



# Southern Bird

No. 22 June 2005 • ISSN 1175-1916

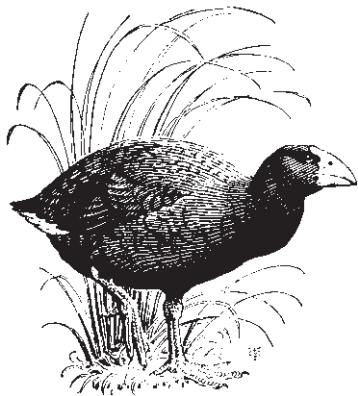
Campbell Island  
Snipe Recolonise  
Campbell Island

Marlborough  
passerine banding  
weekends successful

Annual Report







# Southern Bird

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## Quotation

*Terrifying are the attent sleek thrushes on the lawn,  
More coiled steel than living – a poised  
Dark deadly eye, those delicate legs  
Triggered to stirrings beyond sense –  
with a start, a bounce, a stab  
Overtake the instant and drag out some writhing thing.  
No indolent procrastinations and no yawning stares,  
No sighs or head-scratchings. Nothing but bounce and stab  
And a ravening second*

Thrushes by Ted Hughes

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## Cover Photos

**Front cover:** Campbell Island Snipe chick captured near Six Foot Lake, Campbell Island on 10th March 2005. Photo by Dave Barker.

**Back cover:** North Island Fernbrid - Photo taken by Barry Hartley

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

Articles for inclusion in *Southern Bird* are welcome in any form, though electronic is preferred. Material should be related to birds, birdwatchers, or ornithologists in the New Zealand and Pacific region, and can include news on birds, members, activities and bird study, literature/product reviews, letters to the editor, birdwatching sites, identification. Illustrations are especially welcome, though they must be sharp.

## Unusually late or early breeding of a pair of New Zealand Dabchicks

Kotuku pond, just south-east of the Waikanae estuary, is adjacent to a recently-developed suburb of Paraparaumu. It is an artificial, storm-water drainage, sand-dune pond of circa 2-3 ha, which has been developed for public use, with an encircling gravel path and plantings of native shrubs and trees (*Cordyline*, *Pittosporum*, *Hebe*, *Metrosideros*, *Phormium*). Raupo (*Typha*) and reeds occupy most of its shore. There are two very small islets. It attracts various waterfowl, shags, New Zealand Dabchicks and Pukeko.

On a visit to the pond on 2nd June 2002 we were surprised to see a chick on the back of the smaller bird (possibly the female) of a pair of Dabchicks. It had possibly hatched within a day or so, as it only occasionally looked out and was still being carried six days later (by the larger bird of the pair). Given an incubation period of 22-23 days (*HANZAB* vol.1 A: p.113), the egg had been laid about the 10th May 2002.

No feeding was observed on 2nd June, though the larger bird dived several times and apparently found food once. On 8th June the smaller bird was diving constantly and fed the chick directly once, but usually gave the food to the carrying bird. On 21st June the chick was again on the larger bird's back and was more conspicuous; feeding was the same as on 8th June. No diving by the carrying bird was seen.

On 6th July the chick was swimming up to 30 m from its parents, diving, and rising in the water to vigorously flap its thin scraps of wings. Though apparently almost as big as its parents, it still seemed quite downy, and its

head still retained its distinctive pattern. Both parents were bringing food to it, including a small fish which seemed too large for any of them to swallow.

On 10th August it seemed virtually independent, being at the opposite end of the pond. It made three half flights/half runs of up to 40 m over the surface; its wings still looked flimsy and, though bodily well-feathered apparently, its head still had some of the original pattern.

On 31st August we saw no Dabchicks at the pond and presumed that they had departed, but perhaps only the juvenile had gone: on 3rd November a pair was seen there with two chicks. We presume this was the same pair, and possibly they were discreetly attending a nest on 31st August. The chicks were at about the same stage as the first one on 6th July: about 5-6 weeks old. They were diving actively to feed and keeping close to their parents. Departure from the natal pond by juveniles has been recorded at 81 days (*HANZAB*), so the early chick may have left the pond in late August.

Dabchicks have an extended breeding season, with egg-laying recorded from early June to late March (*HANZAB*). Thus egg-laying by the Paraparaumu pair on about the 10th May lies right in the middle of the previously reported non-laying period. The clutch was possibly only one, but evidently the breeding attempt was successful.

MIKE AND MIRIEL IMBER

## Publisher

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# Campbell Island Snipe Recolonise Campbell Island

The New Zealand birdwatching and conservation communities were astounded by the announcement in November 1997 that a previously unknown snipe population had been discovered in the Campbell Island group. A survey team using trained bird dogs landed on rarely visited Jacquemart Island (19 ha) to search for Campbell Island Teal. They did not find any, but the dogs located at least ten snipe, one of which was caught. There were no previous acceptable records of *Coenocorypha* snipe from Campbell Island, but it is now apparent that rats reached the island before the first naturalists did (Miskelly, C.M. 2000. Historical records of snipe from Campbell Island, New Zealand. *Notornis* 47: 131-140). Norway Rats *Rattus norvegicus* were eradicated from 11,268 ha Campbell Island in July 2001 in the world's largest successful rat eradication programme. Campbell Island is now free of all introduced mammals.

A team surveying for rat presence on Campbell Island in May 2003 located possible snipe footprints in mud at Monument Harbour, the nearest point of land to Jacquemart Island. Jacquemart Island lies about 1 km off the south coast of Campbell Island, and it was suspected that at least one bird had managed to fly across. This was confirmed in March 2005, when two snipe were seen and one caught near Six Foot Lake at the head of Monument Harbour.

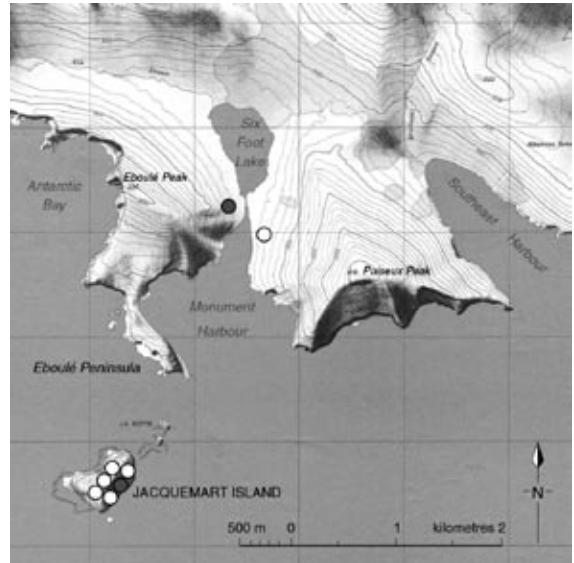
Campbell Island Teal sourced from a successful captive breeding programme were released on Campbell Island in September 2004. A team monitoring the outcome of the teal translocation was based on Campbell Island in February-March 2005. Among the team were Dave Barker and Gus the dog - both were members of the team who discovered the snipe on Jacquemart Island in 1997. On 10th March DB, HE & Gus found what they assumed to be a pair of snipe among dense tussock and sedge southwest of Six Foot Lake. The smaller bird was captured and photographed. Analysis of the photographs following the team's return to New Zealand revealed that the bird captured was actually a fully-feathered chick, and it is likely that the second bird was its parent.

This remarkable discovery indicates that not only have snipe of both sexes reached Campbell Island from Jacquemart Island, but that successful breeding has occurred there within four years of rat eradication. This rapid recolonisation was a surprise, as no snipe had been detected on Campbell Island in the previous 165 years, despite long periods when naturalists were resident at the wartime coast-watching station and subsequent meteorological station. It was also uncertain whether the Jacquemart population was large enough to produce sufficient colonists within a short enough timeframe for them to locate a mate on the much larger main island.

It is now apparent that snipe must have attempted to recolonise Campbell Island on many occasions, but were defeated by rats and cats. Reasons for the colonisation attempts remaining undetected until now include the formerly high predation pressure, the dense vegetation that snipe prefer, and the remoteness of Monument Harbour, which is about three hours walk from the meteorological station. It must also be remembered that trained bird dogs have found all Campbell Island Snipe located so far.

Only two Campbell Island snipe have been handled to date, and no genetic samples have been collected. The taxon remains both undescribed and critically endangered. Further survey is needed to determine whether a viable population has established on Campbell Island.

DAVE BARKER, HANNAH EDMONDS AND COLIN MISKELLY



Map of southern Campbell Island and Jacquemart Island, showing the locations of Snipe sightings and footprints (white dots) and capture sites (dark dots). Map from NZTopoOnline, extracted April 2005, Crown Copyright



Jacquemart Island – the southernmost landmass in New Zealand, and the site where Campbell Island Snipe persisted for approximately 170 years. Jacquemart Island has been landed on briefly on three occasions only, all via helicopter (Jeremy Carroll, DoC).



The first Campbell Island Snipe captured – on Jacquemart Island on 9 November 1997 (Jeremy Carroll, DoC).

## BIRD PEOPLE

OSNZ and birds in New Zealand lost a good friend with the passing of Keith Chapple on 29th March. He was the immediate past president of Forest and Bird, and chairperson of the Central North Island Blue Duck Trust, which has improved the conservation status of this species in the Wanganui and Taranaki region. He also conceived and ran the Kiwis for Kiwis campaign which was a major factor in The Government's decision to spend \$10 million on kiwi conservation and establish five sanctuary areas for this family of birds.

Margaret Childs, wife of the late Peter Childs, of Alexandra passed

away in early May. Though inactive for a number of years many will remember her helping Peter with his bird studies.

Rob and Anneke Schuckard recently won the supreme award and the forestry award at the 2005 Marlborough Rural Environment Awards for the land regeneration and conservation work they have done on their property in the Marlborough Sounds. Congratulations to Rob and Anneke, who will be well-known to wader-workers in New Zealand, and also for Rob's long-running work on King Shags (source *The Marlborough Express* 9/5/05 p2).

# ANNUAL REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL FOR 2004-2005

It is my pleasure to present this report on behalf of Council to the 66th Annual General Meeting of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand to be held in Hamilton on 4th June 2005.

## Council

Council met formally on two occasions in 2004, the first being in Oamaru on 4th June 2004 in conjunction with the 2004 AGM, and the second being at the Travis Wetland Education Centre in Christchurch on 29-30th October 2004. Council continues to have very full agendas for its formal meetings even though it is able, by virtue of modern electronic methods of communication, to deal with a considerable amount and variety of important business in between them.

It was mentioned in *Southern Bird* 20 (December 2004) that Kerry-Jayne Wilson and Ros Batcheler had tendered their resignations as Council members to be effective at the conclusion of the 2005 AGM. The Society is grateful to both Kerry-Jayne and Ros for the contributions they made as Councillors, and to Kerry-Jayne for the contributions she also made during that time as South Island Vice-President and as the first Chairperson of the Scientific Committee. Ros will continue as our Book Reviews Editor.

## Membership

Paid-up membership of the Society was 904 as at 30th April 2005. This consisted of ordinary members (639), family members (101), life members (60), student members (30), institutional members (70), and fellows (4). Some 57 members had not renewed their membership at that date, and a few more had resigned or died. On the positive side, our membership secretary, Roger Sharp, advises that the Society has recently been averaging two new members per week, many of them joining through our web site.

## Notornis and Southern Bird

I expressed the hope in my Annual Report for 2003-2004 (*Southern Bird* 18, June 2004) that members will continue to supply the editors of *Notornis* and *Southern Bird* with adequate amounts of interesting and informative material for publication. Nick Allen, editor of *Southern Bird*, has advised Council that he usually has a surplus of material for each quarterly issue. He would like to occasionally or permanently increase the number of pages of that publication so that he can expeditiously accommodate all the material he receives from members, and include other items of ornithological interest.

