



Southern *Bird*

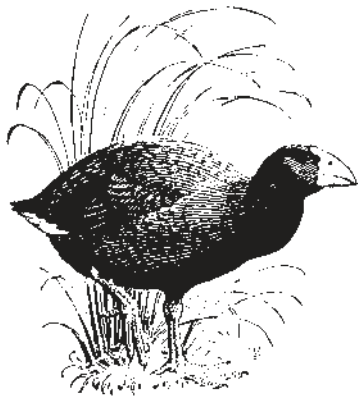
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Nelson AGM

OSNZ Wader Count June 2010



The Magazine of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand



Southern Bird

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QUOTATION

*Within a thick and spreading hawthorn bush,
That overhung a molehill large and round,
I heard from morn a merry thrush
Sing hymns to sunrise, and I drank the sound
With joy; and, often an intruding guest,
I watched her secret toils from day to day, -
How true she warped the moss to form a nest,
And modelled it within with wood and clay;
And by and by, like heath-bells gilt with dew,
There lay her shining eggs, as bright as flowers,
Ink-spotted-over, shells of greeny blue;
And there I witnessed, in the sunny hours,
A brood of Nature's minstrels chirp and fly,
Glad as that sunshine and the laughing sky.*

The Thrush's Nest by John Clare

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COVER PHOTOS

Cover Photos

Front cover: Black-fronted Dotterel by Paul Gibson
Back cover: Rock Wren at the Chancellor Hut by Udo Benecke

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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. The views expressed by the contributors to this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc.

New Release



\$49.95

This book by Paul Gibson beautifully showcases 160 of our amazing birds, in 200 pages of sumptuous photographs and informative text.

**Available from most bookshops nationwide
or order from:
Unique Pictorials,
PO Box 848, Wanganui 4540.
see - www.upics.co.nz**

FREE ATLAS FOR NEW MEMBERS!!!

The Society is extending the presentation of a free copy of the *Atlas of Bird Distribution in New Zealand 1999-2004* to each new member joining OSNZ while stocks last. In addition, all new members will receive a copy of the index to *Notornis, Fifty years of bird study in New Zealand 1939-1989*. Pass the word to people who maybe haven't got around to joining the Society yet that now is a very good time to do so. Not only do they obtain membership of the premier society for those with an interest in birds and ornithology in New Zealand and the South Pacific but they will also receive these two essential books on New Zealand ornithology. The atlas is an impressive and weighty book that which will be a delight for anyone with even a small interest in New Zealand's birds.

For details of how to join the OSNZ:

- Visit the Society's website www.osnz.org.nz and download a membership form.
- Contact the Society's membership secretary:
Roger Sharp, 5 Archer Rayner Place,
Greenhithe, North Shore City 0632.
Phone: hm 09 413 8580, wk 09 625 3345
Email: Roger_Sharp@xtra.co.nz

Contact your local regional representative – contact details are on the inside back cover of this issue of *Southern Bird*.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEEKEND

The Annual General Meeting and associated Council meetings were held in Nelson over the first weekend in June. This was a very successful event organised by the Nelson region. On behalf of the members I would like to thank Stuart Wood and his team for their efforts.

The minutes of the AGM are published in this issue of *Southern Bird*, but there were several actions taken over the weekend that I wish to more fully report on as part of this report.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

As previously reported Richard Holdaway, Phil Battley and Paul Scofield retired from Council. Each has made major contributions to the running of the Society's affairs, and hopefully will continue to do so into the future.

There was no election as the number of nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies. Peter Frost, Murray Williams and Colin Miskelly were, therefore, elected to Council for three-year terms. All three have already accepted roles within Council and are sharing the workload that enables the Society to operate so successfully.

CHECKLIST

The fourth edition of the checklist was officially launched immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting. The guest speaker at that launch was Neil Clifton, Nelson/Marlborough Conservator, who was representing the Director General of the Department of Conservation. Neil spoke of the value of having data and information available to guide the Department in their work, and that the checklist would become one of the key tools relating to avian conservation in New Zealand.

Following the launch, on behalf of the Society, I presented Dr Brian Gill with a Robert Falla Memorial Award, to his surprise. However, this was richly deserved following not only his work with two editions of the checklist, but also his input into ornithological study over an extended period.

The balance of the checklist committee was awarded meritorious service awards.

CHECKLIST COMMITTEE

With the launch of the fourth edition of the checklist the work of the committee that had been appointed nearly 10 years ago had ended and it was disbanded.

However, at the Council meeting it was decided that, rather than wait several years before re-appointing a new committee to continue the work, a committee should be established immediately, particularly as taxonomic work is evolving so rapidly. Council decided to appoint a small committee under the leadership of Alan Tennyson for an immediate term of 12 months. This is mainly to deal with any issues that arise with the new

checklist, and also to consider future options, such as an electronic version that can be updated on an ongoing basis. That committee is to report to the Council meeting in June 2011, at which time those future options will be considered.

RARE BIRDS COMMITTEE

As I advised in my previous report the Rare Birds Committee has been largely non-functional over the last two years. Council, during its meeting, considered the factors leading to this problem and decided that the systems under which the committee had been operating were a major cause of the difficulties.

Council therefore decided to disband the Rare Birds Committee, and the processes under which it had been operating. A new committee was then established with new terms of reference and new operating procedures. This committee is to be called the Records Appraisal Committee and it will operate under the convenorship of Colin Miskelly. Biz Bell has been appointed as secretary, and the committee is already operating. A fuller report from Colin is in this edition of *Southern Bird*, providing more details on how it will operate. The committee is presently working through the backlog of records, but I would urge any members who have been withholding records to now submit them and have them processed.

It should be noted that the posting of records on email newsgroups, or similar, does not mean that they get accepted into the official record. It is necessary to submit a report to the Records Appraisal Committee for review and consideration. The process has been considerably streamlined, but it is still necessary to have a means of checking sightings to have them verified and confirmed.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As confirmed at the Annual General Meeting the executive officer, Ingrid Hutzler, has been of real benefit to the workings of the Society and Council intends to renew her contract for a further two-year period. However, due to a change in her circumstances and Ingrid's desire to undertake further educational opportunities, her hours will be reduced to 10 hours per week over that contract period. This means that her ability to undertake her current duties will be reduced, and there needed to be a reprioritisation of her activities. Her key role will now focus on the promotion of field activities and she will give less priority to members' enquiries. It is hoped that the website upgrade will enable members to check their details, and ultimately complete subscription payments online, which will reduce the dependence on either Ingrid or Yvonne Mackenzie.

Because of the reprioritisation of Ingrid's work, enquiries of a general nature are best made directly to the appropriate officer(s) of the Society listed in *Notornis* and on our website.

WEBSITE UPGRADE

Council decided that the Society's web presence would be upgraded and consolidated to provide better service to members and to streamline procedures. Bruce McKinlay has been appointed to lead this project and is currently working with professionals in that field based in Dunedin.

I can announce that much of the development work of the website is being paid for by sponsorship from T-Gear, who were looking at opportunities to make a difference to a conservation-type organisation. I acknowledge the work of Ingrid Hutzler in making the necessary applications and providing the details to bring this to a successful conclusion. Further details of this sponsorship will be made available in due course.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

As members will be aware audited financial reports for 2008 and 2009 have not been available at the last two Annual General Meetings. This situation arose during the handover between the previous Treasurer Mark Nee and the current Treasurer Paul Garner-Richards. I can now report that the auditors have completed their work on both years of financial accounts and these will be published in *Southern Bird*.

I wish to acknowledge the work that Paul has put into achieving this outcome, and the assistance that Mark provided in guiding him through the necessary paperwork.

As stated at the Annual General Meeting the operating capital of the Society has been declining and this is reflected in these accounts. However, now that we have a good factual base we can budget for the future on a much firmer footing.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

As can be seen from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting Council's motion to increase subscription rates generated a lively discussion which considered all aspects of this proposal. At the end of this debate the motion to increase subscription rates was passed by a reasonably small majority.

While the increase in subscription rates appears to be fairly substantial, it needs to be noted that the previous alteration was in 2004. The compounded rate of inflation over that six-year period is 17.6%, which is very similar to the increase that was approved. The lesson learned by Council is that any future increases should be in smaller amounts on a more frequent basis to minimise apparent effects. Council is mindful of the effects of increasing costs on our aging membership, but to provide services it is necessary to have the income available.

DAVID LAWRIE
President

MINUTES OF THE 71ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC) HELD AT NELSON ON 5TH JUNE 2010

The President, David Lawrie, opened the meeting and welcomed about 110 members and friends. He made special mention of the Bell family presence now represented by three generations of members.

APOLOGIES

Paul Scofield, Stuart Nicholson, Mary Thompson, Jim Briskie, Helen Andrews, Barry Hartley, Lloyd Esler, Ian Saville, David Medway, Ben Bell, Ruth Crockett, Stella and John Rowe, Bev and Brian Woolley, Maureen Holdaway, Alan Wright, Chris Robertson and Gwenda Pulham.

Motion: *That the apologies be accepted.* [Betty Seddon/Graeme Taylor] Carried.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion: *That the minutes of the 70th AGM, as circulated in Southern Bird, be approved.* [Richard Holdaway/David Melville] Carried. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President noted with sadness the passing of Dr John Warham (a fellow of the society), Mia Colberts, W van Gorkom, J.B. Hood, Jack Lawton, G. Peterson, Barbara Spurr and Barry Stevens.

The full report from David Lawrie had previously been circulated and will be published in the next issue of Southern Bird. Mention was made of the earlier launch of the fourth edition of the *Checklist of New Zealand Birds* and the work of Dr Brian Gill and his committee in achieving this. Other notable achievements for the society during the last year included the completion of wader reports under contract to the Department of Conservation and the establishment of a Projects and Activities Committee under the leadership of Peter Frost. Special thanks were given to Paul Garner-Richards for bringing the society's accounts up to date and presenting them so clearly to the membership. Council had met the previous day and one of its decisions had been to disband the current Rare Birds Committee

with a view to re-establishing it as a Records Committee with new membership and terms of reference.

Motion: *That the President's report be accepted.* [David Lawrie/David Crockett] carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Paul Garner-Richards, presented the annual accounts to the meeting for the past two years. Difficulties in the transfer of all records to the new Treasurer and the need to prepare accounts for two years meant delays and an auditor's report had not been completed. Paul mentioned advances that had been made in establishing a computer programme for accounts and an on-line banking system which was proving useful for all. A summary of accounts will be published in *Southern Bird*.

Motion: *That the statement of accounts be received, duly audited and published in Southern Bird* [Paul Garner-Richards/Yvonne Mackenzie] carried.

Motion: *That the meeting re-appoint John Khouri as auditor* [Paul Garner-Richards/Richard Holdaway] carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Three positions on Council had become vacant with the expiry of terms served by Paul Scofield and Phil Battley and a position to which Peter Frost had previously been co-opted. Three nominations had been received and Murray Williams, Colin Miskelly and Peter Frost were duly appointed to these positions.

Motion to increase annual subscription:

The following motion had previously been notified in Southern Bird: That the subscription for ordinary membership be increased to \$70 and other memberships be increased proportionately, or consistent with the Constitution where relevant, and rounded up to the nearest \$5. Paul Scofield/Stuart Nicholson. Discussion from the floor covered issues such as the society needing to do more for its members, the cost for senior members and the possibility of resignations. An amendment to the motion was proposed:

That the following words be appended to the original motion – "Coincidentally Council shall investigate and report by December on options for concessionary membership. Murray Williams/Ian Armitage.

The amended motion was put to the meeting and lost on a hand count – 24:26. The original motion was then put and carried on a voice vote. The President noted that even though the amendment was lost, regional representatives had intended to conduct a very similar investigation themselves.

SOCIETY AWARDS

During the launch of the fourth Checklist earlier in the evening Dr Brian Gill had been presented with the Robert Falla Memorial Award for his services to ornithology, the Society and, in particular, chairing the committee which produced the Checklist. The award was enthusiastically acknowledged by all those present. The other members of the Checklist Committee received the Meritorious Service Award – these were: Colin Miskelly, Brian Bell, Ricardo Palma, Paul Scofield, Trevor Worthy, Geoff Chambers and David Medway. Kathleen Harrison also received a Meritorious Service Award for her services to the work of the society, particularly in Canterbury.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Graeme Taylor enquired about the possibility of two days being devoted to the science of ornithology at the next annual conference. Council had previously considered and declined a similar proposal but the enthusiastic support of the meeting and conference organisers forced a re-think and approval of this concept.

