

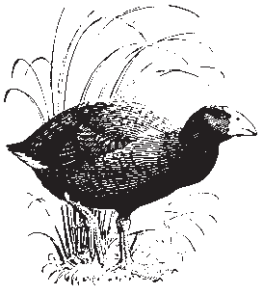


No. 6 June 2015

Birds New Zealand



The Magazine of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand



Birds New Zealand

NO. 6 JUNE 2015

- 3 Annual Report
- 8 45 Years of indexing *Notornis*
- 9 Top 10 Birds in New Zealand Gardens
- 10 Treasurer's Report
- 11 A Field Course of Two Halves
- 12 The Grebes of Lake Wanaka
- 14 OSNZ Archives
- 17 Reviews
- 19 Regional Roundup
- 21 Bird People

QUOTE

*...I wave my hat to all I meet,
And they wave back to me,
And blackbirds call so loud and sweet
From ev'ry green wood tree.*

*High overhead, the skylarks wing,
They never rest at home
But just like me, they love to sing,
As o'er the world we roam...*

*From The Happy Wanderer by Florenz
Friedrich Sigismund (1788-1857)*

COVER PHOTOS

Front cover: Pied Shag
Rear cover: Little Black Shag
Both photos by Aaron Harmer. For more of
Aaron's work visit the Taranui Photography
website taranuiphotography.com



PUBLISHERS

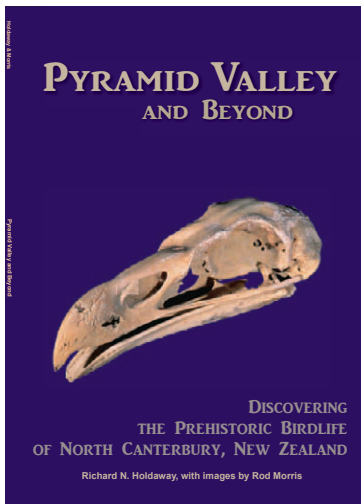
Published on behalf of the members of the
Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Inc),
P.O. Box 834, Nelson 7040, New Zealand.
Email: secretary@osnz.org.nz
Website: www.osnz.org.nz
Edited by Nick Allen, 11 Seagrave Place,
Ilam, Christchurch 8041.
Phone (03) 358 5994,
Fax (03) 358 5997,
Email southernbird@osnz.org.nz
ISSN 2357-1586 (Print)
ISSN 2357-1594 (Online)

We welcome advertising enquiries. Free
classified ads are available to members at
the editor's discretion.

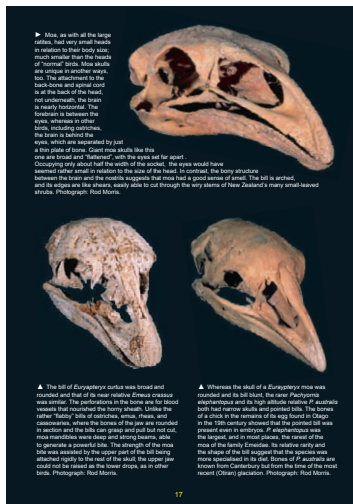
Articles for inclusion in *Birds New Zealand*
are welcome in any form, though electronic is
preferred. Material should be related to birds,
birdwatchers, or ornithologists in the New
Zealand and Pacific region, and can include
news on birds, members, activities and bird
study, literature/product reviews, letters to the
editor, birdwatching sites, and identification.
Illustrations are especially welcome, though they
must be sharp. Copy deadlines are 10th February,
May and August, and 1st November. The views
expressed by the contributors to this publication
do not necessarily represent those of the
Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc.

NEW BOOK

The birds of North Canterbury
as you have never seen them before



Front cover



Sample page

A4, 44 pages, full colour, soft cover.

Packed with Rod Morris's stunning images of New Zealand's lost birds.
Ideal for reference, school projects, as a gift, or for your coffee table.



YES! Please send me copy/ies of
PYRAMID VALLEY AND BEYOND
at \$25.99 each, GST inclusive, plus \$6.50 p & p (within New Zealand)

Name:

Postal address:

I want to pay by:

- Cheque, enclosed, payable to Palaecol Research Ltd
- Direct credit, to Palaecol Research, Westpac 03 0830 0415416-00
Include your name and "Pyramid Valley"

Post to: Palaecol Research Ltd., P.O. Box 16569, Hornby, Christchurch 8042, New Zealand

OR: email your order to turnagra@gmail.com subject line "Pyramid Valley book order"
P & P for group orders by arrangement

For every copy sold via *Birds New Zealand* or the Birds New Zealand website,
25 cents will be donated to the Birds New Zealand Projects Assistance Fund.

Annual Report on Behalf of Council for 2014

This report is presented on behalf of the Council to the 76th Annual General Meeting of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand to be held in Blenheim on 30th May 2015.

This year is considered to be the 75th anniversary of the Society and I quote from the publication *A Flying Start* on page four: "The Society was established formally at an Inaugural General Meeting held at 2.30pm on Friday the 24th May 1940 at Canterbury Museum. Falla chaired the meeting with Marples as Secretary/Treasurer. Six others were present."

The object of this early Society was: "... to encourage, organise and carry out field work on birds on a national scale. The collecting of specimens of birds or their eggs plays no part in the activities of the Society, which is concerned with the study of living birds in their natural state. Though in favour of bird protection the Society is not actively concerned with this work, which is the province of an already established Body."

While the constitution has been changed several times since then, the basic objectives have been maintained and still form the basis of our activities today.

Deceased Members

It is with sadness that I record below the names of the members of whom I am aware have passed away during the past year. I am aware that some of these were no longer members but they were previously active.

- W A (Bill) Watters
- J W (Bill) Lock
- Graham Turbott (Fellow of the Society)
- Dr Allan Baker (Toronto, Canada)
- Allan Macdonald
- Dr Udo Benecke
- Laurie Howell
- Colin Scadden MNZM

Noteworthy is the passing of Graham Turbott who was a Fellow of the Society and the last remaining inaugural member. I mentioned in a report last year that Graham had just reached his Centenary.

Our thoughts go out to the families of all of these members and they will also be missed from the wider birding community.

Council

There were two formal meetings of Council through this year, the first preceding the AGM in Palmerston North on the 30th May 2014. The second was in Wellington on the 7th December 2014.

During the year Council has been regularly in contact through email. Although that is not a good medium for holding in-depth discussions, however it does allow for quick decisions to be made and for projects to be initiated and undertaken, and is a compromise with the higher costs of meeting more often.

As can be seen from the agenda for this meeting no elections were necessary this year with all the standing councillors being re-elected for a further term.

While this is a good reflection on the quality of those members currently in position we also believe that it is desirable to have some turnover to get fresh ideas and different perspectives into Council discussions.

Publications

The printing of *Notornis* has continued on schedule throughout the year and this is a testament to the efforts of Jim Briskie.

The regular publication of the journal on time has now enabled *Notornis* to be indexed by some of the large scientific databases. This means that articles published in the journal are receiving much higher recognition in scientific circles, which gives greater incentive for others to publish in *Notornis*.

The key point relating to this is that the Council and our

editor remain committed to the Society publishing quality science on New Zealand and South Pacific Ornithology and I would encourage members and researchers alike to utilise this opportunity. All of this though relies on having a dedicated editor and on behalf of the membership I thank Jim for fulfilling that role. I have been notified that Jim wishes to retire from this role in the next couple of years, so we will need to find a replacement.

Nick Allen has continued to produce *Birds New Zealand* (formerly *Southern Bird*) on time throughout the year. Nick has advised however that owing to time constraints resulting from the growth in both his business and his family he will be resigning from this position at the end of this calendar year. Nick has undertaken this role for 12 years and over that time the magazine has matured and expanded greatly. It is considered by members to be the key communication tool and that is largely due to Nick's ongoing efforts.

Council is currently searching for a replacement and all options are being considered, even splitting the role into two if necessary. If anybody is interested please do not hesitate to contact one of the Council members.

Website

The website has proved to be a valuable information sharing tool, largely through the efforts of Ingrid Hutzler and Bruce McKinlay. This past year has been mainly involved in consolidating the existing site and carrying out minor improvements as they are identified.

Our thanks to the anonymous donor who enabled this website to be established and made operational.

Membership Database

The membership records are all dealt with in the online database and that allows for members to update their own details and make subscription payments directly. Julia White has been operating this database for the past four years, ever since it was first established but has now decided that she will retire from this position. The Council is currently investigating options to fill this role. If there are any suggestions please contact me.

We thank Julia for her efforts over the past four years, which proved to be a difficult period as we were establishing the new system, but she has coped with the vagaries of this database with a minimum of concerns.

We also thank Roger Sharp who has provided assistance and advice to Julia and who also provides web support for the site as a whole.

New Zealand Birds Online

The website "New Zealand Birds Online" was produced in partnership with Te Papa Tongarewa and the Department of Conservation, and was launched two years ago. The website continues to grow in respect to both content and visitation rates, which are currently about 1,500 per day. Eleven additional species pages have been added since the launch, including two species new to the New Zealand list, three biosecurity threat species, and five newly-described extinct or fossil species. There have also been more than 1,500 photographs added since the launch, including many from the 85 additional photographers who discovered the site after it went live. As of the end of April, the total image archive was 8,147 images from 341 photographers, and the website had been visited more than 680,000 times.

Educational Resource

The material prepared by Sarah Jamieson has been completed and will be presented to RRs at their upcoming meeting. The course consists of seven one-hour lectures. Topics include introduction to birdwatching, behaviour, physiology, evolution,

and conservation. Various Birds New Zealand schemes are also covered such as nest record scheme, moult recording scheme, and five-minute bird counts. Following the discussion with RRs Council will decide how best to use the course material.

Student Liaison

We are attempting to attract more students to the Society and as part of this process are developing a student network, with a representative for each university. Two representatives have already been appointed (Palmerston North and Auckland). The network should hopefully increase student interest in the Society and also facilitate wide collaboration between universities and Birds New Zealand for projects. This plan is going to be developed to a greater degree over the next few years.

This work has been led by Stefi Grosser who is based at Otago. I am appreciative that she has picked this project up in addition to other Council activities.

Book Review Editor

Trish Wells has continued to fulfil this role, although the number of books sent for review has been relatively low. Trish has a number of helpers and to all of these people I offer my thanks since it is not easy to keep up with the supply of new books coming onto shelves and many members rely on reviewer's thoughts before completing purchases.

Banding Liaison

David Melville has continued in his role as the Banding Liaison Officer for the Society and this has proved to be a frustrating role through this period. While the banding certification process has been introduced successfully there have been many frustrations around the Wildlife Act authorisations that go with the banding permits. Largely due to David's perseverance it now appears that the conditions that will be attached to the permits are being revised to something more practical in the environment in which banding takes place.

Discussions are also being held to enable the Society to achieve a global permit which would enable Society members undertaking banding on our projects to operate under the general authority. There are, however, still some issues to be worked through on this process. If you are contemplating a banding project in the future remember to include David as Banding Liaison Officer and the Society's Scientific Committee in your thinking at an early stage so your project will be included in any global permit.

During the year council member Sarah Jamieson was appointed as the banding officer for the Department of Conservation and we look forward to working with her as she develops the procedures and databases relating to that office.

Library Report

During the year Heather Rogers was appointed as the Honorary Librarian for the Society. Heather replaced Kathy Barrow who had been in that role for the past 25 years.

During the year Heather has been transferring the library records to a computer which will enable much better control over the issue of books and periodicals. The OSNZ library is housed in the Auckland War Memorial Museum and is integrated with the museum library, which has great benefits for both parties.

I urge members to remember the resource that is the Society's Library. There are many periodicals here that are available for members to borrow.

Atlas Report

Members who were involved in the two atlas projects will be aware of the huge number of data sheets that were collected. All of this material has been in storage, but over the past year Chris Robertson and Murray Williams have been in discussions with the Alexander Turnbull Library about depositing a digital archive of the atlases with them.

This project has involved digitising all of the record sheets

from both atlases, plus the accompanying material, and all of these data will eventually be searchable in the Alexander Turnbull databases.

While this sounds a relatively simple process it has been a slow and convoluted process that Murray and Chris have dealt with in a diplomatic manner and are achieving a sensible outcome which ensures that this raw data will always be available.

Scheme Reports

The reports from the convenors of the Society's schemes are available for download on our website where they can be read in full. See <http://osnz.org.nz/Projects-and-Studies> and click on the schemes/projects you are interested in.

Revised Field Guide

The new edition of the Heather and Robertson *Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand* has recently been published and is now available in the book shops. This will be officially launched by the Society at the Annual General Meeting.

This is a major rewrite with many new illustrations and is still the only field guide endorsed by the Society.

This revised edition was possible only through the huge efforts over several years of Hugh Robertson who along with his wife Lea completely rewrote the scripts to bring them up to date.

Derek Onley provided a number of new illustrations to cover new species that have been added to the field guide. He also took the opportunity to tweak some of the earlier illustrations to improve them for identification purposes.

Through the generous support of Hugh Robertson and Rosemary Heather some of the royalties from the sale come back to the Society to support our activities. I also acknowledge the Canterbury Region who, through a donation from the estate of past member Marj Davis, funded the cost of the illustrations.

I would also take this opportunity to thank Ian Armitage who has been the coordinator for the Society of this project.

Strategy for Birds New Zealand

As discussed at the annual meeting in 2014 Council has been preparing a strategy for Birds New Zealand to provide guidance for our activities up until 2024.

In order to remain relevant to its members and its objectives, the Council of the Society needs to continually evaluate the direction of the Society and how Council as leaders of the Society are meeting the needs of the members.

The final draft version of this strategy will be submitted to the annual meeting following final discussions with the Regional Representatives for formal adoption. Hopefully this will provide guidance to future activities and provide direction for future Councils.

Memorandum of Understanding with Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society

Ian Armitage, on behalf of Council, has been in discussions with the Senior Executives of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand with the aim of developing a closer working relationship between the two organisations. We have operated under a MOU which was signed on 22nd June 2002 but in the intervening period the two organisations have tended to act independently.

It has now been recognised that there is greater benefit for both organisations to work more closely together and this is noted in the latest memorandum, which will be signed at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

The agreement in itself will achieve nothing without goodwill, but it is clear that the benefits to be gained by working closer together far outweigh any potential negatives.

New Zealand eBird

Our initial contract with Cornell University relating to the eBird database has now lapsed. However the Society is again in discussions with them with the aim of renewing this contract

as Council considers that this is technically the best method of recording bird observations and the system is now widely used internationally. I note that there is an average of 5,000 sightings per week entered into the New Zealand database and over a one week period in the summer there were approximately 20,000 sightings recorded. Over time this is going to result in a huge database and I encourage all members to record their sightings using eBird as there is no value in having these lost in notebooks and drawers.

International Activities

Graeme Taylor is representing the Society on the World Seabird Union, which provides coordination of international seabird activities. The Society is also represented on the Australasian Seabird Group, which provides similar coordination on an Australasian scale.