On the other hand, Murray Williams, editor of *Notornis*, has expressed his concern about the recent decline in the number of substantive papers he has received for publication in that journal. Council is giving serious consideration to this situation, and the possible reasons for it. *Notornis*, whose readership includes people all over the world, continues to be one of the major contributions by the Society and its membership, both professional and amateur, to knowledge of the birds of Australasia, Oceania, and Antarctica, with particular emphasis on the birds of the New Zealand region.

It is of paramount importance that the Society maintains the integrity of its international journal. Council therefore requests that members support the Society by submitting their substantive ornithological papers to the editor of *Notornis* for publication in that journal.

## Contracts with Ministry of Fisheries and Director-General of Conservation

I mentioned in my Annual Report for 2002-2003 (*Southern Bird* 14, June 2003) that the Society had entered into a contract with the Ministry of Fisheries, due for completion by the end of 2004, the overall objective

of which was to provide baseline information on the distribution and abundance of intertidal macro-benthic organisms at Farewell Spit, with particular reference to prey species for shorebirds.

I mentioned in my last Annual Report (*Southern Bird* 18, June 2004) that the Society had also entered into a contract with the Director-General of Conservation, due for completion in June 2004, to review and report upon current knowledge of the links between breeding and wintering sites of indigenous wading bird species, and identify information gaps.

Council is pleased to advise that both contracts have been completed. The Society is grateful to those members, and others, who ensured that they were fulfilled on behalf of the Society in a timely and professional manner. The report resulting from the first-mentioned contract has been published by the Ministry of Fisheries as Battley, P.F.; Melville, D.S.; Schuckard, R.; Ballance, P.F. (2005). Quantitative survey of the intertidal benthos of Farewell Spit, Golden Bay. *Marine Biodiversity Biosecurity Report No. 7*. Publication of the report resulting from the second-mentioned contract is in progress.

## Banding Office

It was resolved at the 2004 AGM held in Oamaru (*Southern Bird* 19, September 2004) 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 of Conservation's proposal to remove all bands from Southern Royal Albatrosses banded on Campbell Island. Subsequently, I wrote on behalf of the Society to both the Minister and Director-General of Conservation about those matters. Their replies are currently being considered and followed-up by Council, and by David Melville as the Society's Banding Liaison Officer.

## Bird Distribution Mapping Scheme

The fieldwork associated with the scheme has been completed. The scheme has introduced many people, both members and a large number who are not, to new countryside and birds. As at late April 2005, over 1,000 observers had compiled about 31,000 record sheets. This is a very significant result compared with the last mapping scheme that produced just under 19,000 record cards over the 10-year period 1969-1979. Entry of data from the present scheme should be completed shortly.

## Australasian Ornithological Conference and Australasian Shorebird Conference

The Australasian Ornithological Conference is a biennial conference that provides a regular forum for the exchange of information and ideas between avian researchers and conservationists throughout the Australasian region. It is a joint Ornithological Society of New Zealand and Birds Australia initiative to promote ornithology. The third Australasian Ornithological Conference will be held in Blenheim from 6-10th December 2005.

The Society, in association with the Australasian Wader Study Group and the New Zealand Wader Study Group, is also hosting the 2005 Australasian Shorebird Conference. This conference focuses on wader research and conservation. It provides an opportunity for wader enthusiasts to exchange ideas and information in an international forum. It will be held in Nelson from 11-13th December 2005, immediately following the Australasian Ornithological Conference.

This is the first time these two important international conferences will be held in New Zealand. Together, they should constitute the



biggest ornithological gathering in this country since the International Ornithological Congress held in Christchurch in 1990. It is hoped that many members of our Society will avail themselves of the opportunity to participate in them.

#### **Miranda Naturalists' Trust**

Our excellent relationship with the Miranda Naturalists' Trust has continued throughout the past year. *The OSNZ Column* concerning our Society and its activities has appeared regularly in *Miranda Naturalists' Trust News*. Since my last Annual Report, the following have been the subject of articles in that column: the 'New Zealand Storm Petrel' (May 2004), the Scientific Day (August 2004), the Beach Patrol Scheme 1997-1999 (November 2004), and Upcoming Conferences (February 2005).

#### **Appreciation**

Council thanks all other members who have contributed in many ways to the management and well-being of our Society during the past year, including regional representatives and regional recorders, our membership secretary, the editors of *Notornis* and *Southern Bird*, members of the *Notornis* Editorial Board and reviewers, contributors to *Notornis* and *Southern Bird*, compilers of, and contributors to, regional

newsletters, convenors and organisers of the Beach Patrol Scheme, Nest Records Scheme, Moulting Scheme, Atlas Scheme and Twitchathon, members of the Rare Birds Committee, the Scientific Committee, and the Checklist Committee, compilers of Classified Summarised Notes, our librarians and webmaster, those members who have made generous donations of various sorts to the Society, and many other members particularly at a regional level.

Council also thanks Tom and Hazel Harty, Chris Robertson, Bruce McKinlay, and many others, including speakers at the Scientific Day, for their various contributions that made our 2004 AGM weekend in Oamaru both enjoyable and productive. As I have said more than once before, it would not be possible to run our voluntary Society without the goodwill and willing assistance of all these people, and the continuing support of the general membership itself.

**DAVID G. MEDWAY**

**President**

5th May 2005

## TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st December 2004

The accounts show that Society finances continue to improve and the overall deficit is being reduced. To reflect the correct position, the Accumulated Funds Account (in deficit) has been renamed the General Account, otherwise the overall accounts remain the same.

The Statement of Balances is noteworthy due to the welcome increase in funding with a grant of \$50,000 to the Meadows Fund enabling a closing balance in 2003 of \$26,497 to increase (after increased expenditure) to \$63,002 at balance date in 2004. The remaining accounts are listed and appear satisfactory apart from comments below.

The General Account shows an increase in receipts of \$3,184, largely due to fee increases. On the expenditure side there has been a decrease in printing cost for *Notornis* and major increases in Council meeting and travel expenses due to the AGM being held at Oamaru and the November Council meeting in Christchurch. This was anticipated, but other costs have been held and the overall surplus of \$6,113 together with the increase of subscriptions approved last year should ensure we will be able to reduce the overall deficit further in this current year.

Income has risen in the Project Assistance Fund because of the royalties having increased some \$853 (with a further \$1,000 for the second half of 2004 received since balance date). Expenditure was also up because (a) a grant was made for final field work for the Atlas project and, (b) an advance was made to the AOC in Blenheim later this year (this may be fully recoverable). The balance of \$99,701 is virtually the same as last year and is still more than adequate for foreseeable needs. Funds may be made available from it to assist in completion of the Atlas project if necessary.

In addition to the \$50,000 already mentioned, income to the Meadows Atlas Fund has been received from interest and a transfer from the Project Assistant Fund of \$2,529 to help complete Atlas field work. The noteworthy feature of this Account is the difference that two people, Messrs Meadows and Robertson, have made via a gift and through application to the Department of Conservation for funding. Christopher Robertson has also led in the planning and execution of the project. The influence of these two men will be respected and admired within and outside the Society in future years. Their efforts are alongside the earlier efforts of Hugh Robertson and the late Barrie Heather with *The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand*.

The other accounts together with notes are in the usual format. The contracts which the Society is undertaking to assist with biodiversity and to help make sure our records and information held are published and available for all members and researchers will vary from year to year as funding and supervision by the Scientific Committee and members permits. However, by these paid studies we will get more records of the highest quality and gain some financial help for the Society.

Finally I wish to thank the President, David Medway, all Council members, Kerry-Jayne Wilson (first and retiring Chair Scientific Committee), the Regional Reps, Hazel and Tom Harty, Roger Sharp, Nick Allen, and other members for their great help given to me once again in 2004.

**MARK NEE, JP B.Com, CA(Retired)**

**Treasurer**

*I have audited the financial report on the following pages. The financial report provides information about the past financial performance of the society and its financial position as at 31st December 2004.*

#### Council Responsibilities

The constitution of the society states that the administration and management of the society shall be vested in the Council. The Council is responsible for the preparation of an annual report and audited statement of accounts for the year to 31st December 2004.

#### Auditor's responsibilities

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

#### Basis of opinion

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

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

#### Qualified opinion

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

A physical stock count of inventory was not completed at year-end and there were no practical alternative auditing procedures that could be applied to confirm quantities. Accordingly, the existence of society materials stock valued at \$3,358 of library and assets of \$45,489 in the balance sheet were unable to be verified.

Subject to the matters noted in all the above paragraphs, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the society as at 31st December 2004 and the results of its activities for the year ended on that date.

The audit report was completed on 22nd April 2005 and my qualified opinion is expressed as at that date.

**JOHN KHOURI, B COM ACA, AUCKLAND**

#### THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC) BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004

	Note	2004	2003
General Funds		(51,891)	(58,004)
Life Membership Reserve		13,949	14,876
Plant Purchase, Replacement & Maintenance		15,688	15,733
Library Reserve		2,443	3,274
Members Funds		(19,811)	(24,121)
Sir Robert Falla Memorial Award		4,087	3,938
AT Edgar Junior Memorial Award		3,978	3,817
Project Assistance Fund		99,701	99,609
Meadows Atlas Fund		63,002	26,497
Contracts Fund		15,000	15,000
Restricted Funds Liabilities		185,768	148,861
Total Members Funds & Liabilities		165,957	124,740
Bank		3,527	35
Accounts Receivable	3	7,011	8,273
Advances		800	1,161
Society Materials Stock	4	3,358	3,989
Goods & Services Tax Due		8,312	0
Investments Solicitors Nominee Company		0	29,000
Investments BNZ		100,000	64,375
Investments Auckland Mortgage trust		30,000	0
Library & Assets		45,489	46,226
Sub Total		198,497	153,059

	Note	2004	2003
Less Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	5	2,530	3,130
Subscription in Advance		30,010	24,484
Goods & Services Tax Due		0	705
Sub Total		32,540	28,319
Net Total of Assets		165,957	124,740

#### INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004

	Note	2004	2003
<b>1. GENERAL FUNDS</b>			
<u>Income</u>			
Annual Subscriptions New Zealand		31,709	30,616
Annual Subscriptions Overseas		11,426	11,043
Donations		2,691	3,298
Sales		1,270	769
Notornis & Southern Bird Refunds	6	4,342	8,440
Annual Meetings		782	1,000
Administration Fees		1,544	490
Interest		680	0
Sub Total		54,444	55,656
Transfers From			
Life Membership Reserve			
Annual Contribution		1,488	1,592
Contract Account Fees		4,500	0
Sub total		5,988	1,592
Total Income		60,432	57,248

<u>Less Expenditure</u>			
Printing Notornis		20,787	22,304
Printing OSNZ News		10,270	10,320
Packing & Posting above		5,421	6,777
Registration & Reports - AGM		0	627
Council Meeting		3,617	456
Printing & Stationary		564	1,580
General Expenses		1,048	1,059
Travel Expenses		4,877	1,731
Postage & Tolls		1,302	1,635
Audit		1,320	1,320
Advertising		1,190	0
Insurances		732	825
Rare Birds Checklist Committees		455	126
Sub Total		51,583	48,760
Transfer to:-			
Library & Asset Account Depreciation		2,736	3,151
Sub Total		2,736	3,151
Total Expenditure		54,319	51,911
Surplus/ (Deficit) Income		6,113	5,337
Plus Balance		(58,004)	(63,341)
General Funds		(51,891)	(58,004)

#### INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

	2004	2003
<b>2. LIFE MEMBERSHIP RESERVE</b>		
<u>Income</u>		
Interest	559	550
Income	559	550
<u>Less Expenditure</u>		
Transfer to General Funds		
Annual Contribution	1,488	1,592
Surplus/(Deficit)	(928)	(1042)
Plus Balance as at 1 January 2004	14,876	15,918
Balance as at 31 December 2004	13,949	14,876

