

The Wrybill

Canterbury Regional Newsletter



May 2021

What's on at Birds NZ Canterbury: May to July 2021

Field Trips

30 May - Special trip into the Water Treatment ponds in Bromley led by Andrew Crossland, limit of 15 people. Please contact Jan (shesagreen@gmail.com or 0212132922) if you would like to attend.

27 June - Winter wader survey of Lake Ellesmere and other wader habitats. Meet at the lake end of Embankment Rd at 8.30am. Make sure you bring shoes or gumboots that you don't mind getting muddy. Please contact Jan (shesagreen@gmail.com or 0212132922) if you would like to attend.

17 July - Ashburton Lakes waterbird survey. Please contact Don Geddes (don.geddes@fireandemergency.nz) if you would like to attend, and to find out the details.

Rambles

15 June - Riccarton Bush. Meet at 10am in the carpark just before Riccarton House.

13 July - Roho Kohatu (located at the northern end of Sawyers Arms Rd). Meet in the carpark there at 10am.

All rambles are weather dependant. Please let Bev know if you are able to come (027 3184 713 or birdiebev@xtra.co.nz).

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.

31 May - Fraser Gurney will talk about a multi day pelagic trip to the Kermadec Islands.

28 June - Ruud Kleinpaste will talk about 'bugs in the system', a different look at birds.

26 July - Pauline Howard, a vet, will talk about the wildlife hospital at Willowbank and being a bird vet.

The Wrybill - May 2021

Gunns Bush Visit

Just after Easter, five ladies in the Christchurch Birds NZ branch spent 3 nights at Gunns Bush camp accommodation near Waimate on a bird foraging trip. Luckily we had the place to ourselves, and camp managers Lisa and Stephen were most welcoming and helpful, even lighting the hall fire every night. The morning chorus from mainly Bellbirds was well worth waking to.

After lunch on the first day we looked around the camp's own bush track, among the more usual birds there to be seen we were pleased to find a few Brown Creepers in the bushes, heard lots of Bellbirds singing and had Fantails accompanying us. That evening we cooked up our BBQ, ate in the large kitchen, and played cards in front of fire.



The following morning we walked the DOC Gunns Bush track, tramping on an enchanting carpet of moss and fallen leaves for the first

part of track till we reached the loop track. With Bellbirds singing, Brown Creeper busy in their group and Fantails entertaining us we passed interestingly twisted Fuchsia trees, pungas, hanging vines & black Beech trees. Jill happily identified the many ferns and other fauna we encountered. The bush was quite dense, and we once heard the retreating pounding of Wallabies.

In the afternoon we all headed to Wainono Lagoon, a cold wind spoilt staying very long and birdlife was grouped far out on water, though Jill and intrepid Bev, armed with her trusty scope, were not to be deterred, counting 2600 Black Swan and 1000 Australasian Shovelers among the bird variety present.

Further on we checked out the Waihao River Outlet Box, a purpose built water outlet and tunnel for conveying water from the Waihao River to the sea to prevent flooding of surrounding farm land. The originally constructed box built in 1896 was washed away in a storm and the present box has just celebrated its centennial, still in perfect working order. With an upgraded carpark and freedom camp site it is worth a visit on a better day for Spotted Shags and terns, though care must be taken to walk safely on the gravel sea side.



Onward to Oamaru and Bushy Beach, where luckily Yellow-eyed Penguins were spotted coming into roost for the night. For the next stop, we called at Sumpter Wharf which was, as usual, crowded with hundreds of Spotted and

The Wrybill - May 2021

Stewart Island Shags, along with Red-billed Gulls. There was great activity as the birds flew in and out before settling for the night. However, we dipped out on seeing the Little Blue Penguins, next time maybe! Fish'n'chips, consumed we returned to Gunns Bush's warm woodfire, a game of cards and a much needed cuppa.

Next morning found us on Highway 82 spotting birdlife enroute. Our Glenavy lunch spot was overlooking the Waitaki River where many Spotted Shags gathered at its mouth. Then we returned to Waimate's Kelceys Bush track, which was a delightful find. It was rather odd to see a lone young Royal Spoonbill in a paddock as we drove into valley miles from water, though it appeared to have flown on our return. Bellbirds, Tomtits, Fantails were spotted as we entered Kelceys, its a good track and we went as far as the small waterfall. It would be well worth a second visit some other time. Back at Gunns Bush, Lisa asked us to contribute a group photo to their website to promote their accommodation stay.

Autumn did not appear to have the variety or abundance of birdlife as spring/summer perhaps would have; however, we observed quite a few different species, had really good weather, and we all enjoyed the trip away.

Photos and text by Janet Burton

Local Bird Photos



California Quail chicks, Christchurch Botanic Gardens. While we were walking about in the gardens, we came across a family of California Quails with chicks. There were I think 6 chicks along with both of their parents. Getting to see them was quite the pleasant surprise, and they allowed us to get great views of them, as long as we stayed still and quiet.



Marsh Sandpiper, Kaituna Lagoon, Lake Ellesmere. This was quite the surprise to see! We saw this small wader out in the distance, and at first I had no idea what it was. I managed to get some distant photos of it, but could not get particularly close due to the local terrain. When we came back home, I manage to identify it as a Marsh Sandpiper, which made me happy since I had never seen this species previously! This one appears to be in breeding plumage, or at least partially so.



