

The Wrybill

Canterbury Regional Newsletter



July 2020

What's on at Birds NZ Canterbury: July to September 2020

Field Trips

July 18 – Ashburton Lakes Midwinter Bird Count. Meet at the Mt Somers Hall opposite the pub at 9am. There's always a social catch up afterwards. This is not a Birds NZ organised event so if you want to know more and to register your attendance please contact Peter Howden (03 303 6072) or Don Geddes (don.geddes@fireandemergency.nz)

August 15 – We'll head north on an atlassing trip hoping to cover some rural squares in the Hurunui district. Please contact Sandra (birds.canterbury@osnz.org.nz or 358 5706) by 8 August if you would like to attend.

September 19 – 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 12 September if you would like to attend.

Rambles

July 14 – The Groynes. Take the first turn left and meet in the carpark by the iron bridge at 9:30 am.

August 11 – Botanic Gardens. Meet at the old Information Centre just across the bridge via the Armagh St car park at 9:30 am

September 8 – Sandy Point. Meet in the Windsurf car park on Humphreys Drive at 9:30 am.

If you plan on attending any of these rambles or would like to meet up at some other time get in touch with Bev (birdiebev@xtra.co.nz or 027 3184 713).

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.

July 27 – The New Zealand Bird Atlas team will be updating us on the progress of the Atlas so far, especially in Canterbury, and how we can focus our efforts going forward.

August 31– Sonny Whitelaw, Manager of BRaid (Braided River Aid) will speak to us about the likely impacts of climate change, especially on braided river birds.

September 28 – Kath Varcoe will be sharing photos from her recent birding travels including trips to Tiritiri Matangi and the Chatham Islands.

Atlas and eBird Help and Training

During the recent Covid lockdown the New Zealand Bird Atlas team presented a tetralogy of webinars. These started with an introduction to the atlas project, the eBird smartphone app and step-by-step setting up the app. The second webinar focussed on the atlas web portal, including adding photos to your submissions. The third featured how the data collected for the atlas will be used, explained the differences between the various eBird portals and why it is important to submit in the NZ Bird Atlas. The last webinar teaches you how to use the Atlas portal to plan where to go atlassing. The webinars are a great resource to learn how to atlas for those who are new to eBirding and atlas work, and I am confident that more experienced users of eBird will learn a few new features and shortcuts. The webinars are now on Youtube accessed via the help centre of the New Zealand Bird Atlas webpage or the atlas Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCezxD6XF2lrVnKb4qDlZqrw/featured>.

The atlas handbook is also available via the NZ Bird Atlas help centre as are maps for every square to help you plan your atlassing. The atlas team are only an email away via the help centre too if you are unable to find the help you need.

eBird also has an extensive help centre found at <https://support.ebird.org/en/support/home>. There are multifarious articles on how to use the web-based and phone app-based systems. The FAQ pages are often a good place to start, or use the search function. Something that perhaps all eBirders should do is to do the eBird Essentials course from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This comprises five 'lessons' with a short test to follow, taking about three hours in total to complete, though this can be done in chunks. Like the Atlas Webinars I am confident everyone will find some new features or tricks to use, though bear in mind that some methods used in the Atlas are different to general eBird, especially distances for travelling counts. The

course is available via this webpage: <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/>.

If you need help with bird identification the Cornell Lab's Merlin app is now available in New Zealand. This easy-to-use smartphone app helps you to work out what an unknown bird is likely to be based on size, colour and what is most likely given your location, based on data from eBird. It seems to work well for common species in well-watched areas, less so for rarer species in the back country. It can be downloaded at this webpage: <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>. It is a phone-based alternative to the web-based tool on New Zealand Birds Online.

NICK ALLEN

Regional Recorder's Report 2019-2020

With the first year of the NZ Atlas Project and a big year bird race both using the eBird bird recording system there has been an increase of more than double this year in the amount of data received; a very welcome consequence. Many thanks to the numerous observers who have submitted data and worked on the atlas project.

At the time of writing almost 75% of Canterbury's 486 atlas squares have had some data submitted, with 8751 lists from 187 atlasers. Coverage is higher closer to Christchurch, where over 90% of the district's squares have data and hundreds of hours total observations. In contrast the Waimate district has just over 50% of its squares with some data and about 35 hours of total observations. The areas with little coverage are unsurprisingly remote from the main population centres and often require some effort to access. Lists from members holidaying in poorly covered areas or recruitment of friends or family who work,

tramp or hunt in the back country and have reasonable bird ID skills would be very welcome.

