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RARE BIRDS COMMITTEE – Combined report for 1992-1999

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Rob Guest resigned as Secretary of the Committee from the end of June 1992 as a consequence of his move overseas. Brian Bell acted as Secretary from then until the appointment of John Davenport, who was Secretary from 1 November 1992 until 31 December 1998. I was appointed Convenor of the Committee from 1 January 1999, with the following six additional members appointed for a term of three years from 1 July 1999: Brian Bell, Brian Gill, Mike Imber, Paul Sagar, Peter Schweigman, and Graeme Taylor. In addition to myself, and to Rob Guest and John Davenport as Secretary, the following persons were members of the Committee for all or part of the period from 1 January 1992 until 30 June 1999: Ben Bell, Brian Bell, Brian Gill, Barrie Heather, Mike Imber, Paddy Latham, Derek Onley, Ray Pierce, Chris Robertson, Hugh Robertson, Paul Sagar,

Peter Schweigman, Dick Sibson, and Graeme Taylor.

The last published account of sightings accepted by the Committee was that for 1991 which appeared in *Notornis* 39 (1992): 319-321. In the December 1999 issue of *OSNZ News*, I mentioned that pertinent details relating to reports dealt with by the Committee for the period 1992 to 1998 inclusive have never been published, and that Council had resolved that those details will be published periodically until this backlog has been cleared.

Since then it has been possible to compile a list of sightings accepted by the Committee, and of reports still under consideration by it, for the whole period from 1 January 1992 to the present time. This list appears herein. Annual lists of reports dealt with by the Committee for the years 1992 to 1998 inclusive, prepared by John Davenport as Secretary during nearly all of that period, have been of assistance to me. However, I accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that occur in

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the following list which is of my own creation. I have included pertinent literature references in those instances where I have located them, mostly among Classified Summarised Notes in *Notornis* as far as they have been published to date – to 30/6/96 for the South Island and to 30/6/97 for the North Island.

There are a number of significant records among those so far accepted by the Committee between 1992 and the present time that do not appear to have yet been formally published. This should be done as soon as possible. Among them are the following –

1. The apparent first record of the Laysan albatross *Diomedea immutabilis* in New Zealand waters (97/07).
2. The apparent first and second records of the sooty albatross *Phoebastria fusca* in New Zealand waters (93/03 and 94/34).
3. The apparent first and second New Zealand records of the black kite *Milvus migrans* (93/07, 93/31, 94/08 and 94/09).
4. The apparent second record of the pink-footed shearwater *Puffinus creatopus* in New Zealand waters (94/05).

5. The apparent second New Zealand record of the darter *Anhinga melanogaster rufa* (93/04).
6. The apparent first record of a live Adélie penguin *Pygoscelis adeliae* on the New Zealand mainland (93/10).
7. The apparent second record of a live chinstrap penguin *Pygoscelis antarctica* on the New Zealand mainland (92/35).

The last published list of species to be reported to the Committee appeared in *OSNZ News 63* (June 1992). Updating of the list is long overdue and will be attended to as soon as opportunity allows. In the meantime, reports of any species on that list should still be sent to the Committee for consideration. In addition, the Committee remains prepared to consider reports of birds that are unusual to the observer, even if they are not on the current list of species to be reported. The present Unusual Bird Report form should be used. Copies of this can be obtained from Regional Representatives or Regional Recorders, or from myself at the address given above.

RARE BIRD REPORTS 1992-1999

1992

Thirty-six reports received in 1992 were dealt with by the Committee. The **accepted** sightings are as follows:

- 92/01 Single **broad-billed sandpiper** (*Limicola falcinellus*) at Taporā Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour on 8/12/91 (G.N.Grant). Ref.: *Notornis 41* (1994): 33.
- 92/02 Single **broad-billed sandpiper** (*Limicola falcinellus*) at Manawatu Estuary from 19/1 until 8/3/92 (J.L. & M. Moore, B.D. Heather et al.). This bird was apparently present until mid May 1992 – *Notornis 41* (1994): 33. A photograph of it appeared in *OSNZ News 62* (March 1992).
- 92/03 Single **Hudsonian godwit** (*Limosa haemastica*) at Whitianga between 28/1 and 6/7/92 (B.Mackereth). This record appeared (through no fault of the observer) under Asiatic black-tailed godwit in *Notornis 41* (1994): 34.
- 92/04 Single **Australian tree martin** (*Hirundo nigricans*) at Hamilton Sewage Treatment Ponds, Pukete on 20/2/92 (P. Cuming). Ref.: *Notornis 41* (1994): 44.
- 92/05 Two separate sightings of single **Chatham Island mollymawks** (*Diomedea cauta eremita*) off Banks Peninsula and Kaikoura on 8 & 12/12/91 (P. Langlands).

