



Southern *Bird*

No. 23 September 2005 • ISSN 1175-1916

Minutes from the
66th Annual General

OSNZ Strategic Plan 2005

Movements of Arctic-Breeding
Waders in New Zealand

Transfer of the
Beehive Boys





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Quotation

*If men had wings and bore black feathers,
few of them would be clever enough
to be crows.*

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher
mid 19th Century

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Cover Photos

Front cover: *Radio transmitter-fitted Blue Duck*
by Barry Hartley

Back cover: *Drake Australasian Shoveler*
Colin Hill

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.

Hihi has the last Haha

The news is spreading among bird-watchers that the Stitchbird or hihi (*Notiomystis cincta*) might not be a honeyeater. It looks and behaves quite like a honeyeater (Meliphagidae), and has long been assigned to that family along with the Tui and New Zealand Bellbird. However, Stitchbirds also have some features atypical of honeyeaters, such as long bristles at the gape, erectile ear-tufts and the habit of hole-nesting.

In 2001, Amy Driskell, a student at the University of Chicago, completed a PhD thesis that used DNA sequences from one nuclear and three mitochondrial genes to examine phylogenetic relationships among about one third of the world's 180 species of honeyeaters. In this analysis, the Stitchbird fell outside the cluster that accommodated all the other species including Tui. Amy's original sample included tissue from just one Stitchbird, but I was able to provide her with samples from three more individuals. She ran these additional samples and obtained the same results as before. This work suggests that the Stitchbird is not a honeyeater, but does not establish what the Stitchbird is.

There are several possibilities for the Stitchbird's true family relationship:

- (1) Comparison of further genes may show that, while aberrant, the Stitchbird should still be considered a honeyeater, but perhaps in a subfamily of its own.
- (2) Evidence may show that the Stitchbird is so distinctive that it belongs in a new family of its own, either closely related to honeyeaters or not.
- (3) Results may show that the Stitchbird belongs instead in one of the other songbird families present in New Zealand. For example, it might be in the same family as the Fantail, Robin or Whitehead.
- (4) The Stitchbird might belong to a songbird family present in Australia, but not otherwise represented in New Zealand. For example, it might be an Australian treecreeper (Climacteridae) or a fairy-wren (Maluridae).
- (5) The Stitchbird might belong to one of the world's songbird families not otherwise represented in New Zealand or Australia.

If I were betting on the matter, at this stage I would opt for (1) or (2). We now need genetic comparisons between Stitchbirds and representatives of all the other possible relatives. Once the field is narrowed down, other characters, such as anatomy and behaviour, can be considered for support. If it turns out that the Stitchbird belongs in a family or subfamily of its own then this will increase even more the distinctiveness of the New Zealand avifauna, and give even greater urgency to the conservation of this unusual bird.

BRIAN GILL

Publisher

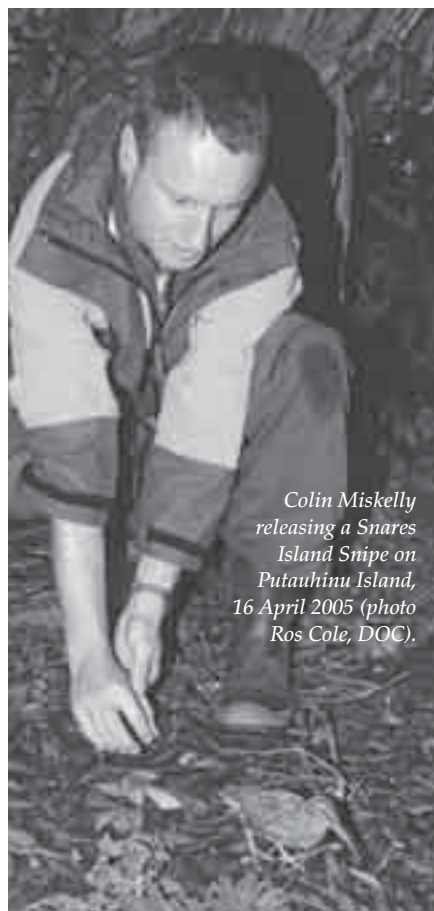
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We welcome advertising enquiries. Free classified ads are available to members at the editor's discretion.

Snares Island Snipe Transfer



Colin Miskelly
releasing a Snares
Island Snipe on
Putauhinu Island,
16 April 2005 (photo
Ros Cole, DOC).



Interior of one of the tent aviaries. There were 15
Snipe present; how many can you see? (photo
Colin Miskelly, DOC).

A new phase in New Zealand conservation began on 16th April 2005, with the first transfer of a threatened bird species specifically to replace an extinct taxon. Thirty Snares Island Snipe *Coenocorypha aucklandica huegeli* were transferred from North East Island (Snares) to Putauhinu Island, south-west of Stewart Island. Putauhinu Island (141 ha) is one of the southern Muttonbird (Titi) Islands, and lies only 1.5 km off Taukihepa (Big South Cape Island), which held a population of the now extinct Stewart Island Snipe *C. a. iredalei* until the mid 1960s. This was the first transfer of Snares Island snipe.

A Department of Conservation team of six were dropped on the Snares Islands by Stewart Island Halfmoon Bay-based *MV Aurora Australis* on 10th April. Sites were selected for two 3.0 x 4.8 m tent aviaries, which were erected on the morning of 11th April. Over the next two days, 30 snipe (14 males and 16 females) were captured with handnets, and equal numbers placed in each aviary. The birds were fed from a supply of 40,000 cultured mealworms brought to the islands for this purpose, supplemented with natural food collected on the island. The snipe also made much use of bowls of fresh water for drinking.