**3. PLANT PURCHASE REPLACEMENT & MAINTENANCE RESERVE**

<u>Expenditure</u>	Note	2004	2003
Repairs		45	130
Total Expenditure		45	130
Surplus( Deficit)		(45)	(130)
Plus Balance as at 1 January 2004		15,733	15,863
Balance as at 31 December 2004		15,688	15,733

**4. LIBRARY & ASSETS ACCOUNT**

	9		
<u>Income</u>			
Library Exchanges		2,000	1,763
		2,000	1,763
<u>Less</u>			
Transfer to General Funds			
Annual Depreciation		2,736	3,151
		2,736	3,151
Surplus/(Deficit)		(736)	(1,388)
Plus Balance as at 1 January 2004		46,226	47,614
Balance as at 31 December 2004		45,490	46,226

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004**

<b>5. SIR ROBERT FALLA MEMORIAL AWARD FUND</b>	Note	2004	2003
<u>Income</u>			
Interest		149	133
Expenditure/Award			0
Surplus/(Deficit)		149	133
Plus Fund Balance as at 1 January 2004		3,938	3,805
Balance as at 31 December 2004		4,087	3,938

**6. A T EDGAR JUNIOR AWARD FUND**

<u>Income</u>			
Donations		18	124
Interest		143	80
Income		161	204
Plus Fund Balance as at 1 January 2004		3,978	3,613
Balance as at 31 December 2004		3,977	3,817

**7. PROJECT ASSISTANCE FUNDS**

<u>Income</u>			
Royalties Penguin Field Guide		4,637	3,784
Interest		3,754	3,351
Projects Reversed		1,230	1,230
Legacy		0	500
Total Receipts		9,621	8,865

<u>Expenditure</u>			
Projects; Grants made	7A	1,991	1,000
Projects; Grants Approved	7B	1,230	1,230
Regional Petrol Grant	7C	2,373	4,360
Advance Conference Nov. 2005		1,406	0
Transfer			
Meadows Atlas Memorial Fund		2,529	0
Total Expenditure		9,529	6,590

Surplus/(Deficit)		92	2,275
Plus Balance as at 1 January 2004		99,609	97,334
Balance as at 31 December 2004		99,701	99,609

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 31 DECEMBER 2004**

<b>8. MEADOWS ATLAS FUND</b>	2004	2003
<u>Income</u>		
Doc. Atlas Project	50,000	0
Sales	569	846
Donations	336	426
Interest	2,585	0

	2004	2003
Transfers from		
Contracts	0	43,195
Project Assistance/Atlasing	2,529	1,000
Income	56,019	45,467

<u>Expenditure</u>		
Atlas Plans/Mapping	16,395	29,844
Data Entry	1,575	1,575
Transfer to General Account		
Administration Charge	1,544	0
Expenditure	19,514	31,419

Surplus/(Deficit)	36,505	14,048
Balance as at 1 January 2004	26,497	12,449
Balance as at 31 December 2004	63,002	26,497

**9. LIBRARY AUCTION RESERVE**

<u>Income</u>		
Auction Sales	0	5,619

<u>Expenditure</u>		
Auction Cost	0	1,039
Library Purchases	831	1,306
Surplus/(Deficit)	(831)	2,345
	(831)	3,274
Balance as at 1st January 2004	3,274	0
Balance as at 31 December 2004	2,443	3,274

**10. CONTRACTS ACCOUNT**

<u>Income</u>		
Receipts	17,000	58,195
	17,000	58,195
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Contractors	12,500	47,195
Transfer to -		
Meadows Atlas Memorial Fund		
General Account Administration Fees	4,500	0
	17,000	15,000
Surplus / (Deficit)	0	15,000
Balance 1st January 2004	15,000	0

**NOTE TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004**  
**1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES****General Accounting Principles**

The general accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of earnings under the historical cost method of accounting have been adopted by society.

**Particular Accounting Policies**

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

**a. Subscription Income**

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

**b. Royalty Income**

Sales of Collins Guide to the Birds of New Zealand ( Falla, Sibson, Turbott, ) have ceased.

Royalties from The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand ( Heather & Robertson) are credited to the Project Assistance Fund.

**c. Interest Earned**

Interest earned by investments of funds has been credited to respective funds at a rate of 5.2%. This rate is calculated by apportioning the total interest received over Restricted and General Funds, with a deduction for administration.

**d. Depreciation**

Depreciation is charged at an annual rate of 15% diminishing value.  
The library is not depreciated but retained at cost price or cost of journals exchanged with other societies and institutions.

**e. Goods & Service Tax**

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

**2. RESERVES****a. Life Membership**

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

**b. Plant Purchase**

The Plant Purchase Replacement and Maintenance Reserve, was set up in 1992 to ensure provision for replacement and maintenance of plant and is not currently funded as it is considered the Reserve is more than adequate.

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2004**

<b>3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE</b>	2004	2003
Royalties Penguin	2,000	1,900
Bank Interest	2,129	2,755
Notornis	0	2,620
Southern Bird	163	0
AGM refund	781	1,000
Posting Refund	957	0
Nelson OSNZ	981	0
	<u>7,011</u>	<u>8,275</u>

<b>4. STOCKS OF SALES ITEMS</b>	2004	2,003
Cost of Sales		
Notornis	126	592
Greeting Cards	124	200
Index	64	426
Atlases	63	316
Checklists	126	334
Car Stickers	44	460
Flying Starts	41	465
Posters	21	300
Hawkes Bay Booklet	22	265
	<u>631</u>	<u>3,358</u>
		<u>3,989</u>

**Valuation**

1. *Notornis*- In the past it was policy to print extra copies of the quarterly journal to be held for eventual sale to libraries, institutions and new members.  
Holdings are now reduced to only nominal value.
2. All other items are valued at estimated current values after council decided to cut all stocks from May 1997 and run down stocks on hand. Following a further write off in 2000 to the balance to a fairer level is now at a nominal level.

<b>5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE</b>	2004	2003
Projects Assistance Grants Unpaid	1,230	1,230
Audit Fee Accrued	1,300	1,300
Journals/pack stuff	0	600
	<u>2,530</u>	<u>3,130</u>

<b>6. NOTORNIS &amp; SOUTHERN BIRD REFUNDS</b>	2004	2003
Notornis/Library Exchanges	2000	1763
Papers in Notornis	2,178	6678
Southern Bird Adverts	164	0
	<u>4,342</u>	<u>8441</u>

<b>7A. PROJECT ASSISTANCE FUND GRANTS MADE</b>	2004	2003
04.01 Moults Scheme	1,991	0
Transfer to		
Meadows Atlas Memorial Fund	2,529	1,000
Regional Petrol Grants	2,373	4,360
Total Granted	<u>6,893</u>	<u>5,360</u>

<b>7B. PROJECTS APPROVED</b>	2004	2003
Various		
98.01 Southland's Black Billed Gull Banding	480	480
98.02 R. Keedwell's Study	350	350
99.01 Hawkes Bay Stopwatches	400	400
	<u>1,230</u>	<u>1,230</u>

**8. CASHFLOW STATEMENT**

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

# CALL FOR REGISTRATION



In December two exciting conferences are being held in New Zealand. The Australasian Ornithological Conference will be held in Blenheim from December 6th to 10th; and the Australasian Shorebird Conference in Nelson from December 11th to 13th. This is your chance to be involved in two important international conferences.

The Australasian Ornithological conference will include three full scientific days. This biennial conference provides a regular forum for the exchange of information and ideas between avian researchers and conservationists throughout the Australasian region. Optional post-conference fieldtrips are being run which include visiting Maud Island, Queen Charlotte Sound, Seabird watching off Kaikoura and a visit to a 'mainland island' project at Nelson Lakes National Park. For a limited time an Early Bird special registration of only NZ\$230 is offered.

The Australasian Shorebird Conference is the conference of the Australasian Wader Study Group. It provides a chance for wader enthusiasts to exchange ideas and information in an international forum. It is focused on wader research and conservation, and shouldn't be missed by anyone interested in or working with waders. An optional post-conference field trip is being organised to Farewell Spit. There is an Early Bird registration special of only NZ\$160 offered for a limited time.

For full details of these two conferences, including registration forms please visit  
[www.osnz.org.nz/conference.htm](http://www.osnz.org.nz/conference.htm)

These conferences are co-sponsored by the Ornithological Society of New Zealand and Birds Australia to promote ornithology in the Pacific Region.

[www.osnz.org.nz/conference.htm](http://www.osnz.org.nz/conference.htm)

## Apology and Corrections

In *Southern Bird* 21 (page 6) it was stated that a Naturetrek bird tour group found the Australian Reed Warbler on November 12th. This was incorrect. On that day the Naturetrek group was based in Taupo visiting sites on the Volcanic Plateau. The group did visit St Anne's Lagoon on 17th November, recording the warbler in the process, but by then it was well-known by many in the birdwatching fraternity that the bird was present and so news of its continued presence was not put out. The editor apologises to Naturetrek, Wynston Cooper and Nature Quest New Zealand Ltd.

Wynston Cooper also reports that he didn't find a dead Australasian Bittern on the Tiwai Road as stated in the Southland regional roundup in *Southern Bird* 21, but that he and a Travelling Naturalist group did see the Cirl Bunting near Te Anau.

The picture of a seal on page 9 of *Southern Bird* 21 was incorrectly captioned. It shows a young Southern Elephant Seal, and not a Hooker's Sea Lion.



# Birds A Plenty 2005

The fourth BirdsAPlenty festival will be held from the 7th to the 16th October 2005 in the Whakatane and Opotiki Districts. The festival is the first of its kind in New Zealand and has grown each year through the support of a dedicated group of bird enthusiasts and conservation groups. Some of the best bird watching in the North Island is to be experienced in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, principally at the Ohiwa Harbour for waders and in Te Urewera National Park for forest birds.

The purpose of the BirdsAPlenty festival is to:

- Support the enhancement of birdwatching locations: boardwalks, viewing platforms and marked trails; and support and promote the work of the different agencies and groups that care for birds.
  - Promote the diverse range of bird-life in the region – an excellent range of sea birds, shore birds, marsh birds and forest birds which are easily experienced.
  - Local people are encouraged to appreciate the bird-life and to enhance their habitat.
  - Encourage birders from around New Zealand to attend the festival and visit one of New Zealand's best birdwatching destinations.
  - Educate and encourage gardeners to plant gardens that will attract native birds.
- Although the festival programme is still being finalised, here is a taste of what to expect:
- Godwit welcome at Ohiwa Harbour
  - A history of bird recovery seminar
  - Dawn chorus overnight field trip into virgin bush
  - Kiwi Recovery Programme and kiwi-listening
  - Manawahe Kokako Recovery Programme
  - Nukuhou Saltmarsh monthly bird count – Burke Road Interpretation Centre
  - Field trips - Apanui Marshland, Tasman Wetland, Pakahi Valley, Ohope Scenic Reserve, Ohiwa Harbour and Whale Island
  - Planting for birds – with Forest and Bird
  - Bird painting exhibition at Whakatane Museum and Gallery
  - Bird films
  - Kids colouring competition

Groups involved in the project include REAP, Forest and Bird, Department of Conservation, NZBirds.com, Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Whakatane Bird Rescue, Eastern Bay of Plenty Development Board, Environment Bay of Plenty, Nukuhau Marshlands Group, Manawahe Kokako Trust, Ohiwa Harbour Tours and the Whakatane District Museum and Gallery.

