



# Southern *Bird*

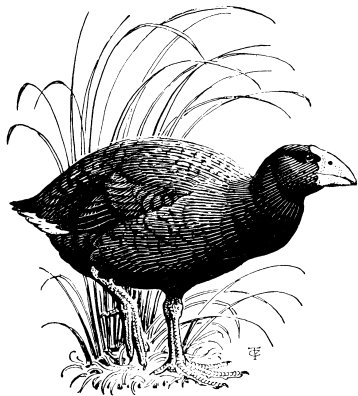
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Annual Report 2006-2007

Exploring the Cloud Forests  
of Ecuador

Godwits Followed North





# Southern Bird

No. 30 June 2007. • ISSN 1175-1916

## QUOTATION

...At once a voice arose among  
The bleak twigs overhead  
In a full-hearted evensong  
Of joy illimited;  
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,  
In blast-beruffled plume,  
Had chosen thus to fling his soul  
Upon the growing gloom...

*The Darkling Thrush by Thomas Hardy*

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## COVER PHOTOS

Front cover: North Island Tomtit

Back cover: North Island New Zealand Dotterel:  
eggs and chick

*Both photographs by Sue Davy  
Copyright held by the photographer*

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

Articles for inclusion in *Southern Bird* 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.

## FROM THE **PRESIDENT'S** DESK

By the time you read this, the Society will have its first Executive Officer. We can look forward now to achieving the other goals of the Strategic Plan and setting new ones, as the organisation is made more efficient, communications improved, and the splendid efforts of all members can be better supported.

I hope, too, that we will also have a Projects and Activities Committee of six keen, active, and committed members, whose goal will be to enrich the experience and enjoyment of our memberships. They will be tasked with, amongst other things, producing new materials to guide and inform present and new members, and planning and running field courses and summer schools. The Committee will liaise with the Scientific and "Business" Committees, and with the RRs and membership. Their work will free Council's time to concentrate on moving the Society ahead.

We shall also be looking forward to another major milestone in our history with the publication of the 2006 Atlas. This monumental work will be launched by the Governor-General at Government House on August 13th; this in itself is an indication of its importance and the Society is very grateful that that has been recognised and we have been accorded the privilege. Chris Robertson and his team have done the membership proud, and New Zealand science a great service. It is Chris's third Atlas contribution and he has certainly made Peter Bull's dream come true, sadly too late for him to see the final product. I am sure that every member will cherish their copy of the Atlas, and refer to it often. If there is any justice, it will also spawn much new research on our birds, following the lead of the impressive analytical section that crowns the work.

It is also timely to remember the forthcoming Australasian Ornithological Conference in Perth later in the year, and to plan your summer birding around this, and the wader Counts, nest record collecting, beach patrols, and other Society schemes. We are working on recording and monitoring schemes that will provide the interest, involvement, and camaraderie of the atlas years, and sound baseline information on our changing avifauna. They should be 'rolled out', to use the present jargon, over the next year or so, with trials and feedback and fine tuning along the way, to ensure the best system(s) are available. The results of these, and the Society's other schemes and projects will be published in the new *New Zealand Bird Reports*, a 'fifth issue' of *Notornis*-style joined format, to bring together the material formerly scattered through the pages of *Southern Bird*, and



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## Publisher

Published on behalf of the members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Inc),

P.O. Box 12397, Wellington, New Zealand • Email: [osnz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:osnz@xtra.co.nz) • Website: [www.osnz.org.nz](http://www.osnz.org.nz)

Edited by Nick Allen, 65 Allin Drive, Waikuku Beach, North Canterbury 7402 • Tel (03) 312 7183 • Email [nick\\_allen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nick_allen@xtra.co.nz)

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provide a formal outlet for the Rare Birds Committee reports and other items of interest in distribution and occurrence.

Mention of the Perth conference reminds me that I recently had the rare experience, for me, of watching live birds, handling them, and facilitating research on them. The Australian connection is that this rare event took place on Norfolk Island, a biological outpost of New Zealand that is politically part of Australia. Because the fauna and flora are basically related to New Zealand's, Australian biologists pay scant attention to this island group, 1,000 km west of the Kermadecs. Because the administration is Australian, New Zealander researchers have not ventured there in any numbers, so it is rather a research orphan. However, in November 2005, a combined team of Australian and New Zealand bird watchers undertook the second survey of the archipelago's avifauna. The survey was conceived, organised, and run from the island by Margaret Christian. It attempted to match the coverage of the 1978 survey (published in 1983) and the results are presently being compared with those from the earlier survey. A comparative atlas tracking the changes and their significance is in preparation. I would like to see OSNZ and Birds Australia build on the foundations provided both at the 'high end' represented by AOC and by the 'grassroots' efforts of Margaret and her volunteers to foster cooperation in Australasian ornithology, to the benefit of birds on both sides of the Tasman. We have many species and problems (e.g., introduced predators and global warming) in common. Each has much to learn from the others experience and experiences.

With our own abilities apparent in the Atlas, and new drive to improve and augment the Society's activities, we should have great faith in the Society's place in the wider scheme of things, and in its own future.

*Good birding*

*Richard*

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## BOOK REVIEW

### *Beautiful Birds of New Zealand*

Morris, Rob and Balance, Alison. 2006.

Random House, ISBN:1869418107

This lovely little book will appeal to almost all New Zealanders and visitors to this country. It celebrates the splendour of New Zealand's birdlife by presenting the author's top 100 birds. The book's arrangement is simple and effective; birds are sorted by the habitats in which they are most commonly found, and both native and introduced birds are represented.

This book does not aim to be a field guide (although anyone interested in watching birds could use it to help with bird identification). It is, as the authors claim, a celebration of the beauty and diversity of New Zealand's birds. Each species gets a two-page layout with a stunning photograph facing a full-page natural history overview that is both enlightening and well-written.

The detailed information provided on each species has come from the many scientists, naturalists and conservation practitioners who live and work in New Zealand. In a small corner of each photograph is a brief fact about the species, which itself is fascinating. My favourite is the one at the bottom of the Bar-tailed Godwit's photo and concerns its epic migration: "During its average lifespan of fifteen years, a Bar-tailed Godwit flies at least 385,000 kilometres, equivalent to a journey from Earth to the Moon".

The birds included in this book range from the very rare, such as the seldom-seen majestic Red-tailed Tropicbird and the endangered Kakapo and Stitchbird, through to common native backyard species such as our beautiful tiny Grey Warbler. Introduced birds are also well represented. The beauty of many of these birds that have been accidentally or intentionally established in New Zealand is often overshadowed by their roles as pests or invasive species. In this book the attractiveness of these species cannot be ignored. The distinct markings of the male Chaffinch on page 90 and the cryptic plumage of the Brown Quail on page 122 are eye-catching. The photographs taken by Rod Morris are breathtaking and make this book well worth adding to any collection. The final features of this book that I really like are the New Zealand maps (front and back covers) and the inclusion of a small glossary. The latter is particular well done and an obvious help for those new to bird-watching.

New Zealand's native birdlife is, beyond any doubt, in a fragile state. The native birds that have survived on our mainland islands are for the most part at densities far lower than their pre-human levels. Indeed, the story of New Zealand's native birds is representative of what has happened to New Zealand's wildlife as a whole. Encouraging greater appreciation of New Zealand's birdlife by our human population is an essential component of improving advocacy of conservation in this country. Despite what many of us in this field hope, the fact remains that many New Zealanders know and care very little about the birdlife around them. This book, with its stunning photography and informative text, will hopefully also perform a role as advocate for all of our birdlife.

DIANNE BRUNTON



# THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND, INC.

## ANNUAL REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL FOR 2006-2007

I am pleased to present this report on behalf of Council to the 68th Annual General Meeting of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand to be held in New Plymouth on 2nd June 2007.

### COUNCIL

Council met formally twice in 2006. The first meeting was in Wellington on 2nd June 2006 in conjunction with the AGM; the second meeting was held in Christchurch on 11th November 2006. Additional business was conducted via email.

### COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations were called to fill the vacancy on Council created by David Medway's completing his year as *ex officio* member as immediate Past President. No nominations were received, so Council will co-opt a member for a one year period to bring the number of Councillors up to the 10 as required by the Society's Constitution.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society was static during the year. Paid-up membership was 918 (excluding 48 exchange subscriptions) as at 6th May 2007 (919 on 7th May 2006). Membership consisted of: 645 ordinary members; 98 family members; 58 life members; 44 student members; 72 institutional members; and three Fellows. The main changes were a reduction of 15 ordinary members, and an additional 15 student members. The increase in student membership is very satisfactory and echoes the good numbers of students who participated in the AOC in Blenheim in 2005. The reduction in ordinary members is, however, a cause for concern.

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The position of Executive Officer for an initial period of three years was established by Council at the November 2006 meeting. Applications were called for in March 2007 and three candidates chosen from the seven applicants will be interviewed in mid-June for commencement as soon as possible after an offer is made to the successful applicant. The Executive Officer will be responsible, under the direction of Council and the President, for the day-to-day operation of the Society, facilitating communication between Council and the membership, ensuring the smooth operation of the Society's schemes and contracts, and developing initiatives to enhance the experience of the membership.

### SOCIETY "BRAND NAME"

As published in the March 2007 issue of *Southern bird*. In accordance with the Motion passed at the 2006 AGM, Council considered the institution and use of a brand name for the Ornithological Society of New Zealand.

Council referred to the Strategic Plan which has been adopted by the Society, and noted that OSNZ aims to be recognised as the leading authority on birds in New Zealand. Council recognised the need to better market the Society to achieve this objective and noted that a number of factors were involved in the recruitment and retention of members. Council noted the progress that is being made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, in particular the decision to employ an Executive Officer in 2007. The Executive Officer would have

a pivotal role in generating future publicity and media work, and promoting membership. Council expressed concern at the additional financial costs that would be associated with any branding exercise and noted the uncertainty of the result of such action in terms of costs and benefits. Council determined not to proceed with the adoption of a brand name at this time.

### NOTORNIS

*Notornis* is now produced entirely 'in-house' up to the printing stage. Papers, notes, and other articles are now laid out and set as part of the editorial process; page proofs are sent to authors electronically where possible and the journal then compiled and a printable file prepared and emailed to the printer. Only one printer's proof is then required before the journal is printed. From transmission of the printable file to the printer to mail-out is now, on average, 10 working days. Production delays did however combine with the necessity of advertising the position of Executive Officer, to lead to the March issue of *Notornis* being held over and a single post-out made with the June issue.

### NOTORNIS ON-LINE

The *Notornis* web page was launched at the AGM in Wellington in June 2006. Until January 1st 2007 all issues were freely available. A running three-year embargo on access to non-members was then instituted, with members receiving an access code. There was unfortunately a delay in distributing the access codes, but free access for members was still available through the trial portal on the *Notornis* site.

### SOUTHERN BIRD

The quarterly newsletter continues to provide the membership with forum for sharing news and views (verbal and pictorial) on birds, places, and members. The Society is grateful again to Nick Allen for his efforts in producing *Southern Bird* to a continuing high standard. The publication will continue to thrive so long as members contribute their observations, articles, and images for all to share.

### ATLAS OF BIRD DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ZEALAND 1999-2004

Five years (1999-2004) of field work and three more of data processing and analysis will come to fruition when the landmark *Atlas of Bird Distribution in New Zealand 1999-2004* is launched by His Excellency the Governor-General at Government House, Wellington, on August 13 2007. The hard bound, 500+ page volume will contain over 2000 maps, including digests and analyses of the patterns of distribution and changes in distribution since the 1985 atlas data were obtained. From 2008, basic distribution maps will be available on-line from a separate *Atlas of Bird Distribution in New Zealand Birds 1999-2005 Webatlas*. The main data source will remain the published volume. Data from the atlas will be available for conditional release for further analyses by application to the Society. Work continues on the reconstruction of the data from the 1985 edition of the atlas.

### NEW ZEALAND BIRD REPORT

Council decided at the November 2006 meeting to endorse a new annual Society publication, to be called *New Zealand Bird Report* to contain the materials until recently published as *Classified Summarised Notes* in *Notornis*, annual reports from Society schemes and analyses of data on, for example, the Beach Patrol Scheme, rare bird reports, and other reports. The single annual issue will be similar to *Notornis* in layout and will shelve



with *Notornis* but details of the publication will be worked out between the Scientific Committee, the Rare Birds Committee and the founding editor, who will be appointed shortly.

#### STATE OF NEW ZEALAND'S BIRDS 2006

The second issue in what is planned to be an annual assessment of the status of selected groups of birds, with periodic overall assessments, was published in March 2007. The series is another way of fulfilling the Society's constitutional brief to promulgate scientifically-sound information on New Zealand birds. The 2006 issue is a special report on the state of New Zealand's seabirds, and is a timely documentation of the problems facing our diverse and important marine bird fauna. The inaugural 2005 publication was prepared by Birds Australia and published in *Wingspan* in time for the 2005 AOC held in Blenheim, and reprinted as a separate by OSNZ. Copies were sent to Cabinet Ministers, Shadow Ministers, and MPs of the smaller parties in late 2006, and copies of both the 2005 and 2006 publications will be sent to CRIs, DoC regions, universities, regional councils, and other organisations.