Wrybill on the run. We saw a reasonably large number of Wrybills at first, but we did not see many of them at all later on in the count.



Banded Dotterel (male), Birdlings Flat, Canterbury. This male was seen several hundred metres up the beach from the previously shown female. He allowed for an even more close approach than the female, and I was only about 3-ish metres away from him when I took this photo! This encounter allowed for some of my best Banded Dotterel photos and views ever.



My best 'portrait-style' photo that I have ever taken of a wild / fully free-roaming Cape Barren Goose!

Photos and text by William Harland

BRaid Seminar

The 2021 Braided Rivers Seminar is being held on Wednesday 14 July. If you are interested in attending, you can book or find out more at <https://braidedrivers.org/2021-seminar/>

South Island Robin Photo



A friendly South Island Robin, seen in late February 2021 on my trip to the West Coast and Arthur's Pass. It was so bold it pecked my hand! Photo by Christian Cosgrove.

eBird Global Big Day

Canterbury birders did very well last Saturday, 8th May, seeing 80 species for the day. eBird lists were recorded by 25 people plus a combined effort on the Birds NZ Canterbury site. Heather Rogers with 47 and Fraser Gurney with 45 were the best of the individual postings. Birds NZ Canterbury, with 60, was the highest, thanks to the Albatross Encounters pelagic trip recording a number of seabirds. A vagrant Northern Shoveler was sighted at Pegaus Wetlands. Thanks to everyone who was able to take part, I hope you enjoyed getting out and about.

By Bev Alexander

The Wrybill - May 2021

New Zealand Garden Bird Survey

The New Zealand Garden Bird Survey will take place this year between 26 June and 4 July. To get involved, all you need to do is watch the birds for one hour at a garden, park or school, and record the highest number of each species you observe at any one time during that hour. For more information, or to submit your survey results, go to <https://gardenbirdsurvey.landcareresearch.co.nz/>.

Climate and Nature Website

If you are interested in checking out the climate and nature website that Sonny Whitelaw mentioned during April's evening meeting, follow this link: <https://climateandnature.org.nz/>.

Recent Sightings

Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report December 2020 to February 2021

This report covers the period 1st December 2020 to 28th February 2021 and is compiled from reports posted onto eBird and the Birding NZ internet discussion site. Your regional recorder would welcome news of any interesting bird sighting, unusual behaviour or searchable sources of other sightings. Email christchurchnzbirder@gmail.com.

Key to letters after bird names:

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

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

V = vagrant

Great Spotted Kiwi (A) Lewis Hut, Heaphy Track: 1 30/12 NA. Heaphy Hut area: 6 31/12 NA. Kohaihai RM: 2 26/1 RN. Bullock Creek Rd, Punakaiki: 5 15/1 HB, WA, 5 25/1 WA, MH, 2 4/2 SLA, 4 6/2 MM, FG, 1f 8/2 ASt. Nina Valley: 1 17/12 MP. Inchbonnie: 1 29/12 JR. Klondyke Corner: 1f 12/2 DG, 1f 14/2 DG. Hawdon Valley: 2 9/12 AC. Woolshed Hill: 1 11/12 WA.

Cape Barren Goose (A) St Annes Lagoon: 1 4/12 PR, PM, 1 3/1 DH, 1 5/1 SD. Lower Styx Road: 5 13/12 NA. Travis Wetland: 1 9/12 BD, 1 24/12 GT, 1 29/12 EG, SW, 1 1/1 GT, 1 4/1 MH, DH, HB, 1 5/1 DGe, 1 6/1 MR, 1 7/1 GA, 1 19/1 EG, SW, 2 30/1 BA, SW, AB, 2 6/2 HR, 2 7/2 CC, 2 8/2 ZC, 2 13/2 GA, 2 15/2 DD, MD, MDe, 2 17/2 JR. Washdyke Lagoon: 2 27/1 PS, JS.

Mute Swan (A) Pegasus Bay Winery: 1 26/1 SLe, KO. Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 2ads 4 small chicks 9/12 BA, 2 28/12 BA, 2ad 4juv 19/1 P&RP, 2ad 3imm 15/2 BA, 4 23/2 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 12 6/12 CC, 6 10/12 BA, 1a 4 juvs 27/12 BA, 10 29/12 CC, 7 4/1 HB, 4 4/1 DH, 2ad 3juv 4/1 JB, 2ad 5juv 9/1 MH, 5 17/1 AB, 2 17/1 BA, 3 19/1 P&RP, 2ad 3juv 21/1 GA, 7 22/1 SW, EG, 3 23/1 CC, 6ad 5imm 5/2 BA. Travis Wetland: 1 15/2 MD, DD, MDe. Dairy NZ Lake, Lincoln: 2 12/12 SF. Lincoln Wetlands: 1 8/12 PR, 2 18/1 PR, 2 17/2 PR. Jarvis Road: 1 13/1 DGe. Embankment Road: 2 21/12 WA, 1 5/1 RS. Wolfes Road: 1 25/12 DGe. Harts Creek: 2 3/1 DH, 2 10/1 DH, 1 13/1 MT, 3 16/1 GT, 2 17/1 SA, 2 29/1 DG, 3 16/2 DD. Coopers Lagoon: 9 10/12 PR, 22 30/12 PR, 16 2/2 BA, 10 27/2 DL. Spider Lagoon: 3 7/12 PS, JS.