The vast majority of atlas submissions I have seen have fitted into the criteria asked for by the atlas team. Please remember to keep your travelling distances 1 km or less if possible, splitting longer distances up into multiple lists, and a maximum time of 1 hour, again splitting longer times over separate lists. Sometimes am and pm get mixed up. There should be a prompt for manually-entered nocturnal lists. Some lists are still being submitted on the eBird NZ portal. Please submit via the NZ Bird Atlas portal if possible.

I have been doing some tweaks to the eBird filters that provide number limits above which comments are required for observations for each species. If you are asked for comments what I am wanting is a short description of the criteria you used to identify the species (generally if the number observed is low and the species is scarce/rare), or for large numbers of a common species how you estimated the number (for example 20 x 50 for 1000 birds estimated in groups of 50). This demonstrates to me you haven't made a typo or accidentally selected the wrong species, and saves me having to bother you with an email. Some of the filter tweaks may need retweaking so please bear with me. I am planning to create filters for each district council area in Canterbury in the next few months as the Canterbury filter is a bit unwieldy, allowing through records that should at least be glanced at by a reviewer and requiring comments unnecessarily for others. If you unexpectedly get asked for comments this is the likely reason why.

It has been a good year for rare vagrants, with the region hosting the second NZ record of Buff-breasted Sandpiper and putatively the fifth record of Little Stint (at the time of writing a UBR still had to be submitted), as well as the first Greater Sand Plover in a while, long-staying Sanderling and Marsh Sandpiper and seemingly returning Northern Shovelers, plus quite a few more. If you find a bird that requires assessment

by the Records Assessment Committee, please do submit a UBR. If you don't feel confident in doing so I'm happy to help, or tell me if you can't so I can ask someone else if they can do so.

If you have questions about eBird, the atlas project or the other Birds NZ projects and schemes I'm happy to try to answer them or get an answer from someone who knows more about the subject than me.

NICK ALLEN

Night Sounds

It is the dark part of the year and a good time to go looking, or more likely just listening, for species of owls and other birds active after dark. One aim of the atlas project is to gather nocturnal data to ascertain the range, number and habitat use of night-active species and members are encouraged to go birding after dark to search for these.

In the more densely populated parts of Canterbury the most likely species of owl is Little Owl. The commonest call, called the contact call in HANZAB, is whee-u or kiew and sounds a bit like a yelping puppy: <https://www.xeno-canto.org/362079>. The male call, given territorially, is a mournful and quite long descending note: <https://www.xeno-canto.org/145566>.

The most widespread owl species in New Zealand is the Morepork, called after its main call which is well-known by birders and non-birders alike:

<http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/05%20-%20Track%205.mp3>. The cree call is much lesser known and often causes confusion as to the species making it. It is a petulant and ringing unmusical call, often repeated for a while:

The Wrybill - July 2020

http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/23%20-%20Track%2023_5.mp3. A rolling mor-mor-mor... call which sounds a little like a rapidly-croaking frog is given as a greeting between birds or in threat and has the quality of the main 'morepork' call: <https://www.xeno-canto.org/118419>. Perhaps the least-known call is a piu call that HANZAB states is given by the female and sounds very similar to the main yelping call of Little Owl, but when I've heard it is has not been given as powerfully as Little Owl and is less petulant than that species: <http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/Audio%20recording%202019-04-22%2022-16-26%20MP3.mp3>.

Locally in the north-western parts of Canterbury and on the West Coast down to about Greymouth and Arthur's Pass National Park Great Spotted Kiwi is another species that can be heard at night. Males and females both give warbling ascending whistles repeated sometimes over 20 times, startlingly loud when the bird is close, that carry long distances: male call

http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/great_spotted_kiwi_male.mp3 and female call http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/01%20-%20Track%201_24.mp3. Okarito and Southern Brown Kiwi have very similar calls but without the warbly quality for the male and the female call is more guttural:

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/02%20-%20Okarito%20brown%20Kiwi%283%29.mp3>.

Weka distancing calls, mostly given close to dusk and dawn but possible at any time of day and night, have a similar quality and repetitiveness to kiwi, but Weka individual calls are shorter and usually descend in pitch right at the end: https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/117428871#_ga=2.242695104.315010595.1590227935-270563138.1507108075.

Another night-calling species found in westernmost parts of Canterbury and parts of the West Coast is the Long-tailed Cuckoo. Between November and February this species will fill the air with its unearthly screeching

'weescht's and laughing calls:

<https://www.xeno-canto.org/33330>. The only species with a call similar to the screech is Greenfinch. Indeed, I've had Greenfinch calling 'greeeen' back to a Long-tailed Cuckoo tape.

