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Otago Region Newsletter 9/2021

September 2021

**Online Meeting,
Wed 22 September at 7.30pm**
First item under Otago Branch News

Unite
against
COVID-19

Ornithological Snippets

A **SIPO** pair near Balclutha were accompanied by 3 young on 30 August. A (the?) **Reef Heron** was seen again at Waitati on 21 August. 9 **Australasian Harrier** were displaying together over a plantation at Finegand near Balclutha on 6 September. Hamish Spencer reports that a male **NZ Falcon** flew in and landed on a telephone pole in central Queenstown on 12 September; a female flew in 30s later, but did not land and carried on to the near the gondola terminal, to be followed by the male.

An **Eastern Rosella** was seen and photographed in Palmerston on 28 August. Although there have been a handful of reports in the general vicinity, this is the first eBird record around the town. A **Cockatiel** at Dalmore Park on 4 September was presumably an escape. 40 **Tui** in Dunedin Botanic Gardens on 22 August were in flowering kowhai.

On 10 September Lala Frazer saw a **Silvereye** with a big lesion between its eye and its beak at the feeder. She hopes it is not the start of another round, leading to numbers falling. The bird

was particularly aggressive, poking the heads and eyes of other birds who tried to come in to feed.

Please send any interesting reports to cluthaphotos@gmail.com Richard Schofield

eBird News

This spring's Global Big Day is on Saturday 9 October. As this is the same weekend as the Dunedin 5-minute bird counts training, and there is also a group going to Motatapu for the weekend, we will not organise a specific regional event. However, please take the opportunity to get out and see some birds, and hopefully visit some under covered areas for the Atlas.

It's not too late to join us in Alexandra at Labour weekend for 3 days of Atlassing – please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in coming.

The Atlas challenge for September is very straightforward, and there is still time to take part. To be in with a chance to win a Metalbird sculpture of a karearea/NZ Falcon, all you have to do is submit 30 or more complete checklists to the New Zealand Bird Atlas portal. We have a few of these sculptures around the house and garden, and they are very striking. As always, these checklists must include accurate counts for every species reported (no X's!), be submitted to the Atlas eBird portal, and follow the best practices to increase their scientific value. The winner will be randomly drawn from everyone who qualifies in mid-October.

Contact Richard 027 281 8701 or cluthaphotos@gmail.com

BirdsNZ National News

NZ Bird Atlas Update, received 9 September from the Atlas Team

Some recent key developments with the Atlas and eBird in New Zealand:

- Atlas challenges are now running on a monthly basis....We regularly put out details about these on the Atlas eBird portal's News page, as well as Facebook and Instagram.
- Merlin Sound ID is being developed for Aotearoa. We are working hard with the Merlin team in the US to work through the machine learning process using audio files of NZ species uploaded to the Macaulay Library via eBird checklists....if you have archived audio recordings, those are of immense value and please do get in touch for support uploading them to eBird and please try recording and uploading clear bird songs and calls
- We are working with Federated Farmers to promote the Atlas project and hope to be able to possibly help with landowner engagement and access for Atlas surveys. More on that to come.
- We ran an Atlas Q&A session that was open to anyone during lockdown.... We're always happy to run these if there is the demand, so if you and your region wish to have us on hand for a Q&A or regional update, please get in touch.
- Updated mapping files with Year 1 & 2 Atlas checklist points are available for all seasons now on the Atlas portal. These can be imported into Maps.Me or Google Maps

(or another mapping programme of your choice) to help with ascertaining where people have been within a square. They aren't perfect but are certainly another valuable tool in our mission of surveying grid squares thoroughly to detect all possible species.

- We recently were invited by the Predator Free New Zealand Trust to run a webinar on the Atlas. If you missed it you can watch that here (NZBird Atlas eBird About Webinars) . We were grateful for the opportunity and hope we inspired many of the 170 participants to get involved.
- We are hoping to work with RNZ in the future to promote the Atlas as well as the Merlin Sound ID tool, however we are waiting for the tool to be released so this may be an early next year project. We have also reached out to DOC about their 'Sounds of Science' podcast and hope post lockdown we may hear more.
- We continue to work with the DOC Tier 1 team to upload their count data in to the portal, as well as advocate other agencies, regional councils and consultancies to be uploading count data too. If you know of others that you feel we should be contacting please don't hesitate to get in touch.
- The Atlas postcards and business cards have proven popular, please get in touch if you want some/more.
- October Big Day 2021 is coming up soon (9th October).
- We continually update the portal with help articles etc. So if there is something you want us to cover more/better please just sing out. We have created a new 'How to Atlas' page which we hope can be a good 'go-to' resource for new Atlas members.