The President proposed a vote of thanks to Stuart Wood and his team from Nelson who had organised the AGM weekend and the successful running of all events.

The 2011 meeting will be over Queen's Birthday weekend in Wellington. The meeting closed at 10.45 pm.

FALLA MEMORIAL AWARD, A.T. EDGAR JUNIOR AWARD AND MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS 2010

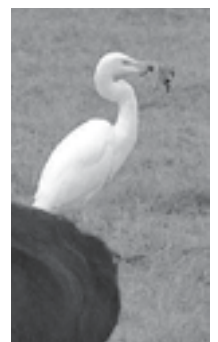
Nominations are called for the above awards and should be with the Executive Officer (P.O. Box 834, Nelson 7040) by 31st December 2010. Nominations should be on the standard forms, which are available from RRs, the Executive Officer Ingrid Hutzler at osnzeo@slingshot.co.nz or the Society's website www.osnz.org.nz/geninfo.htm.

The Awards Committee will consider all nominations, and its recommendations will be forwarded to Council for consideration at its spring meeting

Further information on OSNZ award procedures is available from your RR or the Society's website.

HERON EATING GOLDFINCH

At Pearl Creek on the estuary side of the Waimea Plains (Nelson) in November 2009 a White Heron was stalking something behind a cow chewing its cud. I then saw it strike, and it wandered around with a dead Goldfinch in its beak for about five minutes before swallowing it.



WILLIE COOK

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE 2009 FINANCIAL YEAR

This report was presented to the 2010 AGM.

Unfortunately the annual accounts are in draft form but should be audited by the end of June. Audited accounts for the 2008 and 2009 financial years will be published in the September [and December - ed] 2010 *Southern Bird*. Mark Nee's ill health had prevented him from finalising the 2008 accounts, so I had a trip to Auckland in February to collect them from him to complete.

The General Account has gone into deficit due to the fact that expenditure has exceeded income for the last two financial years. Some of the rising costs include printing and postage costs for *Notornis* and *Southern Bird* and conference/meeting expenses. The deficit has been covered in the short term by reserve funds, but the need to increase revenue and decrease expenditure is vital. A review of meeting costs has been carried out by David Melville and a new policy issued to help reduce the costs. David Melville has also helped reduce these costs by hosting the October Council meetings at Dovedale. An increase in annual subscriptions is needed to cover the increasing costs of our publications and other expenses.

The Project Assistance Fund has been helped by continued royalties and high interest. However, as with the General Account, expenditure has exceeded the income. The number of payments made from the account had increased from previous years. They included a wind farm media release, the Tairaroa Head Oral History and two AOC student scholarships. The fund made another transfer to the general account to assist with Executive Officer contract costs.

The Meadows Atlas Account continues to make a loss but expenditure has decreased significantly now that the Atlas has been published. Sales of the Atlas and data have decreased compared to previous years. The main expenditure is now the cost of storing the five pallets of Atlases that remain. We could reduce this cost if we all recruited another new member (who still receive a free copy), so that the stack of pallets was reduced. That would also add to income from subscriptions. That's my bit for the all important recruitment! Although this account remains in deficit, income and expenditure should cancel it out in coming years.

Journal expenditure in the Library Auction reserve showed a dip for the 2009 year. This is due to a delay in receiving some of the renewal forms. This expenditure continues to be about \$2,000 per year.

The Contracts Account showed a slight decline due to the lack of new contracts. Hopefully the Society will be able to pick up more contracts in the future. The Society has a great resource for contract work with the skills and qualifications of the members.

Although Society finances are still in good shape the need to increase revenue is essential for the operation and survival of the Society. Recent fund-raising has included the auction of Dr Kaj Westerkov's books, which has brought in about \$4,400 for the Society. Sponsorship options are also being looked into by the Executive Officer and Secretary. As well as fund raising and sponsorships at a national level, I would urge all regions to look at options locally.

I have enjoyed my first year as treasurer. Following in Mark's footsteps, after he had been in the seat for 19 years, has not been easy! Being a seafarer and not an accountant has made it quite challenging at times but I am hoping it will be much easier from now on. I have moved from Mark's manual accounting to a computer program and on-line banking which has made paying bills, regional allowances, etc, easier. The membership secretary also has read-only access, so she is able to see when membership subscriptions have been paid without having to wait for the bank statement at the end of the month. New members therefore get their welcome pack much sooner.

I would like to thank Mark Nee, my fellow councillors and the members for all the assistance and support they have given me over the last year.

I recommend acceptance of these draft accounts subject to audit. I promise that I will have the 2010 accounts completed and audited before the 2011 AGM!

PAUL GARNER-RICHARDS
June 2010

2008 AUDITED ACCOUNTS

JOHN KHOURI

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P O BOX 8905, SYMONDS ST, AUCKLAND 1150
TELEPHONE : 307-1446 FAX : 302-0271 E-MAIL : johnkhouri@xtra.co.nz

AUDITORS REPORT

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 2008.

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 2008.

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 judgments 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 \$39,763 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 2008 and the results of its activities for the year ended 31 December 2008.

The audit was completed on 28 July 2010 and my qualified opinion is expressed as at that date.



John Khouri, B Com ACA, Auckland

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	NOTE	2008	2007
1. GENERAL ACCOUNT			
Income			
Annual Subscriptions NZ		52,550	50,728
Annual Subscriptions Overseas		12,790	11,820
Donations		3,575	929
Sales General		1,798	928
Kakapo Issue		23	402
Notornis & Southern Bird Refunds	5	3,900	3,550
Interest		1,704	1,448
SUB TOTAL:		70,340	69,803
Transfers From			
1. Life Membership Reserve			
Annual contribution		2,021	1,750
2. Sir Robert Felja Memorial Fund			
Closure of Account		0	4,779
3. A.J. Edgar Junior Award Fund			
Closure of Account		0	4,883
4. Project Assistance Fund			
i. Royalties		4,719	0
ii. (Grant Executive Officers Costs)		11,000	
Admin. Fee		0	0
5. Contract Account/ Admin. fees		0	12,243
		17,740	23,655
TOTAL INCOME		94,080	93,458
Expenditure			
Audit		800	800
Bank Fees		1,185	0
Computers and Software		16,062	1,804
Conference & Meeting Expenses		14,727	8,543
Donations to BNZ Save the Kiwi		4	0
Executive Officer Wages		31,595	6,862
General Expenses		9,132	1,850
Insurance		1,493	1,674
Internet		311	0
Packing & Posting - Notornis & Southern Bird		6,624	6,181
Postage		1,468	209
Postage - International		3,130	0
Printing Notornis		13,200	17,773
Printing Southern Bird		10,123	12,513
Printing & Stationery - General		5,096	0
Telephone		390	0
Websites, Domains		455	0
SUB TOTAL:		115,795	58,209
Transfer to:			
1. Meadows Atlas - Atlas Launch Contribution		0	2,753
2. Library Auction Reserve - Grant for Journals		1,000	1,000
		1,000	3,753
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		116,795	61,962
Surplus/(Deficit)		-2,715	31,496
Plus Balance as at 1 January 2008		24,585	-6,911
General Account Balance as at 31 December 2008		1,870	24,585

2008 AUDITED ACCOUNTS CONTINUED

Income		
Interest	1,420	2,409
New Life Members		2,044
	1,420	4,453
Less Expenditure		
Transfer to General Funds:	2,021	1,750
Surplus/(Deficit)	-601	2,703
Plus balance as at 1 January 2008	20,209	17,506
Balance as at 31 December 2008	19,608	20,209
3. LIBRARY ASSETS ACCOUNT		
Income		
Library Exchanges	1,700	1,700
Increase in Assets value	1,700	1,700
Plus balance as at 1 January 2008	35,063	33,383
Balance as at 31 December 2008	36,763	35,063
4. PROJECT ASSISTANCE FUND		
Income		
Royalties Penguin Field Guide	4,719	5,367
Interest	9,617	16,976
TOTAL RECEIPTS	14,336	22,343
Expenditure		
Projects Approved		
i. Regional Allowances	8,830	3,180
ii. State of NZ Birds	3,095	3,808
iii. Rock Wren Publicity	562	0
	12,507	6,988
Transfers to General Account		
i. Royalties	4,719	0
ii. Executive Officers Cost	11,000	0
	15,719	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	28,226	6,988
Surplus/(Deficit)	-13,890	15,355
Plus Balance as at 1 January 2008	138,602	123,247
Balance as at 31 December 2008	124,712	138,602

5. MEADOWS ATLAS MEMORIAL FUND		
Income		
Sales - Atlas	3,251	16,879
Sales - Atlas Information	6,967	14,310
ICPB Payment	0	65,000
Donation	1,018	0
Balton Priests	0	1,035
General	0	458
Interest	0	7,486
Transfer from General Account	Atlas Launch Contribution	2,753
		11,236
Expenditure		
Atlas inputs	16,701	44,251
Atlas Printing	0	106,122
Atlas Postage & Packaging	737	16,133
Transfer to General Account	Atlas Launch	3,788
Expenditure	17,438	172,294
Surplus/(Deficit)	-6,202	-64,373
Balance as at 1 January 2008	-10,026	54,347
Balance as at 31 December 2008	-16,228	-10,026
6. LIBRARY AUCTION RESERVE		
Income		
Charges	0	278
Donation	0	350
Interest	168	321
Transfer from General Account	1,000	1,000
	1,168	1,949
Expenditure		
Journals	2,305	1,871
Surplus/(Deficit)	-1,137	78
Balance as at 1 January 2008	2,409	2,331
Balance as at 31 December 2008	1,272	2,409
7. CONTRACTS ACCOUNT		
Income		
Administration Charge	267	0
Wader Report	0	15,078
Wader Surveys	22,220	7,520
MAF Surveys	4,359	24,500
	26,855	47,998
Expenditure		
Wader Equipment & Status Reports	3,265	5,500
Agriculture & Fisheries Survey	4,011	18,010
Transfers to Administration Fees	0	12,243
	7,276	35,753
Surplus/(Deficit)	19,579	12,245
Balance as at 1 January 2008	122,799	110,954
Balance as at 31 December 2008	142,378	122,799

BALANCE SHEET		
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008		
	2008	2007
Members Funds		
General Account	1,870	24,585
Life Membership Reserve	19,608	20,209
Library Auction Reserve	1,272	2,409
Members Funds	22,750	47,203
Restricted Funds		
Project Assistance Fund	124,712	138,602
Meadows Memorial	-16,228	-10,026
Contracts Fund	142,378	122,799
Restricted Funds Liabilities	250,862	251,375
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS & LIABILITIES	273,612	298,578
Assets		
Bank	24,654	8,380
Investments BNZ	215,473	80,000
Investments Auckland Mortgage Trust	20,000	190,000
Accounts Receivable	1,994	4,943
Library Assets Account	36,763	35,063
Advances	700	750
G.S.T	728	2,550
TOTAL ASSETS	300,522	321,686
Less Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	16,210	13,550
Subscription in Advance	10,700	9,557
TOTAL LIABILITIES	26,910	23,107
NET TOTAL OF ASSETS	273,612	298,579

NOTE TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

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 7.6%. This rate is calculated by apportioning the total interest received over Restricted and General Funds, with a deduction for administration.

d. Goods & Service Tax

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

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. RESERVES

Life Membership

- This reserve consists of life membership subscriptions and interest less annual transfer of 10% of balance to General Funds.
- Included in the General Fund are balances of between \$4780 - Sir Robert Falla and \$4883 for the A.J. Edgar, Memorial Funds and the surplus from the A.O.C. Conference held in 2007 of \$14,856
- Included in the Project Assistance balance is a surplus of \$14,856 for the A.O.C. held in 2007, part of which was set aside to assist students and other participants at future A.O.C. meetings

2. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Royalties Penguin	1,478	2,500
Interest BNZ	321	268
Notornis Charges	0	1,700
Southern Bird	0	75
	1,799	4,943

3. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Audit fee accrued	800	800
Notornis & Southern Bird	14,353	12,750
Atlas Data Charge	967	0
Expenses	150	0
	16,210	13,550

FOR SALE!

Complete Sets of HANZAB and HBW

For auction: complete sets of the Handbook of Australian New Zealand and Antarctic Birds and Handbook of the Birds of the World.

