

The Wrybill

Canterbury Regional Newsletter



BIRDS
NEW ZEALAND

Te Kāhui Mātai Manu o Aotearoa



February 2020

What's on at Birds NZ Canterbury: February to April 2020

Field Trips

February 15 – We'll be lending our eyes and expertise to the annual Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere Bird Count organised by the Waihora Ellesmere Trust. To find out more or to register contact Denise Ford (denise.ford@selwyn.govt.nz).

March 22 – 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. We may also make other atlassing stops in the area. Contact Sandra (birds.canterbury@osnz.org.nz or 358 5706) by 15 March if you would like to attend.

April 19 – An atlassing trip to mid-Canterbury around Geraldine. Contact Sandra (birds.canterbury@osnz.org.nz or 358 5706) by 12 April if you would like to attend.

Rambles

Wednesday February 12 – The Groynes. Meet at 9:30am in the car park by swing bridge (turn left and then right upon entry).

Tuesday March 10 – Lincoln Wetlands and stormwater ponds. Meet at 9:30am in the car park on Ellesmere Road.

Wednesday April 15 – Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Meet at 9:30am at the bridge by Armagh St car park (near Victoria Lake).

Please contact Bev (birdiebev@xtra.co.nz or 027 3184 713) if you intend to come on any rambles.

Bev has alternated the days of these trips to try and suit members' needs. If you would like to come but these days don't suit you, please let Bev know so she can take this into account when organizing future rambles.

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.

February 24 – Members night. This is a chance for members to share anything birding related that would be of interest to others. Perhaps it is a tale of a birding trip, a series of photos or a short video, an interesting observation, some research or a review of a great birding book. Talks are

The Wrybill - February 2020

short, ranging from a few minutes up to fifteen minutes each. Please contact Sandra if you would like to contribute. If you'd like to talk for longer, also let Sandra know and she'll be happy to slot you into the programme later in the year.

March 30 – Kath Varcoe will be sharing photos from her recent birding travels including trips to Tiritiri Matangi and the Chatham Islands. Kath's talk will be preceded by our annual general meeting, where we will receive various annual reports and elect office bearers and committee.

April 27 – There is no meeting because of Anzac Day observations. The meeting will be the following week instead.

May 4 – Sonny Whitelaw, Manager of BRaid (Braided River Aid). will speak to us about the likely impacts of climate change, especially on braided river birds.

Ashley- Rakahuri River Update

The birds on the Ashley-Rakahuri have had a reasonable breeding season. The smaller foothills-fed rivers, particularly those in North Canterbury, largely missed out on the early December floods.

The Black-billed Gulls (BBGs) are in two colonies, totaling almost 2000 nests (the most we have ever had). The larger one kept getting new arrivals (most likely from the flooded Waimakariri), so some chicks are now flying (maybe 400) but there are many others still to reach that stage. We are following a small but on-going issue of predation of new fledglings by hawks. So far over 20 feather piles indicating feeding on carried-off captures have been found in amongst the weeds on the banks alongside. But we are not too worried about this 'natural' activity – hawks also have to feed. At the smaller (and later arriving) colony, 120-150 chicks are now in a creche, but they have a week to go before all are fledged. So, we are headed for a

reasonable productivity with BBGs.

That is not the case for the other colony-nesting species – Black-fronted Terns (BFTs). So far this season, we have mapped close to 100 nests (a number would be re-nests), but we will be lucky to get 15-20 fledglings. Rats are most likely the number one problem – we now realise that they (all Norway Rats) are actually living in debris piles in the main fairway. Of 49 BFT nests mapped close to the main BBG colony, 20 disappeared in the early egg stage – and it looks like we could end up with zero flying juveniles from that colony. We now have 20 home-made coreflute DOC150 run-through traps set up close to the BBG colony, and have so far caught 10 rats. No other predators. But we set up that trap network too late. It is a very similar story at one other BFT colony. Rats are a new problem for us. Up until about 3 years ago, we were averaging 1 a year from 150-200 traps. Now we are getting many. Next year we will be better prepared, and will deploy bait stations the moment a colony location is indicated.

Other species such as the Wrybill, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel and South Island Pied Oystercatcher appear to have had a better than average season. Eight Wrybills took up territories and we have seen fledged chicks at 6 of these. This looks like it will mean a slightly better productivity than last season.



The above image is a recent one of our only remaining banded Wrybill – back for his 11th season (since banded). Up until this season he was BW-BW, but over the last 2 months he has

lost a band and is now BW-B. Since banding in 2009 he and a mate have raised 12 chicks on our local river.

Article and photo courtesy of Nick Ledgard
Chair, Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare Group Inc

Washdyke Lagoon

I made my first list of the water birds at Washdyke Lagoon, at the north end of Timaru, in March 1966 when Bruce Keeley and I cycled out and parked our bikes against the fence overlooking the lagoon before descending the hill and walking along the gravel bar that separates the lagoon from the sea. On that visit we recorded species such as Banded Dotterel, South Island Pied Oystercatchers, Pied Stilts, and Australasian Shovelers. In addition, we were very excited to record the first Spur-winged Plovers for the area. I continued more or less monthly counts of the wetland birds at the lagoon from then until the end of 1970, when university studies in Christchurch distracted me from making such regular visits. However, I usually managed 1-2 visits a year until October 2014 when Joy & I retired to Pleasant Valley, near Geraldine, and we were in a position to resume monthly counts. This seemed particularly appropriate because it was nearing 50 years since my first surveys, and in the interim there was raised awareness about the threats to our few remaining wetlands and the conservation status of the birds that they support.

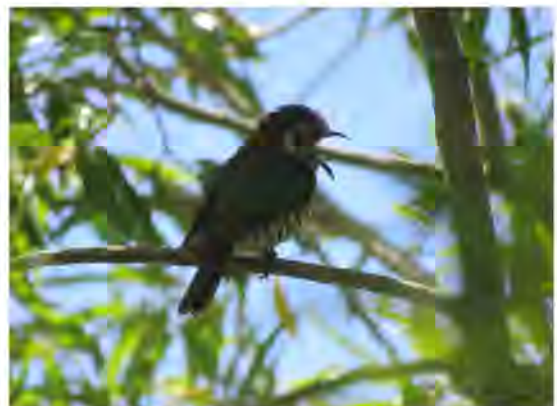
Since I made that first visit over 50 years ago there has been a reduction in the area of the lagoon with the encroachment of the gravel bar, a deterioration in the quality of the overall wetland habitat, and an increased occurrence of over-topping of the bar by high seas. Despite these factors, the lagoon still has a major role in supporting bird species of conservation concern, especially Black-billed and Red-billed Gulls, Black-fronted and Caspian Terns, Banded

Dotterel, and Wrybill. Waterfowl are the most abundant birds at the lagoon, with Grey Teal, Canada Goose, Black Swan and Paradise Shelduck most common. Shoveler numbers have declined since the lagoon became more tidal in 2018. To date we have recorded 53 species of wetland birds at the lagoon, and the list is increasing. The latest addition was a Far Eastern Curlew. However, it is not only the birds that provide interest at the lagoon, but marine mammals have also provided highlights. In 2019 we recorded a NZ Sea Lion swimming in the lagoon on 2 consecutive visits and a dead Pilot Whale that also remained on the beach for a couple of months. Most recently, on our January 2020 survey we found a freshly dead Spectacled Porpoise (now in the care of DOC), a very rare record of this little-known species.

It is pleasing to see a raised awareness of the importance of the lagoon as a Wildlife Refuge, and the information board near the stile that provides an introduction to the conservation value of the area.

Paul Sagar

Bird Photos and Observations



Shining Cuckoo vocalizing (above), upper Waipara River, taken on January 19 2020. I actually managed to see about 3 (maybe 4) cuckoos while I was there, with this individual being in the same tree as another.