Blood samples were collected from all 30 snipe for genetic comparisons with other *Coenocorypha* snipe, and also to allow assessment of genetic variability among the founder population on Putauhinu Island. Disease screening (blood smears, cloacal swabs and faecal samples) was also undertaken.

All 30 snipe were in good condition on the day of transfer (3-5 days after capture) and, on average, their transfer weights were identical to capture weights. The snipe were placed in individual transfer boxes or individual compartments of transfer boxes for the 40-minute helicopter flight to Putauhinu Island. The transfer was timed to be at the end of the snipe breeding season, but also to be during the muttonbird season when muttonbirders would be present on Putauhinu Island.

The Putauhinu muttonbirders and Southland Conservancy, Department of Conservation, have made an enormous effort to restore the ecology of the island. Feral cats apparently died out in the 1960s. Then the muttonbirders joined with DoC in 1996 to eradicate Pacific Rats (Kiore) *Rattus exulans*. South Island Saddlebacks *Philesturnus carunculatus carunculatus* had been present in low numbers since 45 birds were transferred from nearby Big (Stage) Island in 1974 and 1976, and their numbers have greatly increased following rat eradication. Codfish Island Fernbirds *Bowdleria punctata steadi* were introduced in 1997, and Stewart Island Robins *Petroica australis rakiura* from Pohowaitai Island in 1999; both species have thrived.

All the muttonbirders present on the island participated in the snipe release, and will assist with monitoring the translocated birds. Kaumatua Rongo Spencer recalled seeing snipe (Tutukiwi) on Taukihepa, and also hearing the mythical hakawai, now believed to be a nocturnal aerial display performed by snipe. Snares Island Snipe were not thought to perform the hakawai display, but two of the males caught for the transfer had the tail feather wear considered characteristic of the display. One of the highlights of the snipe transfer was being able to restore the potential for hakawai to once again be heard over the Titi Islands.

MATT CHARTERIS and COLIN MISKELLY

review

Manawatu Estuary Trust Inc, 2004. *Exploring the Manawatu Estuary*.
NZ Centre for Precision Agriculture, Massey University.
CD-ROM, 33.3 megabytes. \$30



The Manawatu Estuary Trust aims to encourage conservation, education, research, eco-tourism and community cooperation to benefit the Manawatu Estuary. In order to further the aims of the trust and to assist enquirers to appreciate the diversity of the estuary the Trust has produced a CD-ROM that can be run on personal computers.

The CD presents a balanced introduction to the Manawatu Estuary for those not familiar with the locality and it also provides some specific information, such as history, estuarine ecology and species lists to all users wanting to learn more about this interesting area. It has been assembled into six chapters covering landscapes, flora, fauna, people, three games and it has a reference section.

The CD has been skilfully and thoughtfully designed and has been compiled using Macromedia Authorware software thereby letting the user interact with each of the topics in a lively and entertaining manner. The use of sounds, text and photographs that

are relevant and clear keeps the user interested and engaged. The text is informative and accurate although rather brief and has been written in a manner that will appeal to the general reader rather than those wanting a detailed appraisal of each of the chapter topics. The reference section however is wide, comprehensive and relevant, and points the reader in the direction of more detailed information.

Once loaded into a PC, which can take a few moments, the CD is stable and easy to use. The menu is clear, interactive and the chapters and sections appear rapidly. The CD is most likely to appeal to those wanting a general introduction to the diverse features of the Manawatu Estuary and who wish to explore the natural history and conservation of the Manawatu Estuary through the use of their PC. It will appeal, in particular, to

teachers and to primary and secondary school children as a valuable learning aid for education in ecology and conservation. It will be a valuable addition to school and family libraries for those wanting an easily used CD-based introduction to the Manawatu Estuary.

The CD-ROM was developed at the New Zealand Centre for Precision Agriculture, Massey University, by Abigail Allen (overall design) and Callum Eastwood (authorware designer). The Eastern and Central Community Trust and the Kingdom Foundation supported the production of the CD.

It can be purchased from the Manawatu Estuary Trust, P.O. Box 19, Levin.

IAN ARMITAGE

minutes

66th Annual General Meeting of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand

Held at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, on Saturday 4th June 2005 at 8.30pm

The President, David Medway, opened the meeting and welcomed the members present. He was very pleased with the good turn out. The President then introduced Councillors.

Present: Gillian Eller, Paul Cuming, Stella Rowe, Ted Kirk, Mark Nee, Elizabeth Bell, Raewyn Empson, Geoff Doring, Anneke Schuckard, Ros Batcheler, Stella Pye, Nick Allen, Carol Davies, Jan Hoverd, Ralph Powlesland, Jennifer Wasley, Colin Scadden, Gerald Pilon, Geoff Foreman, Sheelagh Leary, Margaret Fraser, Russell Thomas, Bill Messenger, Adrian Riegen, Glenice Bullen, Geoff de Lisle, Geraldine King, Murray Williams, Graeme Taylor, Tom Harty, Chris Robertson, Barry Hartley, Kathy Barrow, Ken Bond, Agnes Nee, Sue Bell, Paul Garner-Richards, Ted Wnorowski, Stuart Nicholson, Jenny Doring, Karen Baird, Phil Battley, David Pye, Mark Fraser, Derek Batcheler, Ian Armitage, Brian Boeson, Eila Lawton, David Lawrie, Prue Cozens, Raewynn Foreman, David Fraser, Rosemary Messenger, Chris Bindon, Hazel Harty, Rosemary Heather, John Rowe, Lyn Duff, Shirley Nieuwland, Ian Reid, Brian Bell, Michael Taylor, Keith Owen, Murray Jeffries, Rob Schuckard, Chris Gaskin, Kerry Borkin, Rod Orange, David Medway, Kerry-Jayne Wilson, Gordon Leary, Betty Seddon, Martin Day, Gwenda Pulham, Sav Saville, Keith Woodley, D. Bishop, Bruce Shanks, Miles King, Roger Wasley, Cees Bevers, Paul Scofield, David Melville, Ian Southey, Gillian Vaughan, and others who didn't sign the register.