Ngā mihi,

Dan and Pat
National Atlas Team

BirdsNZ Otago Branch News

Exciting new Venture: Online Meeting, Wed 22 September at 7.30pm

Because of the uncertainty of Covid Level restrictions we have decided to take the opportunity to try our next Indoor Meeting on Wednesday 22 September as **a virtual online meeting**, instead of in person at the Benham. This will be something new for many of us and also give a chance for our out of town members to join in a Birds NZ meeting. I hope as many of you as can will give it a go and login to the meeting. Bruce is setting up a Microsoft Teams Meeting for Wed 22 Sept with login starting at 7.20pm and the actual meeting at 7.30 pm as usual. It should be easy enough to join the meeting by clicking on this link (you will then be given various options and it works fine if you 'continue in this browser'). You can just listen in, or, if you wish, ask questions or comment, but you don't have to talk or even show your face if you don't want to. To make it seem even more real, don't forget to get yourself a coffee and chocolate biscuit.

We will be hearing from Bruce about our Town Belt project and the findings so far and explaining how to take part. Bruce will be able to show slides just as if we were in the Benham. There will also be a short AGM to follow as we want to discuss future possible projects and gather any other ideas you have for programmes and field trips.

Please do make the effort to link in. If you are new to teams browser you will get three options; I chose “continue in this browser” and it worked OK. I’ll also email you again early next week to remind you and include the active link again.

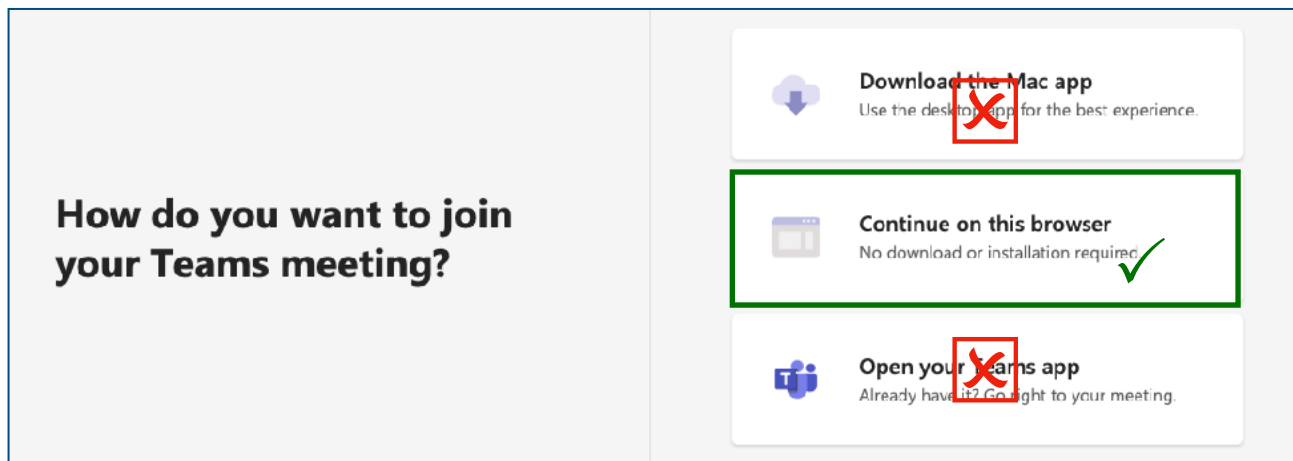
Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

When you “Click to join the meeting” this screen appears (without the red x and green box). Choose “Continue with this browser”.



Otago Branch AGM

The AGM will now be held at the September meeting.

