

# The Wrybill

Canterbury Regional Newsletter



October 2020

## What's on at Birds NZ Canterbury: October to November 2020

### Field Trips

18 October - A trip to the upper Rangitata River at Mesopotamia. The river there is beautiful and has a wide range of special river bird species, usually in easy-to-find numbers. We will meet at the DOC office at Sockburn, where we have our monthly indoor meetings, at 9am. It will be a full day trip returning late afternoon. There is quite a long drive over a gravel road, with the last section slightly rough. On the river there will be some fording of side braids (to calf depth at most) and footwear providing ankle protection should be worn - no thin-soled shoes or gumboots. There need to be the usual precautions for sun, heat, cold, rain. There is nowhere past Peel Forest to buy food/drink or visit the toilet. Time permitting we will stop at Peel Forest for the selection of bush birds it supports. Contact Nick Allen (christchurchnzbirder@gmail.com or text/phone 0211119885).

Sunday 29 November - Lake Ellesmere summer wader count. If everything goes well we should finish around lunchtime. Please book with Sandra (birds.canterbury@birdsnz.org.nz or 03 358 5706) by 22 November so she has time to organise teams and ensure the lake will be well covered. Make sure to bring sunblock, sunhats and water.

21 November - The Ashley-Rakahuri River bird

survey. Contact Bev for all the details (birdiebev@xtra.co.nz or 027 3184 713).

### Rambles

13 October - Wolfes Road Bay, Lake Ellesmere. Meet at 9:30 am in the carpark at the lake end of Wolfes Road. Please wear gumboots or footwear you don't mind getting wet or muddy. Bring pen and paper or your phone for eBird lists, a drink, and your best spotting eyes as there have been some interesting birds seen in the area lately.

10 November - Styx Mill wetlands. Meet in the carpark off Styx Mill Road at 9:30 am.

As always, please contact Bev (027 3184 713 or birdiebev@xtra.co.nz) if you intend to come.

### Indoor Meetings

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

2 November - Our meeting will focus on learning about birds nests.

30 November - Paul Sagar will talk about "A Tale of Two Islands - latest research results from the Bounty & Snares Islands".

### New Zealand Bird Atlas Progress

After a year and a bit of atlassing a stocktake reveals that 79% of Canterbury's 486 atlas squares have received some coverage, which is a great effort given that we are only about one fifth of the way into this five-year project. The West Coast is also doing well with 60% of its 273 squares with some records.

In Canterbury three people have submitted over 1000 lists, 17 have submitted between 100 and 1000 lists (though four of these atlassers do not live in Canterbury), 12 have submitted between 50 and 99 lists and just under 190 people have submitted between one and 99 lists. More submitters and submissions would be very welcome, even from well-covered areas.

On the West Coast three people have submitted over 100 lists, four between 50 and 99 lists and 106 between 1 and 49 lists. With the small numbers of Birds NZ members living on the West Coast able to contribute to the atlas scheme any submissions from visitors to that region will be very welcome.

Back in Canterbury there are 100 squares without coverage. Most of the squares with road access have some records, though there are 15 still available as low-hanging fruit. However, these squares tend to be a long way from Christchurch, such as in the Rangitata Valley past the Ashburton Lakes and up the Hakataramea Valley.

The other, mostly upland back country squares require a bit more effort to access. Nine squares, primarily along the Clarence River are probably best accessed by boat or raft. About 75 squares will need to be walked into, though it might be possible to have access aided by off-road 4wd or jet boat for some of these. About a dozen squares have no formal access and will require landowner permission to enter them and about 50 will probably need a multi-day trip to access them. Some of these squares need good knowledge of and expertise in river crossing, route-finding and tramping in remote

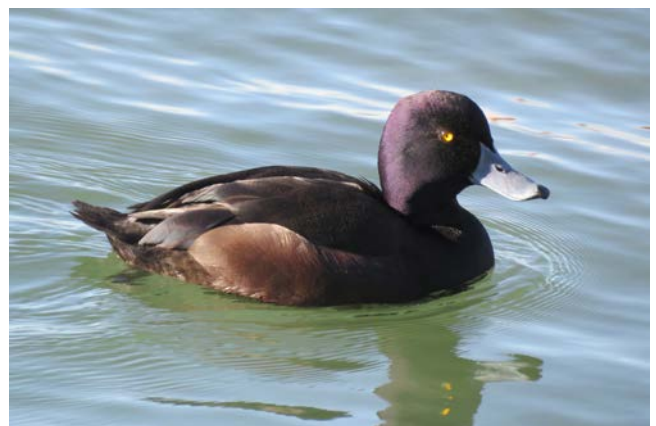
mountainous environments. If you have tramping, mountaineering or hunting friends or acquaintances with such skills, who also know the basics of bird identification, please do encourage them to help with the atlas project. Even five-minute stationary counts from break stops or at huts in the back country will be like gold dust for the project.

Nick Allen, Regional Recorder

### Bird Photos



A small group of Australasian Crested Grebes, Harts Creek bird hide. We saw a number of displaying pairs that day, and even got to hear one calling some rather growly-sounding vocalisations



Male New Zealand Scaup, Sulphur Point, Lake Rotorua. Last month (August), my parents and I went to Rotorua for a couple of days. This is one of several nice bird photos that I managed to take there.