JACQUI HUGHES – CEO EASTBAY REAP



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**KERMADEC ISLANDS SEABIRD EXPEDITION**  
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*Mist-netting hundreds of migratory birds during a two-week stay at Eilat, a desert settlement beside the Red Sea in southern Israel, was the highlight of conservation scientist, Kevin Parker's overseas travels to Antarctica, North America and the Middle East.*

*Kevin with Adelie Penguins in Bird Bay, Ross Sea region*

# The Road Home

SUZI PHILLIPS and KEVIN PARKER

At recent OSNZ meetings around Auckland, Kevin showed slides of his trip that included six weeks monitoring Adelie Penguins on the Ross Sea ice in Antarctica, and mist-netting hundreds of native birds in Northern California.

His trip to Antarctica, as a research assistant for fellow student Emma Marks, came as a last minute offer from his research supervisor Dianne Brunton who was unable to go herself. Thus at short notice he was flying to Antarctica's Scott Base, where he and Emma had several days of survival training, before taking a helicopter ride to the deserted outpost of Cape Bird beside the Ross Sea ice shelf.

Emma Marks was studying breeding success in relation to display calls of the Adelie Penguins there. During their six week stay on the ice, they recorded the calls, weight and feather samples from more than 450 birds, as well as banding 51 focal birds. Other bird sightings while they were at Cape Bird included Antarctic Skuas, Emperor Penguins, and Snow Petrels.

Several months later Kevin left New Zealand for the Northern California/Southern Oregon area of the USA, where he worked from May to July on various bird monitoring projects with research ecologist, CJ Ralph.

Mist-netting was used as a monitoring tool at many different sites in the area, and Kevin saw more than 120 bird species during his time there, working mainly with Bob Frey, Jim Field and Daveka Boodram (a Trinidadian volunteer). "We primarily focused on riparian zones and coniferous forest areas,"



*Kevin holds bird bags which contained 20 minute's catch from two 30 foot nets set across a stream about 6m from each other at the International Birding and Research Centre in Eilat, Southern Israel*

says Kevin. "In the Klamath Lakes area we sometimes wore waders to get to the nets."

The team used between 10 and 13, 40-foot mist nets and spent up to six hours catching and processing the birds each day. "We visited a different site each day, worked for 5-6 hours from dawn and then drove to the next site

to set nets for the following morning" he says. This work was done for the Klamath Bird Observatory in Ashland, Oregon (run by research director John Alexander) which contracts to various organisations researching the effects of fire, water and timber-management on the birds.

"They had particularly good technical skills and data collection systems," says Kevin, "They extracted a lot of information from each bird and were very meticulous". The birds were micro-aged by skulling, the full moult details were recorded for each bird, and also weight, fat deposition, brood patch status, cloacal protuberance, wing measurements etc. "This information is really useful for building a demographic picture of the various birds species and detecting population trends."

Species caught included many of the American warblers, Song Sparrows, sapsuckers, nuthatches, Black-headed Grosbeaks, American Robins, Bushtits, hummingbirds, and a Cooper's Hawk. "It was great to have the opportunity to handle lots of birds and learn new techniques, such as the way they extract birds from the net," he says. "Catching large numbers of birds every day really sharpens your handling skills."

Memorable moments included being shot at one day while banding, with shots about two metres over their heads for more than an hour. The local sheriff later told them it was "probably just young people playing with their parents' guns." They also encountered a lot of local wildlife, including deer and a



rattlesnake, during mist netting trips. It was early spring and wildflowers were in bloom in weather that was remarkably stable and great for mist-netting, says Kevin.

The last month of his trip, Kevin spent at the coastal university town of Arcata, in Northern California doing data analysis in the Redwood Sciences Laboratory (US Forest Service). He worked with CJ Ralph, Pablo Herrera and Sheri Miller studying the habitat relationships of riparian birds.

Arcata's waterfront has been transformed into 100 acres of freshwater and saltwater marshes, brackish ponds, tidal slough and estuaries. As a home or rest stop for over 200 species of birds, the area has developed a reputation as one of the best birding sites along the Pacific Northwest coast. During his time there Kevin enjoyed his stay with CJ and his wife Carol, at their home in Humboldt Bay.

After visits to see friends in Canada and Europe, Kevin moved on to northern Israel where he visited a couple he had met while working on Tiritiri Matangi several years ago. Talya Oron, (regional ecologist for the Israeli Parks and Nature Authority) and her partner Shlomo Shapira (a medical researcher) hosted Kevin at Mattat, a small town in northern Israel.

Talya introduced Kevin to the Hula Valley in the upper Galilee. This is a large wetland area that holds many bird species, from thousands of passerines and waterfowl, to Black Kites, pelicans, cranes and even a Eurasian Eagle Owl.

In northern Israel, Kevin mist-netted with Kobi Merom at a banding station near the Sea of Galilee. Again the mist-netting was used as a monitoring tool with five to ten 40-foot mist-nets the normal set-up, catching up to 60 birds an hour. These included swallows, warblers, and martins.

"Kobi sat and processed the birds very expertly and efficiently while I brought them in from the nets. It was exhausting work, doing that many birds at a time, extracting each one from the net, and taking them back to be processed - working for several hours non-stop. It was great fun though." Kevin was impressed with the impact of the work on the local people, especially the children. "The banding station was open to the public and we had people come and watch the

processing and banding work all the time. Kobi would talk to them about what he was doing and why, and would often call the children over and teach them how to hold and release the birds."

After a trip to Jordan, Kevin stayed at Eilat in southern Israel near the Red Sea. This area is a land-bridge for birds migrating between Europe, Asia and Africa and has large areas of desert to the north and south. A restored wetland on the edge of a salt marsh provides refuge for millions of migrating birds, and is used by more than 400 species each year.

At Eilat, he worked with Reuvan Yosef at the International Birding and Research Centre. At Eilat they operate eight Heligoland traps and about six mist nets catching up to 180 birds a day. During spring migration this can increase to more than 500 birds a day. The estimates for birds passing through Eilat range from half to two billion a year.

"The restored wetland was created out of a tiny remnant of salt marsh that was left after much of the marsh was converted to agricultural land and urban developments.

Migratory birds were dying because there was no habitat and nowhere for them to feed during their journey. The area's 65 ha rubbish dump was reclaimed and converted back into wetland using natives and exotics for revegetation to create habitat for the birds," says Kevin.

"Reuven has created an incredible sanctuary there despite fierce local opposition," says Kevin. The variety of birds passing through the area is incredible: passerines, shorebirds and around three million raptors such as Honey Buzzards, Steppe Buzzards, Lesser Spotted Eagles, Levant Sparrowhawks and Steppe Eagles.

"I think there is a place for regular mist-netting in New Zealand," says Kevin. "It enables people to get better at handling birds for translocations and research projects. The passerine-banding down at Wellington is a great example. A co-ordinated programme across the whole country would be really exciting, providing training, advocacy opportunities and generating some really interesting research questions."



*These Little Green Bee-eaters were a pair caught in one of the Heligoland traps. Reuvan Yosef held onto the birds for Kevin to band as he knew that they were one of his favourite species on the reserve*



*Kevin holds a Lazuli Bunting from mist netting in Northern California*



*This eagle, held by Reuven Yosef, was a juvenile brought into the Centre at Eilat. It was starving, but doubled its weight in two weeks from about 800 g to 1,600 g on a diet of chicks from a local poultry farm, and was then released*

## ANOTHER AGGRESSIVE **ROBIN**

The stories of aggressive Robins in *Southern Bird* (No. 20, p7 and No. 21, p2) reminded me of the following passages from the book *Kapiti Diary* by Amy Wilkinson (Masterton Printing Co. 1957, p47).

'It was in February that I saw an incident in bird life that has opened my eyes to the reason why Fantails so dislike Robins. I have noticed this aversion for years and had my suspicions, but until now never had them confirmed. I found a little Fantail on the ground. It looked too young to be out of the nest and probably had been shaken out by the strong wind. The tiny thing could only flutter but managed to grasp a twig when I placed it there...'

'The mother was trying frantically to drive away a Robin, attacking it again and again but, of course, the Robin, being so much bigger took little notice of its assailant. Then the Robin spotted the baby Fantail clinging to the twig where I had placed it. It at once flew up to it despite the mother bird doing all she could to drive it off. I watched, standing close by and saw the Robin cruelly fly at the youngster and viciously peck it on the head. I intervened and prevented another peck...'

ALAN BAKER



The first release of **North Island Brown Kiwi** into Egmont National Park took place in late April, with two chicks obtained from eggs laid in the Inglewood area. The chicks were raised in captivity at Rainbow Springs Kiwi Encounter in Rotorua as part of the Bank of New Zealand Kiwi Recovery Trust's 'Operation Nest Egg' programme. At the Boundary Stream mainland island project in Hawkes Bay the first kiwi chick has hatched since restoration work started in 1996.

Signs of hatching were found in February at Lake Rotoiti, Nelson from the small population of nine **Great Spotted Kiwi** translocated there from Kahurangi National Park in May 2004 as part of the Bank of New Zealand Kiwi Recovery Programme. Intensive pest control over 5,000 ha is creating a protected mainland island in the area, with Great Spotted Kiwi being the first species reintroduced there. The translocation was the first in recent times of the species. A repeat of a survey done five years ago in the North Branch of the Hurunui River, Canterbury has concluded that either there has been a dramatic decline in Great Spotted Kiwi numbers (from 20 to seven with no juveniles and only one female) or the birds are being much more cautious. In the Arthur's Pass area, kiwi-listening in March found seven male and nine female birds in the Bealey Valley. In the first community-based recovery project for the species 120 DoC 200 traps (nick-named 'mashers') have been purchased and are to be used to capture stoats, and hopefully ensure the survival of the species near Arthur's Pass.

For the first time in recorded history the **Antipodean Wandering Albatross** has successfully bred on Pitt Island, the second largest island of the Chatham group, raising hopes of a future new colony there. Little Pixie, who fledged at the end of January, is the progeny of two albatrosses that, early in 2004, decided to nest for the first time in a raised gully on the edge of the Waipaua conservation reserve. It is believed to be the first time in recorded history that Antipodean Wandering Albatrosses have bred away from the Subantarctic Islands. The nesting site is close to an area where albatrosses probably nested centuries before. An electric fence was erected to exclude pigs, and traps set for cats.

In a first for the species young **Hutton's Shearwaters** have been moved to a site owned by Whale Watch Kaikoura on the south-eastern end of Kaikoura Peninsula. The hope is to found a new colony in case the current ones high in the Seaward Kaikoura Mountains strike problems and to allow the local community to become involved in the protection of the species.

Less than a year after the rat eradication on Little Barrier Island the fledging rate of **Cook's Petrel** chicks has soared to around

70%, from about 5% when Pacific Rats were present. Probably a product of this increased production of young birds, there was a doubling of numbers of the species found downed in the Rodney townships (which they overfly on their way to the Tasman Sea) after getting disorientated by town lights. Fingers are definitely crossed that the rat eradication on Little Barrier has been successful, but this cannot be confirmed for about another year.

It has been a good year for records of moulting crested penguins, with many of the species usually only seen at the Subantarctic islands swimming north. Three to four species were recorded on the Chatham Islands this February, most or all of them immature birds, with a **Snares Crested Penguin** on Mangere Island, an **Erect Crested Penguin** also on Mangere Island, with another that was probably this species at sea off The Forty-fours, a **Royal Penguin** on Pitt Island (first record for the Chathams if accepted), and a possible **Rockhopper Penguin** on Pitt Island. On mainland New Zealand **Snares Crested Penguins** were reported from Kaikoura (13/2) and Nugget Point (early March). The latter bird was taken into care, as was an **Erect Crested Penguin** in the same area at about the same time.

**Blue Ducks** along the Styx River near Hokitika are getting help from DoC, with some of the funding for 144 traps coming from a sizeable bequest. In the late 1980s there were 8-10 pairs. Now there are only two or three, but with the predator work there was a good degree of success this past breeding season with two broods of three young produced. The ultimate aim is to have a population of 30 pairs in the area centred on the Styx.