Blue Duck (A) Heaphy River, Lewis Hut: 1 31/12 NA. Oparara Basin: 2 23/12 DGe. Moeraki River (Paringa): 3 18/2 HS.

Muscovy Duck (A) Range Creek Lagoon, Cobden: 2 3/2 SLA. Greymouth Aerodrome Lake: 1 24/12 DGe. Raupo Berm, Ashley Estuary: 1 2/12 NA. Riccarton House: 1 6/2 ZC, 13/2 ZC. Radley Park: 1 6/1 RS. Westlake Reserve: 2 15/12 PR, 2 4/1 PR, 3 8/1 EG, 4 18/1 SA, 2 1/2 PR. Dairy NZ Lake, Lincoln: 2 12/12 SF. Liffey Stream: 2 16/2 Birds NZ Canterbury. Coleridge Road: 1 3/1 GA. Ashburton Domain: 15 23/12 CC. Tinwald Domain: 2 30/1 NA.

Helmeted Guineafowl (A) Hursley Terrace Road, Amberley: 2 6/12 SW, EG, 2 22/1 EG, SW. West

The Wrybill - May 2021

Melton Domain: 5 4/1 RS. Timberyard Road, Lakeside: 2 SW, JW, BA, PR.

Peafowl (A) Factory Road, Sefton: 2m 2f 10/1 BA, 1 22/1 EG, SW, 7 25/1 PM, BA, PR, 1 27/2 BA. Lower Lake Road, Taumutu: 1 12/12 BA, PR, JW.

Chukar (A) Godley Peaks Road nr Lake McGregor: 1 9/12 FG. Mt John: 2 2/1 MS, 2 11/1 HB, 6 31/1 DH. Tasman Valley Road: 2 26/12 PS, JS, DS. Totara Peak Sta: 1 14/2 PC.

Turkey (A) Okuku Pass Road: 14 5/12 PC. Harts Creek: 1 16/1 GT. Timberyard Road: 1 9/12 JW, 1 12/12 JW, BA, PR, SW, 1 2/2 BA.

Australasian Crested Grebe (A) Lake Pegasus: 2 5/1 DGe, 2 17/1 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 17/1 AB, 1 19/1 P&RP, 2 23/1 CC. Kaiapoi Lakes: 1 13/12 CC, 1 3/1 CC, 2 5/1 BA, 1 6/1 MS, 1 16/1 DGe, 4 6/2 BA. Roto Kohatu: 1 ad 1 chick 18/12 HP, 1ad 1imm 1/1 BA, 2 11/1 GT, 2 21/1 SW, EG, 3 4/2 BA. Lake Forsyth: 1 9/12 ZU, 2 12/1 DGe, 9 26/1 PR. BA, 2 31/1 HR. Lake Sarah: 2 14/2 DG. Lake Grassmere: 1 14/2 DG. Lake Lyndon: 1 25/12 PC, 3 31/1 SLA, 4ads 1juv 12/2 BA, 2 14/2 DG. Harts Creek: 1 10/1 MH, 1 16/1 GT, 1 16/2 DD. Coopers Lagoon: 2 27/2 DL. Lake Evelyn: 4 7/2 DG. Lake Georgina: 1 19/1 DGe, 2 7/2 DG. Lake Ianthe: 1 24/1 P&RP. Lake Heron: 1 2/2 VP. West Maori Lake: 2 31/12 DG, 3 31/1 DG.

Tramway Road #152 irrigation pond, Mount Somers: 1 6/12 DG. Wilson Road irrigation pond, Kerrytown: 1 27/1 PS, JS. Lake Alexandrina: 1 19/12 AM, 6 5/1 AT, 16 18/1 JWo, WAb, 28 24/1 DHa, 78 30/1 SLe, KO, 47 4/2 JWe, 12 24/2 PD. This summer large numbers have bred in the spawning (outlet) stream – 14 nests according to locals. Lake McGregor: 1 9/12 FG, 3 19/12 AM, 4 30/1 KO, SLe, 3 4/2 JWe. Lake Tekapo Mc Gregor inlet bay: 2 4/2 JWe. Lake Tekapo SE bay: 2 12/1 P&RP. Kelland Ponds: 9 21/1 JWe, 7 23/1 JB. Lake Ruataniwha Wairepo Arm: 2 22/12 GM, 4ad 2juv 21/1 JB, 1ad 2juv 23/1 JWe, JB, 7ad 1juv 25/1 JB, 5 30/1 KO, SLe. Lake Ohau: 2 8/1 P&RP. Lake Middleton: 2ad 2 juv 8/1 P&RP. Ohau C Ponds: 3 25/1 JWe. Ohau C campground: 2ad 1juv 25/1 JB. Lake Benmore N of Totara Peak Sta: 2 14/2 PC. Sailors Cutting, Lake Benmore: 6 27/12 AV. Lake Aviemore: 2ad 1imm 18/2 JBl.

Yellow-eyed Penguin (A) Shell Bay: 2 17/2 PC.

Snares Crested Penguin (V) Claverley: 1 19/2 SK.

Erect-crested Penguin (V) Goughs Bay: 1 22/2 taken

into care as underweight PC.