- 92/07 Several sightings of single **reeve** (*Philomachus pugnax*) at Lake Ellesmere between 30/11/91 and 15/1/92 (K.C. Harrison, S. Petch, C. Hill & A. Crossland). Ref.: *Notornis 41* (1994): 180.
- 92/08 Single **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) at Manawatu Estuary on 13 & 15/5/92 (P.F. Battley & G. Quayle). Ref.: *Notornis 41* (1994): 18.
- 92/14 Up to 7 **grass (plumed) whistling ducks** (*Dendrocygna eytoni*) seen at Hokitika Sewage Ponds from 4/4 to mid 6/92 (S. Lauder, P.Allan et al.). Ref.: *Notornis 41* (1994): 173.
- 92/16 Single **fan-tailed cuckoo** (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*) in back yard of Haast Police Station, South Westland in October 1991 (R.K.Millard). Ref.: *Notornis 41* (1994): 184.
- 92/17 Single **Australasian little grebe** (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae novaehollandiae*) at Ashley Estuary complex, Canterbury between 17/6 and 23/8/92 (S.Petch, K.C. Harrison, T. Crocker et al.). Ref.: *Notornis 41* (1994): 168.
- 92/18 **Common noddy** (*Anous stolidus*) found dead on Muriwai Beach, Auckland on 16/6/92. (B.J.Gill & J. Driessen). This recovery is discussed in *Notornis 39* (1993): 43-4.
- 92/19 Four **red-legged partridges** (*Alectoris rufa*) in Mangatarata District, Firth of Thames on 6/2/92 were some of over 1000 which had been released in area over period of several years (D. & M. Stracy). Ref.: *Notornis 41* (1994): 21.