The Wrybill - February 2020



Black-fronted Dotterel on the run (above), Waipara River Mouth, taken on December 1 2019. We saw a decent number of these cryptic little waders on the lower part of the river and at the mouth. I managed to count about 3 or so pairs, as well as 2 or so lone individuals.



Banded Dotterel standing alongside a Black-fronted Dotterel (above), Waipara River Mouth, taken on December 1 2019. Interestingly, the Black-fronted Dotterel in this photo was being intermittently aggressive to the Banded Dotterel. Despite this, the Banded Dotterel showed little retaliation.



Black-fronted Dotterel pair (bottom left), lower Waipara River, taken on December 1 2019. We walked up the Waipara River for approximately an hour, both looking for fossils and looking for birds. This pair allowed us to get some pretty good views of them. Other braided river birds sighted included Black-billed Gulls, Black-fronted Terns, Pied Stilts and Banded Dotterels.



Pectoral Sandpiper feeding alongside a Red Knot (above), Waipara River Mouth, taken on December 1 2019. Seeing both of these birds was a real surprise! The sandpiper didn't tend to pay much attention to most surrounding bird species, nor towards us. However, it did always stay nearby its Lesser Knot companion.



Mute Swan cygnet (above), Harts Creek, taken on December 25 2019. Even though Mute Swans are a pretty regular sight in many of the birdwatching sites in my area, seeing their young is pretty rare, let alone close views like this! This cygnet was also nearby 2 others and a parent.

Photos and text by William Harland.

Species Search and Species Codes in eBird

When assembling bird lists in eBird before submitting the birds you have seen or heard you are confronted with quite a long list of species. One way of finding the species you wish to record is to scroll up and down the list, either by swiping on the phone app/touchscreen computer or by using a mouse. This can be annoyingly tedious and slow.

Thankfully eBird has an easy to use search function which, on the phone app, accepts International English species names and New Zealand species names. The website will accept the English species name, depending on the 'language' you have chosen on species name display in your preferences in My eBird (see <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/prefs>), and the scientific name.

For the phone app there is a useful help page on eBird:

<https://support.ebird.org/support/solutions/articles/48000960508-ebird-mobile-tips-tricks>. The basics are that the search function is found directly above the species list in the phone app and you type in first the number of the species you wish to submit then a space then start typing in the name of the species. The keyboard changes automatically from numerals to letters on pressing the space bar. Touch on the species name to add the record and be taken back to the species list. To simply get back to the species list press 'cancel'. To find just the species press the spacebar then start typing. This can be useful if just adding or changing a breeding code or notes.

On the website the search box is top right on the species pane and is pre-filled with 'Jump to species'. Simply start typing in this box the species name, or part of its name. For example 'sandpiper' will provide a list of such birds, as will 'calidris' or 'tringa'. Clicking the species name takes you to the correct section of the species list and from there it is possible to add the number seen or heard and add any notes, breeding code, etc.

eBird also accepts species codes. Generally, these are the first two letters of the first name and the first two letters of the second name, whether this name be an English one or a scientific one. This is outlined on the eBird

mobile help page above. The mobile app is more flexible on the types of codes it will accept. Species appear as a shortlist as you type. Thus, in the mobile app for Spur-winged Plover you can type 'swp' or 'mala' (=Masked Lapwing, the international English name) or 'vami' (Vanellus miles). In fact, for the latter all that is required is 'vam'. For Pukeko you can type 'puk' or 'ausw' (=Australasian Swamphen) or 'pome' (Porphyrion melanotus). For Silvereye typing in silver brings up a shortlist, but merely typing in 'zo' as the start of 'zola' for Zosterops lateralis will bring up the species.

The website will accept four letter codes, but not codes based on the first letters of names made up of three or more words (e.g. swp for Spur-winged Plover). It will also not accept the first 2 letters of a name and only the first letter of the second name, so 'vam' won't work, but 'vami' will.

Nick Allen

The Calls of Thrushes, Dunnock and Starling

Blackbird

The melodious, mellow, fluty song of the Blackbird is probably one of New Zealand's most well-known bird songs. It is quite variable in notes and structure containing low notes as well as high, with phrases not being repeated (unlike the Song Thrush). Sometimes mimicry of other birds or species is included.

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/07%20-%20Blackbird.mp3>

Blackbird calls are somewhat less known, however. Blackbirds have two main forms – high-pitched seeee calls and clucky calls. The contact call is a slightly rolled 'seeee' <https://www.xeno-canto.org/46195>. The other 'seeee' call is a purer note given by a mildly anxious bird

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%20373%20Blackbird.mp3> . Other birds that commonly give 'seeee' notes include Dunnock and Tomtit, though both of their notes tend to be longer, not rolling in quality and less high-pitched. Dunnock call: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%20215%20Dunnock.mp3> . Tomtit call: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/54%20-%20Auckland%20Island%20Tit.mp3>

The clucky calls are also given by anxious, alarmed or annoyed birds. At the low end of anxiety are 'book' calls <https://www.xeno-canto.org/25562> . This can develop into chink calls <https://www.xeno-canto.org/145631> with this (or something extremely similar) being uttered by birds prior to roosting at dusk, and finally the loud, hysterical and quite often startling alarm rattle <https://www.xeno-canto.org/42699> . For more detail on Blackbird calls see <http://therattlingcrow.blogspot.com/2013/11/blackbird-alarm-calls.html> .

Song Thrush

In quality the notes of the Song Thrush song are similar to the Blackbird. The main difference is the structure: the Song Thrush, like a politician, repeats phrases, usually between two and four times. Between phrases there is a short pause between moving onto another phrase, which it repeats: http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/03%20-%20Unknown%20Title%20-%20Unknown%20Artist_0.mp3 . There is some evidence for mimicry of other species and one fairly commonly heard phrase sounds similar to the common downward pitched note of the Shining Cuckoo, though there is disagreement as to whether this is mimicry or just similar without any connection.

Like the Blackbird, Song Thrush calls are much less known than the song. For a bird with such a

strident song the main call is a rather unremarkable high-pitched and somewhat metallic 'tsip': <https://www.xeno-canto.org/497628> . It is often given as a contact call or in flight. The closest similar call in New Zealand is perhaps the Cirl Bunting, though this seems to me to be slightly longer and buzzier than the Song Thrush:

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%201717%20Cirl%20Bunting.mp3> . The Rifleman call is generally a sharper and shorter call: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/25%200-%20Rifleman%20%28South%20Island%29.mp3> .

The main alarm call of the Song Thrush has a clucking/pinking quality like the Blackbird, but is sharper and shorter, quickly repeated 'chik': <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%20944%20Song%20Thrush.mp3> .

Dunnock

Though visually resembling a sparrow such a similarity is dispelled when a Dunnock sings. The song is a rollicking and cheerful if maybe slightly tuneless and tinny warble, rendered by HANZAB as weeso, sissy-weeso, sissy-weeso, sissy-wee:

http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/13%20-%20Track%2013_10.mp3 . The song is often repeated, somewhat monotonously. Perhaps the most similar song in New Zealand is that of the Silvereye, though that is more rambling, slurred and 'peevis' in quality: http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/02%200-%20Track%202_3.mp3 .

Dunnock calls are variations of 'seep'. The main call sounds a little like a squeaky wheel that desperately needs oiling:

<https://www.xeno-canto.org/448958> .

Sometimes the call is trilled, perhaps if anxious: <http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%20249%20Dunnock.mp3> . The main confusion species as far as the call goes is the

Tomtit (see above), though the Tomtit call has a thinner quality and is slightly longer.

Starling

An indescribable mix of whistles, clicks, trills, slurs and almost limitless mimicry forms the song of the Starling:

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/23%20-%20Starling.mp3> . In New Zealand it can't really be mistaken for any other species, with perhaps only the Tui coming close.