Apologies: Mike Bell, Dave Bell, Richard Bell, Claudia Duncan, Bill Cash, Alan and Connie Wright, Ben Bell, Jack Taylor, Heather Smithers, Brenda Oldfield, Julia Brooke-White, Tenick Dennison, Enfy's Graham, John Simmons, Suzi Phillips, Brent Stephenson, S. Wood, Louise Foord, John Warham, Scott Butcher, Richard Holdaway, Euan Mason.

Moved that apologies be accepted. [Betty Seddon/Sue Bell – Carried]

Deaths of members: Colin Clunie, Peter Grant, Rod Cossee, David Baker and Ernst Mayr have passed away since the last AGM. A period of silence was observed in their memory.

Previous minutes: *Moved that the minutes of the 65th AGM held at Oamaru on 5 June 2004, as published in September 2004 Southern Bird, be accepted.* [Chris Robertson/Tom Harty – Carried]

Matter arising from Minutes:

Banding issues

The President wrote to both the Minister of Conservation and Department of Conservation regarding banding matters in general, and the Department's proposal to remove bands from Southern Royal Albatrosses on Campbell Island. The President outlined the responses he had received and general progress to date. Graeme Taylor has been appointed Banding Officer (Animal Marking). Graeme outlined the progress at the banding office and OSNZ involvement to date and that proposed in the future. David Melville as the OSNZ Banding Liaison Officer will represent the Society in banding matters. The President read the replies he had received from the Minister of Conservation (Chris Carter) and Department of Conservation (John Ombler).

Council membership

- (i) **Nominations:** There were three nominations for Council – Stuart Nicholson, David Melville and David Pye. Those persons have been elected to Council for a three year term. – Applauded.
- (ii) **Resignations:** Kerry-Jayne Wilson and Ros Batcheler have resigned from Council. The President thanked them for their services. – Applauded.
- (iii) **Secretary:** Biz Bell has resigned as Secretary, but has found a replacement (Claudia Duncan) who has been co-opted to that position. The President thanked Biz for her services as Secretary – Applauded.
- (iv) **Vice-President:** No nominations were received for Vice-President. David Lawrie has been co-opted to that position. – Applauded.
- v) **Treasurer:** No nominations were received for Treasurer. Mark Nee has generously agreed to continue as Treasurer for another year. Accordingly, he has been co-opted to that position. – Applauded.

President's report:

Moved that the President's report be accepted. [David Medway/Gwenda Pulham – Carried]

There were no matters arising from the report.

David Medway was thanked for his ongoing work as President. Applauded.

Treasurer's report:

Moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. [Mark Nee/Brian Bell – Carried]

There were no matters arising from the report.

Appointment of Auditor:

Moved that John Khouri be re-appointed as auditor. [Mark Nee/David Pye – Carried]

Notornis

It was noted that Murray Williams will step down as editor of *Notornis* after publication of the December 2005 issue. Murray outlined the present situation – the June issue was with the publishers; he has almost exhausted papers for *Notornis*, so needs more; the September issue is looking very thin; and the December issue is to be a special issue on Kakapo (a double issue). Murray really needs members to submit more papers and short notes for publication in the journal. The President mentioned that RRs had recommended that the Society's Mentoring scheme be re-introduced to assist lay members with writing scientific papers and short notes. A member asked if the process for editing could be sped up as delays meant the information was out of date when finally published. Murray replied that publication was being done as quickly as possible but all papers and short notes must be independently reviewed in order to maintain the high standard of *Notornis*. The President thanked Murray for his report. – Applauded.

Chris Robertson outlined the progress made by himself and Murray Williams towards providing *Notornis* and other Society publications on-line. All past issues of *Notornis* as well as the 50-year index and *OSNZ News* and *Southern Bird* will be available on-line in PDF format. The facility will have its own website (www.notornis.co.nz), and is due for completion by June 2006. Chris and Murray were thanked for their efforts in getting the publications on-line. – Applauded.



Presentation of awards:

Meritorious Service Awards for 2005 were presented to Jack Taylor, Colin Scadden and Tenick Dennison. Brian Bell (acting RR Marlborough) accepted Jack Taylor's award on his behalf; Colin Scadden accepted his award and Miles King (RR Wairarapa) accepted Tenick Dennison's award on his behalf. – Applauded.

General Business:

Australasian Ornithological Conference and Australasian Shorebird Conference

Members were reminded about these conferences to be held in Blenheim and Nelson in December 2005, and that information relating to them is available on the Society's website.

Kerry-Jayne Wilson's book

It was noted that Kerry-Jayne Wilson's recent book *Flight of the Huia* has been short-listed for the Montana Book Awards. – Applauded.

Field guide to the birds of New Zealand

A member noted that the current *Field Guide* is out of print and asked when it would be reissued. Rosemary Heather said she believes the next issue is imminent.

2010 members by 2010 challenge

Brian Bell issued a challenge on behalf of the Marlborough Region for the Society to get 2010 members by the year 2010. The Marlborough region has increased its membership annually and suggested that other regions could also do this. Marlborough has given talks, pushed OSNZ constantly, run more field trips and had social gatherings, and generally built on the fellowship of the Society. It was noted that over 500 contributors to the Atlas Scheme were not members! Betty Seddon commented that it would be easier to motivate new membership if information about the Society and who to contact is easily available to pass on to potential members. It was mentioned that all this information was in *Southern Bird*. RRs have information and contact sheets for new members.