#### MONITORING AND RECORDING SCHEMES

The Scientific Committee is making progress on developing a workable and affordable on-line recording system for the Society. The efforts of other organisations to introduce such schemes by pilot programmes, of which the Society has been kept well informed, have provided much useful background information. At the same time, the Committee has been considering the range of monitoring and recording schemes at present active or in abeyance both nationally and regionally and possible schemes to fill the space left by the Atlas scheme.

#### WIND FARMS AND NATIONAL POLICIES

The development of wind turbine aggregations ('wind farms') has highlighted the increasing interaction between infrastructure and birds and their habitats. Too little is known of the effects of such new technologies for general responses to be made, yet local authorities have begun to link the Society to the processes of resource consent deliberations. Council therefore adopted a general policy statement to guide regions and other organisations in dealing with new proposals.

#### MEMBERS HONOURED

Four members were honoured during the year for their contributions to conservation, based at least partly on their efforts on behalf of the birds. The Society congratulates Adrian Riegen (MNZM) and Tenick Dennison (MNZM) and Barry Hartley and Gwenda Pulham (QSM) on their well-deserved awards.

#### APPRECIATION

Council thanks the membership for contributing in a myriad of ways to the activities and fellowship of our Society over the past year. Regional Representatives have a pivotal role in co-ordinating the Society's schemes and encouraging members at large.

The Society depends, and will continue to depend, on the voluntary efforts of the membership to further the Society's aims. The goodwill of the membership is the Society's most precious asset. The appointment of an Executive Officer is meant to assist and facilitate, not replace, the essential contributions of the Regional Representatives, regional recorders, membership secretary, editors and reviewers, contributors to Society publications, regional newsletter compilers and contributors, convenors and organisers of the Nest Records Scheme, Beach Patrol Scheme, Moulting Scheme, and Twitchathon, and particularly in this publication year, the Convenor of the Atlas Scheme and the dedicated team who have produced that monumental work. Members of the Rare Birds Committee, Scientific Committee, and the Checklist Committee have all put in long hours of dedicated labour to make the Society work for the membership and to further ornithology in New Zealand. Our librarians and webmaster help to keep up the supply of information to the

membership and to the world at large. The Society appreciates the donation of time and funds by many members, especially in the regions. Council is indebted to the members involved in the planning and hosting of the AGM and two Scientific Days in Wellington in 2006, and the field trips, which were all most enjoyable and rewarding (despite the weather). It is that kind of dedication and effort that will allow the Society to deal with the many challenges that changing times and climates hold for us and the birds.

RICHARD N HOLDAWAY

President

The Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Inc.

16th May 2007

### Treasurer's Annual Report for 2006

The Accounts are presented on the following page in order and conclude with the Statement of Balances, which lists the net result of each account. The General Account receipts include subscriptions, donations and minor receipts plus transfers from other accounts.

Subscriptions were \$5,628 lower due to later payment but this was off set by greater in advance subscriptions of \$4,923. In addition, the AGM refund of \$1,659 was not received in 2006. Finally, there was a reduction of *Notornis* refunds amounting to \$3,380 due to direct payments by authors to Caxton Press.

While the above receipts were down transfers were up due to one-offs such as the closure of the Plant Replacement Account which held \$15,388, the Kakapo *Notornis* issue grant and donation of \$14,900 and the recovery from the Meadows and Contracts Accounts of \$28,057 administration fees (only \$2,375 in 2005). While the Meadows account will end this year, Contracts Account administration fee recovery could well continue over next two to three years at \$10-15,000 each year, the timing depending on our ability to complete projects.

In respect of expenditure *Notornis* costs were up but offset by the grants received and software costs of \$3,452. Other expenses were up in line with living costs but the transfer will reduce to a nominal \$1-2,000 in future years.

The Library and Assets Account now consists solely of the Library at \$33,363. This includes the annual cost of our journals supplied overseas at a total of \$1,700. The value of these exchanges is at least three times as great as if valued at \$100 per subscription. This type of library monetary value understatement is common, apart from heritage libraries which are priceless. Our library, while of grant value, is not old enough to be so classed.

In respect of other accounts the Meadows Atlas Memorial is winding down and should all be spent this year. The Project Assistance Fund received a boost from the surplus of the Blenheim Australasian Ornithological Conference held in November 2005, although \$6,000 could be allocated to the Perth AOC later this year. The Contract Account balance has increased and our work in this area is still expanding. Finally consideration could be given to combining the Sir Robert Falla and A J Edgar Accounts with the General Account but with an undertaking to honour and update (in financial terms) the purposes of these funds.

To sum up 2006 was a most satisfactory year and there is no need to review subscription rates.

Overall it has been a busy and productive year and I wish to thank all Councillors, Editors, Regional Reps, retiring President David Medway, Chris Robertson, Roger Sharp for his great help to me as our Membership Secretary, and all members for keeping their subscriptions coming.

MARK NEE JP,B.COM,CA (RETIRED)



## Auditor's Report

JOHN KHOURI

3 Basque Road, Eden Terrace  
PO Box 8905, Symonds St, Auckland 1150

Tel: 307-1446 | Fax: 302-0271 | E-Mail: johnkhouri@xtra.co.nz

I have audited the financial report on the following pages. The financial report provides information about the past financial performance of the society and its financial position as at 31 December 2006.

### COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The constitution of the society states that the administration and management of the society shall be vested in the Council. The Council is responsible for the preparation of an annual report and audited statement of accounts for the year to 31 December 2006.

### AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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

### BASIS OF OPINION

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence to the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. It also includes assessing:

- The significant estimates and judgements made by the Council in the preparation of the financial report and
- Whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the society's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.
- The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in New Zealand. The audit was planned and performed so as to obtain all the information and explanations which were considered necessary to give reasonable assurance that the financial report is free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In forming the opinion the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the financial statements was also evaluated.

### QUALIFIED OPINION

In common with other organizations of a similar nature, control over income and cash expenditure, prior to it being recorded, is limited and there are no practical audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control.

A physical stock count of assets was not completed at year-end and there were no practical alternative auditing procedures that could be applied to confirm the assets. Accordingly the existence of society library and assets of \$33,363 in the balance sheet was unable to be verified.

Subject to the matters noted in all the above paragraphs, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the society as at 31 December 2006 and the results of its activities for the year ended 31 December 2006.

The audit was completed on 15 May 2007 and my qualified opinion is expressed as at that date.



JOHN KHOURI  
B Com ACA, Auckland

## ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

### INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

	NOTE	2006	2005
<b>1. GENERAL ACCOUNT</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Annual Subscriptions NZ		35,604	40,231
Annual Subscriptions Overseas		13,024	14,025
Donations		1,889	2,055
Sales General		841	0
" Kakapo Issue		510	0
Notornis & Southern Bird Refunds	6	4,271	7,651
Annual meeting		0	1,659
Interest		964	765
<b>SUB TOTAL:</b>		<b>57,103</b>	<b>66,386</b>
Transfers From			
1. Life Membership Reserve Annual contribution		1,659	1,395
2. Plant Purchase Repl & Mtce Account Closure of Account		15,388	0
3. Meadows Atlas Memorial Fund Admin. Fee		4,807	0
4. Contract Account Admin. Fees		23,250	2,375
Kakapo Issue Doc Grant		12,500	0
" Donation Camalco		2,400	0
		<b>60,004</b>	<b>3,770</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>117,107</b>	<b>70,156</b>
<b>Less Expenditure</b>			
Printing Notornis		28,346	22,633
Printing OSNZ News		10,841	10,749
Packing & Posting above		9,344	8,465
Council Meetings		6,343	3,406
Printing & Stationery		971	913
General Expenses		1,981	1,592
Travel Expenses		3,939	3,617
Postage & Tolls		878	862
Audit		800	300
Beach Patrols		69	0
Notornis Software		3,452	0
Insurances		1,074	1,024
Rare Birds/Checklist Committees		471	88
Library		0	1,165
<b>SUB TOTAL:</b>		<b>68,509</b>	<b>54,814</b>
Transfer to:			
3. Library & Asset Account Depreciation		9,617	5,910
4. Sales Stock Write Off		0	2,429
9. Library Auction Reserve Grant for Journals		1,000	0
<b>SUB TOTAL:</b>		<b>10,617</b>	<b>8,339</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>79,126</b>	<b>63,153</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) Income		37,981	7,003
Plus Balance as at 1st January 2006		(44,892)	(51,891)
General Funds as at 31st December 2006		(6911)	(44,892)
<b>2. LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Interest		1,556	965
New Life Members		1,022	3,067
		<b>2,578</b>	<b>4,032</b>
<b>Less Expenditure</b>			
Transfer to General Funds:			
Annual Contribution		1,659	1,395
		919	2,637
Plus Balance as at 1st January 2006		16,586	13,949
<b>Balance as at 31st December 2006</b>		<b>17,505</b>	<b>16,586</b>



### 3. PLANT PURCHASE REPLACEMENT & MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT

#### Expenditure

Repairs	0	300
Transfer to General Account	15,388	0
Surplus (Deficit)	0	(300)
Plus balance as at 1st January 2006	15,388	15,688
<b>Balance as at 31st December 2006</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,388</b>

### 4. LIBRARY & ASSETS ACCOUNT

#### Income

Library Exchanges	1,700	1,700
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#### Less

Transfer to General Funds:

Annual Depreciation	9,617	5,910
Surplus/(Deficit)	(7,917)	(4,210)

Plus balance as at 1st January 2006	41,280	45,490
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<b>Balance as at 31st December 2006</b>	<b>33,363</b>	<b>41,280</b>
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### 5. SIR ROBERT FALLA MEMORIAL FUND

#### Income

Interest	410	282
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Plus Fund Balance as at 1st January 2006	4,369	4,087
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Balance as at 31st December 2006	4,779	4,369
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### 6. AJ EDGAR JUNIOR AWARD FUND

#### Income

Donations	75	143
Interest	412	275

Income	487	418
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Plus Fund Balance as at 1st January 2006	4,396	3,978
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<b>Balance as at 31st December 2006</b>	<b>4,883</b>	<b>4,396</b>
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### 7. PROJECT ASSISTANCE FUND

Income		
Royalties Penguin Field Guide	5,581	4,523
Interest	9,732	6,061
Projects Cancelled	1,230	1,230
Surplus A.O.C	14,856	0

<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>31,399</b>	<b>11,814</b>
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#### Expenditure

Projects Approved & Granted	7A	5,333	0
Projects Approved	7B	0	1,230
Regional Petrol Grant	7C	4,957	4,916
State of Birds		765	2,466

<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>11,055</b>	<b>8,612</b>
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Surplus/(Deficit)	20,344	3,202
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Plus Balance as at 1st January 2006	102,903	99,701
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<b>Balance as at 31st December 2006</b>	<b>123,247</b>	<b>102,903</b>
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### 8. MEADOWS ATLAS MEMORIAL FUND

#### Income

Doc. Atlas Project	0	46,000
Sales	3,625	4,470
Donations	1,045	660
Interest	7,597	6,963

	12,267	58,093
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#### Expenditure

Atlas Plans/Mapping	48,077	22,562
Data Entry	0	1,194
Transfer to General Account		
Administration Charge	4,807	2,375
Expenditure	52,884	26,131

Surplus/(Deficit)	(40,617)	31,962
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Balance as at 1st January 2006	94,964	63,002
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<b>Balance as at 31st December 2006</b>	<b>54,347</b>	<b>94,964</b>
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### 9. LIBRARY AUCTION RESERVE

#### Income

Interest	147	831
Transfer from General Account	1,000	0
	1,147	831

#### Expenditure

Journal	1,502	588
Surplus/(Deficit)	(355)	243

Balance as at 1st January 2006	2,686	2,443
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<b>Balance as at 31st December 2006</b>	<b>2,331</b>	<b>2,686</b>
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### 10. CONTRACTS ACCOUNT

#### Income

Wader Report, Status Report	16,000	0
Notornis Kakapo Issue	0	15,000
Wader Report	7,978	6,576
Wader Surveys	44,000	52,000
	67,978	73,576

#### Expenditure

Wader & Status Reports	7,750	0
Transfers		

To General Account

Administration Fees	23,250	0
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Grant Kakapo Issue	12,500	2,500
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	43,500	2,500
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Surplus/(Deficit)	23,478	71,076
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Balance as at 1st January 2006	86,076	15,000
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<b>Balance as at 31st December 2006</b>	<b>109,554</b>	<b>86,076</b>
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### STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006

	2006	2005
<b>Members Funds</b>		
General Funds	(6911)	(44,892)
Life Membership Reserve	17,505	16,586
Plant Purchase, Replacement & Maintenance	0	15,388
Library Reserve	2,331	2,686
Members Funds	12,925	10,232

#### Restricted Funds

Sir Robert Falla Memorial Award	4,779	4,369
AT Edgar Junior Memorial Award	4,883	4,396
Project Assistance Fund	123,247	102,903
Meadows Memoria	54,347	94,964
Contracts Fund	109,554	86,076
Restricted Funds Liabilities	296,810	292,708

<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS &amp; LIABILITIES</b>	<b>309,785</b>	<b>282,476</b>
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#### Assets

Bank	3,691	124
Accounts Receivable	4,279	8,171
Advances	650	450
Investments BNZ	15,000	30,000
Investments Auckland Mortgage Trust	288,000	238,000
Library & Assets	33,363	41,280

<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>344,983</b>	<b>318,025</b>
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#### Less Liabilities

Accounts Payable	800	2,030
Subscription Advance	30,370	25,447
Goods & Service Tax Due	4,028	8,072

<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>35,198</b>	<b>35,549</b>
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<b>NET TOTAL OF ASSETS</b>	<b>309,785</b>	<b>282,476</b>
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M.P NEE, TREASURER



# NOTE TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2006

## 1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### 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 society.