Great Shearwater (V) Mangere I: 1 1/2 BS

Black-winged Petrel (S) Kaikoura Pelagic: 1 10/2 EK.

Juan Fernandez Petrel (V) Rangatira/South East I: 1 24/1 GTa, Ate, 1/2 GTa, ATe.

Broad-billed Prion (S) Marshland Road: 1 14/12 MF. Ataahua: 1 flew across SH75 12/12 NM, PC.

Greenvale Road, Geraldine: 1 13/12 PS, JS.

Little Black Shag (A) Kohaihai RM: 1 22/12 DGe, 1 26/1 RN, 1 20/2 AB. Lake Ryan, Greymouth: 5 15/1 HB, 1 3/2 SLA, 3 7/2 SLA. Saltwater Creek, Waikuku: 10 20/1 P&RP. Ashley Estuary: 1 2/12 NA, 4 9/12 BA, 1 14/12 DG, 10 5/1 BA, 2 9/1 MH, 5 10/1 WA, 2 23/1 WA, 2 3/2 BA, 11 8/2 JB, 1 15/2 BA. Taranaki Creek: 1 9/1 MH, 9 19/1 P&RP, 3 7/2 JB, 1 15/2 BA, 1 23/2 BA. Pegasus Wetland: 8 4/1 JB, 1 23/1 CC, 2 5/2 BA. Roto Kohatu: 2 1/1 BA. Styx Mill: 5 18/1 DGe, 1 2/2 JBr. Travis Wetland: 3 15/1 GT. Naughty Boy Island: 21 15/2 GA. Bromley Oxidation Ponds: 5 17/2 JB.

Lower Heathcote River: 6 13/1 ACr. Southshore Spit: 6 10/1 GT. Barry's Bay: 1 31/12 RW. Lake Forsyth Outlet Lagoon: 1 12/1 DGe. Harts Creek: 6 10/1 MH. Okarito Lagoon: 1 24/1 P&RP.

Australasian Bittern (A) Harts Creek: 1 3/1 DH.

White Heron (A) Goose Bay: 1 flying N 26/2 SK.

Ashley RM: 1 14/2 NA. Kaituna Lagoon: 1 27/2 DG.

Nursery Lakes, Ashburton Lakes: 1 15/12 DG. Ohau C campground: 1 25/1 JWe.

Reef Heron (A) Papanoa Point: 1 23/1 KO, SLe. Kean Point: 1 23/1 SLe, South Bay, Kaikoura: 1 22/12 SK.

Raramai: 1 4/1 SL. Paia: 1 13/12 FG, LR.

Cattle Egret (A) Mount Fyffe Road: 1 28/1 WP.

Marsh Crake (A) McIntosh's Hole, Waimakariri RM: 1 4/1 JG, 1 28/1 DH. Glovers Road, Halswell: 1 2/12 NM. West Maori Lake: 2 31/1 DG.

Spotless Crake (A) Hurunui RM: 2 27/1 PSw.

Pied Stilt (S) Washdyke Lagoon: 422 "highest number recorded at lagoon since Feb 2001" 27/1 PS, JS.

Black Stilt (A) Ashley Estuary: 1 4/1 HB, DH, 5/1 GT, RS, BA, 6/1 MS, 7/1 MS, 9/1 MH, 10/1 WA, 11/1 CC, 18/1 BA, 19/1 P&RP, 21/1 GA, 23/1 WA, 27/1 NA, 7/2 JB, BA, 9/2 JB, 14/2 NA, 16/2 SW, EG, 26/2 BA, 27/2 JC, WA. Rangitata South Irrigation Ponds, Arundel: 1 16/1 P&RP. Lake Opuha: 1 25/2 PC. Lake Murray: 1 18/1 JWo, WAb. Lake McGregor: 2 9/12 FG, 1 20/12 AM, 2 18/1 WAb, JWo, 1 24/1 DHa. Lake

The Wrybill - May 2021

Tekapo Mc Gregor inlet bay: 2 4/2 JWe. Tasman Fan: 2 7/1 JRo, 4 10/1 P&RP.

Pacific Golden Plover (A) Osbornes: 3 20/2 FG. Jarvis Road: 27 6/12 AC, 10 6/1 KR, 49 13/1 DGe, 41 14/1 MT. Embankment Road: 27 4/1 AC, 1 6/1 PR, BA. Crescent Island: 2 4/12 AC, 28 20/2 PC, NT. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 3 20/2 PC, NT.

Banded Dotterel (S) Jarvis Road: 1800 16/1 GT.

Black-fronted Dotterel (A) Waiau River at SH1 Bridge: 1 4/12 NM, 1 6/1 P&CF. Waipara RM: 4 4/1 JB, 3 14/2 NA, 2 27/2 WA. Ashley River at Marchmont Rd: 1 1/12 BA. Ashley River at Smarts Rd: 1 27/1 BA, 3 6/2 BA. Southbrook Road, Rangiora: 2 24/1 CC. Embankment Road: 1 2/1 DH, GT, MS. Selwyn River at Westenras Road: 1 20/12 NA.

Ashburton RM: 2 19/12 SW, EG, 2 7/2 AB. Rangitata River at Hwy 72 Bridge: 2 16/1 P&RP, 1 22/1 JB. Opihi RM: 4 7/12 JS, PS. Washdyke Lagoon: 1 28/12 PS, JS, 1 27/1 JS, PS. Otipua Wetland: 1 13/2 RL.