- 92/20 Up to three **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) seen at Manawatu Estuary at various times between 23/5 and 11/7/92 (J.L. & M. Moore *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 41 (1994): 18.
- 92/21 Single exhausted or sick **brown skua** (*Catharacta skua lonnbergi*) at Mangere Oxidation Ponds, Auckland on 27/7/91 (T. Cable).
- 92/23 Single **marsh sandpiper** (*Tringa stagnatilis*) at Mangere Oxidation Ponds, Auckland between 16/2 and 23/8/92 (A. Goodwin, C. Schischka, R. Clough *et al.*).
- 92/25 Single **Chatham petrel** (*Pterodroma axillaris*) spotlighted in Tuku Valley, Chatham Island on 26/11/85 (D.A. Lawrie & H.H. Muller).
- 92/26 Single **grey phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) at Kidd's shellbanks, Manukau Harbour on 5, 6 & 7/7/92 (D.A. Lawrie *et al.*).
- 92/27 Single **nankeen kestrel** (*Falco cenchroides*) seen in Botanical Gardens, Gisborne on 19/12/91 (M.A. Williams & J.C. Henley). Ref.: *Notornis* 41 (1994): 21.
- 92/28 Two sightings of single **cirl buntings** (*Emberiza cirlus*), and one 'road wreck' from Gisborne area between July and October 1991 (J.C. Henley & M.A. Williams). Ref.: *Notornis* 41 (1994): 48.
- 92/31 Three **gull-billed terns** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) at Jordan's Peninsula, Kaipara Harbour on 30/5/91 (D.F. Booth). Ref.: *Notornis* 41 (1994): 38.
- 92/32 Two **great knots** (*Calidris tenuirostris*) at Waikato River mouth on 8 & 9/11/92 (P.J. & D.J. Agnew *et al.*).
- 92/35 Single adult **chinstrap penguin** (*Pygoscelis antarctica*) alive at Warrington Spit, Otago on 27/11/92 (C. Landis *et al.*). The undated entry under chinstrap penguin in *Notornis* 42 (1995): 57 apparently refers to it. This seems to be the second record of the species from the New Zealand mainland. The first was of a live bird ashore at Invercargill in December 1980 which is referred to, with a photograph, in the *Southland Times* of 2/12/92. This first record does not appear to have found its way into the ornithological literature.
- 92/36 Single female **lesser frigatebird** (*Fregata ariel*) found alive at Manukau Harbour on 17/1/92, later died and presented to Auckland Museum (B.J. Gill).
- 1993**
Thirty-nine reports received in 1993 were dealt with by the Committee. The **accepted** sightings are as follows:
- 93/01 Two **spine-tailed swifts** (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) at Wharekawa Lookout, Opoutere, on 17/1/93 (D. Bishop).
- 93/03 **First accepted sighting** of **sooty albatross** (*Phoebastria fusca*) in New Zealand waters based on a single bird seen north of Auckland Islands on 4/2/91 (J.-C. Stahl). No formal account of this sighting appears to have been published.
- 93/04 **Second accepted New Zealand record** of **darther** based on a single bird seen at Waiharara, Northland on 26/12/92 (P. & D. Agnew & R.J. Pierce). No formal account of this sighting appears to have been published.
- 93/05 Single **fan-tailed cuckoo** (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*) at Karikari Bay, Northland on 27/10/91 (R.J. Pierce).
- 93/06 Single **common sandpiper** (*Tringa hypoleucos*) at mouth of Wairau River, Marlborough on 24/2/92 (N. Dillon).
- 93/07 **First accepted New Zealand record** of **black kite** (*Milvus migrans*) based on a single bird seen in Renwick area, Marlborough, on 13/8/92 (N. Dillon). Other sightings of what was probably the same bird were made by N. Dillon in the same area on 21/7/93 and 30/3/94 (see 93/31 and 94/08). R. Tanner saw what was probably a different individual near Glentanner, Lake Pukaki on 1/3/94 (see 94/09). No formal account of these sightings appears to have been published.
- 93/08 **Black-winged petrel** (*Pterodroma nigripennis*) found dead on Muriwai Beach, Auckland on 10/1/93 (S.P. Chamberlin *et al.*).
- 93/09 Single **common sandpiper** (*Tringa hypoleucos*) at Spirits Bay, Northland on 26/1/93 (G.J. Eller *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 41 (1994): 262.
- 93/10 Single **Adélie penguin** (*Pygoscelis papua*) ashore alive and well at Kaikoura on 8 & 9/1/93 (B. Elliott *et al.*). This appears to be the first record of a live Adélie penguin from the New Zealand mainland. The only earlier record is of a beach-wrecked specimen found on the Marlborough coast in 1962 (*Notornis* 10 (1963): 234).
- 93/11 Single **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) at Karitane, Otago from 14–18/1/93 (D. Onley).
- 93/12 Three independent reports of up to 3 probable **Japanese snipe** (*Gallinago hardwickii*) at Lake Wairarapa on 9, 21 & 31/1 and 6/2/93 (B.D. Heather; H.A. Robertson; P. Reese *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 41 (1994): 258.
- 93/14 Single **broad-billed sandpiper** (*Limicola falcinellus*) at Kidd's shellbanks, Manukau Harbour from 27/12/92 until 20/3/93 (D.A. Lawrie *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 41 (1994): 260.
- 93/15 Single **Hudsonian godwit** (*Limosa haemastica*) at Whatapaka Inlet, Manukau Harbour on 5/7/92 (D.A. Lawrie).
- 93/16 Single **brown skua** (*Catharacta skua lonnbergi*) found dead at Mangere on Manukau Harbour on 25/11/92 (H.R. Clough & D.A. Lawrie).
- 93/17 Single **grey plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*) at Kidd's shellbanks, Manukau Harbour on 27/12/92 and 16/1/93 (A. Habraken & D.A. Lawrie *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 41 (1994): 257.
- 93/18 Up to 4 **marsh sandpipers** (*Tringa stagnatilis*) at Mangere Oxidation Ponds, Auckland between 1/1 and 23/3/93 (H.R. Clough, D.A. Lawrie, A. Habraken *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 41 (1994): 262.
- 93/20 Two unidentified **swifts** at Torea Saddle, Queen Charlotte Walking Track, Marlborough Sounds on 21/3/93 (W.F. Cash).
- 93/21 Single **soft-plumaged petrel** (*Pterodroma mollis*) east of Taiaroa Heads, Otago on 15/3/93 (H. Spencer).
- 93/23 **First accepted New Zealand record** of **little stint** (*Calidris minuta*) based on a single bird at Lake