### Particular accounting Policies

Particular Accounting Policies which materially affect the measurement of the excess of income over expenditure and financial position have been applied as follows:

#### a. Subscription Income

Subscriptions in arrears have not been included in income. Subscriptions in advance have been excluded from income.

#### b. Royalty Income

Sales of field guide of the birds of New Zealand (Falla, Sibson, Turbott) have ceased. 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 at a rate of 6.2%. This rate is calculated by apportioning the total interest received over Restricted and General Funds, with a deduction for administration.

#### d. Depreciation

Depreciation was charged at an annual rate of 15% diminishing value but assets were all old, being replaced and are now written off.

#### e. Goods & Service Tax

Income and expenditure are stated exclusive of good and services tax.

## 2. RESERVES

### a. Life Membership

The life membership reserve consists of life membership subscriptions and interest less annual transfer of 10% of balance to General Funds.

### b. Plant Purchase

The Plant Purchase, Preplacement & Maintenance Reserve, was set up in 1992 but is longer required and is now transferred to the General Account.

## 3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Royalties Penguin	1,800	1,800
Interest BNZ	385	617
Auckland Mortgage Trust	2,094	1,481
Notornis	0	2,514
Southern Bird	0	100
AGM Refund	0	1,659
	<b>4,279</b>	<b>8,171</b>

## Valuation

1. Notornis - in the past it was policy to print extra copies of the quarterly journal to be held for eventual sale to libraries, institutions and new members. Holdings are now reduced to only nominal value. This year values reduced to nil are all old stock items.
2. The account shows income from sales mainly of the older holdings at AGM. Pens and surplus Notornis it is anticipated sales of up to \$800 will be made annually.

## 4. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Project Assistance Grants Unpaid	0	1,230
Audit Fee accrued	800	800
	<b>800</b>	<b>2,030</b>

## 5. NOTORNIS & SOUTHERN BIRD REFUNDS

	2006	2005
Notornis/Library Exchanges	1,700	1,700
Papers in Notornis	2,276	5,776
Southern Birds Adverts	295	175
	<b>4,271</b>	<b>7,651</b>

## 6A. PROJECT ASSISTANCE FUND GRANTS MADE

06.01 Rock Wren Project	1,000	0
06.02 Malborough OSNZ Project	3,333	0
06.03 Book Grant	1,000	0
Regional Patrol Grants	4,957	4,916
AOC Conference	0	2,466
State of Birds	765	0
	<b>11,055</b>	<b>7,382</b>

## 6B. PROJECTS APPROVED

98.01 Southland's Black Billed Gull Banding	0	480
98.02 R.Keedwell's Study ALL CANCELLED	0	350
99.01 Hawkes Bay Stopwatches	0	400
	<b>0</b>	<b>1,230</b>

## 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 if New Zealand AG be exempt from the completion of a Statement of Cashflow.

## 9. LIBRARY, ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

ITEM	YEAR PURCHASE	COST PRICE	BOOK VALUE TO: 31 DEC 05	TOTAL DEP. TO END 2005	DEP. 2006	TOTAL DEP.	BOOK VALUE TO 31 DEC 2006
Library		31,663	31,663		1,700*		33,363
Computers	1994	10,033	1,860	8,173	1,860	10,033	0
Computers	1997	7,736	1,756	5,980	1,756	7,736	0
Computers	1999	5,251	1,858	3,393	1,858	5,251	0
Computers	2001	4,638	2,360	2,278	2,360	4,638	0
Nest Records	1995	7,000	1,460	5,540	1,460	7,000	0
Glasses	1995	1,467	323	1,144	323	1,467	0
		<b>67,788</b>	<b>41,280</b>	<b>26,508</b>	<b>9,617</b>	<b>36,125</b>	<b>33,363</b>

\*1 Library Exchanges





## New Zealand Garden Bird Survey 2007

A garden bird survey is planned for the period 14th to 22nd July 2007. To take part, all you need to do is spend one hour counting birds in your home garden, local park, or school ground during that period. Please see the instructions and recording sheet enclosed with this issue of Southern Bird for further details.

We encourage you to enter your data directly onto the web (at <http://www.nzbrn.org.nz> – see Quick Start instructions or [http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biocons/gardenbird/instructions\\_nzbrn.asp](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biocons/gardenbird/instructions_nzbrn.asp) for full instructions). This will then enable you to view all recorded data and to enter other bird data whenever you want. However, if you prefer you can fax or post your filled-out form to the address below. If you participate as a group (e.g. as a family or as a school class) please send in only one data form for the whole group. We will report the results of the survey on the Landcare Research website (<http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biocons/gardenbird/>).

Many thanks for taking part. We hope you enjoy it. Suggestions for improvement are welcome.

### Any queries to:

Eric Spurr, Landcare Research, PO Box 40, Lincoln 7640

Ph. (03) 321 9809 (direct dial)

Fax (03) 321 9998 (attention: Eric Spurr)

Email [spurre@landcareresearch.co.nz](mailto:spurre@landcareresearch.co.nz)

*OSNZ supports Landcare Research's Garden Bird Survey*

## New Partnership to save the Pacific's threatened birds

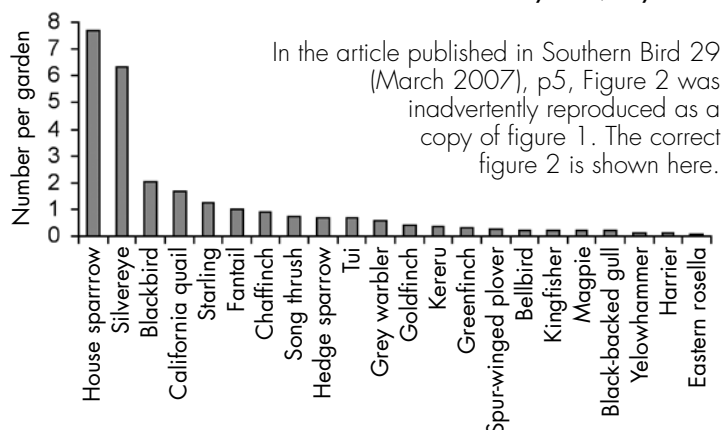
A memorandum of understanding has been signed between BirdLife International and the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) that commits the two organisations to work together for the next five years. SPREP is a regional organisation with a brief of safeguarding the environment and established by the governments/administrations of the Pacific.

Don Stewart, Head of BirdLife Pacific said "The Pacific region has more threatened bird species per unit of land area or per person than any other region in the world, and the most extinctions." "We have an urgency to protect bird species in the Pacific Islands region, and coordinated action will help ensure that no further extinctions occur." "Over 95% of the world's recent bird extinctions have occurred on islands and around 30% of Pacific birds are threatened with extinction." "This partnership will help us hone our efforts, marking a maximum impact in the conservation work both alliances are undertaking."

*Source: BirdLife News Alert 5/4/07*

## CORRECTION

### New Zealand Garden Bird Survey Trial, July 2006



## FOURTH BIENNIAL Australian Ornithological Conference

### Call for Papers and Expressions of Interest

The Fourth Biennial Australasian Ornithological Conference will be held in Perth, Western Australia on 3rd to 5th December 2007. This conference provides a regular forum for the exchange of information and ideas between avian researchers and conservationists throughout the Australasian region. The venue will be the University of Western Australia, and the Western Australian group of Birds Australia (RAOU) will host the conference.

A post-conference field excursion will be available.

### An Invitation

You are invited to express your interest in attending this conference, and presenting a paper by visiting [www.birdswa.com.au/aoc2007](http://www.birdswa.com.au/aoc2007), or link through [www.birdswa.com.au](http://www.birdswa.com.au) or [www.birdsaustralia.com.au](http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au), or write to the conference co-ordinator:

S. Mather

Birds Australia Western Australia

167 Perry Lakes Drive

Floreat, WA 6014, Australia

Email: [aoc2007@birdswa.com.au](mailto:aoc2007@birdswa.com.au)

Telephone: +61 8 93896416

## New Longlining Restrictions

On 26th January Jim Anderton (Minister of Fisheries) announced new restrictions on methods to be used when using surface long-line fishing techniques in New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone. The restrictions followed an incident in November 2006 when a boat targeting tuna and swordfish caught 51 albatrosses (especially Antipodean Wandering Albatrosses) and seven petrels during a single voyage to the Kermadec Fisheries Management Area. This was followed by a further incident of by-catch. When targeting the above types of fish the lines are set closer to the surface than is usually the case when long-lining, leading to a greater chance of birds being able to reach the baits and so getting hooked.

The new restrictions prescribe that such surface long-lines targeting tuna and swordfish must be set at night; bird-scaring devices (such as tori lines) must be used regardless of the type of fish being sought; and the Ministry of Fisheries observer programme must be notified of voyages using surface long-lining techniques at least five days in advance of departure.

*Sources: Forest and Bird e-news, BirdLife News Alert*





Aracari.



# Exploring the cloud forests of Ecuador

SUZI PHILLIPS

Large, colourful and extraordinary birds make Ecuador a birdwatcher's paradise

Ecuador is a rewarding and beautiful country for nature-lovers, from the cloud forests and volcanoes around high altitude capital city Quito, to the tropical rainforests of the Oriente, the Amazonian lowlands. Birders from around the world flock there, attracted by the chance to see more than 300 species on a one-week trip. The country has more than 1,550 bird species, or about 15 per cent of the world total.

Ecuador is easy to access from New Zealand too. We flew from Auckland across the Pacific direct to Santiago in Chile and then a five hour link flight along the Andes, up to Quito at a breathtaking altitude of 2800 m.

For most people, it doesn't take long to acclimatise and the city is a logical starting point for any trip to Ecuador. It is after all, at the 'centre of the world', and you can visit El Mitad del Mundo, the monument that marks the equatorial line just outside Quito. Any time of the year is good for visiting Ecuador, and in October, when we were there, it was pleasantly temperate without being cool. The climate is warm and tropical on the coast and in the Amazonian areas, but cooler as you gain altitude towards the Andes.

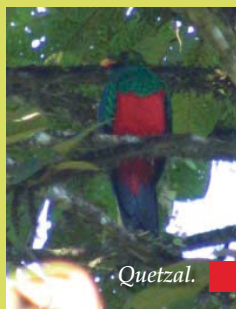
Quito is set in a valley over 70 km long. Its commuter suburbs are to the south of the city with the striking snow-capped Cotapaxi Volcano (4,800 m) as a backdrop. The picturesque Old City is in the middle of Quito, and the business district, industry and more suburbs, lie to the north.

Like most visitors we stayed in the centre of Quito and explored the Old City on foot with a local guide. Highlights included the seven ornate cathedrals, the Presidential Palace and the many old buildings dating from around the Spanish Colonial era in the 16th century.

Spanish is the local lingo and if you don't speak it, do take a Latin American phrase book with you and have a go. The locals are friendly and helpful, and appreciate the extra effort. In cities, many tourism operators have some English, but in the countryside you will get further faster with a little Spanish.

A good starting point for exploring is the slopes of nearby Pinchincha Volcano to the east of Quito, where many high altitude birds are found. As our four-wheel drive made easy

work of the narrow winding road, we climbed through open páramo grasslands towards montane cloud forests. On the way we spotted a Tawny Antpitta calling from low bushes on the roadside, and an American Kestrel out hunting, while in the roadside scrub, an Ocellated Tapaculo called, but stayed hidden from view. We later got a close-up view of this large ground bird with its spectacular bright red face and throat, and boldly white-spotted body.



Quetzal.



Quetzal at nest hole.

On arrival at Yanacocha Cloud Forest Reserve high on Pinchincha (about an hour's drive) we left the vehicle in the care of our driver and walked part of the mostly flat Old Inca Trail that winds around the hill at that altitude. As we walked, bright multi-coloured tanagers darted among the overhanging trees, and we glimpsed the fast-moving Sword-billed Hummingbird among the many species of this family that frequent the feeders in the reserve. The whirr of tiny passing hummingbirds was a novelty for us. They come in a whirling array of colours and styles, with exotic names to match their appearance, such as pufflegs, sunangels, emeralds, sapphirowings, brilliants and more.

The reserve includes montane cloud forest with many ferns, orchids, bromeliads and epiphytes, elfin forest, Polylepis, and páramo. Polylepis trees are endemic to the Andean páramo, and occur naturally at higher elevations than any other angiosperm. These forests continue to disappear at an alarming rate, partly because people follow cultural traditions of land

clearance, and partly due to ever-increasing population growth and its increasing demands on the landscape.