Bruce McKinlay is the New Zealand Government Representative on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership and I act as the Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust Representative. This gives us opportunities to promote Society activities at international events. Recently Bruce and I spent several days birding with a BirdLife International senior executive following a flyway meeting in Japan. This also enabled us to discuss areas of mutual ornithological interest and I know other Council members also take the opportunity to promote the Society at national and international events.

Notornis Survey

The recent survey of members relating to the printing of *Notornis* has produced some interesting results that Council will deliberate on at the coming Council meeting. There was a response rate of 38%, which gives a good cross section of the Society membership.

While these findings have not yet been fully studied by Council, a number of interesting trends are shown. One of the most serious is that 79% of the respondents are over 50 and only 4% are under 30. This clearly indicates and confirms what had been suspected, that it is necessary to recruit younger people into the Society.

Another interesting trend is that 85% of the participants prefer reading a paper copy of *Notornis* rather than an online version.

An analysis of this survey is on the Society's website and the Council will be considering its implications before making future decisions.

Birds New Zealand Research Funds

This fund was established in 2013 by a generous trust and is

managed by Ingrid. The 2014 funding round has supported five studies ranging from migration of Shining Cuckoos, indigenous habitats for forest and wetland bird populations, breeding success and movements of Black-billed Gulls, Kiwi genetics and community training, to parasites in bird faecal samples. Details about this fund and overview reports are available on our website.

David Medway Scholarship

This scholarship was established in 2014 and is sponsored by the George Mason Charitable Trust. Applications have been considered and Council has made a recommendation to the Trust. We are hoping that an announcement of the successful student can be made in the near future.

Projects and Assistance Fund

Three projects received funding in 2014: an aerial survey of Red-billed Gull breeding colonies on Three Kings Islands, a study of the population status of Black Petrel on Little Barrier Island, and printing of the site map guide. Overviews are available on our website.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the work of our executive officer, Ingrid Hutzler, who provides outstanding support to the Regional Representatives and Council and other office holders. Ingrid is employed only on a part time basis but I am sure that she is very seldom not thinking about Society activities, and for that we are most grateful.

I would also particularly like to thank the Regional Representatives, as the great success of our organisation is at a regional level rather than as a national body. The RR role is difficult as they struggle to attract members to attend meetings and activities, so once again I would urge all members to make an effort to support the representative in your local area.

I would also like to thank the members of Council who have provided guidance and input at all levels throughout the year. Without the support of these Council members it would not be possible for the President to operate, or for the Society to pursue all of the activities, which are undertaken on a voluntary basis.

I have pleasure in presenting this report on the activities of the Society over the past year on behalf of the Council. I am delighted to have been able to present this report at the conclusion of the 75th year of the organisation and I am sure that we can reflect back on activities of which the founders would have been proud.

DAVID LAWRIE
President

Records Appraisal Committee Decisions, eBird and You

The Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) will soon begin a process to get data from all accepted Unusual Bird Reports (UBRs) dating back to 1975 entered into eBird under a generic Birds New Zealand Records Appraisal Committee observer name (with the actual observer identified within each record). The RAC database is an important resource of New Zealand bird data, containing many first sightings for the country, and thousands of other extralimital records. We are very grateful to Nikki McArthur for volunteering to assist with the entry of these records into eBird, including assigning grid references to each sighting and loading images if the observer agrees to this. The main challenge for this project will be trying to extract accurate locality data from each UBR, allowing a grid reference to be estimated. We hope that most UBRs will contain sufficient detail of where the unusual bird (or birds) was/were seen. However, if this information is not recorded in sufficient detail, we will endeavour to contact the observer(s) to ask for

more information on the precise location of the observation. We will be starting with the most recent UBRs and working back in time, which will mean that tracking down observers will become increasingly challenging as we progress. If you have ever submitted a UBR and had it accepted, please note that Nikki McArthur, Biz Bell (RAC secretary) or I may be in contact with you for more detailed locality information for your sighting, or permission to load your images on to New Zealand Birds Online and Flickr (under a 'non-commercial, no derivatives' creative commons licence) with a link from Flickr to the relevant eBird record.

COLIN MISKELLY
RAC convenor

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Rachel Anderson-Smith (Wellington); Alan and Fran Bell (Wellington); Alexander Boast (Wellington); Elizabeth Bridge (Wellington); Hugh Cable (Canterbury); Beverley Chitty (Northland); Mick Clout (Auckland); Christine Comerford (Wellington); Erika Commers (Auckland); Peter Doyle (Bay of Plenty); Alan Froggart (Wellington); Andrew Frost (Marlborough); Chris Gaskin (Auckland); Rachael Goddard (Auckland); Helen Hart (Auckland); Darryl Jeffries (Auckland); Megan Jolly (Manawatu); Di Leighton (Canterbury); Julia Loepelt (Wellington); Hone McGregor (Wellington); Marie Morgan (Auckland); Shaun Ogilvie (Canterbury); Shelley Ogle (Manawatu); Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony (Otago); Logan Poulsen (Manawatu); Aalbert Rebergen (Canterbury); Ann-Kathrin Schlesselmann (Otago); Hendrik Schultz (Auckland); Jennifer Sheppard (Waikato); Tony Simpson (Wairarapa); Brian Strong (Southland); Cameron van Mierlo (Canterbury); Ruth Wenham (Waikato); Robyn White (Canterbury); Jana Wold (Wellington).

Donations

We thank the following members for their generous donations to the Society:

Mike Britton; Philip Crutchley; Rebecca Davies; Mike Dye; Rowena East; Ewan R. Fordyce; Maureen Holdaway; Anne McCracken; Michael North; Karen Opie; Marianne Power; Elizabeth Revell; Joy Sagar; Rob Schuckard; Tony Simpson; Ian Sutherland

Nominations for Regional Representative 2016

Each RR serves for a one-year term, starting 1st January, though incumbents can be re-nominated for an unlimited number of terms.

Nominations for the RR of each region close with the Secretary (P.O. Box 834, Nelson 7040) on 31st July 2015.

The nomination paper for each RR must be signed by two financial members of the Society from that region and must be consented to in writing by the person nominated, who must also be a member of the Society.

If the Secretary receives more than one valid nomination a postal ballot will be held among the financial members of the region. If no nomination is received from a region, Council may appoint an RR for the 2016 year.

Call for applications for “Birds New Zealand Research Fund”

The “Birds New Zealand Research Fund” is a national fund administered by Birds New Zealand on behalf of a charitable trust. Applications will be accepted from organisations prepared to make a difference through ornithological research, with outcomes likely to provide for better management of New Zealand birds or their environment. Approved applications will be funded retrospective for a 12-month period only.

CRITERIA

Applications will:

- provide independent assessment of the sound scientific method behind the research
- involve research with a measurable outcome and a commitment to have the results published and available
- involve people learning as well as being involved
- have been successful in the previous year and performed well

HOW TO APPLY

Download the application form from <http://osnz.org.nz/studies-and-schemes/birds-nz-research-fund> and email your complete application to our Executive Officer at eo@osnz.org.nz.

Note: we prefer typed and emailed applications.

Applications need to be received by 1st September 2015.

Birds New Zealand is seeking a new Birds New Zealand Editor

After 12 years at his computer the current editor needs more time to study and upskill as well as spend more time with his family. Therefore the Society is looking for someone to edit this magazine. The role for the current editor has been a rewarding one, corresponding with lots of great, like-minded people and getting a real buzz from seeing the fruits of his (and the contributors’) labour in print. Workload varies from being fairly busy (two to three hours most days) in the three weeks or so before sending the completed manuscript to the printers to just ticking over most of the rest of the time (about a couple of hours per week).

Requirements include general word-processing and computer skills, broadband access to the internet, the ability to work to deadlines, some knowledge of birds and a reasonable grasp of English grammar.

For more details see <http://osnz.org.nz/Vacancy-Editor-Birds-New-Zealand>

Council Nominations

David Lawrie has been nominated for another three year term as President and similarly Bruce McKinlay as Vice-President, Paul Garner-Richards as Treasurer and Ian Armitage as Council member. As no other nominations were received by 28th February 2015 there will be no election and it can be assumed that these four will be appointed to Council for a three-year term.

Visit the Birds New Zealand/OSNZ Website

www.osnz.org.nz

The Society’s website is a great source of information and resources:

- Read the latest news about your Society
- Join or manage your subscription
- Learn about the Society’s schemes and studies
- Download scheme reporting forms, and check out reports from scheme convenors
- Find contact details for all those involved in helping run the Society
- Keep up to date with conferences available both here and overseas
- Check out the publications the Society produces or has produced
- Download and read newsletters from the Society’s regions

Membership Survey Analysis

Members will recall that with the most recent mail out of *Birds New Zealand* and *Notornis* there was a short survey asking members for feedback on the way the Society produces *Notornis*. This is part of Councils ongoing work to ensure value for members' funds and to ensure that we are meeting your needs. The survey was designed to investigate the following main questions:

- Is there still demand for printing paper copies of *Notornis*?
- How many of those who no longer want *Notornis* paper copies would prefer a "Notornis online only" option (a) at the same subs rate OR (b) at a reduced subs rate?
- How many members would prefer an additional membership category for unwaged members/pensioners (*Notornis* online only)?

The survey has now been analysed and is published on the Website. You can read the full report at <http://osnz.org.nz/MembershipSurveyAnalysis>

Thanks to the 406 members who took the time to give us feedback. Some highlights:

- Most participants (85%) prefer reading a paper copy rather than online.
- Overall, 93% read *Notornis* (either paper or online).
- The highest response rate (37%) was from members who joined within the last 10 years. This group reflects 46% of the actual membership, so it appears a good representation of the overall membership.
- 61% wish to keep receiving paper copies.
- 80% of the respondents are content with the current subscription rates.
- 10% (40) indicated the need for an additional category for unwaged/pensioners.

Thank you to those members who took the time to complete a survey. We appreciate your efforts.

Public Liability Insurance for Birds New Zealand Activities

Public liability is for where a person creates damage and a third party sues to recover. The example which everybody cites is if you were to accidentally start a fire and the Rural Fire Authorities were able to prove it was you then they could sue for recovery of costs and if you had public liability insurance you could claim against it. If you look in your household policies etc. you will generally find a clause of some sort as part of the package. The Society holds a Public Liability Insurance Policy. This insurance is in the name of the Society and covers activities of members which are Society activities. Obviously this covers our National Schemes which are clearly activities undertaken by the Society and other projects which the Society supports through the Projects Assistance Fund.

I recently checked with our insurer and he was able to confirm that it does cover Society activities undertaken by members (and not just the Society). He said the test was whether the activity was clearly identifiable as a Society activity. We had a look at the Society website and I showed him some of the newsletters and he said that an activity that was announced in a regional newsletter would be included in the Policy. I used the example of the Otago Harbour Surveys which I organised but where I never saw the members as they all went off to their bit of the harbour and then sent back the count data by email. He was clear that as it was in the newsletters it would qualify.

Based on this advice the Society will continue to retain Public Liability Insurance. Although it would be dreadful to have to file a claim it is protection for you as members that we have it.

Although not intended, it is an additional reason why regions should consider having a published programme through regular or irregular newsletters.

BRUCE MCKINLAY
Vice President

From the Membership Secretary

A reminder to members:

If you don't receive your copies of *Birds New Zealand* and/or *Notornis* contact the Membership Secretary so she can find out why and send you another set. Email membership@osnz.org.nz

If your copies all arrive in the mail wet with the pages stuck together, send an email to the Membership Secretary who will be happy to send you replacements.

If your friends tell you they haven't received their copies, it may be because they haven't paid their membership fees...

Joining Birds New Zealand

If you are reading this but are not a member of Birds New Zealand you would be very welcome to join us. Our membership consists of the whole spectrum of people interested in New Zealand/South Pacific birds from beginners with just an interest through keen birdwatchers and amateur ornithologists to professional ornithologists, so you should find others of a similar level to you, or find resources that are of interest to you.

For our very reasonable subscription fee of \$70 (students pay just \$35.00 and overseas/corporate rates etc. are also available) you will receive a quarterly issue of this magazine *Birds New Zealand*, which is the Society's main mouthpiece to members, has articles of bird/ornithological interest and both national and local news; a quarterly issue of *Notornis*, the Society's scientific journal; and from time to time either free or discounted major Society publications.

In addition to reading material and, with time, a useful collection of reference books, members have access to meetings, both indoor and in the field, on a national and regional basis providing opportunities to gain knowledge on birds/ornithology and learning practical skills whilst networking with knowledgeable people. Our extensive library of books and journals is open for members to borrow and view items. Members are also encouraged to provide data to the Society's schemes, and supply sightings to the eBird online reporting tool. These data provide information on which research may be conducted, often with conclusions relevant to decision-making processes on the conservation of birds.

For further details and/or a membership form you should take one of three actions:

- Visit the Society's website www.osnz.org.nz
- Contact the Society's membership secretary.
- Contact your nearest regional representative.



45 Years of indexing *Notornis*

Tim Lovegrove provided the following notes to Colin Miskelly, who was preparing a talk for the Society's 75th anniversary conference. Tim has kindly agreed to his notes being reproduced in *Birds New Zealand*.

I took on the task of indexing *Notornis* in 1970, when Dick Sibson (Sib), who was the editor at the time, asked whether I might like to do it. From 1939, when he arrived in New Zealand, Sib ran a very active Bird Club at King's College, and for us boarders, Sib's Bird Club trips meant a welcome escape from the school grounds to explore the surrounding countryside and chase a few birds. Sib, at various times while I was at school, also taught me history, English and Greek.

I followed a succession of other King's College Bird Club index compilers: Chris Barlow, who was at Kings from 1964-68; and Peter Skegg and David Fenwick (both at King's 1958-62), who preceded Chris Barlow as index compilers. No doubt Sib, as a busy school master and editor of *Notornis*, was keen to share the tasks of producing *Notornis* around. For us boys he saw the indexing task as another opportunity to broaden our academic horizons, through learning firstly to spell and then to appreciate the meanings of the Latin and Greek scientific names, as well as keeping up with the play with current bird study in New Zealand and the Pacific. I certainly also find that having scrutinised *Notornis* closely for so many years that when asked about some bird topic I can often respond with – "I think there's an article you could look at in *Notornis* about that..."

Although the 1971 index is the first with my name on it, I'm pretty sure my first one was 1970 (when I was in the 4th form), and not 1971, because the first paper I recall working my way through was one on White-faced Herons (see Vol 17, Part 1), and later that year there was a long and most interesting paper by Don Merton about the Kermadec Expedition.

When I began the task, which Sib described as "...a lengthy act of public service demanding the understanding of an ornithologist and the thoroughness of a scholar..." I remember he showed me his tried and proven method of compiling the index, using a school exercise book with tabs cut out of the pages for each letter of the alphabet. I still use this method, despite the advent of computers.