National Scheme

A member asked if there was going to be a new national scheme to follow on after the Atlas. Current proposals for a land bird population monitoring scheme were explained.

Strategic Plan

Members were advised that the Society's Strategic Plan had been approved by Council and would be published in *Southern Bird*.

Development and Administration Committee

Members were informed that a new committee to ensure promotion of the Strategic Plan has been set up by Council. David Melville is the Convener. It was explained why the Society needs a business committee to guide it into the future. The committee will be introduced in an article in *Southern Bird*.

Next Annual General Meetings

Members were advised that forthcoming AGMs were proposed for Wellington in 2006, Taranaki in 2007, Kaikoura in 2008, and North Auckland in 2009.

The President thanked Ingrid and Nick Dunkley, Dai Morgan, John and Stella Rowe and Betty Seddon (the Committee responsible for organising the AGM and Conference), with backup from Tom and Hazel Harty, for ensuring that we had a successful and enjoyable weekend. – Applauded.

The President reminded members about the Scientific Day and thanked Phil Battley and Dai Morgan in advance for the preparing the programme and ensuring the day would be enjoyable and informative. – Applauded.

The President also reminded members about the Conference Dinner and guest speaker to take place after the Scientific Day.

The President thanked members present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10pm.

Meritorious Service Awards

Well-deserved Meritorious Service Awards were presented to Jack Taylor, Colin Scadden and Tenick Dennison at the Annual General Meeting in Hamilton on 4th June 2005 in recognition of their meritorious service in furtherance of the objects of the Society. The citations in support of the awards read as follows:

JACK TAYLOR

Jack would be the longest standing resident member in Marlborough. His contribution to the Society is his good will and standing in the local community which makes access to farmland available to Society activities. This is exemplified by our access to the Dominion Saltworks evaporation ponds at Lake Grassmere, Cape Campbell lighthouse area, Lake Elterwater, etc. Jack has also had an open house for members and visiting ornithologists, often taking them to the back of his farm to see Falcons and/or Cirl Buntings. He has made his farm and buildings available for banding training weekends on a regular basis and even kept parts of the crops unsprayed so that there would be plenty of seeding weeds to attract the birds. He was also the key person involved in a junior study course held on his property, as he organised all the food and transport and made available all his buildings. During his membership Jack has contributed many observations and is a regular participant in field outings.

COLIN SCADDEN

Colin, one of the founding organisers of the Wairarapa region of the Society, has been instrumental in its continued strong membership. In the late 1970s he started studying the Caspian Terns at Onoke Spit, an interest that continues today with numerous field trips and banding expeditions. In 2002, Colin was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to conservation. A member of the Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre Trust Board (10 years as chairman) he was responsible for the fund-raising for a classroom and extension to the existing buildings. He is the author of a booklet on the history of Mount Bruce. Colin introduces many people to bird watching through numerous talks to schools, Probus, and other interest groups, and as Regional Representative for two extended periods. He is the planner for the AGM tours of the Wairarapa contingent – often 40% to 50% of local members attend. Colin is the co-producer of the local field guide *Where to find birds in the Wairarapa*, and has made three trips to the Chatham Islands for voluntary work.

TENICK DENNISON

Tenick is one of the founding organisers of the Wairarapa region of the Society. He was responsible for six courses at which guest speakers covered most aspects of ornithology. The result is a strong and enthusiastic membership of the Wairarapa region of which Tenick was Regional Representative for six years, and newsletter editor for nine years. Tenick was also a member of the Society's Council for one term. He has represented the Society on the Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre Trust Board, and is presently Chairman of the Henley Lake Trust Board and a driving force for the habitat development. Tenick set up and ran the Society's bird slide library in 1990. This extensive catalogue is now an extremely useful resource for information. He also has an extensive book library that is frequently used by local members. Tenick has made three trips to the Chatham Islands, two assisting with Taiko and one dealing with the Chatham Island Warbler. He was both inspiration and co-producer of the local field guide *Where to find birds in the Wairarapa*. Tenick's enthusiasm for in-depth study of birds has encouraged other Society members to observe more closely, recording and keeping notes.

FURTHER MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Meritorious Service Awards were also presented, at the dinner following the Scientific Day in Hamilton on 5 June 2005, to the following top nine observer teams for their outstanding contributions to the Society's Atlas Project over the past five years. By the end of December 2004 they had contributed more than 600 data sheets each, and together they were responsible for about 39% of the total number of sheets contributed at that time. The recipients were (not in any particular order): **Bill Cash, Nick Allen, Hugh and Zoe Clifford, Paul Cuming, Lloyd Esler, Barry Hartley, Stuart Nicholson, Stella and John Rowe, Ted Wnorowski.**

DAVID MEDWAY

President

OSNZ Strategic Plan 2005

This document sets out a strategic plan for the Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc. It is based on a review of strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities; presents a series of statements relating to OSNZ's purpose, vision, values and objectives; and sets out its proposed strategies and goals.

Background

The Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc. was founded in 1939 and incorporated in 1953. It has approximately 1,000 members, including some 75 institutional and 150 overseas members. OSNZ operates nationwide. No special qualifications are required for admission and membership is open to all who are interested in birds. The Society is a study-based organisation, not a conservation organisation, although it does seek to be relevant to conservation by providing information, from which sound management decisions can be derived.

OSNZ STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Encouraging the study and enjoyment of birds.