Yanacocha is now the property of the Jocotoco Foundation, which is protecting the area as the Polylepis trees there are the last breeding refuge of the endemic Black-breasted Puffleg, a small rare species of hummingbird. The views from Yanacocha are fantastic sweeping vistas of steep-sided, forested hills and deep valleys – the western foothills of the Ecuadorian Andes range.

After a morning in the reserve, we head for Mindo, descending through bush and farmland past small haciendas farming cattle and crops. In this area there were all sorts of birding surprises from a Crested Cotinga and Turquoise Jay spotted in roadside trees, to a startled Noble Snipe that burst out of bushes beside a stream.



Hummingbirds on a feeder  
in the Yanacocha Reserve.



Ecuador flora.



Long-tailed Sylph hummingbird.

Mindo is a small town on the western side of Pinchincha surrounded by dairy farms and cloud forest. It is in a beautiful lush river valley that drains the Rio Mindo and Rio Nambillo, and it is here we find the Bosque Protector Mindo-Nambillo Reserve of about 19,000 ha. More than 350 species of birds have been identified in this area alone. Cloud forest species such as the stunning Choco Toucan, the stately Golden-headed Quetzal, and the immaculately-attired Andean Cock of the Rock, are all impressive sights around Mindo.

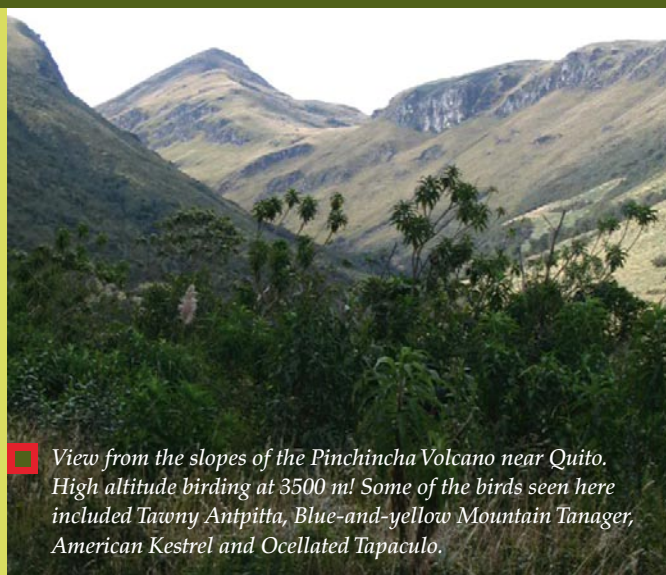
Not far from Mindo is Bellavista, a cloud forest and bird lover's paradise. This private reserve was set up by an Englishman to create a sanctuary and protect large sections of cloud forest from clearance and development. Bellavista now covers 300 hectares at altitudes between 1,400 m and 2,600 m. The forest here is home to numerous species of ferns, orchids, and bromeliads, and at least 270 species of birds including specialties such as Giant Antpitta, Tanager Finch, Swallow-tailed Nightjar and a huge variety of hummingbirds. More than a dozen trails have been created offering visitors spectacular views of the area. During our visits to Bellavista, we saw a pair of the spectacular Plate-billed Mountain Toucans, heard the rhythmic hooting of our first Toucan Barbets, spotted a Crimson-mantled Woodpecker and, at dusk, experienced a swooping visit from ghostly nighthawks.

In this region's cloud forests there are about 100 species of tanagers alone, each one sporting a different colour combination from the stunning Blue-and-yellow Mountain Tanager, to the Golden-crowned, Scarlet-bellied and Purple-mantled Tanagers, or the subtle highlights of the beautiful pale blue and silver-pink Grey-and-gold Tanager. Less colourful, but just as entrancing are families of neo-tropical birds such as euphonias, flowerpiercers, tyrants, antpittas, antshrikes, cebeills, canasteros, and manakins.

This is just one of the special areas of Ecuador to explore. In the east is the Oriente Amazonian region with its rich lowland biodiversity. In the centre is the Andean region and in the south is another area of cultural and ecological experiences worth exploring.

As you explore the natural history of Ecuador, you also encounter its rich cultural heritage including many markets and festivals. An easy side-trip between Quito and Mindo is a visit to the country's largest artisan market, just an hour or so east of the capital, in the town of Otavalo. Here stalls sell weaving and leather crafts, including colourful woven ponchos, wall-hangings and tablecloths. There are also silver hand-crafted jewellery, carvings in marble, wood and stone, and folk instruments for sale at the markets.

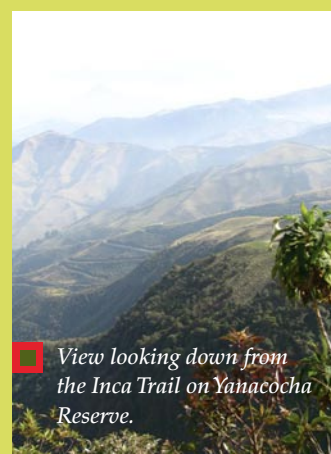
Whether you go to buy gifts and souvenirs or just to experience the colourful market, friendly people, and the local culture, it's a wonderful place to finish a visit to Ecuador.



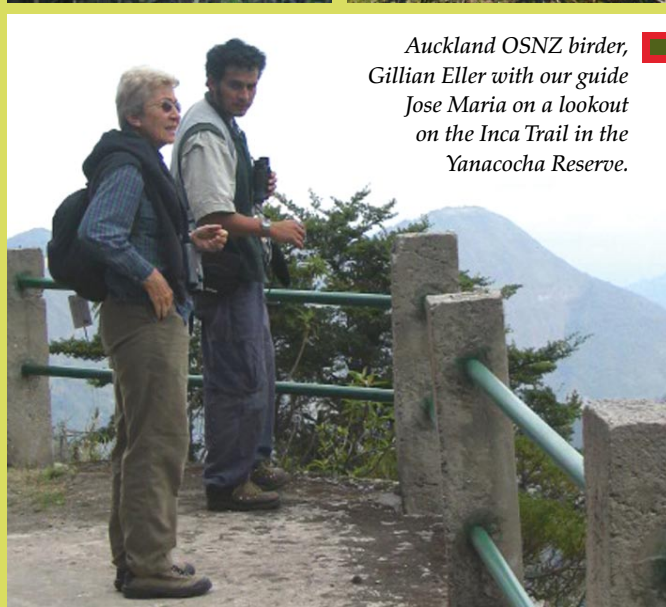
View from the slopes of the Pinchincha Volcano near Quito. High altitude birding at 3500 m! Some of the birds seen here included Tawny Antpitta, Blue-and-yellow Mountain Tanager, American Kestrel and Ocellated Tapaculo.



Nest of Cinnamon Becard.



View looking down from the Inca Trail on Yanacocha Reserve.



Auckland OSNZ birder, Gillian Eller with our guide Jose Maria on a lookout on the Inca Trail in the Yanacocha Reserve.





## Godwits Followed North

The satellite tracking of Bar-tailed Godwits on their northward migration this autumn has been a resounding success. One bird touched down at Yalu Jiang, China in late March after a roughly nine-day non-stop flight from Miranda in the Firth of Thames. The straight-line distance between these two locations is 9,575 km, but the actual satellite track flown by the bird was 10,200 km. This is the longest proven non-stop flight of any bird.

At least another six birds (of the 14 fitted with transmitters) followed a similar track, over Melanesia and Micronesia and just south of the Japanese archipelago, most completing their journeys in 6.5 to 7.5 days. It is interesting to note that these birds could have chosen to make slight diversions and stopped off at mudflats further south on or near their very direct flight path, such as New Guinea, Japan and sites in the south of the Yellow Sea, but flew direct to obviously regular staging grounds further north. However, only one stopped first in Japan, and another did the journey in smaller hops stopping at Yap then Okinawa before making it to Yalu Jiang. Thus the norm seems a gruelling non-stop flight without the assistance of favourable prevailing winds.

Of the other transmitted birds only one is still in New Zealand, at Golden Bay, five transmitters stopped working (one of these birds was later seen in Queensland), and another individual stopped in the southern coast of New Guinea for a few days before turning back to Queensland.

Starting on 1st May birds started leaving their Yellow Sea staging grounds, four flying direct across the Korean peninsula and Japan on a >5,000 km direct flight over the North Pacific Ocean to Alaska. A further two left later, one to the upper Anadyr River Valley in eastern Russia, where it appears to be breeding, and another seemed to be heading towards Alaska, but turned back to the Kamchatka Peninsula.

Sources APSN News [www.shorebirdnetwork.org/news.html](http://www.shorebirdnetwork.org/news.html),  
Pacific Shorebird Migration Project Webpage  
[www.werc.usgs/sattrack/shorebirds/overall.html](http://www.werc.usgs/sattrack/shorebirds/overall.html)

## Personnel

- Kevin Parker has taken over as Reviews Editor. Please send review copies, book and product reviews, or offers to write the latter to him at:  
Institute of Natural Resources, Massey University,  
Private Bag 102904, North Shore Mail Centre,  
Auckland. Phone (09) 414 0800 ext 41197.  
Mobile 021 701 639. Email [k.parker@massey.ac.nz](mailto:k.parker@massey.ac.nz)
- Dai Morgan has taken over the reins as Waikato Regional Rep. His contact details are 78 Grey Street, Cambridge. Phone (07) 823 1990, Email [dm30@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:dm30@waikato.ac.nz)
- Phil Battley was co-opted onto Council in June. He can be contacted at Ecology Group, Massey University, Private Bag 11-222, Palmerston North. Mobile 021 072 1216. Email [philbattley@quicksilver.net.nz](mailto:philbattley@quicksilver.net.nz)
- Scott Butcher has resigned from Council. We wish him well in his future endeavours.
- Wairarapa RR Barbara Lovatt has a new email address. It is now [barbara.lovatt@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:barbara.lovatt@slingshot.co.nz)



## ORNITHOLOGY PRIZE to Auckland students

Two Auckland secondary school students were joint winners of the Auckland branch of OSNZ's inaugural student prize in ornithology. The prize, intended to encourage student interest in ornithology, is organised by the Auckland branch of the Ornithological Society.

Two year 13 biology students, Rosemarie Keen from Diocesan School for Girls, and Elizabeth Job from Pakuranga College, were joint winners. They both received a week on an ecology and bird study field course in January, run by the Miranda Naturalists, as well as a student membership each to OSNZ. The Miranda residential field course includes daily field trips and talks on coastal marine ecology, botany, ornithology, bird photography, coastal and wading birds, and practical skills such as mist-netting, processing and banding land birds, as well as taking part in cannon-netting of waders for banding and research.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for these students to get some first-hand knowledge of ornithology and meet lecturers and other students who have an enthusiasm for bird study and research," says Auckland OSNZ spokesperson, Suzi Phillips. "They both showed in their entries that they already have a strong interest in bird study and the potential to take this interest more seriously in future studies".

"We hope that they will consider a career in ornithology, perhaps as the focus of university studies in ecology or conservation," she says. "This is also an effective way of raising the Ornithological Society's profile locally, and especially with a group of young people who we hope will become long-term members of the Society".

The top prize was awarded jointly as the judging panel felt the two winners were equally deserving of first place and would benefit from sharing the experience on the Miranda Field Course. Two runners-up for the inaugural student prize, Isabelle Kember and Rebecca Short, each won a year's student membership to OSNZ. Three of the four student memberships were sponsored by OSNZ.

To enter, students had to answer questions about their background and involvement in birding, as well as their interest in future bird study and commitment to conservation. Entry was open to all Year 12 and 13 biology students in the Auckland area.

The Auckland Branch intends to hold the Student Prize each year.



Joint winners of the inaugural Auckland OSNZ Student Prize are Rosemarie Keen (left) from Diocesan School for Girls, and Elizabeth Job from Pakuranga College. (Photo: Suzi Phillips).



## BIRD PEOPLE

Photographer and natural historian Brian Chudleigh sadly passed away in early March. Tim Barnard, RR for the Bay of Plenty wrote on the Birding NZ email group "Brian has left us with a fantastic legacy of images of the birds he loved so much. His passion and enthusiasm for New Zealand's natural heritage was infectious. He was not only one of the best photographers this country has seen but an outstanding natural historian too. I know the birding community in the Bay of Plenty will be deeply saddened by this news but at the same time will celebrate a life that captured so much of the beauty of New Zealand's wildlife."

Canterbury member Dr P Maling also passed away last December.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to family and friends of these members.

On a happier note Waikato RR Dai Morgan got engaged recently. Also as the editor of this magazine I would like to take this opportunity to announce I also got engaged in April, and am totally stoked about it.

## BIRD NEWS

*This feature contains unchecked reports. Some sightings require confirmation by the OSNZ Rare Birds Committee*

A further translocation of about 100 **Hutton's Shearwater** chicks occurred in early March to the Kaikoura Peninsula from the Te Uerau Nature Reserve colony in the Seaward Kaikoura Range. They were placed into artificial burrows and fed for several weeks before fledging. In 2006 80 birds fledged, and a final translocation will occur in 2008. The aim is to set up a new breeding colony to help secure the long-term survival of the species, currently under threat from landslips and the possible incursion of pests. It is expected that the first birds to return, hopefully to establish the new breeding colony, will do so in 2009 or 2010.