When going back to the farm for the holidays, or on island trips for example, it was easy to tuck the old exercise book and an issue or two of the journal into my pack so that I could continue the task whenever there was some spare time. For the earlier indexes, when I was at school and for several years after I left, I would transfer the index from the exercise book, writing it all out again onto foolscap paper, which Sib then checked for me before passing it on to Betty Shimmin (the Headmaster, Geoff Greenbank's secretary) to be typed. After she retired to Surfdale on Waiheke Island, Betty kindly continued this task for us for a number of years. The typed manuscript was then sent to Te Rau to be printed and then circulated with Part 1 or Part 2 the following year.

When Barrie Heather became editor I seem to remember Barrie asking me if I needed a second copy of each issue of the journal for indexing purposes. However, I was able to assure him that our indexing method only needed a single copy, and I didn't need to scribble all over my copies of *Notornis*!

These days when the compiling task is completed, I load up what I call my basic index (a reasonably complete list of all the common and scientific names of New Zealand birds in alphabetic order) and then add all the new material for the year – authors, titles of papers, page numbers etc. As with any contribution to the journal these days, the completed manuscript is then emailed to the editor. Later the proofs are returned to me and checked again, and then it's ready for the printer. The whole task takes about a week of my spare time to complete each year.

Needless to say I've seen quite a few changes to the journal during my 45-odd years of indexing and during that time I've worked with at least six editors. *Notornis* has changed from the old octavo format to the new larger one, from the old stippled beige covers to pale blue and then to the blue and white cover we have now, the layout has changed from a single column to double columns, we now also have colour photos and finally, *Notornis* is now available and searchable online. I saw the resurrection of Classified Summarised Notes and then saw them dropped again as a regular feature. The font is also very much smaller now, and not as easy to read as it used to be, or is that a mark of increasing age? Most importantly, Charles Tunnicliffe's iconic scraperboard sketch still adorns the cover, the journal is still called *Notornis* (so apt for a journal covering birds of the South) and the content continues to be informative and stimulating.

Penguins emerge relatively unscathed during Tauranga's second major oil spill in less than five years

After Mobil's bunkering oil spill happened during a particularly stormy day in late April, leading to heavy fuel oil coating parts of the harbour shore, the Penguin Monitoring Group was reactivated under the directorship of Julia Graham and Dave Richards.

Members of the Mauao Area Wildlife Trust, Birds New Zealand and associated volunteers gathered via social media. Over 240 hours were spent collectively assessing oil on Little Penguins at the two mainland sites: Mauao and Moturiki (Leisure Island). Birds were seen with small dots of oil, mainly in the early part of the work, and when the oil left the harbour on the outgoing tide, our ocean-foraging birds were seen with small collars of oil, consistent with surfacing through the slick. These birds were retrieved and sent to Oropi Native Wildlife Rescue Haven. Only one penguin presented to the group with 100% oil coverage (see photo).

At the point of writing this (10th May), monitoring is taking a break, as the penguins are needing one after nights of monitoring.

Thanks to Mauao Area Wildlife Trust and Mount Penguin Monitoring for some images.

PAUL CUMING



▲ Clean Little Penguin.
Photo by Paul Cuming.

▲ Partially-oiled Little Penguin.
Photo by Dave Richards.

▲ 100 percent oiled Little Penguin.
Photo by Julia Graham

Top 10 Birds in New Zealand Gardens

Results from garden bird surveys here and in the UK and US often highlight the “top 10 species”. These may be selected on the basis of abundance (number of individual birds counted per garden) or occurrence (percentage of gardens in which the species was detected). The two selections are not necessarily the same. Abundance measures numbers; e.g. many or few. Occurrence measures distribution; e.g. widespread (in most gardens) or restricted (in few gardens). Some species may be abundant and widespread, some scarce and restricted, and others somewhere in between.

In the first eight years of the New Zealand Garden Bird Survey, the top 10 species for abundance have been the same as the top 10 for occurrence, but the ranking of species within the two lists has been different (see Fig. 1). House Sparrow was the most numerous species nationally (average 12.2 per garden). However, Blackbird was the most widespread (detected in 90% of gardens), with House Sparrow second (87%). Blackbird was ranked only 4th in abundance (average 2.5 per garden), behind House Sparrow, Silvereye (6.9), and Starling (2.6). Myna was ranked 5th in abundance but only 9th in occurrence. This is because it is abundant where it occurs, but it has a restricted distribution (mainly the upper half of the North Island).

Different species occurred in the top 10 in different parts of the country (see Table 1). For example, Myna occurred in the top 10 only in Auckland and Waikato, and Rock Pigeon only in Auckland and Canterbury. On the other hand, Bellbird occurred in the top 10 only in Otago, and Dunnock only in Canterbury and Otago. Other notable differences between regions were Tui occurring in the top 10 in all regions except Canterbury, and Fantail occurring in the top 10 in the three North Island regions but not in Canterbury or Otago. Yellowhammer occurred in the top 10 only in Wellington.

Species rankings also varied in different regions of the country. For example, House Sparrow was the most numerous species in the three North Island regions, but Silvereye was the most numerous in Canterbury and Otago. Myna was the 3rd most numerous species in Auckland, ahead of Blackbird, Tui, and Starling. Bellbird was the 5th most numerous species in Otago (and the 17th most numerous species nationally), but did not occur in the top 10 (or even top 20) in Auckland. Thus, a list of the top 10 species nationally has limited meaning regionally.

Some species rankings have remained the same from year to year, but others have varied (see Fig. 2). For example, House Sparrow has been the most numerous species nationally every year to date, and Silvereye 2nd most numerous. However, Blackbird and Starling have alternated between 3rd and 4th in different years. Changes in ranking between years may be the opposite of changes in the average number counted. For example, Song Thrush rose from 11th ranking in 2013 to 8th in 2014, but its abundance decreased from 0.75 per garden in 2013 to 0.67 per garden in 2014. It rose in ranking because other species (namely Chaffinch, Greenfinch, and Goldfinch) decreased in abundance even more. Chaffinch decreased from 1.01 to 0.65 per garden (though it remained 9th in rank). Greenfinch decreased from 1.13 to 0.62 per garden (dropping in rank from 8th to 10th), and Goldfinch decreased from 0.84 to 0.57 per garden (dropping in rank from 10th to 11th). Thus, changes in species rankings (i.e. changes in species abundance relative to one another) may not reflect changes in species abundance *per se*, and need to be interpreted with caution.

Changes in species abundance over the eight years of the survey are reported on the garden bird survey website (see below). The most striking result from the latest survey (2014) was that counts of several species were the lowest on record (e.g. Silvereye, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, and Goldfinch). The low counts may have been a result of mild weather in early winter. One participant, from central Otago, noted, “No Silvereyes due to no snow on the hills”. The mild early winter may have meant that birds did not come into gardens in search of food as much as they would have if weather conditions were harsher.

The success of the garden bird survey is dependent upon volunteers, and more are needed. The more people who participate,

the more accurate and more precise the results will be. Anybody who can identify birds can participate. All you need to do is count the largest number of each bird species you see or hear in your garden at one time during one hour of observation on just one day between 27th June and 5th July. A survey form is on page 22, and full instructions and an online survey form are available on the garden bird survey website: <http://gardenbirdsurvey.landcareresearch.co.nz>

ERIC SPURR

Garden Bird Survey organiser

Fig. 1. The top 10 garden bird species in New Zealand in 2007–2014, based on abundance (above) and occurrence (below). The values were calculated from regional values weighted by the proportion of households in each region.

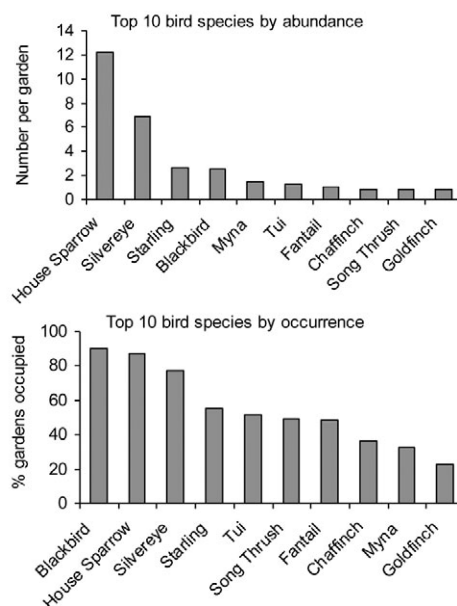


Fig. 2. Changes in abundance rank of the top 10 garden bird species nationally from 2007–2014 (Note: 11 species have been in the top 10 over the 8 years).

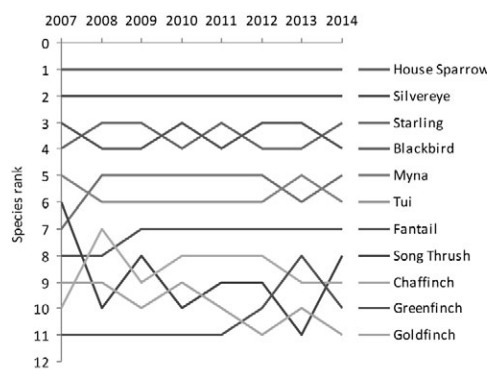


Table 1. Top 10 garden bird species in five main regions of the country in 2007–2014.

Auckland	Waikato	Wellington	Canterbury	Otago
House Sparrow	House Sparrow	House Sparrow	Silvereye	Silvereye
Silvereye	Silvereye	Silvereye	House Sparrow	House Sparrow
Myna	Starling	Starling	Starling	Starling
Blackbird	Blackbird	Blackbird	Blackbird	Blackbird
Tui	Myna	Tui	Greenfinch	Bellbird
Starling	Fantail	Chaffinch	Chaffinch	Tui
Fantail	Tui	Fantail	Dunnock	Greenfinch
Rock Pigeon	Chaffinch	Yellowhammer	Goldfinch	Chaffinch
Song Thrush	Goldfinch	Greenfinch	Song Thrush	Dunnock
Goldfinch	Song Thrush	Song Thrush	Rock Pigeon	Song Thrush

Treasurer's Report

The Society's finances are still in good shape. Council continues to look into ways of increasing our revenue and decreasing expenditure.

General Account income was similar to last year. Expenditure has decreased slightly from last year but still exceeds the income. Income from annual subscriptions remains similar to last year. Around \$1,200 in subscription fees was lost to PayPal fees. New Zealand members can help by paying for membership with online banking rather than by credit card via PayPal. We are looking at how to apply a credit card fee to reduce this loss of revenue. One new life member paid this financial year.

The printing costs for *Notornis* and *Birds New Zealand* remain similar. The decrease shown in accounts for the printing of *Notornis* is due to only one index having to be printed in this financial year.

The Project Assistance Fund (PAF) made four grant payments as well as the regional allowances. It was also used for funding the continued updating of the Society's website and training in its use. Some money for this comes from the annual grant from T-Gear Charitable Trust. This year website costs have been separated into three parts - hosting (funded from general account), management (funded from PAF) and development (funded from PAF).

One *Birds New Zealand* Research Fund grant payment was made this financial year. However, all this year's funds have been allocated to projects and will be paid retrospectively.

It was decided to close the Contracts Account at the end of this financial year and transfer the funds to the General Account and the Project Assistance Fund. This allows us to make better use of these funds.

The financial accounts have had a limited assurance review carried out by John Khouri over the last few years. Due to more stringent requirements required by funding agencies I would like to have a full audit carried out of this year's (2015) accounts by Crowe Horwath.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors, the Executive Officer, the Membership Secretary and members for all the assistance and support that they have given me over the last year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries.

I recommend acceptance of the 2014 annual accounts. I also recommend that Crowe Horwath be appointed as auditor for the 2015 financial year.

PAUL GARNER-RICHARDS
Treasurer

JOHN KHOURI

8 KINGSVIEW RD, MT EDEN
P O BOX 8905, SYMONDS ST, AUCKLAND 1150
TELEPHONE : 579-7686 FAX : 526-4960 E-MAIL : johnkhouri@xtra.co.nz

TO THE READERS OF THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

Scope

I have reviewed the financial statements that provide information regarding the financial performance of the Society and its financial position as at Balance date.

My engagement instructions are to perform a limited assurance review which provides a level of assurance that is less than an audit engagement.

Responsibilities of the Council

The Council is responsible for the preparation of financial statements which fairly reflect the financial position of the Society as at 31 December 2014 and the results of its operations for the year ended 31 December 2014.

It is my responsibility to express an independent opinion on the financial statements and to report my opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

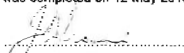
A limited assurance review includes examination on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes a review of accounting systems and procedures to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. Other than in my capacity as reviewer, I have no relationship with or interests in the Society.

Qualified Opinion

Control over cash income, prior to it being banked is limited, and there are no practical audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control.

As a result of my review, I have concluded that nothing has come to my attention that would cause me to believe that the financial statements do not present a true and fair view of the operating activities of the Society during the year ended 31 December 2014 and its financial position as at 31 December 2014.

My review was completed on 12 May 2015 and my qualified opinion is expressed as at that date.