Calls are harsh 'tchaaair' and sharp 'dikk' given if alarmed: <https://www.xeno-canto.org/263970> . The only bird in New Zealand that makes noises really close to this is the Common Myna in the North Island. Kingfishers sometimes utter a scissor-grinding alarm call that is a little similar: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%201163%20Kingfisher.mp3>

Nick Allen

the other side of the tree the bird appeared. We tiptoed round again. So the bird popped out where we had been standing. The leader became agitated, waving his bird book and telling us to look. There followed a wonderful game of hide and seek while he became more and more frustrated. It was like being in a kids cartoon, with him rushing around and the bird appearing and disappearing. I began to get the giggles, which soon became almost uncontrollable.

It was a tiny brownish bird, a warbler, with bright eyes and a little black beret of feathers, so no surprise it was called a Blackcap. I saw it near the top of the tree when the leader gave up in disgust, so my first lesson was that when everyone goes away, the bird comes out to see where you are!

The leader invited us to the bird group, and told us about the outings they held. He looked so discouraged but it was one of the happiest days I'd had for ages, so I went to the meeting and booked to go on a coach trip. It was cold, wet, miserable, I had no binoculars, no waterproofs but what a good day. People shared their food, their telescopes, their time and anecdotes. Apparently they said 'Well, we won't see her again' as I dripped and squelched my way off the coach – and that was the first day of the 30-plus years I spent with the bird group. A grand bunch - as we all are!!

Anthea Reynolds

How to Recruit a Birder!

I saw a notice in the local free paper for a group walk, on a local heath which I had wanted to visit. When I arrived, the leader was welcoming but rather pompous. Off we set, while he lectured us. Eventually he heard some birdsong coming from a small tree, so we gathered round in anticipation. He peered into the leaves through his binoculars. It was our fault the bird was hiding, we made too much noise, he said. So, we tiptoed round and, yes – the bird peeped out. 'There' he said. 'Where?' we chorused. On

House Sparrow Nest

The following photos are of a House Sparrow pair nesting inside the metal bar of a barrier gate, seen on the Waimakariri bank at the end of West Melton Road. Photo credit: Janet Burton.



Red-billed Gull With Oral Fistula

The following photos of a Red-billed Gull were taken on January 12, at a food caravan on the Kaikoura coast. This bird has an oral fistula, a malformation of the bill that allows the bird's tongue to poke through the bottom of it. Photo credit: Colin Mere.



Bittern Sightings

Recently on two separate outings I startled an adult Australasian Bittern which flew up, winging itself away from me. The photo opportunity was zilch, however to see two is pretty good going. The first sighting was at Ataahua Point, Lake Ellesmere, on October 29 2019. While walking to the lake edge, it flew up among the grasses/raupo to my left, flying low to other raupo where it landed. The second sighting was Selwyn Huts at the end of Spackman Rod. We parked up, walked to the first entry on the pathway to the lake to observe the nesting shags across in the trees, and we disturbed a bittern. It flew low across the water to the other island and landed on the far side.

Janet Burton

Marj Davis Scholarship

Applications are now open and close on March 1 2020. The scholarship is intended to provide financial support to a full-time Masters or PhD student conducting research in ornithology. All the details and an application form can be found here -

<https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/funding/marj-davis-scholarship/>. If you know anyone who may be eligible please make them aware of this.

Birds NZ Conference 2020

The 2020 New Zealand Bird Conference and 81st Annual General Meeting of Birds New Zealand will be held right here in Christchurch, at the Commodore Hotel, from May 30 to June 1 2020 (Queens Birthday Weekend). This makes it really convenient - and cheap - for most Canterbury members to attend, so it's the perfect opportunity to give the conference a go. There will be two days of bird related talks (many with a local flavour) followed by a day of field trips. All the details can be found at <https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/nz-bird-conference/>. Make sure to register by the end of February so you can take advantage of our early bird rates.

Canterbury AGM

The annual general meeting of the Canterbury region of Birds New Zealand will be held at the DoC Office 31 Nga Mahi Road, Sockburn on March 30 beginning at 7:30pm. If you would like to nominate anyone for the positions of Regional Representative, Regional Recorder or Treasurer, or to the committee, please contact Sandra (birds.canterbury@osnz.org.nz or 358-5706) for a nomination form. You may also make nominations on the night. If you'd like to find out what's involved in any role Sandra is the person to contact.

Conference Abstract Submissions

If you are interested in presenting at the 2020 New Zealand Bird Conference, you can find instructions on how to submit an abstract for a talk or poster at <https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/nz-bird-conference/call-for-abstracts/>. The deadline for submissions is April 19, but it would be helpful for our conference team if any abstracts are provided as soon as possible.

Lost Gold

In March, you will not be receiving the normal edition of *Nortornis* along with the *Birds New Zealand* magazine. It is being replaced with *Lost Gold – Ornithology of the subantarctic Auckland Islands*. This is a super-sized edition, in book format, providing a comprehensive account of the bird life of the Auckland Islands. Find out more here -

<https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/news/lost-gold-ornithology-of-the-subantarctic-auckland-islands/>.

Recent Sightings

Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report November 2019 to January 2020

This report covers the period 1st November 2019 to 31st January 2020 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/scarcely species or escaped/released species etc)

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

V = vagrant

Great Spotted Kiwi (A) James Mackay Hut: 1 11/12 REm. Heaphy Track nr Heaphy Hut: 1 11/12 REm. Waimangaroa: 1 10/12 RN. Upper Blue Duck Creek, N of Inangahua: 2 23/11 JB, ABe. Coal Flat N of Inangahua: 5 16/12 FSc. Bullock Creek Road, Punakaiki: 3 18/12 FSc. Marble Hill Campsite: 1 14/11 MBa. Otira Township: 1 10/1 MC. Arthur's Pass Township: 1 12/12 LG, 28/12 NM, PC, 31/12 ESa, JCo, 8/1 IW, 17/1 BF. Edwards Hut: 4 2/1 NM.
Cape Barren Goose (A) St Annes Lagoon: 2 11/11 JS, 3 11/11 MBa, 2a 1juv 17/11 GNI, B&BA. 4 21/11 SCa, CS. 3 22/11 DH, 3 25/11 JW, 3 1/12 WF, JG, 1 11/12

The Wrybill - February 2020

EB, JC, 1 12/12 PR, 1 4/1 MC, 1 16/1 'Parula', 1 17/1 AW. Ferry Road, Kaiapoi: 1 22/11 PRh. Kaiapoi Oxidation Ponds: 1 30/12 AC. Lower Styx Road: 2 14/1 BA. Travis Wetland: 1 28/12 PSc, 10/1 KR. Rakaia RM: 3 29/12 IW.

Mute Swan (A) Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 2 27/1 JB. Pegasus Wetlands: 2 1/11 BA, 3 11/11 BA, 5 26/12 BA, 6 8/1 SW, EG, 12 18/1 BA, 3 30/1 BA. Bromley Oxidation Ponds: 1 1/1 PC. Cashmere Thai Health Spa Lake: 1 6/1 NA. Lincoln Wetlands: 1 3/11 AS, MF, 2 13/11 PR, 2 4/12 PR, 1 2/1 PR, 2 11/1 JW, 2 27/1 PR, 2 28/1 AN. Kaituna Lagoon: 3 8/12 BW, 9 24/12 MSu. Embankment Road: 2 22/11 SCa, CS. Yarrs Bay: 2 6/1 BA, PR. Lower Selwyn Huts: 8 9/12 EG, SW. Drain Road, Lakeside: 2 3/11 BA, 4 14/11 PR, 2 7/12 SW, EG. Harts Creek: 1 3/11 SC, 2 17/11 ACo, DT, 6 23/11 BS, 6 24/22 BS, 1 5/12 TF, 1 6/12 EB, JC, 1 7/12 EG, SW. Timbryard Road: 4 3/11 BA, 2 23/12 JGr. Coopers Lagoon: 3 25/11 GN, B&BA, 23 7/12 SW, EG, 35 23/12 JGr. Rhodes Lagoon nr Clandeboye: 10 18/11 PS. Spider Lagoon: 2 2/12 PS.