Counting Bush Birds in the Town Belt, Sunday 10 October 2021

Helpers need for public participation morning!

The Otago Branch of Birds NZ has a monitoring scheme for bush birds in the Town Belt which will run through all of October and November. 2021 is the 5th year we have run this project. These counts will provide on-going, long-term information on bird abundance to help assess success of habitat restoration within the Town Belt. As well this project is a great local opportunity for all of us to learn about five minute bird counts and to practise them.

On Sunday 10th October, as part of the Wild Dunedin Spring Fling, we are holding a training morning for members of the public interested in learning how to do 5-minute bird counts.



We will meet at Moana Pool Carpark at 9.00am (look for bird banner) and then go over methods, record sheets or app (if launched by then), do some trial counts and bird IDs in the carpark, and then possibly divide into groups to do some counts at nearby count stations. Bruce will be our main 'trainer' but it would be helpful to have a goodly number of members come along too to help with small groups. Please let Bruce know if you are able to come along to help president@birdsanz.org.nz

Publicity for Event

This is being advertised on the Wild Dunedin Webpage, Coastal Conservation News and in the Star. If you have an active 'social media' presence we would appreciate it if you could post something on your Facebook or Instagram or whatever.

Here is a post you could use. Thanks

Counting Bush Birds in the Town Belt

On **Sunday 10th October starting at 9am Birds NZ is running a free training session** for those interested in helping to monitor birds in the Town Belt. This is our citizen-science project to monitor progress of habitat restoration and the biodiversity health of the Town Belt. This is a chance to learn how to do 5-minute bird counts and also to practise bird identification skills. We will divide into small groups and do counts at some of the ten count stations along the Town Belt.

Meet at Moana Pool carpark at 9.00 am (look for bird banner and people with binoculars!)

Hindon/Lee Stream Atlas Trip: 31st July 2021

Just as I'm a little late reporting back on this Atlas trip, I almost missed going on it too. "Guess you aren't coming. We've left for Outram," Mary's text read at 8.40am. Eek! I'd misread our time of departure from Dunedin. Fortunately my lift hadn't gone far, and Maree Johnstone, Mary Thompson and George Pickerell soon swung by to rescue me.

Our Atlas team leader Richard Schofield was waiting for us in Outram along with Bruce McKinlay, Andrew Austin and Emma Salmon. We agreed their group would head to Lee Stream, Mahinerangi and Waipori Falls, while our group would cover Hindon in the direction of Mount Allen. With our routes memorised we were keen to get cracking and cover our Atlas squares. So far it was dry and sunny, but the forecast predicted rain by lunchtime. Birds and binoculars don't like rain: neither do us birders!

We passed through broad rolling pasture; the homeland of farmers. One came to check up on George who was walking along the road peeling the landscape for birds. The farmer remained unsmiling even when George explained our worthy cause. Word of our presence soon spread to his neighbours. At our next stop another farmer arrived to tell Maree she needed to pull her car further off the road because some wide trucks were coming. Odd: her car was almost



completely off the road and, when asked, the farmer didn't know what direction the wide trucks would be coming from. Farmers 3 and 4 were more blatant: they stopped when we stopped and even mischievously set their dog loose to 'help us' catch a duck! Soon the truth came out – they thought we were surveying their waterways! It took a little effort to convince them we

were simply doing bird surveys for the NZ Bird Atlas, but in the end we parted on good terms, even shaking a few hands. We suffered one last brush with a farmer when we stopped for



lunch at a lay-by overlooking a magnificent valley view - the perfect place for a picnic, and of course a bird checklist. 13 dogs were squeezed into a cage on the farmer's flat deck ute. "You're not planning to go on private land, are you?" he quizzed us.

But on to cheerier themes! By lunchtime we'd checked off most of the usual bird species for this type of country, such as melodious skylarks and magpies, large flocks of chaffinch and redpoll, and smaller flocks of goldfinch and starlings. We fantasised about the less common birds we would like to record in our squares – NZ pipit, little owl, California quail and even circling bunting couldn't be ruled out. (Unfortunately, we didn't spot any of these, although the Lee Stream group did see a few pipits).

