



# Southern Bird

No. 19 September 2004. • ISSN 1175-1916

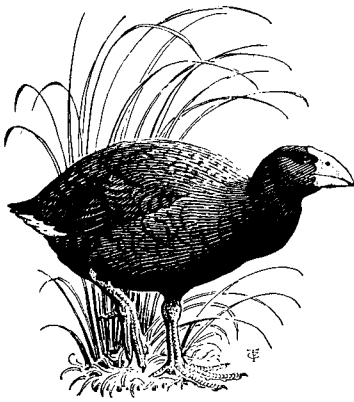


*Colour-banded Arctic  
Waders in New Zealand*

*Fairy Tern Update*

**OSNZ STRATEGIC PLAN • PETREL WORK REWARDED**





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## Quotation

*Save from yonder ivy-mantled tower  
The moping owl does to the moon complain  
Of such, as wandering near her secret bower,  
Molest her ancient solitary reign.*

*Thomas Gray – Elegy Written in a Country  
Churchyard*

## Contents

Moult Scheme Report	5
OSNZ Plan & Contacts	7
Colour-banded Waders	8
Fairy Tern Update	9
Petrel Work rewarded	9

## Cover Photo

**Front cover:** Chaffinch  
**Back cover:** Yellowhammer  
Both photos by Roger Wasley. Along with other photographers, Roger provided images for the Wairarapa locality guide reviewed on page 11.

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, identification. Illustrations are especially welcome, though they must be sharp.

## Publisher

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Edited by Nick Allen, 65 Allin Drive, Waikuku, North Canterbury 8254. • Tel (03) 312 7183, • Email [nick\\_allen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nick_allen@xtra.co.nz). We welcome advertising enquiries. Free classified ads are available to members at the editor's discretion.

## Meritorious Service Awards CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Do you know anyone who has selflessly helped the OSNZ? These awards are one opportunity to officially recognise this person, and for the Society to thank them. The person need not be a member, and need not even reside in New Zealand. Posthumous nominations are also welcomed. The person can even receive more than one Meritorious Service Award, though they need to be for different services to the Society.

The award is conferred for service furthering the objects of the OSNZ. These are:

- To encourage, organize and promote the study of birds and their habitat use
- To foster and support the wider knowledge and enjoyment of birds
- To promote the recording and wide circulation of the results of bird studies and observations
- To produce a journal and any other publication containing matters of ornithological interest
- To effect cooperation and exchange of information with other like organisations
- To assist the conservation and management of birds by providing information, from which sound management decisions can be derived
- To maintain a library of ornithological literature for the use of members and to promote a wider knowledge of birds
- To promote the archiving of observations, studies and records of birds
- To carry out any other activity which is capable of being conveniently carried out in connection with the above objects, or which directly or indirectly advances those objects

A maximum of five Meritorious Service Awards can be made every year. Nomination is easy. Simply write a citation of **not more than 100 words** on one side of an A4 sheet setting out the achievements of the person nominated, and include the signatures of two members of the Society.

The closing date for nominations is 31 December 2004. They should be sent to:  
**The Awards Secretary, OSNZ, P.O. Box 12397, Wellington**

## 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 Biz Bell, PO Box 14-492,  
Wellington, or [wmil@clear.net.nz](mailto:wmil@clear.net.nz)*



# MINUTES OF THE 65TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

*held at the Oamaru Chartered Club, 35 Severn Street, Oamaru on Saturday 5th June 2004 at 8pm.*

**Welcome and introductions:** The president (David Medway) welcomed the 110 members present, and introduced councillors to them.

**Apologies:** Euan Kennedy, Rosemary Heather, Jim Jolly, Jack Taylor, Paul Cumming, Gwenda Pulham, Bill Cash, Ben Bell, Mike Bell, Dave Bell, Mike Imber, Murray Williams, David and Ruth Crockett.

*Moved that apologies be accepted* [Alan Wright/Betty Seddon – Carried]

**Deaths of members:** Professor J.A.R. Miles, J.H. Henson, Molly Neill, and Lindsay Kelynack have passed away since the last AGM. A period of silence was observed in their memory.

**Previous minutes:** *Moved that the minutes of the 64th AGM held at Wanganui on 1 June 2003, as published in September 2003 Southern Bird, be accepted* [Audrey Eagle/Christopher Robertson – Carried]

There were no matters arising from those minutes.

**Resignation of David Crockett:** The president advised members of the resignation of David Crockett as North Island vice-president, and briefly covered his long contribution to the objectives of the Society.

*Moved that the Society passes a vote of thanks to David Crockett for his long service to the Society as a councillor* [David Medway/Tom Hartly – Carried]. Applauded.

**Council Nominations:** Nominations of Richard Holdaway, Paul Scofield and Scott Butcher for Council had been received. The president thanked them for agreeing to stand for Council, and welcomed them as councillors for a three-year term to commence at the conclusion of this meeting. Applauded.

**President's report:** *Moved that the president's report on behalf of Council as distributed to members present be accepted* [David Medway/Stella Rowe – Carried]

There were no matters arising from that report.

**Treasurer's report:** Mark Nee commented on various aspects of his report, and the Society's general financial position.

*Moved that the treasurer's report as distributed to members present be accepted* [Mark Nee/Phil Battley – Carried]

**Proposed increase of annual subscription:** Mark Nee outlined the need for an increase in the annual subscription by 15% as proposed in the notice of motion, moved by Mark Nee and seconded by David Medway that was published in March 2003 *Southern Bird*.

*Moved that the motion as proposed be amended to provide that the annual subscription be increased from the financial year beginning on 1 January 2005* [David Medway/Barry Hartley – Carried]

*Moved that the amended motion be accepted* [David Medway/Mark Nee – Carried]. The subscription rate is increased accordingly.

**Appointment of auditor:** *Moved that John Mallinson Limited be re-appointed as auditor, but should a change in auditor become necessary in the near future then Council can fill the vacancy arising at its October meeting* [Christopher Robertson/Richard Holdaway – Carried]

**Proposed alteration to Constitution:** The motion to alter the Constitution, moved by David Medway and seconded by David Lawrie on behalf of Council, that was published in March 2003 *Southern Bird*, was explained by David Lawrie.

*It was moved that the motion be amended to include a vice-president to be elected by members* [Kerry-Jayne Wilson/Richard Holdaway]

*It was further moved that the motion be amended as follows:* That Rule 8.1 of the Constitution be deleted and replaced with the following Rule 8.1. "8.1. The Society shall be administered by a Council consisting of 10 Members as Councillors, being a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and six other Councillors" [Christopher Robertson/Brian Bell]

The motion and proposed amendments were opened for discussion, in the course of which Christopher Robertson explained his proposed amendment, outlining the need for an elected vice-president and the need for a specific number of councillors. Kerry-Jayne Wilson (with the consent of her seconder) withdrew her motion, stating that the amendment proposed by Christopher Robertson covered her thoughts perfectly.

*Moved that the amendment proposed by Christopher Robertson/Brian Bell becomes the motion* [David Medway/Brian Bell – Carried]

*Moved that the amended motion be accepted* [Christopher Robertson/Brian Bell – Carried]. The Constitution is amended accordingly.

**Proposed change of date of Annual General Meeting:** The president read out the notice of motion, proposed by Lloyd Esler and seconded by Phil Rhodes, that was published in March 2003 *Southern Bird*, and the explanatory note that accompanied it.

The motion was opened for discussion. Members who spoke considered that for various reasons Queens Birthday weekend was still the most suitable time to hold the AGM and associated activities. Stella Rowe noted that there was always a good turnout of members at Queens Birthday weekend. Bruce McKinlay felt it was much easier to organise a Scientific Day for Queens Birthday weekend as speakers had finished field commitments and were prepared to do presentations at that time. It was also noted that winter bird watching could be very successful.

*Moved that the motion be declined* [David Medway/Betty Seddon – Carried]

**Awards:** A Meritorious Service Award was presented to Les McPherson. Nick Allen accepted the award on his behalf. Applauded.

The president congratulated David Lawrie on the recent award to him of Membership of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for his services to conservation. Applauded.

**Strategic Plan:** David Pye stressed the need for us to know what direction the Society should take in future. He explained the draft plan outlined in the text he distributed to those present. He was giving us advance notice and explanation of the draft plan that would be published in *Southern Bird* for the comment of all members. David emphasised the need for plentiful and considered feedback from members.

Members were enthusiastic about the development of a strategic plan for the Society. A code of ethics may be desirable. Changes to the Constitution will probably be necessary. There was some discussion about the need for the employment of staff in future. Tony Crocker considered that the commercialisation of the Society was not wanted, but that public awareness of the Society and birds in general needed to be increased. He observed that the employment of staff would create the need to comply with various statutory and other requirements in that regard. Some concern was expressed about the Society entering into contracts, and for the need to ensure that any contract would be consistent with and furthered the objectives of the Society. Members should be kept fully informed about these contracts. The president said that members were advised of them, and of their outcomes, by a variety of means including articles in *Southern Bird* and in his annual report on behalf of Council. David Melville outlined the latest contracts entered into, or proposed.

**Classified Summarised Notes:** Kerry-Jayne Wilson summarised the

present position. She asked members present for suggestions about their future.

Phil Battley considered Classified Summarised Notes (CSN) are very valuable, and that the bird counts contained in them are very important. He believed they should be published in *Notornis*, but could see the merit of them being published as a supplement to that journal. The president considered that the CSN needed to be expanded from just counts to include all sorts of interesting observations about birds and their habits. Stuart Nicholson noted that the data are verified via members and the regional recorder, and then the CSN compilers. Chris Robertson observed that the CSN provided amateur ornithologists with the opportunity to publish their observations. He would be very upset to see them disappear. David Melville considered that the CSN must include all sorts of observations. He asked what the Society was going to do about data tucked away in members' notebooks. David noted that we need to find a way to capture all this vital data.

Kerry-Jayne Wilson thanked members for their comments. She reiterated her desire to have more feedback, and asked members to send her their comments about the CSN and their future.

**Scientific Committee:** Kerry-Jayne Wilson updated members on matters dealt with by the Scientific Committee, including its discussions on the proposal for a New Zealand bird-population monitoring scheme. She mentioned that a workshop to consider all aspects of that proposal was to be held shortly, and that the Society would be represented there.

The president thanked Kerry-Jayne for her report.