The HANZAB set is complete (seven volumes, nine 'covers') and the reserve price is \$2,000. New sets sell for A\$3,000.

The HBW comprises the 14 volumes to date, however volume 15 is published later this year, with volume 16 in 2011, completing the set. To buy these new ex the publisher (Lynx Edicions) will set you back NZ\$3,375. The vendor will guarantee the price for the remaining unpublished volumes, as he has a subscription guaranteeing that price. The reserve price for the HBW (not including volumes 15 and 16) is \$2,500.

The condition of both sets is generally as new/excellent. Bidders should note there are no personal (owner) names or other spoiling of the sets by pens markings/notes, there is very slight UV fading to some of the book jackets on the spines on some of the HANZAB/HBW volumes.

Postage for sending the sets to any successful bidder will be 'at cost' however the vendor would prefer if they were picked up from him.

20% of sale proceeds of either/both of these sets will be donated to OSNZ (not including delivery charges), a very generous donation, so please send your bids to:

Manukau (David) Lewis
10 Lawrence Street, Te Kuiti 3910
Ph: 07 878 3080
Email: mahe_manukau@clear.net.nz

4. NOTORNIS & SOUTHERN BIRD REFUNDS	2008	2007
Notornis/Library Exchanges	1,700	1,700
Papers in Notornis	2,200	1,700
Southern Birds Advertising	0	150
	<u>3,900</u>	<u>3,550</u>

5. PROJECT ASSISTANCE FUND GRANTS MADE	2008	2007
Regional and Patrol Grants	8,830	3,180
State of NZ Birds	3,096	3,808
Rock Wren Publicity	582	0
	<u>12,508</u>	<u>6,988</u>

6. CASHFLOW STATEMENT

A cashflow statement has not been prepared. The provisions for differential reporting under Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, specifically Exposure Draft No.62 "Framework for Differential Reporting" allows entities of the size of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc be exempt from the completion of a Statement of Cashflow.

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

Executive Officer: At the last Council meeting Ingrid proposed to reduce her working time to 10 hours per week. Council accepted this offer and the intention is that her efforts will now focus on the promotion of field activities. If this new arrangement is going to be successful it is important that members' enquiries are directed to the various officers within the society as is most relevant, rather than our EO having to receive and forward everything. The roles and contacts for these officers are well described on the current website.

New Website: Council has accepted a quotation for reconstructing the society's website. This will allow members and new members to process their membership online. Access to all of the Society's publications will also be on the same site. This work is likely to be fully funded by a sponsorship grant from the company T-Gear.

Membership enquiries: With the expected move to web-based membership processing, all enquiries are now being handled by Roger Sharp. This role is further explained on the current website. Yvonne Mackenzie will continue to ensure that the mailing of publications reflects current membership details.

Notornis: Publication of Notornis is now almost up-to-date but further delays are possible because there is a current paucity of papers on line to be published. There has never been a better time for the speedy publication of your research results.

New subscription rates: The following membership fees will be in place for the 2011 calendar year, as per the motion approved at the 2010 AGM.

PETER GAZE
Secretary

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	OLD RATE	NEW RATE
NEW ZEALAND		
Ordinary	\$57.50	\$70.00
Family (extra family members at same address)	\$14.50	\$17.50
Student	\$30.00	\$35.00
Institute/Group	\$115.00	\$140.00
Corporate	\$290.00	\$350.00
Life (for age 40 yrs+)	\$1,150.00	\$1,380.00
AUSTRALIA		
Ordinary	\$85.00	\$105.00
Family (as above)	\$25.00	\$26.25
Student	\$50.00	\$52.50
Institute/Group	\$185.00	\$225.00
Corporate	\$575.00	\$690.00
Life (for age 40 yrs+)	\$2,000.00	\$2,400.00
OVERSEAS (other than Australia)		
Ordinary	\$95.00	\$115.00
Family (as above)	\$25.00	\$28.75
Student	\$50.00	\$57.50
Institute/Group	\$185.00	\$225.00
Corporate	\$575.00	\$690.00

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Dave Barnard (Hawkes Bay); Kate Beer (Auckland); Francie Beggs (Otago); Phillip Cochrane (Canterbury); John Craig (Northland); Claire Cunneen (Auckland); Jeanette Cutten (Wanganui); Marcia Dale (Otago); Rob Evans (Canterbury); Oliver Gansell (Waikato); Lindsey Gray (Australia); Frances Hall (Auckland); Peter Harrison (U.S.A.); Kevin Hayes (Northland); MA Kinghan and family (Far North); Anthony Marsh (Auckland); Christopher Minson (Wellington); Ron Moorhouse (Nelson); Helen Morgan (Wairarapa); Peter Pay (Nelson); Shirley Porter (Bay of Plenty); Barbara Prince (Otago); Sharon Race (Auckland); Thomas Rambaut (Australia); Yvan Richard (Wellington); Kathryn Row (Waikato); Tim Rowe (Nelson); Shirley Scadden (Gisborne/Wairoa); Paul Sinclair (West Coast); Trina Smith (Auckland); George Ward (Otago); Zhea Warden (Auckland); Stuart Williamson (Auckland).

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

Jacinda Amey; Johnson Anthony; Richard Arlidge; Chris Bycroft; Bill Cash; Ian Flux; John Flux; Chris Foreman; Florence Gaud; Paddy Latham; Jean Luke; Keith Owen; Dianne Parker; Moira Pryde; Mr V. M. Rutherford; Roy Slack; John Staniland; Zuni Steer; Mr W. A. Watters; Tony Wilson.

WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED PAPERS ON NEW ZEALAND BIRD SPECIES

All citations, reprint copies or photocopies of papers on, or relating to, any New Zealand bird species that have been published in a scientific journal or general magazine other than *Notornis*. These papers or citations will be made available to all members, and a list of these publications will be published annually in *Notornis*.

Please send to the Secretary, Roger Sharp, 5 Archer Rayner Place, Greenhithe, North Shore City 0632. Ph: hm 09 413 8580, Wk 09 625 3345 or Email: Roger_Sharp@xtra.co.nz

PROJECT AND ACTIVITIES UPDATE

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS IN COUNTING SHOREBIRDS

The Miranda Shorebird Centre (MSC) will be running a short training workshop over the weekend of 27-28th November. The aim is to instruct participants in how to count shorebirds, enabling them to take a more active role in OSNZ censuses and related activities. On the first day participants will be introduced briefly to the theory behind counting shorebirds, the value and methods of censusing them, and how these censuses link with international work on shorebirds. As this is primarily a field course, participants will then spend the rest of the day in the field, learning and practising counting techniques. Each participant will be provided with a telescope, and will have ample opportunity for one-on-one coaching from tutors. On the second day each participant will be teamed with an experienced counter to take part in the Firth of Thames shorebird summer census. Tutors include David Lawrie, Adrian Riegen, Gillian Vaughan and Keith Woodley, all of whom have had extensive experience in counting shorebirds.

The price at this stage is \$60, but MSC hope to be able to reduce this with assistance from OSNZ. Included in the price are bunkhouse accommodation over Saturday night, a light Sunday breakfast, morning and afternoon teas, fish and chips on Saturday night, course notes, hire of a telescope, and a tally counter to keep for future counting. Participants are required to provide two packed lunches, bedding, and other field equipment, such as binoculars and notebooks.

Numbers are limited to 15, so book soon. For bookings, and to request more information, please contact Keith Woodley at the Miranda Shorebird Centre, (09) 232 2781, or email shorebird@farmside.co.nz. Please note that the course will not cover shorebird identification. The MSC is running a separate course on this (23rd-24th October). Contact Keith for more information.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP BAND WATERFOWL

Each year, the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council band about 4,000 Mallards and Grey Ducks (and their hybrids), along with smaller numbers of other species. Because these species are hunted, up to 15% of banded birds are recovered in any given year. From the details provided by hunters of where and when individual birds were shot, valuable information on the birds' movements and survival can be obtained. Together with data on the sex and age ratios of the banded birds, this information helps the Council gain a better understanding of the structure and dynamics of these species' populations, from which better management decisions can be made.

The Council is happy to have volunteers help with catching, processing and banding birds. Most banding is done in summer, from January onwards, at various sites between Helensville and Te Awamutu. Some banding is also done at other times of the year, depending on needs and circumstances. You will be working with experienced banders as part of a team for as

long or short a period as you choose. This is a great opportunity to develop or enhance your bird banding skills, as well as contribute to a vital research programme. If you would like to help, please contact John Dyer, Senior Wildlife Manager, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council (johndyer@clear.net.nz) to register your interest and availability.

As mentioned in the March 2010 issue of *Southern Bird*, Peter McClelland catches and bands moulting Paradise Shelducks each year in Southland, starting in mid January. This work is carried out with approval of Southland Fish and Game, and is covered by all the necessary permits. In association with this work, Peter runs a practical training course for prospective bird banders, aimed primarily at OSNZ members, DoC staff, and staff and students involved in the environmental management programme at the Southland Institute of Technology. If you would like to take part, please contact Peter McClelland (petem@kol.co.nz) for further details. Please note that this is his correct email address; that given in the earlier article was wrong. I apologise to anyone who has been trying to contact Peter using that address.

BANDING PASSERINES

At its biannual meeting in June 2010, OSNZ Council gave the go-ahead to form a National Passerine Banding Study Group. Mike Bell is looking to run a training course for experienced banders who are, or would like to become, involved in training others in catching, handling, and banding birds. This course is being planned for one of the weekends in mid-March 2011. If you are an active and experienced bander, and have not yet been contacted by Mike, please get in touch with him for further details. His email address is: skua44@yahoo.co.nz. One outcome of this initiative, apart from a more coordinated programme of banding passerines, is likely to be more opportunities for people to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to become a licensed bander. For those who cannot wait, Mike will be running another short training course as part of the Marlborough Region's annual banding camp held at Ward in January/February. If you want to participate, please contact Mike to register your interest and get further details. Those taking part attend on a self-catering basis.

Peter Reese and the Central Passerine Banding Group in Wellington also run regular banding sessions, mainly at Wellington Zoo but periodically at other sites around the city. This group has trained many bird banders over the years, and newcomers are always welcome. This is one of the best opportunities for people around Wellington to get hands-on experience in catching, handling, and processing small land birds, and learning how to study moult. Anyone who wants take part should contact Peter for details (ruth.peterr@actrix.co.nz).

UPCOMING CASPIAN TERN SURVEY

Mike Bell is finalising arrangements for a national survey of Caspian Terns, due to take place from 2011 to 2015. For the coming breeding season, Mike is keen for people

to locate breeding colonies and, especially, places where single pairs may be nesting. Not only will this knowledge help get the main survey off to a quick start, but it will also provide opportunities to test non-intrusive survey techniques. An article on the survey appears elsewhere in this issue. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mike (skua44@yahoo.co.nz).

Promoting awareness and interest in birds Carol Davies, a member of the Project and Activities Committee and also Promotions Officer for the Far North region, recently mounted an attractive week-long educational display about birds at the Proctor Library in Kerikeri. After this, the display was moved to the Kaeo Rugby Club, which was hosting a Conservation Network event. Both places resulted in considerable publicity. We would be keen to hear about any similar initiatives elsewhere in the country, and especially any lessons learned from them. If you are involved in something similar, please contact Carol (carolanndavies@yahoo.com), so that we can build up a database of initiatives and try to discern what might be 'best practice'.

PETER FROST

Convenor: Project and Activities Committee

SILVEREYE FINALLY PROVEN TO HAVE CROSSED COOK STRAIT

Several stories exist which make it look likely that Silvereyes regularly cross Cook Strait. David Melville reported flocks flying off the end of Farewell Spit; Arnie Wright has seen flocks coming and going from The Brothers when stationed there as a lighthouse keeper; and once when doing a beach patrol along Foxton Beach a flock of Silvereyes came in from offshore with one bird so worn out that it landed on somebody's head! The problem with all of these sightings is that could never be confirmed that these birds definitely did cross the Strait, but thanks to banding stations on either side of Cook Strait we now have proof.

A silvereye banded at Jack Taylor's farm at Ward (Marlborough) in Feb 2007 was caught at Wellington Zoo this July. It constituted a straight line recapture distance of 81 km, so not the longest know movement, but perhaps the longest recorded sea crossing and the first (as far as I am aware) record of a banded Silvereye crossing Cook Strait.