- Ellesmere between 30/11/92 and 25/4/93 (C.Hill, S. Petch, K.C. Harrison, T.Crocker & A. Crossland). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995): 68. It, and another accepted little stint sighting in 1995 (see 95/13), are dealt with in detail in a paper submitted for publication in *Notornis*.
- 93/25 Single **western rockhopper penguin** (*Eudyptes chrysocome chrysocome*) at Boat Harbour, The Snares on 5, 7 and 9/3/93 (P.M.Sagar *et al.*).
- 93/26 Single male **northern shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*) at Matata Lagoon, Bay of Plenty on 8/5/93 (R.M.Weston). Ref.: *Notornis* 41 (1994): 250.
- 93/27 Single **broad-billed sandpiper** (*Limicola falcinellus*) at Manawatu Estuary from 15/11/92 until 12/4/93 (J.L.Moore *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 41 (1994): 260.
- 93/28 Single **white-winged black tern** (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) at Coopers Lagoon, Canterbury on 24/4/93 (S.Petch). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995): 70.
- 93/29 Single **Oriental cuckoo** (*Cuculus saturatus*) in Christchurch garden on 13 & 14/3/93 (D.Buckley & G.A. Tunnicliffe).
- 93/30 Single **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) at Manawatu Estuary from 19/6 to 4/7/93 (J.L. & M. Moore *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 41 (1994): 249.
- 93/31 **Black kite** (*Milvus migrans*) in Renwick area, Marlborough, on 21/7/93 (N.Dillon). See also 93/07, 94/08 and 94/09.
- 93/32 Single female **grey phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) at Inch Clutha Lagoon, Otago on 8, 10 and 11/7/93 (P. Schweigman *et al.*).
- 93/33 Single **Oriental cuckoo** (*Cuculus saturatus*) at Mapara South Road, Te Kuiti 28/11–1/12/93 (P. Bradfield).
- 93/34 Single female **chestnut-breasted shelduck** (*Tadorna tadornoides*) at Puponga Farm Park, Golden Bay on 2/1/92 (A. Crossland & S. O'Sullivan).
- 93/36 Single **common sandpiper** (*Tringa hypoleucos*) at Waipara River mouth, Canterbury on 12 & 24/10 and 16/11/92 (A. Crossland, K.C. Harrison & S. Petch). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995): 69.
- 93/37 Single **large sand dotterel** (*Charadrius leschenaulti*) at Ashley-Saltwater Creek Estuary, Canterbury on 27/2 and 30/3/93 (A.Crossland & J. Kearvell). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995): 67.
- 93/38 Single **grey plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*) at Farewell Spit on 20/8/93 (A. Crossland).
- 93/39 Single **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) at Kowai River mouth, Canterbury from 21–23/8/93 (T. Crocker, S. Petch, K.C. Harrison & A. Crossland). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995): 269.
- 1994**
Thirty-eight reports received in 1994 were dealt with by the Committee. The **accepted** sightings are as follows:
- 94/01 Single **lesser yellowlegs** (*Tringa flavipes*) at Ahuriri, Napier on 4/1/94 *et seq.* (C.F. McRae, J.G. Hamilton *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995): 165.
- 94/04 **Nankeen night herons** (*Nycticorax caledonicus*) on the Whanganui River in February and March 1994 (N. Marsh & M. Gembitsky). These sightings are discussed in *Notornis* 42 (1995): 282-283.
- 94/05 **Second accepted New Zealand record of pink-footed shearwater** (*Puffinus creatopus*) based on single bird off Kaikoura on 20/1/94 (R. Thomas). No formal account of this sighting appears to have been published.
- 94/06 Two **white-eyed ducks** (*Aythya australis*) at Lake Ryan, Cobden, Greymouth on 17/2/94 (S. Lauder).
- 94/08 **Black kite** (*Milvus migrans*) in Renwick area, Marlborough on 30/3/94 (N. Dillon). See also 93/07, 93/31 and 94/09.
- 94/09 **Black kite** (*Milvus migrans*) near Glentanner, Lake Pukaki on 1/3/94 (R.Tanner). This is the **second accepted record** of the species in New Zealand. See also 93/07, 93/31 and 94/08.
- 94/10 Two, possibly three, **Oriental dotterel** (*Charadrius orientalis*) at Kidd's shellbanks, Manukau Harbour on 13/3/94 (B.A.Woolley & D.F.Booth). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995): 161.
- 94/11 Single **great knot** (*Calidris tenuirostris*) at Kidd's shellbanks, Manukau Harbour on 1/2/94 (A.M. Habraken). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995):163.
- 94/12 Single **intermediate (plumed) egret** (*Egretta intermedia*) at Lake Whangape outlet, Waikato from 22–25/4/93 (A. Habraken *et al.*).
- 94/13 Two **brown teal** (*Anas chlorotis*) at Pukekohe-Tuakau Oxidation Ponds from 29/12/92 to 1/1/93 (A. Habraken *et al.*).
- 94/16 Single **great knot** (*Calidris tenuirostris*) at Lake Wairarapa on 12/10/93 (C.Miskelly & T. Harington). This record is mentioned, without date, in *Notornis* 42 (1995): 163.
- 94/17 Two **fork-tailed swifts** (*Apus pacificus*) at Warawara Plateau, Northland on 7/4/94 (R.J. Pierce & F. Moors). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995): 170.
- 94/18 Single **little whimbrel** at Access Bay, Miranda, Firth of Thames on 13 & 14/1, 25/3 and 11/4/94 (K.Woodley *et al.*).This record is mentioned in *Notornis* 42 (1995): 164.
- 94/19 Single probable **Japanese snipe** (*Gallinago hardwickii*) at Coopers Lagoon, Canterbury on 6 & 30/1/94 (A.Crossland, *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995): 273.
- 94/20 Single **Oriental cuckoo** (*Cuculus saturatus*) in residential Christchurch on 8/3/93 (P.Chapple *et al.*).
- 94/21 Juvenile **king penguin** (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*) at Besselborough Bay, Campbell Island on 5/1/94 (A. Palliser).
- 94/22 Single **gentoo penguin** (*Pygoscelis papua*) at Otanerito Bay, Banks Peninsula on 14/12/93 (P. Dilks *et al.*).
- 94/23 Up to three **large sand dotterels** (*Charadrius leschenaulti*) at Farewell Spit on 6 & 16/12/92 (P. Battley).
- 94/24 Single **Antarctic skua** (*Catharacta maccormicki*) offshore at Farewell Spit on 6/1/93 (P. Battley).