#### General Business:

**Southern Royal Albatross:** Brian Bell mentioned there was a DoC proposal to remove all bands off Southern Royal Albatrosses banded on Campbell Island. He noted that his concerns arose as a result of the recent *Notornis* paper by Peter Moore. Brian considered that the Society needed to make its views about this known. Removing the bands could result in the loss of 50 years of data. He noted that the Prime Minister had signed an international agreement on albatrosses. The DoC proposal could be an international embarrassment. He believed that the Society should take the matter up with the Minister of Conservation. Ralph Powlesland mentioned that Peter Moore had provided an information sheet on the background to the band removal proposal, and it would be available at the Scientific Day. David Melville mentioned that banding was very important for the Society. He had attended a banding workshop arranged by DoC last year, but to date a final report of the meeting had not become available. The Society is to write to the Minister of Conservation regarding the banding scheme, raising issues such as banding materials, bander-training, and animal welfare.

Moved that the Society write to the Minister of Conservation about the various issues regarding banding that are of concern to it, including its concerns about the Department's proposals involving Southern Royal Albatrosses [Brian Bell/Phil Battley – Carried]

**Liability issues:** Nick Allen asked what liability individual members or regions might have regarding information provided by them in response to a request for it from outside the Society.


Christopher Robertson indicated that if just the raw data were provided, with no accompanying interpretation, then there was no liability. Members were advised that Council continues to consider this, and other issues relating to liability.

**Appreciation:** Moved that Tom and Hazel Harty be thanked for once again organising the AGM [Tony Crocker/Mark Nee – Carried]. Applauded.

**2005 AGM:** The 2005 AGM will be held in Waikato. Regions are to volunteer to hold the AGM after that. In the absence of offers, a region will be nominated by Council. Tom Harty noted that a decision about the locality for an AGM needed to be made two years in advance in order to ensure that accommodation and conference facilities could be booked.

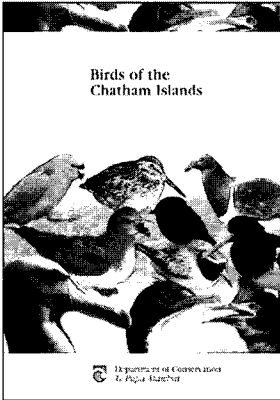
**General:** Members were advised of details regarding the pelagic trip proposed for later in the weekend. Christopher Robertson requested that all atlas sheets from the day's excursions be handed to him before the end of the evening. The President reminded members about the scientific day and other activities yet to come.

There being no further business, the president thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.35pm.



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# BIRD DISTRIBUTION ATLAS 1999–2004

## NOTES FROM THE AGM FIELD DAY 2004

The AGM in Oamaru provided a welcome opportunity to present an update of the Atlas progress to members and to spend the field day exploring the chilly environs of the Waitaki and North Otago regions.

At least 73 persons (the best for any AGM) participated on the day. These were split up amongst 19 official teams in the designated area, while a couple of stray ‘one-eyed sheepdog’ teams worried the edges trying to find rarities. Most teams admitted to being in good vision, except for one that admitted to two real one-eyed observers

A total of 77 species was seen on the day. This is probably about 95% of the expected list for the area at that time of the year. Ninety-six squares were covered on the day (a record) with a record also for the number of sheets for the day at 160. The observers spent some 400 hours of combined observations and drove over 4,458 kilometres.

The Sunday evening prize-giving and ‘roast’ was an opportunity to say thank you from the organisers for providing so much useful atlas ammunition from activities during the field day, and to demonstrate some of the skills learnt in other parts of the country. The atlas prize-giving provided an element of humour and point scoring, and a challenge for the Convenor to find a good reason or story for again awarding a prize to every team. A notable list of prizes was won and greeted with acclamation by all present, with only some minor blushes to be seen! Some of the awards and recipients won’t be named, as they might be tempted to take further judicial appeals – even though the judged opinion was final and prizes accepted!

The maximum number of species on a sheet for the day was 42 from a set of South Island viewers. The national champion was back in the pack this time for the single sheet score, but topped in his usual discipline of highest average for the days sheets from any team. The maximum number of habitats accessed in one square was an exceptional 16. The Wright team from Otago won the Fielding Memorial Trophy for the most unusual bird for the day – a (old?) Coot – though White Heron, Cirl Bunting (a pair), Pukeko, New Zealand Dabchick and juvenile Gannet were also contenders. The Undercover Stilt Searchers (only one was prepared to admit to being a member of the team) saw one extra species not seen in the official area. The Museum Groupies managed to cover 19 squares in one day while getting to the AGM, but also added only one extra species to the official list.

One well-known team with a well-travelled campervan won a merit award for the longest time taken to get to the AGM and for excessive advertising in *Southern Bird* about the enjoyable life of an atlaser. Another well-known and travelled atlas team won the “didn’t know where I was, because I left the GPS behind today” award – clearly technology has caught up with ornithology. The Black Stilt award for the tallest observers of the day went to the Armitage team who did not see the said stilt. The Davies team had the youngest ‘observer’ for the day who noted no records of seen or heard birds, could not write, but probably indulged in a lot of compensatory feeding activity.

The Bell team won the single-family team award, and this year did not introduce decoy ducks onto their species list! The King team from the Wairarapa won their regular award for the highest number of inseparable observers crammed into the smallest space – a minivan. I think they should probably have had an award for the lowest mean number of operable eyes as well! There was a dyslexic award for the observer (a Councillor no less) who record three squares with Pacific Golden Plover! Then there were three confusing sets of observations from Shag Point which referred to steamed up windows in a parked car, seals, but only one team actually recorded shags of the feathered variety.

Several new species made it onto the New Zealand list – Pomtit, Silverpol and one team tried to rig the unusual species award with *Grus giganteus ferrous*. Those who are unable to work out the latter should consult the Editor of *Southern Bird* for locations where sightings may be obtained.

Some interesting behavioural observations were a flock of 74 Australian Magpies seen in a paddock; a Falcon chasing a White-fronted Tern; and breeding records for Fantail and Australian Magpie.

Clearly a fun day was had by all during an atlas field day that stretched from the mountains to the sea, while providing a full range of weather from fine and sunny to rain, hail, sleet and snow. Unfortunately, nobody brought the jet boat for the braided rivers.

We look forward to seeing an equally challenging post-atlas team field event next year at Hamilton. This will be designed to get you out and about and challenged in the Waikato, using all the devious skills that you have acquired during the past four years of atlasing. It will be educational and entertaining, and yes, there will be prizes.

CJR ROBERTSON

## MOULT RECORDING SCHEME: WELLINGTON RECORDS DOMINATE THE 2003-04 YEAR

BEN BELL

This report covers records received over the last year up to 1 June 2004, summarised in Table 1. The Moulting Recording Scheme has now accumulated 2,579 records for 127 bird species. About half of these (51%) refer to birds in active moult, 58% of the records being from live birds. Two passerines continue to lead the list overall – House Sparrow with 439 records and Silvereye with 359 records.

Table 1. Moulting records received over the year 2003-04

Species	Total
Brown Teal	1
Red-billed Gull	2
Feral Pigeon	38
Red-crowned Parakeet	5
NZ Kingfisher	1
Dunnock	5
Blackbird	15
Whitehead	2
Grey Warbler	3
Fantail	15
Silvereye	137
Tui	6
Chaffinch	13
Greenfinch	7
Goldfinch	3
House Sparrow	60
Starling	11
Total	324

Over the last year 324 records were received, mostly of introduced species from the Wellington region. A new species was Feral Pigeon for which there were 38 records. It was good to receive 35 records for native species, namely Brown Teal, Red-billed Gull, Red-crowned parakeet, New Zealand Kingfisher, Whitehead, Grey Warbler, Fantail and Tui. These are only 10.8% of the total, however, so we need to try and focus more on them in the future.

I thank all those who have sent in moulting records over the last year. In particular, I thank Ros Batcheler, Annette Harvey, Peter Reese and other members of the Wellington Branch of OSNZ for contributing so many records. We ran a rewarding moulting workshop with a banding session at Wellington Zoo in early April getting lots of birds too!

During the year new batches of moulting cards and non-moulting summary forms were produced. The new card – essentially the same as its orange predecessor – is white to facilitate photocopying. I am indebted to David Melville and Roger Sharp for help in getting these new versions printed.

Do write to me if you need supplies of moulting cards and non-moulting summary forms, or contact your Regional Representative. Remember that you can record useful moulting information on birds at any time of year – and potentially from every bird you handle (live or dead!). The moulting card is used for recording data on birds in active moult, while for birds not in moult the non-moulting summary form is used. Non-moulting birds include those in old plumage (worn and faded) and those in new plumage (fresh without wear). The state of plumage (‘old’ or ‘new’) needs to be stated on the card or form. We need more data on many New Zealand species so please contribute to the scheme if you can. It is important that where possible you record the information asked for on the cards and forms, as this assists later analysis. I look forward to receiving more moulting (or non-moulting) records over the coming year.



# BIRD DISTRIBUTION ATLAS 1999–2004

## – THE LAST GASP IN THE FIELD –

**AT LAST, like the Olympics, the finishing post is in sight.** As I write this it is the last day of August, the close of the Olympics, and the end of the final winter survey. Now it only remains for a **GOLDEN EFFORT** during spring for the target of some 30,000 record sheets to be achieved in the five years of the project. We have already received over 26,000 sheets. That is some 8,000 more than the previous atlas and currently represents a total coverage of about 94% of the main New Zealand landmass compared to 98% last time.

To assist your planning all RRs were given maps of the country for winter and spring that indicated the squares that needed to be covered to improve the coverage for those seasons. This week they were sent a further set of maps that showed the 203 'virgin' (no sheets yet received) squares left throughout the country. The organisers have agreed that these 203 squares may continue to be attempted during the coming summer, finishing on 28 February 2005.

### **THESE 203 VIRGIN SQUARES ARE THE ONLY ONES FOR WHICH RECORDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE OFFICIAL CLOSE OF THE FIELD PROGRAMME.**

**PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL RRs** for squares that still need to be covered, either for the spring season or for the first time. It is still important to continue to gather species and habitat records in squares that have been covered previously in other seasons.