This is an exciting record, and with further banding planned this will hopefully be the start of much information to be learned on passerines in New Zealand. OSNZ is in the process of forming a new National Passerine Banding Study Group, which will be bringing together banding operators from across the country to work co-operatively so that further discoveries can be made. For further information on this group and how to become involved just get in touch.

MIKE BELL and PETER REESE

JOHN SIMMONS

12 YEARS AS AUCKLAND BEACH PATROL CONVENOR



John Simmons (left) is assisted by Paul Asquith and Gillian Eller in identifying a collected specimen. Photo by Alan Morris.

Most OSNZ census and survey activities are team events, with the value of the information gathered a function of the collective observations of the team. Regardless of how effective and efficient the team is, there is always a need for a team leader – someone to organise the team and ensure all logistics are covered so that the event is a success.

John Simmons is one such leader. He has just stepped down from his role as beach patrol convenor for the Auckland region after a

tour-of-duty of 12 years. In that time, John was always first on the beach come rain, shine or treacherous spring tides, and reportedly never missed a patrol. John also ensured that his patrollers were well catered-for in every respect. He generously provided all the gear - spades, beach markers, safety vests, hot coffee (usually too sweet for some), callipers, rulers, beak charts, chairs for the 'older' patrollers and, best of all, lots of hot soapy water and dry towels for hand washing. We figure that John must have spent all

his spare time shopping at supermarkets to get the supply of plastic bags he always had on hand!

Under John's 12-year stewardship, the region's beach patrols must have covered at least 2,500 km of Muriwai Beach on Auckland's west coast. John's fastidious organisation was effective to the extent that nobody got lost or was seriously injured, although there were the inevitable tired knees, hips, large blisters

and sandblasted faces associated with beach patrolling. The worst conditions did result in some mild cases of hypothermia, including John himself! Most frustrations were probably the difficult moments over access to the forestry roads backing the beach, fighting for keys to gates and access to closed blocks. John's persistent nature usually culminated in solutions agreeable to all.

We figure that John must have a very smelly large freezer at home because he is always happy to take good condition specimens (including albatrosses) home to freeze for the Auckland Museum collection. Perhaps the most spectacular day was the 'prion wreck' a few years ago when, over a two day patrol, in excess of 3,000 prions and other small petrels were collected, sorted and identified; they filled the back of the DoC ute to the brim and it took six people over five hours to sort out and then identify them!

Always with his clipboard on hand, John filed the patrol results faithfully, adding to the wealth of OSNZ data. We unreservedly acknowledge John's contribution to New Zealand's ornithological knowledge - he is a perfect example of the concept of 'citizen ecology'. We do not intend to let him rest for long, however, as there are other regional 'jobs' beckoning!

PAUL ASQUITH and
MEL GALBRAITH

CASPIAN TERN CENSUS

As reported in previous issues of *Southern Bird* OSNZ is planning to undertake a census of the Caspian Tern. This will be a repeat of the surveys carried out by OSNZ members during 1971-75 and 1991-95. After another 20 year gap the next survey will be starting in 2011 and runs until 2015. During past counts the number of breeding pairs appeared to be stable, with around 1,200 pairs counted. However there was considerable movement of colonies, some colonies disappeared and new colonies formed.

With recent growth in coastal subdivisions and wider four-wheel-drive ownership there are now greater threats on coastal habitats and the birds within them. The data OSNZ has and obtains on the Caspian Tern will provide an important case study into these effects, and could benefit a wide range of coastal birds. It offers a great chance for your birding to help an important research project.

At present we are developing the census methods, and will next season be providing details on how these should be carried out.

This coming breeding season we are keen for members to start to find both Caspian Tern colonies, and also isolated breeding pairs. In the previous two censuses the number of individual pairs breeding alone was under-reported, and it is vital that this time round

we try and get a handle on the number of pairs breeding away from main colonies. Please note the location of colonies (or individual breeding pair) and an estimated number of pairs. If there are chicks present in the colony please do not enter, as they are highly vulnerable to predation

from gulls (which often nest in or near Caspian Tern colonies). Details should be forwarded to your Regional Representative who will be co-ordinating counts in each region.

Thanks, and happy hunting.

MIKE BELL



Caspian Terns and chick. Photo by Lloyd Esler.

Nelson AGM and Conference



Participants on the Abel-Tasman boat cruise venture across a tannin-stained creek at The Anchorage. Photo by Chris Thompson.

A New Zealand Falcon seen on the Marlborough vineyards trip. Photo by Til Melis.

About 130 members had an enjoyable time in Nelson over the Queen's Birthday weekend catching up with friends, seeing new sights, hearing some of the latest ornithological research, taking part in the launch of the long-awaited 4th edition of The Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand, and enjoying the hospitality of the north of the south.

As has become a recent tradition of OSNZ conferences the Scientific Day went like clockwork, with barely a hitch, though some attendees needed some chivvy to finish their tea and bikkies. Thanks to Ron Moorhouse for keeping everything to schedule. One highlight was when Nelson member Charles Hufflet was presented with a beautiful photo of a Southern Royal Albatross taken by Steve Wood in appreciation of his letting the Nelson Region meet in the Solander Fisheries board room every month. Charles had just given a fascinating presentation on the various mitigation techniques used by the fishing industry in minimising seabird by-catch.



Charles Hufflet after being presented with a photo of a Southern Royal Albatross. Photo by Til Melis.

Following the Scientific Day, held as usual in beautiful sunny weather, happy hour is helped along by the tasting of wines provided by the Pied Stilt Vineyard of Motueka. This is followed by the launch of the checklist, featuring a well-received speech by Neil Clifton (Nelson/



Getting onto the boat at Kaiteriteri for the cruise along the Abel-Tasman coastline. By Nick Allen.

Marlborough Conservator, DoC), plus speeches by David Lawrie, Brian Gill and the publishers Te Papa Press. Following the launch Brian Gill is presented with the Robert Falla Memorial Award, something he didn't expect and very well deserved.

After a delicious and leisurely repast with much opportunity to talk with friends old and new, the start of the AGM was rather late. Much discussion over matters of motion, most specifically an increase in subscriptions, meant an even later than normal conclusion of proceedings.

As is tradition Sunday (field trip day) dawned grey with torrential rain. Three excursions were on offer, with coaches, windows steamed up by evaporated precipitation, heading to the Marlborough vineyards to see first hand the project to use New Zealand Falcons to protect grape crops; Kaiteriteri for a boat trip along the Abel-Tasman coast; and Saint Arnaud to see the Rotoiti mainland island.

The vineyard trip was met at Renwick by Colin Wynn, who manages the Falcons for Grapes project and Phil Bradfield, biodiversity ranger for DoC in South Marlborough. Escaping the rain by going indoors there was discussion on how the project works, its successes and problems and the importance of involving the greater community in the project. During this time Colin had a captive Falcon, Napoleon (he is blind in one eye) on his glove. The rain eventually eased to allow venturing out into the vineyards where one of the project's Falcons was found. The bird was being provided with supplementary food to help

prevent it straying, and a highlight was it's taking of a fresh morsel of thrown food just a metre above the heads of the participants.

On arrival at Kaiteriteri there were comments from those on the Abel-Tasman cruise that it would be a lovely place if the sun was shining, though the sands were shining a lovely golden yellow none-the-less. Our boat was driven bow-first onto the beach and those present walked up a long ramp onto the boat from the beach. The next trick was a rather prolonged sequence of tricks to extricate the boat from the sands it had been driven into, whilst those on the stern of the boat did their best to keep dry whilst watching Gannets, and Pied and Spotted Shags, or adjourned to the cabin which became a little steamed-up as a result. Cruising along the coast, some of those on board found the trip a little bit bumpy, though the scenery was still beautiful and the lines of Spotted Shags an interesting distraction. Brief sightings were made of dolphins (probably Bottlenosed and Dusky)



Cruise participants sheltering from the rain at The Anchorage. By Nick Allen.



The Brook sanctuary visitor centre on the Monday morning of the conference. Photo by Chris Thompson.

in the Tonga Island Marine Reserve area, plus longer sightings of New Zealand Fur Seals. The original plan was to visit Totaranui and its Weka re-introduction project. However most participants were happy to take a plan B option and get off at The Anchorage for lunch with some exploration on solid (if not dry) land there. Here the bird highlight for some lucky participants was a Reef Heron in a neighbouring bay. Other participants continued on the boat round a few more bays to pick up some passengers. The rain abated for most of the trip back to Kaiteriteri and some ventured onto the open upper deck. A stop at Adele Island was the highlight for most. The boat's motors were turned off and those present



The busy sales/raffle/registration table at the conference. Photo by Til Melis

marvelled at the song coming from the pest-free island. Bellbirds and Tui are doing well. Robins have been re-introduced and one was spied venturing onto the rocky beach. Rudy Tetteroo from DoC talked about the formation of the Bird Song Trust and how businesses in the Abel-Tasman National Park contribute to it – a great example of DoC, businesses and the community working together.

The Nelson Lakes trip managed to drive out of the rain and enjoyed a day of brightening skies. Some spied a Falcon speeding over on getting out of the bus at Kerrs Bay, and then enjoyed an explanation of the various programmes past and present given by DoC Ranger John Henderson to help birds in the Nelson Lakes National Park. At times John was almost drowned out by the cacophony of Bellbird song. A massive trapping programme by both DoC and the voluntary 'Friends of Lake Rotoiti' plus poisoning of wasps has increased numbers of Kaka, Bellbirds and Tui, and allowed a successful re-introduction of the Great Spotted Kiwi. Participants split into small groups each taking tracks to suit their personal abilities. Re-assembling at the visitor centre there was discussion on the features of the park and what those present



Brian Gill addressing the audience at the launch of the Checklist. Photo by Til Melis.

had observed on their walks. A suggestion of stopping for a 'cuppa' afforded a short deviation on the way back to Nelson to the Top House Hotel. This was a highlight of the day for many. The historic cob building has been recently restored and participants enjoyed the blazing log fire.

The dinner on Sunday evening had a definite seafood feel, with mussels, prawns and seafood Mornay. Following the meal Mike Standish-White entertained those present with a story, about 50 years old, of his trip to the island Juanda Nova Reunion, a French island off the coast of Mozambique.

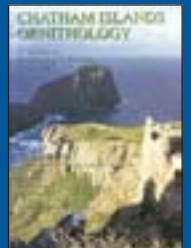
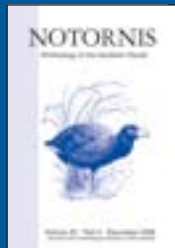
On the Monday most attendees quickly went their separate ways, though 20 participants enjoyed a visit in the re-emerged sun to The Brook/Waimarama Sanctuary, where they heard from the chair of this predator-fenced project, David Butler, details of the creation of a pest-free wildlife sanctuary in the hills behind the city of Nelson. David talked about the sanctuary's final fund-raising effort, and participants walked on the new track under development, passing through broadleaf forest containing many Tree Fuchsias to Nelson's first water supply weir, which was a rather large waterfall after all the previous day's rain.

Many thanks to the Nelson organisers and helpers for an enjoyable weekend.

JOINING THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

For our very reasonable subscription fee of \$57.50 (students pay just \$30.00 and overseas/corporate rates etc are also available) you will receive a quarterly issue of this magazine *Southern Bird*, which is the Society's main mouthpiece to members, has articles of bird/ornithological interest and both national and local news; a quarterly issue of *Notornis*, the Society's scientific journal; an annual issue of *The State of New Zealand's Birds*, reporting on the status of a group of species or those species using a particular habitat type; and from time to time either free or discounted major Society publications – for example



a copy of the latest *Atlas of Bird Distribution* is currently provided free to new members while stocks last. This atlas gives a thorough overview of the distribution of every bird on mainland New Zealand and some offshore islands in its 533 pages.

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

with conclusions relevant to decision-making processes on the conservation of birds.

With Christmas fast approaching why not give a friend or family member a gift subscription?

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

- Visit the Society's website www.osnz.org.nz
- Contact the Society's membership secretary: Roger Sharp, 5 Archer Rayner Place, Greenhithe, North Shore City 0632. Ph: hm 09 413 8580, wk 09 625 3345. Email: Roger_Sharpx@xtra.co.nz
- Contact your nearest regional representative, contact details for which can be found on the inside back page of this magazine.