Apart from bird spotting, one of the best things about Atlassing is the opportunity to explore new places. At our highest point we were close to 500m above sea level with gorgeous rural vistas. There were occasional pockets of snow in shady corners despite the warm sunny day

filled with the dreamy song of skylarks. None of us had travelled the length of Hindon Road before, and the landscape here became dramatic. We zigzagged downhill to a valley where a large bridge carried the road and the railway line across the Taieri River. It was one of two strong elegant bridges, both flanked with chiselled blocks of granite. We didn't see the black shag we hoped for by the river, but we did see a lone kereru in a tree. What could it be eating in this largely treeless landscape, we wondered.

We turned around as the sun began to sink and headed back through Atlas squares hoping to pick up a few more species to add to our total. Despite some farmers' antics, it had been a good day. I'd enjoyed the company of a group of good women who love birds, travelled through some beautiful countryside on a day of full sunshine, and learned a bit more about bird - and human - behaviour.

BIRD COUNT: Seven observers: 10
Atlas squares: 35 bird species.



Maureen Howard

POSTSCRIPT:

Bird watchers can arouse suspicion with their nosy binoculars and cameras. But typically during bird surveys, most atlasers report that farmers are friendly once they hear what we are up to. These conversations can even lead to an invitation to come on their land, or to pieces of advice about where birds can be seen.

Mary has been in touch with Patrick Crowe and Dan Burgin from the National Atlas Team to let them know what happened on this trip. The Atlas Team have agreed to approach local media, such as farming magazines and Country Life on RNZ, to let farming communities know that bird watchers will be conducting surveys across the country. Hopefully we'll receive a friendlier welcome next time.

Please also note that we have official information postcards and 'business' cards that we can carry with us and hand out if necessary. There is also a Dashboard Notice to place in cars if they are left unattended to say "NZ Bird Atlas Volunteer"; these can be printed off from the Atlas website. There is also an Introductory letter to use, primarily for asking for access onto private property on the website.

UPDATED POSTSCRIPT

The following information was received from Mike Bell who heads the Atlas Team. "Following on from your run in with a group of Farmers, The Atlas Team discussed this issue at length, and decided to reach out to Federated Farmers. I was passed on to Rebecca Flannery, a Fed Farmers Communications Advisor, and had a 1.5 hour conversation with her.

The discussion was hugely positive. Rebecca was very apologetic about what you went through, and understood how it casts a poor light on all farmers.

We ended up discussing a huge range of things. Fed Farmers is very keen to support the Atlas, and has already attended the Lockdown PF250 webinar, and put a news article on their website about the Atlas <https://www.fedsnews.co.nz/whos-that-bird/> They are keen to run articles in their news paper (reaching over 70,000 RD boxes). But then even more exciting, are keen to help OSNZ members get access to farms to go birding on."

Maureen Howard and Mary Thompson

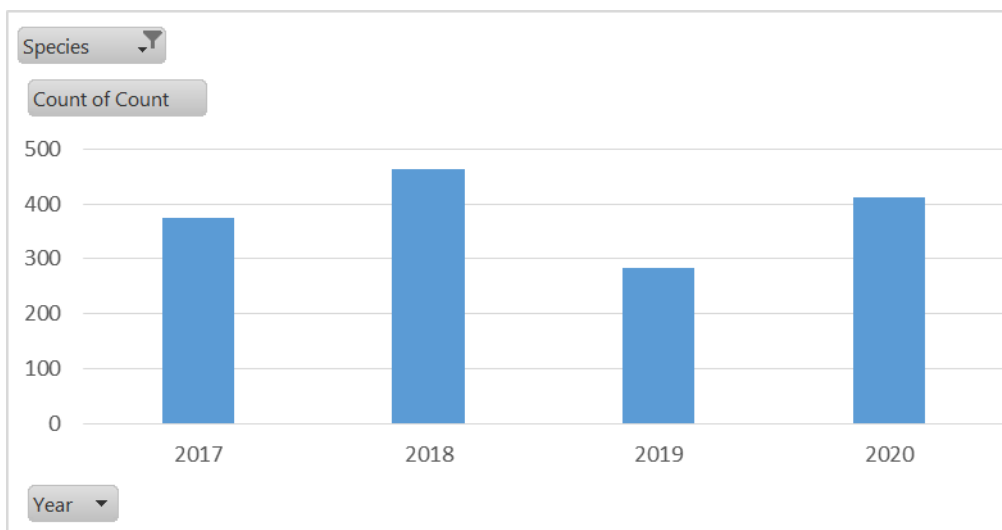
Dunedin Town Belt Survey Update for Spring: 2021

As we enter the fourth season of our project to count the birds along the town belt, I'm pleased to be able to share this update with you.