Derek Batcheler continues to follow his daily breakfast with a session of data entry for the administrative parts of the atlas record, while Nicky Sinclair has continued to wrestle with your observational annotations, having advanced the data entry of all habitat and species records up to a tally of 22,000 sheets now completed. We have also been able to modify those records where errors or omissions have been rectified by the work of Stuart Nicholson. Regrettably Nicky will be leaving us shortly for an extended stay in the UK, but we must acknowledge her sterling efforts of getting data entry so close to the number of sheets returned by the field teams. New assistants will be starting where she finishes off by late October.

We are now starting to think more seriously about how the final atlas will be put together and the types of questions that must be asked when data have to be extracted from the files. We are currently working on testing all species for strange outliers, which may indicate wrong data entry or an erroneous map reference. We have already done some of these for a few of the habitats. It is interesting to find inland rocky coasts, sand dunes and harbours in strange places. There will be a full data-check once we have all the records entered into the system next year.

That kaumatua of OSNZ mapping, Peter Bull, has agreed to look at draft maps, both for inconsistencies and to raise questions about changed distributions that may have been indicated since the last atlas. Please let us know of any maps or questions or analyses that you think

should be addressed in the new atlas. At the AGM there seemed to be some indications that a loose-leafed publication like the last was a good way to continue; give us your views. Currently, the early probability is a single island page with a small map from the last atlas to compare total coverage, a breeding record map, as well as four seasonal maps.

Now for a few statistics to consider at the 25,000 sheet progress point: some 3,100 squares now have at least one record from any season, which is 94% of the total landmass of the three main islands and associated inshore islands. The seasonal coverage continues to improve, though it is clear that the five years of the programme will not be enough to provide a level of seasonal national coverage that matches the total coverage. At this time the seasonal coverage for **summer** = 76%, **autumn** = 65%, **winter** = 60% and **spring** = 68%. At the overall rate of past seasonal increases in coverage, we should be able to achieve between 75–80% coverage for each season. Combined with filling in the squares that have not been visited at all, this provides a very significant challenge for the final season of the project.

The average number of species recorded per sheet has remained steady for some time at 19–20 species per sheet, with the highest sheet containing 72. The best observing team is still averaging about 32 birds per sheet returned. Overall, some 15 teams have returned 46% of the records to date. One observer team has visited more than 1050 squares, which is a third of the country.

The twenty most commonly-seen species in descending order are (% of sheets where recorded): Blackbird (73%), Starling (67%), Harrier (65%), Australian Magpie (63%), Chaffinch (62%), House Sparrow (61%), Spur-winged Plover (59%), Fantail, Goldfinch, Welcome Swallow (56%), Silvereye, Paradise Shelduck, Grey Warbler (53%), Song Thrush, Black-backed Gull (52%), Yellowhammer (47%), Kingfisher (41%), Skylark and Pukeko (38%).

We are still receiving records from as far back as the start of the project in 1999. These records are a welcome addition to the completeness of the project. You should all be looking to see that you return material as soon as possible after the end of the season. Don't leave it till the closing day to get them in.

*When we come to start the analysis of the data there will be a final cut off point for the receipt of survey sheets so that we can deal with a finite dataset when checking and analysis starts in earnest.*

### **ALL RECORDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 30 March 2005.**

*Material received after that date will be added to the data held in the archive, BUT will **NOT** be included in the final atlas.*

Any questions, requests for instructions, or extra observation forms should be addressed to the ATLAS CONVENOR, P.O. BOX 12397, WELLINGTON.

CJR ROBERTSON

## NEW MEMBERS

*A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:*

Desmond Agnew (Bay of Plenty), Pam Agnew (Bay of Plenty), Keith Bell (Auckland), Asa Berggren (Sweden), Gay Blunden (Far North), Rebecca Bolton (Manawatu), Chi-Hang Chan (Wellington), Jayne Clarke (Canterbury), Brett Curry (Canterbury), Ron Dannatt (Northland), Paul Garner-Richards (Wellington), Phil Hammond (Auckland), David Harrison (Manawatu), Andrew John (Marlborough), Dianne John (Marlborough), Amanda Kennedy (Auckland), Malcolm McEwen (Wellington), Frank Minehan (Wairarapa), Gregory Moorcroft (Wellington), Parliamentary Library (Wellington), Northland Polytechnic Library (Northland), Tricia Robins (Canterbury), Gareth Rowland (Auckland), Shana Smith (Canterbury), Michael Soter (Auckland), Jerome Spaggiari (New Caledonia), Raychel Sterry (Taranaki), Andrew Thomas (Waikato), Sandy Tustin (Wellington), Dave York (Otago)

## Membership Renewals

Subscriptions are due on 1 January. Following the success of last year those members with email will receive a membership renewal form via that medium. Those members who do not have email (or those where the Membership Secretary has not been informed of an email address) will receive a renewal form as an insert with this issue of *Southern Bird* and *Notornis*. Please note the very modestly increased subscription amount this year, and please endeavour to pay close to the due date – the Society depends greatly on your subscription to continue the furtherance of its objects in encouraging and supporting the study and enjoyment of birds in the New Zealand region.



# OSNZ Plan

For quite a few years Council has been grappling with the future of the Society. In response to Council and RR discussions back in 1999, Tony Crocker published a discussion document 'OSNZ – The Next 60 Years' and this was really the start of the current process. Many aspects of the Society have evolved in an isolated or piecemeal fashion, often because there were volunteers to do this but not to do that. There is now a strong feeling that times have changed and we need to bring things together and operate and develop in a coordinated planned way.

The first major step is to have an overall or grand plan. It doesn't need to be complex or difficult; it is the 'grand plan' or 'big picture', so short, simple and succinct is best. Council and others have put in a lot of time and effort to produce the draft 'Strategic Plan' supplied

with this copy of *Southern Bird*. The draft plan is in two parts. The first part is the official draft Strategic Plan. The second, 'OSNZ Plan Summary' advances the strategic plan one step further and starts to show some of the ideas and actions that Council thinks would probably follow from adoption of the strategic plan.

It is absolutely essential that the membership as a whole agrees with and supports whatever plans we make. Please take this opportunity to let us know your views on the draft plan and future of the Society. Written comments, in any format whatsoever, should be sent direct to the address below.

We look forward to hearing what you think.

DAVID PYE

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**Council decided at their November 2003 meeting that contact details would no longer be published in *Notornis*, and instead would be published annually in *Southern Bird*.**

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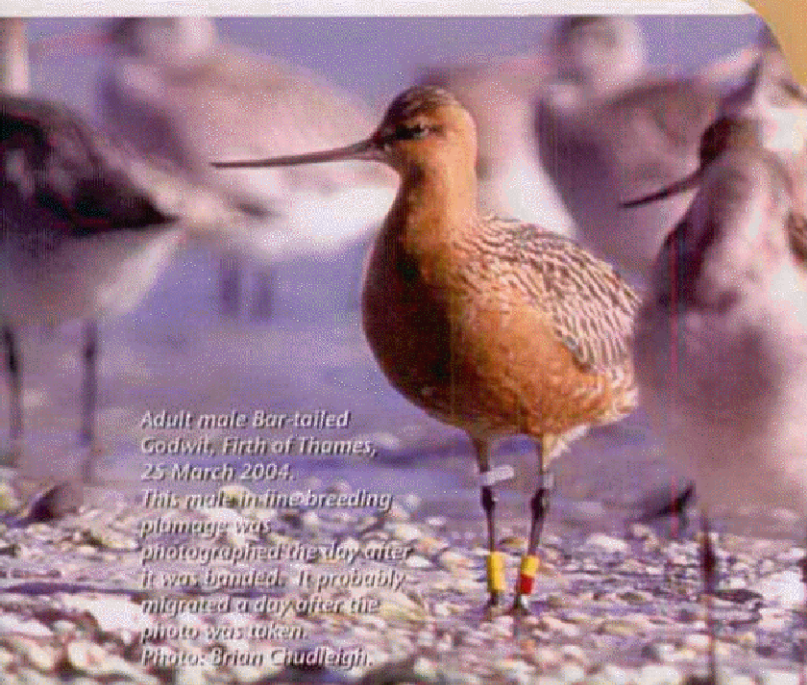




# Colour-banded Arctic waders

PHIL BATTLEY

*in New Zealand*



Adult male Bar-tailed Godwit, Firth of Thames, 25 March 2004. This male in fine breeding plumage was photographed the day after it was banded. It probably migrated a day after the photo was taken. Photo: Brian Chudleigh.



Adult male Bar-tailed Godwit, Seosan, Hongsung, South Korea, 15 April 2004. Photo: Kim Hyun-tae.

OSNZ members have a fine tradition of finding colour-banded waders in New Zealand, particularly during the Banded Dotterel and Pied Still studies of the late 1980s and early 1990s. Now we would like to get observers' eyes looking at the common Arctic waders around our shores. Two new projects have recently started up in New Zealand that will result in a big pool of colour-banded Arctic waders to be found by OSNZ members around the country.

One project being undertaken by OSNZ, under contract to the Department of Conservation, is looking at habitat networks used by waders whilst they are in New Zealand. While it is clear that many birds may return directly to their non-breeding sites in New Zealand after migration, we have precious little information on how much or how little movement there is between sites around the country.

Without information on how discrete populations at different sites are, it is impossible to interpret any population changes at one place, or assess the implications of, for example, habitat changes at an estuary. This project aims to determine how much the common Arctic waders in New Zealand (Bar-tailed Godwit, Lesser Knot and, hopefully, Turnstone) move between sites while they are in the country. This information is also of interest to biosecurity agencies, as waders are perceived as potential routes of pathogens into New Zealand.

The other project is being undertaken by Phil Battley through Otago University's Maths and Stats Department, and aims to measure survival rates of Godwits and Knots. There is worldwide concern about population declines in Arctic-breeding shorebirds and a growing realisation that counts alone are insufficient for diagnosing population problems and predicting future changes. Using individual marking to allow resighting of individual birds means that mark-recapture analysis methods can be used to estimate survival rates.

Projects are now underway on five of the six subspecies of Lesser Knot around the world, and all four Bar-tailed Godwit subspecies. In the East Asian-Australasian Flyway the Bar-tailed Godwit is a species of increasing concern, given its low breeding productivity over recent years, indications that clutch size may have declined over the past century, reclamation of major wetlands in Asia, and hunting on staging grounds in Alaska and Asia. Good demographic data are needed sooner, rather than later, if we are to be in a position to determine appropriate management strategies for these species.