OSNZ NATIONAL WADER COUNT

JUNE 2010

Good coverage was achieved in June 2010 with the Far North harbours being the only key sites not counted this year. As usual the Manukau Harbour had the highest number of waders with 35,459 followed by the Kaipara Harbour (23,965), Firth of Thames (16,999), Farewell Spit (9,894) and Tasman Bay (7,715). The Kawhia Harbour, with 7,071, was the only other site holding over 7,000 waders.

The table to the right shows the June 2010 totals along with the average of the June 2005-09 counts.

Semi-palmated Plover

This species was added to the count list for the first time, with one seen on the Manukau Harbour.

KEY SPECIES:

Pied Oystercatcher – 79,039

The Manukau Harbour had 25,193 and the three main Auckland harbours between them accounted for 47,851. A further 14,179 were counted in the Nelson region.

Variable Oystercatcher – 3,031

The Nelson region had 758 with the Bay of Plenty close behind on 725.

Pied Stilt – 19,001

The Kaipara Harbour led with 5,933 followed by the Firth of Thames with 5,111 and the Manukau Harbour 3,175.

New Zealand Dotterel – 651

The Mangawhai Estuary had 121 and the Kaipara Harbour 113.

Banded Dotterel – 6,252

The Manukau Harbour was top with 987 followed by the Kaipara Harbour with 878, Lake Ellesmere 874, Farewell Spit 770, and 653 at Kawhia Harbour.

Wrybill – 4,614

This was quite a low count and below the last five year average. Almost 95% were in the Auckland area with 2,059 in the Manukau Harbour, 2,010 in the Firth of Thames, the Kaipara Harbour had 214, Tauranga Harbour 97 and Whangarei Harbour 85.

Turnstone – 281

The Manukau Harbour had 109 and Farewell Spit 88.

Lesser Knot – 1,287

The total count was only about half of the five-year winter average. The Manukau Harbour had 1,011, the Firth of Thames 92, Farewell Spit 74 and Maketu Estuary 70.

Bar-tailed Godwit – 12,562

Significantly more than the five-year average, with the Manukau Harbour leading the way again with 2,527, Kaipara Harbour 2,207, Farewell Spit 2,170, Firth of Thames 912, Tauranga Harbour 855, Tasman Bay 819 and Kawhia Harbour 806.

Summary Compiled by ADRIAN RIEGEN
August 2010

June 2010 Count Summary

Species	Count 2010	Average 2005-09
Pied Oystercatcher	79,039	82,344
Variable Oystercatcher	3,031	2,022
Oystercatcher hybrid	2	16
Pied Stilt	19,001	15,451
Black Stilt/hybrids	27	22
New Zealand Dotterel	651	426
Banded Dotterel	6,252	5,670
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	89
Large Sand Dotterel	1	1
Mongolian Dotterel	1	
Semi-palmated Plover	1	
Wrybill	4,614	5,185
Pacific Golden Plover		4
Grey Plover	4	
Spur-winged Plover	2,003	1,404
Turnstone	281	252
Lesser Knot	1,287	2,659
Great Knot	1	
Sanderling		1
Curlew Sandpiper	7	2
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	
Red-necked Stint	15	25
Broad-billed Sandpiper		
Eastern Curlew	2	1
Whimbrel	4	13
Bar-tailed Godwit	12,562	9,278
Black-tailed Godwit	1	1
Hudsonian Godwit		1
Wandering Tattler		
Siberian Tattler	2	1
Red-necked Phalarope		1
TOTAL	128,793	124,875

Sites where more than 2,000 waders were counted in June 2010

Manukau Harbour	35,459
Kaipara Harbour	23,965
Firth of Thames	16,999
Farewell Spit	9,894
Tasman Bay	7,715
Kawhia Harbour	7,071
Tauranga Harbour	4,521
Avon-Heathcote	2,788
Golden Bay	2,376
Lake Ellesmere	2,048

Development of an Online Encyclopaedia of New Zealand Birds

One of my major projects since joining the staff at Te Papa has been to work with OSNZ to initiate development of a searchable website on New Zealand birds. The intention is to have one webpage for each of the 446 species listed in the new *Checklist of the birds of New Zealand*, including extinct and fossil species. Where possible, each species will have up to 15 images (nest, eggs, chicks, immature, breeding and non-breeding plumages, in flight etc) and up to five audio clips. The information on each species will cover anything and everything that users of the website might find of interest, including identification, distribution, taxonomy, threat classification, breeding ecology, diet, history of discovery, conservation management, cultural significance, best places to find them, bibliographies, relevant websites...let me know what you want!

Work is well progressed on developing the framework for the website, but it is the content that will make the difference as to whether it becomes the number one site to visit to learn about New Zealand birds. How can you help? For a start, we

will need thousands of digital images. Details of how copyright of images will be handled are still under discussion, but the intention is that low resolution images will be acknowledged to source and accessible to all, and medium quality images (suitable for full-screen viewing, or use in PowerPoint) will be accessible to paid-up OSNZ members via a password. So get out there and take photos (or get your old slides scanned)!

My intention is to invite members to write the pages for their favourite species, once some sample texts have been prepared. The process and timeline will be communicated via *Southern Bird* and the OSNZ website in due course.

The remaining area where members can help is in checking or developing species lists for your favourite birding locations. The website will have a variety of search functions, including some that will develop species lists (sorted by Breeding, Regular, Vagrant, Formerly present, or Extinct) for mainland provinces, sea areas, islands, and favourite birding sites. These searches will work only if we have accurate information on the recent and

former distributions of birds at each site, and can enter these data into the database that sits behind the website. I have so far developed draft lists for 13 mainland provinces (covering the whole country), 12 sea areas (covering the New Zealand EEZ and the Ross Sea), and 57 islands or archipelagos, and am now working on lists for over 50 mainland birding sites. These will be sent to relevant Regional Representatives for checking, but I welcome individual members offering to check or prepare species (and status) lists for their favourite sites. If you are interested in helping, or think that your favourite site should be included, email me at the address below.

Longer term, I will be seeking a small group of people to help maintain the website, including uploading additional images and updated text e.g. new records accepted by the Records Appraisal Committee, recent publications, and the latest conservation news.

Colin Miskelly

Curator, Terrestrial Vertebrates
Te Papa / Museum of New Zealand
colin.miskelly@tepapa.govt.nz

OSNZ RECORDS APPRAISAL COMMITTEE

Most members will be familiar with the name and role of the former Rare Birds Committee. Elsewhere in this issue David Lawrie (OSNZ President) explains some of the background to the OSNZ Council's decision to disband the Rare Birds Committee and to form a new Records Appraisal Committee. The name change recognises the ambiguity of the term 'rare' (is the species globally rare, nationally rare or locally rare, or is it an abundant species that happens to have strayed?) and that the committee's main function is to assess the validity of records of birds beyond their normal range, regardless of whether the bird is rare or not. For example, if a Kea was seen in the North Island or Stewart Island, we would want to know about it, but a sighting of a New Zealand Fairy Tern (a genuinely rare bird) at Pakiri Beach should not be reported to the committee.

OSNZ Council have ratified terms of reference for the Records Appraisal Committee (RAC) that include appointment of five RAC members for terms of three years, with each member to serve a maximum of three consecutive terms (i.e. nine years) before stepping down. Council has accepted nominations for four RAC members, namely Paul Sagar, Paul Scofield, Alan Tennyson, and myself as Convener. We now seek nominations or volunteers for the fifth

member of the RAC, and to identify a pool of bird identification experts who could provide expert opinion on particular sightings, and who could potentially become RAC members as part of the required turnover of RAC membership. Potential nominees must be OSNZ members, and must agree to their nomination. Please send nominations by email to the OSNZ Executive Officer (osnzeo@slingshot.co.nz) by 30th October 2010, stating the person's name, their area(s) of bird identification expertise, and whether they have agreed to be nominated.

Until the fifth and final member of the inaugural RAC is appointed, Council has agreed that Brian Bell be co-opted to the RAC to assist with clearing a back-log of about 50 sightings reported to the former Rare Birds Committee. Council and the RAC are also very pleased to welcome Elizabeth (Biz) Bell as Secretary to the RAC. Sightings of reportable birds should be sent to Biz, preferably via email (biz@wmil.co.nz), or otherwise post (35 Selmes Road, Rapaura RD3, Blenheim 7273) using the Unusual Bird Report form or format. This is available via the OSNZ website (www.osnz.org.nz) on the 'Rare birds and unusual sightings' page. The list of reportable species is accessible via the same webpage).

The RAC intends to assess submitted records in batches every two months, with members having one month to complete their assessments. This means that observers should receive feedback on their sightings one to three months after submission, depending on the date the submission is received by the RAC Secretary in relation to the assessment cycle. The backlog of submissions dating from 2008 will be cleared in three batches during August-October 2010, after which the RAC will commence its intended two-monthly cycle.

The work of the RAC is integral to the bird-watching motivation and enjoyment of many members, and is a necessary step for sightings of vagrant (and 'extinct') birds to be accepted for publication in *Notornis* and other OSNZ publications (e.g. the *Checklist*). We look forward to working with members to provide a prompt, efficient and accurate service that is well supported through submissions of reportable sightings.

COLIN MISKELLY
Convener

Records Appraisal Committee



Far North

Some of those hopes, wishes, intentions and plans referred to in my last roundup have now happened and it has been a reasonably eventful winter. The Garden Bird Survey in July was very popular in the region, perhaps because of the excellent garden bird identification chart which accompanied the forms. We distributed many of these, and one member who teaches at a local school invited Carol and myself over to assist with a survey at the school. We were impressed with the knowledge and enthusiasm of the pupils. We have since been back for a second general birding afternoon.

Kaka have been reported from several places over the winter, often being reported by members of the public, recognising this as an impressive bird. One obliging bird spent some days in a garden as far north as Kaitaia. It is suspected that there is a sparse breeding population in some of the larger Northland forests. We have also seen good numbers of Cattle Egrets (in flocks of up to 28), and Royal Spoonbills have reached at least 400 at the traditional winter roosts. A Glossy Ibis was reported from near Kaeo.

We were keen to repeat the success of pelagic trips by trying to head out to sea in winter. This proved difficult to organise because of unpredictable and persistently unsuitable weather, but seven of us plus skipper Brian Candy finally set out from Whangaroa Harbour on 26th July. Familiar summer seabirds such as Buller's and Flesh-footed Shearwaters, and Black Petrels were completely absent; instead we enjoyed encounters with Wandering, White-capped and Campbell Albatrosses, Cape Petrels, a giant petrel and lots of Fairy Terns and Diving Petrels. In the afternoon there were many Grey-faced Petrels, and Little Shearwaters appeared in small numbers, hopefully ready to land on some nearby yet-to-be-discovered headland.

On 30th July five members met up with Matt Calder of Kauri Coast DoC office to help monitor Kokako in the southern part of Mataraua Forest. Arriving in the forest at 7 am, we were rewarded with Kokako singing in full view, finally recording nine singing birds and seeing four of them. We had chosen a dry sunny day, not so easy in the western forests in winter. I have previously erroneously referred to this area as Waima Forest which is further north but also holds a few Kokako.

Two of us took part in the Grey-faced Petrel monitoring at Tawharanui Regional Park near Warkworth in early July and the region hopes to begin such monitoring in the Bay of Islands area and perhaps also on the west coast, both these are areas where breeding is likely to be taking place.

Indoors, the Far North held its AGM on 28th May, followed by a showing of Alan Shaw's excellent video of New Zealand birds. On 23rd July Gwenda Pulham from the Auckland region, assisted by fellow enthusiasts, Paulla-Jean Pridham and Rangi Zimmerman, came to talk to us and shared their detailed knowledge of their speciality bird, the Fairy Tern.

DETLEF DAVIES

Northland

Rudi Hoetjes, General Manager, Northland Region, Fish and Game spoke at July's meeting. He presented a most informative programme as he discussed a variety of wetland habitats, illustrating them with a series of photographs.