There are many species generally recognised as daytime ones that commonly call at night. Close to wetlands and damp farmland you are almost certain to hear Pukeko. This species makes a number of calls, the commonest being high-pitched rasping shrieks and a similarly pitched 'ki-arrrk' call

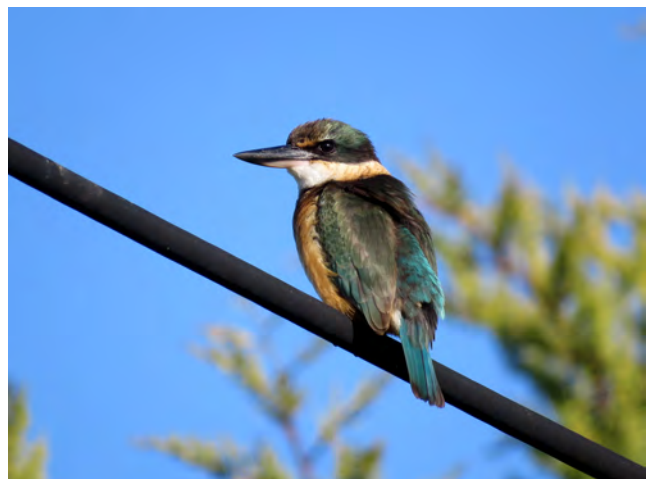
<http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/NIA%20049%20Pukeko.mp3>

http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/sites/all/files/07%20-%20Track%207_4.mp3.

Other bird species commonly heard calling at night include Spur-winged Plover in farmland Kea in the mountains and forest, and Kaka in the forest pockets where they persist. Why not get out and discover what species you can hear in the dark?

NICK ALLEN

Recent Bird Photos



Immature Sacred Kingfisher (Kotare), Leeston. This kingfisher has been hanging around my

The Wrybill - July 2020

street and general area of Leeston for about 2 weeks or so. I normally see kingfishers in our street a few times during the colder months.



A rather puffed-up New Zealand Pipit (Pihoihoi), Leeston. An altitudinal migrant from the Southern Alps that I have seen in various parts of the Canterbury Plains during the colder months. In my over 6 years of birding, I never knew that pipits could be seen in my home town, until the lock down. During the lock down I had been doing a lot of walking in my direct local area, and I was pleasantly surprised to see this pipit! I have seen it on a number of occasions when visiting the southern edge of Leeston.

New Zealand Pigeon (Kereru), Okuti Valley, Banks Peninsula. This pigeon allowed us to get quite close to it, which allowed for some nice photos. It was rather sleepy, as it had just finished stuffing itself with foliage and berries! It observed us curiously for a little while, before then presumably falling asleep after we left in our car.



A melanistic New Zealand Fantail (Piwakawaka), Coopers Lagoon Beach. This one was feeding alongside about 4 or so other (pied) fantails in a patch of coastal flax. When I approached them they were at first a bit stand off-ish, but they quickly got used to me. In no time they were all around me, and they came very close! Definitely a memorable encounter!

Photos and text by William Harland.



RR's Report 2019

Once again the Canterbury branch is in good shape membership wise with a total of 147 members - 125 current members and 22 grace members. This is ten more total members than the same period last year, with fewer of them being grace members. Rest assured I will follow up the grace members and hopefully encourage them to renew. Things are not as healthy on the

The Wrybill - July 2020

West Coast with just 9 members, down from 13 last year. I'm sure part of the reason is lack of regular activities there, something which can't easily be rectified.

Monthly meetings continue to be our most well attended activity. Numbers varied from a high of 35 to a low of 16 with typical numbers being between 20 and 25. We were fortunate to enjoy talks on a variety of topics including Shining Cuckoos, acoustic monitoring, a 5 minute bird count project in Dunedin, genetic rescue, bitterns, advice on how to find an extinct species, and an update on the work of the Ashley-Rakahuri Rivercare group.

Numbers attending field trips and rambles are both down. Two field trips were cancelled due to lack of interest while another two went ahead with just two people attending. I think the most popular trip was the weekend in Twizel. Organising the regular wader counts is especially problematic, and on our summer wader count a couple of us ended up going out three days in a row to ensure all the lake was covered. Rambles fared slightly better attendance wise and covered places such as Yarrs Bay, Bottle Lake Forest, the Kaiapoi River and Styx Mill.

One highlight of the year was awarding the first ever Marj Davis Scholarship to Peter Jahn for his work on Acoustic Monitoring with Great Spotted Kiwi.

In 2019 there were about 24 banding sessions. Most of these were at the Halswell Quarry or at private properties near the Quarry. The purpose of the banding is primarily to train a group of people to obtain, at the least, a level 2 Banding Permit. We have had 1 person achieve this level and another 3 are in the process of applying for this level.