- 94/25 Two **large sand dotterels** (*Charadrius leschenaulti*) at Farewell Spit between 7/12/93 and 2/1/94 (P. Battley *et al.*).
- 94/26 Single **Oriental pratincole** (*Glareola maldivarum*) at Farewell Spit on 21/1/94 (P. Battley). This record is mentioned in *Notornis* 45 (1998): 17.
- 94/27 Three **white-winged black terns** (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) at Kaitorete Spit, Lake Ellesmere on 25/6/94 (P.M. Sagar). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995): 275.
- 94/28 Single **Arctic tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) at Mangere Oxidation Ponds, Auckland on 27/11/80 (A.Habraken & R. Spranger). This was probably the same Arctic tern, seen by several observers at the same place the day before, which is discussed in *Notornis* 29 (1982): 47-48.
- 94/31 Single **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) at Manawatu Estuary on 8/5 and 7/6/94 (J.L. & M. Moore *et al.*). One of these records is mentioned in *Notornis* 42 (1995): 156.
- 94/33 Single **grey-tailed tattler** (*Tringa brevipes*) at Ashley Estuary, Canterbury on 17, 18 & 30/5/94 (J.C.Kearvell, T. Crocker, S. Petch & S. Moore). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995): 274.
- 94/34 **Second accepted New Zealand record** of **sooty albatross** (*Phoebastria fusca*) based on a bird seen on Pukaki Rise on 21 & 22/11/93 (R.P. Scofield). For first accepted New Zealand record see 93/03. No formal account of this sighting appears to have been published.
- 94/35 Single **kookaburra** (*Dacelo novaeguineae*) in residential area of Hamilton in May 1994 (R. & M. Skinner). Ref.: *Notornis* 42 (1995):170.
- 94/36 Single **glossy ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) near Opotiki between 1 & 14/10/94 (W.H. Sloan *et al.*).
- 1995**
Twenty-one reports received in 1995 were dealt with by the Committee. The **accepted** sightings are as follows:
- 95/02 Single **crested tern** (*Sterna bergii*) at Manawatu Estuary from 5 - 7/1/95 (J.L. & M. Moore *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 43 (1996): 138.
- 95/03 Single **sanderling** (*Calidris alba*) at Manawatu Estuary from 31/12/94 to 2/1/95 (J.L. & M. Moore). Ref.: *Notornis* 43 (1996):133.
- 95/05 **Lesser frigatebird** (*Fregata ariel*) found dead at Waipu Cove on 4/2/95 (S. & J. Rowe).
- 95/06 Single **white-winged black tern** (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) at Miranda, Firth of Thames on 3/11/94 (S. Rowe).
- 95/07 Single **common sandpiper** (*Tringa hypoleucos*) at Hatea River, Whangarei Harbour between 13/12/94 and 23/1/95 (M.Twyman, G. Grant & P. Smith). Presumably the bird mentioned in *Notornis* 43 (1996): 135 was the same individual.
- 95/08 Single **nankeen kestrel** (*Falco cenchroides*) at Naikē, near Huntly from 5-24/4/95 (R. Galbreath *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 43 (1996):128. An account of the bird, with photos, appeared in *OSNZ News* 76 (September 1995).
- 95/09 Female **long-tailed skua** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) found dead on coastline between Piako and Waitakaruru Rivers, Firth of Thames on 4/2/95 (J. McCallum, B.J. Gill & A. Habraken). Specimen in Auckland Museum B7100.
- 95/10 **Long-tailed skua** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) found dead on Karioitahi Beach, west of Waiuku on 25/3/95 (D.A. Lawrie, B.J. Gill & A. Habraken).
- 95/11 Single **large sand dotterel** (*Charadrius leschenaulti*) at Aramoana, Dunedin on 9/3/95 (P. Schweigman). Ref.: *Notornis* 43 (1996): 177.
- 95/12 Single **dollarbird** (*Eurystomus orientalis*) at Hokitika on 14 & 15/4/95 (C. Beaumont *et al.*).
- 95/13 Single **little stint** (*Charadrius minuta*) at Lake Ellesmere from 4/1 to 12/4/95 (S.Petch, K.C.Harrison, T. Crocker, C. Hill, C. O'Donnell *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 43 (1996): 178. It is the **second accepted New Zealand record** of the species. For first accepted New Zealand record see 93/23.
- 95/15 Single **little whimbrel** (*Numenius minutus*) at Lake Ellesmere on 11/3/95 (P. Crutchley *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 43 (1996):179.
- 95/19 Three **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) at Manawatu Estuary between 7/5 and 2/7/95 (J.L. & M. Moore & W. Chelley). These records are mentioned in *Notornis* 43 (1996):127 and 44 (1997): 90.
- 95/21 Single male **northern shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*) at Gisborne from 30/6 to 10/7/95 (A.S.Bull & J. von Pein). Ref.: *Notornis* 43 (1996): 127.
- 1996**
Twenty reports received in 1996 were dealt with by the Committee. The **accepted** sightings are as follows:
- 96/01 Single **gull-billed tern** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) at New River Estuary, Invercargill on 30/10/94 (R.Sutton). Ref.: *Notornis* 43 (1996): 180.
- 96/04 Single **crested tern** (*Sterna bergii*) at Washdyke Lagoon, Canterbury on 18/11/95 (T. Crocker).
- 96/05 Single **spine-tailed swift** (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) at Tiritiri Matangi Island on 5/12/95 (C.R. Hayson). Ref.: *Notornis* 44 (1997):105.
- 96/10 Single **chestnut teal** at Manawatu Estuary on 30/3, 5/5 and 2/6/96 (J.L. Moore).
- 96/11 **Channel-billed cuckoo** (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*) found dead on Raglan Ocean Beach on 14/10/96 (P. Cuming).
- 96/18 **Channel-billed cuckoo** (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*) found dead near Te Paki Station, Northland on 30/11/96 (G. Brackenbury *et al.*). An account of these channel-billed cuckoo recoveries appeared in *Notornis* 45 (1998): 223-226.
- 96/19 **Spine-tailed swift** (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) found dead on Taharoa Beach, Waikato on 22/11/96 (B.Woolley *et al.*).
- 96/20 Single **little whimbrel** (*Numenius minutus*) at Brown's Island, Auckland on 17/10/96 (E.S. Kitching & L. Alston). Ref.: *Notornis* 45 (1998): 299.