Fish and Game staff give advice freely to those developing and maintaining wetlands and Rudi explained that wetlands are managed for both flora and fauna, over 90% of wetlands in New Zealand have been lost through drainage and/or habitat modification, wetlands contain the greatest diversity of any ecosystem on the planet, and following land clearance there are increasing levels of sedimentation and poor water quality. Northland has some of the most significant wetlands left in New Zealand, but our wetlands are still being drained or modified and large natural wetlands are no longer being created due to the confinement of rivers and streams

He went on to discuss aspects of wetland management, which includes the manipulation of water tables and levels, the installation of control structures, the appropriate and careful use of chemicals for weed control and the use of machinery to form or to maintain spillways etc. Predator control is a vital aspect of their work and man-made habitat

can be created for both fish and wildlife. Members thoroughly enjoyed Rudi's presentation and look forward to a visit to the man-made Jack Bisset Wetlands in the near future.

In August Graham Smith, Secretary of the New Zealand Fairy Tern Charitable Trust, was scheduled to talk, but he was unable to attend because of a family bereavement. Instead we had a 'domestic' night where we attended to several administrative matters before watching a video tape featuring the Great Barrier Reef, Lord Howe Island, Shark Bay in Western Australia and the Daintree Forest. It was intriguing to see White Terns laying eggs on bare branches and successfully raising their young, which appeared to have a great sense of balance.

On the shell island Batley roost on the Otamatea Arm of the Kaipara Harbour seven Royal Spoonbills were counted in June. Another four Royal Spoonbills were seen well up the Ruakaka River during the regular East Coast Beach Patrol in July. A further twenty were counted at the Waipu Spit in the lagoon area roosting with the shag colony in Pohutukawa trees. Three pairs of Fairy Terns were recorded at Waipu Spit in August, feeding fish to partners. Another single Fairy Tern was also sighted.

Recently the Whau Valley Dam, Waro Lake at Hikurangi and Semenoff's two sand ponds at Uretiti each had a pair of New Zealand Dabchicks. From the beach the best entry to the sand ponds is just to the north of the DoC day park at Uretiti, past a concrete plinth 'Te Tahu te Tohora' where local iwi bury whale remains in the sand hills.

A few Northland members have been checking shag colonies around the North and entering fresh data into the Shag Colony Register which was started in 1976. Map numbers and grid references entered in the register make it relatively easy to pinpoint the position of each colony. As it is quite a few years since some of the colonies were last counted we experienced some minor problems finding them again – changes in the names of roads, new road lay-outs, and coastal land sold with access no longer available were typical. Of the 24 colonies checked recently, we found that eight colonies had disappeared from the original site recorded in the Register. Pied Shags are now the most prevalent species in the North, and we have found that mixed species often nest together in our colonies.

RUTH CROCKETT, JANET SNELL and CLAIRE BURTT

Auckland

Winter is a quiet time of the year, with field activities limited to the season's wader census and beach patrols. Both guest speakers at winter meetings were Auckland OSNZ members focussing on issues pertaining to the conservation of New Zealand species. In June Suzi Phillips presented some results of her *Kakawatch* initiative, tracking the movements and behaviour of Kaka in the Auckland region. Of interest was the range of foods taken by Kaka, particularly in the exotic-rich urban environment. In July Chris Gaskin followed up the Auckland seabird symposium held in April with a more detailed overview of Hauraki Gulf seabirds, particularly emphasising the vast gaps in knowledge about most of the species.

The recently released Department of Conservation film *1080: Good News for Conservation* was the focus of our August meeting. This production generated significant and passionate debate amongst the members. The film demonstrates how predator control is benefiting many threatened bird species, and I can recommend it as essential viewing to anyone acting as an advocate for NZ biodiversity.

MEL GALBRAITH

South Auckland

Monthly meetings continue to attract 20 to 25 members, thanks to the efforts of a range of interesting speakers. So far this year those attending have learnt, amongst other things, about the birds of the Copeland Islands from John Stewart, the birds of the tundra from Keith Woodley and the diet of Moreporks from Kirsty Denny.

SIMON FORDHAM

Waikato

Instead of hosting a speaker for the June monthly meeting, we thought it would be nice to have a mid-winter pot-luck dinner. Thanks to fine organising by Bruce Postill, a strong contingent of members turned out and all had a great time. In July, we went back to the normal monthly meeting format and Oliver Overdyck from the DoC Waikato Conservancy Office talked about some of the conservation projects the Department is currently undertaking in our region. It was incredibly interesting to hear about the successes that the Department have



achieved on a wide variety of species ranging from Kiwi and Kokako, through to Archie's Frog. Finally, Yuki Fukuda talked to us in August on the PhD research she conducted in the rangelands of Queensland on waterhole usage by large bouncy macropods. It is fair to say that the Waikato Region has been having a bit of diversity in the last couple of months!

On the fieldtrips front, we have also been doing a variety of different activities. The regular Kawhia and Aotea Harbour census was conducted in June, with another strong contingent making the trek out to the west coast to do the survey. In July, Geoff Foreman showed 12 of us around the Howarth Wetland, which is on the edge of Te Aroha. It has been a very wet winter in our region, and the water level in the wetland was quite high, which limited the number of species that we were able to find; however, some highlights included a handful of New Zealand Scaup, some Australasian Bitterns, Australasian Shovelers and Grey Teal. The weather was exceptional, which really made the visit great, and it was nice to welcome a couple of the Bay of Plenty members who joined us for the trip.

A night visit was made to the Otorohanga Kiwi House in August to have a closer look at the kiwi behind the scenes. Over two nights, 10 of us were shown around the enclosure and were able to get up close and personal with the kiwi; although, some people had more luck than others, as on one of the nights the kiwi decided to delay making an appearance until very late. In September we will be welcoming in spring with a picnic to the Taitua Arboretum, which is on the outskirts of Hamilton. The Hamilton City Council has put in a lot of work planting a variety of native and exotic plants giving it a English woodland feel with a distinctly kiwi flavour. The arboretum is also home to a resident pair of Tui, and the lake harbours a healthy population of waterfowl.

DAI MORGAN

Bay of Plenty/Volcanic Plateau

The last roundup from the Bay of Plenty mentioned possums returning to the immediate vicinity of the Grey-faced Petrel colonies on Mauao/Mount Maunganui. On a subsequent visit, folks visiting us from the South Island's West Coast were impressed by our hands-on approach to pest control, with eight of us contributing to the demise of one individual, whilst stalwart member Janet pitched in with her catching and the stamping of her authority on a particularly unlucky Norway Rat. We are currently in 'hands-off' mode to see if handling the birds during this period of time (with eggs inside the birds), makes any major difference to fledging numbers. Just one planned observation trip is due later this month (August).

Other seabird sightings have been seeping through. Julian Fitter, demonstrating great time management between commitments associated with the recent launch of his fantastic new book, the *Bateman Field Guide to Wild New Zealand*, managed a pelagic in June, reaping rewards with a Royal Albatross and a juvenile Giant Petrel. In August Chris Gaskin spotted a Northern Giant Petrel off Mayor Island, with a sub-adult Campbell Albatross, several Gibson's Albatrosses, and a good number of Cape Pigeons. Earlier in the month, Rosemary Tully reported a Salvin's Albatross found alive at Ohope Beach in an emaciated and lousy state. Attempts to release it once it gained its normal weight have thus far been unsuccessful.

Back on the not-so-dry Bay of Plenty soils, an attempt to survey the harbours in June proved adventurous with Garry Hill and me paddling a few hours around Little Waihi searching for waders. We found them on adjacent Pukehina spit once we had fruitlessly perched the kayaks back on top of the cars! Royal Spoonbills were the order of the day, with high numbers being found in several sites.

Paddy Latham and Graeme Hunt found a large flock of New Zealand Dabchicks at Te Maunga with 30 at once. There is one less Dabchick in the world, however, as John Luff observed an adult getting eaten by a Black Shag for breakfast on a Pukekaha farm dam in May.

The Cooney Reserve at Omokoroa was surveyed in the consistently damp conditions experienced of late. Another similar trip (but hopefully drier) is planned for the Carmichael Reserve, a bit of a gem in Tauranga's burgeoning urban landscape. Recent reports of a Chestnut-breasted Shelduck at Carmichael Reserve have had the twitchers out and about, but the twitch remains an itch with this particular species. Staying with the chestnut theme 4-6 Chestnut Teal were reported to Ian Saville, loafing at Wai-o-tapu between Rotorua and Taupo in July.

Down the road at Waimangu, Neil Fitzgerald spotted a black phase Fantail in late June. Early August featured three Kaka that were raiding

an avocado orchard at Welcome Bay, ably spotted by Marilyn Court. Other Kaka were reported by Kerry Oates from Hamurana two days later, and Eila reports from her Katikati mountain retreat that it is often the first bird heard in her dawn chorus; lucky so-and-so. Other sharp-beaked birds reported recently were a Morepork in central Mount Maunganui from Janet, and another Morepork caught on security camera visiting Blackbird nests at the central Tauranga Library mid-August!

An email dripping with excitement arrived early August; "today I saw a NZ Falcon in the Ohauiti Road reserve in Ohauiti, Tauranga. Very exciting to see the bird in the town. It was eating a bird it had caught and was being tormented by two Tui. Able to get it on video and photos on phone". Dave Richards was the email author, and this sighting is a great reward for all his efforts with OSNZ BoP on Mauao this season.

Heron fans would be pleased to hear about Murray Smith's Australasian Bittern sightings at Te Maunga. A Little Egret was hanging around the Apanui Salt Marsh, Whakatane in mid-August.

The annual Birds-a-Plenty festival will be held in the eastern bay of Plenty from 24th September to 17th October.

For Tauranga members, Tui time in the Taiwan Cherries at the Pye's Pa cemetery is here. They are a sight and sound not to be missed if you haven't walked up the avenue at this time of year.

Twenty members were kept entertained by Adrian Riegen this month at our evening meeting. The topic was 'What's happening with our waders, and why we need to keep counting'. From all reports it was a fantastic talk. Regional member Paddy Latham will be talking to October's meeting on his avian Chilean adventures.

Future field trips include shorebirds at Maketu in October, a semi-regular trip that is becoming more popular each time we go down there. The region-wide shorebird Census is planned for Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th November. Contact Garry Hill if you are not already on his list of observers for these trips.

PAUL CUMING

Taranaki

Taranaki's wet winter took its toll on outdoor trips with both June and July's expeditions cancelled due to rain.

Dave Bell spoke to the region in June about his continuing Falcon research, particularly around Taranaki, although he covers the entire country and has amassed over 6,000 sight records. Of these 375 came from Taranaki, with 39 coming from New Plymouth City including one preying on a New Zealand Pigeon. His latest project is a survey of breeding records within the province for the next two seasons. He is also writing a guide on the signs and behaviour of breeding Falcons e.g. dive bombing (he has his own scars to show for this). Dave is carrying out this whole project due to his fascination with Falcons, and funds it from his own resources.

Some interesting records passed on from a couple of non-members were reported at the June meeting. On May 10th at Awakino heads a Long-tailed Cuckoo flew into a bach window and died, and Dean Caskey from DoC heard and saw many Fernbirds in and around the Ahukawakawa swamp in Egmont National Park. The latter sighting was possibly due to the installation of trap lines there and the eradication of stoats and rats.

On a panoramic photo of the Waiwhakairo river mouth taken by Ron Lambert were 2,250 Black-backed Gulls. Barry Hartley counted 41 New Zealand Dabchicks on the Hawera oxidation ponds. Also whilst Barry was counting 58 Banded Dotterels at Sandy Bay, with hundreds of Fluttering Shearwaters offshore I was seeing similar numbers at Waiongana along with albatrosses, White-fronted Terns and one skua, though my count of Banded Dotterels was 75. Bill Messenger was busy counting White-fronted Terns at Mokau, his tally being 200.

July's guest speaker was Nathan Hill, an environmental educator for 60 Springs, a local initiative funded by the regional council and Shell. Nathan works with secondary school pupils on a variety of projects around Taranaki, his current one being Little Penguin and a survey about to be conducted into the behaviour and attitudes of people walking dogs. The questionnaire and Nathan were given a thorough



working over by the members in attendance. As a result some questions which related mainly to penguins were rewritten to include all shore birds, as it was considered that feral cats are more of a threat to Penguin than dogs.

Kris Grabow told us what the Taranaki Kiwi Trust had been up to recently. Future plans include a crèche for Kiwi at Rotokare Reserve, hopefully in time for next season. The trust has also released Kiwi chicks back into Aotuhia, the area from where the eggs were uplifted. Twelve Community Kiwi Projects (CKP) are up and running with 900 traps covering 6,000. Trap catch results are being analysed to help with the positioning of traps. Kris is also hoping to extend dog aversion training to include domestic dogs when money is available, and is seeking long term sponsorship. Donna Worthy and Nathan Hills have been assisting with Kiwi surveys in the Whitecliffs area of North Taranaki; several were heard and Morepork were plentiful.