New Zealand Dabchick, Lake Rotorua. I remember getting to see the immature dabchick that visited the Pegasus Wetlands earlier this year, so it was nice getting to also see the adult birds at Lake Rotorua.

Photos and text by William Harland.

### eBird Mobile Explore

eBird has long had the ability for all to search its database for the distribution of a species you might be interested in and to find latest sightings and bar charts of occurrence for a particular area, for example if planning a visit to an area. Those who have signed into the website can also receive notifications when a target species they are interested has been reported either nearby or in a country.

Now eBird Mobile Explore enables you to explore eBird hotspots on your phone for good places to go birding, and also to find target species (which are species you haven't seen in an area in a defined time, for example a calendar year). The Android version of eBird Explore has been available for a few months and just recently the iPhone version has been made live.

To launch Explore touch the magnifying glass icon at the bottom of the start checklist screen. This brings up a map with hotspots within a 30 km radius of your location. Red hotspots have been visited in the last seven days, blue a longer

time ago than this. You can zoom in on the map by pinching out and pick an interesting-looking location and by pressing on that hotspot see in a separate window the number of species submitted to eBird in all time, the number that are likely to be seen there and the number seen in the last 7 days. Pressing the details button brings up a bar chart list, which can be filtered for all time, likely or last 7 days. A red icon of concentric circles on the far right of a species denotes a target species.

To change settings of which location the hotspots are displayed from, the radius size and how recently recent sightings are counted as press 'edit' in the top right-hand corner of the nearby hotspots screen. It seems to be easiest to change location using the 'choose from map' option. Select with a log press, then touch the map still visible to the left of the screen to see your selection of hotspots.

For each hotspot there is the option to receive directions for how to get to the hotspot. It might hopefully be made better in the future by allowing searching by species for a particular area, including personal locations as well as hotspots, but is a useful addition to the eBird phone app. For more details and a short how-to video visit [https://ebird.org/news/introducing-ebird-mobile-explore/?utm\\_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm\\_campaign=7ac18bf685-ebird+enews+september+2020&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_47588b5758-7ac18bf685-302429201](https://ebird.org/news/introducing-ebird-mobile-explore/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=7ac18bf685-ebird+enews+september+2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-7ac18bf685-302429201)

Nick Allen

### Recent Happenings

In August two teams headed to the Hurunui. Bev, Sandra and Donald covered 8 squares and saw 39 species, the highlight possibly being two Gull Buntings. Jill, Russell, Tony and Mark meanwhile ventured to Pahau Downs station in

## The Wrybill - October 2020

the morning, and after getting permission from the landowner found a total of 23 species. In the afternoon they made another 7 stops and saw 24 species.

In September a group of ten headed to Washpen Falls. The weather was glorious. It had snowed there the day before and a few small patches were still around if you looked carefully. We were warned that the track was very slippery in places and they weren't kidding. Even with walking sticks one section in particular was a struggle and more than one person took a tumble. Luckily no lasting damage was done. Bird wise the highlights were the sheer number of Bellbirds, as well as several sightings of Tomtits.



Male Tomtit, taken during September's field trip to Washpen Falls. Photo by William Harland.



Female New Zealand Bellbird, also taken at Washpen Falls. Photo by William Harland.

July's ramble had low attendance, with Bev heading out alone. However, she had a good morning out, seeing Great Crested Grebes at Roto Kohatu and plenty of Fantails at the Groynes. Since then, ramble attendance has picked back up again, which is great to see. Six ramblers attended August's trip to the Botanic Gardens, with a variety of waterfowl and passerines being seen, including three Kereru. The next month, four members headed to Sandy Point and Charlesworth Reserve. One highlight was a Spur-winged Plover on a nest at Charlesworth Reserve, and a large number of 136 Pukekos were counted around Sandy Point.



Members looking at birds nests on the Botanic Gardens ramble. Photo by Janet Burton.

In July Dan Burgin from the NZ Bird Atlas Team joined us, via the wonders of modern technology, from Blenheim. A couple of members who weren't able to attend in person were also able to join us virtually. After a few teething problems on our end (no sound wasn't going to work so well – thanks again Anita for the fix) Dan gave us a great run down on Atlas progress in Canterbury to date, things to focus on going forward, as well as some tools to help us on our way. If you missed the talk but are keen to find out what was said please let me know. I have a link I can forward you.

August's meeting was cancelled due to the change in the Covid alert levels but we were back in action in September when Kath Varcoe shared some stunning photos of her birding adventures in New Zealand including trips to the Chatham Islands and Tiritiri Matangi.

### Interested in Becoming RR?

As I announced at the AGM this will be my last year as Regional Representative. I won't be standing for re-election next year, which means we are looking for an enthusiastic person to take over. What exactly does being Regional Representative involve? Some of my tasks have included

- \* Arranging speakers for our monthly meetings and ensuring the meeting runs smoothly.
- \* Organising monthly field trips including wader counts.
- \* Ensuring all activities are run in accordance with health and safety legislation.
- \* Overseeing *The Wrybill* and circulating it to members.
- \* Dealing with enquiries from the public as well as members (helping with bird identification is a common request) and representing Birds NZ at events.
- \* Organising and chairing local committee meetings.
- \* Attending the annual Regional Representatives meeting (travel and accommodation costs are reimbursed).
- \* Liaising between local members and the national organisation (mostly circulating messages to members and reporting on local activities to Council).
- \* Encouraging and supporting atlassing efforts.
- \* Organising the national conference (the 2020 conference in Canterbury has been rescheduled for 2022).