(Signature)

JOHN KHOURI, B.Com ACA
(Name)

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2014			
		2014	2013
LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND			
INCOME			
Interest		\$1,150.44	\$1,158.00
New Life Members		\$1,200.00	\$3,600.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$2,350.44	\$4,758.00
EXPENDITURE			
Transfer to General Funds		\$7,155.00	\$1,865.00
Surplus/Deficit		\$195.44	\$2,893.00
Plus Balance as at 1st January		\$21,547.00	\$18,654.00
Balance as at 31st December		\$21,742.44	\$21,547.00
LIBRARY ASSET ACCOUNT			
INCOME			
Library exchanges		\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
Surplus/Deficit		\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
Plus Balance as at 1st January		\$45,264.00	\$43,563.00
Balance as at 31st December		\$46,964.00	\$45,263.00
PROJECT ASSISTANCE FUND			
INCOME			
AGM Profit		\$0.00	\$5,685.00
Royalties Penguin Field Guide		\$2,125.47	\$1,638.00
Sponsorship - T Gear Trust (for new website)		\$3,740.00	\$3,240.00
OSNZ Otago - 2013 Conference float		\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Payment from BDO investment		\$0.00	\$495.00
Return of unused money from OSNZ		\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Waikato		\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest		\$4,314.14	\$4,741.00
Transfer from Contracts Account		\$100,000.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$112,679.61	\$116,319.00
EXPENDITURE			
Regional Allowances		\$6,202.00	\$6,664.00
AOC Scholarships		\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Website Update & Training		\$0.00	\$9,867.00
Website Management		\$6,804.00	\$0.00
Website Development		\$9,303.00	\$0.00
National Spoonbill Survey		\$0.00	\$1,856.00
Forest & Bird - IBA for Seabirds Booklet		\$1,000.00	\$0.00
OSNZ Marlborough - 2015 Conference float		\$1,000.00	\$0.00
RAC - Scanning of Submissions at Auckland Museum		\$816.36	\$871.00
Determining population status of black petrel on LBI		\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Aerial survey of red billed gull breeding colonies on Three Kings Islands		\$1,391.30	\$0.00
Conference Dinner		\$0.00	\$368.00

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2014			
		2014	2013
GENERAL ACCOUNT			
INCOME			
Annual Subscriptions NZ		\$43,946.13	\$41,224.00
Annual Subscriptions Overseas		\$11,537.00	\$12,509.00
Donations		\$3,071.00	\$3,955.00
Donation - T Gear Trust		\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Donations - in memory of David Medway		\$0.00	\$1,520.00
Sales General		\$0.00	\$20.00
Sales Atlas		\$0.00	\$135.00
Sales Data		\$3,880.13	\$1,425.00
Notornis & Southern Bird Refunds		\$4,301.96	\$1,899.00
Copyright Licensing Fund Payment		\$699.26	\$748.00
Interest		\$787.61	\$289.00
SUB TOTAL		\$72,732.69	\$71,719.00
Transfers from		\$2,155.00	\$1,865.00
	1. Life Membership Reserve Annual Contribution		
	2. Projects Assistance Fund		
	i. Royalties	\$2,125.47	\$1,638.00
	ii. Grant Operating Costs	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
	3. Contracts Account	\$25,438.58	\$0.00
SUB TOTAL		\$29,719.05	\$5,503.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$102,451.74	\$77,221.00
EXPENDITURE			
Audit		\$800.00	\$800.00
Annual Return Fee		\$44.44	\$44.44
Atlas Storage		\$663.00	\$663.00
Atlas Data Scanning		\$10,540.49	\$0.00
Bank Fees		\$230.00	\$266.00
Conference & Meetings Expenses		\$5,808.67	\$9,772.00
Office Hosting & Maintenance		\$0.00	\$0.00
Executive Officer Contract Fees		\$19,015.10	\$19,684.00
Insurance		\$500.00	\$500.00
Interest		\$395.65	\$398.00
Investment writedown		\$0.00	\$0.00
Journal Subscriptions		\$217.33	\$198.00
PayPal Fees		\$1,206.75	\$1,080.00
Postage		\$980.50	\$767.00
Postage - Atlas		\$54.22	\$1,103.00
Postage - International		\$200.16	\$655.00
Postage - Notornis & Southern Bird		\$6,414.10	\$8,308.00
Printing - Notornis		\$21,413.00	\$29,093.00
Printing - Southern Bird		\$17,647.00	\$16,664.00
Printing - OSNZ Brochures		\$0.00	\$0.00
Printing & Stationery - General		\$2,544.67	\$2,999.00
Training Course Notes		\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Website Hosting		\$1,494.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		\$92,174.10	\$98,441.34
Surplus/Deficit		\$10,277.64	\$23,220.44
Plus Balance as at 1st January		\$689.56	\$21,910.00
Balance as at 31st December		\$10,967.20	\$689.56

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2014			
		2014	2013
SUB TOTAL		\$10,967.20	\$689.56
Transfers to General Account		\$0.00	\$0.00
Reserves		\$0.00	\$0.00
Project Assistance Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00
SUB TOTAL		\$10,967.20	\$689.56
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		\$10,967.20	\$689.56
Surplus/Deficit		\$0.00	\$0.00
Plus Balance as at 1st January		\$689.56	\$21,910.00
Balance as at 31st December		\$10,967.20	\$689.56

Continued on page 15...



A Field Course of Two Halves

◀ After coming ashore on Mana Island (all photos by Paul Cuming)

Birds New Zealand Junior Field Course: Matiu/Somes and Mana Islands

Looking back over the duration of the five days, it is easy to forget that this could have been a field course that never would have happened. When planning a field course on an offshore island, you are opening yourself up to the mercy of the weather. So, due to this weather, we started on one island, and finished on another. We still got soaked on both islands, but the planned ornithology of the course for our 11 teens was applied and the results are evident in the faces in the photographs.

Matiu/Somes Island Tuesday-Thursday

The most extreme activity of the course occurred during the disembarking of our team on to this island. From then on, a sense of being in a team was sealed! Being a pest-free island, we unpacked everything in the whare kiore, or rat room. The first day was spent on this island learning essential bird identification skills, using optics, and checking out some of the local projects such as Little Penguin monitoring, and the Fluttering Shearwater transfer project. Mist nets were set up and species caught included Dunnock, Fantail and Red-crowned Parakeet. Other creatures encountered during the course of the stay were Giant Weta and Tuatara.

By Thursday many skills had been obtained and observed. It was time to shift islands.

Mana Island Thursday-Saturday

A contrastingly benign disembarking brought the 12 teens and their assorted tutors to the vastly regrowing island, again going through a whare kiore. Mist nets set up between the island buildings immediately started producing results, catching a wide variety of species: Bellbird, Whitehead, Kingfisher, Tui, Welcome Swallow, Silvereye and Yellow-crowned Parakeet among others.

Other projects undertaken were seabird watching, skink and gecko surveys, and Sooty and Fluttering Shearwater transfer projects.

It fell to one person to cobble together people, places, activities and timings - Sharon Alderson. The ability to chop and change venues at short notice is very time-consuming and difficult, at the same time being the "Camp Mother" figure to the teens.

Great feedback has been received from the participants, who hailed from Pukekohe to Ashburton. Other tutors/specialists who contributed to the teens experiences on the islands were Lynn Adams, Peter Reese, Ian Southey, Shane Cotter, master chef Craig Steed, and Graeme Taylor. Thanks to the rangers of Matiu/Somes and Mana, Jo and Di respectively.

PAUL CUMING



▲ Common Diving Petrel on Mana Island



▲ Craig Steed with Fluttering Shearwater



▲ Graeme Taylor extracting a Bellbird from a mist net.



▲ Roy banding a New Zealand Kingfisher on Mana Island.

Who is Eating Your Plastic Waste?

Help needed for marine debris and seabirds study

Many of us are familiar with some of the impacts that plastics have when they enter the ocean and the diets of the animals that live there: sea turtles choking on plastic bags, whale carcasses washing ashore with kilograms of plastic waste inside of them. But how many of New Zealand and Australia's sea birds are mistaking plastics for food? The answer is, we really don't know.

Seabirds are the world's most threatened group of birds, with nearly half of the world's species experiencing population declines, and over a quarter globally threatened. One of the emerging threats to sea birds is the ingestion of plastic floating in the marine environment, as seabirds may mistake the floating plastics for food.

Despite the conservation issue that marine debris ingestion poses to seabirds globally, very little is known about the extent of plastic ingestion among the seabird species in Australian and New Zealand waters. Over the next three years, I, along with my supervisors, are studying the breadth and impacts of plastic ingestion in Australian and New Zealand seabirds as part of a PhD study through the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies and CSIRO, Australia. We aim to both identify the extent of marine debris ingestion across as many seabird species as we're able to sample, and model

the impact of plastic ingestion on seabird populations. To do this we are working with individuals and organizations across Australia and New Zealand including OSNZ's beach patrol organizer, Lloyd Esler, to organise the collection of seabird carcasses as part of the beach patrol. We are also looking for volunteers to help us collect seabird carcasses.

What we are looking for is whole, non-scavenged carcasses of tube-nosed seabirds including shearwaters, petrels, prions, albatrosses and fulmars, to be collected and frozen for our study. If you think you can assist us, please contact both myself at lauren.roman@utas.edu.au and beach patrol organizer Lloyd Esler at esler@southnet.co.nz.

LAUREN ROMAN



▲ Beach-washed Short-tailed Shearwater and ingested plastics.



▣ It took some time to convince the pontoon bird (nest 7) to nest on a platform.



▣ Chicks are carried on the back of the parents for the first 2-3 weeks.

The Crested Grebes of Lake Wanaka

Grebes are by far one of the most attractive of water birds and it was left to Sir Julian Huxley to describe the elaborate courtship behaviour of one of the most beautiful and elegant of all water birds.

The generic name of the Australasian Crested Grebe *Podiceps*, says a great deal about this bird. Roughly translated it means “bum bird” and that references the observation that the legs on this bird are so far back on its body that it can barely walk on land. And if you cannot walk on land, then your breeding behaviour needs to be a finely tuned antipredator strategy. Thus, it has become a most aquatic species spending more time in the water than almost any other species of bird. The only time their feet are not wet is when they are laying and incubating eggs. Once hatched, chicks are brooded on the backs of the adults for the first two to three weeks. A rapid escape from their floating nest mounds is an imperative for this species and that is something they do with ease.

Floating nests, however, have their own problems. Fluctuating water levels are a serious hazard for this species: too high and the nest is drowned, too low and the nest is left high and dry and subject to a suite of terrestrial predators. Nests are usually anchored to submerged fallen branches and debris, often under willows, but Raupo (*Typha*) beds appear to be a favoured habitat.

For at least two years a pair of grebes attempted to breed close to the boat marina in Lake Wanaka, two attempts on the shore failed and it was when they moved to a pontoon tethered to the marina that I became involved. Attempting to breed on the pontoon (approximately 40 cm from the hull of a powerboat) was every bit as hazardous as breeding on land, and I felt that it was time to try and reverse the trend of continued failure. This was achieved by moving the nest a few centimetres over a period of a few days so that it was clear of the boat. Eventually two of the four eggs produced chicks and at that stage I felt that I could take this a stage further.

I had already spent quite a bit of time observing grebes and kayaking on Lakes Dunstan and Hayes where grebes are, relatively speaking, in abundance. I needed to get my head around issues such as nest site tenacity, territory size and habitat.

One of the things I discovered was that grebes that are not breeding are relatively happy in each other's company and that even breeding birds, though strongly territorial, have a degree of tolerance to near neighbours, providing they don't come too close.

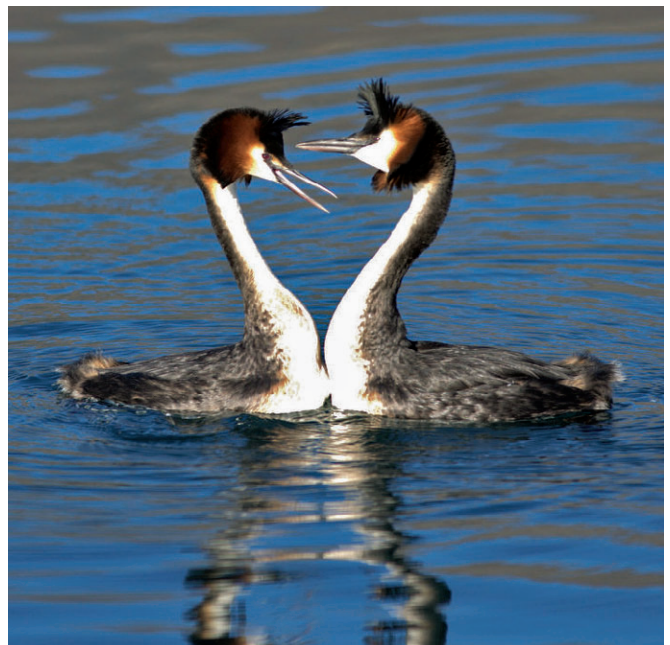
Meanwhile, whenever the nest on the pontoon was damaged by storm or boat-wash I repaired it. Much to my surprise the birds laid an out-of-season clutch on mid-winters day and, from the three eggs, two chicks were fledged. I believe that

managing to hold the birds through to spring was the key to what happened next.

From late September to early October at least six pairs of grebes arrived and started to prospect for nests around the marina. I had already built the first of eight floating nest platforms, and the first, placed under an over-bridge connecting the marina to the land, was occupied within a matter of hours. It was all on so to speak. Over the next few weeks, birds attempted to nest on the shore, even on the back of boats tethered to the marina. Moving birds from the shore meant building nests onto platforms, sometimes transferring an already laid egg and towing it some 30-40 metres to the marina. In most cases this worked well.

All platform nests were numbered so that they could be identified from the shore and a grebe diary pinned up so that all could read it, with details of how many eggs there were in each nest and when they were due to hatch and so on. Grebes proved to be an amazingly attractive event for Wanaka residents and visitors alike and featured throughout the summer on “Trip Advisor” (as high as the number two ranking in December) for what to see in Wanaka.

Sadly I did lose three nests with eggs to severe storms and had to do some major design changes: ropes and hooks were



▣ Two displaying Crested Grebes.



▼ Chicks, when not asleep, peep continuously

▲ Just prior to egg hatching, birds go through a frenetic period of nest building and can increase the weight on the platform to 30+ kg.

▼ Four week old chicks. Crested Grebes are fish feeders, mostly on bullies and (the occasional rainbow trout)

▲ The birds that were to become the pontoon birds (nest 7) first nested on the shore.

▲ Grebe with three chicks approximately four months old

changed to chains and bolts and backs were fixed to all nests. Platforms anchored to the lake bed now “sail” with the wind, though they have yet to be fully tested in the most severe of nor-westers we experience in Wanaka.

Other considerations concerned how far above water level the platforms should be (grebes jump out of the water to get onto their nests) and working on how buoyancy could be added to platforms while birds were still incubating. Just prior to hatching, birds go through a frenetic period of nest building with the result that platforms in some instances became dangerously tilted and or low in the water. One of the more surprising things about making those changes to platforms was that in three instances, the incubating birds just leant over the side of their nests and pecked my hands and arm (grebious bodily harm!), drawing blood.

It has been a huge but rewarding learning curve with some 31 chicks fledged in a shore length of about 100 metres. Lack of suitable habitat is a significant factor limiting numbers of grebes in Wanaka and New Zealand in general. Habitat means stable sheltered lakes that are predator free and have an abundance of food. An alternative is floating platforms offshore in sheltered waters that can be kept under observation and managed as needs be.

The Wanaka marina is a massive floating platform to which was attached a number of smaller grebe floating platforms. The isolation of the marina from land by a locked over-bridge reduced predation and kept nests safe from vandals. The only incidence of vandalism occurred to the nest platform tethered to the lake bed some five metres from shore: the first nest survived to fledge chicks, the second lost two eggs due to a beer bottle and stones being thrown on the nest

Perhaps the biggest surprise has been the relative ease with which these birds have been managed. The literature suggests that grebes are easily disturbed (and they are if you don't understand them), with human interference and disturbance listed as significant factors in nest and chick mortality. The hundred or so hours spent in a kayak on Lake Hayes has been the key to getting my head around what is a complex courtship

and breeding cycle. Hopefully it will lead to a programme that will ultimately lead to securing a better future for a species that is presently listed as rare and vulnerable in this country.

Notes are being prepared on the design and implementation of floating platforms, and when completed will be circulated to the Department of Conservation. I also hope to set up a small group in Wanaka to help and continue with this work.

Acknowledgements.

I would like to thank Peter Marshall of Wanaka (who owned the pontoon) for his enthusiasm and support for this project. Much of the building material for platforms was supplied by him. Thanks also to the chairman and members of the Marina Board who provided me with permission and unlimited access to the marina and finally to all those boaties who gave approval to tether a grebe platform to the piers that separated their boat from their next door neighbours berths and who so carefully manoeuvred their craft in and out of their berths throughout the summer.