**Weka** were reintroduced to mainland Stewart Island in late April in an attempt to maintain a population of the birds in an area of Ackers Point close to the settlement of Oban. The Stewart Island/Rakiura Community and Environment Trust has been trapping possums, rats and wild cats from Ackers Point for over eighteen months as part of their Halfmoon Bay Habitat Restoration Project. This work has been sponsored by the Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds, and aims to trap predators around the bay to increase bird numbers and provide a safe habitat for reintroductions. The trust successfully released Robins into this area in February 2005. The Trust is comprised of local Stewart Island residents who have a vision of returning endangered bird species to their gardens. The Weka transfer was funded by Stewart Island Flights.

The **Black Stilt** recovery programme has a new sponsor. The Mount Cook Hotel Collection will contribute 50c for each bed night within the hotels, amounting to about \$25,000 annually. The money may be used

to purchase transmitters or to push predator control into the upper Ahuriri Valley, where 17 birds were released in January. This is a new release area for the species following its purchase for the nation last year.

Despite the recent national census reporting a decline in numbers, **New Zealand Dotterels** are doing well on Matakana Island in the Tauranga area. This year a record 43 pairs nested, and 30 chicks fledged, this despite the large swells and extreme high tides that marred the breeding season claiming 72 eggs. DoC attributes the success to a strong community partnership, an intensive pest control programme, daily monitoring, and school and community education. Off the island and away from any management none of the mainland pairs were successful in the western Bay of Plenty due to predation and disturbance.

**Kakapo** have had their third most successful breeding season since management began 40 years ago, despite the lowest threshold of Rimu fruit available for breeding. Due to a lack of this fruit the surviving chicks were removed from their nests on Codfish Island and are being hand-raised in Nelson. The four chicks have the temporary names F1, F2 (nicknamed Dit and Dot by their carers), MM2 (nicknamed Mmm) and S1. There is a competition, open to schoolchildren, to give permanent names to the birds. Some statistics on this year's breeding season: 10 out of 20 adult females laid; over seven out of 17 males mated; 11 out of 26 eggs laid were fertile; six out of 11 fertile eggs hatched; and two out of six chicks died.

In the first attempt at translocation of the species, 24 **Rock Wrens** were transferred in January from the Murchison Mountains to the predator-free Anchor Island in Dusky Sound as part of a programme to ensure survival of the species. Preliminary checks in February found most of the birds to be doing well. They will be re-checked in winter. An area of 140 ha is deemed suitable for the wrens on Anchor Island. A larger area will hopefully be available for further translocations on Secretary Island in Doubtful Sound following stoat control work planned for this winter. DoC asks that any records of the species anywhere are given to local DoC offices to boost data on the range and numbers of the species.

Tamanui, thought to be Taranaki's last wild **North Island Kokako**, seemed more intent on a solitary existence than continuing his bloodline. But after five years in captivity at Pukaha Mount Bruce, the loss of a partner, a failed relationship and scant breeding success, Tamanui has settled down with a Waikato bird called Mapara and produced two healthy chicks that were due to fledge in February.

This will hopefully ensure the continuance of the Taranaki gene pool, and add some genetic diversity to the species as a whole. In the Boundary Stream mainland island Kokako released last year have had a good breeding season with three pairs producing eight fledglings, (five females and three males). The population now stands at 19; 12 females and seven males.

### Short reports:

A probable immature **Masked Booby** was seen 10 miles east of the Aldermen Islands on 23/3. At least seven **Cattle Egrets** were on the Snares Islands in early- to mid-April, where they were seen in such unusual company as Snares Crested Penguins and catching flies off sleeping Hooker's Sea Lions. A family of **Banded Rails** has been entertaining birders visiting the Shorebird Centre at Miranda by frequenting the adjacent pond. A **Dusky Moorhen** was reported from the Kaituna Lagoon area of Lake Ellesmere on 24/2.

A **New Zealand Dotterel** at the Manawatu Estuary from mid-March to the time of writing in mid-May was outside the species' usual

range. A wandering juvenile **Shore Plover** was seen at the Westshore Lagoon, Napier in late February and March. Two **Grey Plovers** were on the Big Sand Island on 26/3, one big and one small, prompting the question will one over-winter?

The Waipara River Mouth, near Amberley attracted a **Japanese Snipe** which showed well in the open on river gravel on some occasions from 27/2 to 10/4 despite the attentions of trail bikers and hunters with their dogs refurbishing their maimais. **Great Knots** were reported from the South Manukau (one on 14/3), Big Sand Island (at least one on 26/3) and Mangere Sewage Ponds (one on 25/3). The first **Little Whimbrel** at Miranda since 1996 was reported on 24/2, with another at the South Manukau on 14/3. Up to three **Black-tailed Godwits** and a **Hudsonian Godwit** frequented the Firth of Thames from March to at least the time of writing in mid-May. A Black-tailed Godwit was also reported from Mangere Sewage Ponds on 25/3, and a Hudsonian Godwit on Big Sand Island on 26/3.

Two **Siberian Tattlers** were at Westshore Lagoon, Napier on 27/2, with another at Big

## BIRD NEWS

Sand Island on 26/3 and a **Wandering Tattler** at South Manukau on 14/3. **Marsh Sandpipers** were reported from Westshore Lagoon (one on 27/2) and Miranda (up to two in March and early April). Miranda turned up its semi-usual **Terek Sandpiper** in late March and early April, with another seen on Big Sand Island on 26/3. A **Grey Phalarope** was in the normally out-of-bounds environs of Farewell Spit on 18/3.

Viewed from a small boat just offshore Kaikoura Peninsula was a probable intermediate-phase **South Polar Skua** on 5/3. The only vagrant passerine or near-passerine was an unconfirmed record of a **Dollarbird** at Onekaka in mid-March.

Sources: What's Up DoC? Website newsletter, @DoC email newsletter, Colin Miskelly, Boundary Stream Mainland Island electronic newsletter, BBC News website [www.newsvote.bbc.co.uk](http://www.newsvote.bbc.co.uk), Kakapo Recovery Programme website [www.kakaporecovery.org.nz](http://www.kakaporecovery.org.nz), Birding-NZ email group.

## Marlborough passerine banding weekends successful.

MIKE BELL

Over two weekends in February and March, Marlborough OSNZ members flocked to Jack Taylor's Ward property, Dog Hill Station, to mist net and band passerines. Throughout these two weekends, over 30 OSNZ members, friends, and family, many camping beside the Flaxbourne River on Jack's farm, arose before light to erect nets aiming to band as many birds as possible – and they weren't disappointed!

One of my first memories of OSNZ is going to Jack's place to band passerines. I remember as a youngster, senior OSNZ members teaching me to extract birds from mist nets and band them. It was for Jack's long term commitment to OSNZ, his regular welcoming of hordes of OSNZ members to his farm for banding weekends, and his support of local birding activities, that at the AGM at Hamilton in June, Jack was awarded a Meritorious Award for services to OSNZ.

Jack has been a member of OSNZ for over 40 years, and all who come into contact with him are rewarded with his good humour, keen eyes and thirst for knowledge. Jack has a knack of making both senior, and the greenest of junior members comfortable in his presence, fostering a knowledge and enjoyment of bird watching and bird study. His knowledge of the birds of Marlborough is legendary, and it is likely

that nobody knows more about Cirl Buntings than Jack.

At these latest banding expeditions to Dog Hill a total of 450 birds were banded, with a huge variety of birds and, in all, 17 different species being banded. Highlights of the weekends included 11 Cirl Buntings, six Fantails, four Bellbirds, five Grey Warblers, two Brown Creepers, and a single Welcome Swallow and Kingfisher.

Two additional species were caught but released un-banded as we had no bands large enough. These were 10 Californian Quails and a female Falcon. The early morning capture of the Falcon, possibly diving into the net attracted by caught birds, provided a fantastic opportunity to see one of these beautiful birds close-up.

A group of University of Canterbury students studying the effects of genetic bottlenecks on the birds introduced to New Zealand added interest. During both weekends they took body measurements and blood samples of birds to assess fitness and parasite load. Sophy Allen concluded that "these weekends were a great bonus to us, especially the number of Cirl Buntings caught. We are greatly indebted to Jack, both for allowing us to work on his property and for sharing his considerable knowledge and experience with us."

On behalf of all the members who attended the weekend I would like to thank Jack for allowing us to stay on his farm, and the chance to catch birds there. We congratulate you Jack on receiving your award; it is justly deserved. I am looking forward to the next banding trip already.

With Jack's continued commitment to OSNZ and its members we are planning to make these autumn banding trips to Dog Hill an annual event. More information on the next planned expedition can be obtained from the Marlborough Regional representative Brian Bell.



*Falcon captured in nets after chasing captured birds.  
Photo Christine Debruyne.*



*Juvenile male Cirl Bunting,  
one of 11 caught over the two  
weekends. Photo Bill Cash*

# TWO BY TWO:

## the Ark has grounded

The returning of a second species previously locally extinct from Auckland's Waitakere Ranges is confirming the potential of the Ark in the Park. Although the project, managed by the Waitakere branch of Forest and Bird, has been in action on the ground for only three years it has made great progress.

In August last year, 55 Whiteheads caught on Tiritiri Matangi Island were released and subsequently have been sighted not only in the Ark site but also at other Waitakere sites, some up to 10 km away. Unbanded juveniles seen in February six kilometres from the release area were the first positive proof of their breeding. Usually seen in their ones or twos since the release, a group of eight Whiteheads were noted in early autumn by an Ark volunteer. Dispersal to sites distant from the Ark in the Park was anticipated for this free-ranging species.

In August 2004 at the time of the Whitehead release 600 ha was predator-controlled. For other planned species releases a larger area was deemed desirable. Therefore by August 2005 at least an extra 400 ha of forest will have a full grid of bait stations (at 100 m x 50 m spacings), several cat trap sites and stoat traps along perimeters and the many internal walking tracks.

The response to this effort is audible. No longer is this one of New Zealand's 'dead' forest zones. Tui numbers, which doubled after the Auckland Regional Council's Operation Forestsave, have increased further such that Tui song is almost a constant throughout the day. Tomtits are heard and seen everywhere in contrast to pre-Operation Forestsave days when they were grimly persisting only in the more elevated parts of the ranges.

A possible explanation for this altitudinal distribution comes from the results of rat monitoring done by the Ark in the Park. Monitoring tunnels set up as controls in the more elevated parts of the Ark (i.e. above about 300 m) seem to show a far smaller rat presence than in control tunnels at lower altitudes. Of course, the rat presence is extremely low to zero in monitoring tunnels set in the baited areas. Invertebrate numbers assessed from pitfall traps have also shown increases in the controlled areas.

The habitat being much improved, the scene was set for the next species reintroduction. In mid-March 2005 disease-screening of North Island Robins on Mokoia Island (in Lake Rotorua) took place to determine their suitability for translocation. Ark in the Park volunteers captured Robins and Dr Richard Jakob-Hoff of Auckland Zoo performed the venepuncture and swabs on-site.

With a clean bill of health reported, a group of 20 volunteers from the Ark and the Zoo went to the island in mid-April staying on the island. Mokoia boasts the highest density of North Island Robins in the country, and with fine weather and easy access 53 birds were readily caught, measured and banded over two days.

Although the original plan was for a mass release, due to the practical problems of feeding of this large a number of birds, some were transported early and released on Friday 15th. Exiting their transport boxes in front of over 100 guests, supporters and volunteers was the role of the remaining 31 birds at the official release on the following day. Subsequently several seem to have remained around the release site on the Auckland City Walk, the most-visited of the Waitakere's 140 tracks, and it is hoped will stay there to delight and surprise the frequent visitors. Our first overseas intern, from Germany, is encouraging that outcome by feeding meal worms to Robins seen during her monitoring study.