Both projects will be run together, using a marking scheme of TWO colour-bands on each lower leg (tarsus) and ONE white flag. The position of the flag is important. Initially, the white flag will be on the upper leg, but in time (as more combinations are used) it will move to the lower leg where it will sit above, between or below the colour-bands. So if you see a colour-banded wader, please check to see whether there is a flag and where it is. Conversely, if you see a flagged wader, please try to see its lower legs to check for bands. The colour-bands will be white, yellow, red or dark blue.

We plan at this stage to band birds in the Auckland region, around Nelson and Golden Bay, Canterbury and Southland. Already, results from birds banded in the Firth of Thames, Auckland, are proving interesting. Godwits banded before northward migration have been seen in South Korea, China and Alaska. Quite amazingly, the bird seen in China in April was the first bird seen in Alaska in August. 'Overwintering' Knots have been moving between the Firth of Thames, Manukau Harbour and Kaipara Harbour. One Knot moved 130 km overnight from Taporā in the Kaipara Harbour back to the Firth of Thames (and then a few days later shifted to the Manukau Harbour).

The success of the project will be determined by how much ground we can cover in the search for banded waders. It is no good if we only check places we know or suspect birds will be. Ideally, we would like as many large concentrations of waders searched regularly through the summer for banded birds. While this can be done as part of your regular birding, it is better to look for bands as birds are coming into roost or are leaving a roost to start feeding rather than to try to look at high tide when birds are asleep and bunched together. We have some funding to support fuel costs, so if you are in a position to make searches for colour-banded Arctic waders, particularly through the summer when more birds are around, please make contact with us.

A reporting sheet that can be emailed in, and more information on what to look for and how to record bands, will soon be mounted on the OSNZ website under the banding section <http://www.osnz.org.nz/studies.htm>.

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# FAIRY TERN UPDATE

GWENDA PULHAM

19-day-old Fairy Tern chick, Pakiri Beach.  
Photo by Noelle MacDonald

Fairy Tern at nest, Pakiri 1950's.  
Photo by D.A. Urquhart

Observing roosting Fairy Terns at North Pakiri - 17 January 1953 -  
Can anyone identify the observer?  
Photo by Noelle MacDonald

In the last 20 years, successful breeding of New Zealand Fairy Terns has been confined to just three sites - Waipu and Mangawhai Spits on the east coast north of Auckland, and Papakanui Spit on the southern headland of the entrance to Kaipara Harbour.

Since 1997, the Department of Conservation has funded predator control at all three sites. Other work that has been done at all these sites includes predator fencing, signage, the presence of wardens, and a proactive programme of manipulating eggs between nests to maximise productivity.

The resultant rise in the total population (circa 37 birds in 2003) could finally be translating into an increase in the number of breeding pairs. Waipu Spit usually supports two pairs, Mangawhai usually has three pairs, and Papakanui two pairs. Before the 2003/4 season there had been an average total of seven breeding pairs over the past 12 breeding seasons, with a maximum of nine in 1993/4 and a minimum of four in 1996/7.

Many New Zealand ornithologists will be familiar with Geoff Moon's stunning images of Fairy Terns, many of which were captured at Pakiri Beach on the east coast south of Mangawhai. Geoff made frequent visits to Pakiri each summer throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, often accompanied by Jim and Anne Prickett, or Noelle MacDonald. He regularly recorded one pair of Fairy Terns nesting in the dunes just north of the Pakiri River Mouth, and two other pairs near Poutawa Stream towards the northern end of the beach.

Gradual modification of the fore-dunes with plantings of marram, lupins, and eventually pines saw the northern nesting area all but obliterated by the mid-1960s. At the southern end, increasing disturbance from human use of the foreshore, including horse trekking, put an end to successful nesting there. Geoff last recorded Fairy Terns breeding at Pakiri in 1965.

In recent years, however, both John Dowding and Thelma Wilson have reported renewed activity by Fairy Terns at the mouth of the Pakiri River. A flat shelly area is now fenced-off annually by DoC to divert people and

horses away from nesting dotterels and oystercatchers. On 23 September 2002, Tony Habraken and Gillian Vaughan recorded a group of 11 Fairy Terns at this site, including three apparent pairs that were engaging in scrape-making. Throughout October to December 2002 courtship and pre-breeding display was observed, but no nests found.

A similar pattern of behaviour developed in October 2003. Since there was no predator control in place at the Pakiri River Mouth, it was highly likely that any newly-laid eggs would disappear within days, an occurrence regularly recorded by John Dowding at unmanaged New Zealand Dotterel sites. Therefore, OSNZ members were rostered to check the beach every second day until a nest was finally sighted by Simon Chamberlin on 11 December.

The discovery of the Pakiri nest meant that eight pairs of Fairy Terns were breeding in New Zealand in the 2003/4 season, as the regular seven pairs were breeding at the managed sites. However, late in December 2003 a further (fourth) pair was found at Mangawhai, bringing the total number of pairs nationally to nine.

Out in the Kaipara Harbour in October 2003, a pair of Fairy Terns was seen investigating a new sand spit that has developed at the northern tip of Bird Island in the Taporā area. Breeding by Fairy Terns was last recorded at nearby Big Sand Island in 1976 by Laurie and Alison Howell.

This investigation and re-establishment at former breeding sites is an encouraging sign of recovery. It adds weight to my belief, which could well be shared by others, that Fairy Terns require quite a large 'personal space' in which to fledge their chicks successfully. Therefore, pairs may not necessarily concentrate at the three currently managed sites.



Fairy Tern and nest, Pakiri Beach  
Photo by Noelle MacDonald



Hugh Clifford receives award from Adrienne Grant (DoC).  
Photo by Paul Cumming

Hugh Clifford's work with Grey-faced Petrels was recognised with an award at the inaugural Bay of Plenty Conservation Awards on 30 July. The Awards, held by the Department of Conservation

Bay of Plenty, were presented at Waimangu Thermal Reserve, near Rotorua, and recognised outstanding achievement in the conservation field in the region.

When presenting the award to Hugh, regional conservator Henry Weston mentioned that an incredible effort had been made to carry out the study such a long distance from home (over 100 kilometres), for such a long time.

The project has been going since 1989, when Alan Tennyson and Graeme Taylor encouraged a group of OSNZ Waikato members to study the population dynamics of the Grey-faced Petrel on Mauao (Mount Maunganui) and Motuotau (Rabbit Island). Betty Seddon, present at the awards dinner, provided the early accommodation for the project, while Dave Wills, DoC Bay of Plenty, and the Mt Maunganui Surf Club provided boats to the island.

Two seasons later, Hugh became project leader and developed the systematic programme which exists today. 'Burrowscoping', plus

## Petrel Work Rewarded

PAUL CUMMING

chick and adult banding provided the major activities, the latter two continuing to date.

The introduction of a local-body-run predator control programme on Mauao seemed to provide the colony with better chick survival rates, whilst a stoat on the now ceased study site of Motuotau Island temporarily spoilt the islands predator-free status, yet did not seem to affect numbers of the larger petrels. The Common Diving Petrels seemed to be the only victims on this occasion.

When summing the project up one must include in the highlights the increased knowledge of the populations at both sites, the new data on first returns to the sites of new breeding birds and inter-site movements. Records of birds from Motuhora (Whale Island), Bethells Beach and coastal Australia provide an excellent result for the effort put in.

Hugh's vehicles have received an estimated extra 10,000 kilometres of 'petrel' kilometres, and his years of gear used up numerous torches, countless batteries and bags, litres of sweat and numerous open cuts, plus many hours organising the banding teams. Not to mention his poor clothes - one particular jersey ending up with as many holes as a predator-free seabird colony!

On behalf of the OSNZ, plus as an original 'GFP' team member, I would like to congratulate Hugh on his well-deserved award.



# MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

A well-deserved Meritorious Service Award was presented to Les McPherson at the Annual General Meeting in Oamaru on 5 June 2004 in recognition of his meritorious service in furtherance of the objects of the Society. The citation in support of the award reads as follows:

Les has laboured for decades to establish what is recognised increasingly to be the most comprehensive bird sound archive in New Zealand. However, this extensive archive is rarely heard of or spoken of. This is a measure of the quiet, deliberate manner in which Les has constructed it. Les operates as the New Zealand centre of a growing international network of bird sound recorders and archivists. His generosity in making some of his recordings available at cost reflects a selfless spirit of scientific endeavour and research that is lacking in too many other quarters of science today.

DAVID MEDWAY  
PRESIDENT

## Rare Birds Committee

The Rare Birds Committee has appointed an administrative secretary to service the reports received by it. From now on, all reports of rare or unusual birds for consideration by the Committee are to be sent by post to the Secretary, Rare Birds Committee, P.O. Box 12397, Wellington or by email to the Society's Secretary at [osnz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:osnz@xtra.co.nz) who will forward them on to the secretary of the Committee. Paul Scofield will take over as convenor of the Committee from 1 January 2005.

Rare Birds Committee - 28 July 2004

## BOOK REVIEWS

### Shirihai, Hadoram (illustrated by Brett Jarrett). 2002.

*The Complete Guide to Antarctic Wildlife*. Princeton University Press. ISBN 0-691-11414-5. 510 pp, hardback, NZ\$116.95.

This is a very impressive book, as much in terms of its intended scope as 'the complete guide' to Antarctic wildlife as in its very well-produced and weighty feel.

Hadoram Shirihai has made a significant name for himself with books on birds of his native Israel, *Sylvia* warblers, and has co-authored a photographic guide to Western Palearctic birds. Here his head has been turned (not surprisingly) in the direction of the Southern Ocean and its extraordinary avifauna, marine mammals and varied ecosystems.

The book is much more than a guide to wildlife. It also covers far more than Antarctica. While the front cover proclaims the book as being about 'birds and marine mammals of the Antarctic continent and the Southern Ocean' it steps well outside those boundaries.

The *Complete Guide* opens with an extended preamble, then moves on to very brief accounts of Antarctic water masses, geology of the Southern Ocean region, the dynamic nature of ice, climate, geopolitics, the marine and subantarctic island environment, then a section on 'Avifauna' including zonation, a highly selective account of previous ornithological work, threatened species, similar topics on marine mammals, then a range of potential and actual conservation issues. A checklist follows, and a history of Antarctic exploration – all before the species accounts commence on page 54.