During the year we banded 760 new birds and made 75 recaptures. This includes 17 different species and includes the following 3 new species for this study; Kingfisher, Magpie and Cirl Bunting. Species caught were: Silvereye 405 new + 39 recaptures. House Sparrow 110 + 17,

Greenfinch 57 + 4, Blackbird 40 + 4, Chaffinch 20 + 2 (includes 5 nestlings), Fantail 11 + 1, Dunnock 10 + 2, Song Thrush 10 + 1, Yellowhammer 6 + 1, Goldfinch 8 + 0 (includes 4 nestlings), Bellbird 6 + 1, Kingfisher 6 + 0 (includes 5 nestlings), Grey Warbler 5 + 1, Welcome Swallow 2 + 1, Magpie 1 and Cirl Bunting 1.

The oldest bird recaptured is a Welcome Swallow first banded 29 October 2017, shortly after we started banding at the Quarry, and recaptured 29 December 2019. She is one of a pair that nest in a toilet block and we have managed to catch her each year, showing a very strong site fidelity. The second oldest bird is a male Bellbird originally banded 16 November 2017 and recaptured 6 December 2019. This bird is blind in one eye, showing birds can live with a disability.

I'd like to thank Peter for all his work running the banding project. Special thanks to our committee – Nick, Bev, Jan, Janet, Eleanor and Ron – for your work over the past year. Finally I'd like to thank all of you members for your contributions – whether it be leading a field trip, giving a talk, attending an activity or simply reading the newsletter, it all helps make our group stronger.

Sandra Wallace

NZ Bird Atlas Webinar

The National Atlas Team is holding a "Year One Atlas" online webinar on July 15 at 7pm. This webinar will involve a 10 minute summary of what has been achieved in the first year of the Atlas project. Following this, there will be an open Q & A session where the atlas team will be able to answer any questions about eBird or the Atlas. To register, go to https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bY7xl9qtSnCUjYj5dRSxwQ.

Recent Happenings

2020 has certainly been an interesting year so far. We got off to our normal start, assisting with the annual bird survey conducted by the Waihora Ellesmere Trust. It was great to see so many Birds New Zealand members lending their expertise. Over 48,000 birds were counted, the third highest in the survey's seven year history. More than 77% were waterfowl. Numbers of herons and arctic waders were the highest in the count's history. The most noticeable drop was in Pied Stilt numbers. Less than 3000 were counted, way down on the high of over 7000 the previous year. You can find the full results from the count at <http://www.wet.org.nz/projects/annual-bird-count/2020-te-waihora-lake-ellesmere-bird-count/>.

Bev and a group of four other rambblers visited the Groyne in February, spotting 24 different species and a couple of mallard-domestic hybrids. Most were waterfowl or passerines but two cormorant species and a harrier were also seen.

Our first evening meeting was a members' night. William shared his birding highlights from 2019, including visits to Spain and Singapore. Bev challenged our knowledge with a quiz and Henry showed photos from a visit to Nelson as well as a presentation on eagles, crows and wild cat feeding in Australia from Don Haddon.

Bev was the sole rambler to visit Lincoln Wetlands in March. She managed eighteen species. And then, before we held our field trip or evening meeting, COVID-19 intervened, we were all advised to stay at home, in lockdown and then limited from meeting in groups.

Finally we were back to normal in June. Just in time for another bird count at Lake Ellesmere. I was thrilled at the number of volunteers who showed up for this wader count. Thanks again to everyone who participated. Weather conditions weren't ideal and the high lake level meant few waders were found. Full results will be available in the next newsletter.

Our Annual General Meeting scheduled for March finally happened at the end of June. The existing committee - Sandra Wallace (Regional Representative), Nick Allen (Regional Recorder), Jan Walker (Treasurer), Bev Alexander, Janet Burton, Eleanor Gunby and Ron Nilsson - was re-elected. The AGM was followed by an enjoyable and hotly contested photo competition. Congratulations to our winner William Harland, and our runners-up Annette Ching and Ian Williams. You'll find their winning photos at the end of the newsletter.

Sandra Wallace

Recent Sightings

Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report February to April 2020

This report covers the period 1st February to 30th April 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/scarce species or escaped/released species etc)

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

V = vagrant

Great Spotted Kiwi (A) Roaring Lion River, Kahurangi NP: 1 25/2 GE. Heaphy Hut area: 2 16/3 LRe. N of Waimangaroa: 1 16/4 RN. Otira Township: 1 m 11/3 HB.