Marsh Sandpiper (V) Osbornes: 1 20/2 FG. Wolfes Road: 1 5/1 HB, 6/1 BA, PR.

Bar-tailed Godwit (S) Crescent Island, Lake Ellesmere: 243 1/12 AC, ACh, FG.

Black-tailed Godwit (V) 'Coops', Lake Ellesmere: 2 1/12 FG, AC, ACh, 3 6/12 AC.

Hudsonian Godwit (V) Crescent Island, Lake Ellesmere: 1/12 ACh, FG, AC

Whimbrel (A) Karamea Estuary: 1 31/12 SJ.

Turnstone (A) Takahanga Terrecia, Kaikoura: 7 27/1 SK. Armers Beach, Kaikoura: 16 3/1 SD, 4 4/1 SD, 53 5/1 GT, 28 6/2 BM, 4 23/2 EM. Point Kean, Kaikoura: 4 4/12 PM, PR, 8 17/12 PW, 3 30/12 JG, 1 31/12 SD, 8 3/1 SD, 21 9/1 AS, 2 11/2 SK, 8 13/2 BA, 2 13/2 EG, SW. Kaikoura Peninsula: 3 6/2 BM, 2 23/2 SK. Ashley Estuary: 1 5/12 ZC, 2 9/12 BA. Jarvis Road: 24 6/1 KR, 17 14/1 MT. Embankment Road: 12 2/1 DH, MS, 12 4/1 AC, 24 5/1 RS, 13 6/1 BA, PR, 1 7/1 EG, 8 12/1 MH, 2 16/1 JWo. Crescent Island: 9 4/12 AC, 15 4/1 AC. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 47 4/12 AC, 2 4/1 AC, 1 20/2 PC, NT. Ashburton RM: 3 19/12 EG, SW, 2 7/2 AB. Wainono Lagoons: 2 3/12 PS. Cape Pattison, Chatham: 13 8/2 CM, EW.

Lesser Knot (A) Karamea Estuary: 2 2/1 NA. Ashley Estuary: 5 2/12 NA, 1 9/12 BA, 1 13/12 CC, 1 14/12 DG, 2 28/12 BA, 5 1/1 CC, 2 4/1 HB. Embankment Road: 1 4/1 AC. Aggies: 35 27/2 DG. Crescent Island: 24 1/12 AC, FG, ACh, 23 4/12 AC, 27 4/1 AC.

Sanderling (V) Ashley Estuary: 1 9/12 BA, 14/12 DG, 28/12 BA, 4/1 HB, 5/1 BA, 7/1 MS, 18/1 BA, 23/1 WA, 3/2 BA, 9/2 JB.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (A) Jarvis Road: 2 6/1 KR, 3 16/1 GT. Embankment Road: 6 2/1 GT, 3 4/1 HB, 4 5/1 RS, 1 6/1 PR, BA, 1 7/1 EG, 1 13/1 DGe, 5 16/1 JWo, 1 29/1 KO, SLe. Wolfes Road: 6 19/1 AC. Aggies, Lake Ellesmere: 2 4/12 AC, 1 6/12 AC. Crescent Island: 2 4/12 HB. Wainono Lagoons: 6 3/12 PS.

Red-necked Stint (A) Jarvis Road: 4 6/1 KR, 34 16/1 GT. Embankment Road: 13 21/12 WA, 6 22/12 JR, 50 2/1 GT, 31 4/1 AC, 19 5/1 RS, 40 6/1 BA, PR, 38 7/1 EG, 6 13/1 DGe, 4 16/1 GA, 11 16/1 JWo, 4 24/1 MH, 4 29/1 DG, 2 31/1 AB. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 1 4/12 AC, 1 4/1 AC.

Pectoral Sandpiper (A) Jarvis Road: 2 14/1 MT. Embankment Road: 3 21/12 WA, 3 22/12 JR, 2 4/1 DH, 2 5/1 HB, RS, 4 6/1 PR, BA, 5 7/1 EG. Wolfes Road: 3 19/1 AC.

Grey-tailed Tattler (V) Jarvis Road: 1 6/1 KR. Embankment Road: 1 21/12 WA, 2/1 DH, MS, 4/1 AC, 5/1 HB, RS.

Pomarine Skua (A) Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 1 6/1 AC.

Little Tern (V) Embankment Road: 1 4/1 AC. Wolfes Road: 1 2/12 FG.

White-fronted Tern (S) Ashley Estuary: 1500 ads 500 chicks/juvs in large colony south of mouth 7/1 MS, 2000 ads 500 chicks/juvs 16/1 AC.

Sooty Tern (V) Rangitira/South East I: 1 3/2 GTa, ATe.

Barbary Dove (A) Kippenberger Ave, Rangiora: 1 5/1 CC. Northbrook Estate, Rangiora: 1 8/1 BA. Hegan Reserve, Rangiora: 1 8/1 BA. Bottle Lake Forest Park: 1 3/1 MF, ASp, 2 16/2 DD. Ellesmere Cemetery: 1 10/12 PR.

Spotted Dove (A) Wards Road, Charing Cross: 1 1/1 PC. Clintons Road #71, Charing Cross: 2 20/12 NA, 1 22/12 FG, 2 23/12 RH, 1 25/12 PC.