Hopefully this season will work as seamlessly as last for you all.

I will be on expanding on this at next weeks meeting (see elsewhere in this newsletter), but I'm just checking in to remind you all it's going to happen and to start thinking about getting your walks organised.

But first a bit of data from last year. This plot is the total number of counts completed each year. It's good that the effort is keeping on even through COVID world.



The instructions have not changed from last year and I include the instruction form again. Please note: if you are going to send me paper copies then I've moved. I'm now at 11 Brugh place Waverley.

Remember this is essentially a five minute bird study on fixed points. I've heard that some see it as a good day out with a bus ride at the end back to your car and others are cycling along enjoying the town belt and counting birds. Whatever, it's a great opportunity to get out among a good range of birds and to enjoy the town belt.

I'm happy to accept data in whatever form you want to give it to me but getting it electronically is best. So thanks to everybody who submitted electronic copies: this really made compiling the data sheet a lot faster. Here is an example of the headings I'm using in the core data sheet. If you use these then that makes my life much easier.

Date	Observer	Cloud.Cover	Wind	Precipitation	Location	Start.Time	Comments	Cars	Species	Count
04-Oct-17	Francie/Pat	overcast	calm	None	MaoriRoad	8:25	.	0	Blackbird	1
04-Oct-17	Francie/Pat	overcast	calm	None	MaoriRoad	8:25	.	1	Dunnock	2
04-Oct-17	Francie/Pat	overcast	calm	None	MaoriRoad	8:25	.	3	House_Sparrow	2
04-Oct-17	Francie/Pat	overcast	calm	None	MaoriRoad	8:25	.	4	Silvereye	3
04-Oct-17	Francie/Pat	overcast	calm	Nil	QueensDr_5	8:45	.	0	BB_Gull	1
04-Oct-17	Francie/Pat	overcast	calm	Nil	QueensDr_5	8:45	.	10	Brown_Creeper	1
04-Oct-17	Francie/Pat	overcast	calm	Nil	QueensDr_5	8:45	.	0	Dunnock	1
04-Oct-17	Francie/Pat	overcast	calm	Nil	QueensDr_5	8:45	.	2	Grey_Warbler	1
04-Oct-17	Francie/Pat	overcast	calm	Nil	QueensDr_5	8:45	.	3	House_Sparrow	2
04-Oct-17	Francie/Pat	overcast	calm	Nil	QueensDr_5	8:45	.	4	Silvereye	5
04-Oct-17	Francie/Pat	overcast	calm	Nil	QueensDr_5	8:45	.	5	Song_Thrush	2
04-Oct-17	Francie/Pat	overcast	calm	Nil	QueensDr_4	9:00	Noise from cars	6	Bellbird	1

So what did we get last year and whats the overall pattern look like?

There will be a lot more details at the talk but here's a teaser.

We have recorded 23 species in The top five species based on total count remain silvereyes, blackbird, bellbird, redpoll and grey warbler, but inter-annual variation is starting to show up.

So the 2021 Town Belt survey starts on 1 October and runs until 30 November. It's to be done in the morning and we can't get enough counts. A great opportunity to get out with family and friends.