Seabirds continue through to page 237. Sections then follow on 'breeders' of the south Atlantic and Indian Oceans, New Zealand region 'near-passerines' and passerines, and the marine mammals. Then follow accounts of subantarctic island groups and the regions of Antarctica, each written in descriptive style with sections about general geography, the birds and mammals, conservation issues, human history, how and where to visit, and a checklist for major geographical groups. The book concludes with 'gateways', descriptions of access and wildlife watching in southern South America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand (including accounts of pelagic and coastal seabird watching opportunities at Kaikoura, the Interislander etc.), and a bibliography, organisations and index.

Exhausted? You should be. This is way too much for a wildlife guide. It's a kind of Lonely Planet meets field guide, and there are about three books in here. I presume Shirihai got carried away with the notion of completeness! Plus the 'Antarctica' of the title extends as far as Tasmania, and includes species such as Sooty Tern (on the basis of an apparent single breeding event at St Paul). There are accounts for species such as Pycroft's Petrel and Black-billed Gull (but strangely not Black-fronted Tern).

The author acknowledges that this is a popular not a scientific work (though it is aimed at the 'knowledgeable naturalist, birder and

researcher'). It also means, however, that most – but not all – references are missing, so it is hard to check sources of information. It thus seems to me at its most successful in one of its stated aims – as a single volume for cruise passengers wishing to know a lot more about the places they are travelling to than that provided by their on-board lecturers.

So what's really good about it? Dismissing the peripheral material (if you want to really understand how Antarctic ecological processes work, you can't go past David G. Campbell's superb *The Crystal Desert*, for example), there is a series of 35 very good bird plates, though the fact that they are scattered widely throughout the text means that their usefulness as a field guide is diminished. Most species accounts are illustrated by one or quite a few high quality photographs, and all have (sometimes combined) distribution maps. The other material at the start and finish is profusely further illustrated by often superb images of the region. Many of the photographs are Shirihai's, showing he is no slouch in this regard (and very well travelled), but many other prominent New Zealand photographers are well represented.

The species accounts usually start with the most common English name (Grey-faced is only Great-winged, Taiko is Magenta Petrel, but *Stercorarius* skuas are given jaeger as an alternative, and Gould's Petrel is also White-winged). Shirihai sensibly sits on the fence in terms of lumping or splitting in the current uncertain taxonomic climate. Thus there is a lot of *Pachyptila (vittata/salvini) macgillivrayi* and the likes. Putative Wandering and other albatross splits, plus White-chinned and Snow Petrels and others, have their own species accounts. Many of the albatross (and prion) photographs are sensibly captioned as 'probably' this or that form.

I do have one further beef – there is no doubt that Hadoram Shirihai has done a great deal of work researching much of the available literature, and has visited most of the region it appears. He has also clearly drawn heavily (often unacknowledged) on other sources. I'm left with an uncomfortable feeling of a sense of self-publicity and lack of humility in an attempt to be seen as an authority in the region. The book should, and probably will, establish that reputation based on its merits. I also question placing many notable seabird and other experts in a section entitled 'Referees for this book', as I suggest that many of the people named therein may have been better thanked for their assistance in the adjoining (and suitably lengthy) 'Acknowledgements' section, avoiding the implication of peer review in the rigorous scientific sense.

I have bought a copy (assisted by a healthy 'subsidy' of long-forgotten book gift vouchers). It is a great reminder of visits to places like the Falklands, and would be very useful for travellers to that region, as it will be to voyagers to New Zealand's subantarctic islands and people with a passion for seabirds around our shores. It will be most useful to me standing alongside other authoritative works on Southern Ocean seabirds as an additional very useful source.

TONY CROCKER





# BOOK REVIEWS

**Dennison, Tenick; Scadden, Colin; Watt, Betty. 2004** *Birds of the Wairarapa and Where to Find Them*. Published privately. ISBN 0-476 00089-0. Soft cover, index, colour photos, maps, checklist and contact details. 30 pages. \$9.95. Sponsored by: Trust House, Ron Green Environmental Trust, Eastern and Central Community Trust.

This locality guide is a convenient size to slip into a pocket while out in the field. It covers 19 main Wairarapa sites for seeing birds. Each is supplied with written directions and a clear map, followed by 'birds to see', a list and a coloured photograph.



## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

### Far North

At the start of the year our region was desperately in need of a new RR. At a hastily convened AGM on 6 May at our home of less than two months I found myself voted in not only as RR, but also as regional recorder and *Southern Bird* contributor. Our region does not yet have a regular indoor meeting venue: our spread of membership would make this difficult anyway. Members' homes have so far been enough to accommodate the usual numbers at meetings. On 2 July I gave a slide show on the Galapagos Islands. Later that month Ian Wilson's subject (actually a Forest & Bird event) was his recent trip to the Subantarctic Islands and the Ross Sea.

Seabirds have featured prominently in our area recently. Following the rediscovery of New Zealand Storm Petrels in the Hauraki Gulf, pelagic trips have now extended to the Far North with Kiwi Wildlife Tours running trips from Houhora, from where this exciting species has now also been seen. A day trip on 11 July produced no storm petrels, but good numbers of albatrosses (arm-twisting will be necessary to make me call these wonderful birds 'mollymawks'), Grey-faced Petrels and Little Shearwaters.

Monthly beach patrols continue at Ninety Mile Beach nearly monthly and at Karikari Peninsula. It is interesting to compare the results with what is actually seen at sea. A few of us have done some wader-counts at Parengarenga Harbour, but more people and more coverage would be advantageous. We turned up a Grey Plover there on 26 June.

Other unusual birds seen recently include a scattering of Australasian Bitterns, Kaka, Cattle Egrets and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. In late May there was a report of a Great-billed Heron at Parengarenga Harbour, but only for two successive days. We do not know whether any more than a verbal description will be forthcoming; an individual of this species would be an amazing occurrence.

Since the formation of the Puketi Trust last October, our major forested area has received some well-deserved attention with some intense predator control. The last few remaining Kokako are being removed to offshore islands while this is happening; we hope that eventually their numbers will recover to the 100 or more birds which were present in the early 1980s. We have also taken part in Kiwi-monitoring both in the forest, and at other sites where it is organised by the local Landcare Trusts.

DETLEF DAVIES

### South Auckland

Hazel Speed from the Department of Conservation was our guest speaker at the June meeting, bringing us up to date with Departmental work in our area. This talk mainly concentrated on work in the Hunua Ranges centred on the small Kokako population there, and the recent introduction of Whiteheads and Robin. This large forest area has a core predator-controlled area based around the Kokako population, but there are large unsurveyed areas on the fringes. Hazel convinced us that we should take an interest and undertake surveys to check on the spread of birds out from the core area to areas not covered as part of the Department's work. The talk also covered the transfer of Tomtit to Tiritiri Matangi Island.

In July, Sue Moore, with many interruptions from Phil Battley, gave us an insight into her research on Brown Teal. Sue's research raises more

There are further entries of local bird watching interest including information about the Ornithological Society of New Zealand.

This is a well-designed and useful aid for all levels of bird watching in the Wairarapa, available from information centres and booksellers throughout the Wairarapa.

Copies can also be ordered from Tennick Dennison, 129 Renall Street, Masterton.

ROSEMARY HEATHER

questions than she was able to answer, which is typical of such poorly-known species. We have infrequent sightings of Brown Teal in the South Auckland area and Sue was not able to give us any clues as to where those birds may be originating. So, we will need to keep looking ourselves!

Kevin Parker, in August, gave us an excellently illustrated talk on his travels through Antarctica, North America, Europe, the Middle East and Australia, and whetted our appetites for travel to a whole list of places.

Phil Battley's project to individually colour-band Knots and Godwits has produced some remarkable results on the movement of these species around the northern harbours in winter. It had been previously assumed that the birds were relatively sedentary, but either this is an extremely unusual year or that has never been the case. One particular bird was seen in the Manukau Harbour one day, the Kaipara Harbour the next and beat Phil home from the Kaipara to the Firth of Thames on the same day. Nearly all the birds that were banded at Miranda have been seen in the Manukau Harbour at some stage. We are now looking forward to spring to see whether the birds disperse more widely, whether they continue their inter-harbour journeys, or whether they do something completely different again!

There have been recent reports of up to four Black-tailed Godwits over-wintering at the Firth of Thames. There has also been a range of unusual waders in the Manukau Harbour, including a Little Curlew which either stayed-over or did not travel far before coming back. There is also an Eastern Curlew that appears to have over-wintered as well.

DAVID LAWRIE

### Waikato

Great changes have occurred in the region during 2004, starting in March when our Regional Rep, Paul Cuming, moved to the Bay of Plenty. Paul was RR for the previous two years, and his skills of organising events, representing OSNZ's interests in the community, participating in censuses and running meetings were outstanding. We all thank Paul, and wish him the very best in his new job in Tauranga.

Long-time member Roger Day, at the eleventh hour, offered to take over from Paul, and a system of job-sharing was set in place, with many members taking responsibility for different aspects of the running of the region. This is now standing us in good stead, as Roger too has had to resign due to his taking up a new job overseas. We wish him well.

March's indoor meeting saw David Lawrie discuss the National Wetland Trust's long-term goal of establishing an educational wetland centre at Rangiriri. In April Dean Tully, from the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic, talked about Blue Penguins on Mauao, and in May Sue Moore presented some of her findings from her doctorate thesis on Brown Teal. At the June meeting Dai Morgan talked about his trip to Cape Bird as a research assistant studying the effects of tourism and scientific disturbance on Adelie Penguins. In July, Bruce Postill told us about DoC priorities regarding huts and tracks in outback New Zealand in his talk 'Impacts on the Conservation Estate'.

Meanwhile, activity in the field continues with regular lake surveys of Cambridge, Hamilton and Forest Lake run by Hugh Clifford, Barry Friend and Brian Challinor respectively. Brian, on the basis of these counts, was invited to contribute to Hamilton City Council's 'Lake Roto Kaeo (Forest Lake) Assessment of Environmental Effects'.

Laurie Hoverd is continuing the Kakepuku seasonal five-minute bird counts initiated by Paul Cuming. Robins were lying low during the July count, but Jan and Laurie say they appear to be holding their own since the 1999 transfer. Two banded birds are still regularly seen, making them at least five years old.