Of course you don't have to do it all yourself! Canterbury is fortunate to have an experienced committee and delegation is recommended. If you enjoy being a Birds NZ member and want to give back to the organisation serving as Regional Representative is an ideal opportunity. Three regions are currently without an RR. We don't want that to happen here. So please consider putting yourself forward - or at least having a chat with me to find out more.

Sandar Wallace

### Membership Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond to the membership survey. We had about a dozen substantive responses plus a few people just taking the time to say they were happy with the trips and meetings offered, which is always nice to hear.

With regards to mid-week rambles about half the respondents were interested in attending. Work commitments were the main reason for not attending, something we are very aware of. I think we see the rambles as a supplement to the main field trips - they are often within Christchurch and shorter and easier than regular field trips, making them suitable for older members who are often retired or only working casually or part time.

About two-thirds of the respondents were interested in weekend field trips. Family commitments were the main factor preventing people from taking part. There was a slight preference for Sunday over Saturday so we will make an effort to offer more Sunday trips. The Lake Ellesmere wader counts are now held on a Sunday since this also best suits the Christchurch City Council rangers who cover half the lake. I personally am not available for more than half a day on Sunday which is why trips tend to be scheduled on a Saturday. But trips do not have to be led by me or even by other committee members. So if there is somewhere you'd like to go and you are willing to give being a leader a go, please get in touch. I'm happy to walk to you through what's involved and it's really not that daunting.

Finally, thanks for the suggestions for speakers and topics you'd like to see covered in meetings. Not all of them will be possible - some people no longer live in the country - but we'll endeavour to get to as many as possible in the coming months.

Sandra Wallace

Recent Sightings

**Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report  
May to August 2020**

This report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> August 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)** Mokihinui: 1f 4/7 RN. Pt1112 S of White Knight, Paparoa NP: 2m 3f 25/5 RM. Blacksand/Pike Ridge, Paparoa NP: 2m 2f 21/5 RM. Kakapo Creek headwaters: 2m 3f 20/5 RM. Kakapo Creek, Paparoa NP: 4m 1f 19/5 RM. Hawera, Paparoa NP: 1m 1f 17/5 RM.

**Cape Barren Goose (A)** St Annes Lagoon: 1 10/7 BA, 8/8 FG, OT, HB, 15/8 BA, 25/8 SR. Lower Styx Road: 3 3/5 NA, 2 14/6 PC. Travis Wetland: 1 6/5 KR, 7/5 JW, 23/5 AN, 2 11/7 JP, 1 16/7 RS, 1 3/8 HS, ASm, 1 7/8 WH, NMi, 1 16/8 HR, 1 31/8 GT. Rakaia Huts: 2 21/6 PH. Mill Road, Westerfield: 5 29/8 DG. Washdyke Lagoon: 2 18/5 PS, JS, RL, 2 24/6 PS, 2 20/7 PS.

**Mute Swan (A)** Waipara RM: 1 9/5 NF. Broad Road, Saltwater Creek: 1 21/8 BA. Ashley Estuary: 1 25/5 BA, 1 23/6 BA. Taranaki Creek wetland, Waikuku: 2 25/5 BA, 1 10/7 DP, 4 14/8 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 4 6/5 BA, 4 8/5 RH, 4 9/5 AC, 2 10/5 PSc, 2 14/5 PC, 2 16/5 FG, 4 16/5 NA, 4 19/5 BA, 4 20/5 JB, BA, JWa, 2 23/5 FT, 3 27/5 SW, EG, BA, 7 28/5 FG, DT, 4 30/5 ASH, 3 2/6 NA, 3 7/6 AC, JC, 6 14/6 BA, 6 16/6 OT, 2 20/6 CC, 2 28/6 DH, 2 29/6 DH, 6 3/7 BA, 4 4/7 DG, 4 5/7 CC, 4 10/7 DP, 4 11/7 SW, EG, CC, 4 15/7 RS, 2 17/7 CC, 7 25/7 BA, 5 3/8 BA, 2 8/8 DHo, 2 10/8 CC, 6 19/8 BA. Travis Wetland: 1 23/5 AN. Bromley WTP: 1 9/5 FG. Wigram Retention Basin: 1 9/6 PR. Halswell Cremery Reserve: 1 19/7 PR, 2 1/8 PR. Lincoln Wetlands: 22 7/5 PR, 12 11/5 MR, 2 23/5 FG, 2 29/5 PR, 4 22/6 PR, 2 6/7 SW, EG, 2 15/7 PR, 2 10/8 PR. Lake Forsyth: 1 29/5 JW, 1 22/6 FG, 1 10/7 SW, EG. Kaituna Lagoon: 6 28/6 ACr. Halswell River between Greenpark & Motukarara: 1 22/6 AR. Motukarara: 7 flew over 5/6 PC. Embankment Road: 3 28/6 EG, SW,