VISION

In five years time the Society will have 1,400 members, with an appropriate mix of professional, amateur and institutional members. The Society will be running a number of science-based, long- and short-term, national and local schemes and projects. These will allow the Society's members to enthusiastically pursue their study and enjoyment of birds as suits their interests or circumstances, all contributing to the sum of ornithological knowledge. Where appropriate these schemes and projects will utilise external funding sources to defray expenses and subsidise other studies needing financial support. The Society will employ an executive officer to facilitate the Society's schemes, and collate, store and analyse the data collected by the Society schemes and members' personal projects and observations. The results of these analyses will be widely disseminated and used. Many of them will be published in the Society's journal *Notornis* or magazine *Southern Bird* which will be recognised for their professional quality.

VALUES

- During Society activities the welfare of the birds is paramount.
- Fostering an enthusiastic membership that enjoys their birding activities.
- Applying rigorous scientific standards to all Society schemes and projects.
- Demonstrating impartiality in the selection of studies and in disseminating information about birds.

OBJECTIVES

The constitution of OSNZ contains the objects of the Society. These constitutional objects can be condensed into two overriding objective statements:

- OSNZ will be recognised as the leading authority on birds in New Zealand.
- OSNZ will maximise the use of information derived from members' activities, whilst promoting the enjoyment of birding.

STRATEGIES

1. Advance knowledge about birds through study.
2. Enhance the dissemination of knowledge about birds.
3. Become more relevant to conservation.
4. Make birding and bird study more enjoyable.
5. Ensure the scientific rigour of the Society's activities.
6. Secure adequate financial resources so the Society can follow its own agenda.
7. Establish closer links with relevant organisations.

MAJOR GOALS - 2010

1. Membership of 1,400.
2. Employ an Executive Officer.
3. Sign memorandums of understanding with relevant organisations.
4. Conduct a review of all Society schemes, integrate and introduce new schemes as relevant.
5. Have three Society schemes or projects self-funding from contractual arrangements, grants/donations, sale of information, or other arrangements.

OSNZ Plan Summary 2005

OSNZ STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

Encouraging the study and enjoyment of birds.

OSNZ VALUES:

- During society activities the welfare of the birds is paramount
- Fostering an enthusiastic membership who enjoy their birding activities
- Rigorous scientific standards for all society schemes
- Demonstrating impartiality

OSNZ OBJECTIVES:

- OSNZ will be recognised as the leading authority on birds in New Zealand
- OSNZ will maximise the use of information derived from member's activities, whilst promoting the enjoyment of birding

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES:

Advance Knowledge of Birds

- Science based schemes & projects utilising members & Executive Officer
- Niche projects – filling in DoC gaps
- Projects Assistance Fund
- Training – members & others
- Bird observatories
- Strategic alliances – other organisations

Disseminate Knowledge

- Publications – esp. *Notornis* & *Sth. Bird*
- Publishing results & accessible databases, impartial data source, proactive dissemination
- Executive Officer
- Conferences, courses
- Strategic alliances – other organisations
- Education role, library
- Training – members & others

Relevance to Conservation

- Relevant choice of schemes & projects
 - scientific rigour
 - impartiality
- Proactive publication & dissemination of data
- Strategic alliances
- Contracts & consultancies within defined role
- Training

Enjoyable Birding

- Encourage social aspects for all activities
- Special interest groups
- AGM, conferences, trips, courses, training
- Conservation relevant
- Scheme results published & understood.
- Wide membership – age, type, experience
- Publications, website & library

Financial Resources

- Mixed income streams
- Sale of information, training, contracting & consultancy
- Self funding schemes & projects
- Contracts for OSNZ purposes
- Membership increase

KEY MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

- Membership numbers & types
- Membership turnover
- Executive Officer
- *Notornis*
- MOUs
- Self-funding schemes
- Membership participation in schemes
- Scheme & project results analysed & published

Rare Birds Committee Report for the six months to 31 July 2005

RECONSIDERATION OF HISTORICAL RECORDS

In preparation for the forthcoming revision of the *Checklist of New Zealand Birds* it has been decided to re-assess some records of rare species in New Zealand to ensure that there is a uniform standard for first New Zealand records. In the past six months four records of two species were re-assessed by the Rare Birds Committee (RBC).

Brolga *Grus rubicundus* (two records 1947 and 1968) **Case 19/05**

There are two New Zealand records: Early March to 10th May 1947, Clevedon (McKenzie & Cunningham 1951 and 1952) and 8th Jan 1968, Punakaiki (Westerskov 1968). Both observations were made and published before the RBC was formed, thus the only information available is that given in the original publications. The committee

concluded that both observations were definitely cranes (*Grus* sp.), but that neither record contained enough information to prove the individuals were Brolga and not Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*. The committee has therefore resolved to remove Brolga from the New Zealand list pending a record of an individual that can definitively be identified to species.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (two records 1970 and 1983) **Case 33/05**

The first record was made before the RBC began (6th Dec 1970 to 29th May 1971, Firth of Thames (Brown *et al.* 1971)). Assessment in this case was made from published photographs. The original observers did not consider Semi-palmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, as this species and Ringed Plover were believed to be conspecific at the time. The second record (9th Nov 1983 to

10th June 1985, Access Bay, Firth of Thames (Howell 1986)) has been assessed twice by the RBC. In light of new characters published in recent years the photographs and written evidence were re-examined. The committee was unanimous in rejecting both records as being Ringed Plover; therefore Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* is removed from the New Zealand list. The committee had mixed views on whether the 1971 record contained enough information to be unequivocally identified as a Semi-palmated Plover and a literature search indicates that, in the eastern Canadian Arctic, a zone of hybridisation may occur between the two taxa (Smith 1969). The committee did feel that the second record was undoubtedly of a Semi-palmated Plover and therefore Semi-palmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* is added to the New Zealand list.

continued on the next page ►►

OSNZ POLICY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL SURVEYS, AND ADOPTION AND USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