Cheers

Bruce

Birds NZ Dunedin Town Belt Bird Survey					Species	TALLY	TOTAL
Observer:					Bellbird		
Count station Number:					Black Backed Gull		
Date:					Blackbird		
Time	Start				Brown creeper		
					Cars		
	cloud cover		wind		Chaffinch		
circle one	clear skies		calm		Dunnoek		
or bold type	partly cloudy		light breeze		Fantail		
	overcast		moderate wind		Goldfinch		
					Greenfinch		
	precipitation				Grey Warbler		
	nil				House Sparrow		
	fog				Kereru (NZ Pigeon)		
	drizzle				Kingfisher		
					Redpoll		
Noise (eg wind, cars, the sea, etc.) NOT Cars count them under species list					Rosella		
When to survey					Shining cuckoo		
Between 1 October- 1 December					Silvereye		
Do as many counts as you can fit in during this period.					Song thrush		
(However surveys at other times are also useful and welcome)					Starling		
					Tui		
Please do a 5 minute bird count					Welcome swallow		
a) Please record all species you observe (hear or see).							
b) Do not worry if you cannot identify one - count under "unidentified"							
c) Record birds seen or heard up to 100m away. Where this is					Unidentified		
inconvenient or silly decide on your boundaries but stay consistent.							
d) Count all birds seen or heard							
e) At the end please complete the total column for each species							
f) Please also complete a count of the cars that drove past you while counting							
In the morning before 12 pm, but after the dawn chorus - about 1 hour after sunrise.							
PLEASE, ONLY RECORD THE BIRDS THAT YOU ARE SURE OF							
(place all others under "unidentified" for a total count of birds observed)							
AND ABOVE ALL BE CONSISTENT							
Please send your records to Bruce McKinlay 11 Brugh Place, Dunedin or email to: brucejmckinlay@gmail.com							
Thank you!							

Shining Cuckoos

The first hearing of shining cuckoo was in Bay of Plenty on Monday 6th September. When will we hear the first shining cuckoo in Dunedin and who will be the one to hear it? Don't forget to report it.

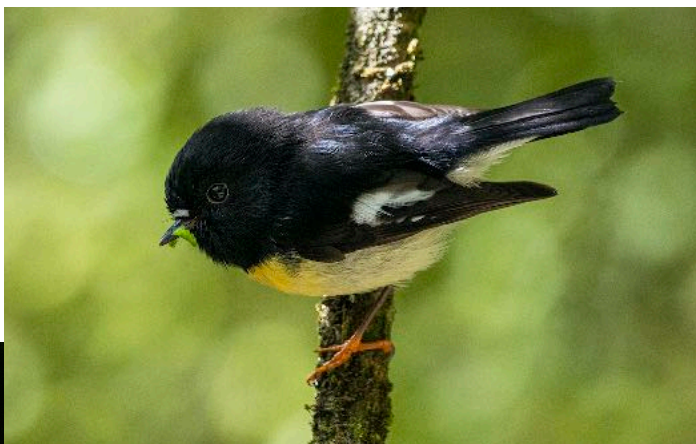
Mary



NZBirds Online Duncan Watson

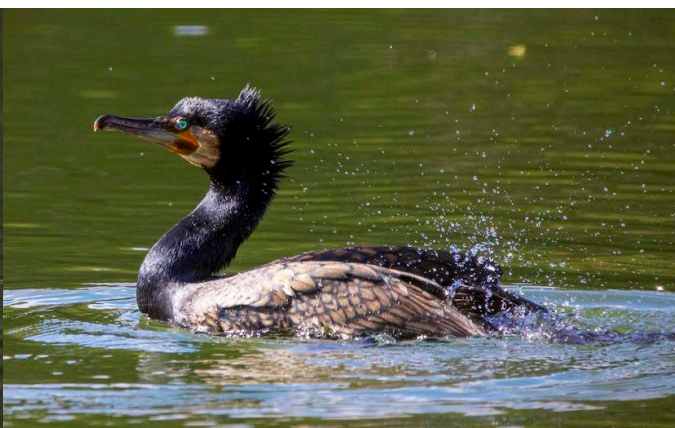
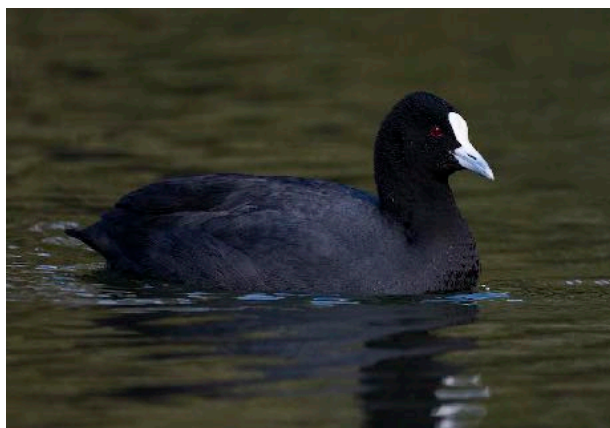
Recent Ross Creek sightings