5 29/6 DG. Yarr's Flat: 9 29/6 DG, 2 7/8 BA, PR. Wolfes Road: 1 1/5 AC, 4/5 FG, 4 28/6 SW, EG, 2 7/8 PR, BA. Lower Selwyn Huts: 4 28/6 DT. Chamberlains Ford, Selwyn River: 1 27/6 BA. Drain Road: 1 7/8 PR, BA. Harts Creek: 2 21/6 KRo, 2 12/7 FG, LR, 5 23/7 AS, 2 28/8 DG. Timberyard Road: 2 14/8 FG, 2 28/8 DG. Lower Lake Road: 1 28/6 HF. Cooper's Lagoon: 8 24/5 BA, 6 28/6 HF, 11 29/7 NA. Ashburton River nr Hakatere Huts: 1 13/6 DG. Ashburton RM: 1 16/6 ACr. Pyes Corner Irrigation Ponds, Coldstream: 1 24/5 NA. Wilsons Road Irrigation Ponds, Kerrytown: 5 10/6 PS, JS. Spider Lagoon: 2 16/6 PS, JS.

**Blue Duck (A)** Roaring Lion River, Kahurangi NP: 2 28/7 GE. Horseshoe Lake, Glynn Wye: 1 2/8 NA. Kawhaka Creek: 2 13/6 DT.

**Muscovy Duck (A)** Riccarton House: 1 18/5 NA, 1 30/6 NA, 1 22/8 GT, 3 30/8 CC. Westlake Reserve: 2 4/5 PR, 2 15/6 PR, 2 14/7 PR, 2 8/8 AS, MF, 2 10/8 PR. Lincoln Wetlands: 4 11/5 MR. Pigeon Bay: 1 11/7 DP. Wairewa Pa Road, Little River: 1 22/6 FG. Ashburton Domain: 1 16/5 ZU, Tinwald Domain: 3 11/6 ZU.

**Northern Shoveler (V)** Pegasus Wetlands: 1m 27/5 EG, SW, BA, 28/5 FG, DT, 30/5 ASH, AC, GM, 1/6 JR, 2/6 NA, 5/6 PM, PR, BA, 7/6 AC, JC, 14/6 BA, 16/6 OT, 26/6 DH, 28/6 DH, 3/7 BA, 4/7 DG, 10/7 DP, DG, 15/7 RS, 25/7 BA, 19/8 BA, 23/8 GY, 28/8 CC. Kaiapoi Sewage Ponds: 1m 27/8 ACr

**Helmeted Guinea fowl (A)** Arundel-Rakaia Gorge Road, Alford Forest: 6 7/8 DG. Timberyard Road, Lakeside: 5 28/8 DG. Corner Boundary & Grahams Road, Huntingdon: 5 25/7 DG.

**Peafowl (A)** Main North Road #2058, Sefton: 14 24/5 AS, MF. Factory Road, Sefton: 3 9/5 BA, 3 14/6 NA, 8 30/6 BA. Lincoln University: 2 8/5 JW, 9/5 JW, 2 23/5 FG. Willowbank Farm, Ashton: 9 13/6 DG.

**Golden x Lady Amherst's Pheasant (A)** Ellesmere Cemetery: 1 24/5 BA.

**Chukar (A)** Godley Peaks Rd ~1 km SE of Lake McGregor: 3 26/5 JB. Mt John: 2 25/8 OT.

**Turkey (A)** Timberyard Road, Lakeside: 2 27/6 BA, 10 14/8 FG.

**Australasian Crested Grebe (A)** Lake Ianthe: 1 5/6 NA. Lake Gresmere: 2 23/8 NA. Lake Pearson: 2 23/8 NA. Pegasus Wetlands: 2 6/5 BA, 1 16/5 NA, ACr, 1 23/5 FT, 1 27/5 EG, SW, 2 28/5 FG, DT, 1 30/5 AC, 1 7/6 AC, JC. Roto Kohatu: 9 16/5 FG, 5 8/6 BA, 6 14/7 BA, 1 22/8 BA. Lake Forsyth: 1 14/5, 5 29/5 JW, 107 22/6 FG, 8 30/6 AS, 42 10/7 EG, SW, 4 30/8 PR. Kaituna Lagoon: 1 10/5 JW, 1 14/5 JW, 1 10/7 EG, SW. Halswell Flats: 2 28/6 MRo, AnS, DR, DM, JF, 10 10/7 FG. Greenpark Huts to Halswell Canal: 1 28/6 AS, JWa. Embankment Road: 1 28/6 SW, EG. Harts Creek: 1 21/6 KRo. Lake Lyndon: 2 17/5 JB, 16/8 DT,

## The Wrybill - October 2020

23/8 NA. Lake Ida: 2 9/8 PC. Lake Selfe: 6 9/8 PC. Lake Evelyn: 2 9/8 PC. Lake Clearwater: 2 24/7 BA. Lake Emma: 2 22/8 DG. Lake Opuha: 4 FG, LR, 2 18/8 PSi. Lake Alexandrina: 5 26/5 JB, 3 12/6 BM, 2 14/6 PD, 4 20/7 JN. Lake McGregor: 8 26/5 JB, 4 28/8 EMF. Lake Tekapo SW Bay: 1 31/7 JN, 2 9/8 H-PB. Lake Tekapo SE Bay: 1 21/7 JN, 2 30/7 JN, 2 25/8 BK, OT. Lake Pukaki S shore: 1 18/9 MV. Lake Ruataniwha: 1 18/8 MV. Kelland Ponds: 2 23/8 JWe. Lake Ruataniwha, Wairepo Arm: 4 21/6 AM, 1 22/7 JN, 2 25/7 SD, 2 23/8 JWe, OT, 1 29/8 EMF. Lake Ohau: 1 24/7 SD. Lake Middleton: 2 24/7 SD. Lake Wainono: 5 23/6 PS.