New Zealand Falcon (A) Fenian Track: 1 22/2 AB. SH67 N of Hector: 1 25/2 NBT. Kowhai Pass route (Seaward Kakoura Ra): 1 4/12 SK. Mt Fyffe Track: 1 24/1 KO, SLe. Arnold Valley: 1 24/2 CC. SH7 nr Maruia Springs: 1 9/12 RN. Conical Hill, Hanmer Springs: 1 19/12 AW. Hanmer Springs village: 1 24/12 NBT, 1 28/12 SD, 2 24/2 EM. Hanmer Springs Forest Camp: 1 2/1 CB. Waiau Gorge Bridge: 1 15/1

The Wrybill - May 2021

ACr. Hurunui R North Branch: 1 31/12 NBT. Ward Rd, Cheviot: 1 8/1 CBi. Cones Rd, Rangiora: 1 23/2 Birds NZ Canterbury. Halswell Quarry Park: 1 28/1 PR. Kaniere Water Race: 1 13/1 JH. Kaniere-Kowhitirangi Road, Kokatahi: 1 24/1 ACr. Lake Arthur Road, Kokatahi: 1 18/1 JH. Otira Valley Walk: 1 13/2 DG. Above Bealey Hut: 1 29/12 NBT. Hawdon Valley: 1 14/2 DG. Welcome Flat, Copeland River: 2 1/2 TV. Mt Arrowsmith Sta: 1 15/1 DG. Ashburton Gorge Rd nr Blowing Point: 1 6/12 DG, 1 13/12 DG. Hooker Valley: 2 31/12 IS, Aoraki/Mount Cook-Red Tarns: 2ad 1juv 23/1 DHa, 1 21/2 GN. Rhoboro Hills, Pukaki: 1f driving off juv 19/2 NBT. Campbell Hills, Elephant Hill: 1 8/2 NBT. Kirkliston: 1 14/2 JBl.

Kea (S) Lewis Hut, Heaphy Track: 1 30/12 NA, 1 31/12 NA. Oparara Basin: 2 23/12 DGe, 2 2/1 NA. Kaniere Water Race: 1 13/1 JH. Anti Crow River: 1 28/2 PC. Turkey Flat, Upper Waimakariri: 1 28/2 PC. Cass Saddle: 4 28/12 ASp, MF. Arahura Valley: 1 1/12 JH. McCoy Stream: 2 17/12 DG. McCoy Hut, Clyde Valley: 1 17/12 DG. Clyde Valley: 1 15/12 DG. Welcome Flat, Copeland River: 2 1/2 TV. Forks-Okarito Road: 2 13/1 HB. Franz Josef township: 5 16/12 GJ. Roberts Point, Franz Josef: 3 30/1 TV. Hooker Valley Track: 1 12/2 PC. Kea Point Track: 1 11/1 P&RP, 9ad 2juv 13/2 PC. Sealy Tarns Track: 4 24/1 DHa, 1 13/2. Mueller Valley Walk: 4 12/2 PC. Mt Olivier: 3 2/2 DS. Aoraki/Mount Cook township: 1 12/2 PC, 8 14/2 PC. Mt Sebastopol: 2 24/12 JS.

Kaka (A) Oparara Basin: 1 23/12 DGe, 1 2/1 NA, 1 21/2 AB. Big Rimu Track, Karamea Valley: 1 16/2 KG. Lake Daniells Track: 1 16/1 GP. SH7 nr Maruia Springs: 1 9/12 RN. Lewis Pass: 2 15/1 RE. Nina Valley: 2 17/12 MP. Hawdon Valley: 2 9/12 AC, 3 11/12 WA, 5 7/1 NM, 1 8/2 SLa, 2 14/2 DG. Woolshed Hill: 2 11/12 WA.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (A) Prices Valley: 1 4/1 DH, 4 8/1 EG, 22 24/1 MH, 2 26/1 PM, BA, PR, 4 7/2 GA, 5 8/2 ASp, 3 13/2 PR, 9 27/2 DG, 15 28/2 CC.

Yellow-crowned Parakeet (A) Nina Valley: 1 17/12 MP. Waimakariri Valley nr Anti Crow River: 2 28/2 PC. Hawdon Valley: 3 9/12 AC, 3 11/12 WA, 1 7/1 NM, 4 16/1 JSt, 2 26/1 WA, MH, 2 14/2 DG.

Rock Wren (A) S end Kirikirikatata Ra: 1 20/2 GN.

Tui (S) SHI E of Greta Valley: 1 10/1 MRh. Bridle Path, Lyttelton: 2 7/1 ST. Sign of the Kiwi: 1 5/1 DGe. Peel Forest: 1 15/1 P&RP, 1 25/1 DHa. Mackenzie

Drive, Twizel: 2 15/1 JWe.

Yellowhead (A) Hawdon Valley: 2 9/12 AC, 2 10/12 AC, 5 11/12 WA, 4 16/1 WA, 4 26/1 WA, MH.

Fernbird (A) Lake Wainono: 1 25/1 PM.

Cirl Bunting (A) Kaikoura Sewage Ponds: 2 2/1 WP.

Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway: 1 1/12 SK, 1 23/2 SK.

Scarborough Street, Kaikoura: 1m 1f 4/12 AS.