Blue Duck (A) Upper Heaphy River: 4 30/11 GE. Leslie River, Kahurangi NP: 1 5/12 TE. Karamea River Silvermine Creek-Crow Hut: 6 14/12 TE. Lower Crow River: 4 14/12 TE. Moria Gate Arch Track: 3 15/1 DBE. Edwards Valley: 2 2/1 NM, KR. Kawhaka Creek: 1 21/11 JM.

American Wood Duck (A) Styx Mill Reserve: 1 3/12 JK.

Muscovy Duck (A) Riccarton House: 1 21/1 NA. Mustang Avenue Flood Ponds: 1 3/12 PR. Westlake Reserve: 2 & 1 hybrid 2/11 PR, 2 9/11 FT, GN, 4 3/12 PR, 1 & 1 hybrid 26/12 PR, 1 & 1 hybrid 15/1 PR, 1 & 1 hybrid 31/1 PR.

Australasian Shoveler (S) Kaiapoi Oxidation Ponds: 2034 30/12 AC.

Grey Teal (S) Kaiapoi Oxidation Ponds: 1046 30/12 AC.

Helmeted Guinea fowl (A) Levin Road, Cheviot: 3 5/11 GN. Greenpark Road, Greenpark: 4 22/11 ACo. Timbryard Road: 2 14/11 PR.

Peafowl (A) Factory Road, Sefton: 2 26/12 BA, 2m 3f 29/12 BA, 3m 3f 22/1 SW, EG. Living Earth, Bromley: 1 20/12 DT.

Chukar (A) Mount John: 1 18/11 PH, 1 21/11 DL, 1 24/11 GN, B&BA, 1 21/12 HB, JGo, 2 24/12 AC, 2 21/1 PD.

Turkey (A) Serpentine Road, Kumara Junction: 1 23/11 SCa, CS. Timbryard Road: 2 14/11 PR, 4 15/11 GN, 7 17/1 PR.

Australasian Crested Grebe (A) Lake Pearson: 1 12/11 AB. Pegasus Wetlands: 2 1/11 BA. Kaiapoi Lakes: 1 18/12 BA, 2 15/1 GM, 4ad 2juv 24/1 BA, 3 27/1 JB. Roto Kohatu: 2 11/11 MBa, 2a 1imm 11/12

BA, 2 6/1 BA, 7 9/1 SG, 4 12/1 EG, SW, 6 21/1 SG. Styx Mill Reserve: 2 24/11 JK, 2 2-4/12 JK. Lake Pearson: 1 30/11 NA, SSu, 3 21/12 PC, 1 18/1 LB. Lake Lyndon: 2 30/11 NA, SSu, 2 11/12 LG. Lake Forsyth: 17 6/11 MS, 4 11/11 JM, 12 17/11 PR, 1 at Birdlings Flat end 26/11 B&BA, 18 9/12 CB, 7 19/12 EG, SW 2 at Birdlings Flat 1/1 BA, 2 at Catons Bay 1/1 DBE, 10 at Catons Bay 12/1 KR, 17 18/1 NE, 8 22/1 CSh. Prices Valley Drain: 1 juv 16/12 AS. Kaituna Lagoon: 4 10/11 AS, MF, 2 23/12 RH. Harts Creek: 2 9/11 KR, 1 1/12 BS, 2 5/12 TF, 2 7/12 EG, SW. Lake Ianthe: 1 13/11 AB, 1 22/11 TF. Little Lake Ida: 1 18/1 DA. Lake Ida: 2 27/12 DA. Irrigation pond Dromore-Methven Road, Mitcham: 2 24/11 NA. Lake Heron: 2 29/1 PC. Lake Opuha: 3 27/11 PS. Lake Murray: 1 24/11 GN, B&BA. Lake McGregor: 3 21/11 DL, 12 30/11 CS, SCa, 8 9/12 JG, 8 10/1 MC. Lake Tekapo, McGregor Stream Bay: 1 15/11 AB, 2 15/12 JGr. Lake Tekapo south end: 2 15/11 DL, 2 23/11 PD, 1 24/11 ES, 1 25/11 PD, 2 30/11 TF, 2 2/12 DE, 2 24/12 MZ. Glentanner, Lake Pukaki: 3 12/11 DG. Lake Ruataniwha: 4 18/11 DL, 1 8/1 CBy. Lake Ruataniwha, Wairepo Arm: 2 1/12 DH, 1 8/12 JG, 5 1/1 JKe, NR, 4 2/1 R&JB, 3 19/1 AW, 3 22/1 JWe. Kaki Lagoons: 2 23/11 LR, LRo. Kelland Ponds: 4 18/11 DL, 9 22/1 JWe. Lake Ohau (Round Bush): 2 20/1 NE. Lake Middleton: 2 17/11 DL. Lake Benmore, Glenburn: 3 19/11 DL. Lake Aviemore: 2 19/11 DL.

Yellow-eyed Penguin (A) Paua Bay: 3 26/11 SS. Long Bay: 1 3/11 PC.

Fiordland Crested Penguin (V) Gore Bay: 1 had been present for 3 days, taken into care 10/1 AS.

Westland Petrel (S) Bullock Creek Road, Punakaiki: 1 landed on road and walked into forest 18/12 FSc (this is a short distance north of their colonies).

Little Black Shag (A) Ashley Estuary: 1 9/11 BA, 1 11/11 MBa, 1 17/11 BA, 1 14/12 AS, MF, 2 4/1 MC. Taranaki Creek Lagoon, Waikuku: 2 4/1 BA, 2 27/1 JB. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 30/1 BA. Kaiapoi Lakes: 2 18/12 BA. Waimakariri Bridges: 1 14/1 NM. Lower Styx River: 1 19/1 MF, AS. Horseshoe Lake Reserve: 6 23/1 AR, 3 27/1 AR. Bromley Oxidation Ponds: 11 16/1 SW, EG. Avon-Heathcote Est northern arm: 7 22/1 RG. Humphreys Drive Foreshore: 1 21/1 RG.

Horomaka I, Port Levy: 1 25/1 MF, AS. Boggy Creek: 4 9/12 BA. Harts Creek: 8 6/12 EB, JC, 1 7/12 EG, SW.

Otago Shag (A) Washdyke Lagoon: 1 30/11 CS, SCa.

Australasian Bittern (A) Te Rauakaaka Reserve, Brooklands: 1 22/11 AS, MF. Selwyn RM: 1 10/1 JB. Harts Creek: 5 11/11 CO, 1 17/11 ACo, DT, 3 1/12 BS, 1 7/12 SW, EG. Lakeside Wildlife Management Reserve: 1 26/11 BS.

White Heron (A) Pegasus Wetlands: 1 1/11 BA. Lower Lake Road: 1 7/12 SW, EG.

Little Egret (V) Ashley Estuary: 1 16/11 KJ, 17/11 BA, 25/11 EG, SW, BA, 9/12 AC.

Reef Heron (A) Jimmy Armer's Beach: 1 30/11 WF. Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway: 1 13/1 SK. South Bay, Kaikoura: 1 4/11 RS, 1 30/11 JG. Albatross Encounters Pelagic: 3 2/11 AE, 2 7/11 TB, 1 8/12 CB, 1 4/1 R&JB. Barneys Rock: 2 11/11 MBa, 1 1/12 GN, 1 17/12 TBr. Paia: 1 21/12 DT, 2 4/1 MC. Port Levy: 1 6/12 AC.

Cattle Egret (A) Karangarua: 3 16/11 MA.