So, what next? A seeding example of a locally-rare mistletoe, *Ileostylus* is being watched so that harvest can take place when ripe for transfer to suitable host trees in the Ark.



Whiteheads from Tiritiri Matangi being released into the Ark. Photo by John Sumich



Richard Jakob-Hoff, senior vet Auckland Zoo, about to get a blood sample from a Robin. Photo by John Sumich

An investigation into the possibility of raising and then releasing Helm's Ringlet butterfly *Dodonidia helmsi* in an enclosure around the host plant *Gahnia pauciflora* is underway, as is an application for a translocation of Stitchbirds. This latter translocation will rely on the population on Tiritiri Matangi recovering well after providing birds to Karori this year and on the level of predator control achieved this year, among other factors. Undoubtedly though, the Ark offers the closest approximation to the Stitchbird forest habitat of Little Barrier Island.

Two walks in the Ark in the Park for OSNZ members are planned later in the year on Sunday October 9th. There will be an easy walk and a longer one. For details contact John Sumich at [cjnk@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cjnk@xtra.co.nz) or (09) 818 5267.

JOHN SUMICH

## New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Sophy Allen (Canterbury), Fiona Bancroft (Wellington), Jacqueline Carr (Manawatu), Rick Chang (Waikato), Barry Dent (Wellington), Andy Falshaw (Wellington), Sue Freitag (Wellington), Joan Garth (Auckland), Sally Greenaway (Bay of Plenty), Andrew Guthrie (Auckland), Ian Jamieson (Otago), Cheryl Johnston (Wairarapa), Geraldine King (Auckland), Diane Lookman (Nelson), Michael Lookman (Nelson), Ian McLean (Auckland), Roger McNeill (Auckland), Megan McNeill (Auckland), Luke Martin (Canterbury), Barbara Matthews (Canterbury), Larry Spear (U.S.A.), Penny Taylor (Auckland), Jamie Wood (Southland).

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

Sharon Alderson, Tim Buma, Bill Campbell, Jean Creighton, David Crockett, Barbara Dingle, Audrey Eagle, Chris Foreman, Jim Jolly, Mr R.S. Macdonald, Frank Minehan, Dr P.L. Munns, Rob Schuckard, Mr W.H. Sloan, Joy Soper.



**Aikman, Hilary and Miskelly, Colin. 2004.** *Birds of the Chatham Islands*. Department of Conservation, Wellington. ISBN 0-478-22565-2. 116 pages, soft cover, NZ\$25 (\$15 to OSNZ members).

Mention of the Chatham Islands usually conjures thoughts of a group of isolated, wind-swept islands and their unique birds. Yet despite their remoteness, the birds of the Chatham Islands have received international attention through the remarkable conservation efforts that have ensured that species such as the Black Robin and Chatham Island Taiko survived into the 21st century. The foreword, by Phil Seymour (chair of the Chatham Islands Conservation Board), backgrounds the large part that birds have played in Chatham Islands culture and the ways that the local community has been involved in the many conservation programmes that have occurred on the islands. The book provides colour photographs and a review of all the birds inhabiting the Chatham Islands, with more detailed information about the 18 endemic species and subspecies that survive there.

The introduction provides a useful review of the place of birds in Moriori and Maori culture and diet, a history of bird research and conservation on the Chatham Islands (including vignettes of some of the people prominent in these activities), and an assessment of future conservation efforts in the islands. For those interested learning more about the fascinating places and species a selected bibliography provides useful references to more detailed accounts. The bird species are grouped into broad habitat types – oceanic, coastal, freshwater,

## reviews

open country and forest birds. Endemic or near-endemic species are covered over about two and a half pages, which include a map of their breeding distribution and three or four photographs. The text for these species is covered under headings of identification, distribution and ecology, and threats and conservation. The remaining species are covered on half to one page, including a map of breeding distribution and at least one photograph. A comprehensive glossary provides succinct definitions for the lay person. Appendix 1 is a checklist of all the known bird species that have been recorded with a summary of their status on the Chatham Islands and, for breeding species only, their national conservation status.

The format of the book is user-friendly, with illustrations on almost every page and a coloured strip on the edge of appropriate pages to denote the habitat type where the species under discussion primarily occurs. The maps of the breeding distribution of each species are clearly defined and easy to interpret. I was particularly pleased to discover that the introduction included an excellent topographic map of all the Chatham Islands, with all localities mentioned in the text clearly labelled. Although generally good, the quality of some photographs is less than we have come to expect. For example, in some we have dark birds not clearly distinguishable against a dark background (e.g. juvenile Pitt Island Shags on p45 and Black Robin on p93). However,

this is a minor quibble about an otherwise pleasing appearance.

The size of the book makes it easy to slip into the pocket and take with you when walking on the Chathams and the colour-coded pages ensure rapid checking of the distribution and status of any species that you spot during your outing. Another welcome feature is that the binding is robust enough to endure frequent referral.

The authors, Hilary Aikman and Colin Miskelly, have extensive experience of the Chatham Islands and their birds over many years and in this book they have combined their knowledge to produce an excellent introduction to all the birds of the Chatham Islands. That some of the species in the book are still with us is testament to the perseverance and success of long-term conservation efforts of the Chatham Island community, government agencies, and private individuals. As such, this is a book that also provides hope for the future of the unique birds of the Chatham Islands. At just \$15, this book is a must for anyone fortunate enough to visit the Chatham Islands, and for anyone else who wants to learn more about our unique fauna.

PAUL SAGAR

### Bird Watchers Experience Norfolk Island

27 November  
to 04 December  
2005



The Bird Watchers Experience will be hosted by Norfolk's Flora and Fauna Society and will incorporate bird watching and information data recording, a welcome reception, clifftop fish fry, social gatherings and an abundance of great scenery and bird watching! Activities/Registration fees TBA

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### Address Changes

Suzi Phillips, the Regional Representative or the Auckland region has moved house. Her new contact details are 36 Beulah Avenue, Rotheras Bay, North Shore City, Auckland. Her new phone number is (09) 479 5395.

# Regional Roundup



## Far North

We have had quite a lot of activity up here in the last few months with visiting birders and joint events with other organisations. We joined forces with Forest & Bird and the Kiwi Conservation Club for a wader watch at Parengarenga Harbour on 19th February. A number of beginners and children present were treated with close views of lots of Bar-tailed Godwits and Lesser Knots, and smaller numbers of Banded Dotterels, Turnstones, Red-necked Stints, a Whimbrel and two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers.

We made a last minute effort for the Atlas Project on 24th February when six of us took a boat out to Stephenson Island and the outer Cavallis to check two squares which had not been covered at all. We landed on four islands during the day and recorded a reasonable number of species. Seabirds recorded included five species of shearwaters and diving petrels.

With Easter being early this year we ran a Far North birding weekend with waders and seabirds in mind. Fourteen birdwatchers were involved, having travelled from as far afield as Nelson and Christchurch. On the Saturday, we crossed Parengarenga Harbour to Kokota Spit. Although lots of Bar-tailed Godwits and Lesser Knots were still present, species diversity was low. In contrast, our full day pelagic which left Houhora on Sunday produced quite a bonanza including Black-winged and Kermadec Petrels, lots of Wandering Albatrosses and Black-browed Mollymawks, several Wilson's and a few White-faced Storm Petrels. Two dolphin species, Orcas and a few whales, one of which may have been a Sei Whale, were also seen.

Predator-eradication and native tree planting continues in a number of places both in the local forests and the Bay of Islands. Islands provide a great opportunity to introduce rare native birds, with the success on Moturoa Island a good example. On 3rd April eight of us paid a visit, enjoying a tour led by resident Paul Asquith. New Zealand Robins are not normally very active or vocal in April but two were seen, almost at our feet.

Beach patrols continue along Ninety Mile Beach and the Karikari Peninsula on alternate fortnights. Pelagic trips in the Far North are expected to become more popular following very exciting sightings of unusual species in the seas around North Cape and beyond.

Nine members attended our AGM on 12th May. It was felt by those present that our region is raising its profile and is becoming more active. Local pharmacist Kerry Walshe offered to sponsor the region's newsletter, which will continue to appear three times a year. This was gladly accepted and will assist in the cost of including colour photos and drawings in the text.

DETLEF DAVIES

## Northland

The usual activities have continued since summer. Monthly beach patrols continued on the west and east coast beaches, organised by Prue and Pauline, with the numbers of birds found fairly low. The regular group of members (Den, Audrey, Claire, Marie, Jean, Dianna, Prue, Janet and John) who help with monitoring the Fairy Terns which breed at Waipu and Mangawhai over summer have wound down those activities after three chicks fledged from Waipu. Some post-breeding monitoring may continue over the winter.

The other field trips this year have included the annual autumn lake survey on the west coast dune lakes. The usual range of birds were recorded, including New Zealand Dabchicks, New Zealand Scaup, a few Australian Little Grebes and the stock-standard ducks, shags and swans. A group of members had a lovely boat trip around the Poor Knights Islands. The weather was fine and the sea calm, which made for a nice day boating but not a great number of seabirds. Species recorded included Fluttering Shearwater, Buller's Shearwater, Grey-faced Petrel, Common Diving Petrel and lots of Australasian Gannets.

We've had some interesting talks at the meetings this year. At the first meeting Jacqui gave an update on the Fairy Tern breeding season, and a session on bird calls was run by Gerard. At the last couple of meetings a couple of members have given interesting talks and photographic shows on recent trips away; Peter and Margaret on their trip to the Subantarctic islands, and Gerard and Katrina on their trip to southern Africa.

KATRINA HANSEN

## Auckland

Auckland began the New Year with our traditional summer picnic and a ramble along the bush and coastal walks of Hillsborough's Faulkener Bay. The well-maintained pathways wind through steep bush down to bays on the Manukau Harbour. The group noted 21 species of bush and coastal birds. These included everything from Grey Warblers and Tui, to Pied Shags, Caspian Terns, Bar-tailed Godwits, and oystercatchers. As the tide dropped a sandbank became visible and

several hundred Bar-tailed Godwits gathered to feed. Thanks to Brian Gill and Chris Thompson for leading the walk.

In February we had our short talks and local projects evening with an introduction to the work of the NZ Native Forest Restoration Council from Sharen Graham, and an update on bird count trends at both Tiritiri Matangi and Motuora Islands by Mike Graham. Progress at the Ark in the Park project in the Waitakeres was outlined by John Staniland, and we finished the evening with an entertaining DVD on a 24-hour Twitchathon in the USA called 'Band of Birders'.

In March, Roger McNeill, an experienced birder from Kansas now based in Auckland, gave an engaging PowerPoint presentation on 'Birding in the Galapagos' with some great close-ups of favourites such as Blue-footed Boobies, Darwin's finches, and Flightless Cormorants. No visit to the Galapagos is complete without a look at the Marine Iguanas and Galapagos Giant Tortoises, and Roger included these in his introduction to the islands' wildlife.

The April meeting was also well attended for Michael Taylor's excellent update on the conservation status of some Cook Islands birds, including the rare Kakerori in Rarotonga, the Koveka (swiftlet) in Atiu and the Mangaian Kingfisher. He included taped calls and a selection of photos from the islands.

The outlook for Brown Kiwi in Northland was presented by DoC's Hugh Robertson in May. Hugh leads the Operation Nest Egg and Kiwi conservation research programmes in Northland. He gave a detailed introduction to kiwi populations and genetics for the whole country, followed by an excellent report on the status of kiwi in Northland, including threats to young birds and progress of recovery programmes. It was evident from his presentation that while predator control helps kiwi populations, the intense effort from Operation Nest Egg in both hatching and fostering chicks is also having impressive results. Motuora Island in the Hauraki Gulf is one of several nursery islands and areas, where young kiwi from Northland can grow to their adult weight safe from the threats of predators, particularly stoats.