Cape Barren Goose (A) St Annes Lagoon: 1 13/3 GK. Lower Styx Road: 2 23/2 FT, GN. Travis Wetland: 1 6/2 SW, EG, 1 17/2 BA. Riccarton House: 1 21/3 ZC.

The Wrybill - July 2020

Embankment Road: 5 22/3 AC. Wolfes Road: 4 2/3 ACr. 4 3/3 DHo, DT.

Mute Swan (A) Waipara RM: 1 27/2 FG, 28/2 RSi. Taranaki Wetland, Waikuku: 1 5/2 BA, 1 15/2 BA, D&HF, 1 23/2 OB, 2 3/3 BA, 2 7/3 BA, 3 21/3 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 28/2 BA, 7 8/3 BA. NCF Reserve, Kaiapoi: 1 22/3 BA. Lincoln Wetlands: 3 9/2 JR, 4 25/2 FG, 4 7/3 PR, 3 8/3 RSi, 4 10/3 Birds NZ Canterbury, 16 28/4 PR. Lake Forsyth: 2 14/3 PP. Embankment Road: 1 5/3 AC. Wolfes Road: 3 8/3 PR, JW, 4 12/3 PP, 3 14/3 AS, MF. Harts Creek: 2 ad 4 juv M&SA 13/2, 3 11/3 PP. Coopers Lagoon: 12 29/2 BA, 3 24/4 JB. Pyes Corner Ponds, Eifelton: 4 16/2 NA. Wilson Road Irrigation Pond, The Levels: 1 10/2 PS, JS. Otipua Wetlands, Timaru: 9 24/4 RL.

Blue Duck (A) Oparara Arch: 2 28/2 AK. Moria Arch: 2 28/2 AK. Oparara Basin: 1 12/3 HB. Roaring Lion River, Kahurangi NP: 4 24/2 GE, 2 25/2 GE. Karamea River nr Crow Hut: 3 15/3 RN. Upper Otira Valley: 2 16/3 TR. Kawhaka Creek: 2 12/2 EG, SW.

Muscovy Duck (A) Horseshoe Lake: 1 15/2 AS, MF. Riccarton House: 1 26/2 BA, 14/3 ZC. Westlake Reserve: 1 hybrid with Mallard 28/2 PR, 1 28/2 JB, 2 and 1 hybrid with Mallard 3/4 PR, 2 15/4 PR. Ashburton Domain: 1 16/2 NA.

Helmeted Guineafowl (A) Timberyard Road: 2 29/2 BA.

Peafowl (A) Factory Road, Sefton: 1 5/2 BA, 21 17/3 BA.

Chukar (A) Sealy Range: 3 25/2 DN.

Turkey (A) Timberyard Road: 6 29/2 BA.

Australasian Crested Grebe (A) Kaiapoi Lakes: 1 on nest 1/2 BA, 2 (no sign of nest) 10/2 BA, 1 17/2 BA. Roto Kohatu: 2 2/3 DHo, 1 18/3 BA. Lake Lyndon: 2 2/2 NT, 2 12/2 EG, SW, 2 16/2 D&HF, RG, 1 15/3 WB. Lake Forsyth: 19 3/2 MF, AS, 7 7/2 JR, 7 11/2 PR, 3 8/3 PM. Ataahua: 1 16/4 PC. Coopers Lagoon: 2 ad 1 imm 29/2 BA. Lake McGregor: 5 3/3 SK. Lake Tekapo southern end: 1 2/2 KM. Kelland Ponds: 6 1/2 MT, MB, PCI. Lake Ruataniwha, Wairepo Arm: 2 1/2 MT, MB, PCI, 2 18/2 D&HF. Lake Aviemore: 5 7/2 JS, PS. Lake Moraki: 2 9/2 FG.

Yellow-eyed Penguin (A) Kaikoura Peninsula: 1 13/2 AKi, 16/2 ASH, 25/2 ASH. Shell Bay: 2 17/2 SS.

Australasian Gannet (S) Waitangi Beach (Chatham Is): 1 6/4 'seen twice in three weeks' TB (vagrant at Chatham Is).

Little Black Shag (A) Ashley Estuary: 2 18/2 BD, 1

21/3 BA. Taranaki Wetland, Waikuku: 4 5/2 BA, 4 15/2 BA, 1 3/3 BA, 8 7/3 BA, 1 21/3 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 6 28/2 BA, 5 8/3 BA, 14 10/3 PP. Kaiapoi Lakes: 4 10/2 BA, 9 17/2 BA, 18 4/3 BA. Waimakariri RM Ferry Road-Clifford Road: 4 10/2 OB. Styx Mill Reserve: 2 23/2 GN. Horseshoe Lake: 2 15/2 MF, AS. Lake Kate Sheppard: 6 15/2 JR. Bexley Wetland: 1 17/2 BA.