1997

Twenty-two reports received in 1997 were dealt with by the Committee. The **accepted** sightings are as follows:

- 97/01 Single **greater frigatebird** (*Fregata minor*) at Rangitaiki River mouth, Bay of Plenty on 2, 4 & 6/1/97 (L.Barea & J.A. & M. Brierley). Ref.: *Notornis* 45 (1998):285. A photograph and note about the bird appeared in *OSNZ News* 82 (March 1997).
- 97/03 **Long-tailed skua** (*Stercorarius longicauda*) found dead on Raglan beach on 25/12/96 (B. & B. Woolley).
- 97/04 **White-capped noddy** (*Anous tenuirostris minutus*) found dead on Ruapuke beach on 21/1/97 (B.Woolley *et al.*).
- 97/05 Juvenile **sooty tern** (*Sterna fuscata*) found alive at Te Pahu Farm, Waikato on 12/1/97, but died next day (B. Woolley & B. Pengelly).
- 97/07 **First accepted New Zealand record of Laysan albatross** (*Diomedea immutabilis*) based on a single bird seen on the Lachlan Banks, Hawkes Bay, on 8/12/95 (P.A. Langlands). No formal account of this sighting appears to have been published.
- 97/08 Single **red-necked phalarope** (*Phalaropus lobatus*) at Miranda, Firth of Thames on 23, 24 & 25/12/96 (K.Woodley *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 45 (1998): 300. An article about the bird appeared in *Miranda Naturalists' Trust News* 24 (February 1997).
- 97/10 Single **frigatebird** (*Fregata* sp.) of undetermined species at mouth of Whangarei Harbour on 8/1/97 (R. Gunston).
- 97/11 Single **Hudsonian godwit** (*Limosa haemastica*) at Miranda, Firth of Thames on 27/2/97 (I. Saville). Ref.: *Notornis* 45 (1998): 299.
- 97/12 Single **great knot** (*Calidris tenuirostris*) at Manawatu Estuary between 6 & 23/2/97 (J. L. & M. Moore, I. Saville *et al.*). Ref.: *Notornis* 45 (1998): 297.
- 97/13 Single **white-winged black terns** (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) at Manawatu Estuary between 18 & 26/1/97 (J.L. & M. Moore *et al.*).
- 97/14 Up to 3 **white-winged black terns** (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) at Lake Omanu, Foxton between 26/1 & 25/4/97 (J. L. & M. Moore & I. Saville).
- 97/15 Two **Terek sandpipers** (*Tringa terek*) at Ohiwa Harbour, Bay of Plenty between 28/1 & 15/2/97 (J.Brierley *et al.*).
- 97/16 Single **greater frigatebird** (*Fregata minor*) at Great Mercury Island on 5/1/97 (K. & K. Turner *et al.*).
- 97/17 Single **white-winged black terns** (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) at Manawatu Estuary and Lake Omanu, Foxton between 4/1 & 1/3/97 (I. Saville & J. L. Moore). The records in 97/13, 97/14 and 97/17, which may involve some or all of the same birds, are mentioned in *Notornis* 45 (1998): 301.
- 97/18 Single **brown skua** (*Catharacta skua lonnbergi*) at Rangitikei River mouth, Tangimoana on 14/11/96 (I. Saville). Ref.: *Notornis* 45 (1998): 300.
- 97/19 Single **pomarine skua** off Foxton Ocean Beach on 7/3/97 (I. Saville). Ref.: *Notornis* 45 (1998): 301.