Royal Spoonbill (S) Pegasus Wetlands: 11 and visiting probable nest site (new location) 11/11 BA. Kaiapoi Oxidation Ponds: 91 (ads & flying fledged birds) in colony there 30/12 AC.

Black Kite (V) Postmans Road, Kaikoura Flat: 1 22/12 HB, JGo.

Marsh Crake (A) Kaiapoi Oxidation Ponds: 1 30/12 AC. Harts Creek: 3 11/11 CO, 1 14/11 PR, 1 24/11 BS. Ohau River Delta ponds: 2 17/11 PH, 1 24/11 GN, B&BA, 2 8/12 JG.

Spotless Crake (A) Harts Creek: 1 11/11 CO, 29/11 BS.

Takahe (A) James Mackay Hut: 1 10/12 REm (will have been from the reintroduced population on Goulard Downs).

Pied Stilt (S) Ki-Wainono: 729 6/12 PS, JS.

Black Stilt (A) Ashley Estuary: 1 14/12 AR. Lake Tekapo, SE Bay: 2 6/11 MFe. Lake Murray: 2 17/11 PH, 2 21/11 DL, 4 24/11 GN, B&BA. Lake Tekapo McGregor inlet bay: 1 19/1 MC. Tekapo Walkway: 4 24/11 ES. Andrew Don Drive, Tekapo: 2 18/1 OG. Tasman Fan: 6 14/11 IP, 1 23/11 KC, 7 23/11 LR, 5 24/11 5 GN, B&BA, 5 29/11 CS, SCa, 1 30/11 TF, 4 1/12 DH, 9 8/12 JG, 4 11/12 SH, 1 14/12 BW, 9 21/12 HB, JGo, 8 24/12 MZ, 10 31/12 JKe, NR, 10 1/1 JKe, NR, 3 2/1 J&RB, 7 5/1 AH, 11 10/1 LB, 4 11/1 MC, 4 13/1 JWe, 6 16/1 BF, 15 19/1 AW, 6 24/1 MFu. Approx 6 km from start of SH80: 1 17/11 MBa, 2 29/11 CB, KE, 1 30/11 DE. SH8 nr Irishman Creek: 1 18/1 AW. Lake Poaka: 1 23/11 LR, 6 3/1 OR. Waterwheel Wetland: 1 24/11 ABe, 1 8/12 JG, WF, 1 15/12 JGr. Kaki Lagoons: 2 13/11 HS, 2 11/12 CBy, 1 14/12 BW. Ohau Delta: 2 24/11 GN, B&BA, 1 16/12 JGr. Ahuriri River nr Clay Cliffs: 3 17/11 MBa.

Pacific Golden Plover (A) Greenpark Huts-Jarvis Road: 25 8/12 EG.

Large Sand Dotterel (V) Ashley Estuary: 1 2/11 BA, 10/11 NA, SM, AM, 13/11 DT, 17/11 BA, GNI, B&BA, 22/11 JB, ABe, 25/11 KJ, 11/12 NA, 21/12 JGo.

Banded Dotterel (S) Point Kean, Kaikoura: 100 27/12 DS. Embankment Road: 500 16/1 DHa.

Black-fronted Dotterel (A) Waiau River, Emu Plain: 2 7/11 RM. Waiau River ~1km S of Waiau: 2 1/11 RM. Waipara RM: 3 15/12 NA, 1 22/12 HB, JGo, 1

24/12 BA. Ashworth's Beach Northern Lagoon: 1 18/11 EG, SW. Ashley River ~500 m W of SH1 Bridge: 1 16/11 AS. Maori Lakes, Ashburton Lakes: 3 29/1 PC. Ashburton River North Branch nr Winchmore: 2 17/1 AC. Orari River below Milford-Clandeboyne Road: 1 18/11 PS. Spider Lagoon: 1 2/12 PS. Opihi RM: 1 2/12 PS. Washdyke Lagoon: 1 9/12 PS, JS.

Wrybill (S) Waiau River, Emu Plain: 2 7/11 RM. Waipara RM: 5 15/12 NA, 1 24/12 BA. Ashley Estuary: 36 16/12 BA, 68 19/12 FSc, 60 21/12 HB, JGo. Brooklands Lagoon: 3 30/12 ACo. Bexley Wetland: 3 5/12 FS. Crescent Island: 201 22/12 ACo, DT. Halswell Flats: 200 (no juveniles seen) 26/12 ACo. Kaituna Lagoon SE corner: 1 24/12 MSu. Washdyke Lagoon: 3 9/12 PS, JS, 11 14/1 PS.

Greenshank (V) Wolfes Road: 1 30/12 BA, PR.

Marsh Sandpiper (V) Kaituna Lagoon SE corner: 1 9/1 NM, 21/1 NM. Embankment Road: 1 3/11 BNZC, 2 22/11 ACo. Wolfes Road: 1 24/11 EG, SW.

Black-tailed Godwit (V) Embankment Road: 3 28/11 MBa. Yarrs Bay: 3 8/12 TF, NA. Wolfes Road: 3 22/11 ACo, 3 24/11 SW, EG, 2 26/11 AC, 3 5/12 DT, 3 6/12 NM, 3 10/12 ACo, 3 15/12 PC, 3 16/12 ACo, GM, 2 30/12 BA, PR, 3 31/12 RH, 3 9/1 EG, SW.

Hudsonian Godwit (V) Embankment Road: 1 28/11 MBa. Wolfes Road: 1 22/11 ACo, 24/11 SW, EG, 2/12 BSt, 5/12 DT, 6/12 NM, 10/12 ACo, 2 15/12 PC, 1 16/12 ACo, GM, 31/12 RH.

Bar-tailed Godwit (S) Harts Creek: 3 17/11 ACo, DT. Tasman Fan: 3 12/11 DG, 2 23/11 LR, 2 1/12 DH. Washdyke Lagoon: 12 19/11 PS, 4 9/12 PS, JS.

Turnstone (A) Point Kean, Kaikoura: 2 13/11 MBa, 24 7/12 CB, 20 27/12 DS. Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway: 1 6/12, 1 29/12 DBE. Ashley Estuary: 1 10/11 NA, AM, 3 juv 13/11 DT, 4 16/11 BA, 2 17/11 GNI, B&BA, 1 19/11 JB, BA, 5 7/12 BA, 4 7/12 BW, 6 11/12 NA, 2 13/12 ACo, 1 14/12 AR, 2 16/12 EG, SW, 7 4/1 MC, 6 8/1 BA, 2 26/1 ACo. Greenpark Huts-Jarvis Road: 10 8/12 EG. Jarvis-Embankment Roads: 5 8/12 AS, MF. Embankment Road: 3 5/12 DT, 1 8/12 NA, TF, 8 16/12 ACo. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 31 11/11 AC, 31 14/11 AS, 2 22/12 ACo, DT, 14 1/1 BA, 3 20/1 NM. Ashburton RM: 3 26/11 SW, EG, 6 11/1 NA.

Lesser Knot (A) Point Kean, Kaikoura: 1 7/12 CB. Ashley Estuary: 2 2/11 BA, 1 10/11 NA, 2 17/11 GNI, B&BA, 4 19/11 JB, BA, 5 20/11 KJ, 12 21/11 SCa, CS, 1 22/11 ABe, JB, 1 24/11 BA, 4 7/12 BA, 3 7/12 BW, 10 11/12 NA, 9 13/12 ACo, 8 16/12 BA, 8 22/12 HB, JGo, 9 4/1 MC, 21 8/1 BA, 19 15/1 SW, EG, 4 17/1 DHa, 22 25/1 BA, 21 26/1 ACo, 21 27/1 BA. Jarvis Road: 6 6/12 EB. Embankment Road: 5 22/11 ACo, 6 8/12 TF, NA, 2 16/12 ACo. Yarrs Bay: 11 8/12 TF, NA. Wolfes Road: 10 16/12 GM, 15 30/12 BA, PR. Crescent Island: 1 22/12 ACo, DT. Washdyke Lagoon:

2 9/12 PS, JS.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (A) Kaituna Lagoon SE corner: 2 24/12 MSu. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 1 22/12 ACo, DT. Embankment Road: 4 29/12 KRo.