Hugh Clifford is well into the fourteenth season of the Grey-faced Petrel study at Mauao. An interesting development is the use of GPS equipment by the Bay of Plenty Department of Conservation to establish the exact location of burrow areas, including outlying burrows. They will produce a map that should be helpful for future Grey-faced Petrel studies.

In March, seven members climbed Maungakawa in the Te Tapui Reserve to record bush birds for the atlas scheme. Over 30 Tomtits, two Tui and seven New Zealand Pigeons were noted in addition to Grey Warblers, Fantails and Silvereyes, and a Morepork feather that was found on the track.

Pam Bovill led the annual Lake Waahi survey in April. The highlights were 13 New Zealand Dabchicks, two Australasian Bitterns, three Royal Spoonbills and four species of shags.

It was too rough in June for boats to venture out to enable shorebird counts on the best tides on our three west coast harbours. However, after three postponements, Laurie Hoverd's team finally achieved results in early July. An Eastern Curlew and four Asiatic Whimbrels were unusual finds for a winter count. Only one Black Stilt was seen.

A number of individual atlas forays have taken place, one of which included a reporter and photographer from the *Waikato Times*, resulting in a good article on atlasing and a fine photograph of Laurie Hoverd's nose as he pointed out the birds present.

Many of our recent bird observations have come from Hamilton City. Eastern Rosellas are being seen more frequently, two by Hugh Clifford in December, two by Frank Bailey in March, and others noted around Hamilton Lake on census days. Moreporks are still heard regularly around the suburbs. New Zealand Falcons have been reported by Betty Seddon in Cambridge, and Barry Friend and Liz Wang at Hamilton Lake in June. Two New Zealand Dabchicks are inhabiting a small ornamental lake just outside the city boundary on Blanchard Road. A Long-tailed Cuckoo visited a Raglan garden in April. Reports of Kaka continue to come in from around the district: two by Ken Wedgwood near Lake Ngaroto in January, a flock of 11 in June at Orini, and one in June and four in July at Gordonton.

Enough Bellbirds for a small chorus were noted by Stella Rowe in July at Waingaro. Hopefully they and Tui may one day also move into town with the increased planting of nectar-producing trees by 'Tui 2000' and similar organisations.

DAI MORGAN AND STELLA ROWE

## Bay of Plenty/Volcanic Plateau

It has been a torrid winter in the bay, with floods and earthquakes dominating the news. Whakatane and Ohiwa took the brunt of the severe weather, which led to two of our regional events falling victim to the conditions, including a winter pelagic into the Bay of Plenty abandoned due to flood conditions on the river.

May saw 20 members gather in the growing darkness at Mauao (Mount Maunganui), to learn about birds of the night – no, not *those* ones, but Grey-faced Petrels! After a quick summary of the 15-year project, Hugh Clifford led a merry band of torch-bearers around to the first colony, where Janet 'petrel power' Houston produced the first bird within ten seconds, a new world record. The group then continued around the hill Blue Penguin-spotting while the leaders found, later that evening, the first colour-banded petrel of the project. This bird was banded as part of an experiment to ascertain site-fidelity in petrel chicks.

There is little to report by way of bird news. Eight Cattle Egrets have returned to the Maketu this winter, although they have proven a little elusive. Just as I was preparing this report I saw a New Zealand Falcon close to the centre of Rotorua, hunting over the practice golf course close to the Whakarewarewa Forest at the junction of Sala Street and Te Ngae Road. Again on the subject of birds close to urban areas, Paul Cuming reported a New Zealand Pigeon in trees at the Redoubt, Cliff Street, Tauranga (7 July), a Banded Rail at the Waikareao Walkway, Judea, Tauranga (4 July), and another New Zealand Pigeon at Judea the same day.

Let us hope that we have seen the last of the storms for the winter as we look forward to warmer days and the arrival of waders back in the Bay.

TIM BARNARD AND PAUL CUMING

## Hawke's Bay

The winter months have been relatively quiet for birding in the region apart from the winter bird census of Hawke's Bay estuaries that was completed on 19 and 20 June. Highlights of the census, conducted at Ahuriri, Waitangi, Tukituki and Porangahau were: 18 New Zealand Dabchicks, a Little Egret, 40 Royal Spoonbills, 371 Grey Teal, 622 Australasian Shovelers, 25 Black-fronted Dotterels, 55 Wrybills, 58

Bar-tailed Godwits, six Red-necked Stints, 103 Black-billed Gulls, nine Black-fronted Terns, and a Marsh Crane.

JOHN CHEYNE

## Taranaki

The May meeting started with Barry Hartley informing us about the formation of a trust (of which he is a trustee) dedicated to the establishment of a mainland island around Lake Rotokare. The lake and surrounding bush remnant cover approximately 200 ha east of Eltham. David Medway and Barry have surveyed the area extensively for the South Taranaki District Council to gauge the effects of power-boats and water-skiers on the lake on the avifauna. Predator-trapping is underway, 1080-control has been done and public sponsorship of trap-boxes has proved very successful.

At the same meeting the national president, David Medway, gave us a bird's eye view of the Ornithological Society, its various committees, and where we are headed in the future.

The May outing to Pukeiti was very successful despite being warned that it would probably be quiet at this time of year. However, no-one told the Bellbirds, which were very vocal and active during the morning and early afternoon.

A Turnstone in breeding plumage was seen at Waiongana at the start of May. A Cattle Egret was seen at the end of the month. This individual, and another at Barretts Lagoon, appear to be the only Cattle Egrets in North Taranaki this winter.

In June, Ron Lambert, with the aid of a couple of specimens from Puke Ariki, talked us through the minefield of identifying Red-billed and Black-billed Gulls. Ron's clear and lucid detailing of the differences between the species, especially the juveniles, means we will now have no difficulty identifying these birds in the field. Fortunately for us Black-billed gulls have never been positively confirmed in Taranaki.

The June field meeting saw members visiting birding localities close to home. Beach patrols finally yielded some results: a Buller's Albatross and three other bird species.

In one of the fastest elections ever seen, the July meeting saw the regional representative, secretary and regional recorder returned to their respective positions before they knew what was happening. At a previous meeting concern was expressed at the number of goats in the Hutuwai area. A discussion I had with DoC revealed that control work was being done elsewhere, but there was not the money or resources to cover all areas.

A pair of Kaka has taken up residence in Pucker Park for the third year in a row in July. A Royal Spoonbill at Te Henui River Mouth was a rare sight so close to central New Plymouth. Barry Hartley and David Medway reported on the AGM and their meanderings around the South Island: David's trip out of Kaikoura on the Ocean Wings boat was a highlight, with seven species of albatrosses, and other pelagic birds seen.

The July field trip had us touring localities around Hawera. Raychel Sterry, who flew in from the UK via Bahrain and is now roosting in Hawera, was delighted to see large numbers of introduced passerines nowadays rare in England, but common here; species that we sometimes hardly notice.

In early August a meeting of all parties with an interest in the Grey-faced Petrel colony at Rapanui was held, and a management plan formulated. Taranaki OSNZ has been recognized as experts, and nothing will happen without our input. An enjoyable evening was spent at the colony in mid-July. With birds arriving before dark it was good to see them without the aid of a torch. As darkness descended many more birds came in. It never ceases to amaze me that these birds can fly so far out to sea and the return to a small but special piece of the Taranaki coastline.

Our August guest speaker was Ralph Powlesland who spoke about the Rock Pigeon survey at a Wellington central city car parking building that he is involved with.

At the opening ceremony of Conservation Weeks at the beginning of August, held at the visitor centre in Egmont National Park, Barry Hartley was presented with an award for his involvement with many conservation causes. The Taranaki Kiwi Trust also received an award for its efforts to save the few remaining Kiwi in Egmont National Park. To make it an even more rewarding day some of those attending were treated to a good view of a Falcon over the bush.

PETER FRYER

## Wanganui

The most exciting event of the past few months has been the visit of a colour-banded Kaka. At the end of May it had made its temporary





home in Kaye Brown's Durie Hill suburban garden feeding on the Granny Smith apples growing there. Jim Campbell from DoC was able to trace the Kaka through its bands and revealed that it was a young bird hatched at Mt Bruce in November 2003 as part of DoC's efforts to establish a population in the wild at that centre. It had flown 80 km from Mt Bruce, which is an unusually great distance for such a young bird.

Still in suburban Wanganui, Ian and Jocelyn Bell had a female Pheasant on their front lawn on 30 July. Banded Dotterels have been seen at the Wanganui River estuary in large numbers, with Colin Ogle counting 35 on 25 July and Bill Greenwood 48 on 30 July. Both noted that the birds were in full breeding plumage. However, the count record goes to Ian Sutherland who found 74 on 14 June and 70 on 14 July. Ian also saw two Spotted Shags on the south mole – an unusual sighting in recent times.

In the past month one, and sometimes two, Caspian Terns have been regularly seen feeding on the river in Wanganui East, several kilometres inland. Finally, a semi-albino Black Shag was seen at Westmere at the end of July. It was a mottled black and white on chest, neck, shoulders and throat.

**BILL GREENWOOD**

## Wairarapa

Ten keen Wairarapa OSNZ members ventured to Oamaru for the AGM, travelling in a minibus. A memorable ferry crossing was had, with two Harriers seen flying low from the North Island to the South Island.

Our congratulations must go to the organisers for the well-run AGM programme. Highlights were the wonderful scenery on the field trip, and the scientific day. Whilst I was involved in RR business, the rest of our group braved the cold to visit the penguins.

From Oamaru we embarked on a lengthy, but absolutely outstanding drive to Haast. The weather was clear, but bone-chillingly cold, and the landscape spectacular. After leaving Haast we had an hour's travel to Jackson Bay, which was crisp, clear, calm and picture perfect with no sandflies! Whilst there, a Falcon flew out over the bay and returned to the forest. Backtracking through Haast and on to Hokitika the scenery was superb, recent snow making the mountains look pristine.

An extremely cheerful, interesting (although tiring) trip was enjoyed by us all. We travelled 2,600km in seven days without a hitch, due entirely to Colin Scadden's able organising.

Other events for our branch have included a fun quiz night, organised by Tenick Dennison, which tested our knowledge of all facets of birds and their behaviour.

Due to inclement weather, most of our field trips have been washed out. However, a recent survey of Masterton's Henley Lake recorded an encouraging 32 species.