In a first for the South Island twenty **Brown Teal** were released as part of a species recovery effort at Travis Wetland in Christchurch.

Thirty **Shore Plovers** have been translocated to Mana Island, off the coast near Porirua. Twelve quickly went 'exploring', as the species is wont to do, with some being reported on the nearby mainland coast. More birds are due to be translocated to the island in the future. All of the birds are colour-banded with two bands on each leg, and, being juveniles, may not have a dark face (instead looking a bit like very pale Banded Dotterels). They are likely to be very tame, allowing close approach. Please be on the lookout for these birds and report sightings and band combinations to Colin Miskelly of DoC Wellington at [cmiskelly@doc.govt.nz](mailto:cmiskelly@doc.govt.nz).

**Orange-fronted Parakeets**, as mooted in the last issue of Southern Bird, have been translocated to Maud Island in the Marlborough Sounds and seem to be doing well there. This is the second predator-free island the species has been translocated to, after a successful translocation to Chalky Island in Fiordland. Eleven young birds bred at Peacock Springs near Christchurch were released on Maud Island in early March. Three pairs formed (only three males were translocated) and by late April two pairs had nests with three eggs in each, and another pair was preparing to nest. More males are planned for translocation to Maud so that more pairs can form, as a shortage of the sex appears to be holding up breeding, and, hopefully, the establishment of a second self-sustaining island population.

### SHORT REPORTS

A two-year-old **Snares Crested Penguin** came ashore to moult at Waipaua Bay, Pitt Island in March. A dead juvenile was picked up at Owenga (also in the Chathams) in February. The long-staying Marlborough Sounds **Brown Booby** was reported from the French Pass area in late March. The regular **Glossy Ibis** remained in eastern Christchurch, being seen intermittently at Travis and Bexley Wetlands. Another was at Awanui Wharf, north of Kaitaia in late March. The Waikanae Estuary continued to hold a **Little Egret** until at least 29/4. The similarly long-staying **Intermediate Egret** returned after a few months' absence to grace the Waiatarua Wetland Reserve (Remuera, Auckland) until at least 21/5.

The five **Grass (Plumed) Whistling Ducks** remained in the Woodville area through March. Another, or one of the Woodville birds was on Tiritiri Matangi on 2/4. This bird may have moved to nearby Tawharanui Park (Auckland) as one was seen there late April-early June at least. Two **Cape Barren Geese** were on an artificial lake just south-west of Hamilton in early April. The sighting is very unusual in the Waikato, at least one of the birds was unbanded and reportedly wary. Further north another two were on Rat Island (Kaipara Harbour) on 25/4. Continuing the run of records this summer and autumn, a **Chestnut-breasted Shelduck** was reported from Stony Bay at the end of the Coromandel Peninsula in early March, with

another (female) at Ki-Wainono on 11/3. Six individuals (five ducks and one drake) remained at Greenpark Sands, Lake Ellesmere into early April.

A record number of **New Zealand Dotterels** have been counted in Awarua Bay (near Invercargill) this autumn, with 89 present on 30/5, and testament to successful predator-control operations in the species' breeding range on Stewart Island. A **Large Sand Dotterel** was reported from Miranda in mid- to late March. Further down the coast Little Waihi held a **Mongolian Dotterel** on 11/3, with another at Big Sand Island (Kaipara Harbour) on 6/4 and 19/4. The probable **Baird's Sandpiper** was seen again on Greenpark Sands, Lake Ellesmere on 24/3. A **Ruff** (or possibly a Buff-breasted Sandpiper) was at the shellbank roost of the New River Estuary on 5/3.

The Paua, Parengarenga Harbour Pacific Golden Plover flock held a **Little Whimbrel** in March. Two **Hudsonian Godwits** graced the mudflats of Miranda in early March, with one in fairly good breeding plumage in late March. Another posed an identification puzzle at Ki-Wainono in South Canterbury on 11/3, as none of its cousins were with it – at least until it lifted its wings. This latter, or another individual, was on Greenpark Sands, Lake Ellesmere on 24/3. One of the Miranda individuals may have moved up the coast to Mangere Ponds, where it was present in early-late April. A **Siberian Tattler** remained at Miranda until at least 11/3, with another at Cow Island (Awarua Bay) in late May. The Glossy Ibis site at Awanui produced a **Greenshank** on 29/3. Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** were reported on Greenpark Sands on 31/3. Miranda continued to entertain a **Terek Sandpiper** throughout March, and others were on the New River Estuary, Invercargill on 5/3, and Big Sand Island on 6/4 and 19/4.

Two **Pomarine Skuas** were seen near Moturemu Island (Kaipara Harbour) on 19/4 on their way to harass a large feeding flock of White-fronted Terns. On a very windy 16th May a probable **Whiskered Tern** flew over Travis Wetland, Christchurch. **White-winged Black Terns** continue to grace the Canterbury coast with one in immature plumage at the Hurunui River Mouth on 4/5, one at the Rangitata River Mouth on 21/4, and three at the Rakaia River Mouth in early April.

A **Red-crowned Parakeet** was photographed in early May at The Brook mainland island project on the edge of Nelson City. It may have been a wild bird, or one released by a misguided aviculturist, as still happens (potentially this could lead to diseases in or hybridisation with natural populations of parakeets, all of which are in endangered in New Zealand).

Sources: What's Up DoC email newsletter,  
@DoC Canterbury Conservancy email newsletter,  
Birding-NZ email group, Colin Miskelly

### Birds making an impression: request for information

I am seeking descriptions and photographs of birds leaving impact impressions on windows (for an example, see Flux 1990: Impact impression of New Zealand Pigeon on window, *Notornis* 37: 120). I have seen this for Morepork and New Zealand Pigeon, and was recently sent a photograph of a Rock Pigeon impression. In each case, a powdery residue was left behind, creating an intricate, ghost-like image of the bird on the glass. Descriptions or photographs, along with details of what species left the impression (if known), locality and date can be sent by email ([hakawai@paradise.net.nz](mailto:hakawai@paradise.net.nz)) or post (C Miskelly, 114 Daniell Street, Wellington 6021).

COLIN MISKELLY



—— OSNZ RARE BIRDS COMMITTEE ——  
Ruling on four records of *Pealeornis maoriana*

The records of four captured specimens of *Pealeornis maoriana* were received by the OSNZ Rare Birds Committee on 6th December 2006 for consideration (UBR 56/06). The records considered were:

- **4-5th November 2005** - one captured and released off Little Barrier Island (Murman, Griffiths and Baird) banded B-97715.
- **4-9th January 2006** - three captured and released in the Hauraki Gulf (Jamieson, Stephenson and Griffiths *et al.*) banded B-94503, B-94504, B-94505.

The OSNZ Rare Birds Committee does not make decisions on taxonomy, nor the validity of taxa. It is the OSNZ Checklist Committee's role to make decisions on the taxonomy or validity of taxa in New Zealand. It will do so with regard to *Pealeornis maoriana* when all data, including any DNA evidence based on analysis of both the museum and captured specimens has been published and peer-reviewed in the usual manner.

The OSNZ Rare Birds Committee is required to determine whether, in their opinion, the records submitted are morphologically inseparable from the three recognised specimens of *Pealeornis maoriana* held in overseas museums.

Having considered the morphological evidence presented, the OSNZ Rare Birds Committee believes the four captured specimens do not differ substantially from the **holotype** of *Pealeornis maoriana* held in the Natural History Museum, Tring (1895.2.1.11), nor from the two specimens in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (No. 17 [14393] & No. 18 [14372]).

**Accordingly, the OSNZ Rare Birds Committee rules that 'Based on the morphological evidence from captured birds only, the records of Murman, Griffiths and Baird (4-5/11/2005) and Jamieson, Stephenson and Griffiths *et al.* (4-9/01/2006) represent the first substantiated records of the taxon currently known as *Pealeornis maoriana*, since the 19th Century'.**

PAUL SCOFIELD, *Convenor*  
For OSNZ Rare Birds Committee



### Isabelline Blackbird

The Blackbird illustrated in the accompanying photograph was first noticed by me in early September 2006. It was being chased around on the ground in our back yard in Levin by two normal-looking Blackbirds. Over the two days following its discovery it turned up mainly in the mornings and became quite aggressive towards the other Blackbirds in the area, chasing them around on the ground, in the air and trying to land next to them in trees. The normal-looking Blackbirds would just fly off. Later on the bird was only seen on fleeting visits, either flying straight through or landing briefly in the trees on its own.

PETER BENNETT

**Paul Scofield adds:**

The unusual plumage colouration seen in this bird is known as Isabelline. Technically this occurs due to a reduction in the production of melanin in the feathers due to either a temporary protein imbalance or a permanent genetic mutation. Partial albino Blackbirds are common in New Zealand, possibly due to the 'genetic bottleneck' of such small numbers being introduced originally, but I have not previously heard of an Isabelline individual of the species.

### Another White-faced Heron with a Deformed Beak

Following Marion Milne's note regarding deformed beaks in White-faced Herons in the December 2006 issue of *Southern Bird* I photographed an individual of this species with an abnormal beak in Manukau Harbour in 1976.

GEOFF MOON



### ATLAS OF BIRD DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ZEALAND 1999-2004

The Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Inc. will launch the most comprehensive survey of New Zealand's avifauna in August this year. **All members of the OSNZ are to receive a copy as part of their subscription for 2007.** With some 540 pages and 2,135 maps covering over 200 of our endemic, native, migratory and introduced birds, this work is the result of five years of extensive surveying by more than 850 people throughout the country. There is even a full atlas section specifically for the Chatham Islands. Conservatively valued at more than \$10 million worth of voluntary effort, it emphasises the importance of nationally co-ordinated environmental monitoring and recording, by a largely amateur organisation.

The OSNZ published its first Atlas of bird distribution in 1985 (covering the years 1969-1979), and these old distribution maps are reproduced alongside the new maps to demonstrate visible changes in the bird distribution throughout the country over some 35 years. Seasonal and breeding data are provided for each of the birds and there is a full section devoted to habitat use. Using the latest mapping techniques they have explored our national biodiversity for birds to demonstrate a statistical snapshot view of the hotspot areas round New Zealand which require consideration for conservation management and protection. It is also a good guide to where to find the birds that interest you.

Have there been changes over 30 years? Clearly yes! Of 137 birds mapped in 1985 the new atlas shows that 45 have increased and 33 have reduced their distribution significantly. Regrettably, but not surprisingly, the majority of the reductions (25) are among the endemic birds. The increases have been quite evenly spread among endemic (15), native (12), introduced (17) and migrant (1). The mapping techniques used show that even among plentifully distributed birds, there are signs of localised reductions as areas of important habitat are changed.

This atlas will provide a major reference source for the management of our countryside by all those who interact with our natural environment. Christopher Robertson and his international mapping team are proud to have produced from the efforts of the OSNZ members and their associates an invaluable record and database, which documents the birds of New Zealand over a period of 35 years, and is a nationwide resource unparalleled for any other part of the New Zealand flora and fauna.

**A GOOD YEAR TO BE A MEMBER OF OSNZ!**



## Far North

Although activity has tailed off a little in our region in the last couple of months, one weekend field trip and one indoor meeting were both well-attended.

On the weekend of the 3rd and 4th March we finally made it to Warawara Forest, an exciting place which we had been trying to visit for some months. With the help of the enthusiastic staff at DoC in Kaitaia, three 4WD vehicles on Saturday and two on Sunday took 12 of us into the forest. In the high ground of the centre of the forest where the large Kauris are we located ten Riflemen, and four were seen on the Sunday sufficiently far from Saturday's birds as to be considered additional to the ten. Apart from some on Great Barrier and Little Barrier Islands, these are the only known Riflemen north of Auckland. Warawara is remote, and although other forests nearby might have suitable habitat, the forest is probably too fragmented for the birds to colonise other areas unaided.

We had a record turnout at our indoor meeting on 16th March for Adrian Riegen's wader presentation. This was excellent and well-timed after our wader mist-netting week in January. The 21 people present included several guests, one of whom has since joined the Society.

Recent reports include a Kookaburra near Whangaroa earlier this month and good numbers of Royal Spoonbills at the main roost at Awanui Wharf. There are six of the latter at Aroha Island as I write.

DETLEF DAVIES

## Northland

The usual activities were continued over summer and into the "Indian Summer" we had this autumn. New Zealand Fairy Tern monitoring was carried out at Waipu and Mangawhai, with a small group out four days a week; a huge effort. Those involved were pleased that six chicks fledged from seven pairs, following a few losses. East and west coast beach patrols have been carried out every month, although often with only a small group of regulars. The Whangarei and Kaipara Harbour surveys produced the expected sightings of Pied and Variable Oystercatchers, New Zealand Dotterels and Wrybills, many with colour bands. Unfortunately none of the Godwits or Knots present was banded, despite keen eyes checking carefully. A Whimbrel and Glossy Ibis were amongst the rarer visitors to Whangarei Harbour.