Curlew Sandpiper (A) Embankment Road: 2 3/11 BNZC, 2 9/11 ACo, 1 22/11 ACo, 1 28/11 MBa. Wolfes Road: 2 15/12 PC, 2 16/12 ACo, GM.

Red-necked Stint (A) Ashley Estuary: 1 2/11 BA, 1 7/12 BW. Greenpark Huts-Jarvis Road: 2 8/12 EG. Jarvis-Embankment Roads: 17 8/12 AS. MF. Embankment Road: 6 1/11 GM, 32 3/11 BNZC, 19 12/11 JW, 29 14/11 DT, 10 17/11 JB, 39 22/11 ACo, 7 25/11 GN, B&BA, 10 26/11 JB, 9 28/11 MBa, 54 5/12 DT, 29 8/12 NA, TF, 9 16/12 ACo, 4 16/1 DHa, 1 19/1 RSi, 7 25/1 JR. Yarrs Bay: 6 8/12 TF, NA. Wolfes Road: 1 5/12 DT, 3 10/12 ACo, 15 16/12 ACo. Crescent Island: 4 22/12 ACo, DT. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 21 11/11 AC.

Little Stint (V) Embankment Road: 1 3/11 BNZC, 12/11 JW, 14/11 DT, 15/11 SA, 17/11 JB, 22/11 SCa, CS, 25/11 GM, GN, B&BA.

Sanderling (V) Ashley Estuary: 1 2/11 BA, 9/11 BA, 10/11 NA, 13/11 DT, BA, 14/11 MA, 16/11 BA, 22/11 Abe, JB, 7/12 BA, 11/12 NA, 13/12 ACo, 21/12 HB, JGo, 22/12 HB, JGo, 8/1 BA, 15/1 EG, SW, 17/1 DHa, 25/1 BA, 27/1 BA, JB.

Pectoral Sandpiper (A) Waipara RM: 1 24/12 BA, JGr. Embankment Road: 1 14/11 DT, 1 22/11 ACo, SCa, CS, 1 26/11 JB, 2 5/12 DT, 2 8/12 NA, 2 16/12 ACo, GM, 7 29/12 KRo. Ashburton RM: 1 26/11 EG, SW.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (V) Ashley Estuary: 1 19/11 KJ. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 1 22/12 ACo, DT, AC, 23/12 KJ, 24/12 IWi, BDa, 25/12 'Wazzagonewild', 28/12 ACo, JaC 1/1 BA, 20/1 NM.

Red-billed Gull (S) Rangitata RM: 1500 in large colony 24/11 DL. Waitaki RM: 1000 in colony 22/11 DL.

Little Tern (V) Embankment Road: 1 12/11 JW, 14/11 DT, 29/12 KRo. Yarrs Bay: 1 9/11 ACo, JaC, KR. Wolfes Road: 1 22/11 ACo, 24/11 EG, SW, 26/11 AC, 5/12 DT, 8/12 TF, NA, 16/12 ACo, GM.

White-fronted Tern (S) Clarence RM: 2000 in a large breeding colony 20/11 DB, PCr. Rangitata RM: 1000 in large colony 24/11 DL.

Common Tern (V) Wolfes Road: 1 2/12 BSt.

Barbary Dove (A) Roydvale Ave #141: 1 11/1 SW, EG. Selwyn Road, Faringdon: 2 16/12 AC. Ellesmere Cemetery: 1 28/11 PR, 2 3/1 PR, 1 10/1 BA.

Long-tailed Cuckoo (S) Arthur's Pass Village: 3 27/11 TG. Cranky Tom Reserve, Motunau: 1 20/11 AS.

New Zealand Falcon (A) Ohau Point: 1 3/12 JH. Puhi Puhi: 1 18/11 MB, 1 21/11 MB. Kowhai River, Hinaiu Track access: 2 23/1 B&BA. Bunkers Stream, St James Ra: 1 6/11 MB. Maling Pass St James Ra: 1 31/12

CBy. Stag & Spey: 1 5/11 MB. Mitchells Cutting, Molesworth Sta: 1 2/12 DB. Tophouse Road, Clarence Valley: 1 29/11 BC. Maruia Junction: 1 28/12 TBr. Palmer Road, Maruia: 1 22/11 BA. Near Hanmer Springs Forest Camp: 1 31/12 CBy. Ferry Bridge, Hanmer Springs: 1 19/11 SB, 1 31/12 Native Birds Taranaki. Mitchells, Lake Brunner: 23/11 BD. Death's Corner: 1 8/1 FB. Otira Valley Walk: 1 3/1 NR. Devils Punchbowl Track, Arthur's Pass: 1 GN, B&BA. Edwards Valley: 1 2/1 NM. Cora Lynn: 1 24/11 DHi, 25/11 DHi. Packhorse Hut: 1 2/12 MF, AS. Hans Bay, Lake Kaniere: 2 23/12 Native Birds Taranaki. Algidus Road N of Coleridge: 1 5/11 BA. Mueller Lookout Walk: 1 16/1 JP. Whitehorse Hill: 2 18/1 OG. Mt Cook Village: 1 24/12 MZ. Red Tarns Track, Mt Cook: 1 29/11 CS, SCa. Tasman Glacier Terminal: 1 14/12 BW. Tasman Fan: 2 21/12 HB, JGo. SH8 nr Irishman Creek: 1 16/1 BF. Clay Cliffs, Omarama: 2 1/11 CH, 1 19/1 AW. Okarito Trig Track: 1 18/11 GN, B&BA. Peak Viewpoint, Gillespies Beach Rd, Fox Glacier: 1 12/12 SL. Monro Track, Lake Moeraki: 2 3/12 JG, 3 24/1 AK.

Kea (S) Domett Range, Kahurangi NP: 4 30/11 GE. Rough & Tumble Lodge: 1 12/12 REm. Maruia Junction: 2 3/11 DT. Nelson Creek, Ngahere: 5 12/11 IP. Goldsborough Campground: 5 14/1 DBe. Hunts Ridge, Taipo Valley: 1 15/1 FG. Anti-Crow Valley: 5 13/1 FG. Bealey Spur Track: 1 5/11 FT. Hawdon Valley: 2 10/1 MC. Mueller Lookout Walk: 3 2/1 SM. Sealey Tarns: 2 25/11 MS, 1 11/1 MC. Whitehorse Hill: 8 17/1 OG, 8 18/1 OG. Mount Cook township: 1 5/1 JMc. Franz Josef township: 3 17/12 JGr, 2 3/1 SH, 2 19/1 CSh, 8 19/1 AK. Franz Josef Glacier Walk: 2 12/11 SK, 2 (one banded white AX on red) 22/11 TF. Fox Glacier township: 5 18/11 RE, PE, 2 11/12 SL, 4 12/1 JMc. Fox Glacier View Road: 5 22/1 AK. Haast River nr Roaring Billy Falls: 1 16/12 JGr.

Kaka (A) Heaphy Track: 2 11/12 REm. Heaphy Hut: 2 11/12 REm. Box Canyon, Oparara Basin: 8 23/1 RN. Tauranga Bay: 1 16/12 SH. Coal Flat N of Inangahua: 4 16/12 FSc. Lewis Pass: 1 3/11 DM. Palmer Road, Maruia: 1 22/11 BA. Andrews Valley: 1 27/12 NM, PC. Hawdon Valley: 5 28/12 NM, PC. Hawdon Shelter: 1 28/12 NM, PC. Track to Monro Beach: 11 22/11 TF. Knights Point: 9 10/12 SL.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (A) Prices Valley: 14 10/11 AS, MF, 10 17/11 PR, 4 19/12 SW, EG. NA talked to the landowner on 8/12 and was told the population had grown to 175 birds and was now being actively controlled as it was damaging vegetation in the area.