White Heron (A) Lower Lake Road, Lakeside: 1 11/3 PP, Lake Ellesmere opening, Taumutu: 1 18/3 PC.

Reef Heron (A) Point Kean: 1 2/3 CG. Kaikoura Peninsula: 1 15/3 SK. Barney's Rock: 1 14/2 NJ. Paia Point: 1 3/3 LH.

Cattle Egret (A) Timberyard Road, Lakeside: 1 12/3 PP.

Marsh Crake (A) Lost Lagoon, Westport: 1 23/4 RN. McIntoshs Hole marsh, Waimakariri RM: 2 2/3 DHo, GN. Travis Wetland: 1 3/2 KR.

Spotless Crake (A) Lincoln Wetlands: 1 7/3 PR.

Weka (S) Lewis Pass Alpine Nature Walk: 1 14/3 RE.

Pied Stilt (S) Wolfes Road: ~1000 3/2 AC.

Black Stilt (A) Ashley Estuary 1 (banded KOR/KY – the same individual last seen a few months previously) 19/2 NA, 22/2 BA, 24/2 DH, 27/2 FG, 1/3 RSi, 2/3 DHo, LH, 3/3 BA, 14/3 OT, 19/3 Bird NZ Canterbury, 21/3 BA. Embankment Road: 1 22/3 AC. Lake Tekapo SE Bay: 1 11/2 OB. Fork Lagoon: 2 22/2 PS, JS. Acland Lagoon: 8 17/2 AN, CC, JT, RV. Tasman Fan: 7 1/2 MT, MB, PCI, 8 17/2 RG, 5 19/2 WP, 1 23/2 KMc, 3 24/2 OL, 5 28/2 JBe, 1 2/3 JL, 5 3/3 HB, 4 9/3 LR.

Pacific Golden Plover (A) Greenpark Huts-Jarvis Road: 22 15/2 EG, SW. Crescent Island, Lake Ellesmere: 29 1/2 GM, AC, 1 15/2 PC.

Banded Dotterel (S) Embankment Road: 874 1/2 BA, EG, SW, 884 2/2 NA, S&ST, ~1500 7/2 AC. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: ~1000 1/2 GM, AC.

Black-fronted Dotterel (A) Waipara RM: 4 27/2 NA, 2 28/2 RSi. Kowai Reserve Lagoon, Leithfield: 4 1/3 BA, 3 2/3 GN. Ashley River, Tulls Road: 1 imm 5/2 BA. Ashley Estuary: 3 18/2 BD. Tutaepatu Lagoon: 7 5/3 BA. Waimakariri River nr Kirwee: 1 12/3 WB. Travis Wetland: 1 19/2 GM.

Black-tailed Godwit (V) Embankment Road: 1 16/2 GM, AC. Wolfes Road: 1 3/2 AC. Crescent Island, Lake Ellesmere: 2 1/2 GM, AC.

Hudsonian Godwit (V) Embankment Road: 1 3/3 DHo, DT. Crescent Island, Lake Ellesmere: 1 1/2 AC,

The Wrybill - July 2020

GM.

Turnstone (A) Kaikoura-New Wharf to Fyffe House: 60 8/3 BW. Point Kean, Kaikoura: 21 12/2 AK, 1 17/2 DBu, 4 26/2 P&SW, 12 2/3 OL, 5 4/3 AB, 1 6/3 MK, 40 10/3 SK, 5 11/3 RE, PE, 3 12/3 SK, 50 15/3 JR.

Kaikoura Peninsula: 15 14/2 D&HF. South Bay, Kaikoura: 14 14/2 RG. Ashley Estuary: 3 27/2 FG. Crescent Island, Lake Ellesmere: 2 1/2 AC, GM. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 2 1/2 GM, AC, 2 15/2 PC, 39 23/2 NA, 18 2/3 DHo, DT.

Lesser Knot (A) Ashley Estuary: 15 9/2 IS, 20 19/2 NA, 19 22/2 BA, 22 23/2 AS, MF, 8 27/2 FG, 10 (one with alphanumeric flag white CBB on green – banded Brisbane Nov 2019) 1/3 RSi, 20 3/3 PCr, 6 7/3 BA, 22 14/3 OT, 16 21/3 BA. Embankment Road: 41 22/3 AC, 19 25/3 NA, 2 28/4 JR. Crescent Island, Lake Ellesmere: 41 1/2 AC, GM, 34 15/2 PC.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (A) Embankment Road: 3 7/2 AC, 2 16/2 AC, GM.