The meetings this year started off with Tony Beauchamp conducting an interesting 'counting' exercise using a photo of one of his study Peacocks from Kawau Island, with members trying various methods of counting the eyes on the bird's displayed tail to determine the most accurate method. Northland's AGM was held during the March meeting. The April meeting was a casual one with a general 'catch-up' and discussion of field activities for the year. The speaker at the May meeting was Murray Tapp, a wetland consultant working in Northland and other parts of the North Island. He gave a very informative talk about restoring wetlands and attracting wetland birds.

KATRINA HANSEN

## Auckland

Highlights from the past few months' evening speakers have seen some excellent presentations, including Graeme Taylor on petrels, Luis Ortiz Catedral on his parakeet research, Colin Miskelly on New Zealand Snipe and the haka display, and Mel Galbraith's update on the restoration plans for Kaikoura Island.

In January, the branch annual picnic was at Birkenhead Point, while in February a group of members took part in the second of two Cornwall Park surveys, and in March others contributed to the continuing Tiritiri Matangi Island survey.

Many members and supporters, as well as staff of DoC and the Auckland Regional Council, took part in the annual New Zealand Dotterel post-breeding flock count, and in April, a group of Auckland members had an Easter weekend field trip to Great Barrier Island.

Later in April, the emphasis was on wetlands and waterbirds with a showing of the DVD 'Waterfowl and Wetlands' (filmed by Chris Thomas) with an introduction by Chris Bindon, who a few weeks later led a walk to Tahuna Torea and Waiaatarua Wetlands in central Auckland (the Intermediate Egret timed its arrival at Waiaatarua for this day!). On Anzac Day, the annual South Kaipara Lakes Dabchick survey was held with a record turnout of members and local supporters. The day concluded with a barbecue lunch put on by the local South Kaipara Landcare group for the people who took part.

At the May meeting Simon Fordham showed some photos from his birding in Australia. From February to June, members also took part in the successful monthly beach patrols at Muriwai Beach. All together, a very busy six months for Auckland branch, and the June wader counts to come on the four local harbours.

Birding highlights in our area included the reappearance of the Intermediate Egret, and the arrival at Tawharanui of a Grass Whistling Duck from Australia.

# Regional Roundup



Even more heartening, is the successful translocations to the mainland sanctuaries with Stitchbird to the Waitakeres (Ark in the Park) in the west, and Whitehead, Robins and Brown Kiwi to Tawharanui regional park on the east coast.

SUZI PHILLIPS

## South Auckland

At the November meeting our planned guest speaker was unable to attend. Luckily enough we are an interesting lot and managed to talk the evening through. Phil Battley's report of a puffer fish found inside a beach-wrecked albatross was the first time that PowerPoint had been used to present beach patrol results. Rosemary Cotman reported on the open day at Kawakawa Bay where they have been attempting to get more community involvement in the conservation of Weka, New Zealand Dotterel and other bird species, then Bruce Shanks happened to have his laptop with him and showed us some of the photos for which he has won awards.

One morning in December we were lucky enough to be invited to visit a Caysian Tern colony in a sand mine near Waiuku. We were able to sit in our vehicles quite close to the birds, watching and photographing the goings-on of this colony of 100+. Our thanks go to Max McRae for organising the visit. This is probably the colony that used to nest on the island in the Waikato River Mouth. A beach patrol was proposed afterwards, however we chose instead to adjourn (via Karioitahi Beach to look, unsuccessfully, for Common Terns) to Tom and Hazel's for the annual Christmas barbecue. Tom and Hazel's hospitality was, as usual, first-rate, with Tom even putting in a covered walkway between the deck and the marquee this year.

This year kicked off as usual with the group re-appointing David Lawrie as RR whether he likes it or not. This was followed by speaker John Ewan who works with Stitchbirds on Tiritiri Matangi. It was a surprise to learn how much plumage colour can mean.

Other speakers have included Karen Baird and Chris Gaskin on seabirds of the Hauraki Gulf, and Jason Roxburgh on the Campbell Island Brown Teal. Meetings have been well-attended.

The birds have behaved themselves this summer, the highlights of which were a Ruff at Karaka and a large flock of Pacific Golden Plovers that were in hiding not far from Miranda. A snipe appeared at Whangamarino for a short time but moved on as the ground dried. The Hudsonian Godwit at Miranda has been fun to watch move into breeding plumage, and now that there are fewer godwits overall it is much easier to see!

As autumn commenced and the waders took off we followed the satellite tracks with interest. Tony Habraken was interested enough to go running after them, all the way to China. Around the same time Ian Southey was rounding us up for the 2007 Weka count at Kawakawa Bay. Three evenings were spent counting in the area where they are known, and a further evening was spent trying to work out the edges of their range. The population is now larger than it was this time last year, and Weka are regularly seen at the car-park at the end of the Kawakawa Bay road.

GILLIAN VAUGHAN

## Waikato

After the region's AGM was closed at the March meeting, Garry Hickman from DoC gave us a brief talk about the work being done to help save Maui's Dolphin; a bit different from the usual birdy stuff, but highly interesting. Amongst other things, we were shown photographs of a dolphin autopsy, which is conducted on all wrecked animals that are found. This is, naturally, done to attempt to determine the cause of death, but also to gain other physiological information that can not be gathered by any other means.

In April, Ben Paris, a Biosecurity Officer at Environment Waikato introduced an exciting new project which aims to help birds, such as Tui, recolonise Hamilton City. Tui are fairly abundant in forested areas throughout the Waikato, such as Pirongia Forest Park and Maungatautauri, but do not nest in Hamilton because the distance from the areas in which they currently nest to the city is too great (they are very site-faithful to their natal areas and only disperse around 1.5 km). In addition, the bush remnants around the city are full of ship rats and possums, which have been shown to be bad news for nesters. Environment Waikato's project is aptly called 'Hamilton Halo' and will control ship rats and possums to very low numbers in key sites within 20 km of the city (i.e. the 'halo'). There is also a place for the Waikato OSNZ in this project too; as five-minute bird counters. We are looking forward to getting involved.

May's speaker was Darryl Jones, an Associate Professor from Griffith University in Brisbane. Darryl is an urban ecologist and a large part of his

research has focused on conflicts between Australian Magpies and humans in Australian cities. Interestingly, Magpie attacks on humans are the most significant cause of human-wildlife conflict in Australia, so if you are planning a trip over the ditch in the near future you may want to keep an eye on these feisty birds and not worry about the snakes, spiders...or stingrays.

Another contentious issue in Australian cities is the practice of providing food for the birds. Darryl found that around half the households in Brisbane provide food for the birds, and he talked to us specifically about the how this may affect species such as Magpies (which are Australians' favourite bird). Surprisingly, while the Magpies regularly visited feed tables, they seemed to know that this extra 'junk' food was not particularly good for them and did not depend on it to survive. Furthermore, chicks being reared in the nest were mainly fed natural food too, suggesting that Magpies are indeed responsible parents!

Our AGM in March proved once again that many of our members are extremely hard-working. Bird censuses on several lakes, harbours, a wetland and other areas are regularly undertaken, a major Grey-faced Petrel project continues to be run, and countless kilometres of west coast beaches are walked by our members in an effort to find bird wrecks. Thanks to all of the members who have taken part over the year, but a special thanks to Hugh Clifford, as it is no secret that Hugh contributes more than his fair share of time to these projects and his reports are extremely concise and articulate. The AGM also saw a bit of a reshuffle in the Region's Committee as some members have stepped down, and others stepped up. Leaving the Committee are Betty Seddon, Liz Wang and Bev Woolley (who only just stepped in again last year to help out). Thanks to these three who have been organising us for a long time, you will be missed. A special thanks to Liz Wang who steps down as the Region's treasurer (and also supper organiser). Liz was thrown in the deep end when given this thankless job (treasurer, that is), but has done a splendid job keeping us in the black. Coming into the Committee are Andrew Styche and Ashley Reid. Ken Wedgwood is the new treasurer and I was elected to fill the vacant Regional Rep position.

Moreporks are continuing to be heard in urban gardens, with hearings by Betty Seddon (Cambridge; 19/3) and Hugh Clifford (Chartwell, 9/4). Hugh also saw a Reef Heron at Aotea Harbour (31/3) and a Kaka on the Kakariki track near Whatawhata on 9/4. Frank Bailey spied an impressive 35 Black Swans flying over Hamilton East, and I think the first Tui seen in Cambridge for the winter was spotted by Sarah Hawkins and myself on Anzac day (although I stand to be corrected!). Over in Morrinsville, Geoff Foreman recorded three pairs of New Zealand Dabchicks at Howarth Wetland (two pairs had a chick each; 30/3) and noted that many Tui were present on the outskirts of town. However, the most interesting sighting award goes to Kim King and Ken Ayres, who reported two Cape Barren Geese on their neighbour's farm pond (9/4) which are hanging out with 30-odd Canada Geese.

DAI MORGAN

### Bay of Plenty/Volcanic Plateau

Early February in the Bay of Plenty provided some good records from our far-flung membership. Tim Barnard started the quarter off well with a Weka, which was seen at Torere, 23 km NE of Opoiki. Also seen was a Brown Quail. John and Bertha Groom continue to find good Whimbrel numbers at Ohiwa (six in February), plus high numbers (a record for him he said) of over 300 Variable Oystercatchers in March. Also in March there were over 300 Bar-tailed Godwits, over 100 Banded Dotterels and a Reef Heron. Also reported by John from the same area was early New Zealand Dotterel flocking behaviour (35). Also flocking, but for a different reason (bad weather), were over 150 Spur-winged Plovers on the stretch of coast north of Matata.

Marsh Sandpipers were still present at Little Waihi in February reported Tim Barnard. He followed up the Black-fronted Dotterel progress at Waimangu in March, but high lake levels have prevented breeding this season. Twenty-one New Zealand Dabchicks were right at home though. Neil Fitzgerald counted 32 New Zealand Dabchicks near the Tokaanu Wharf in May. An excited James Wickham emailed in a report of a Bittern seen from his school bus whilst travelling over the Wairoa River in early March. Suzy O'Neill saw one in the same spot in April. A little way up the harbour at Waikaraka Estuary near Te Puna, Sally Greenaway also saw a Bittern, plus a White Heron on the same day in mid-March. I saw a White Heron from the Tarawera River bridge near Matata on the last day of April. Other large white birds spotted lately have been over 40 Royal Spoonbills at Maketu in April (Tim Barnard), an albino Pheasant at Whakatane (Rosemary Tully) and more Spoonbills at Tokaanu in April (Chris Gaskin).

Our top two Bay of Plenty sites continue to provide great records, with Tim Barnard checking them on a frequent basis. We are building up some good data on the avian use of these spots. Bar-tailed Godwits hovered around the 150 mark whilst Pacific Golden Plovers were up to around 75 inclusive at both sites. Other vagrants were Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (five at Maketu) and Marsh Sandpipers (two at Little Waihi). John Heaphy counted 107 New Zealand Dotterels from Matakana Island in March, a pleasing number. Tim Barnard retrieved a blue colour band from a New Zealand Dotterel handed to him late March; apparently the bird was shot. More sad news came with the death of our long-time birding companion and OSNZ member Brian Chudleigh. Several members attended his service at Pye's Pa. His recent photographic exhibition is a fitting legacy to his lifetime of work in the photography field.

PAUL CUMING

### Taranaki

The March field trip maintained our partiality towards things smelly by starting off at the Inglewood oxidation ponds. These ponds are always worth a visit, having turned up some good bird sightings over the years. This trip was no exception with eight New Zealand Dabchicks, a pair of Pied Stilts with three or four chicks, four Australasian Shovelers and two Grey Teal. At our next stop, Lake Mangamahoe, 28 Australian Coot and 13 Black Shags were seen.

Barry Hartley gave us an update on the three projects underway that the region is interested in at our March meeting. The progress the Taranaki Kiwi Trust has made in re-introducing Kiwi to Egmont National Park has exceeded expectations, with more chicks than planned having been released into the controlled area. On April 3rd a mass release of seven/eight birds was held to celebrate the fifth year of the project.

The earthworks for the perimeter fence around the Rotokare Scenic Reserve are complete and the fence is almost right around. At the Rapanui Grey-faced Petrel colony a management plan is being finalised and fresh burrows have been noted.

During April's meeting we were updated on the progress for the AGM with everything seemingly under control. During members' reports Jane Hart told us that her husband Barry had seen three Wandering Albatrosses whilst fishing at sea approximately 1.3 km off the North Taranaki coast. David Medway reported that he had finally seen one of the Pukekura Park Kaka flying over his home, and the ten Pacific Golden Plovers that holidayed at Waiongana were still around but would probably depart about Easter. The outing up the Puniho track and along the Stoney River in Egmont National Park was a sedate affair held on a lovely autumn day, and Barry Hartley was lucky enough to have my undivided attention for the duration of the trip.

At May's meeting discussions were held on fine-tuning the last details of the AGM and Cees Beevers gave us a rundown on the list of speakers for the scientific day. Members reported Tui returning to urban gardens, with David Medway telling us that there were many in Pukekura Park feeding on the fruit of *Cornus capitata*. Blackbirds are numerous all around the region and Moreporks have been calling in various city localities. A few Royal Spoonbill sightings have been noted with three at Mokau, two at Waiongana, and the four seen at Barrett Lagoon by a non-member may be a first for that area. The trip around South Taranaki was hampered by the inclement weather but not before a sighting of six Cattle Egrets at Hawera oxidation ponds.