Yellow-crowned Parakeet (A) Domett Range, Kahurangi NP: 8 30/11 GE. Boundary Seat, Heaphy Track: 2 10/12 REm. Heaphy Track: 3 11/12 REm. Box Canyon, Oparara Basin 3 23/1 RN. Oparara Arch

Track: 2 15/1 DBE. Lower Pororari River, Punakaiki: 1 18/1 AK. Blacks Point, Victoria FP: 3 5/1 RN.
 Klondyke Valley, Victoria FP: 1 5/1 RN. NW of Mary Maruia Saddle: 3 4/11 DT. Nina Valley: 1 6/11 PC.
 Lewis River nr Nina River confluence: 1 6/11 PC.
 Edwards Valley: 2 2/1 NM. Woolshed Hill Track: 3 6/1 FB. Hawdon Valley: 3 28/12 NM, PC, 2 30/12 IW.
 Hawdon Shelter: 5 21/12 PC. Lake Kaniere Rd/Ward Rd i/s, Kokatahi: 1 31/1 PC.
Rock Wren (A) Otira Valley: 1f 25/11 LR. 1m1f 26/11 LR. 2 30/11 MS, 1 10/1 FB.
Tui (S) Round Bush, Ohau: 1 17/11 DL.
Yellowhead (A) Hawdon Valley: 3 28/12 NM, PC.
Martin sp (V) Bromley Sewage Ponds: 1 either a Fairy or Tree Martin 30/12 AC.
Cirl Bunting (A) Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway: 1 19/12 TBr, 1 29/12 B&BA. South Bay, Kaikoura: 1 22/12 JGo, 2 25/12 JGr. St Paul's Track, Kaikoura: 1f 16/12 TBr. Amberley Golf Course: 1 15/12 NA. Bridle Path, Heathcote: 1 7/12 TF. Halswell Quarry Park: 1 3/12 NA, 1 22/12 ACo, DT, 1 28/12 PR, 1 23/1 NA.
 Quail Island: 1 13/1 OG. Menzies Bay Road, Decanter Bay: 1 2/1 DBE.

Observers: BA Bev Alexander, NA Nick Allen, DA David Anderson, B&BA Bob & Bettina Arrigoni, SA Steve Attwood, MA Mark Ayre, MBa Mike Baker, CB Chris Barnes, DBE Dave Bell, EB Elizabeth Bell, FB Fran Bell, MB Mike Bell, AB Alison Bentley, JB Joshua Bergmark, ABe Alex Berryman, LB Louis Bevier, TB Ted Blank, HB Harry Boorman, SB Scott Brooks, TBr Tim Brush, DB Dan Burgin, R&JB Ryan & Jack Bushong, CBy Chris Bycroft, BNZC Birds NZ
 Canterbury, SCa Sue Carnahan, SC Stuart Caulfield, MC Mark Cavill, JC Jacqueline Cestero, ACo Adam Colley, JaC Jack Colley, BC Baylee Connor-McClean, JCo Jeremy Cohen, KC Kay Creighton, PCr Patrick Crowe, PC Phil Crutchley, AC Andrew Crossland, BDa Brian Darlow, BD Benjamin Davis, PD Peter Doyle, NE Nathan Earley, AE Albatross Encounters, GE Graeme Elliott, KE Kevin Elsby, DE David Ely, TE Tony Entwistle, RE Raewyn Empson, PE Parrish Evans, RE Robyn Evans, MFe Matthias Fehlow, TF Thijs Fijen, WF William Flack, BF Brendan Fogarty, MF Malcolm Foster, MFu Michael Fuhrer, SG Sue Galvin, LG Lawrence Gardella, TG Tricia Gardner, DG Doug Gochfeld, JGo Jesse Golden, JGr John Gregory, OG Oliver Griffin, JG, Joe Grzybowski, RG Robert Gubiani, EG Eleanor Gunby, FG Fraser Gurney, DHa Don Hadden, SH Stefan Hage, PH Phil Hammond, DH David Hartwell, AH Adam Higgins, DHI David Hilberman, JH Jordan Hinson, CH Chuck Holliday, SH Steven Hromada, RH Richard Hurt, KJ Kelly Johnson, JK Jess Keast, JKe James Kennerley, AK Al Kirkley, SK

Stefan Kopec, DL David Lawrie, SL Scott Linnane, SM Sue McCullough, GM Greg McKenzie, SM Scott McKinlay, JMc Jess McQuigg, DM Debs Martin, RM Roger Maslowski, JM John Mercer, AM Alice Miles Erickson, NM Niall Mugan, GNi Gina Nichol, RN Richard Nichol, AN Arthur Norman, GN Graham Norton, CO Colin O'Donnell, JP James Paterson, IP Ivan Phillipsen, PR Peter Reese, PRh Phil Rhodes, NR Nicole Richardson, OR Owen Robertson, KRo Kenny Rose, LR Laurie Ross, LRo Lauren Ross, AR Alex Rossi, KR Kieran Rowe, JR Jesse Rubenstein, PS Paul Sagar, MS Mark Salvidge, ESa Erin Sauer, JS Jim Scarff, FS Frances Schmechel, FSc Fabrice Schmitt, RS Rob Schuckard, DS Doug Schurman, PSc Paul Scofield, SS Susan Shannon, CSh Chetna Sharma, BS Bradley Shields, RSi Richard Simmonds, CS Curtis Smith, HS Howard Smith, AS Anita Spencer, BSt Brent Stephenson, MS Matthew Strimas-Mackey, ES Emily Stroud, SSu Spencer Sun, MSu Mark Sutton, FT Fanny Tale, DT David Thomas, JW Jan Walker, SW Sandra Wallace, IW Imogen Warren, JWe Jill West, IWi Ian Williams, BW Brad Woodworth, AW Amy Worell, MZ Mathew Zappa.

Spot the Little Owl



Believe it or not, there is in fact a Little Owl in the photo on the previous page. Can you pick out where the owl is in the pile of dead branches? Photo credit: Bev Alexander.

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 the trip leader's 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.

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

Submissions

The next edition of The Wrybill is due out in early May. The editor invites members to submit their contributions - articles and/or photos - by April 20 for inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks to everybody who contributed to this edition of The Wrybill. This is one of the most jam-packed issues there has been for quite a while, which is excellent to see.

Summer Wader Count

The results from our summer wader count are attached at the end of this newsletter. We had a good number of volunteers, although we were short of experienced birders to lead teams. This meant some areas of the lake had to be covered either the day before or the day after the main count. A big thank you to everyone who came along and helped out with the count.

Flagged Red Knot



This image of a flagged Red Knot was recently taken at the Ashley Estuary by Greg McKenzie. This bird was banded at the Port of Brisbane on November 2 2019 as a 1 year old. There are many birds being banded now, so as we birders move around, the chances of seeing one is possible. If you do, take note of which leg the bands are on and what the colour combinations are. If you can get a photo, great, if not record what you see and send your findings to the Banding Office or to Sandra who will forward it on. Photo credit: Greg McKenzie.