David Medway, out and about in Pukekura Park, had no more Kaka reports, although one was seen at Okato in June. He did, however, manage to count 23 Tui feeding actively in four flowering Kohekohe, and more in the area.

Nathan Hills returned in August for round two of his presentation; to report on his survey. Results were limited due to the small number of participants, but provided some important information and trends that a larger survey might show up. He intends to make submissions to the council regarding dog bylaw changes for three regions in Taranaki, all areas Little Penguin is known to inhabit. There was also a general discussion on Little Penguins around the Taranaki coast.

The Rotokare Trust and the Taranaki Kiwi Trust have formed an agreement for a Kiwi crèche at Lake Rotokare and local OSNZ members are considering how we may be involved in assisting with this.

The weather finally relented and a ramble around Barrett Lagoon was held on a fine sunny morning in August with 28 species recorded (14 native and 14 introduced). As usual many Tui were seen feeding at *Banksia integrifolia* flowers. There are many Tui around the city in August feeding at the flowers of exotic trees in local gardens, *Banksia* and *Prunus campanulata* being favourites. New Zealand Pigeons are turning up as Magnolias bud up and Silvereyes are quickly consuming food put out for them. 204 Canada Geese were counted on a coastal dune lake.

Four members took a trip to the Rapanui Grey-faced Petrel colony on a calm clear moonlight evening. Torches weren't needed and many birds were seen, including two that nearly hit those present. An increase in the number of burrows was noted and a great night was enjoyed by all.

PETER FRYER

Hawke's Bay

Tangoio Falls was the destination of our May field outing, with the walk enjoyed by all. June was wader census time, and we managed to choose the one fine weekend in June to do our count. There was a lot of water in the low-lying areas surrounding the Ahuriri Estuary, and an unexpected find was 132 Banded Dotterels in a field beside one of the access roads.

In June we also had a meeting where we planned the activities and outings for the remainder of the year. Helen reminded those present that she would be stepping down as RR in January and that we needed to be thinking of someone to fill the role. Ian Smith has taken on the regional recorder responsibilities and members were encouraged to note their sightings and pass them on to him. Margaret and Wayne gave an account of their recent birding trip to Trinidad and Tobago and showed slides of some of the memorable birds encountered – in particular the hummingbirds. A DVD about Asa Wright, a lodge in Trinidad run by a conservation trust, was also shown. It is a great base for a birding trip.

Bernie did a canoeing trip on the Mohaka River in early June and reported six Blue Ducks. Spotted Shags, seen regularly on the Sewer outfall at Clive, have been noted to have nuptial plumes in July and August. The first Banded Dotterels returning to the shingle beaches near Awatoto, where they breed, were seen on 18th July. Small numbers of Black-fronted Terns have been present over winter around Waitangi and the Tukituki Estuary. On 27th June 24 were seen seemingly enjoying

the huge surf running that day. A few were roosting, but most were flying up and down a small patch of coastline near the rivermouth.

Six Mute Swans were seen in the Muddy Creek area at Clive on 4th July. On 18th July two Brown Teal were seen at the Te Awanga Lagoon. Both had colour bands and sported transmitter aerials, so had no doubt come from the nearby Cape Kidnappers reserve where they have been released. They are protected there by a predator-proof fence, but clearly like to do a bit of exploring. New Zealand Dotterels are being seen more often now in Hawke's Bay. Two were at Ahuriri on census day, and one has been seen around the estuary on several occasions since. One has also been seen at the Tukituki Rivermouth, and Porangahau had four counted in the census there.

MARGARET TWYDLE

Wanganui

Flocks of foraging finches are a feature of winter. These have been particularly prominent in Wanganui over the past few months. Lynne Douglas first reported seeing flocks of Goldfinches and House Sparrows feeding in the roadside gutters of certain city streets. Most flocks comprised 20-30 birds, but one flock of about 200 Goldfinches was noted. Closer examination showed that these birds were feeding on Pohutukawa seeds. The Pohutukawa is not native to this region, but has been planted extensively as an ornamental shade tree along many streets, to the benefit of the birds. Later Lynne photographed a number of Redpolls amongst one of these flocks, something that got other local photographers into action. Reports of Redpolls soon began to come in from a number of observers, mostly from sites where there were seeding Pohutukawa trees. Although Redpolls occur sporadically in the surrounding countryside, and are occasionally seen in the city, usually in association with Silver Birch, this is the first time that the species has been seen reasonably regularly within the Wanganui Region. Whether this represents an upsurge in numbers, or a shift in local distribution, or whether they have been largely overlooked previously, is not known.

In contrast to Goldfinch and Redpoll, flocks of Greenfinches and Yellowhammers appear to specialise more on grass seed, including that spread by the contractors vegetating the new stopbanks being built along the lower Whanganui River. Large numbers of Yellowhammers, smaller numbers of Greenfinches and the ubiquitous House Sparrows removed a lot of seed before it could germinate. We were a bit slow on the uptake and did not quantify the loss, which may be just as well given the contentious nature of the cost of this scheme. If these observations became more widely known you might see headlines such as "Regional Council feeds birds at ratepayers' expense." Of course, we do not know if the apparent increase in the number and size of these finch flocks is simply because we are now being more observant, or if the past breeding season was particularly productive or, again, if land-use changes are driving a gradual shift in the distribution of finch populations towards urban areas and surrounding lifestyle blocks. Large areas of farmland locally are being ploughed and then reseeded with pasture grasses that seldom flower and set seed. Although, just like the recently-seeded stopbanks, there is a brief pulse in food for the finches, this probably does not offset the loss of the lower, but more sustained, seed supply of rough pasture.

Much of the work on building the flood stopbanks adjacent to the main wader roost on Whanganui River Estuary is now complete. Surveys of the birds during the construction period showed no obvious reduction in the numbers of roosting birds. Although Caspian Tern numbers are down, this seems to be part of a trend that started a couple of years ago. Conversely, the number of Spotted Shags roosting near the mouth of the estuary is up for second successive year. Is this species increasing its range, or has it previously simply been overlooked or gone unreported? A number of sightings of New Zealand Dabchicks on the river over the past couple months also raises some questions: are these naturally-dispersing birds, or are they individuals that have been disturbed by duck hunting on nearby coastal lakes? When diving for food in the tidal reaches of the river, where the water is at least slightly saline, how much more costly is it for them, given that they have to expend additional energy counteracting their resulting greater buoyancy?

Dispersal of young birds probably accounts for the occasional sighting of two other species, New Zealand Falcon and Kaka, both of which have been reported sporadically again this winter, as they have been in the past. Individuals of some other species return regularly year after year. One colour-banded Caspian Tern and a number of Red-billed



Gulls, recorded last year, have been seen again this year. Two of the gulls, both females, were banded as chicks at Kaikoura by Dr Jim Mills, one in November 1980 and the other in November 1985. These birds are now over 29 and 24 years old respectively. Both birds were in good condition and look fit for a few more years yet. In contrast, some winter visitors recorded regularly in previous years have not reappeared. A small flock of Cattle Egrets, which had returned each winter for the past few years to the same farm pond, failed to reappear this year. Last year 14-16 birds were present. Three birds were seen nearby in early June, but did not stay and may have been transients. As Cattle Egrets have been using this site since at least 1988, and have been recorded there in most years subsequently, we wait to see if this is just a temporary break in the pattern, or whether it something more permanent.

Other notable sightings over the past few months include a pair of Bittern seen by Jim Campbell at Hawken Lagoon near the mouth of the Waitotara River; a Cape Barren Goose reported from Mowhanau township by John Carson and Phil Thomsen (a bird that is probably a feral bird, rather than a genuine vagrant from Australia); and a Pied Shag and regular sightings of a second-year Black-billed Gull on the waterfront in Wanganui, possibly the same bird recorded there last year. An increase in the number of Eastern Rosellas being reported from around Wanganui suggests that this species is spreading locally. The same may be happening with Canada Goose, with a large flock of 34 birds being seen on Koitiata Lagoon in early July, the largest number recorded at one site in recent years.

Outside our individual field activities, the programme of monthly indoor meetings continues. Attendance is increasing slowly, helped by the attraction of some notable speakers giving interesting presentations. In May Dave Bell gave a richly illustrated and stimulating talk on the distribution and status of the New Zealand Falcon, a talk that prompted many questions. In June we relaxed a bit to watch a DVD on birds of prey, which made us envious of other parts of the world with a greater diversity of such species. In July Phil Battley described the work that he and others have been doing on the migration of the Bar-tailed Godwit, focusing on some emerging ideas about the factors determining the pattern and timing of departure of these birds for their breeding grounds, as well as the threats they face along the way; a fascinating story all-round.

PETER FROST

Wairarapa

Monthly indoor meetings continued during winter, but field trips have been put off until springtime.

In May Dave Bell, came down from New Plymouth to speak on the New Zealand Falcon. The large attendance demonstrated the widespread interest in the species.

In June Wairarapa member Charlene James gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2010 Fraser Island Bird Week. Fraser Island, reputed to be the largest sand island in the world, lies off the Queensland coast. It is home to an amazing variety of birds. Charlene personally identified 250 species of birds, and was able to present some beautiful birding pictures taken by her husband, John.

Another Wairarapa member, Peggy Duncan, talked in July on her recent birding safari in Namibia. This safari was ably led by Glen and Natalie Holland, who were well-known Wairarapa birders before they returned to Africa. The varieties and colours of the birds, and the wildlife generally were outstanding.

This year, Wairarapa Region, in conjunction with Wellington OSNZ and DoC, has been working towards conservation aspects of Wairarapa Moana/Lake Wairarapa. Aspects include history (both Pakeha and Maori), geology, flora and fauna, the impact of mid-20th century major drainage on significant wetland areas, Lake Onoke and Onoke Spit, and its Caspian Tern colony. Unfortunately, due to the increasing age and infirmity of previously-active OSNZ Wairarapa members, there are only a few members physically capable of the necessary field work. These few, though, are dedicated.

BARBARA LOVATT

Wellington

At July's meeting Melody McLaughlin from the Rimutaka Forest Trust (www.rimutakatrust.org.nz) summarised the results of the project to establish a population of Brown Kiwi in the Rimutaka Forest Park. One thousand hectares of the Turere Catchment is under extensive management of predators to provide an environment suitable for Kiwi. The area was chosen not only because it is suitable Kiwi habitat

but also because it was away from the main track used by park visitors, including visitors with dogs. A major challenge for the Kiwi project has been to manage the threats of dogs through education, advocacy and Kiwi avoidance training. The first birds were released in 2006 and breeding was recorded in 2007. Further birds have been released in the park, including 20 birds in 2009 from Little Barrier Island. Birds are fitted with transmitters to allow the population to be intensively managed and chicks to be reared as part of Operation Nest Egg. The success of this project is due to the skilful management of the project and a group of dedicated volunteers, some of whom are members of OSNZ. Currently, in the Rimutaka Park there are 27 adult Kiwi, of which 18 are known breeders, 10 sub-adults, and a single juvenile. In addition, there are four chicks from Operation Nest Egg waiting to go back to the park. Melody McLaughlin described the project as being on the threshold of success and the Trust hopes to soon reach their goal to establish 10 pairs and recruitment greater than mortality.

The recent natural colonisation of Tawharanui Regional Park in Auckland by Bellbirds has provided Shauna Baillie, a PhD student from Massey University, with a fascinating opportunity to study the genetics of the establishment of a new population of birds. During the August meeting she used the findings from her studies to demonstrate the importance of understanding the genetics of new populations of birds for their long term conservation. The loss of genetic diversity of a number of rarer New Zealand birds has increased their vulnerability of extinction. In contrast, Shauna has shown by analysing Bellbirds from geographically distinct populations, including some from the Tongariro region, that the new population in Tawharanui has been established from multiple sources. The current high level of genetic diversity of the Tawharanui Bellbirds, and the likelihood of further natural introductions, augers well for a population with high genetic diversity and low extinction probability.

GEOFF DE LISLE

Nelson

Over Queen's Birthday week-end the 71st AGM of the Society was held in Nelson. This was an event local members had been preparing for over the past year. Nelson's sunny reputation was very evident during the Saturday science session, but registered zero on Sunday when torrential rain fell throughout the region putting a damper on the field trips.