Curlew Sandpiper (A) Embankment Road: 2 16/2 GM, AC. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 2 1/2 AC, GM.

Red-necked Stint (A) Embankment Road: 32 1/2 EG, SW, BA, 17 2/2 NA, S&ST, 53 7/2 AC, 33 16/2 AC, GM, 22 2/3 NR, 14 3/3 DHo, DT, 14 4/3 FG, 53 5/3 AC, 53 15/3 EG, SW, OT, 39 22/3 AC, 6 25/3 NA, 2 26/4 MR. Wolfes Road: 17 8/3 JW, PR, 1 15/3 SW, EG, OT. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 27 25/2 BA, PR.

Sanderling (V) Ashley Estuary: 1 6/2 BA, 9/2 IS, 22/2 BA, 27/2 FG, 2/3 DHo, 3/3 PCr.

Pectoral Sandpiper (A) Waipara RM: 1 27/2 NA. Embankment Road: 1 1/2 SW, EG, BA, 1 2/2 NA, S&ST, 1 3/3 DHo, DT, 1 14/3 FG. Lake Wainono N: 2 13/2 JS, PS.

Grey-tailed Tattler (V) Embankment Road: 1 16/2 AC, GM, 22/3 AC.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (V) Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 1 1/2 AC, GM, 15/2 PC, 20/2 DH, 23/2 NA, 25/2 PR, BA, 2/3 DHo, DT, 12/3 OT, WA.

Common Tern (V) Ashley Estuary: 1 11/2 AC.

Chatham Island Pigeon (S) Tuku Camp Paddock: 205 ('good breeding season, lots of young birds') 13/3 DBo.

Barbary Dove (A) Marshland Road #385: 1 17/2 BA, 2 27/2 BA.

New Zealand Falcon (A) Roaring Lion River, Kahurangi NP: 2 25/2 GE. Little Wanganui Wharf Road: 1 2/2 NE. Fyffe/Palmer Reserve: 1 11/3 MR. Larrys Creek, Inangahua: 1 19/2 RN. Engineers

Camp, Boyle Valley: 1 2/3 PC. SH1 S of Leithfield: 1 24/3 SK. Loburn Terrace Road: 1 12/4 DW, RW, 13/4 RW, 14/4 RW, 23/4 DW. Upper Otira Valley: 2 13/3 HB. Bruce Stream, Bealey: 1 1/2 DB. Castle Hill: 1 15/3 WB. Geraldine Downs: 1 15/3 JS, 26/3 PS, JS, 22/4 PS. Lake Mapourika: 1 29/2 SK. Sealy Range: 1 25/2 DN. Lake Matheson: 1 15/3 MV. Deep Stream, Lake Aviemore: 1 7/2 PS, JS. Munro Beach Track: 1 1/3 SK.

Kea (S) Waimangaroa Township: 1 2/2 RN. Denniston Walkway: 1 24/4 RN. Camp Creek Hut N of Jacksons: 1 18/3 RH-W. Ross Township: 3 imms 1/2 PC. Pakihi Walk, Okarito: 3 24/2 NR, DT, WK, 1 14/3 MR. Franz Josef Township: 2 3/2 JZ, 2 4/2 WP, 1 18/2 OB, 8 8/3 HB. Callery Gorge Walk: 3 3/2 JZ, 6 8/3 P&SW, 1 9/3 HB. Mueller Hut: 4 25/2 DN. Mount Cook Village: 3 18/2 SM. Franz Josef Glacier Walk: 1 5/2 WP. Lake Moeraki: 1 9/2 FG.

Kaka (A) Oparara Basin: 1 1/3 PC, 1 12/3 HB. Roaring Lion River, Kahurangi NP: 5 24/2 GE. Monro Beach Track: 1 6/2 RS. Lower Whakapohai River: 1 17/2 OB.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (A) Prices Valley: 16 2/3 DHo, DT, 20 25/3 FG.

Yellow-crowned Parakeet (A) Moria Arch Track: 2 28/2 AK. Roaring Lion River, Kahurangi NP: 4 24/2 GE, 1 25/2 GE. Orikaka R east of Denniston: 1 2/3 RN. Pakihi Walk, Okarito: 1 24/2 NR, DT, WK. Lower Whakapohai River: 2 17/2 OB.

Rock Wren (A) Otira Valley Track: 2 18/2 OB, 3 7/3 AC, 2 11/3 AB, 1 13/3 HB.

Tui (S) Denistoun Walk, Peel Forest: 1 16/3 RL (slight northwards range expansion?).

Yellowhead (A) Fantail Falls, Haast River: 1 17/2 OB.