97/20 **The first New Zealand record of a northern pintail** (*Anas acuta*) based on a single adult male seen at Farewell Spit on 19 and 21/10/97 (C. Petyt & R. Stocker). An account of this sighting appeared in *Notornis* 46 (1999): 298-299.

97/21 Single **dollarbird** (*Eurystomus orientalis*) at Tukurua, Golden Bay from 11/10 to about 10/11/96 (C. Petyt *et al.*).

1998

Nineteen reports were received by the Committee in 1998. Four are presently under consideration. The **acceptances** to date are as follows:

- 98/02 Single **soft-plumaged petrel** (*Pterodroma mollis*) just north of the Snares Islands on 20/5/97 (M. Renner).
- 98/03 Up to 2 **cattle egrets** (*Bubulcus ibis*) among Snares crested penguins (*Eudyptes robustus*) on Main Island, The Snares from 22-28/4/97 (M. Renner *et al.*).
- 98/04 Single **Barbary dove** (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*) near Halcombe, Manawatu on 6 & 8/12/97 (I. Saville).
- 98/05 **Black-faced monarch** (*Monarcha melanopsis*) caught by cat near Stratford on 19/4/96 (A. Tennyson). This is the **first New Zealand record** of the species. An account of it appeared in *Notornis* 44 (1997): 267-269.
- 98/06 **White tern** found alive at Taupiri on 1/5/98, died later (B.Woolley *et al.*).
- 98/08 Single **frigatebird** (*Fregata* sp.) of undetermined species at Ahipara on 23/2/98 (W. Reed).
- 98/10 Adult **sooty tern** (*Sterna fuscata*) found dead, probably on a West Waikato beach about 1993 (B. Woolley).
- 98/12 **Wedge-tailed shearwater** (*Puffinus pacificus*) found dead on Taharoa Beach on 21/1/93 (B. Woolley).
- 98/16 Single **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) at Manawatu Estuary on 1 & 7/6/98 (I. Saville *et al.*).
- 98/17 Single **great knot** (*Calidris tenuirostris*) at Manawatu Estuary on 24, 26 & 30/10/98 (I. Saville *et al.*).
- 98/18 Six **marsh sandpipers** (*Tringa stagnatilis*) at Miranda, Firth of Thames on 23/3/98 (I. Saville).
- 98/19 Single **white-winged black tern** (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) at Westshore Lagoon, Napier on 21/11/98. See 98/20 for a different white-winged black tern seen at the same locality on 2/11/98 (I. Saville).

The 1998 reports still **under consideration** are:

- 98/09 Three suspected **intermediate egrets** (*Egretta intermedia*) at Lake Ellesmere on 13/8/98 (C. Hill).
- 98/11 A suspected **common koel** (*Eudynamis scolopacea*) based on a freshly dead bird found in Lees Valley, Canterbury in March 1997, now in Canterbury Museum (G. Tunnicliffe). If accepted by the Committee, this will be the first record of a common koel in New Zealand.