135 people attended the Science Day, packed full with informative presentations on a diverse range of topics. Thanks to Chairman Ron Moorhouse it ran on time. His threat of applying Asian martial arts to those who digressed was not required.

Following on from the science programme the launch of the 4th Edition of the *Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand* from Te Papa was well received. The dinner and AGM completed a very full day.

There were few defections due to poor weather on the three field programmes held on Sunday. The accounts of these were included in the second newsletter for the region produced by Stuart Wood. We anticipate this will be a regular publication for our region.

In early June mortality among Spotted Shags was being reported in Golden Bay with 20-30 birds being found dead. Smaller numbers were also found in the Nelson area. This is a not uncommon occurrence at this time of the year. Records from 1977 showed a huge migration of birds from a population peak on Banks Peninsula, and subsequent mortality in this region was ascribed to starvation. Results from autopsies and gut parasite counts are awaited.

Rob Schuckard reported highlights from the Winter Wader Count. On Farewell Spit 2,200 Bar-tailed Godwits were recorded; the largest number since 1998-2000, probably due to a successful breeding season. Also notable were three Grey Plovers and over a thousand Banded Dotterels. Black-fronted Terns were only recorded from the Nelson Haven; a total of 49.

Josh Kemp was July's guest speaker, talking on the Kea. Josh is working on a MSc. in conjunction with Graeme Elliot. He was reluctant to call the species an alpine parrot, saying it's preferred habitat was the beech forest from lowland to mountain slopes. With the use of Google Earth mapping to illustrate the study area of 13 breeding pairs it was a



real 'roller coaster' ride to zoom over ridges and down valleys. Kea are mid-winter breeders in some very spacious ground chambers, having numerous entry-exit points. He believes these allow the birds to escape some predatory attacks. The population is estimated at about 5,000 birds with a distribution from North West Nelson to Fiordland.

August's meeting dealt with projects and issues on the local scene. Pauline Samways is co-ordinating an extended programme for the welcome to returning Bar-tailed Godwits at Motueka in September. The popularity of previous years' viewing has generated a keen interest in town for it to be on the annual programme. The Arts Council has provided some funding to sponsor a photo competition for adults, with essay and poetry entries from local schools. Pauline is preparing a PowerPoint presentation on the life-cycle of the Bar-tailed Godwit to run in conjunction with the competitions.

David Melville, recently returned from Alaska, finished off the evening with some very graphic images of the North Slope, where along with American colleagues he had been fitting tracking devices to Whimbrel and a few Bar-tailed Godwits on their nesting grounds. On David's return to New Zealand some of the Whimbrels were already half way down California, probably en-route to Chile. The female Whimbrel, once her chicks are hatched, commenced her southern migration leaving the male to rear the brood alone.

Peter Frost spent a few days after the conference checking out some of the favoured bird sites in the Nelson area. At the Atawhai/Nelson Haven wetlands he heard and saw in flight an Australian Wood Duck. Unconfirmed sightings of this species have been noted over the years in this area. Peter and Charmaine Field sighted a New Zealand Dabchick on a sewage pond at Atawhai in early June. During the winter wader census I accompanied Peter in this area and was able to get some photos of this bird. Also in this area two Black-fronted Dotterels have been spotted, again by Peter and Charmaine. These birds have been present at the same spot for three weeks. Rounding off sightings, in Marlborough Steve Wood reported a Marsh Sandpiper at Lake Grasmere and 10 Black-fronted Dotterels at Lake Elterwater in late July.

DON COOPER

Canterbury

Meetings over the last few months have been memorable and well-attended. They culminated in June's one on Black Robins, where 29 people were treated to a wonderful summary of Euan Kennedy's research into the extinction vulnerability of the species, related to its genetics. Dave Bell came to the Members Night in February and gave a great presentation on the Falcon and the sightings database that he manages. Canterbury members had interesting slots during this evening on Kakapo-minding, Wrybills, and birds in the UK.

Ron Nilsson talked on 'The South Island Kokako Story' after our AGM in March and has been busy checking out good spots for the bird during the autumn, with some success, apparently. Some superb photos of birds in Iceland accompanied Kath Varcoe and Liz Burt's talk in April and in May Paul Scofield gave us his intriguing and problematical expose of the birds of Miocene New Zealand through the results of the St Bathans excavation.

The Farewell to the Godwits event at the Avon estuary was well populated with scope-equipped members showing hundreds of people how to recognise wading birds. Many membership forms were distributed, so people at least know we exist. We also attended the 'Soggy Feet at Boggy Creek' event for World Wetland Day at the end of January and showed people waterbirds at Lake Ellesmere. In late June I spent the day at Diamond Harbour with groups from around Lyttelton Harbour at a workshop talking about Indigenous Biodiversity. Andrew Crossland, Frances Schmechel, Sheila Petch, Ann Sherlock and I continue to do five-minute bird counts at several places along the Port Hills and on Banks Peninsula to add data to the valuable set being built up. If you are keen to get involved with this we can provide training and there are a lot of bush areas that would benefit from your counts.

We had a memorable day out in the City Council Community Van doing a survey of birds at sites in North Canterbury that are not often visited by birders. At the mouth of the Hurunui River hundreds of Black-fronted Terns were milling around the mixing zone between

brown river water and blue ocean trying to nab something coming downstream with the flow.

Recent sightings have included a possible Gull-billed Tern up the Waimakariri River, about 250 Australasian Crested Grebes on Lake Forsyth and Bellbirds all over Christchurch this winter. Tui have been seen in Geraldine again, a natural expansion from the foothills to the south, while the translocated ones on Banks Peninsula continue to make an appearance there. The extraordinary rainfall this winter has meant waders have been spread far and wide, not easy to count and absent from some usual places.

JAN WALKER

Otago

Several new members have been welcomed and are already actively taking part in our current projects. Otago members have been out and about enjoying the mild winter weather, continuing with the Otago Harbour monthly survey and the winter count at Hawksbury Lagoon. About 100 Bar-tailed Godwits over-wintered and a few sightings of Australasian Gannets were also made in the harbour. Three Australasian Crested Grebes have been present in Otago Harbour since the end of May (staying until at least the end of August), quite an unusual occurrence for this area. One year of the Harbour Survey has been completed. The region has decided to continue this survey for another year to get as accurate a count as possible before dredging and cockle harvesting begins.

Anecdotally the number of Silvereyes at sugar-water feeding stations in Dunedin gardens is hugely up on last year. More Bellbirds and Tui have also been venturing close to houses away from tree cover. Many Tui banded as part of a local study have been sighted all over Dunedin, and as far away as Oamaru.

Indoor meetings have been very well attended, and we been treated to an excellent programme. In May Hamish Spencer delighted the audience with his infectious enthusiasm for the amazing birds and other wildlife he saw on a special family trip to Costa Rica last Christmas. Costa Rica is surely a bird hotspot and, in fact, Monteverde in the mountains is one of the top birdwatching places in the world. The Resplendent Quetzal, which can readily be found on a certain variety of avocado, was one highlight. Even at a holiday resort on the west coast the hotel grounds hosted magpie-jays, parrots and Red-headed Woodpeckers. On the beach were pelicans, oystercatchers and Spotted Sandpipers. Some of the country's many frogs, toads, iguanas, geckos and Howler Monkeys featured as well.

It is always a privilege to have research students speak at our meetings. This June Sheena Townsend described her study of South Island Robins on Ulva Island. The first birds were translocated there in 2000 and now the island is completely covered in Robin territories. From the initial four breeding pairs there are now 124 pairs. With the increase in numbers, nesting now starts later, with only one clutch (compared to an initial two or three), fewer chicks are fledged and there is increased inbreeding. Pedigrees for 700 birds are known, so this is an invaluable resource for the study of inbreeding depression and genetic variation.

In July we were treated to many truly outstanding images of birds taken by award-winning photographer Craig McKenzie. He greatly impressed us with his keen observation of birds and the patience that is required to obtain truly characteristic images of birds in their natural habitat. Close-ups of Wrybills and Banded Dotterels incubating their eggs in the shingle riverbeds at the head of Lake Pukaki with a golden backdrop of Mount Cook/Aoraki in the setting sun were breath taking. We were shown many similarly wonderful images of birds such as Blue Duck, Rock Wren, Southern New Zealand Dotterel and Black Stilt. Some of those present (including me) had not seen all these species in the wild, let alone got close enough to photograph them.

MARY THOMPSON

Regional Reps and What's On



Far North

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

Northland

David Crockett, 21 McMillan Avenue, Kamo, Whangarei 0112.
Ph (09) 435 0954

Evening meetings, second Thursday of the month, phone David Crockett. West coast beach patrols Prue Cozens (09) 437 7760. East coast beach patrols Pauline Smith (09) 437 6470. Whangarei Harbour wader count Tony Beauchamp (09) 436 2661. North Kaipara wader count David Crockett (09) 435 0954.

Auckland

Mel Galbraith, 62 Holyoake Place, Birkenhead, Auckland.

Ph (09) 480 1958. Email melgar62@slingshot.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

Simon Fordham, P.O. Box 64 042, Botany, Manukau 2163.

Ph (09) 274 1828. Email simonf@clear.net.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, 20a Walsh Street, Forest Lake, Hamilton 3200.

Phone (07) 848 2522. Email magpiemorgan@gmail.com

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

Eila Lawton, 449 Lund Road, RD2 Katikati 3178. Ph (07) 549 3646
Email elawton@actrix.co.nz

Evening meetings – second Wednesdays of Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct and Dec, 7pm.

Gisborne/Wairoa

Steve Sawyer, 369 Wharerata Road, RD1 Gisborne 4071.

Ph (06) 867 2888, mobile 027 209 6049. Email ecoworksnz@xtra.co.nz

Hawke's Bay

Helen Andrews, 254 Mangatahi Rd, RD1, Hastings 4171.

Ph (06) 874 9426. Email helenandrews@xtra.co.nz

Indoor meetings are held on an irregular basis, but field trips are organised regularly. Please contact Helen Andrews for details.

Taranaki

Barry Hartley, 12a Ronald Street, New Plymouth.

Ph (06) 757 8644. Email Barry_Hartley@clear.net.nz

Evening meetings – first Thursday of each month (except January) at 7.30pm, Community House, Liardet Street, New Plymouth. Field trip following Sunday.

Wanganui

Peter Frost, 87 Ikitara Road, Wanganui East, Wanganui 4500.

Ph: 06 343 1648. Email: birds.wanganui@xtra.co.nz. Evening meetings – last Monday of every month except December, 7.30pm (unless the day is a public holiday), St Joseph's Hall, 1 Campbell Street. For more details contact Peter Frost.

Manawatu

Ian Saville, 24 Puketiro Avenue, Feilding 4702.

Ph (06) 323 1441. Email sav@wrybill-tours.com

Evening meetings – second Wednesday of Feb, May, Aug and Nov, 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 5028.

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. Beach patrols, Sharon Alderson (04) 298 3707. Mana Island Robins and Sooty Shearwaters, Geoff de Lisle (04) 527 0929. Mist-netting and passerine banding, Peter Reese (04) 387 7387.

Nelson

Stuart Wood, 24 Olympus Way, Richmond 7020.

Ph (03) 544 3932. Email stuartwood38@yahoo.co.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. Phone Stuart Wood (03) 544 3932 or Don Cooper (03) 544 8109.

Marlborough

Mike Bell, 42 Vickerman Street, Grovetown, Blenheim 7202.

Ph (03) 577 9818 or 021 734 602. Email skua44@yahoo.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 8205.

Ph (03) 322 7187. Email shesagreen@gmail.com

Evening meetings last Monday of the month (Feb-Nov), Mahaanui Area DoC Office, 31 Nga Mahi Road (off Blenheim Road), Sockburn, Christchurch. Monthly field trips – dates vary, contact Jan Walker.

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.

Southland

Lloyd Esler, 15 Mahuri Road, Otatara, RD9 Invercargill 9879.

Ph (03) 213 0404. Email esler@southnet.co.nz

Evening meetings (in conjunction with Field Club) held second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm. Please phone Lloyd Esler for venue and further information, field trip usually on Saturday following. Beach Patrols on a casual basis, phone Phil Rhodes (03) 214 4936 or Lloyd Esler.