Ela and I have been visiting Ross Creek Reservoir most days over lockdown (as it's 10 minutes walk), and were thrilled to come across at least 4 pairs of ngirungiru/Tomtits around the reserve, ranging from the Golf Course to the start of the Pineapple Track. In addition are the regular tītipounamu/Riflemen keeping to the kanuka stands east of the pond, a lone Greylag Goose, a pair of Australian Coots, up to 10 pāpango/Scaup, a couple kawau/Black Shags, a visiting matuku moana/White-faced Heron to the pines, and a new colony of kawau paka/Little Shags right by the water.



On our mission to increase the diversity of our sightings, we also came across Tomtits on Signal Hill and in Bethune's Gully, with 3 mātātā/Fernbirds and large numbers of pipipi/Brown Creepers around Mount Cargill, as well as a flock of 5 in the Town Belt. It was also exciting to see a kārearea/New Zealand Falcon

flying over our Woodhaugh Valley flat at dusk, two weeks after Mary had one in her backyard.



I see from eBird that she has also recently rediscovered the Ross Creek Robin, but to the best of my ability I have not been able to for nearly a year! By the time we got back into Level 2, we had seen 42 species of bird (and heard the backyard ruru/Morepork) and thoroughly explored the neighbourhood. I will be keeping a close eye on the nesting birds at Ross Creek this season, and ears peeled for the first pīpīwharau/roa/Shining Cuckoo!

Ngā mihi

Oscar
Writer and Photographer
www.oscarthomas.nz



<https://hail.to/wild-dunedin/publication/GjC4kAR>

Understanding migration timing of populations and individuals – insights from Bar-tailed Godwits in New Zealand

Phil Battley
Wildlife & Ecology Group
Massey University



If you missed this webinar on 3 September, 'Understanding and individuals – insights from Bar-tailed Godwits in New Zealand' by Dr. Phil Battley from New Zealand, you can enjoy it here:
<https://youtu.be/1IXp0qdH7bw>



Wader Study Group Conference

The IWSG Annual Conference will be held ONLINE from the 8th until the 10th of October 2021.

Registration Dates 21/06/21 — 10/10/21
Abstract Submission Dates 21/06/21 — 16/08/21
Attendance Fees Members / Non-Members €20.00

For more information, please visit:

[https://waderstudygroup.org/conferences/2021-virtual-conference/...](https://waderstudygroup.org/conferences/2021-virtual-conference/)

Weekend Atlas Trip to Alexandra, Labour Weekend Friday 22 October to Monday 25 October.

Possibilities of chukar and ciril bunting!

Last year's trip to Wanaka was a great success and a lot of fun. This is a great chance to get out of town for a few days and spend it birding with friends in the Atlas grid squares around the Alexandra area. Some folk may like to bird on the way to Alex on the Friday. We will have full days birding on Saturday and Sunday and allocate squares for the trips home on Monday. Hopefully some of our Central Otago members will be able to join in these field trips too.

Accommodation

A Tourist Unit with 3 bedrooms with single beds to sleep 7 - 8 comfortably has been booked at the Alexandra Holiday Park, 44 Manuherikia Road. <https://www.ahp.nz/> The cost will be about \$40/night per person. There is a fully equipped kitchen and bathroom and toilet facilities in the unit. Also from what we can see there is a lounge area where all fieldtrip participants can gather to get briefed and allocated Atlas squares, and to discuss the best birds of the day in the evenings. We assume folk will organise their own transport and food requirements. (A shared meal or Chinese takeaways are options we will explore.)

Some folk may want to organise their own accommodation. There is camping at the Holiday Park as well so you could bring a tent or campervan.

Birds NZ Otago is applying for funds to help towards expenses but these cannot be counted on at this stage.