**New Zealand Dabchick (V)** Pegasus Wetlands: 2 6/5 BA, 8/5 FH, RH, 2 9/5 AC, 2 10/5 PSc, 1 14/5 PC, 1 16/5 FG, NA, ACr, 1 17/5 GM, 1 19/5 BA, 1 20/5 JWa, BA, JB, 1 23/5 FT, 1 24/5 AS, MF.



Immature New Zealand Dabchick (Weweia), Pegasus Wetlands. Photo by William Harland.

**Poliocephalus sp. (V)** Halswell Flats, Lake Ellesmere: 2 28/6 MRo, AnS, DR, 2 10/7 FG.

**Yellow-eyed Penguin (A)** South Bay, Kaikoura: 1 23/7, ASH 2-6/8 ASH.

**Australasian Gannet (S)** Waitangi Beach, Te One: 1 2/5 TB.

**Little Black Shag (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 2/5 BA, 2 21/6 NA. Taranaki Creek wetland, Waikuku: 1 25/5 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 6 6/5 BA, 7 9/5 AC, 2 10/5 PSc, 2 14/5 PC, 1 16/5 NA, 1 19/5 BA, 2 20/5 BA, JB, JWa, 3 23/5 FT, 2 30/5 AC, GM, 3 7/6 AC, JC, 1 14/6 RH, 1 3/7 BA. Lake Kate Sheppard: 2 11/5 AC, 1 30/7 NA. Cambridge Terrace: 1 4/7 JJ. Bexley Wetlands: 1 21/5 FG. Linwood Canal: 1 9/5 FG. Rapaki: 1 31/5 PC. Halswell Quarry Park: 1 12/6 PR, 1 14/6 ZC, 1 20/6 ZC, 1 17/7 SS. Halswell River between Greenpark & Motukarara: 1 22/6 AR, 5 11/7 AR. Diamond Harbour: 1 1/6 PC. Yarrs Flat: 3 29/6 DG. Upper Selwyn Huts: 1 29/6 DG. Harts Creek: 2 27/6 BA, 4 12/7 FG, LR, 4 4/8 HS, ASm, 23 28/8 including at least

10 nests, one containing 2 well-grown young DG. Timbryard Road: 1 14/8 FG, 1 28/8 DG.

**Otago Shag (A)** Ashburton RM: 1 16/6 ACr. Timaru Harbour: 2 9/5 RL, 3 8/8 ACr. Waitaki RM: 2 6/7 FG.

**Australasian Bittern (A)** Pegasus Wetlands: 1 9/5 BA, 11/5 SW, EG, 16/5 NA, 20/5 JB, BA, JWa, 27/5 EG, SW, 28/5 FG, DT, 30/5 ASH, 2 30/5 AC, GM, 3 7/6 AC, JC, 2 8/6 BD, 1 14/6 BA, TR, 1 26/6 DH. Travis Wetland: 1 18/5 GM, 28/8 BA. Wetland E of Springston South: 1 25/5 NM.

**White Heron (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 4/8 BA, 14/8 BA. Tulls Road, Waikuku: 1 18/6 BA, 20/6 BA, 23/6 BA, 28/6 BA, 29/7 BA, 8/8 BA. Pegasus Wetland: 1 11/5 SW, EG, 16/5 NA, 19/5 BA, 24/5 MF, AS, 27/5 EG, SW, 28/5 FG, DT, 30/5 ASH, AC, 3/8 BA, 8/8 DHo, 19/8 BA, 23/8 GY. Waimakariri RM: 1 9/8 WH, NMI.

Brooklands Lagoon: 1 30/6 ACr, 12/7 RS. Styx River, Spencerville: 1 2/7 AW. Linwood Canal: 9/5 FG, 17/5 AS, MF. Lake Forsyth: 1 28/8 ACr. Kaituna Lagoon: 1 10/5 JW, 2 28/6 FG. Yarrs Flat: 1 29/6 DG. Harts Creek: 1 21/6 KRo, 1 23/7 AS. Timbryard Point: 1 19/6 AS. Coopers Lagoon: 2 28/6 HF. Otematata Wetlands: 1 26/7 SD.

**Reef Heron (A)** Barneys Rock: 1 11/7 ASH. Paia Point: 2 22/5 TH. Smoothwater Track end: 1 24/8 H-PB.

**Cattle Egret (A)** The Lake Road: 2 27/6 BA, SW, 1 14/8 FG. Drain Road, Lakeside: 2 6/7 EG, SW, 2 18/7 PR, 2 29/7 NA, 2 7/8 BA, PR.