JOHN DARBY



▲ Nesting platform attached to the pontoon with a pair and one-day-old chick on nest. (All photos by John Darby)

OSNZ Archives

Birds New Zealand is fortunate to have a lively account of its formation, development and activities in the shape of a 200 page book *A Flying Start – Commemorating Fifty Years of the Ornithological Society 1940-1990* compiled and edited by Brian Gill and Barrie Heather. The archives are a complementary source of information, comprising miscellaneous material accumulated over those years, and extending to about 2010, which occupies 24 storage boxes in the library of Auckland Museum and is accessible for reference when required. Some of the material is standard, such as reports and circulars of Council business, AGM proceedings, financial records (including the Lenz bequest), the Project Assistance Fund, the Christmas Card Committee (New Zealand famously has a committee for everything), membership lists, secretarial correspondence and minute books, library catalogues and various other concerns, notably the names of Council members, office holders and award winners.

There are rich stores from the Society's field activities: Nest Recording, Beach Patrolling, the Banding Scheme, wader censuses, the mapping scheme for the 1985 Bird Distribution Atlas, and especially Rare Bird Recording now scanned for separate access. The first and second Checklists are absent but the third edited by Graham Turbott has been saved from planning stage to corrected page proofs; a veritable case history of book production taking up several boxes. Details of Barrie Heather's Bird Study leaflet are also preserved.

Special events feature, notably the International Ornithological Congress hosted by Christchurch in 1990 with its associated excursions. There are historical topics of special interest from the formation, constitution and rules of the Society to its communications, from *New Zealand Bird Notes* to *OSNZ News*. Individual records with a place in the archive include "Bird notes of a bushman" by Bob St Paul, 20 years of bird song charts compiled by Ross McKenzie, Maida Barlow's notebooks of the Spur-winged Plover in Southland, and Gannet census data of Charles Fleming along with his pioneering banding records of the Silvereye (1940-43). There is a wealth of material from Sandy Edgar, not only Classified Summarised Notes, but also bird lists for Northland, field notebooks, scripts for popular talks and typescripts for his papers in *Notornis*. The sea bird records of ship's captain John Jenkins are another treasure.

The Society's publications have generated their share of archival material, including editor's reports, production matters and indexing issues. A very special item is the original drawing of the Notornis by Charles Tunnicliffe with its associated correspondence.



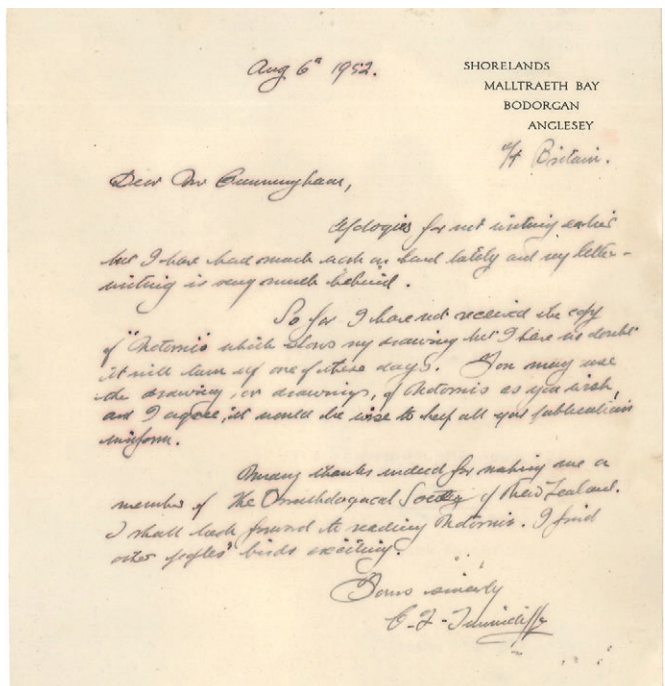
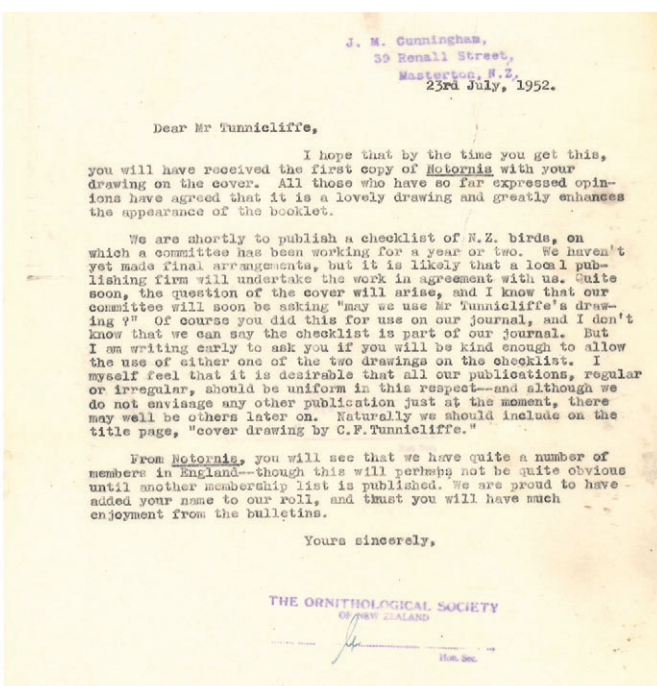
■ The original drawing of Notornis by Charles Tunnicliffe.

This is used on the journal cover and the choice of journal title was preceded by a vote which, had it gone otherwise, would have yielded the journal name of Kakapo. Going from the sublime to the ridiculous, the ring codes and 1972 postal addresses of the Pigeon Club are to be found in the archives

Regional concerns form a significant part, such as reports and newsletters, among them Northland's *Amokura* and Auckland's *Tara* (of which the museum has a full set). Field studies have left their mark, for instance the Nelson Summer School of 1975, the Bay of Plenty course in January 1978, and Farewell Spit gatherings of the 1960s and '70s. Major expeditions to the Kermadec Islands, and to Fiji in 1970, are also represented. Specialised reports have a place: "Birds and Aircraft at Auckland Airport" is an intriguing case, while another example, "Birds of Whangarei Harbour" was recently tracked down when more obvious sources, such as DOC, were unable to provide a copy. Not all the items are documents because the archive includes 16 mm cine films of Raoul Island, the Kermadec expedition, and seabird flocking, as well as a set of Les McPherson's audio tapes of New Zealand and Pacific birds.

The Society is at present seeking an Honorary Archivist. Now wouldn't it be worthwhile to take on this unusual job?

MICHAEL TAYLOR



■ Correspondence between John Cunningham (OSNZ Secretary) and Charles Tunnicliffe regarding use of the drawing on the cover of *Notornis* and payment through membership of the Society

Treasurer's Report continued...

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2014			
		2014	2013
CONTRACTS ACCOUNT			
INCOME			
DOC - King Shag Survey		\$0.00	\$5,000.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$0.00	\$5,000.00
EXPENDITURE			
Boat Hire - King Shag Survey		\$0.00	\$1,628.00
Equipment - King Shag Survey		\$0.00	\$141.00
Contractors - King Shag Survey		\$4,092.42	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		\$4,092.42	\$1,769.00
Surplus/Deficit		-\$4,092.42	\$3,231.00
Balance as at 1 January		\$129,531.00	\$126,300.00
Transfer to General Account		\$25,438.98	\$0.00
Transfer to Project Assistance Fund		\$100,000.00	\$0.00
Balance as at 31 December		\$0.00	\$129,531.00
NZ BIRD RESEARCH FUND			
INCOME			
Grant		\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
EXPENDITURE			
Grant - Chatham Islands Taiko Trust		\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Grant - Huttons Shearwater Trust		\$0.00	\$6,447.00
Grant - Te Papa		\$0.00	\$16,000.00
Grant - Shining cuckoo study		\$4,663.18	\$0.00
Administration Costs		\$1,073.43	\$1,063.09
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		\$5,736.61	\$33,510.09
Surplus/Deficit		\$34,263.39	\$6,489.91
Balance as at 1 January		\$5,489.91	\$0.00
Balance as at 31 December		\$40,753.30	\$6,489.91
NZ BIRDS ONLINE			
INCOME			
Takahē Page Sponsorship - Mitre 10		\$0.00	\$2,608.70
TOTAL INCOME		\$0.00	\$2,608.70
EXPENDITURE			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		\$0.00	\$0.00
Surplus/Deficit		\$0.00	\$2,608.70
Balance as at 1 January		\$2,608.70	\$0.00
Balance as at 31 December		\$2,608.70	\$2,608.70

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2014			
		2014	2013
STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31st DECEMBER			
MEMBERS FUNDS			
General Account		\$10,957.20	\$689.56
Life Membership Fund		\$21,742.44	\$21,547.00
TOTAL		\$32,699.64	\$22,236.56
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
Project Assistance Funds		\$150,227.48	\$68,200.00
Contracts Fund		\$0.00	\$129,531.00
NZ Bird Research Fund		\$40,753.30	\$6,489.91
NZ Birds Online		\$2,608.70	\$2,608.70
TOTAL		\$193,598.48	\$206,829.61
TOTAL MEMBERS & RESTRICTED FUNDS		\$226,298.12	\$229,066.17
ASSETS			
Bank		\$19,662.22	\$19,922.00
Investments BNZ		\$173,600.50	\$170,647.00
Investments Auckland Mortgage Trust		\$1,859.00	\$2,059.14
Accounts Receivable		\$0.00	\$7,622.00
Library Account		\$46,963.00	\$45,263.00
GST		\$5,215.36	\$5,477.47
TOTAL ASSETS		\$246,700.08	\$250,990.61
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable		\$14,785.96	\$12,218.44
Subscriptions in Advance		\$5,515.00	\$9,706.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$20,301.96	\$21,924.44
NET TOTAL OF ASSETS		\$226,298.12	\$229,066.17

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2014			
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2014			
General Accounting Principles			
The general accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of earnings under the historical cost method of accounting have been adopted by the Society.			
Particular Accounting Policies			
a. Subscription Income			
Subscriptions in arrears have not been included in income. Subscriptions in advance have been included in income.			
b. Royalty Income			
Royalties from the field guide to the Birds of New Zealand (Heather & Robertson) are credited to the Project Assistance Fund.			
c. Interest Earned			
Interest earned by investments of funds have been credited to respective funds by apportioning the total interest received over Restricted and General Funds.			
d. Goods & Service Tax			
Income and expenditure are stated exclusive of goods and services tax.			
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2014			
		2014	2013
1. RESERVES			
1. The Life Membership Reserve consists of life membership subscriptions and interest less annual transfer of 10% of balance to General Funds.			
2. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE			
AGM Profit		\$0.00	\$5,665.00
Payment from BDO Investment		\$0.00	\$435.00
Copyright Licensing Fund Payment		\$0.00	\$487.00
Donation		\$0.00	\$40.00
Interest BNZ		\$0.00	\$0.00
OSNZ Otago Conference Float		\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Repayment Southern Bird Advert		\$0.00	\$0.00
Sales Data		\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL		\$0.00	\$7,622.00
3. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			
Audit Fee Accrued		\$800.00	\$800.00
Annual Return Fees		\$44.44	\$44.44
Notornis & Southern Bird		\$10,881.36	\$7,744.00
Atlas Store		\$58.05	\$68.00
Expenses		\$644.85	\$418.00
NZ Bird Research Fund Grants		\$0.00	\$0.00
Postage		\$6.40	\$0.00
Printing & Stationery		\$229.37	\$859.00
Project Assistance Fund Grants		\$1,600.00	\$0.00
Website Hosting		\$120.75	\$0.00
Website Maintenance		\$400.30	\$2,289.00
TOTAL		\$14,785.96	\$12,218.44

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2014			
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2014			
		2014	2013
4. NOTORNIS & SOUTHERN BIRD REFUNDS			
Notornis/Library Exchange		\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
Papers in Notornis		\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
Southern Bird Adverts		\$401.96	\$335.00
Notornis - Colour Photo for Paper		\$0.00	\$664.00
TOTAL		\$4,301.96	\$4,899.00
5. PROJECT ASSISTANCE FUND GRANTS MADE			
Regional Allowances		\$6,202.00	\$6,664.00
AOC Scholarships		\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Website Update & Training		\$0.00	\$9,867.00
Website Management		\$6,804.00	
Website Development		\$9,303.00	
National Spoonbill Survey		\$0.00	\$1,856.00
Forest & Bird - IBA for Seabirds Booklet		\$1,000.00	\$0.00
OSNZ Marlborough - 2015 Conference Float		\$1,000.00	\$0.00
RAC Scanning of Submissions at Auckland Museum		\$816.36	\$871.00
Determining population status of black petrel on LBI		\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Aerial survey of red-billed gull breeding colonies on Three Kings Islands		\$1,391.30	\$0.00
Conference Banner		\$0.00	\$368.00
TOTAL		\$28,516.66	\$30,626.00
6. AUCKLAND MORTGAGE TRUST INVESTMENT			
OPENING BALANCE		\$2,059.00	\$2,059.00
Capital Payments		\$200.00	\$0.00
CLOSING BALANCE		\$1,859.00	\$2,059.00
7. CASHFLOW STATEMENT			
A cashflow statement has not been prepared. The provisions for differential reporting under Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, specifically Exposure Draft No. 62 "Framework for Differential Reporting" allows entities of the size of The Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc be exempt from the completion of a Statement of Cashflow.			

Beach Patrol Scheme 2013 Preliminary Report

This report is based on 262 cards for 2013 received as at 20th January 2015. There were 324 in 2012, 352 in 2011, 315 in 2010, 385 in 2009, 381 in 2008 and 403 in 2007. This shows a continuing decline in the number of beach patrols carried out. In 2013 1,388 kilometres were patrolled (1,625 km in 2012, 1,846 km in 2011, 3,210 km in 2010, 4,470 km in 2009, 2,524 km in 2008 and 2,307 km in 2007). Dead seabirds found in 2013 totalled 4,851 (1,924 in 2012, 57,920 in 2011, 3,266 in 2010, 4,763 in 2009, 3,906 in 2008, 3,786 in 2007 and 3,117 in 2006). There were two significant wrecks during the year: a large number of juvenile Sooty Shearwaters in Southland, the result of a poor breeding season; and a major wreck of Short-tailed Shearwaters in October and November. There were no significant wrecks in 2012 in contrast to 2011 which also had two major events; the prion wreck, and the oil spill that resulted from the grounding of the Rena.

The region with the best birds per kilometre total was Southland with 21 birds per kilometre. Several districts had no patrols done: Wairarapa, East Coast North Island, Fiordland and North Coast South Island. The average recovery rate for the whole country is around 3.65 birds per kilometre compared with the 2012 average of 1.8 birds per kilometre and the 2011 average of 31 birds per kilometre.