1. The Ornithological Society of New Zealand (henceforth OSNZ) is an organisation that exists ultimately to gather and publish information on the birds of New Zealand.
2. OSNZ should be the major entity gathering and publishing information on the birds of New Zealand.
3. Web-based methods of data entry and dissemination are the way of the future, but...
4. Web-based methods have huge logistic problems inherent in their maintenance, and in the analysis, problems that most overseas organisations have ignored in concentrating on early web presence rather than content.
5. OSNZ believes that web-based monitoring of New Zealand birds should be developed according to best practice, to develop the simplest and most useable platform to suit local purposes, which are not necessarily, or even likely to be, consistent with the basis for surveys and monitoring done elsewhere.
6. Before any scheme is launched by OSNZ, the membership will be fully consulted, and the results of that consultation incorporated in the development of the platform and in survey and monitoring objectives that are both valid scientifically and feasible for the membership.
7. It is crucial to consider the outcome of any survey or information-gathering scheme or process, and especially the analytical methods required to achieve that outcome, before any scheme is adopted.

address changes

Tim Barnard, RR for the Volcanic Plateau and Bay of Plenty has moved house to 23 Tennyson Drive, Poets Corner, Owhata, Rotorua. His phone and email contact details are unchanged ((07) 345 3433 tim.barnard@xtra.co.nz).

Ian Armitage has taken over the job of RR for Wellington from Stuart Chambers, who has joined Council. Ian can be contacted at 50 Ranui Terrace, Tawa, Wellington. Phone (04) 232 7470 and email ian.armitage@xtra.co.nz.

There are a number of changes to personnel and contact details for Council members and convenors. Full contact details for these can be found elsewhere in this issue of *Southern Bird*.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Meritorious Service Awards

Do you know anyone who has selflessly helped the OSNZ? These awards are one opportunity to officially recognise this person, and for the Society to thank them.

The person need not be a member, and need not even reside in New Zealand. Posthumous nominations are also welcomed. The person can even receive more than one Meritorious Service Award, though they need to be for different services to the Society.

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

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

A maximum of five Meritorious Service Awards can be made every year. Nomination is easy. Simply write a citation of **not more than 150 words** on one side of an A4 sheet setting out the achievements of the person nominated, and include the signatures of two members of the Society.

The closing date for nominations is 31st December 2005. They should be sent to:

The Awards Secretary, OSNZ, P.O. Box 12397, Wellington

Rare Birds Committee Report

continued

FIRST RECORDS

The committee encourages the observers of the following species to submit accounts of these records for publication.

Royal Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus schlegeli*

[First record for the Chatham Islands]

UBR21/05	20/02/2005	Pitt Is, Chatham Islands	Colin Miskelly
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Hybrid Shore Plover *Thinornis novaeseelandiae*

x New Zealand Dotterel *Charadrius obscurus*

UBR45/04	10/07/2004	Omaha Sandspit	Gwenda Pulham
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This interesting record of a bird at Omaha is believed to be the progeny of a mixed pair breeding on Beehive Island.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

[First record for the Chatham Islands]

UBRs18/05,	Nov - Dec	Te Whanga	Colin Miskelly,
49/05, and	2004	Lagoon,	Felipe Moniz and
62/05		Chatham Is	Sarah Money

Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel* [First record for The Snares]

UBR14/05	25/11/2004	The Snares	Brian Bell <i>et al</i>
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Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

[First New Zealand record]

These sightings refer to the same individual.

UBR54/04	15/11/2004	St Anne's Lagoon, Cheviot	Sheila Petch
UBR02/05	14/11/2004	St Anne's Lagoon, Cheviot	Nicholas Allen

Bellbird *Anthornis melanura* [First records for Campbell Island]

UBR11/05	Dec 2004?	Campbell Island	Brian Bell <i>et al</i>
UBR25/05	19/09/2004	Camp Cove, Campbell I	Pete McClelland
UBR28/05	Mar-Apr 2003	Camp Cove, Campbell I	Sandy King

RARE SPECIES

Reports of the following rare species were accepted by the Rare Birds Committee during the current reporting period.

Australasian Little Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

UBR48/04	14/10/2004	Rosedale Treatment plant, North Shore City	Graham Don
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Snares Crested Penguin *Eudyptes robustus*

UBR20/05	5/02/2005	Mangere I, Chathams	Colin Miskelly
UBR22/05	Feb 2005	Pitt I, Chathams	Colin Miskelly

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

UBR42/04	22/11/2003	Lake Daniells, Nelson	Heidi Schlumpf
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Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

UBR35/05	24/02/2005	near Lake Ellesmere, on Christchurch to Akaroa Rd	A.M. Bussers
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Large Sand Dotterel *Charadrius leschenaultii*

UBR46/04	29/05/2004	Omaha Sandspit	Ted Wnorowski
UBR46/04	26/06/2004	Tauhoa, Kaipara Harbour	Ted Wnorowski
UBR46/04	7/08/2004	Mangere Ponds	Ted Wnorowski
UBR46/04	31/08/2004	Karaka, Manukau Harbour	Ted Wnorowski

UBR53/04	24/10/2004	Awarua Bay	Phil Rhodes
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Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

UBR47/04	10/05/2004	S of Ruawai, North Kaipara Harbour	Ted Wnorowski
UBR01/05	28/11/2004	Maketu Estuary	Paul Cuming

Japanese Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

UBR26/05	27/02/2005	Waipara River Mouth	Nicholas Allen
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Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

UBR03/05	6/10/2003	Miranda	Phil Battley
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Sanderling *Calidris alba*

UBR55/04	14/11/2004	Awarua Bay	Phil Rhodes
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Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

UBR07/05	11/11/2004	Kiwi Esplanade, Mangere Bridge	Phil Battley
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Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