**Australian Coot (S)** Lake Alexandrina: 170 14/6 PD.

**Marsh Crane (A)** Sawyers Creek, Greymouth: 2 22/8 ACh. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 14/6 RH. McIntoshs Hole, Waimakariri RM: 1 28/5 FG, DT, 3 31/5 NM, 2 5/6 PM, PR, BA, 2 17/6 NA, 2 23/6 SW, EG, 4 8/8 DHo. Lincoln Wetlands: 1 6/5 MR, 11/5 MR, 23/5 FG.

**Pied Stilt (S)** Ki-Wainono: 555 23/6 PS.

**Black Stilt (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 2/5 BA, 1 9/5 BA, 1 27/5 BA, 1 1/6 JR, 1 21/6 NA, 1 23/6 BA, 2 5/7 TC, 1 10/7 DG, CS, JM, 1 29/7 BA, 1 31/7 AS, MF, 1 1/8 JN, 1 4/8 BA, 1 7/8 ASH, 1 8/8 DHo, 2 11/8 CC, 1 14/8 BA, 20/8 BA, 26/8 NA. Mt Gerald Station: 51 (including 36 newly-released birds) 8/8 NF. Lake Tekapo, McGregor bay: 2 26/8 BK, 2 28/8 EMF. Lake Tekapo SE Bay: 2 21/7 JN, 2 30/7 JN. Tasman Fan: 4 27/5 JB, 1 30/5 JJ, 1 20/6 AM, 3 10/8 H-PB, 2 19/8 MV, 1 24/8 OT. Ki-Wainono: 2 imm 23/6 PS.

**Black-fronted Dotterel (A)** Ashworths Beach N Lagoon: 2 21/8 BA. Taranaki Paddocks, Waikuku: 1 10/7 DP, 2 27/7 BA. Wards Road, Ravenswood: 7 20/6 BA, 1 28/6 BA, 4 13/7 BA, 2 13/8 BA. Ashburton River S Branch upstream Sheates Road: 5 29/8 DG. Ashburton River S Branch at River Hills Rd: 6 6/6 DG, 7 10/6 DG. Ashburton River S Branch at Rawles Crossing Rd: 3 10/6 DG. Otupua Wetland, Timaru: 1 28/5 PS. Ashburton River nr Hakatere Huts: 15 13/6

## The Wrybill - October 2020

DG. Timaru Track #814 irrigation pond: 2 5/7 NA.  
 Timaru Track #865 irrigation pond: 3 23/8 DG.  
 Barford/Maronan Valetta Rd irrigation pond: 1 5/7  
 NA, 2 7/8 DG. Ashbuton River nr Lake Hood: 4 8/8  
 DG. Lake Opuha: 1 29/5 JB. Opihi RM: 4 16/6 JS, PS.  
 Washdyke Lagoon: 8 18/5 JS, PS, 12 24/6 PS, 5 20/7  
 PS, 6 31/8 PS, JS.

**Wrybill (S)** Ashley Estuary: 2 8/8 DHo, 1 14/8 BA, 5  
 20/8 BA, 23 26/8 NA. Jarvis-Embankment Roads: 3  
 28/6 BD, DGo. Embankment Road: 297 16/8 AC, 196  
 18/8 LR, FG. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 27 15/8 KRo.

**Marsh Sandpiper (V)** Embankment Road: 1 29/8  
 GM. Wolfes Road: 1 1/5 AC, 4/5 FG.

**Bar-tailed Godwit (S)** Ashley Estuary: 116 (high  
 count for the time of year) 26/8 NA.

**Turnstone (A)** Point Kean, Kaikoura: 9 4/6 BA, 6 13/7  
 JM. Rakaia RM: 4 24/7 ACr. Cape Pattison, Chatham  
 I: 8 28/7 DBe. Waitangi West Beach: 5 28/7 DBe.

**Red-necked Stint (A)** Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 1 3/8 ACr,  
 8 15/8 KRo. Jarvis-Embankment Roads: 4 28/6 BD,  
 DGo. Embankment Road: 1 16/8 AC, 4 25/8 BA, PR, 8  
 28/8 AC, 4 30/8 AC.

**Grey-tailed Tattler (V)** Embankment Road: 1 16/8  
 AC, 17/8 LR, FG, 22/8 KRo, 25/8 JB, BA, PR, 28/8 AC,  
 FH, RH, 30/8 AC.

**Red-billed Gull (S)** Rakaia RM: 1204 24/7 ACr.

**New Zealand Pigeon (S)** Rolleston: 1 flying over 2/5  
 RH.

**Barbary Dove (A)** Kippenberger Ave, Rangiora #65: 1  
 14/6 BA. Marshland Road #400: 4 21/8 FG.  
 Ellesmere Cemetery: 1 24/5 BA.

**New Zealand Falcon (A)** Denniston Road, Denniston:  
 1 2/5 RN. Inangahua: 1 26/6 RN. Escarpment SE of  
 Hawera, Paparoa NP: 1 27/5 RM. Bush Gully,  
 Molesworth Sta: 1 17/6 DB. Mitchell's Cutting,  
 Molesworth Sta: 1 15/6 DB. Puhipuhi Road: 1 30/7  
 PS, JS. Deadman Creek S of Reefton: 1 13/8 JH. ~1  
 km E of Maruia Hot Springs: 1 29/5 PSc.