Birds recovered in 2013 (brackets indicate the 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 figures):

Royal albatross 2 (1, 1, 2, 5); wandering albatross 5 (3, 3, 5, 6); Shy/White-capped Albatross 18 (17, 25, 29, 40); Salvin's Albatross 3 (1, 2, 2, 4); Black-browed/Campbell Albatross 0 (1, 3, 1, 5); Grey-headed Albatross 0 (1, 4, 8, 8); Buller's Albatross 6 (14, 74, 27, 16); Sooty Albatross 0 (0, 1, 0, 0); Light-mantled Sooty Albatross 0 (4, 1, 3, 2); Yellow-nosed Albatross 0 (0, 0, 0, 1); Chatham Island Albatross 0 (0, 1, 0, 0); albatross sp. 11 (9, 7, 16, 10); Northern Giant Petrel 1 (2, 6, 7, 6); Southern Giant Petrel 3 (3, 0, 17, 8); giant petrel sp. 0 (7, 6, 7, 6); Buller's Shearwater 65 (43, 282, 107, 456); Sooty Shearwater 2,102 (253, 650, 1,983, 417); Short-tailed Shearwater 944 (50, 8, 157, 116); Wedge-tailed Shearwater 0 (1, 0, 1, 1); Flesh-footed Shearwater 8 (25, 119, 22, 24); Fluttering Shearwater 184 (169, 471, 250, 402); Hutton's Shearwater 35 (61, 63, 59, 127); Little Shearwater 7 (1, 35, 14, 12); Common Diving Petrel 86 (57, 1,146, 86, 111); White-chinned Petrel 2 (3, 5, 6, 2); Westland Petrel 3 (1, 2, 0, 1); Black Petrel 1 (3, 3, 1, 2); Grey Petrel 1 (0, 0, 1, 0); Antarctic Fulmar 0 (6, 1, 59, 3); Cape Petrel 2 (13, 25, 41, 36); Blue Petrel 1 (1, 28, 9, 6); Fairy Prion 117 (113, 2,304, 192, 226); Fulmar Prion 0 (1, 55, 2, 0); Broad-billed Prion 36 (224, 34,630, 47, 43); Thin-billed Prion 4 (4, 1,153, 14, 22); Salvin's Prion 3 (8, 2,257, 3, 3); Antarctic Prion 1 (8, 1, 265, 4, 7); prion sp. 47 (123, 12, 169, 166, 109); Cook's Petrel 5 (2, 9, 19, 11); White-naped Petrel 0 (0, 0, 1, 0); Mottled Petrel 16 (46, 40, 27, 44); Black-winged Petrel 0 (0, 0, 2, 2); Pycroft's Petrel 1 (0, 0, 0, 1); Gould's Petrel 0 (0, 1, 0, 0); Kerguelen Petrel 1 (2, 2, 0, 0); White-headed Petrel 8 (11, 9, 33, 7); Grey-faced Petrel 3 (7, 15, 17, 13); White-faced Storm Petrel 11 (5, 86, 6, 19); Grey-backed Storm Petrel 0 (0, 0, 0, 1); Black-bellied Storm Petrel 0 (0, 0, 0, 1); storm petrel sp. 1 (0, 5, 1, 0); unidentified seabird 23 (2, 5, 21, 25); Yellow-eyed Penguin 2 (2, 5, 5, 4); Little Penguin 104 (61, 365, 420, 410); White-flipped Penguin 5 (19, 18, 5, 19); Fiordland Crested Penguin 2 (4, 3, 1, 4); Erect-crested Penguin 0 (1, 0, 0, 0); Red-tailed Tropicbird 0 (1, 1, 0, 0); tropicbird sp. 0 (0, 0, 1, 0); Australasian Gannet 63 (116, 115, 429, 213); Black Shag 2 (1, 3, 6, 4); Pied Shag 11 (10, 33, 32, 25); Little Black Shag 0 (0, 5, 1, 1); Little Shag 0 (1, 6, 3, 1); Spotted Shag 74 (146, 83, 47, 70); Stewart Island Shag 1 (9, 7, 9, 5); Auckland Island Shag 0 (0, 0, 1, 0); Pitt Island Shag 1 (0, 0, 0, 0); shag sp. 1 (0, 6, 0, 0); White-faced Heron 0 (0, 0, 1, 2); Royal Spoonbill 1 (0, 4, 2, 1); Black Swan 26 (15, 8, 12, 8); Feral Goose 0 (3, 2, 4, 7); Canada Goose 6 (6, 1, 0, 7); Paradise Shelduck 5 (13, 17, 4, 9); Mallard 7 (4, 3, 8, 34); domestic duck 0 (0, 0, 1, 0); Grey Duck 0 (1, 0, 0, 1); Grey Teal 0 (3, 3, 0, 0); Australasian Shoveler 0 (2, 1, 0, 0); New Zealand Scaup 0 (2, 1, 0, 0); Australasian Harrier 1 (3, 3, 4, 4); Turkey 0 (0, 1, 4, 0); Peafowl 1 (0, 0, 0, 0); chicken 2 (0, 2, 1, 3); Banded Rail 0 (0, 0, 1, 0); Pukeko 1 (0, 1, 2, 5); South Island Pied Oystercatcher 4 (6, 2, 1, 5);

Variable Oystercatcher 0 (2, 1, 5, 2); oystercatcher sp. 0 (1, 0, 0, 0); Pied Stilt 1 (0, 0, 0, 0); Spur-winged Plover 1 (0, 0, 1, 1); Banded Dotterel 0 (0, 0, 2, 0); godwit 0 (2, 1, 0, 1); Southern Black-backed Gull 68 (108, 90, 185, 114); Red-billed Gull 17 (31, 28, 33, 21); Black-billed Gull 6 (7, 10, 8, 8); gull sp. 0 (0, 0, 0, 1); Subantarctic Skua 0 (0, 0, 0, 4); Arctic Skua 0 (1, 0, 0, 0); Caspian Tern 2 (1, 3, 8, 1); White-fronted Tern 9 (15, 24, 34, 20); Arctic Tern 0 (0, 0, 1, 0); Sooty Tern 0 (0, 0, 1, 0); tern sp. 0 (1, 0, 0, 0); New Zealand Pigeon 2 (3, 3, 2, 0); Feral Pigeon/domestic pigeon 3 (5, 3, 5, 2); Kaka 0 (0, 0, 1, 0); Shining Cuckoo 0 (0, 0, 1, 0); Long-tailed Cuckoo 0 (0, 1, 0, 0); New Zealand Kingfisher 0 (0, 0, 1, 0); Eurasian Blackbird 4 (0, 0, 4, 1); Song Thrush 0 (1, 4, 0, 4); Tui 1 (0, 3, 1, 1); Common Starling 0 (1, 1, 0, 1); Common Myna 0 (0, 1, 1, 0); Common Pheasant 3 (0, 0, 0, 1); Yellowhammer 0 (0, 0, 0, 1); European Goldfinch 1 (1, 1, 0, 2); House Sparrow 0 (0, 0, 0, 1); Silvereye 0 (0, 0, 0, 1); Australian Magpie 5 (16, 14, 0, 9); New Zealand Pipit 0 (1, 1, 0, 0); Weka 0 (0, 1, 0, 0); Spotted Dove 1 (0, 0, 0, 0); Stewart Island Brown Kiwi 1 (0, 0, 0, 0); Morepork 1 (0, 0, 0, 0); bird sp. 0 (3, 2, 3, 3).



Section of Coast	No. of Cards	No. of Birds	km covered
Auckland East AE	30	50	59
Auckland West AW	57	589	355
Bay of Plenty BP	21	138	102
Canterbury North CN	36	221	307
Canterbury South CS	8	46	57
East Coast NI EC	0	0	0
Fiordland FD	0	0	0
North Coast SI NC	0	0	0
Northland East NE	9	103	70
Northland West NW	10	510	138
Outlying Islands (Chatham) OI	4	4	5
Otago OT	4	9	6
Southland SD	41	2,789	133
Taranaki TA	9	174	61
Wairarapa WA	0	0	0
Westland WD	10	78	42
Wellington South WS	1	0	1
Wellington West WW	22	140	52
Totals	253	4,762	1,305

2013 Banded Birds

During the year a single banded bird was noted on the cards. This was a Southern Black-backed Gull S 82617 banded 11/12/10 at Conders Bend in the Wairau River, Marlborough, and recovered Kaikoura February 2013.

The cause of death was noted for three birds: one Mallard and two South Island Pied Oystercatchers had been shot.

The continued success of the Beach Patrol Scheme is due to the dedication of those hardy souls who brave all manner of weather conditions to trudge the weary miles in search of decaying corpses. Please note any banded birds on the forms or cards and please note any obvious cause of death. Keep up the good work!

LLOYD ESLER

Reviews

Birds New Zealand: beauty like no other. Paul Gibson. 2014, Unique Pictorials. ISBN 9780473277673. 300pp Hard cover. \$53.50

Birds New Zealand: beauty like no other is a comprehensive and enjoyable book, with fantastic photographs. Whanganui accountant Paul Gibson's newest publication works well as a practical and useful reference book for the birder and novice alike. Its contents are divided into three sections, the first entitled "The nature of birds" gives the reader facts and information ranging from types of bills and feet, through to bird migration, conservation and tips on photography. This is followed by the core section of the book covering the identification of birds which have been grouped by habitat, for example "Birds of bush and mountain".

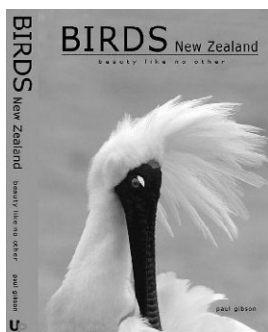
Each bird is listed under its most familiar and scientific names, and includes consistent easy-to-read sections covering the bird's other names, sizing, range, habitat, breeding and other identification tools and statistics over a full page or double page. Finding no explanation, I was unsure how birds were listed within the habitats. Though there was consistent grouping of species, e.g. the pages on terns following each other, it was unclear to me whether there was any overall taxonomic order within each habitat grouping.

Each page also features a "close encounter" report, a nice personable inclusion (where we learn the Wrybill is possibly the author's all-time favourite bird, and recollections of protecting himself at home with an umbrella from aggressive Pukeko during nesting time) which describes where the author encountered the bird and insights into observation to assist the reader in their own sightings. The final smallest section includes information such as locations for birding, a glossary and index.

This is Paul Gibson's third book about New Zealand birds, following the 2007 publication *New Zealand birds: a diverse selection* and 2010's *Birds New Zealand: a beautiful collection*, and has been fully updated to now feature 600 full-colour photographs and describe 210 New Zealand bird species. This publication includes 50 additional birds and some new topics not covered in his previous works. As the author mentions in the preface, it does not include all the possible birds associated with this region of the world, however it includes all those and more the average New Zealander is likely to observe.

The intended audience for this publication is broad, and the book designed to be attractive and user-friendly. The comprehensive yet easy to read text and numerous photographs make it a nice educational browse-able reference book for home for all ages, with a lot here for the newcomer to learn. The hardback book's size perhaps prevents it being a transportable field manual, but a good reference work for comparing photos taken out birding or birds sighted in the garden, as the large clear photographs make it excellent for identification.

The colourful and heavily-illustrated design is what really drew me to the book; the birds captured in photograph are nicely observed and often feature multiple images for a bird, e.g. in flight or walking. The personal touch continues as we see the author in images, such as wading with camera in tow in a bog in search of the elusive Marsh Crane, admitting that despite achieving sightings of the bird around Harts Creek hide on Lake Ellesmere he was unable to get a usable photo and so has published a photo of Otago Museum's mounted specimen, concluding that this kind of pursuit is what adds to the fun of birding. It is this kind of anecdote and enthusiasm from the author that made this a fun book to browse through,



whilst feeling my knowledge of New Zealand bird species was improving.

In comparison to another recently published identification book, Paul Scofield and Brent Stephenson's *Birds of New Zealand: a photographic guide* (Auckland University Press, 2013), Paul Gibson's work is larger in format, however it does not compete with the former's 544 pages, 1,000 new photographs and 345 key bird species, and its comprehensive bibliographical references. Their work is very clearly explained and divided by taxonomic orders, then by family and so on. The index in Gibson's book does not have the useful cross-referencing function of Scofield's and Stephenson's, where one can search under common names, scientific names, Māori names and so on. These works perhaps compete for a similar audience, being attractive and accessible for the novice whilst useful for the more experienced birder. However, this aside, Gibson's work is perhaps more of a pleasure to browse, as mentioned the personal insight, author's passion and his enthusiasm abound amongst the fantastic photographs and factual details, and edges closer to the coffee-table market whilst still being of practical ornithological use.

This is a well-organised, attractive, affordable and consistent book and is comprehensive, accessible and enjoyable for all ages and bird watching backgrounds. The variety and quantity of photographs is impressive, and the author has certainly succeeded in creating a book which inspires enthusiasm in enjoying and observing New Zealand birds, in contributing to their conservation, and in getting us out into the great New Zealand outdoors in our spare time.

TAMSYN BAYLISS

Literature cited:

Scofield, Paul & Stephenson, Brent. *Birds of New Zealand: a photographic guide*. 2013 Auckland University Press. ISBN 9781869407339. 544pp Soft cover. \$60.00

Gibson, Paul. *New Zealand birds: a diverse selection*. 2007 Unique Pictorials. ISBN 9780473121808. 160 pp Soft cover. \$49.95

Gibson, Paul. *Birds New Zealand: a beautiful collection*. 2010 Unique Pictorials. ISBN 9780473166304. 200pp Soft cover. \$49.95

Native Birds of New Zealand. David Hallett. 2014, Sandfly Publishing (Christchurch).

Hardcover 300 mm x 210 mm, 206 pages. RRP \$54.95. ISBN 978-0-473-27080-3

Christchurch and South Island residents have been treated to David's beautiful bird photos appearing via his former employer, *The Press*, over the last decade or so. Now in "retirement", but possibly just as busy photographing New Zealand's wildlife, David has collected his best bird photos in a stunning book.

Set out in sections featuring landbirds, wetland birds and seabirds a large proportion of New Zealand's endemic and native bird species are illustrated, often at full page and displaying some aspect of their particular behaviour. The species seem to be set out in a random order within their section. They certainly aren't in alphabetical or systematic order, but similar species are often grouped together.

Opposite the photos is a short description of the species' biology and special features. This is no doubt targeted at a general reader, and is for the most part correct and fit for purpose. Personally I would have preferred information or the story behind the photo, but then I am perhaps not the



target audience, and a book targeted at keen birdwatchers or ornithologists would be less likely to sell large numbers of copies. I presume some photos are of captive or just-released birds, which might not make a great story in any case, but all those featured are so well executed that I really am not sure if this is the case. All the photos look like some degree of field skill and a good degree of photographic technical expertise have been employed in getting the shot.