UBR29/05	29/01/2005	Ahuriri Estuary	Margaret & Wayne Twydlle
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Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

UBR49/04	12/10/2004	Porirua Harbour	Ian Armitage
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Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

UBR30/05	26/12/2004	Ahuriri Estuary	Margaret & Wayne Twydlle
UBR32/05	1/11/2004	Nelson Haven	Peter Field

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

UBR31/05	19/03/2005	Farewell Spit	Don Cooper
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Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

UBR16/05	5/10/2004	Taharoa	Peter Brown
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South Polar Skua *Catharacta maccormicki*

UBR13/05	28/11/2004	Between Auckland & Macquarie Is	Brian Bell <i>et al</i>
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White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

UBR43/04	29/08/2004	Waikanae R Estuary	Janice Woon
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Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

UBR36/05	18/11/2003	Ruapuke Beach	Hugh Clifford
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Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

UBR50/04	6/11/2004	Kapiti Island	Colin Miskelly
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Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*

UBR23/05	Jan 2005	Whataroa, S Westland	Phil Herrity
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Spine-tailed Swift *Hirundapus caudacutus*

UBR56/04	1/12/2004	near Tuku Reserve, Chatham Islands	Tony Wilson
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Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel*

UBR06/05	7/07/2004	Tapora, Kaipara Harbour	Phil Battley
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SPECIES OUTSIDE THEIR USUAL RANGE

Fiordland Crested Penguin *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*

UBR08/05	26/10/2004	Waikanae Beach	Ian Cooksley
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Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

UBR51/04	6/11/2004	Kapiti Island	Colin Miskelly
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Brown Teal *Anas aucklandica chlorotis*

UBR04/05	1/02/2004	Waihou River mouth, Firth of Thames	Phil Battley
UBR05/05	4/01/2005	Mangere Sewage Ponds	Phil Battley

Spur-winged Plover *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae*

UBR24/05	12/09/2004	Tucker Cove, Campbell I	Pete McClelland
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OLD RECORDS

A single record that was overlooked by previous committees was assessed:

Frigatebird *Fregata* sp.

UBR39/01	27/01/2001	Mangere Island	David Roberts
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Assignment of species to this record could not be made.

THE FOLLOWING SIGHTINGS

HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED:

Black falcon *Falco subniger*

UBR27/05	26/02/2005	near French Pass
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The committee was divided as to the identity of this falcon seen by two extremely experienced observers. The original records of this species are currently under review and it was considered that only a unanimous verdict was acceptable.

Frigatebird *Fregata* sp.
UBR44/04 21/10/2004 Lone Kauri Rd, Karekare

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
UBR12/05 7/12/2004 Between Pitt I & South-East Islands

Brown falcon *Falco berigora*
UBR52/04 5/12/2004 Riwaka

Brolga *Grus rubicundus*
UBR17/05 27/10/2005 near Poolburn Viaduct, Ida Valley, Central Otago

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
UBR15/05 21/11/2004 Wellington Harbour wharves

Australian Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*
UBR10/05 8/12/2004 Waitangi, Chatham Island
UBR34/05 7/02/2005 Between Cass & Bealey

SPECIES TO BE REMOVED FROM THE RBC APPRAISAL LIST

It has been decided that due to the large number of records submitted the following species no longer meet the criteria to be classified as rare birds, and so have been removed from the RBC appraisal list:

Australian Little Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*
Large Sand Dotterel *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Mongolian Dotterel *Charadrius mongolus*
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*
White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Please note the committee does have a policy that any member may submit descriptions of any species that they are unable to identify.

The RBC would like to express their thanks for the work of Mike Imber who stood down from the committee at the recent AGM after many years of service. We wish him well in his retirement.

Literature Cited

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- McKenzie, H. R.; Cunningham, J. M. 1951. Mystery Bird Puzzles Observers - Australian Brolga visits Auckland District. *The Weekly News* July 18, 1951, p. 38.
- McKenzie, H. R.; Cunningham, J. M. 1952. Occurrence of the Brolga (*Megalornis rubicundus*) in New Zealand. *Notornis* 4: 198.
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R. PAUL SCOFIELD
Convenor

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, cliff-top fish fry, social gatherings and an abundance of great scenery and bird watching! Activities/Registration fees TBA

from \$713 per person

ex Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch

Holiday package prices include:

- Return airline to Norfolk Island
- 7 nights twin share accommodation
- 7 days car hire (petrol and car insurance extra)
- Return airport transfers
- Meet and greet at Norfolk Island airport
- Complimentary 'A Walk in the Wild' (a unique rainforest walk)
- Complimentary Miniature Golf

Please note: Airfare taxes \$157.60 (approx) are extra, prices are in NZ dollars & current today and subject to change without notice. Conditions Apply

If you are not travelling from Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch please contact us for a customised discounted holiday package.

**For more information
phone toll free
0800 0088 10**

Take advantage of our local knowledge and having your travel agent at your destination.



Contact: The Travel Centre
PO Box 172, Norfolk Island 2898, South Pacific
Phone: 00 6723 22552 Fax: 00 6723 22005
Toll free 0800 0088 10
Email: lee@travelcentre.ni
Website: www.visitnorfolk.ni
(if office is closed please leave a message or call toll free number)

Please fill in this form and email or fax bottom portion to:
'Bird Watchers Experience'
c/o The Travel Centre, PO Box 172, Norfolk Island 2898, South Pacific
Alternatively email lee@travelcentre.ni for more details.