**MILES KING**

## Wellington

In an engaging and well-illustrated address in July, Ralph Powlesland summarised some preliminary results from a study being undertaken on Feral (Rock) Pigeons in central Wellington. The study commenced in 2002, and with the willing help of several OSNZ members, Ralph said that good progress was being made in gaining a better knowledge of the breeding behaviour and the movements within Wellington of a common, but little-understood, city bird.

Ralph pointed out that the James Smith Parking Building in the central city was a good place to carry out observations of the nesting behaviour of Feral Pigeons, as most nests are easily accessible and the birds are very approachable. There appears to be considerable fidelity to both nest sites and mates, most nesting occurring between August and December. Nests are basic in construction, or don't exist at all – eggs at many sites are laid on bare concrete. Chicks fledge at 30 to 33 days. There appears to be about 70% hatching success, and moulting occurs in January. Adults are caught and banded and, although most birds appear to have a limited range within the city, some birds have been recaptured in suburbs up to 5 km away. Ralph concluded by making some comparisons of the Wellington results with earlier Feral Pigeon studies in Hawke's Bay and Manchester.

At the August meeting, Delia Small told us about her Masters research on the survival, breeding success and habitat selection of 74 North Island Robins transferred from Kapiti Island to the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in 2001 and in 2002. Delia explained that the Robins that were released first occupied the best habitats (flat areas having a diverse flora and lots of deep mulch) with minimal competition; later arrivals had to go further afield to establish themselves and their offspring have moved away even further, including leaving the sanctuary.

Delia said that about 59% of Robins remained in the sanctuary, territories are typically about 2.9 ha, the absence of mammalian

predators made survival rates higher than elsewhere in New Zealand, and breeding success was one of the best recorded in New Zealand. There were nine pairs breeding in the 2001/2002 season and 21 in the 2002/2003 season. The second season had a higher breeding success, attributed to increased experience and less translocation stress. Four or five pairs laid a third clutch. Delia concluded that, in general, the translocation was successful and nearby Wellington residents are now waiting to see Robins in their backyards!

Several members helped with the winter counts in early July of the quarterly survey of birds in the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary. This was the third year of winter counts in the resurvey that will be completed in July 2005. Colin Miskelly, who is conducting the survey, comments that several species continue to show increased conspicuousness compared to the 1995-97 baseline, most notably Tui which is now an increasingly common suburban bird in much of the Wellington Region. Other conspicuous species are Kingfisher and Dunnock. There are insignificant differences for Blackbird, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Shining Cuckoo, Song Thrush and Starling.

Monthly surveys of birds in the Pauatahanui Inlet in the period 2002-04 concluded in June 2004. Allan Munroe has coordinated the team that made the counts; in a preliminary report he comments that 51 species were recorded, the highest in any one month being 43. The most numerous species was Southern Black-backed Gull, although numbers are sharply down on the earlier surveys done in 1982/84 and 1992/94. Mallard, Red-billed Gull, Starling, Spur-winged Plover and Black Swan were the next most numerous species. Significant reductions in numbers were recorded for Black Shag, Little Shag, White-faced Heron, Mallard, Southern Black-backed Gull and Red-billed Gull. The most obvious and spectacular increase in numbers was for Royal Spoonbill. There were also significant increases in numbers of Canada Geese, Paradise Shelducks, Pied Oystercatchers, Variable Oystercatchers and Spur-winged Plovers.

The ongoing survey of birds on Somes Island/Matiu, coordinated by Rod Orange, has continued with several members working closely with the Department of Conservation to monitor the behaviour and movements of parakeets on the island. It is now clear that parakeets bred on Somes Island/Matiu in 2003 as several unbanded juveniles have been seen recently. Courtship, mating and exploring of nest boxes by pairs of birds have been observed at close range in recent weeks, and so we are all hopeful that the parakeets will become firmly re-established on the island over the next year or two. The largest number of parakeets seen simultaneously was 12 in early July.

Under the guidance of Peter Reese several members have again helped with bird-capture and banding work at the Wellington Zoo and at the Karori Cemetery, contributing to our knowledge of bird age and distribution. Tui have been caught more often over this winter; nearly 50 have now been banded. Peter encourages everyone to keep a close look out for banded Tui in the city, and beyond. He says that seven species now have a recapture period of 1,000 days or longer, namely Silvereye (1,414), Greenfinch (1,407), Blackbird (1,386), House Sparrow (1,379), Starling (1,113), Chaffinch (1,064) and Yellowhammer (1,000).

**IAN ARMITAGE AND STUART NICHOLSON**

## Nelson

Willie Cook noticed a Song Thrush sitting on four eggs on 8 June, close to an equally early 2003 nest site.

A Pied Oystercatcher banded in Tasman Bay has been seen at Auckland Airport; the first one banded here to be seen outside the area. Another was seen at Farewell Spit. A Wrybill banded six years ago has been seen on Motueka Sandspit after not being seen for 18 months.

Willie and Don Cooper are monitoring the Bell's Island shellbank during July and August for Wrybills passing through to their nesting areas in the Canterbury braided rivers. Daily numbers have varied from 100 to zero. So far they have seen one Golden Bay- and four locally-flagged birds.

The Tasman District Council (TDC) and Department of Conservation have been meeting with members of OSNZ and other wildlife interest groups who would like the Motueka Sandspit to have better protection from dogs, horses and 4-wheel motorbikes. Pauline Samways, then David Melville, Rob Schuckard and Steve Wood put strong cases, slides and graphs to the TDC in support of the request. The sandspit is a close second to Farewell Spit in importance for waders and migratory species in the region. Pauline Samways's data, obtained from a year monitoring the sandspit, and the OSNZ bi-annual census figures are proving invaluable as support data in proving birds occupying the area need better protection.

There is strong public interest in re-establishing a wetland a few kilometres east of Nelson City on public conservation and Nelson City

Council land. Waders, coastal and sea birds would benefit greatly. We are also continuing to monitor wader populations in and around the Waimea Estuary, which will need more protection from the increasing numbers of people and their pets.

GILLIAN POLLOCK

## Marlborough

The winter months have been relatively quiet with some effort being put into atlasing 'winter' squares, with various members participating. There were no major surprises apart from a pair of Tomtits in our 'home' square (but a long way from our home).

The June and July Lake Grassmere counts went ahead as planned, though the July count was delayed by three days due to very inclement weather. Bird numbers were down in June, but we did record a Black-fronted Dotterel. The only other time in this series of counts that this species was recorded was June last year. The July count did not provide great quantities of birds, but Pied Stilts and Black Swans were present in good numbers. In September we will be hosting the local Forest and Bird members on our count.

With the start of spring we have a number of activities planned, atlasing having a high priority. We will be targeting 'missed' squares over Labour Weekend and the Marlborough Anniversary Weekend (November 1). In the first case we will be selecting isolated single squares which have no records. On the latter we will be joining DoC and OSNZ Nelson to cover a major non-covered block of squares without road access on Molesworth Station.

We have a series of five-minute counts planned on Maud Island just prior to Labour Weekend. At the same time we will be checking the productivity of the artificially-established Fluttering Shearwater colony. We are also planning a survey of the Lower Awatere River, and also some of the newly created dams constructed to hold water for irrigation of grapes.

Mike Bell has been trialling some passerine-banding using both mist nets and traps. He has processed 150 Silvereyes and a smaller number of other species. We plan to do more training next year now that we know we can obtain sufficient birds to enable everyone to have a turn handling, banding, measuring and recording moult.

Our main banding effort in the next few months will be directed towards colour-banding Royal Spoonbill chicks at the Wairau Lagoons. We began last season, only managing to band four chicks. However, one of these has been sighted at Delaware Bay near Nelson. We hope to band a lot more Spoonbills in the coming season so please keep a watch out for them. Advise either the Banding Office, DoC [a form for this purpose is available on the OSNZ website] or Peter Schweigman (121 Maryhill Terrace, Dunedin), who is the coordinator for the Royal Spoonbill programme.

BRIAN BELL

## Canterbury

As usual winter has been rather quiet regarding sightings of unusual birds. Cattle Egrets have only been seen in single figures this year near Lake Ellesmere, reflecting the dramatic downturn in numbers of this species nation-wide. An Eastern Curlew and up to five Whimbrels have over-wintered at the Ashley Estuary. The Avon-Heathcote Estuary has hosted four Little Black Shags; the largest group of this species so far in the region. Cirl Buntings have been seen at the nearby newly-enlarged Bexley Wetlands and elsewhere near the estuary. The now regular Glossy Ibis and Australasian Bittern have wintered at Travis Wetland again. Peak numbers of Australasian Crested Grebes wintering at Lake Forsyth continue to climb, with 173 this July.

On the West Coast, Ron Nilsson reported a short and poor sighting of a South Island Kokako somewhere in a forest in the more northern part of that region. Further work by Ron, Rhys Buckingham and SIKIT (the South Island Kokako Investigation Team) in the same area has identified further records by calls.

Petrina Duncan, Jack van Hal and Scott Hooson brought members up to date in May with Orange-fronted Parakeets and happenings and plans for the mainland islands of the South Branch of the Hurunui and the Hawdon Rivers. A number of young Orange-fronted Parakeets are now safely hatched and reared at Peacock Springs. These should form the nucleus of a captive-breeding insurance population of the species, with the ultimate aim being release on Chalky Island in Fiordland. Meanwhile, Operation Ark has been planned, to swing into action with a stepwise anti-predator response to a beech masting event in the mainland islands to attempt to safeguard populations of both Orange-fronted Parakeets and Yellowheads from attack by rats and stoats.

In June, Paul Scofield presented an entertaining, and at times

amusing, account of the islands that are our nearest neighbours to the east – a long way to the east – the Juan Fernandez Islands. The archipelago is off the coast of Chile, and to try to increase the flow of tourists much has been made by the Chilean government of their connection with Robinson Crusoe. Indeed that is the name of the main island. It must come as something of a shock to tourists that the airport is on the opposite side of the island to the main settlement, and transfer to their accommodation requires a voyage around the coast through sometimes rough seas, and sometimes in tiny open fishing boats. Paul was especially interested in the tubenoses that breed at the archipelago.