Marsden/Rutherghlen area: 1 25/8 JH. Bain Bay  
 Walkway, Lake Brunner: 2 1/6 FG. Andrews Valley: 1  
 19/8 DSm. Bealey Hotel: 1 22/8 PC. Smarts Road,  
 Loburn: 3 1/5 DW. Hagley Park: 1 8/8 OT, HB. Old Tai  
 Tapu Road: 1 30/5 Native Birds Taranaki. Misty  
 Peaks, Banks Peninsula: 1f 6/8 PC. Hickory Bay  
 Road: 1 31/8 PC. Rose Creek, Kaniere: 1 2/7 IM.  
 Evans Hut, Cattle Stream: 2 17/8 PC. Glenrock,  
 Rakaia Valley: 1 21/5 PC. Cameron Valley, Wild Mans  
 Brother Range: 1 31/5 Native Birds Taranaki.

McDougalls Road, Ashburton: 1 30/6 Native Birds  
 Taranaki. Central Ashburton: 1 14/8 DG. Hakatere  
 Heron Road: 1 24/7 BA. Mount Somers Track: 1 11/7  
 PC. Mount Somers Village: 1 22/5 DG. Netherby  
 Farm, Geraldine: 1 17/5 JS, PS. Geraldine Downs: 2  
 15/5 PS, JS, 1 30/5 PS, JS. Yates Road, Orari Gorge: 1

1/6 PS, JS. Lilybank Road: 1 21/7 JN. Fox Glacier  
 Lookout (Gillespies Rd): 1 27/8 H-PB. Tasman Glacier:  
 1 8/7 SS. Tasman Glacier Terminal: 1 19/5 GL, 2 31/5  
 EM, 1 13/7 DA. Mueller Lookout walk: 2 24/8 OT.  
 Hooker Glacier Track: 1 24/8 OT. Aoraki/Mount Cook  
 Village: 1 25/5 DS, 1 6/6 RH, 1 7/6 RH, 1 19/8 MV.  
 Pleasant Flat Campsite: 1 1/6 Native Birds Taranaki.  
 Benmore Dam: 2 23/8 OT. Haast Village: 1 23/8 DT.  
 Barn Bay SE of Cascade: 2 31/5 Native Birds Taranaki.  
**Kea (S)** Mokihinui: 1 5/7 RN. Cascade Creek, Lower  
 Buller Gorge: 2 22/6 RN. Larrys Creek, Victoria FP: 1  
 26/6 RN. Kakapo Creek headwaters, Paparoa NP: 1  
 20/5 RM. Mt Brown Hut, Kaniere: 1 5/8 DT, AB.  
 Evans Hut, Cattle Stream: 1 17/8 PC. Franz Josef  
 township: 2 2/8 AB. Callery Gorge Walk: 1 3/8 MV.  
 Hooker Terminal Lake: 2 4/6 PCr. Hooker Glacier  
 Track: 4 24/8 OT. Whitehorse Hill Camp: 1 4/6 PCr, 1  
 5/6 PCr. Mueller Hut Route: 2 19/7 RS.  
 Aoraki/Mount Cook Village: 1 6/6 RH.

**Kaka (A)** Roaring Lion River, Kahurangi NP: 1 28/7  
 GE. Mokihinui: 1 16/5 RN. Larrys Creek, Victoria FP: 2  
 25/6 RN. Ajax Battery, Blacks Point: 1 9/8 JH. Auld  
 Creek, S of Reefton: 1 10/8 JH. Pt1112 S of White  
 Knight, Paparoa NP: 1 25/5 RM. Blacksand/Pike  
 Ridge, Paparoa NP: 2 21/5 RM. Pike Stream: 2 20/5  
 RM. Kakapo Creek headwaters: 1 20/5 RM. Kakapo  
 Creek, Paparoa NP: 3 19/5 RM. Lake Haupiri: 1 3/6  
 NA. Andrews Valley: 8 19/8 DSm.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (A)** Prices Valley: 6 16/7  
 BA, 34 22/8 FG, LR, MM, JHi, 5 30/8 PR.

**Yellow-crowned Parakeet (A)** White Knight, Paparoa  
 NP: 2 25/5 RM. Kakapo Creek, Paparoa NP: 1 19/5  
 RM. Moonlight River/Canoe Creek tops, Paparoa NP:  
 1 18/5 RM. Ahaura Kopara Road nr Fox Flat: 5 4/6  
 NA.