Outdoor activities for this part of the year included the popular Tiritiri Matangi Island survey in March and the annual South Kaipara Lakes Dabchick Survey in April. We also had the monthly beach patrols at Muriwai, organised by John Simmons. Some of the more unusual species found so far this year were Shy Mollymawk, and Cook's, White-chinned and Mottled petrels.

Wader enthusiasts have had many autumn highlights on the Kaipara and Manukau Harbours including an exciting migration season with many banded birds recorded on departure. An unusual visitor to suburban Auckland in late April and early May was a White Heron seen at Waiaatarua Reserve in Remuera. The heron was observed feeding and flying in the wetland area of the reserve for several weeks. It is the first time in memory that one has been seen so close to the central city.

SUZI PHILLIPS

## South Auckland

The speaker at our March meeting was David Melville who was still in the area after the Miranda Naturalists' Trust open day held a few days previously. David gave an illustrated talk on the establishment of the Mai Po Marsh Wetland Centre and reserve which occurred while he was based in Hong Kong.

In April Tim Lovegrove gave us an update of the work that the Auckland Regional Council is undertaking on their restoration projects and work in the regional parks around the Auckland area.

The May meeting illustrated that even the best laid plans sometimes go awry. The original guest speaker Gwendolyn Pulham reported in sick a couple of days before the event and I hastily organised Gillian Vaughan to give us a talk on her recent trip to Gambia. This would have been the first time that she would have been the speaker at our South Auckland meeting and we were all looking forward to the slides with some excitement. However just as the first slide was coming into focus the bulb on the projector blew. Gillian advised that without the slides it was not worth doing the talk and while we had a brief discussion on some of her observations it was an early supper. Hopefully we will have an opportunity to hear the talk at some time in the future.

Waders have of course dominated the sightings from this region in recent months. The bulk of the waders have now left, but there would appear to still be some good birds in the Manukau Harbour and at Miranda. At Miranda at the moment (mid-May) there are three Black-tailed Godwits, a Hudsonian Godwit, a Marsh Sandpiper, a Pacific Golden Plover, and a Terek Sandpiper, all of which would appear to be staying for the winter. Two of the Black-tailed Godwits are assuming a reasonable standard of breeding plumage and it would be interesting to know if these are the same birds that have overwintered for the past two years. Also at Miranda is one White Heron and six Royal Spoonbills, and there have been recent sightings of a flock of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and a small flock of Rooks. A Kaka has also been seen near Clevedon.

Further to my report of Weka sightings near Kawakawa Bay in the previous edition Keith Woodley recently visited an area south of Kawakawa Bay and heard a Weka calling from the vegetation. It would appear that there are a number of birds in this area and the region is intending to undertake a call count during the spring to try to get some measure of the population size.



In the Manukau Harbour there are in excess of 120 Royal Spoonbills at Mangere along with a recently arrived Glossy Ibis. On the South Manukau there are four Large Sand Dotterels in various stages of plumage, four Little Terns, four Red-necked Stints and one Curlew Sandpiper amongst the over wintering Godwits and Knots.

DAVID LAWRIE

### Waikato

As we write this, during the final days of build up to the 2005 AGM and conference, we are looking forward to welcoming over a hundred people to our patch. When you read this we hope those who attended will have enjoyed the results of many months of planning for the event, and the many years of bird research presented at the Scientific Day.

This year we have moved with DoC to their new premises at 73 Rostrevor Street for our evening meetings.

In March at our AGM, Frank Bailey gave an entertaining and informative talk on 'Bird Art', which included insights into the people behind the art. In April, Chris Smuts-Kennedy told us about the astonishing progress of the Maungatautari Restoration project. The pest-proof fence should be half finished by the end of the year and completed in 2006.

Our field trip in April was seeking the Blue Duck on the Manganui a te Ao River near Raetihi. This was a success in spite of the weather, with four ducks and a Falcon seen and had a good number of participants.

Alas, the annual census of Lake Waahi had to be aborted due to an algal bloom posing a serious health risk.

In May, an excellent presentation on 'Waders' by Phil Battley brought us up to date on flyway matters including some of the amazing returns of sightings of New Zealand-banded birds, especially Bar-tailed Godwits.

As far as bird sightings go, the Rowses saw a Rook at the back of Raglan Harbour on 7th May, and nine New Zealand Dabchicks on Raglan sewerage ponds going through the motions. The Kakepuku quarterly five minute bird counts continue to confirm the large numbers of New Zealand Pigeon and Tui on the mountain, and show the value of long-term pest control.

STELLA ROWE AND LAURIE HOVERD

### Bay of Plenty/Volcanic Plateau

March in the Bay of Plenty provided good records in the form of higher than usual numbers of Lesser Knot (over 100) at Matahui Point, Katikati. Brian Chudleigh also counted over 1,000 Pied Oystercatchers and 2,500 Bar-tailed Godwits the same day.

April saw Kaka emerge into the semi-rural and urban areas. Three were seen at Pahoia, North of Tauranga, in late March, with records dribbling in from Omokoroa, and Matua, near Otumotetai, Tauranga, in mid-May.

Another parrot species that is not so welcome is the Rainbow Lorikeet. One at Kauri Point, south of Waihi Beach, in April hopefully signalled an isolated bird. In mid-April Rosemary Tully saw two White Herons at Matata Lagoon. This lagoon has been irreversibly damaged by the flooding in May. On 11th May, our last report of birds there, large numbers of New Zealand Dabchicks and over 2,000 waterfowl were seen by John Groom. After the storm, 14 cars were in the lagoon.

Tim Barnard's regular forays to Maketu/Little Waihi saw eight Little Terns and 27 Royal Spoonbills in late April. Gordon Blackmore's follow-up visit a week later fetched 98 Bar-tailed Godwits and 246 Pied Oystercatchers for the archives.

Robyn Skelton saw a Nankeen Kestrel over her property near Katikati, in April/May, which may be the same bird which has been haunting Whakatane, Taneatua and Thornton for the last three years.

Banded Rails are still being heard at Waikareao Estuary, Tauranga City, with Redpolls also singing in May. Pukeko are still raising chicks this late in the year. Regular quarterly field surveys of Waikaraka Estuary, North of Tauranga, have turned up Banded Rails in large numbers, plus the presence of Fernbirds and Spotless Crakes.

PAUL CUMING

### Taranaki

Ralph Powlesland has been back in town. He and Nik Joice gave us an insight into the Tui and New Zealand Pigeon survey being conducted around New Plymouth, with results so far showing that behaviour amongst Pigeons here differs to birds in the other study areas. The knowledge gained could help where the species is struggling. David Medway complemented their address with a summary of his own observations on the Pigeons within Pukekura and Brooklands Parks.

There were conflicting reports of Long-tailed Cuckoo abundance or scarcity around Taranaki produced at the April meeting highlighting how problematic any survey of Long-tailed or Shining Cuckoo would be. Beach patrols have been relatively unproductive with few birds found despite large numbers having been seen out at sea. The Rare Bird Committee's report on the status of the New Zealand Storm Petrel and the reasoning behind their decision was discussed, with general agreement that the right conclusion had been reached.

Bill and Rosemary Messenger also detailed their trip to Kapiti Island at the April meeting. They enjoyed a nice fine day and, fortunately for Bill, a calm sea. Many of the species the island holds were seen, though the Kokako were elusive. A trip to the Potaema Bog and Stratford

## Regional Roundup



Mountain House in Egmont National Park was well attended despite conditions being cloudy and cool. Someone forgot to notify the birds we were coming, as apart from a couple of flocks of Silvereye most had flown. Riflemen were seen and Whiteheads heard, with three White-faced Herons seen flying overhead being a bit of an oddity.

The main topic of discussion at the May meeting was an agreement to put ourselves forward to host an AGM in the not too distant future. David Medway informed us that this year was the 40th year that monthly meetings had been held by the Taranaki branch. Although people had come and gone the numbers attending had remained relatively the same. We are looking forward to the 50th year and the festivities that we intend will occur. Beach patrols turned up a Little Black Shag; possibly the first ever on the Taranaki coast. Eleven Cattle Egrets were seen at Cowley Lake near Waitara; the first sighting there for some years. The flock was seen on only the one occasion. A Little Egret was reported from Mokau.

Ian Dudding's desire to see hummingbirds had him flying off to Costa Rica. His report and photos of these amazing birds, along with the 400 other species seen (including Resplendent Quetzal – Costa Rica's national bird) had us all rather envious.

Our affinity for oxidation ponds and the wildfowl that inhabit them had a group of us checking out what South Taranaki had to offer. A volley of shotgun fire over Nowells Lakes near Hawera meant a change of itinerary and a deviation to Patea. There we were rewarded with a large number of Australasian Shovelers. However, the greatest variety was to be had close to home at Inglewood with five New Zealand Dabchicks, 40-plus Grey Ducks, nine New Zealand Scaup and seven Grey Teal.

To the delight of Julie and I a pair of Moreporks has taken up residence in the small native garden close to our house. The resident Song Thrush and Blackbirds are less than delighted!

PETER FRYER

### Wairarapa

The summer programme has seen good turn out for our field trips and excellent attendances at our meetings. February saw a wonderful presentation from Helen Gummer on the recent Teal transfer to Campbell Island. The slides of this escapade were brilliant. Her trip was obviously hard work but in a fantastic, different environment. The hardy little teal are very appealing, and it is a credit to DoC and people such as Helen that the Teal are now being reintroduced back to their original environs. These deeds make some amends for introducing predators that force species such as the teal to the edge of their habitats, or the edge of extinction. For the Teal it must be difficult enough to survive on Campbell Island, without being preyed upon by predators.

Tansy Bliss's talk on the Kiwi Recovery Programme gave us great insight into the huge job that is involved with righting the predicaments that can befall our national bird. Her talk was specifically on the Haast Tokoeka, a variety of brown kiwi living in the mountains south of Haast. The difficulties of pest control and monitoring of the kiwi in the steep, mountainous landscape in South Westland was a real eye-opener.

Our March field trip was to Rewanui, a farm situated about 20 minutes from Masterton on the Masterton to Castlepoint road. There are extensive areas of native bush on the steeper slopes, and it was to these that eight OSNZ members travelled to discover how many bird species are living there. Unfortunately we didn't have enough people or time to cover all of the bush blocks; however we do believe that the blocks we covered were representative of the whole property. Walking in the leaf litter on steep slopes wasn't easy and was made more difficult by the extensive areas of Ongaonga (tree nettle) which necessitated a lot of back tracking. There was a predominance of Tui, and these with Bellbirds and New Zealand Pigeons appeared to be feeding in the many large Totara trees. The Tui song was almost constantly punctuated by squabbling and fights. Eighteen bird species and 23 plant species were identified.

The guest speakers in April were Ross Cottle and Jim Campbell from Ducks Unlimited. This organisation has built a dam wall across a low-lying area near Boggy Pond, Lake Wairarapa. They are planning to flood approximately 100 acres. The next field trip following was to see this site. We were surprised and impressed at the amount of water that had accumulated in a few weeks. The extensive area of shallow and muddy margins will be a great habitat for many species including waders. The field trip continued on to Lake Ferry for lunch and further opportunities to count the species on Onoke Spit. Black-fronted Terns gather on the spit in winter, of which we counted 30-plus among the White Fronted Terns and Red-billed Gulls. In previous winters up to 400 Black-fronted Terns have been counted on the spit, across the gap from Lake Ferry.

Tenick Dennison produced a wonderful talk for us in May on pelagic birds, ably assisted by a number of bird skins provided by Dave Sims. These included several albatrosses, mollymawks and shearwaters. It was very useful to be able to handle such wonderful birds and to be able to compare and identify them in the hand. This will, I have no doubt, improve our recognition of live birds in their natural habitat. Tenick's talk, as always, was informative with light-hearted moments.



