panel & Cedar Creeks SSE of Lake Paringa: 1f 19/9 DT.

Kea (S) Lewis Hut, Heaphy Track: 1 11/9 RH-W. Bealey Hotel: 1 3/10 RC, LC. Broken River ski area: 3 3/10 MT. Omoeroa Saddle: 2 29/8 DT. Hooker Valley Track: 1 18/9 BK. Governor's Bush, Aoraki Mt Cook:

3 8/8 DS, JS, PS. Aoraki Mt Cook township: 2 8/8 DS, JS, PS. SH6 E of Manakiaua River: 1 4/9 PG. Nr head Panel Creek SE of Lake Paringa: 2 19/9 DT. Ridge between Panel & Cedar Creeks SSE of Lake Paringa: 1 20/9 DT. Approx 1 km S of Haast: 1 30/8 DT. Okuru: 1 1/9 RH-W, DT, PG. Arawhata River: 1 15/10 PG.

Kaka (A) Heaphy Valley nr Lewis Hut: 1 11/9 RH-W, 3 12/9 RH-W. Fenian Track: 1 15/10 ATa, DR. Hawdon Valley: 4 31/8 AC. Hawdon Shelter: 1 9/8 CM. Ridge between Panel & Cedar Creeks SSE of Lake Paringa: 1 20/9 DT. Arawhata River: 1 15/10 PG.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (A) Prices Valley: 25 5/8 DH, 19 29/9 JB, 15 9/10 RC, LC, 45 29/10 JD. Waikoko Valley: 3 15/10 MR, KR.

Yellow-crowned Parakeet (A) Heaphy Valley nr Lewis Hut: 12 11/9 RH-W, 4 12/9 RH-W. NE of Waiatoto RM: 1 2/9 RH-W. Gabriel Stream, Lake Sumner FP: 1 26/10 AS, MF. Arawhata River: 1 15/10 PG.

Orange-fronted Parakeet (A) Hawdon Valley: 1 31/8 AC, 1 22/9 ACo, JC. DOC reported that 2019 the species' best breeding events with 151 wild-raised chicks to mid-July, potentially bringing the wild population to 300 birds.

Eastern Rosella (A) Victoria Park: 1 1/8 AC. Presumably the long-staying individual.

Yellowhead (A) Hawdon Valley: 3 31/8 AC, 2 22/9 ACo, JC.

Fernbird (S) Wainono Lake Road: 1 7/9 SR, 1 15/9 DT, 20/9 PC. These sightings, possibly of the same individual, represent either a possible range expansion into coastal South Canterbury or the discovery/rediscovery of a relict population at the site

Common Myna (A) Hardy Street: 1 1/9 JSt, 1/10 JSt. Collingwood Street: 1 3/10 JSt. This long-staying individual seemingly wanders the New Brighton suburban gardens.

Cirl Bunting (A) Kean Point, Kaikoura: 1 3/9 PB. Kaikoura (general area): 4 14/9 NM, AW, MR, PC, 1 7/10 AG. Victoria Park: 2m 15/9 AC, 1 6/10 PC. Little River Rail Trail S of Ataahua: 1 8/9 KRo. Halswell Quarry Park: 1f 26/9 NA. 'Cup & Saucer Track', Lake Wainono: 2 7/9 SR.

Observers:

BA Bev Alexander, NA Nick Allen, GA Gavin Anstee, MA Michael Ashbee, SA Steve Attwood, MB Mike