**Tui (S)** Evans Hut, Cattle Stream: 1 17/8 PC.  
 Aoraki/Mount Cook Village: 1 7/6 RH.

**Common Myna (V)** Hawke Street: 1 9/5 FG, early-  
 mid July JS.

**European Greenfinch (S)** Maronan Road, Maronan:  
 astounding flock of 29200 feeding on paddock  
 fertilised with offal 21/6 DG

**Cirl Bunting (A)** Scarborough Street, Kaikoura: 1m  
 19/5 ASH, 22/5 ASH, 1m 1f 26/5 ASH, 4 8/8 JN. Point  
 Kean, Kaikoura: 1 12/5 SK. Kaikoura Peninsula: 1m 1f  
 27/5 ASH. Leslie Hills Rd near i/s SH7: 2 15/8 BA.  
 Ashley River, Okuku: 1 29/9 ACr. Johns Road,  
 Rangiora: 4m 4f 27/8 BA. Dyers Road Paddocks: 1m  
 14/7 RS. South New Brighton Domain: 1f 19/8 NA.  
 Quarry Gate Subdivision: 2 15/8 PR, 2 19/8 PR.  
 Halswell Quarry Park: 1 10/5 NA, 1 16/6 PR, NA.

Observers: BA Bev Alexander, NA Nick Allen, DA  
 David Anderson, DBe Dave Bell, H-PB Hans-Peter



Bieri, TB Tansy Bliss, HB Harry Boorman, DB Dan Burgin, AB Alasdair Burns, JB Janet Burton, ACh Annette Ching, AC Adam Colley, JC Jack Colley, ZC Zion Cooper, CC Christian Cosgrove, TC Tony Crocker, ACr Andrew Crossland, PCr Patrick Crowe, PC Phil Crutchley, BD Brian Darlow, SD Sarah Dietrich, PD Peter Doyle, GE Graeme Elliott, JF John Fitch, NF Natalie Forsdick, MF Malcolm Foster, DG Don Geddes, DGo Donald Gooddale, EG Eleanor Gunby, FG Fraser Gurney, DH Don Hadden, WH Wendy Hare, HF Harland Family, JHi Jack Hines, TH Tom Hitchon, PH Peter Howden, DHo Dave Howes, JH John Hughes, FH Francoise Hurt, RH Richard Hurt, JJ Jean Jack, BK Bernie Kelly, SK Stefan Kopec, RL Robert Leask, GL Graeme Loh, IM Ian McCann, PM Peter McClelland, MM Marissa McDonald, DM Dale McEntee, BM Bruce McKinlay, GM Greg Mckenzie, JM Joanna McVeigh, EM Ed Marshall, AM Angelina Martelli, EMF Esteban Martinez Fredes, RM Roger Maslowski, NMi Nigel Milius, NM Niall Mugan, AN Angie Nelson, JN Janet Newell, RN Richard Nichol, JP Jo Pomare, DP David Price, DR Dave Rate-Smith, PR Peter Reese, AR Anthea Reynolds, LR Luke Richards, MR Michael Roast, SR Sharon Roberts, KR Kenny Rose, HR Heather Rogers, MRo Matt Rose, KRo Kieran Rowe, JR Jesse Rubenstein, TR Tim Rumble, DS David Sagar, JS Joy Sagar, PS Paul Sagar, RS Richard Schofield, PSc Paul Scofield, AnS Antony Shadbolt, SS Susan Shannon, ASH Alan Shaw, CS Colin Shore, PSi Petra Simpson, ASm Abby Smith, DSm D Smith, AS Anita Spencer, HS Hamish Spencer, JS John Stewart, FT Fanny Tale, DT David Thomas, OT Oscar Thomas, GT Gregor Tims, ZU Zig Urbanski, MV Michael Violette, JWa Jan Walker, SW Sandra Wallace, AW Alice Waterhouse, JWe Jill West, JW Jonas Wobker, DW Dave Woodcock, GY Graeme Young.

### 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.

Bird Photos



Little Owls seen towards dusk at Hansens Park in mid-September. Photo by Janet Burton.



Spotted Shag taken at the Rangitata Huts settlement on 23 February 2020. I thought at first it had seaweed in its mouth, but when I went home and uploaded pictures I realised it was actually fishing line and a metal hook hanging there. Photo by Janet Burton.

### 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. Many thanks to everybody who contributed to this edition of *The Wrybill*.

### Scopes for Loan

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).

### eBird Protocols

To learn the value of using 'spuhs' and 'slashes' in your eBird lists, take a look at this article from the NZ Bird Atlas team: <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/news/spuhs-and-slashes>.

### Otukaikino Walkway Additions

If anyone is looking for a new spot to do any birding or perhaps an Atlas checklist from, Janet Burton suggests that some new additions to the Otukaikino Walkway may be worth a look. During one visit, Janet saw quite a variety of birds including Peahens and Peacock, likely from the Isaac Reserve. She heard Bellbird and saw lots of Yellowhammer, Grey Warblers, finches etc. The Lady Isaac Loop Walk is relatively short, taking approximately 20 minutes and was added in January 2017. The Isaac farm walk was added in 2018 and goes all the way to the Waimakariri riverbed.

### Atlassing Competition

During October, one lucky Atlaser has the chance to win a copy of the stunning book "The Brilliance of Birds" by simply contributing to the New Zealand Bird Atlas! To take part in the first ever Atlas challenge and go in the draw, you just need to submit 31 or more complete checklists during October. All details are available on <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/news/october-atlas-challenge>.

### Canterbury Region Contacts

Regional Representative: Sandra Wallace  
31 Westmont Street, Christchurch 8041  
Ph 358 5706  
Email: birds.canterbury@birdsanz.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