Leamington Road: 1m 6/12 NA. Kaitorete Spit: 1m 3f 15/2 MD, DD.

Observers: WAb William Abbott, BA Bev Alexander, NA Nick Allen, WA Warwick Allen, SA Samuel Amaris, GA Georgie Archibald, AB Andrew Beat, CBi Colin Bishop, JBl Joseph Bliss, HB Harry Boorman, JBr Josh Brown, JB Janet Burton, CB Chris Bycroft. AC Adam Colley, ACh Annette Ching, ZC Zion Cooper, CC Christian Cosgrove, JC Jesse Cripps, ACr Andrew Crossland, PC Philip Crutchley, BD Benjamin Davis, DD Donavin de Jager, MD Maria de Jager, MDe Marius de Jager, SD Sarah Dietrich, PD Peter Doyle, RE Raewyn Empson, P&CF Peter & Charmaine Field, SF Sahar Firoozkoobi, MF Malcolm Foster, DG Don Geddes, DGe Darron Gedge, KG Ken George, JG Jesse Golden, EG Eleanor Gunby, FG Fraser Gurney, DHa Dee Hall, MH Mark Herse, DH Dave Howes, JH John Hughes, RH Richard Hurt, SJ Sean Jacques, GJ Glenn James, EK Encounter Kaikoura, SK Stefan Kopec, SL Simon Lamb, SLa Stuart Laurenson, DL David Lawrie, RL Robert Leask, SLe Stephen Legg, PM Peter McClelland, MM Marissa McDonald, BM Bruce McKinlay, EM Esteban Martinez Fredes, GM Grant Maslowski, CM Catherine Mitchell, NM Niall Mugan, AM Adrienne Mulqueen, RN Richard Nichol, GN Graham Norton, KO Kirsten Olsen, VP Viola Palmer, WP Will Parsons, GP Georgina Pickerell. MP Micah Pomare, P&RP Pauline & Ray Priest, HP Hayden Pye, PR Peter Reese, MRh Marion Rhodes, LR Luke Richards, JRo Jason Roberts, SR Sharon Roberts, HR Heather Rogers, MR Matt Rose, KR Kieran Rowe, JR Jesse Rubenstein, DS David Sagar, JS Joy Sagar, PS Paul Sagar, RS Richard Schofield, AS Alan Shaw, HS Heath Sinclair, IS Ingrid Skerten, ASp Anita Spencer, BS Brent Stephenson. JSt Jochen Stoll, ASt Andrew Styche, PSw Patsi Swallow, MS Michael Szabo, NBT Native Birds Taranaki, GTa Graeme Taylor, ATe Alan Tennyson, MT Mary Thompson, ST Stefan Thomsen, AT Amy Thorne, GT Gregor Tims, NT Nathan Trent,

ZU Zig Urbanski, TV Tas Vamos, AV Amy van Lindt, JW Jan Walker, SW Sandra Wallace, JWe Jill West, AW Anna Whitehead, EW Edin Whitehead, PW Peter Whitehead, RW Rachel Woodcock, JWo John Woods.

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.

Submissions

The editor invites members to submit articles and/or photos - by July 20 for inclusion in the next issue of *The Wrybill*, which is due out in early August. Please email any contributions through to eleanor.gunby@gmail.com. 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, contact Sandra (sandraw67@gmail.com). If you are on the West Coast and wish to borrow a scope, contact Liz Meek (ronmeek555@gmail.com).

Marj Davis Scholarship

This year, we are pleased to announce that two Marj Davis Scholarships have been awarded. One has been awarded to Stephen Rowe, who is conducting research around assessing the efficacy of soil as a probiotic for improving the health of Okarito kiwi (*Apteryx rowi*) in hatcheries. The second has been awarded to Fraser Gurney, who is conducting research on the breeding movements and winter dispersal of Black-fronted Terns.

New Committee Member

Following the Canterbury branch AGM in March, we are pleased to welcome Anita Spencer onto the committee.

Bittern Award

At the AGM in March, we were pleased to present Peter Reese with the Bittern Award for his numerous contributions to birding in Canterbury, including the banding project.



Lake Ellesmere Survey Results

The results of the waders seen at the annual Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere Bird Count in February can be found in an attached spreadsheet at the end of the newsletter. Many thanks to everyone who helped out with the count.

Canterbury Region Contacts

Regional Representative: Position currently vacant.

Email: birds.canterbury@birdsnz.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