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Bell, MBo Megan Bogisch, PB Peter Booth, GB Gailon Brehm, DB Dan Burgin, JB Janet Burton, LC Lisa Cannings, RC Russell Cannings, SC Stuart Caulfield, H&RC Hugo & Reis Caverzasi, ACh Annette Ching, ACo Adam Colley, JC Jack Colley, AC Andrew Crossland, PCr Patrick Crowe, PC Phil Crutchley, JD John Davey, PD Peter Doyle, AE Albatross Encounter, EF Erik Forsyth, MF Malcolm Foster, EG Eckhard Garve, RG Roger Giller, PG Penelope Gillette, EG Eleanor Gunby, FG Fraser Gurney, AG Alan Gutsell, JH Jill Hanna, RH-W Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls, CH Chuck Holliday, DH Dave Howes, BK Bernie Kelly, SK Stefan Kopek, GL Graeme Loh, CM Craig McKenzie, GM Greg McKenzie, KM Keith Martin, CMe Col Mere, KM Karen Morris, NMo Nathan Moutardier, NM Niall Muga, GN Graham Norton, BP Brad Phillips, PR Peter Reese, LR Louis Regenmorter, DR David Riddell, SR Sharon Roberts, KR Kenny Rose, MR Matt Rose, DRo Dotan Rotem, BR Blair Rowe, KRo Kieran Rowe, DS David Sagar, JS Joy Sagar, PS Paul Sagar, IS Ian Saville, ES Edith Smith, AS Anita Spencer, JSt John Stewart, FT Fanny Tale, NBT Native Birds Taranaki, ATa Annette Taylor, AT Alan Tennyson, DT David Thomas, ST Stefan Thomson, MT Marijka Torrance, JW Jan Walker, SW Sandra Wallace, AW Alice Waterhouse, MW Matthew Wood, SWr Steve Wratten.

Health and Safety

In order for everyone to have an enjoyable time on field trips and other activities we first need 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.

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.

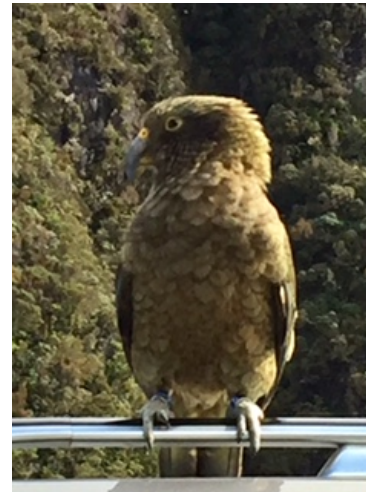
Atlassing

I'd like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe summer break. I know many of you will be travelling within Canterbury, the West Coast and further afield over the summer, and I'd really like to encourage you to take a few minutes out of your trip to contribute some data to the New Zealand Bird Atlas. Contributing is quite straight forward, and if you aren't confident using the smartphone app you can use pen and paper. A form is available online (<https://birdatlas.co.nz/>), or feel free contact me (Sandra) and I'll email a copy to you. Both Bev Alexander and Nick Allen are willing to take people out and show them the atlassing ropes.

Data on the number of birds we have and where they are located is crucial to conservation efforts. It's been twenty years since data gathering began for the last Atlas and much has probably changed in that time. We need up-to-date data to know exactly what has changed and what the current state of our bird populations is right now. Conservation management decisions about habitat restoration and predator control rely on accurate data. If you haven't already, go check out one of the following videos to give you an idea of how useful the atlas will be. The short video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYMOYlhscl4>) is less than 4 minutes, while the full length version (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcqWSAij8gl&t=12s>) is around 40 minutes. You'll see that organisations like Predator Free New Zealand and Forest and Bird are keen for the data to be gathered and see the Atlas as being beneficial and important to the work of their organisations. The Atlas is one way we can all be a part of something crucial to New Zealand's bird life which we all enjoy and value so much. So, please, try and contribute this summer if you can.

Sandra

Bird Photos



A Kea (above) and a "Moa" (below), both seen at Arthur's Pass. Photos: Bev Alexander.



A record shot of a Greater Sand Plover (left) with a Banded Dotterel (right) at the Ashley Estuary. Photo: Jill Hanna.

Bird Nests



A Spur-winged Plover nest (top), a Banded Dotterel nest (middle), and a South Island Pied Oystercatcher nest (bottom). Photos: Bev Alexander.

Submissions

The next edition of *The Wrybill* is due out in early February. The editor invites members to submit their contributions - articles and/or photos - by January 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. Many thanks to everybody who contributed to this edition of *The Wrybill*.

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