CANTERBURY WADER COUNT NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

Species	Waipara RM	Kowai RM	Ashley/Swate Crk Est	Taranaki Creek paddocks	Wainakiri Bridges	Brooklands Lagoon	Travis Weiland	Avon-Heathcote Estuary	Lyttelton Harbour	Port Levy	Pigeon Bay	Okains Bay	Akaroa Harbour	Lake Forsyth	Tip of Kaitore Spit	Kaitore Spit	Birdings Flat A	Birdings Flat B	Kaituna Lagoon	Halswell Flats B	Halswell Flats A	Osbornes	Greenpark Huts - Jarvis Road	Jarvis-Embankment Roads	Embankment Rd-Yarrs	Wolfe Road	L/I RM to Selwyn Huts	Rennie's Bay	Inwell RM
Counters/NC	NA	AC	NA	NA	n/c	AC	KR JSK MT DR	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC JF	MR TB AC JF	MR TB	AC JF	MR TB	AW DM CA AM	KR LM KM	SW DW	EG DG	WA AS MF	NA TF	NA TF	EG SW	n/c	BA
Date counted	15-Dec	9-Dec	11-Dec	11-Dec		25-Nov	12-Dec	24-Nov	6-Dec	6-Dec	6-Dec	6-Dec	6-Dec	6-Dec	8-Dec	8-Dec	8-Dec	8-Dec	8-Dec	8-Dec	8-Dec	8-Dec	8-Dec	8-Dec	8-Dec	8-Dec	9-Dec		9-Dec
Mute Swan																			6		9								
Australasian Bittern																													
Reef Heron										1																			
White Heron																													
Royal Spoonbill			17			66		24	3				1			2		4	19	228	4	2	2	1	7	7	60		19
Little Black Shag																													
Pied Oystercatcher	1	1	66			46		726	49	16	6	14	29	20			20	5		1				2		16	4		
Variable Oystercatcher		1	9			4		73	4	6	2	5	28	1				2											
Hybrid Oystercatcher			22																										
Pied Stilt	24	10	68			27	51	32	4			4	6	221	18	36	389	370	138	458	136	245	489	14	261	151	33		3
Hybrid Stilt			1																	1						1			
Large Sand Dotterel			1																										
Banded Dotterel	25	2	47				1								16	8	36	53	2	48	22	1		45	29	33	11		
Black-fronted Dotterel	3																												
Wrybill	5		15												3	18	36	1			1		44	64	325	51	4		
Pacific Golden Plover																	2			2		7	25						
Spur-winged Plover	6	5	1	9		17	23	42	14	2	4	8	26	31		9	19	32	36	7	8	6	48		4		4		
Turnstone			6												2		15						10	5	1				
Lesser Knot			10			1												10							17				
Sanderling			1																										
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper																	1	1											
Pectoral Sandpiper																	2									2			
Red-necked Stint																					2	2	17	35					
Bar-tailed Godwit		1	171			234	1	1531	258					1	6			23		225	22		3		95	25			
Black-tailed Godwit																									3				
Black-billed Gull	34		19	1											11								19	2	38	46			
Black-fronted Tern	6		1			1		1																					
White-fronted Tern	54		214			37		18							2816														
Little Tern																										1			
Caspian Tern			7			3		10					6	3	94			6		3		1	2	3	3	2	1		
Site totals	158		676	10	0	436	76	2457	332	25	12	31	96	277	2966	73	520	507	201	973	202	264	646	151	836		113	0	22
Wader site totals	64	20	418	9	0	329	76	2404	329	24	12	31	89	274	45	71	520	497	176	742	189	261	623	145	788	265	52	0	3
% of total count	0.65	0.20	4.27	0.09	0.00	3.36	0.78	24.58	3.36	0.25	0.12	0.32	0.91	2.80	0.46	0.73	5.32	5.08	1.80	7.59	1.93	2.67	6.37	1.48	8.06	2.71	0.53	0.00	0.03
# wader species at site	6	6	13	1	0	6	4	5	5	3	3	4	4	5	5	4	9	9	3	7	5	5	8	5	11	6	4	0	1

Note: Lake Ellesmere level ~0.8m on 8/12/19.

Wrybill (and other native species) numbers boosted by alpine-fed rivers being in flood.

Bar-tailed Godwit numbers boosted by an exceptionally fruitful breeding season

Wader numbers approx 67% up on Nov/Dec 2018

Counters

Nick Allen = NA Andrew Crossland = AC Matt Rose = MR Sandra Wallace = SW Eleanor Gunby = EG Bev Alexander = BA Kenny Rose = KR Dale McIntee = DM Paul Sagar = PS Joy Sagar = JS Laura Molles = LM J Skilton = JSK Dave Rate-Smith = DR Kate Marshall = KM Alice Waterhouse = AW Clive Appleton = CA Anna McClure = AM Tia Button = TB John Fitch = JF David Williams-Jones = DW Donal Goodale = DG Warwick Allen = WA Thijs Fijen = TF Anit Spencer = AS Malcolm Foster = MF Mitch Thorn = MT

Species	Boggy Creek	Drain Road	Harts Creek	Timberyard Road	Johnstons Road	Lower Lake Road nr Taumutu	Fisher's Point	Subtotal Lake Ellesmere	Coopers Lagoon	Ashburton RM	Orai RM	Spider Lagoon	Opihi RM/Milford Lagoon	Washdyke Lagoon	Ki-Waihorono	TOTAL
Counters/NC	BA	EG SW	EG SW	EG SW	n/c	EG SW	EG SW		EG SW	AC	PS	PS	PS	PS JS	PS JS	
Date counted	9-Dec	7-Dec	7-Dec	7-Dec		7-Dec	7-Dec		7-Dec	28-Nov	18-Nov	2-Dec	2-Dec	9-Dec	6-Dec	
Mute Swan		2	6					23	23			2				48
Australasian Bittern			1					1								1
Reef Heron								0								1
White Heron						1		1								1
Royal Spoonbill	6	1	5	4		55	5	431							12	554
Little Black Shag	4							4								4
Pied Oystercatcher								48		12	1	2	9	2	3	1051
Variable Oystercatcher								2		3			1	22		161
Hybrid Oystercatcher								0								22
Pied Stilt	69	2	36	24		29		2901		44	2	6	5	52	729	4186
Hybrid Stilt								2							2	5
Large Sand Dotterel								0								1
Banded Dotterel								304		33				3	13	428
Black-fronted Dotterel								0				1	1	1		6
Wrybill								547		6				3	2	578
Pacific Golden Plover								36								36
Spur-winged Plover	5							178		6		11	2	11	137	533
Turnstone								33		4						43
Lesser Knot								27						2		40
Sanderling								0								1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper								2								2
Pectoral Sandpiper								4		1						5
Red-necked Stint								56								56
Bar-tailed Godwit	1							400				1		4	23	2625
Black-tailed Godwit								3								3
Black-billed Gull							3	119			119		62		1	355
Black-fronted Tern								0					4			13
White-fronted Tern							119	2935			34		35			3327
Little Tern								1								1
Caspian Tern							1	116					1			146
Site totals		5	48	28	0	85	128	7768	23	109		23	120	100	922	13651
Wader site totals	75	2	36	24	0	29	0	4543	0	109	3	21	18	100	909	9782
% of total count	0.77	0.02	0.37	0.25	0.00	0.30	0.00	46.44	0.00	1.11	0.03	0.21	0.18	1.02	9.29	100.00
# wader species at site	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	15	0	8	2	5	5	9	7	19

Note: Lake Ellesmere level ~0.8m on 8/12/19.

Wrybill (and other native species) numbers boosted by alpine-fed rivers being in flood.

Bar-tailed Godwit numbers boosted by an exceptionally fruitful breeding season

Wader numbers approx 67% up on Nov/Dec 2018

Counters

Nick Allen = NA Andrew Crossland = AC Matt Rose = MR Sandra Wallace = SW Eleanor Gunby = EG Bev Alexander = BA Kenny Rose = KR Dale McIntee = DM Paul Sagar = PS Joy Sagar = JS Laura Molles = LM J Skilton = JSK Dave Rate-Smith = DR Kate Marshall = KM Alice Waterhouse = AW Clive Appleton = CA Anna McClure = AM Tia Button = TB John Fitch = JF David Williams-Jones = DW Donal Goodale = DG Warwick Allen = WA Thijs Fijen = TF Anit Spencer = AS Malcolm Foster = MF Mitch Thorn = MT