PETER FRYER

### Wairarapa

Some of our members visited the Wellington region's March meeting to hear Richard Holdaway speak, and meet up with old and new friends. At our own monthly meeting we had a very informative illustrated talk on introduced passerines. This was given by Chris Day, the Educational Officer from Mt. Bruce/Pukaka Wildlife Reserve. The March Field trip was to Kiriwhakapapa forest where the small group enjoyed the forest and its birdlife, especially noting the abundance of New Zealand Pigeons.

At our April meeting we shared personal memories of special birding moments or experiences, both recent and historical. Once more we discovered the wealth of experience that resides in our branch. The April Field Trip was entitled 'In Search of the Cirl Bunting'. We divided into two groups to cover two prospective habitats. Any Cirl Buntings remained elusive, but we enjoyed the search, the scenery, and the mild sunny afternoon.

For our May meeting, Tenick Dennison compiled and presented another very well-received home-grown session entitled 'Nests and Nesting Habits'. We brought nests for identification or discussion, and Tenick presented a beautifully visual and stimulating lecture. We were all making serious 'mental notes' in preparation for our annual Big Bird Cup quiz night in August.

In April our field meeting was to Dr Neil Hayes's 'Gretel Lagoons'. Neil is one of our region's members, and has created an impressive private



wetland area, with adjacent forest replanting. During April and May, members have been completing the second phase of a birding survey of Wairarapa river mouths. This has been conducted in conjunction with DoC.

BARBARA LOVATT

## Wellington

At a well-attended meeting in early March we were pleased to welcome the Society's President, Professor Richard Holdaway, who gave us a fascinating and entertaining talk about some aspects of his paleobiological research and its relevance to modern day biological conservation. We were also pleased to welcome several members from the Wairarapa Region for the evening. Richard described the various sites where he has worked and he outlined his present studies on moa and other extinct species, drawing attention to the sophisticated technologies that are now being applied in paleobiological research, including isotopic analysis of carbon and nitrogen and analysis of ancient DNA. Richard explained that these techniques are helping to unravel some of the questions, not only about the distribution and life of birds that have lived in New Zealand in the past, but also in the present. Examples were described of the ecology of some extinct New Zealand birds, such as the South Island Giant Moa, and birds that no longer occupy their former range, and their relevance to conservation and restoration of flora and fauna.

The importance of nutrient cycling from the marine environment onto the terrestrial environment through breeding was emphasised. Seabirds, such as petrels and shearwaters, bring to the land over a long period of time large amounts of phosphorus compounds which support the growth of vegetation and subsequently benefit other animals, such as forest birds. The loss of enormous numbers of seabirds of many species that once bred in the hills and mountains has resulted in the progressive loss of phosphates that are beneficial to the terrestrial environment. Amongst many of Richard's illustrations were slides of the damage to various moa bones caused by the claws of Haast's Eagle. It was a fascinating evening to us all.

Several members contributed to the design, planning, organisation, field observations and public speaking at the Otari-Wilton 'Bioblitz' held on 23rd and 24th March as part of the celebrations for Otari's 100th birthday. The 'Bioblitz' was an intensive effort led by Victoria University that aimed to identify as many species of biota as possible, plants and animals, during a 24-hour period. We led the section on birds, and 25 species, including Bellbirds, were identified. No avian rarities were seen but we were rather hoping to locate parakeets, Falcon and Whiteheads during the Bioblitz. We also cooperated with other specialists to try to locate bats but none were found, despite the use of electronic bat detection equipment. Members worked in shifts through the daylight hours and into Friday evening to carry out the field work and to report our findings into the central Otari-Wilton species data registry. Overall results, including the discovery of a new species of cave weta, are at <http://otari100.org.nz/index.php/bioblitz>.

In April Dr Mary McEwen gave us an account of some of the work carried out by her father, Sir Charles Fleming, during his spell on the Auckland Islands as a coastwatcher during the Second World War. Mary has recently published excerpts and sketches from these diaries. Whilst the threat of enemy vessels on the horizon or in the harbour was the official reason for the presence on the islands, Sir Charles also found time for ornithology. His notes on the identification of *Diomedea* albatrosses made those present realise how lucky we are nowadays. We have access to hosts of field guides, photos on the internet, and reap the benefit from many more hours of work by field ornithologists. Clothing, accommodation and equipment have leapt ahead, meaning that modern day fieldwork is very different from the 1940s version.

Professor Darryl Jones (Griffith University in Queensland, currently on sabbatical at Victoria University Wellington), who specialises in urban ecology, spoke to us in May about part of his Australian Magpie research. They decided to examine some of the urban myths about feeding birds and came up with some surprises, much to our entertainment and amusement. The British Trust for Ornithology, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology see it as a conservation activity (to get people starting to support birds) but "we don't support it!" An Australian authority said Aussies don't do it but a survey showed 25-57% do and 38% spent money on it. It seems people are reluctant to admit they do it! His studies showed that adult birds were up early feeding their youngsters with good high protein food like grubs, well before humans got out of bed to fill their bird trays. It seems that later in the day human food is taken more. There is no evidence for dependency, except on the part of the humans feeding them. He agreed that birds in the wild (i.e. not gardens) should not be fed such as putting out burley on pelagic trips. His book summarising all his magpie research is out-of-print but he presented a copy for the OSNZ library. I see Auckland Museum Library has it so this (signed) copy will be going into the Wellington OSNZ collection.

Recent bird observations around Wellington include New Zealand Scaup on the Pencarrow lakes, several Falcons in the region, Reef Herons

in Wellington Harbour including one on Day's Bay wharf, a Little Egret at Waikanae, a possible Little Egret on Petone beach, and Bellbirds in Tawa.

Thirty Shore Plovers have been transferred from Mount Bruce to Mana Island and OSNZ members are amongst those helping monitor the birds. Nineteen have formed a flock on the shore of the island, one has been seen at Waikanae Estuary and the remainder are AWOL. Birders in or visiting the region are asked to keep an eye out for banded Shore Plovers. More birds are due to be transferred in the near future.

ANDY FALSHAW, IAN ARMITAGE  
and STUART NICHOLSON

## Nelson

The May meeting was held at the office of the Solander Group, Port Nelson by kind permission of Mr Charles Hufflett. He has generously made his office available for all our future meetings at no cost.

Steve Wood appropriately 'christened' the move with an illustrated talk on pelagic birds to the largest gathering of members we have had for many months. The images covered families from the larger albatrosses to the smaller petrels and captured some spectacular flight action. Steve was able to point out some of the complex plumage phases in the albatross family. He added that often only after close examination of the images following a trip was a positive ID made with some species.

Peter Field noted that New Zealand Pipits and Skylarks were present on retired exotic forest land in the Moutere area. It is now grass- and scrub-covered, but will soon be converted to real estate. Peter also reported 55 Black Swans in Nelson Haven in May. This is an unusually large number for the Haven, but could be through dispersal with the opening of the game bird season.

The national census of Black-fronted Terns in the Tasman Bay area showed an almost total absence. Pauline Samways drew a blank around the Motueka Sandspit and environs. Willie Cook reported a single bird on Bells Island shellbank. In the extended week set aside for this survey a group on Farewell Spit recorded 47 birds.

A team of seven people did a search on Farewell Spit on 2nd-3rd May in an attempt to locate the female Bar-tailed Godwit Y3, one of the birds with an implant transmitter that has not left on the northward migration. It was believed at the time of capture that the bird displayed adult female characteristics, but this may not have been the case.

Rob Schuckard received a request from Bob Gill in Alaska to visit the site where her signals were concentrated and if possible locate her and assess a body profile. On the 3rd of May in overcast conditions and light drizzle the group split into three parties covering ground from Mullet Creek east and west. About an hour after high tide a black flag was spotted on a bird, but it immediately took off and joined a larger group of godwits that occupied ground with ridges and hollows. It proved impossible to locate again after a lengthy spell glued to our scopes!

A total of nine colour band combinations on Bar-tailed Godwits was some reward. Among these was a bird banded at Awarua in November 2006. A single Curlew Sandpiper and two New Zealand Dotterels were some of the other birds recorded.

Only six juvenile Gannets remained at the colony on the end of the spit. Flocks of Goldfinches (100+) were seen feeding on *Sarcocornia* seed. Each party encountered flocks along the way and in every instance the birds flew west to east.

Peter Gaze received a report from a reliable observer that a Reef Heron had been seen near Monaco (a suburb of Nelson) and a New Zealand Dabchick on a small pond in the Moutere area; both species are not often encountered here.

During late February and into mid-March a group of 12-14 Pacific Golden Plovers remained on the tidal estuary near O'Connor Creek. A trap line for predator control around part of the Banded Rail habitat in the Waimea estuary operated by Willie Cook and Don Cooper for the past two years has had to be discontinued. Sabotage and the removal of traps started late last year and increased to the point where it was a no-win situation. In recent weeks Banded Rails, an adult and a juvenile, were observed mid-afternoon feeding on the outgoing tide. On other occasions calls were heard, and prints left in the mud indicate that a small population is still resident. An Australasian Bittern and White Heron shared space on a small area of water held behind the stopbank bordering the rail habitat. The Bittern 'froze' at a point in open water, well away from cover.

Wrybills are back on the Bells Island shellbank, with numbers varying from 24-47 birds. The return of the banded bird O/B G/M is noteworthy as it has wintered over at this spot for about nine years. It was absent last year which makes its reappearance this year a pleasant surprise. Pauline Samways has only seen a single bird Wrybill on the Motueka Sandspit so far this year.



During the Black-fronted Tern survey Rob Schuckard and Ingrid Hutzler noted 150 Banded Dotterels and 45 Black Shags on Motueka Sandspit.

In March Willie Cook made another trip to assist Bill Cash and a team of DoC staff to capture Yellow-crowned Parakeets on Long Island, Queen Charlotte Sound for transfer to Moturoa Island. Fifty birds were successfully caught and transferred.

DON COOPER

## Canterbury

After a couple of years of looking for a replacement and seven years in the job, Nick Allen passed over the RR's folder to me last spring and I formally took over this January. Nick has put such a wealth of effort and expertise into running our branch that he will be a hard act to follow but we are fortunate that he has agreed to stay on as Secretary. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for his hard work and achievements and are also very pleased to record our delight in his 100% increase in family size over the last few months.

Summer came so late in Canterbury that it fizzled out almost as soon as it started which gave gardeners some headaches. Fruit trees locally seemed to fare better and provided good crops for masses of birds. Seed-eaters benefited from good grass growth and plentiful seed, and the damp conditions provided lots of insects. Breeding successes were notable in several native forest birds in the Christchurch area with Fantails, Silvereyes and Bellbirds all doing well and Tomtits and Brown Creepers evident on Banks Peninsula.

Intermittent rainfall over the period when migratory waders are visiting meant conditions at Lake Ellesmere were perfect with shallow expanses of warm water producing copious 'lake flies'. Allan Rackham found two rarities and a possible third on just one visit to the lake in early January: Hudsonian Godwit, Chestnut-breasted Shelduck and perhaps Baird's Sandpiper; not a bad day out! In all nine Australian Shelducks eventually settled at the lake, with singles at both Ki-Wainono and St Anne's Lagoon. Good numbers of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers gradually built up and there were fair-sized groups of Pacific Golden Plover, Red-necked Stint, Lesser Knot, Pectoral Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper and Bar-tailed Godwit also, though counts of these species were lower than usual.

The members' night in February where short presentations are given on, for example, 'What I did in the Holidays' was varied, fascinating and humorous. Ann Sherlock talked about birds in her Tasmanian relatives' large garden; Henry and Phyllis Partridge showed pictures of birds they had encountered in Japan; Paul Scofield illustrated how hair-raising landing and living on the Pyramid at the Chathams can be; and Nick Allen gave a hilarious quiz of reject pictures where the identifying features of a bird were missing (heads under feathers, back views, half a bird only etc.).

In March Peter Langlands followed up with a presentation of 'Unusual angles in bird photography' featuring common birds in unusual situations and the artistic inspiration given by flying birds.

In April Ron Nilsson talked about his ongoing hunt for the South Island's Kokako, showing how unrelentingly awful a week of solid rain in deepest Fiordland can be.

Huge demands made by lecturing, tutoring, research and President's duties make a presentation by Richard Holdaway something of a special event. The May meeting was eagerly anticipated and very well-attended. Richard's wide-ranging talk mainly concerned the application of modern laboratory techniques to the sifting of old samples of sub-fossil bird bones and their accompanying sediment samples to discover the most amazingly detailed ecology and genealogy of our extinct birds. These techniques were linked to the restoration project on Norfolk Island with which he is concerned.

Monthly beach patrols continue to be well-peopled with between three and 10 people most times and over 20 different individuals over six months. Up to 8 km are covered in a day and teams usually walk and collect/identify for up to four hours. We are really lucky to have the expert help of Paul Scofield at Canterbury Museum to look at anything difficult or weird. His conclusions are often a real surprise!