A number of photos are the best I have yet seen of that species, notably the Falcon flight shots, two backlit Silvereyes duelling in flight, a North Island Saddleback tail cocked and with pollen-encrusted forehead, and a close head-and-shoulders singing Tui full of iridescence and showing the individual barbules of its white filoplumes. The three Welcome Swallow photos expertly display different aspects of this familiar species' behaviour – a courting pair, one flying low over perfectly still water and presumably drinking, and one in flight carrying mud for nest building.

Some shots seem to have been included solely on the merits that they show interesting behaviour, rather than near technical perfection or artistic merit, notably the Grey Warbler

carrying a caterpillar and fighting Banded Rails. There are also a reasonable number of simple portraits, that while quality shots, David will be no doubt working on publishing even better ones of the species in future.

I could find only a tiny number of incorrectly captioned photos. The Pacific Golden Plovers on p94-5 seem to be Sharp-tailed Sandpipers to my eyes and the Black Shag on p145 is actually a Little Black Shag. These really don't detract from what is an impressive photographic treatise of New Zealand's avifauna.

My particular favourite photos are those that are to me more artistically pleasing as a whole, rather than a picture of a bird. For example a Black Stilt with a snow-covered mountain background, egrets where the background has been rendered almost black and the feathers show pin-sharp, a tern flying across the face of the moon, and seven Bar-tailed Godwits coming into land, all banking at the same angle and in a near-perfect line. For these latter photos alone this book should make its way onto the coffee tables and book shelves of many New Zealand birdophiles.

NICK ALLEN

Give us our daily bread: backyard bird-feeders spend millions

The first-ever study of New Zealanders' bird-feeding habits has found more than five million loaves of bread per year are fed to birds with an estimated \$12.3 million spent annually on bird food, according to researchers at the University of Auckland.

But the study also found food put out for birds favours introduced species, such as Blackbirds and Starlings, over endemic species, with just 17% of householders providing food, for example sugar water, for natives such as Tui. It also found that bird-feeding hygiene habits are relatively poor, with just 8.6% of people cleaning bird-feeding tables and containers appropriately.

The research team, including Senior Lecturer Margaret Stanley, PhD student Josie Galbraith and Associate Professor Jacqueline Beggs, from the University of Auckland's School of Biological Sciences, found most people feed birds because it makes them feel good. "As with studies in other countries such as Australia and the UK, we found one of the main motivations for feeding birds was a real hunger to connect with the natural world with people saying it brought them pleasure if not joy," Ms Galbraith says.

The study found the typical bird-feeding New Zealander is an older woman who owns a free-standing house, is more likely to own a dog and more likely to provide a bird bath. Using online survey tool Survey Monkey and a postal questionnaire, the study achieved a 27.1% response rate, or 801 replies. Residents in six New Zealand cities were surveyed: Whangarei, Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, Dunedin and Invercargill.

Bread was the most common food provided, along with bird seed, and a significant majority of people, 75%, simply left food on the ground. Of those using a bird table or container, less than half said they cleaned the container at least once a week while 20% said they didn't clean them at all. House Sparrows were the most common species coming for food while the most common native species was the Silvereye.

People who regularly fed birds were also more likely to plant trees to attract birds and although dog ownership was higher among bird-feeding households, cat owners were not more or less likely to put food out for birds. "Pet ownership may just reflect a greater affinity for animals in general and so those people may just be more likely to feed wildlife," Ms Galbraith says.

There was no evidence of opposition to bird-feeding in the study. "Most people had a positive view whether they fed birds or not."

Dr Stanley says while bird feeding is an important tool for engaging the public with the natural world, the study provided a starting point to identify education opportunities for better bird-feeding practices such as improved hygiene to limit disease transmission and providing food better suited to native birds. "Although we've identified risks for birds in terms of disease and supporting native bird populations, people really enjoy feeding birds and it might well be the only connection city dwellers have to the natural environment," she said.

The study is published in *Biological Conservation*, volume 180 pages 67-74.



Northland

Monthly beach patrols have continued on the east coast, usually from the Ruakaka River mouth to the Waipu River mouth, but few birds have been recovered so far this year (February 15 birds, March four birds and April two birds). We feel that a few easterly storms this summer may have covered washed up birds in the vigorous sand movement that followed. Huge chunks of the sand hills along the Ruakaka beach have been eroded away by wave action.

Whangarei local, and former OSNZ member, Pat Miller was in touch with Peter Frost and has used his trusty kayak to help us to check out a few Red-billed Gull nesting colonies in the area near the entrance to Whangarei Harbour, then northward towards Pataua. In relating the current colonies to those recorded by Gurr and Kinsky, Pat found that many of the sites mentioned were not used, or had been moved to different adjacent rocky sites. Pat spoke to us at our May meeting and showed members on a large map, where he saw signs of nesting in the areas covered by him, both on our coast and in the Far North. The two largest currently-active colonies are at Peach Cove and at the waste water treatment area within the restricted access area of the Marsden Point Oil Refinery, where there are well over 1,000 birds nesting at any one time over a long period.

The Department of Conservation report on the 2014/15 breeding season for Fairy Terns shows a rather disappointing outcome. Although nesting got away to a good start early in October, the weather was not kind to the birds. A terrible storm in December wiped out nests and chicks at both of the sites where we assist with monitoring. The breeding season resulted in a total of six chicks fledging at the Mangawhai and Waipu sand spits from some 31 eggs laid over the season. Volunteer trappers at Waipu caught 12 rats, nine stoats, a cat, a weasel and a hedgehog, and the Mangawhai (which is a much bigger area) team caught a further 91 hedgehogs, 55 rats, seven cats, 10 stoats, a weasel, 25 Possums, 27 rabbits, 20 Harriers, six pigs and a ferret.

At the above level of predation, ground nesting birds like the Fairy Tern have a lot to contend with. All known sites are monitored every day of the season by DOC wardens and volunteers so the nesting birds have the best possible chance of being successful, but we cannot change the weather, and *that* has been the biggest problem for them each year.

We have also maintained our programme of checking on the various nesting colonies of shags. Since we started recording in 1976 many sites have shifted, sometimes not far along a riverside, or along the coast from their original site, or else have created a new colony. One of the biggest colonies of Pied Shags in the Northland region is located on the riverbank near Johnson Point Road at Waipu. We usually find that Little Shag, Little Black Shag and Black Shags will share the site with Pied Shag.

JANET SNELL

TARANAKI

March's indoor meeting included a discussion about a Taranaki Biodiversity map being prepared by a Regional Council employee. Amongst other information it will show places most often visited by Birds New Zealand members. Those at the meeting were disappointed that there had been no prior consultation with Birds New Zealand in Taranaki about the map.

A field trip along the Rerekapa Track in eastern Taranaki in February produced few birds: Long-tailed Cuckoo, a couple of Robins and a Pipit were seen and Grey Warblers were

quite plentiful. A Rifleman was seen and heard in a park in Stratford. The observers were quite amazed as it is an isolated patch of bush. Barry Hartley has been monitoring the Variable Oystercatchers and New Zealand Dotterels at Sandy Bay. Three pairs of oystercatchers had five juveniles but the six dotterels haven't fared so well with possibly only one chick. The New Zealand Dotterels at Waiongana never attempted breeding to my knowledge.

In contrast to February's field trip March saw us back at one of our favourite areas: North and South Waitaanga. We meandered up and down the gravel road (a distance of two to three kilometres) in South Waitaanga where Tui, Tomtit, Bell bird, Grey Warbler, Fantail and Robin were quite plentiful. We didn't get into North Waitaanga until late afternoon when the weather was showery and the birds scarce. An Auckland visitor with us was impressed by the Fernbirds seen in a swamp on the road in. We were all stumped by the large white bird seen in a tree on the way to Waitaanga. Barry managed to get a few photos but it kept its distance; we decided by process of elimination that it was in fact a White Heron, wasn't it?

Bill Messenger was contacted by a person from Oakura, a village west of New Plymouth about some Pukeko attacking what he thought was a duck but when he rescued it he found it was in fact a Falcon and he was too late to save its life.

Beach patrols have turned up a few birds; DOC staff picked up a Grey-headed Albatross, Barry Hartley found a White-capped Albatross on a city beach and a large albatross was reportedly on a western beach but was unable to be found for identification.

Rotokare was the destination for the April outing. It is many things to many people from those picnicking on the grass to lycra-clad walkers hardly aware of their surroundings. The sign board says one and a half hours to complete the circuit, but it took us over an hour to cover the first 150 metres. Bellbird and Tui were very vocal and active, the birdsong was amazing and Fernbird were seen and heard in the wetland. Fortunately the rest of the walk around the lake was quieter although Fernbird were heard all the way around. Saddlebacks were elusive, with few being seen but distinctive calls heard. Robin and Whitehead escaped our attention; all the more reason to return. An evening trip to listen for Kiwi released into the sanctuary, and also Moreporks, will be held soon.

A few early showers didn't deter a group of us from meandering around Barrett Lagoon. We had a brief sighting of three Cattle Egrets, a species which used to be seen regularly over winter around Taranaki, but are now rare. Around 100 Canada Geese were also present, a similar number of Paradise Shelduck and, depending on who was counting, the 13 or 15 Australian Coot were the most ever seen there.

In April two Cattle Egrets were seen in far north Taranaki and one was at Waiongana with a White Heron, which may or may not be last year's long-staying bird. There were seven or eight New Zealand Dotterels at Waiongana in various plumages, from eclipse to full breeding, and seventy Banded Dotterels, around fifteen short of previous years, including the banded Banded Dotterel which is back for the eleventh year (am I looking at another species in decline). There were eleven adult and two juvenile New Zealand Scaup on the lagoon one evening; gone the next morning.

PETER FRYER

HAWKE'S BAY

A number of members and visitors drove over to the Manawatu estuary in early March, primarily in order to view migrant shorebirds before their departure. Around 200 Bar-tailed Godwits were present, along with smaller

numbers of Red Knots, plumages of both species ranging from fully coloured-up to non-breeding. Many oystercatchers and Wrybills were on the spit until it was submerged by an unusually high tide; the Wrybill then relocating to the lagoon face of the sand dunes. The pond on Palmer Road had Scaup, Grey Duck, and a Dabchick pair with a chick on the back of one of the adults (as well as released/escaped Swan Geese).

Eight members had an enjoyable outing in April to Blowhard Bush; a Forest and Bird reserve. The usual bush birds were seen: Whitehead, Tomtit, Bellbird and Tui. We had very close encounters with several Robins, at least six which seem more numerous than usual. They seem to be benefitting from the predator control measures in the reserve. The bush seemed to have very healthy regeneration going on. We spent the morning wandering the tracks then on the way home called into a local winery for lunch, sharing platters and socialising over a glass of wine; very pleasant.

Barbary Doves, which have long had Clive/Haumoana/Havelock North as a stronghold, are starting to be seen in Napier and its suburbs. Initially only the odd bird, now they are seen more frequently and in increasing numbers. At about 7.30am one morning in April at least 160 were gathered on the power wires along Wil-lowbank Road.

Seabird reintroductions are continuing at two locations in Hawke's Bay. At the Cape Sanctuary on Cape Kidnappers, the reintroduction of Grey-faced Petrels started several years ago and a few birds recently returned to breed. More recently Cook's Petrel and Common Diving Petrel have also been brought in. The other location is at Boundary Stream Mainland Island in the Maungaharuru Ranges. Here DOC is reintroducing both Cook's Petrel and Mottled Petrel. Care and feeding of the chicks before they fledge is labour-intensive and depends on volunteers to a large extent. These volunteers include local Birds New Zealand members, particularly Pam Turner who contributes a great deal of time and expertise at both locations. Other volunteers have been our RR Bernie Kelly, and my own input has been a week's volunteer work at the DOC seabird site, mainly preparing food and carrying birds to and from the feeding station. Around 20 of 80+ Cook's Petrel were present at the start of this stint, falling to 10 at the end as birds fledged and headed for the ocean some 22 km away. These are more passive birds than Mottled Petrel and easier to handle. 61 Mottled Petrels were present initially and 21 more arrived on 16 April after an eight-hour trip from Codfish Island by helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft. None of this species fledged during that week. The Mottled are more aggressive than Cook's Petrel and can inflict puncture wounds on handlers. Nevertheless it is a privilege to work with these birds and see their transition from downy chicks to sleek adult plumage.

IAN SMITH



■ Mottled Petrel at Boundary Stream

WAIARAPA

Retired local vet John McLaren, who has a great love of native birds, gave an excellent talk to the region in March. Over the years of his practice

in Masterton John has given unstintingly of his time, skills and resources to the surgical and medical work needed to prepare birds for rehabilitation. Along the way he pioneered a few valuable techniques and shared some of the lighter moments of his work. The Saturday following John's talk we went bush in the Kiriwhakapapa area. Again it was interesting to note how the weather affected what we were hearing (and occasionally seeing).

In April Paul Shortis, a fairly recently-acquired member, shared his experiences in the Southern Ocean, Subantarctic Islands and the Ross Sea and Ice Shelf, including historic and contemporary human occupation. Paul communicates ideas well beyond, "and this is an Adeline Penguin," and has the photographic skills to go with the ideas. The highlight of the field trip to Mataikona/Castlepoint was a Reef Heron that flew in, posed, demonstrated camouflage/not camouflage and generally left the campers very happy. The White-fronted Terns that were the ostensible object of the trip were duly noted, but all I've been told about was the heron!

As I recall Gerard Manley Hopkins tells us "May is Mary's month..." Given the weather at the time of our meeting and field trip I suspect a fair few were prepared to let her keep it; so it was a delight to have a hearty turn out for both. The evening was a variant of "show and tell". People not only brought us up to date with observations of locations and possible trends (The Wairarapa is overflowing with Fantails, Welcome Swallows and Scaup at the moment, plus Tui numbers seem to be higher than usual) but they had questions too. Joanna McVeagh shared the final Riversdale New Zealand Dotterel breeding statistics and Colin Shore demonstrated how they had elevated nests ahead of flood tides (a technique learned at Pukorokoro Miranda). Oliver Druce riveted us with his performance of a strange, wild call he had tracked down. But oh the bathos: it was the local grader. May's field trip visited one of many large private gardens in the area. With two really big ponds and hectares of planting it was hosting 20 species on the cold, showery day we visited. It was good to see a real Grey Duck, and a family of 13 California Quail making mobile lawn ornaments from time to time. All this comes at a price: quality traps were everywhere and the lady of the house is well-known for her ability with a rifle.

ROBIN LIST

WELLINGTON

Between 1991 and 1997 33 Kokako were transferred to Kapiti Island. Over the years there has been a slow increase in Kokako numbers with an estimated 20 pairs present in 2012. During the last year there have been numerous reports of Kokako on Trig and Wilkinson Tracks with birds now being seen on the lower slopes of the island as well as in the tawa forests on the upper reaches near the summit. In April while carrying out a sugar-water run for feeding Stitchbirds on the Trig/Wilkinson/Summit Tracks, Dallas Bishop and I saw six Kokako. A further bird was heard while we having afternoon tea in the rangers' old house. A couple of days later this bird was seen feeding on grass outside the house. While recent indications are that Kokako have extended their range on Kapiti Island, determining the population size would require a comprehensive, island-wide survey. Other sightings of interest during that trip to Kapiti Island included a pair of black Fantails and a Falcon.