This field trip is coming up fast so now is the time to put it in your diary and let Richard know if you are interested in coming and whether you want to have a place in the Tourist flat (and who you want to share a room with, and anything else pertinent). Places will be allocated on first-in first-come basis. **Please register your interest as soon as possible, with Richard** cluthaphotos@gmail.com

Even if you are arranging your own accommodation, please also let Richard know so we can include you in our planning.

Funny how the past catches up with you

In the past you could let bygones be bygones but nowadays the internet, social media, trad media out for a story will get you. It wasn't that bad this time round but, back in the depths of winter, David Arlidge from way up in Whangarei emailed me to say, "I have recently acquired a magnificent watercolour of yours and wondered if you could provide any information as to the location". Believe it or not I replied.....

"I'd completely forgotten about this painting. It was done as a pre-digital era poster for the Ornithological Society of NZ way back in the 80s/90s when I was on their council. Hence the species and numbers written across the bottom; birds which the OSNZ have counted twice every year since.. well, way back. The background looks very much like the estuary at Papatowai in the Catlins where I lived in the late 80s, in which case the foreground is complete fabrication/ artistic license. Never saw a wrybill, cattle egret, spoonbill or white heron there. But did see a bittern - not included."



"Presumably I passed it on to the "publicity person" at the OSNZ and that was the last I saw of it. Not sure if it was ever used as a poster. I'm really pleased it has ended up with someone who enjoys it but am intrigued as to how you acquired it."

David replied, "We love the painting as it depicts the birds we see around the harbour shoreline here in Whangarei. As for how we acquired it, it caught our eye at the Whangarei Hospice shop, presumably they got it from a deceased estate. One of their staff saw its quality and elevated it above the other paintings they had.(in price as well as position...lol). We are absolutely thrilled with it and have just re-framed it. Apart from some very slight foxing it's in great condition."

I'm told that one of my paintings ended up in Germany and was auctioned off for an enormous sum. Others I hear have popped upon Trade Me for a pittance. I'm intrigued, but not overly bothered, as to how a painting I'd donated to the OSNZ ended up in a Whanganui hospice shop? Ex I suspect an OSNZ member's wall ?

Social media will sort it out I'm sure. Don't do tweets or facelift, oops facebook. Email me or better still phone me on 0210 823 3137.

cheers

Derek Onley

Programme for 2021

Monthly Indoor Meetings will be held on the last Wed of the month at 7.30pm in the Benham Seminar Room, Benham Building, Department of Zoology, 340 Great King Street.

17-26 September Great Kereru Count

Wed 22 September **VIRTUAL ONLINE MEETING: PLEASE JOIN THE FUN**
Bruce McKinlay
What 5 years of Town Belt Bird Counts tell us, plus plans for the October and November surveys.
Followed by AGM.

Sun 10th October **Counting Birds in the Town Belt.** Meet at 9am in Moana Pool Carpark. This is a training session on 5-minute bird counts and the public is invited so we need lots of Birds NZ members as helpers so let Bruce know if you are coming.
president@birdsNZ.org.nz

23-25 October **Weekend Atlas Field Trip**, Labour weekend based at Alexandra. We have booked accommodation for 8 people (twin share, \$45 each per night) and this will be our base at the Alexandra Holiday Park. You may wish to book other accommodation at the park or in town.
More info from Richard cluthaphotos@gmail.com

Wed 27 October Rachel Hickcox.
Where hoiho go foraging at sea and why – results of research mapping and modelling hoiho presence and preferences.

Sun 14 November **Wader count.** Volunteers needed. High tide (2.01m) at 1.18pm. Back up day Sun 12 December in case of bad weather. Contact Maree Johnstone mareej@kinect.co.nz to be assigned to a team.

Wed 24 November **Members night..**

Suggestions of locations for field trips and atlassing trips, and offers to help lead trips would really be appreciated, please contact Mary birds.otago@birdsNZ.org.nz

Please send all contributions for the October newsletter to:
Sue Odlin sodlin@gmail.com

Final date for copy for next newsletter: **20 October**



Morten Ingemann

<https://www.hungarianbirdwatching.com>