# Regional Roundup



The final field trip for autumn was to Donnelly's Flat at the foot of Mount Holdsworth. Whiteheads, Riflemen, Silvereyes, Tomtits, Tui, and Bellbirds were seen frequently. One New Zealand Pigeon was also seen. On return to the car park two New Zealand Falcons were seen in flight, one chasing an unidentified bird.

MILES KING

## Wellington

In an engaging address in March, Allan Munro presented the results of a two-year survey that was made by Wellington members between 2002 and 2004 of birds in the Pauatahanui Inlet, the eastern arm of Porirua Harbour. Ralph Powlsland assisted Allan with data analysis. This is the third survey of the inlet and enables recent data to be compared with 1992-94 and 1982-84 surveys. Allan highlighted the most noticeable changes.

There has been a sharp decline in the numbers of Black and Little Shags to about one half of the 1982 levels. Populations of Little Black Shags are erratic and they are most noticeable in winter. White-faced Herons appear to have declined by about one third compared with 1982 records. Pukeko, Red-billed Gull, Pied Stilt and Mallard numbers have also declined slightly. Populations of Black-backed Gulls have declined more sharply.

Royal Spoonbill numbers have increased rapidly since 1992-94 and these striking birds are almost always seen from the surrounding main roads now. Increased populations of Spur-winged Plover, Paradise Shelduck, Pied Oystercatcher, Canada Goose and Australasian Shoveler were recorded. Stable or only slightly different populations compared with the earlier surveys were recorded for Variable Oystercatcher, Banded Dotterel, Black Swan, Caspian Tern, Kingfisher and Welcome Swallow. Allan concluded by noting that construction of one or more artificial roosts in Pauatahanui Harbour may lead to increased population stability of some species.

At our April meeting, Helen Gummer (DoC, Wellington) told us about the transfer of Campbell Island Teal back to Campbell Island where it had become extinct. A small population of the Teal found on nearby Dent Island was taken into captivity and has provided a basis for study and breeding over a 10-year period at the Mt Bruce Wildlife Centre and in Christchurch. In a well-illustrated talk using slides and a video Helen described the considerable planning and organisation needed to achieve successful transfer of 50 birds back to Campbell Island in 2004 following the declaration that the island is now free of rats. A part of the transfer process involved releasing some birds earlier onto Codfish Island as a temporary 'wild' population.

Specially designed transfer boxes were built to hold birds during the transfer by sea to Campbell Island from Invercargill. Helen said that the transfer was achieved successfully and involved supplementary feeding during the sea voyage and for a period after arrival. Birds were released in mixed age and mixed sex groups in several small coves in Perseverance Harbour. As expected some dispersal of birds has occurred but after three weeks all 50 birds were alive and well.

In our meeting in early May Peter Reese outlined some results of the bird banding studies that he has led in Wellington, assisted by many local members, that is contributing to our local knowledge of bird age and distribution. Peter summarised his work with passerines, mostly banded at Wellington Zoo with recovery netting in several suburbs. About 2,330 birds of 17 species have been banded since 2000, mostly Silvereyes, House Sparrows, Greenfinches and Starlings. Peter said that silvereyes do not travel far (1-2 km) and survive for at least nine years. About 50 percent appear to survive from one year to the next. Greenfinches have a greater range than Silvereyes – more than two km. House Sparrows appear to live up to four years of age.

Banding and recovery of 41 Tui indicate that they travel 10 or more km, including crossing Wellington Harbour to Eastbourne. Peter also summarised results of a study of bird losses on roads in two Wellington suburbs. Using limited data Peter said that the most vulnerable seem to Yellowhammers, Grey Warblers, Fantails and Song Thrushes. The species least affected by road-kill are Tui and Starlings, possibly because of their higher flight speeds.

Once again several members helped with the autumn counts of the quarterly five-minute survey of birds in the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary. Colin Miskelly commented that Tui continue to be the most conspicuous species in the sanctuary, an observation that is supported by many living in Wellington. Of the recently introduced native birds Robins, Bellbirds, Kaka and Saddlebacks continue to be recorded often. Tomtits and Weka appear to be less conspicuous now than they were three years ago. There do not appear to be any real differences in conspicuousness of native birds that have been present for many years, including Silvereye, Fantail and Grey Warbler, since the sanctuary fence was built.

Notable recent bird observations made by members during late summer/autumn include large rafts of Hutton's Shearwaters near Mana Island, parakeets in local forests in Porirua and Eastbourne, a

Fluttering Shearwater found in the Wellington suburb of Johnsonville, a Falcon seen in suburban Porirua and a Song Thrush seen and heard in full song in Wellington in April.

IAN ARMITAGE

## Marlborough

We missed the last Southern Bird but that did not mean the region had gone into recess. Far from it, there is much regular activity and we have a usual attendance of one third of our membership to our field activities. Our regular monthly count of the birds at the Grassmere Saltworks continues and is now in its third year (for those interested it takes place on the third Sunday of each month). During the summer the count produces small numbers of arctic migrants, but we are beginning to see some patterns emerging with the local species. Waterfowl are perhaps the most erratic: last month (April) we had a count of 7,500 Grey Teal.

Banding is also very popular with the members, with colour-banding of Royal Spoonbills at Wairau Lagoon, and passerine banding at Jack Taylor's farm at Ward. At Jack's, we were joined by some post-graduate students from Canterbury University who were taking blood and parasites from most of the introduced species as part of a wider study into the viability of the various species in relation to the size of the founder population (i.e. the number of birds released originally).

There have been two beach patrols covering the coast between the Waima and Clarence rivers. The return was average but members enjoyed learning what to look for, how to complete the beach patrol cards and how to identify those smelly bundles of feathers.

The major upcoming activity will be the survey of the birds and habitat of the irrigation dams throughout the Marlborough Regional District. We have received a grant for this and will be working systematically to provide some guidance to the Council for setting some requirements when approving planning consents.

A few interesting birds have been seen recently. Two Black Stilts near the Wairau Lagoon walkway have been popular with members and visitors. A group of 10-12 Cattle Egrets have been reported near Wairau Valley township. Royal Spoonbills are regularly seen at the Wairau Lagoons and Havelock harbour; however somewhat out of the ordinary were two birds seen on a dam some 15 km inland. A third individual, a young bird, was apparently killed by the very possessive resident pair of Black Swans.

BRIAN BELL

## Canterbury

It has been a quiet few months for scarce and unusual birds in the Canterbury region. The Hudsonian and Black-tailed Godwits mentioned in the last report held on at the Avon-Heathcote Estuary until autumn migration time. Little Black Shags seem to be very slowly increasing their presence, with five together at Linwood Canal being an all-time record sized flock. A White Heron has finally found the Christchurch wetlands to its liking after a hiatus of five years whilst fieldwork for the Atlas Project was underway. The scarcest bird of late summer and autumn was a Japanese Snipe that sometimes showed itself well at the Waipara River Mouth, uncharacteristically right out in the open on gravel. Where it went in between sightings is a bit of a mystery. Some members must have felt that it only showed itself to selected birders after several fruitless journeys to see it.

It was a story of the two that got away as far as a Weka and a probable Dusky Moorhen was concerned. The Weka was reported to DoC by a householder after she saw it in her garden on the outskirts of Christchurch. It evaded capture and wasn't seen again. It obviously wasn't tired after a long walk from the West Coast; apparently the species is occasionally brought over and released by members of the public. The Dusky Moorhen was seen by a small group of visiting foreign birders adjacent to part of Kaituna Lagoon. Unfortunately they didn't realise the rarity of the species in New Zealand and news took about a month to filter out, by which time it wasn't to be found. Stewart Island Shags appear to be slowly expanding their range northwards, with Hamish Spencer reporting seeing the species off Ki-Wainono in March. It is still a fair distance though to the next area to the north that would be a suitable breeding site – on Banks Peninsula.

The members evening in February provided its usual potpourri of presentations with Geoff Henderson giving an outline of a study of native and exotic fruit use by both native and introduced birds as part of a Royal Society teachers fellowship. After spending large amounts of time in the field preliminary findings are that both native and exotic fruits make up important parts of all species diets, and it is not a good idea to stand under an actively-feeding New Zealand Pigeon if you want to stay clean. Kerry Borkin reported on her Subantarctic odyssey with some outstanding photos. Chris Challies also showed some great photos of the birds that can be seen on Norfolk Island and its outliers that whetted appetites for the survey work some OSNZ members will be helping with in November. The Red-tailed Tropicbirds were a particular feature, being a fairly common breeding bird there. The hilarious perils of trying to get to an island that often forms when Lake Ellesmere is low were shown photographically by Henry and Phyllis Paltridge with a number of members half-covered in mud – their bottom halves! At least one member is still cleaning mud off her tripod after using it to help her crawl back to solid ground.

At the March meeting (actually in early April) Andrew Crossland brought us up to date with what Christchurch City Council plans to do

regarding bringing back the birds. Exciting times should soon be upon the region with an extensive predator-proof fenced area planned for Styx Mill, and a regional park for the Waimakariri River hopefully bringing greater protection for Wrybills and other river and marsh birds.

Euan Kennedy discussed the fascinating work he is doing for his doctorate study at the April meeting, looking at how the severe genetic bottleneck that befell the Black Robin may affect the species in the future, and whether the lack of genetic diversity matters for the species, by following the hereditary lines of individually colour-banded birds.

A March weekend in Kaikoura with Marlborough region OSNZ and Forest & Bird allowed for a good get-together with people from an adjoining region seeing some good birds and eating nice food. A walk round the peninsula produced good views of three Reef Herons, one of them attacking a White-faced Heron with great gusto, repeatedly dive-bombing it. An orange-flagged Turnstone among a small flock of the species was a bonus, as was a Cirl Bunting seen by some participants. The Oceanwings trip produced the usual decent numbers of seabirds (perhaps I'm getting blasé) with a particular feature being a good showing by both types of Royal Albatrosses. The nearby Kowai Bush and Puhi Puhi Bush were relatively quiet, with almost all missing Robins at the first, but all managed good views of Brown Creeper.

#### Far North

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

#### Northland

Katrina Hansen, 3 Harbour View Road, Onerahi, Whangerei.  
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. Whangerei Harbour wader count ph. Tony Beauchamp (09) 436 2661. North Kaipara wader count ph. David Crockett (09) 435 0954.

#### Auckland

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

Laurie Hoverd, R.D. 3, Te Awamutu 2400. Ph (07) 871 8071.  
Email jlhoverd@xtra.co.nz  
Evening meetings, every third Wednesday 7.30pm, DoC, 73 Rostrevor 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

#### 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).

## Regional Roundup



Good views were also to be had of a courting couple who had driven up what they thought to be a quiet road only to be interrupted at their moment of ardour by a dozen binocular-toting birders, and it was too warm for the windows to be steamed up!

A few waders finally turned up at the Greenpark Sands area of Lake Ellesmere just in time to be farewelled in April. The small number of participants were pleased with about 70 Red-necked Stints (the largest flock of the year), good numbers of Pacific Golden Plovers and a smattering of Wrybills.

Kokako-hunting in the Charleston Forest in April was less than successful, with just one possible call. Delicious stew and almost constant entertainment from the campsite's resident pair of Robins and Weka family made up for the lack of a sighting of the grey ghost. Despite the rain on Saturday night two or three Great Spotted Kiwi were calling up the valley to the accompaniment of a Morepork chorus.

NICK ALLEN

## What's on



#### 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

Ian Armitage, 50 Ranui Tce, Tawa, Wellington, ph. (04) 232 7470.  
Email ian.armitage@xtra.co.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. Mist-netting and passerine banding at The Zoo, various Saturdays, ph. Peter Reese (04) 387 7387. Informal field trips, 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 wmlblenheim@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.