GEOFF DE LISLE

NELSON

The spread and activity of Weka is a recurring theme in the Nelson Regional Roundup. In the last few months they've arrived in Dovedale and Brooklyn. At the latter location one was seen stalking around the Regional Recorder's deck. Over the last 5-10 years Weka have become more abundant and widespread in many parts of Nelson/Golden Bay and the Marlborough Sounds. In Nelson city and its suburbs, an area where Weka were previously recorded as 'vagrant', they are now breeding in most suburbs, occasionally venturing into the city centre. Explanations as to why this has happened often refer to the number of community-based pest trapping programmes around the city. Certainly there are examples of Weka scavenging on trapped rodents, and perhaps they benefit from the trapping of stoats, however the outcome of stoat/Weka interactions is not always predictable. The Nelson population almost certainly came from individuals dispersing out of the adjacent Richmond Range where a small population persisted. There have also been records of Weka arriving at the local landfill in truckloads of garbage from the West Coast!

More information has also been received on the Australian Wood Ducks mentioned in the March Roundup. They were sighted several times until 8th March but their apparent disappearance may just reflect the fact there are 800 ponds in this area. That two of the original four birds appeared to be juveniles raises the very exciting possibility these birds may have bred in this country.

Despite the beech mast and resulting spike in stoat numbers, it has been an excellent breeding season for Blue Duck. The stoat spike was late in the Flora Stream (Kahurangi National Park) and it may be that the juvenile Blue Ducks were mature enough to avoid stoats before the spike in stoat numbers occurred. In 2001 there was only one lone male left in the Flora Stream, but the latest February survey showed five pairs, three singles and eight juveniles. The nearby Grecian River showed six pairs, four singles and 10 juveniles. Birds have also been reported from several sites in Abel Tasman National Park.

More too on the tern front, with a report of over 200 Black-fronted Terns hawking over the Motueka Airfield and about 30 birds regularly seen under the Motueka Bridge, with one record including a White-winged Black Tern.

Finally, a very exotic looking leucistic Red-billed Gull was photographed in Nelson Haven. Check out the last picture at <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/red-billed-gull>.

ROBIN TOY

CANTERBURY

Probably the most interesting sighting in Canterbury over the past few months has been that of a Japanese Snipe, which was seen at the Pegasus Wetlands. Members of the local community had been aware of it since early March, but Bev Alexander was the first birder to spot it on March 28th. Two other birders were lucky enough to see the bird the following day but, despite many efforts, it wasn't seen since. Also of interest are at least two Black Stilts at the Ashley Estuary, although there may be up to three birds present there. A Grey-tailed Tattler is still at the Ashley Estuary at the time of writing (mid-May), although it appears to be fairly hit and miss as to whether it will be seen on any particular visit. Gull-billed Terns are still regularly seen around Lake Ellesmere and Lake Forsyth.

Bev Alexander's monthly mid-week rambles continue to be well attended. February's trip to Bexley Wetlands yielded two Australasian Bitterns, which was very exciting. The highlight of March's trip to Styx Mill Reserve was the number of young waterfowl including some recently-fledged Black Swan cygnets and some very young Australian Coots.

Nearly 20 members turned out to participate in the Waihora Ellesmere Trust's all-species count at Lake Ellesmere. Just under 48,000 birds were counted, which was down almost 13% from last year. Most of the decline was in waterfowl numbers, no doubt because of the low lake level. On the other hand wader numbers, especially Banded Dotterels, were up. Several members took their scopes out in March to show godwits to members of the public at the annual Farewell to the Godwits event, and then again at a Kiwi Conservation Club meeting. In April eight of us headed to Orton Bradley Park on Banks Peninsula. Good numbers of Fantails and New Zealand Pigeon were seen.

Our first evening meeting of the year featured talks from two of our youngest members. Eleanor Gunby (14) spoke about her experiences at the Miranda Field Course while William Harland (12) showed photos taken on Stewart and Ulva Islands. The talks were followed by a video on Saving the Spoon-Billed Sandpiper. March's meeting started with a brief AGM, followed up by a fascinating talk from John Dowding about his travels in Svalbard. The following month we were treated to another informative travel talk, this time by Patrick Aldwell on the Coasts, Deserts and Canyons of Western North America.

ELEANOR GUNBY

OTAGO

Indoor Meetings have featured personal stories of bird watching experiences around the world from the local hotspot of The Catlins, to the Subantarctic Islands, the Yellow Sea area, Norway, Hungary and Japan, then up close and personal with the puffins and guillemots of the Shetland and Farne Islands and finally to Ecuador.

A joint field trip with Forest and Bird went to the upper Taieri Scroll Plains, which once comprised a very significant wetland habitat that supported populations of Australasian Bittern and crakes, but have now shrunk to several ox-bow lagoons with good number of Black Swans, Canada Geese and Pied Stilts and the usual ducks.

Tomahawk Lagoon is still worth a visit for good numbers of Paradise Shelducks, Australasian Shovelers, Grey Teal, Welcome Swallows, Royal Spoonbills, and hopefully to spot another visiting rarity, but none to report so far.

Aramoana and the Mole at the end of the harbour have been host to huge numbers of Red-billed Gulls, White-fronted Terns and Black-fronted Terns throughout April. The occasional colour-banded Bar-tailed Godwit is still seen; this summer's one was banded 11 years ago at Awarua Bay, Southland in 2004, so it may have travelled nearly 300,000 km on its back and forth trips to Alaska.

We have begun a new regional project involving seasonal surveys of the Sinclair Wetlands to provide a new baseline record. Sinclair Wetlands is one of our few remaining areas of wetland and is now being actively restored and replanted. The first survey to test out our methods was the weekend before duck shooting. Waterfowl were counted from vantage points on islands overlooking the main lagoons. There were good numbers of most of the usual waterbirds but surprisingly very few Grey Teal and Paradise Shelducks. We carried out five-minute bird counts on the island that is being replanted in natives. Bellbirds, Silvereyes and Fantails were recorded but no Tui or New Zealand Pigeons. The wetland is renowned for South Island Fernbirds and numerous individuals of this species were heard and seen from the track to the island. They did not respond actively to playback calls, so another method needs to be figured out for this species.

MARY THOMPSON

Bird People

Colin Scadden MNZM

It is with real sadness that I tell you of the death of Colin Scadden. If ever there was a man who bloomed where he planted it was Colin. We automatically think of him with reference to birds, but his botanical knowledge was even greater and the two were woven together by his understanding of how and why they belonged together. And let it be said that his love was greater than his knowledge. Colin was one of life's nicest people. He was kind, gentle and trustworthy. As a teacher of volunteers he worked from beside, never condescendingly from above. All of us have our own memories and all of them are good.

ROBIN LIST



▣ Colin and Shirley Scadden.

Laurie Howell

Older readers will have fond memories of Laurie Howell, a keen and active OSNZ member in Auckland during the 1970s, and later in the Far North. A trip to Little Barrier Island led by Sylvia Reed in 1972 or 73 put Laurie, and his wife Alison, literally among the birds



(in those days it was permissible to sleep out at the summit) and from then on there was no looking back. February 1976 found the Howells camped at Muriwai where beach patrolling was followed by a Dabchick survey of the Kaipara lakes; less accessible then than now, but magical.

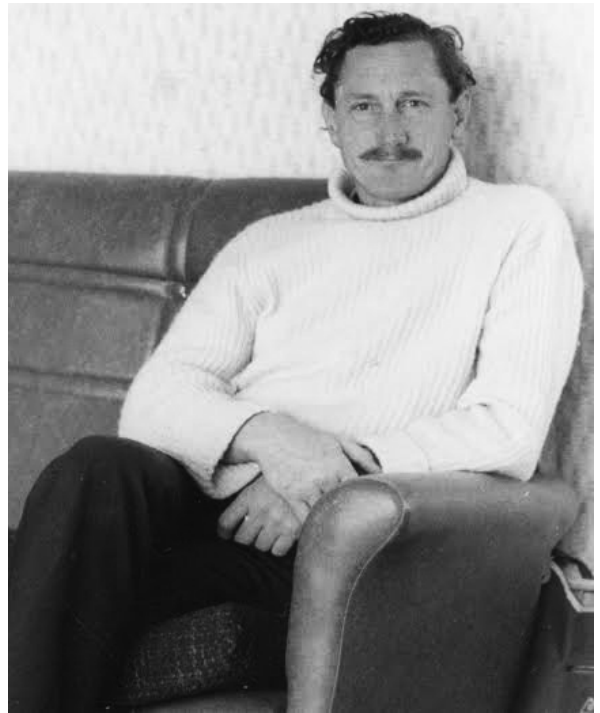
A civil engineer with a bold nature, Laurie left his secure post as Rodney County Engineer for a series of overseas positions in Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and elsewhere. Alison could write a book about their adventures during the 1980s and 90s.

Their return to New Zealand was to Kaitia where Laurie combined his work for the Far North County with the jobs of Ornithological Society Regional Representative and Beach Patrol Recorder, collecting records and skeletons, not in the cupboard but rather the garage: a fine assortment of skulls, beaks and sterna for identifying beach-wrecked specimens. Having moved to Whangarei in "retirement" he undertook consultancy in Brazil, while extending his passion for birds and sport to include genealogy. A surprise 70th birthday party in August 2005 became the opportunity for family and friends to mark Laurie's extraordinary diversity of interests. He remained highly active

and stimulating company until overtaken by failing eyesight and ill health several years ago.

The service "To Celebrate the life of Laurie" on 24th April in the Bethlehem Chapel, Whangarei, brought together many aspects. Family eulogies were followed by tributes from former colleagues and friends, among them David Crockett who specially recalled the Chatham Island Taiko Expeditions. It is a rare privilege to have known a person so well-liked and respected in his family life and his professional career and recreational spheres.

MICHAEL TAYLOR



Alan Macdonald

Former OSNZ member Alan Macdonald died on Sunday 29th March 2015 in St John's Private Hospital, Epsom, Auckland. Alan was a long-time member of OSNZ, probably joining after he and his family migrated to New Zealand from England in 1967. I estimate he was a member for around 40 years.

Born in Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, in 1928, Alan was passionate about birds and birdwatching from a young age. Had he been born in another generation, studying birds would have become his career. Instead he became an industrial chemist for British Paints in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, moving to New Zealand to work for the firm in their Auckland office.

Alan did much work on bird counts on the Te Atatu Peninsula, where he lived, and kept many notebooks of his sightings and counts. Every weekend he put bread out on his lawn in Te Atatu and recorded the birds that visited. He also had several Starling nesting boxes, and used to record the weights of the eggs and chicks.

Once every weekend, at two hours before or after high tide, he would count the waders at various points around Te Atatu Peninsula (armed with telescope, binoculars and notebook). He also photographed birds: he had a hide at the estuary near British Paints in Avondale.

Alan donated all his notebooks and ornithological magazines to OSNZ.

JULIE BENJAMIN

Survey Details

Physical address where you did the survey:

Number & Street

Suburb
Town/City
Postcode
Region

Description of survey area (please tick one)

Urban garden Urban Park Urban School
Rural garden Rural Park Rural School

Area searched for birds (except birds flying overhead)

Up to 100 m² (e.g. up to 10x10m)
100-200 m² (e.g. up to 10x20m)
200-400 m² (e.g. up to 20x20m)
400-600 m² (e.g. up to 20x30m)
More than 600 m²

Was search area

Lawn & flower or vege garden
Lawn, garden, shrubs <5m Lawn, garden, shrubs, trees >5m
Other Describe

How many took part?

Adults Children (<18)

Contact Details

Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss, Master (circle)

First name
Surname
Tel
Email

Please note: we will not give or sell your details to anyone else, we require them so we can contact you if necessary to clarify your results. If you prefer us not to contact you again, please tick here

Please do the survey for 1 hour only, sometime between 27 Jun & 5 Jul, 2015

Survey Date Start Time

For each species record the largest number seen (or heard) at the same time – NOT the total number over the hour – do not enter zeros

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bellbird	<input type="checkbox"/>	Magpie
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blackbird	<input type="checkbox"/>	Myna
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-backed Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-billed Gull
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chaffinch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock Pigeon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dunnock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rosella (Eastern)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fantail	<input type="checkbox"/>	Silvereye
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goldfinch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Song Thrush
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenfinch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Starling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grey Warbler	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tui
<input type="checkbox"/>	House Sparrow	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welcome Swallow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kereru	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellowhammer

Other species counted during the hour (give number)

Do you feed birds? (please tick)

No Yes

If yes, what? (please tick)

Bread Fat Fruit

Seeds Sugar-water Other (please describe)

Did your survey area include the area where you feed birds? (please tick)

No Yes N/A

Did you have food out for birds in the survey area during the survey?

No Yes N/A

Do you have a water-bath for birds?

No Yes

Please re-fold leaflet and tape along edge before posting

Fix Stamp here

Eric Spurr
New Zealand Garden Bird Survey
47 Brixton Rd
Manly
Whangaparaoa 0930



Who's in your garden?



© AndreaEL Photography NZ

Photographs by:
Andrew Walmsley
Tom Marshall
Andrea Lightfoot
Craig MacKenzie
Brian Massa
Roger South
www.istock.com

New Zealand  Aotearoa

GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

27 June - 5 July 2015



Landcare Research and Birds New Zealand are asking for the public's help again this year in spotting birds in New Zealand gardens. Taking part is easy – spend just 1 hour (that's 1 hour only) sometime between 27 June and 5 July looking for birds in your garden, parks or school grounds. For each species you detect, record the largest number you see (or hear) at the same time. Please count not just tick the species you observe. The easy to follow guide below will help you identify most birds you are likely to see.

Then fill in and return the survey form opposite or enter your results online (which helps us to process the results faster and more easily) at:

<http://gardenbirdsurvey.landcareresearch.co.nz>

Regularly updated survey results will be available on the same website, and will provide valuable information about bird populations, giving scientists an indication of which species may be in decline, helping guide conservation efforts for the future.

Bird Guide (not to scale)

Small birds
15cm or less

Medium-sized birds
Up to 30cm

Large birds
Over 30cm

House Sparrow (m)	House Sparrow (f)	Yellowhammer (m)	Yellowhammer (f)	Eastern Rosella	Tui	Kereru
Greenfinch (m)	Greenfinch (f)	Goldfinch	Dunnock	Song Thrush	Bellbird	Magpie
Chaffinch (m)	Chaffinch (f)	Redpoll	Fantail	Myna	Starling	Red-billed Gull
Silvereye	Welcome Swallow	Grey Warbler		Blackbird (f)	Blackbird (m)	Black-backed Gull



Birds New Zealand

The Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc.

P.O. Box 834, Nelson 7040, New Zealand.

Website: www.osnz.org.nz

Email: editorbirdsnz@osnz.org.nz