- 98/ 13 A suspected **long-toed stint** (*Calidris subminuta*) based on a single bird at Greenpark Sands, Lake Ellesmere on 31 August and 25 September 1997 (S.Petch, C. Hill & N.I. Allen). If accepted by the Committee, this will be the first record of a long-toed stint in New Zealand.
- 98/14 A suspected **stilt sandpiper** (*Micropalama himantopus*) based on a single bird at Yarr's Bay, Lake Ellesmere on 9,10 & 11 September 1998 (C. Hill *et al.*). If accepted by the Committee, this will be the first record of a stilt sandpiper in New Zealand. N.I. Allen also saw a suspected stilt sandpiper (which may have been the same bird) at Embankment Road, Lake Ellesmere on 26/9/98 and at Jarvis Road, Lake Ellesmere on 20/11/98 – see 12/99.
- 1999**
Twenty-nine reports were received by the Committee in 1999. Six are presently under consideration. The **acceptances** to date are as follows:
- 1/99 Two **little terns** (*Sterna albifrons*) at Greenpark Huts, Lake Ellesmere on 28/9/97 (N. I. Allen).
- 2/99 Single **sanderling** (*Calidris alba*) at Ashworth's Lagoons, Canterbury on 5/10/97 (N. I. Allen & S. Petch).
- 3/99 Single **glossy ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) at Johnston's Road, Lake Ellesmere on 6/10/97 (N. I. Allen).
- 4/99 Two **wandering tattlers** (*Tringa incana*) at Kaikoura Peninsula on 14/12/97 (N.I. Allen).
- 5/99 Single **grey-tailed tattlers** (*Tringa brevipes*) at Jarvis Road, Lake Ellesmere on 22/12/97 and 11/1/98 (N. I. Allen & S. Petch).
- 6/99 Many sightings of up to 3 or more **white-winged black terns** (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) at Coopers Lagoon, and one at the Rakaia River mouth, Canterbury between 26/12/97 and 20/11/98 (N. I. Allen).
- 7/99 Single **grey-tailed tattlers** (*Tringa brevipes*) at Ashley Estuary, Canterbury between 12/1 and 8/3/98 (N.I. Allen).
- 8/99 Single **Asiatic whimbrels** (*Numenius phaeopus variegatus*) at Ashley Estuary/Saltwater Creek, Canterbury on 1, 8 & 21/2/98 (N. I. Allen).
- 9/99 Single **pectoral sandpiper** (*Calidris melanotos*) near mouth of LII River, Lake Ellesmere on 23/2/98 (N.I. Allen).
- 10/99 Single **glossy ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) at Hart's Creek, Lake Ellesmere on 22/3/98 (N.I. Allen).
- 11/99 Single **American whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*) at Saltwater Creek, Canterbury on 11/7/98 (N.I. Allen).
- 13/99 Single **Asiatic whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus variegatus*) at Ashley Estuary/Saltwater Creek, Canterbury on 28/12/98, and whimbrels of undetermined race also recorded there on several occasions between 25/7/98 and 22/1/99 (N.I. Allen).
- 14/99 Single **great knot** (*Calidris tenuirostris*) at Yarr's Bay, Lake Ellesmere on 20/12/94 (C. Hill, S. Petch, K.C.Harrison & A.Crossland).
- 19/99 Single **white-winged black tern** (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) at Lake Waiporohita, Northland on 1/2/99 (A. Goodwin).
- 20/99 Single **common tern** (*Sterna hirundo*) at Manawatu Estuary on 25/12/98 and 3 & 17/1/99 (J. L.Moore, I. Saville & B. Stephenson). This bird was discussed in *OSNZ News 90* (March 1999).
- 21/99 Single **white-winged black terns** (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) at Manawatu Estuary between 31/1 and 18/4/99 (J.L.Moore, I. Saville *et al.*).
- 22/99 Single **Oriental pratincole** (*Glareola maldivarum*) at Bell Block Oxidation Ponds, near New Plymouth on 2/5/99 (P. Fryer).
- 23/99 Single **white-winged black tern** (*Chlidonias leucoptera*) at Manawatu Estuary on 1/2/99. See also 24/99 for another white-winged black tern at the same locality on 4/2/99 (B.& J. Tyler). These birds were probably among those white-winged black terns seen by other observers at the same place at that time – see 21/99.
- 26/99 Single **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) at Manawatu Estuary on 20 & 22/3, 1/5 and 19/6/99 (J.L. Moore & I. Saville).
- 27/99 **Kerguelen petrel** (*Lugensa brevirostris*) seen alive in Dunedin on 7/9/99, found dead the next day (J.V. & K. Morrison). This record, which could be the first of the species for Otago, is mentioned in *Otago Region newsletter 6/99* (December 1999).
- The 1999 reports still **under consideration** are:
- 12/99 Suspected **stilt sandpiper** (*Micropalama himantopus*) at Embankment Road, Lake Ellesmere on 26/9/98 and at Jarvis Road, Lake Ellesmere on 20/11/98 (N. I. Allen). These sightings may have been of the same bird to which 98/14 refers.
- 15 & Suspected **pink-footed shearwaters** (*Puffinus creatopus*) off Kaikoura on 14/12/98 and 27/2/99 (G. Melville). If accepted by the Committee, these will be the third and fourth records of pink-footed shearwaters in New Zealand (see 94/05 for the second New Zealand record).
- 16/99 Suspected **Kermadec petrel** (*Pterodroma neglecta*) off Kaikoura on 25/1/99 (G. Melville).
- 17/99 Suspected **soft-plumaged petrel** (*Pterodroma mollis*) off Kaikoura on 2/2/99 (G. Melville).
- 18/99 Suspected **bridled (grey-backed) tern** (*Sterna anaethetus*) at Papakanui Spit, Kaipara Harbour between 3/1 and 1/2/99 (G.A.Pulham, D.S. Jeffries, M.K. Twyman & S.P. Chamberlin). If accepted by the Committee, this will be the second record of the species in New Zealand.
- 25/99 Suspected **Arctic tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) at Manawatu Estuary on 2/4/99 (I. Saville *et al.*).
- 28/99 Suspected **atrifrons group Mongolian dotterel** (*Charadrius mongolus*) at Tapura sand island, Kaipara Harbour on 4/5/99 (G.R. Parrish). If accepted by the Committee, this will be the first record of birds of the *atrifrons* group in New Zealand.