Janet Burton

Anita Spencer

CANTERBURY WADER COUNT FEBRUARY 2021

Species	Waipara RM	Ashley/Siwater Crk Est	Taranaki Paddocks	Waimakariri Bridges	Brooklands Lagoon	Travis Wetland	Avon-Heathcote Estuary	Lyttelton Harbour	Purau	Port Levy	Pigeon Bay	Okains Bay	Akaroa Harbour	Lake Forsyth	Tip of Kaitorete Spit	Kaitorete Spit	Birdlings Flat A	Birdlings Flat B	Kaituna Lagoon	Halswell Flats B	Halswell Flats A	Osbornes	Eastern Greenpark	Embankment Rd	Yarrrs Flat	LII RM to Selwyn Flats
Counters/NC	NA	NA	NA	AC	AC	KR JS Jsu	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC												
Notes																										
Date counted	14-Feb	14-Feb	14-Feb	25-Feb	25-Feb	4-Mar	5-Feb	27-Feb	8-Mar	8-Mar	8-Mar	8-Mar	26-Feb	26-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb
Cape Barren Goose																										
Mute Swan																						2				1
Australasian Bittern							1																			
White Heron		1															1									
Royal Spoonbill		4			18		38	14				1	11	5	24	48	2	4	74	251	105	10	15	32	58	181
Pied Oystercatcher	1	149			191		2462	602	25	62	34	85	404		1			7	61	12					2	
Variable Oystercatcher	2	10			13		106	46	4	9	11	12	36	2				2		4						
Hybrid Oystercatcher		26																								
Pied Stilt	9	54			163	12		100				5	8	133	52	527	46	585	432	822	406	330	835	204	745	150
Black Stilt		1																								
Hybrid Stilt																			1	1				1		2
Banded Dotterel	16	21													461	3	2	237	3	262	111	43	745	482	58	114
Black-fronted Dotterel	3																									
Wrybill															2			1						109	19	
Pacific Golden Plover															3	28						3	7			
Spur-winged Plover	89	18	2	2	43	12	88	24		4	4	10	20	14	14	38	9	12	20	6	2	4			12	
Turnstone															1			1								
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper																		2								
Lesser Knot																		36								
Pectoral Sandpiper																										1
Red-necked Stint																								41	1	
Bar-tailed Godwit		150			407		891	336		2			1	1	1	19		105		354		1		12	2	
Marsh Sandpiper																						1				
Arctic Skua					1		2																			
Black-billed Gull	17	300													118	111		1	27	6	48	13	30		64	
White-winged Black Tern																										
Black-fronted Tern	14	6													8	8	3	4		5	23				1	
Caspian Tern		14			13		21	3				1	15	5	7	3			3	1		2	15	2		
White-fronted Tern	12	49													6		8		2							
Site totals	163	803	2	2	849	25	3608	1125	29	77	49	114	495	160	698	785	71	991	569	1772	709	407	1648	882	954	457
Wader site totals	120	429	2	2	817	24	3547	1108	29	77	49	112	469	150	535	615	57	982	463	1509	531	382	1588	848	830	276
% of total count	0.73	2.62	0.01	0.01	5.00	0.15	21.70	6.78	0.18	0.47	0.30	0.69	2.87	0.92	3.27	3.76	0.35	6.01	2.83	9.23	3.25	2.34	9.71	5.19	5.08	1.69
# wader species at site	6	8	1	1	5	2	4	5	2	4	3	4	5	4	8	5	3	10	5	6	4	6	4	5	8	3

Note: Lake Ellesmere count led by Waihora Ellesmere Trust.

Lake Ellesmere wind-affected level 0.8 m, lake closed to sea.

Counters

Nick Allen = NA Andrew Crossland = AC Bev Alexander = BA Kenny Rose = KR Paul Sagar = PS Joy Sagar = JS John Skilton = JS J Sutherland = Jsu

CANTERBURY WADER COUNT FEBRUARY 2021

Species	Rennie's Bay	Doyleston	Harts Creek	Lakeside	Taumutu	Subtotal Lake Ellesmere	Coopers Lagoon	Ashburton RM	Washdyke Lagoon	Ki-Wainono	TOTAL
Counters/NC							BA	AC	PS JSa	n/c	
Notes											
Date counted	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb	20-Feb		2-Feb	22-Feb	3-Mar		
Cape Barren Goose						0			2		2
Mute Swan	2		3			8	16				24
Australasian Bittern						0					1
White Heron			1			2					3
Royal Spoonbill	106	41	15	187	8	1161		2	9		1263
Pied Oystercatcher		2				85		16	5		4121
Variable Oystercatcher						6		2	33		292
Hybrid Oystercatcher						0					26
Pied Stilt	174	28	19	41	12	5408		36	235		6163
Black Stilt						0					1
Hybrid Stilt						5					5
Banded Dotterel	1	1				2523		54	51		2665
Black-fronted Dotterel						0			8		11
Wrybill						131					131
Pacific Golden Plover						41					41
Spur-winged Plover	8	4		30	9	168		8	5		511
Turnstone						2		11			13
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper						2					2
Lesser Knot						36					36
Pectoral Sandpiper						1					1
Red-necked Stint						42					42
Bar-tailed Godwit						494			2		2284
Marsh Sandpiper						1					1
Arctic Skua					2	2		1			6
Black-billed Gull	9	121			8	556			269		1142
White-winged Black Tern					3	3					3
Black-fronted Tern					2	54			4		78
Caspian Tern	5	1			4	43		5	15		135
White-fronted Tern					105	121					182
Site totals	305	198	38	258	153	10895	16	135	638	0	19185
Wader site totals	183	35	19	71	21	8945	0	127	339	0	16346
% of total count	1.12	0.21	0.12	0.43	0.13	54.72	0.00	0.78	2.07	0.00	100.00
# wader species at site	3	4	1	2	2	18	0	6	7	0	18

Note: Lake Ellesmere count led by Waihora Ellesmere Trust.

Lake Ellesmere wind-affected level 0.8 m, lake closed to sea.

Counters

Nick Allen = NA Andrew Crossland = AC Bev Alexander = BA Kenny Rose = KR Paul Sagar = PS Joy Sagar = JS John Skilton = JS J Sutherland = Js