Tree Martin (V) Wolfes Road: 1 17/2 IS, 20/2 FG, AC.

Australasian Pipit (S) Awatea Road Flood Pond: 1 2/4 PR. Milns Road subdivision: 1 2/4 JW.

Cirl Bunting (A) Kaikoura Peninsula: 1 8/2 CP, 2 14/2 AN, CC, JT, RV, 2 22/2 NR, W&JK, DT. Mound Road, Broomfield: 1 17/4 JK. Ashley Estuary: 1 m 14/3 OT. Waimakariri RM Ferry Road-Clifford Road: 1 10/2 OB. Bowenvale Park: 1 5/4 FG, DT. Halswell Quarry Park: 1 9/2 PR, 1 13/2 EG, SW, 1 m 3/3 FG, 1 m 12/3 AR, 1 19/3 NA. Otematata Wetland: 1m 6/2 PS, JS.

Observers: BA Bev Alexander, NA Nick Allen, WA Warwick Allen, M&SA Meir & Shelley Altman, OB Olivier Barden, JBe Josh Beck, DB Dave Bell, HB Hans-Peter Bieri, TB Tansy Bliss, DBo David Boyle, MB Max

The Wrybill - July 2020

Brackenridge, WB William Brice, DBu Dan Burgin, AB Alasdair Burns, JB Janet Burton, PCI Petra Clayton, CC Catherine Coe, AC Adam Colley, ZC Zion Cooper, ACr Andrew Crossland, PCr Patrick Crowe, PC Phil Crutchley, BD Benjamin Davis, NE Nathan Earley, GE Graeme Elliott, PE Parrish Evans, RE Robyn Evans, D&HF Diane & Harvey Fogel, MF Malcolm Foster, CG Caroline Gerlach, RG Ronald Goddard, EG Eleanor Gunby, FG Fraser Gurney, DH Don Hadden, LH Linda Hayes, RH-W Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls, DHo Dave Howes, NJ Niels Jensen, GK Glenn Kincaid, AKi Al Kirkley, W&JK Walter & Janice Knausenberger, JK Jim Knight, SK Stefan Kopek, MK Mary Kotran, AK Aaron Kreisburg, OL Olivier Laporte, RL Robert Leask, JL Jan Lile, KMc Kevin McDonald, GM Greg McKenzie, KM Keith Marsay, PM Paul Martin, SM Sudeep Mohapatra, AN Andy Naber, DN Dean Nelson, RN Richard Nichol, GN Graham Norton, CP Colin Palethorpe, WP Wendy Pepin, PP Pauline Priest, LR Liz Redding, PR Peter Reese, LRe Louis Regenmorter, MR Michael Roast, NR Neil Robertson, KR Kenny Rose, AR Alex Rossi, JR Jesse Rubenstein, TR Tim Rumble, JS Joy Sagar, PS Paul Sagar, IS Ian Saville, SS Susan Shannon, ASh Alan Shaw, RSi Richard Simmonds, AS Anita Spencer, RS Roger Stone, FT Fanny Tale, JT John Thaw, DT David Thomas, OT Oscar Thomas, S&ST Stephen & Suzanne Thomas, MT Marilyn Tillinghast, NT Nash Turley, MV Matt Vermeulen, RV Ruth Vincent, BW Bradley Waggoner, JW Jan Walker, SW Sandra Wallace, P&SW Peter & Shelly Watts, DW Dave Woodcock, RW Rachel Woodcock, JZ Jake Zadik.

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.

The Wrybill - July 2020

Photo Competition Winners

At our first meeting back post-lockdown, we held a photo competition following the branch AGM. Eight members submitted three photos each, and from that selection of photos meeting attendees voted for the winning photo and two equally ranked runners up. A big congratulations to William Harland, who took the winning photo of a female Rifleman butchering a caterpillar in Glentanner, Canterbury. Congratulations also to Annette Ching, whose photo of a good catch by a friendly Reef Heron at Kaikoura was one of our runners-up. Finally, congratulations to Ian Williams, whose photo (following page) of a Green Breasted Mango in Costa Rica was our other runner-up.





Submissions

The next edition of *The Wrybill* is due out in early October. The editor invites members to submit their contributions - articles and/or photos - by September 20 for inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks to everybody - especially Nick Allen for his substantial contribution - who contributed to this edition of *The Wrybill*.

Scopes for Loan

Did you know that we have scopes available for local Birds NZ members to borrow? If you are in Canterbury and wish to borrow a scope, get in touch with Sandra (birds.canterbury@osnz.org.nz). If you are on the West Coast and wish to borrow a scope, get in touch with Liz Meek (ronmeek555@gmail.com).

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