At the Juan Fernandez Islands there is the familiar story of introduction of predators and pests with the result that ground-nesting seabirds are extirpated from the main island, and cling onto existence on offshore islets and outliers. Slow and steady progress, sometimes by trial and error, is being made on pest-control, however, and things are starting to look rosier for the seabirds.

The indoor meeting in July featured the showing of two videos. The first featured the birds of Broome in north-western Australia, showing to good effect the sizeable avifauna of the area and the habitats the birds use. The second was a video about a national park in Viet Nam, and the way that the government has integrated the local population into its management to reduce the incidence of poaching and illegal clearance.

In August, Richard Holdaway gave a fascinating insight into recent developments in the study and understanding of long-dead birds. Advances in DNA amplification allows the use of what can only be described as tiny amounts of dirt to be used to work out diet. Feathers and tiny amounts of bone can be used to work out which species of bird is involved, and even what sex it is. The above can also be worked out from fossilised dung – should this be found. Computer technology can now be used to draw postulated distribution maps given data of presence in fossil deposits and the habitat that would have existed. Distribution changes caused by advancing and retreating glaciation, and major volcanic eruptions can be tracked, with perhaps the most startling being the relatively transitory occurrence of Mappin's Moa in what must have been shrublands over a large area of the eastern North Island following a large eruption of Taupo.

The winter wader count at Lake Ellesmere attracted a good number of observers to a Lake Ellesmere that unfortunately didn't reciprocate with good numbers of birds – especially unusual birds. A small number of Red-necked Stilts were found, but the small number of over-wintering Wrybills seen not too long previously were not seen, and neither was a Black Stilt.

At last the annual July count of the waterbirds of the Ashburton Lakes area was graced with good weather. With snow coating the foothills, the environment was one big picture postcard scene. Numbers of Crested Grebes and Scaup were similar to recent years. Coots continued their slow decline in numbers. The après-count soup at Lake Clearwater was even more delicious to the author, and to the Canterbury secretary, David Clarkson, after slogging through a semi-frozen (and therefore very unpredictable) swamp for a couple of hours.

In August, some of the eastern bays of Banks Peninsula were visited by a small but committed group of members in conjunction with the regional presence/absence project looking at bush reserves on the peninsula. A large number of reserves were visited, in perhaps not totally ideal weather conditions, but yielding good data nonetheless. The only bird species expected, but not found, was Rifleman. Seven less committed birders in the region had taken a short migration north to join the birds of the Cairns, Atherton Tablelands and Georgetown areas of Queensland, enjoying some heat and sun in the process.

NICK ALLEN

## Southland

After receiving reports of Brown Teal on ponds west of Lake George, Lloyd Esler and I searched in vain for these elusive rarities: being duck-shooting season we saw very little birdlife at all. We intend to revisit the area in spring. The Department of Conservation is also interested in the reports; there are plans to introduce the species back into parts of Southland. These sightings could have some bearing on the sites being considered.

We have had a request from Christopher Robertson for specimens of juvenile White-capped Albatross that may wash up on Southland beaches during the winter. So far beach patrols have come up with very little. In fact, the last three patrols I have done have produced only one bird for every three kilometres walked: still, it is good exercise.

Our July speaker was Ralph Powlesland who brought us up to date with the New Zealand Pigeon and Tui monitoring programme that is well under way in Southland. It was interesting to hear that some of our New Zealand Pigeons flew back and forth to Stewart Island on several





occasions. He also talked about his Rock Pigeon study in a Wellington car park and fielded numerous questions on both subjects.

Sheila Petch from Canterbury spotted a colour-banded Caspian Tern which is probably from Southland. Maida Barlow banded many terns up until the early 1990s, when she moved to Tasmania and her work was carried on by Gary Morgan for a number of years.

Lloyd Esler reported a Morepork from Queens Park in July. It is good to have an urban Morepork after years of only hearing Little Owls.

We have received reports of dead House Sparrows from Otatara.

Possibly the salmonella epidemic from recent years is still affecting certain flocks.

Lloyd Esler will be repeating his popular 'Birds at Borland' programme from September 30 to October 3. There is a good chance of seeing Crested Grebes, Robins, Yellowheads, Fernbirds and Kea, to name but a few. Last years programme found approximately 50 species.

PHIL RHODES

## Regional Reps & What's on



### Far North

Detlef Davies, Waipapa Lagoon, Landing Road, Kerikeri 0470. Ph (09) 407 3874. Email detlefdaviesd@yahoo.com

### Northland

Katrina Hansen, 3 Harbour View Road, Onerahi, Whangarei. Ph (09) 430 2133. Email khansen@doc.govt.nz

Evening meetings, second Thursday of the month, ph. David Crockett (09) 435 0954. West coast beach patrols ph. Prue Cozens (09) 437 7760. East coast beach patrols ph. Pauline Smith (09) 435 3060. Whangarei Harbour wader count ph. Tony Beauchamp (09) 436 2661. North Kaipara wader count ph. David Crockett (09) 435 0954.

### Auckland

Suzi Phillips, Private Bag 1, Helensville 1250, Auckland. Ph (09) 420 5278. Fax (09) 420 4086. Email suzi@dialogue.co.nz

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) at 7.45pm in the Kohia Teachers' Centre in the grounds of Auckland College of Education, 74 Epsom Avenue, Mt. Eden.

### South Auckland

David Lawrie, 52 Mill Road, R D 2, Pukekohe, Auckland. Ph (09) 238 8407. Email lawrie@ps.gen.nz

Evening meetings are held at the Papakura Croquet Clubrooms, 5 Chapel Street, Papakura, on the second Tuesday of each month (Feb-Nov) at 7.45pm. Beach patrols ph. Wendy Goad (09) 292 7838. Manukau and Firth of Thames censuses ph. Tony Habraken (09) 238 5284

### Waikato

Roger Day, 42A Hillcrest Road, Hamilton. Ph (07) 859 0272. Email rogerjday@xtra.co.nz

Evening meetings, every third Wednesday, 7.30pm, DoC, London Street, Hamilton.

Beach patrols ph. Hugh Clifford (07) 855 3751. Hamilton Lake census ph. Barry Friend (07) 843 6729. Forest Lake census ph. Brian Challinor (07) 855 2561. Cambridge Lake census ph. Hugh Clifford. Bird sightings: Regional recorder, Dai Morgan dm30@waikato.ac.nz Atlas scheme: Stella Rowe 07 8435199

### Bay of Plenty/Volcanic Plateau

Tim Barnard, 5 Larcy Road, Lynmore, Rotorua. Ph (07) 345 3433. Email tim.barnard@xtra.co.nz

### Gisborne/Wairoa

RR's position vacant.

### Hawke's Bay

Murray Jeffries, 2a Cobden Road, Napier 4001. Ph (06) 834 3865. Fax (06) 834 3867. Email mcjeffries@xtra.co.nz

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

### Taranaki

Barry Hartley, 12a Ronald Street, New Plymouth. Ph (06) 757 8644. Email Barry\_Hartley@clear.net.nz

Evening meetings – first Tuesday of the month (exc Jan) 7.30pm. Field trips on first conducive weekend thereafter.

### Wanganui

Tom Teasdale, 33 Paterson Street, Aramoho, Wanganui 5001. Ph (06) 343 9992. Email teasdale.family@clear.net.nz

Evening meetings – fourth Tuesday of the month, Davis Lecture Theatre, Wanganui Regional Museum (Watt Street).

### Manawatu

Ian Saville, 23 Duke Street, Feilding. Ph (06) 323 1441. Email binzsav@clear.net.nz

Evening meetings – second Wednesday of Feb, May, Aug and Nov, Lido Centre, Park Street, Palmerston North, 8pm. Beach patrols – first Wednesday of each month and also at other irregular times.

### Wairarapa

Miles King, Olivers Road, R D 6 Masterton 5921. Ph (06) 377 5252. Email kingsmeade@contact.net.nz

Evening meetings held on the second Thursday of the month (exc Jan) 7.30pm, venue alternating between Masterton and Greytown. Field trips are the following weekend. Contact Miles King for further details.

### Wellington

Stuart Nicholson, 15 Bruce Avenue, Brooklyn, Wellington 6002. Ph (04) 934 5940. Email Nicholson@paradise.net.nz

Evening meetings – first Monday of the month, DoC Science and Research Centre, ph. Stuart Nicholson (04) 934 5940. Matiu/Somes Island surveys, ph. Rod Orange (04) 473 1912. Pauatahanui Inlet surveys, ph. Allan Munro (04) 566 4834. Mist-netting and passerine banding at The Zoo, various Saturdays, ph. Peter Reese (04) 387 7387. Informal field trips (can include atlassing), ph. Stuart Nicholson (04) 934 5940. Beach patrols, ph. Jean Luke (04) 904 1704.

### Nelson

Steve Wood, Hursthouse Street, Lower Moutere, R D 2 Upper Moutere, Nelson 7152. Ph 03 528 6438. Email utopia.landscapes@clear.net.nz

Evening meetings – usually first Monday of the month, 7.15pm upstairs in Café Affair, Trafalgar Street, Nelson. Ph. Steve Wood (03) 528 6438 or Don Cooper (03) 544 8109.

### Marlborough

Brian Bell (acting RR), 35 Selmes Road, R D 3 Rapaura, Blenheim. Ph (03) 570 2230. Email wmiilblenheim@clear.net.nz

Lake Grassmere count – third Saturday of month. Ph Brian Bell.

### Canterbury/West Coast

Nick Allen, 65 Allin Drive, Waikuku, North Canterbury 8254. Ph (03) 312 7183. Email nick\_allen@xtra.co.nz

Evening meetings last Monday of the month, Spreydon Bowling Club, Domain Terrace, Christchurch. Monthly field trips – dates vary. Ph. Nick Allen (03) 312 7183.

### Otago

Louise Foord, P.O. Box 12002, Maori Hill, Dunedin. Ph (03) 467 5041. Fax (03) 467 5071.

Evening meetings Otago Art Society building, cnr Albany & Great King Streets. Ph. Louise Foord.

### Southland

Phil Rhodes, 92 Marama Avenue North, R D 9 Otatara, Invercargill. Ph (03) 213 1228. Email p.rhodes@xtra.co.nz

Evening meetings (in conjunction with Field Club) held second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Please phone numbers below for venue and further information, field trip usually on Saturday following. Beach Patrols on a casual basis, phone Phil Rhodes (03) 213-1228 or Lloyd Esler (03) 213-0404.