The sandy beaches to the north of Banks Peninsula have a different suite of beach wrecks compared with the stony beaches to the south. There the southerly storms bring in dead tubenose species in larger quantities than in the north. Albatrosses, giant petrels, shearwaters and prions are found more frequently in the south and shags and gulls up north. Other bits and pieces include the remains of a white turkey, a large desiccated rooster, a goat's horn, seal skulls and lots of left-footed gumboots.

In January, a mini-twitchathon was held at the Groyne, a backwater of the old course of the Waimakariri River, north of Christchurch. Five teams of two to four thoroughly enjoyed ticking everything they could see in 90

minutes and eating everything they had brought at the BBQ afterwards. Twenty-six species were at the Groyne lakes, and Nick Allen found the rarest bird, a Black-tailed Godwit, by making a trip to the Ashley Estuary.

The national twitchathon was admirably supported by four Canterbury teams, with Bev Alexander being a member of three of them! We are told that only one other team entered from elsewhere in NZ, but that doesn't make us disheartened, as Canterbury is evidently the province with the most! The most variety of habitats, species and keen birders. Andrew Crossland's team of City Council and ECan workers had the highest total of 105 species.

Some of us also took part in a Kereru survey based on the 1 km grid squares of Banks Peninsula on one day in February. The species is fairly numerous there now, and we await the final results with interest. The February and March field trips were both to Lake Ellesmere, one counting waders and waterbirds for the national survey and the other farewelling the Arctic waders in their fine breeding plumage. Red-necked Stints, Pectoral, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers with a few Lesser Knots and Bar-tailed Godwits were very striking to see, and some Black Stilts rounded off the day nicely. In April we went to Mt Thomas in the foothills to look for bush birds in Wooded Gully. Many Bellbirds and Silvereyes were around, with few other species but lots of wasps. This area could be much better with wasp- and predator-control stepped up.

The May field trip again involved food in the shape of an excellent dinner at a 'Good Food' restaurant in Kaiapoi. Before this we did a dusk survey of Black-fronted Terns at the Ashley Estuary, but found only 27 instead of the hundreds that used to roost here. As compensation there were many other waterbirds and even a Black Stilt, now a semi-resident in this area. The warm autumn weather may account for the lack of Black-fronted Terns. More counts will be carried out in June.

JAN WALKER

## Otago

This summer capped off two years of being seriously involved in the national wader-banding project. During the summer, despite the inclement weather, 27 checks of Bar-tailed Godwit flocks for colour-bands and flags were made in the Otago region, mainly by Peter Schweigman and Leslie Gowans with some help from other members. In the 2005/2006 season, 41 godwits were banded at Warrington Beach and during 2006/2007 summer all the godwits in Otago (i.e. about 2,000) have been checked for bands and at least 75% of the banded birds have been seen again in the same area. If indeed they did fly to Alaska and back, this is an incredible recovery rate and clear evidence that birds return to the same area. Movement between Warrington, Aramoana, and Hooper's Inlet also occurs, but these tidal flats are only a few kilometres apart.

In March ten members had a magical day in the Catlins Mohua Ark in the Thisbe Stream area up the Owaka valley, which has about 25% of the total population of Yellowheads. The trip leader was Graeme Loh, who is the DoC person in charge of making this area of beech forest Yellowhead-friendly with a sustained rat and stoat trapping and poisoning programme. Close up views of a flock of about a dozen Yellowheads was a fitting end to the day.

In April a small group of members lead by Derek Onley took the opportunity to walk around the outside of the nearly-completed predator-proof fence which surrounds the Orokonui Ecosanctuary. We had excellent views of Tomtits, Fantails, Grey Warblers and flocks of Brown Creepers, who remained inside the fence looking out at us!

This year we have scheduled monthly indoor meetings as we have a wealth of bird experts in the Otago region. Bryan Rhodes, recently from the USA, gave us a rare glimpse into the warblers of North America and in particular the colourful, unusual Prothonotary Warbler and his studies on their breeding habits and the recovery programme in the James River area of Virginia. Between the 1940s and 1980s numbers of this species decreased by 50%, but with the placement of nesting boxes on poles in flooded swamps (their preferred sites) there has since been a 10-fold increase in numbers. These little 15 g birds fledge at 10 days and migrate across the Gulf of Mexico to coastal mangrove forest of Panama, with unfortunately only 4% making it back to Virginia. Bryan is now applying skills learned in the USA to the study of Saddlebacks.

Pascale Michel told us about habitat selection of Stewart Island Robins and South Island Saddlebacks translocated to Ulva Island. They appear to prefer mixed broadleaf forest with leaf litter, which host lots of larvae and invertebrates as a food source, rather than podocarp forest with its groundcover of hen and chicken fern, although Rimu were liked. Her studies have implications about how many birds can be supported on island sanctuaries.

Ian Mclean is a keen observer of birds and enjoys birdwatching in the urban environment because he is interested in learning how these birds seem to thrive in areas with high predator numbers, fragmented habitats, unnatural foods, and constant disturbance. He and his students compared

the predation of 30 artificial nests and eggs with a similar number of natural Silveryeye and Blackbird nests found by Ian in the Botanic Gardens and found predation rates were also similar.

The first Cattle Egrets in the region were seen in the Balclutha area on 28th March. Australian Coots with juveniles have been seen in two Dunedin wetland areas; this is probably a first for the city.

MARY THOMPSON

### Southland

Our first Southland Bird Week did not live up to expectations with small numbers attending our indoor presentations, and terrible weather. We may have to look at changing the format next year, but thanks to Chris Rance and Lloyd Esler for the hard work they put into it.

We managed to fit in a good beach patrol in April with a long stretch of Oreti Beach covered from the north entrance to the main entrance and from there to the south entrance. A wide variety of birds were found including very fresh specimens of New Zealand White-capped Mollymawk, Buller's Mollymawk, Yellow-eyed Penguin (two juveniles), White-fronted

Tern, numerous Sooty Shearwaters and a few prions and diving petrels.

Sandy King from the Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust on Stewart Island gave us a very informative talk on the results of the different breeding areas around Stewart Island and the mainland colonies and the possible reasons for the disastrous breeding season on one of the Stewart Island groups. Lloyd Esler also found a juvenile dead on Oreti Beach that had been micro-chipped at the nest site on a nearby island off Stewart Island.

Our annual White Heron visitor was spotted in the New River Estuary at the 'tip lagoon' recently and Paul Jacques spotted a coloured-up Siberian Tattler at Cow Island in May along with a flock of Lesser Knots, several Bar-tailed Godwits and a flock of New Zealand Dotterels, including a few still wearing colour bands.

Moreporks were heard in Otatara in mid-March on several occasions. This is the first time they have been heard in the area for a number of years.

PHIL RHODES

### Far North

Detlef Davies, 180 Landing Road, Kerikeri 0470. Ph (09) 407 3874. Email detlefdavies@yahoo.com

### Northland

Katrina Hansen, 3 Harbour View Road, Onerahi, Whangarei. Ph (09) 430 2133. Email katrina.hansen@xtra.co.nz  
Evening meetings, second Thursday of the month, ph. David Crockett (09) 435 0954. West coast beach patrols ph. Prue Cozens (09) 437 7760. East coast beach patrols ph. Pauline Smith (09) 435 3060. Whangarei Harbour wader count ph. Tony Beauchamp (09) 436 2661. North Kaipara wader count ph. David Crockett (09) 435 0954.

### Auckland

Suzi Phillips, 36 Beulah Avenue, Rothesay Bay, North Shore City, Auckland. Phone (09) 479 5395. Email suzi@dialogue.co.nz  
Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) at 7.45pm at Natural Science Building 23, Unitec, Point Chevalier.

### South Auckland

David Lawrie, 52 Mill Road, R D 2, Pukekohe, Auckland. Ph (09) 238 8407. Email lawrie@ps.gen.nz  
Evening meetings are held at the Papakura Croquet Clubrooms, 5 Chapel Street, Papakura, on the second Tuesday of each month (Feb-Nov) at 7.45 pm. Beach patrols ph. Wendy Goad (09) 292 7838. Manukau and Firth of Thames censuses ph. Tony Habraken (09) 238 5284

### Waikato

Dai Morgan, 78 Grey Street, Cambridge. Ph (07) 823 1990. Email dm30@waikato.ac.nz  
Evening meetings, every third Wednesday 7.30pm, DoC Area Office, 5 Northway Street (off Te Rapa Road), Hamilton.  
Beach Patrols and Cambridge Lake census, Hugh Clifford ph (07) 855 3751. Hamilton Lake Census, Barry Friend ph (07) 843 6729. Forest Lake Census, Brian Challinor ph (07) 855 2561. Kakepuku Bird Counts and West Coast Harbour Censuses, Laurie Hoverd ph (07) 871 8071. Bird Sightings, Dai Morgan

### Bay of Plenty/Volcanic Plateau

Tim Barnard, 23 Tennyson Drive, Owata, Rotorua. Ph (07) 345 3433. Email tim.barnard@xtra.co.nz

### Gisborne/Wairoa

RR's position vacant.

### Hawke's Bay

Murray Jeffries, 2a Cobden Road, Napier 4001. Ph (06) 834 3865. Email mcjeffries@xtra.co.nz  
Indoor meetings are held on an irregular basis, but field trips are organised regularly. Please contact Murray Jeffries for details.

### Taranaki

Barry Hartley, 12a Ronald Street, New Plymouth. Ph (06) 757 8644. Email Barry\_Hartley@clear.net.nz  
Evening meetings – first Tuesday of the month (exc Jan) 7.30 pm. Field trips on first conducive weekend thereafter.

### Wanganui

Tom Teasdale, 33 Paterson Street, Aramoho, Wanganui 4500. Ph (06) 343 9992. Email teasdale.family@clear.net.nz  
Evening meetings – on hold at present.

### Manawatu

Ian Saville, 23 Duke Street, Feilding. Ph (06) 323 1441. Email binzsav@clear.net.nz  
Evening meetings – second Wednesday of Feb, May, Aug and Nov,

## Regional Reps and What's On



Lido Centre, Park Street, Palmerston North, 8pm. Beach patrols – first Wednesday of each month and also at other irregular times.

### Wairarapa

Barbara Lovatt, 4 Clara Anne Grove, Greytown. Ph (06) 304 9948. Email barbara.lovatt@slingshot.co.nz  
Evening meetings held on the second Thursday of the month (exc Jan) 7.30 pm, venue alternating between Masterton and Greytown. Field trips are the following weekend. Contact Barbara Lovatt for further details.

### Wellington

Ian Armitage, 50 Ranui Terrace, Tawa, Wellington. Ph (04) 232 7470. Email ian.armitage@xtra.co.nz  
Evening meetings – first Monday of the month, Head Office of DoC, 18-32 Manners Street, Wellington, meet 7.30 pm for a 7:45 pm start, ph. Ian Armitage (04) 232 7470.  
East Harbour Regional Park bird survey, Reg Cotter (04) 568 6960. Fluttering Shearwater chick transfers, Colin Miskelly (04) 479 1662. Beach patrols, Sharon Alderson (04) 298 3707. Mana Island robins & sooty shearwaters, Geoff de Lisle (04) 527 0929. Mist-netting and passerine banding, Peter Reese (04) 387 7387. Rock pigeon nesting project, Ralph Powlesland (04) 386 3323.

### Nelson

Steve Wood, Hursthouse Street, Lower Moutere, R D 2 Upper Moutere, Nelson 7152. Ph 03 528 6438. Email utopia.landscapes@clear.net.nz  
Evening meetings – usually first Monday of the month, 7.15 pm Solander/Aurora Fisheries Board Room. The Solander/Aurora building is on the right hand side of Cross Street, just beyond Dickson's Boat Repair and more or less opposite the 'red shed' – the Tasman Bay Cruising Club, Nelson. Ph. Steve Wood (03) 528 6438 or Don Cooper (03) 544 8109.

### Marlborough

Mike Bell, 42 Vickerman Street, Grovetown 7321. Phone (03) 577 9818 or 021 734 602. Email mikeandnoz@slingshot.co.nz  
Lake Grassmere count – third Sunday of month. Ph Brian Bell (03) 570 2230. Passerine banding, each weekend during February and March, at Jack Taylor's farm, Ward, contact Mike Bell Ph (03) 577 9818.

### Canterbury/West Coast

Jan Walker, 305 Kennedys Bush Road, Halswell, Christchurch. Ph (03) 322 7187. Email shesagreen@gmail.com  
Evening meetings last Monday of the month, Spreydon Bowling Club, Domain Terrace, Christchurch. Monthly field trips – dates vary. Ph. Nick Allen (03) 312 7183

### Otago

Mary Thompson, 197 Balmacewen Road, Balmacewen, Dunedin. Ph (03) 464 0787. Email mary.thompson@stonebow.otago.ac.nz  
Evening meetings monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 8.00pm in Benham Seminar Room, Zoology Department, 340 Great King Street. Contact Mary Thompson (03) 464 0787

### Southland

Jamie Wood, c/- Geology Department, Otago University, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin. Email larusnz@hotmail.com  
Evening meetings (in conjunction with Field Club) held second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm. Please phone numbers below for venue and further information, field trip usually on Saturday following. Beach Patrols on a casual basis, phone Phil Rhodes (03) 213 1228 or Lloyd Esler (03) 213 0404.