Please send the further information regarding 'Bird Watchers Experience', November 2005

I am interested in travelling the following dates _____

Travelling from _____

Surname _____ First Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Facsimile _____

Email _____

Membership Renewals

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

New Members and Donation

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Richard Baker (Auckland); Beatrice Beatty (USA); Mike Bryan (Far North); Kenneth Buchanan (Otago); Bernard Card (Wellington); Francesca Cunninghame (Otago); Christine Debruyne (Canterbury); Nic Dillon (Marlborough); Murray Efford (Otago); Ian Farrell (UK); Frances Gazley (Wellington); Greenspace Unit (Canterbury); F. Neil Hayes (Wairarapa); Jennifer Hensley (South Auckland); Elizabeth Jacques (Far North); Frank Jacques (Far North); Paul Jacques (Southland); Halema Jamieson (Auckland); Sharon Kast (Auckland); Jane Kitson (Southland); Nikki La Monica (Wellington); Lifestyle Tourism Holdings Ltd (Nelson); Wayne Linklater (Wellington); Peter McClelland (Southland); Beverley & Nelson North (Marlborough); Jason Roxburgh (South Auckland); Bernadette Russell (Southland); Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu (Canterbury); Joanne Thorne (Wanganui); Tony Whitehead (Volcanic Plateau).

We also thank the following member for their generous donation to the Society:

Dr R. E. Fordyce



Movements of Arctic-breeding waders in N

RESULTS FROM THE FI

In

2004 the OSNZ started a three-year study into the movements of Arctic-breeding waders in New Zealand. We are doing this under contract from the Department of Conservation, which is interested in knowing how much movement there is by waders between different estuaries and harbours around New Zealand. With the numbers of experienced banders and bird watchers in its ranks, the OSNZ is the obvious organisation to undertake this work.

So far, Bar-tailed Godwits and Lesser Knots have been caught in four main regions – the greater Auckland area (Kaipara Harbour to the Firth of Thames), the upper South Island (Golden and Tasman Bays), Christchurch, and Southland. Numbers of birds caught vary between sites and regions, but in total over 400 Godwits and almost 200 Knots have been colour-banded around the country. Each bird has four colour-bands (two on each tarsus; these will only ever be yellow, white, blue or red) as well as a white leg-flag (which can either be on the upper leg or with the bands on the lower leg).

So far, we have made over 1,900 re-sightings of Godwits around the country. Most of these (three-quarters of those seen) have been of birds that have stayed put at the banding site. However, there have been a number of notable movements, including an immature banded at Miranda in the Firth of Thames (south of Auckland) that was seen in Invercargill in Southland on 4th February 2005, but was back at Miranda by 3rd March 2005. A juvenile was banded at the Avon-Heathcote Estuary in Christchurch in October 2004, seen

with a flock of juveniles at Lake Ellesmere in November, and was next seen in the Manukau Harbour, Auckland, in January 2005. So some birds do make long-distance movements, but there is a strong tendency for young age-classes to move more than adults. Only 4% of adults have been seen at a different location, compared with 9% of immatures (ages 2 and 3) and 19% of immatures (first-years).

...we have banded a few (Turnstones) too, and one of them was seen in Korea on migration!

There have been fewer re-sightings of Knots (600), in part because Knots are less widespread than Godwits, but also because you have to see the birds a bit closer to read the combination. A very clear picture is already emerging, however – Knots are very mobile. Two-thirds of the birds resighted in the field have moved a substantial distance. Most of the Knots banded have been caught around Auckland, and these have been seen from the Far North (Parengarenga Harbour) to Tasman Bay (near Nelson). Some of them have been spotted numerous times at several sites. One bird was banded in the Firth in June 2004, was seen 110 km away at Tāpapa in the Kaipara Harbour on 7th July, was back in the Firth the next morning, by late July was in the Manukau Harbour, and in January 2005 was seen at Parengarenga. Another from the same

catch spent June-July in the Firth, late July-August in the Manukau Harbour, September to February in the Firth, and then was seen near Nelson in March! As with Godwits, young birds seemingly wander more than adults: 33% of adults, 58% of immatures and 83% of first-years moved site.

Where to from here for year two? We plan to continue to band birds at the existing sites, but are investigating expanding the banding work into other regions. The real need is for extra eyes out on the tidal flats and roosts of New Zealand. This work can only succeed if we are able to regularly check areas away from where we have banded the birds (which tend to be the more accessible areas near well-populated areas). Looking for bands can be an exciting addition to a day's birding, particularly during the period when southward-migrating birds arrive in New Zealand (mid-September to mid-October). We are particularly interested to know whether birds stop short of their eventual destination and later make their way to their previous non-breeding site, especially those from southern regions (Canterbury and Southland). If birds make only brief stops en route through the country this may be hard to detect, but it means that every sighting could be important!

So we encourage all birders to pay special attention to the legs of Godwits, Knots and Turnstones (yes, we have banded a few of these too, and one of them was seen in Korea on migration!) when you are out birding. The best band-reading results are to be had when birds are gathering on tidal flats before

Ageing Bar-tailed Godwits

A colour-banded male godwit photographed a few days before it migrated, March 2005.

Photo: Phil Battley



New Zealand FIRST YEAR OF STUDY

roosting, or as they spread out to feed after a high tide. Actual high tide roosts can be very frustrating. At some places walking around on the tidal flats can be an effective way to check lots of legs (but please don't get stuck). We would especially appreciate hearing from anyone who visits out-of-the-way areas, or those that are not visited especially much, such as the Far North and Northland, eastern Bay of Plenty, the Waikato Harbours, Otago and Southland. We are even interested in hearing from you if you don't see any banded birds (or even if you checked a site and saw no birds at all) – these nil records are important for measuring our coverage effort.

Information about recording bands is on the OSNZ website (www.osnz.org.nz), and the same information is also on a new website set up by Phil Battley (www.nzshorebirds.com). On that site there is also information on the first results of this project (via the research page), general information on Godwits and Knots, and a list of the leg-flag combinations in use along the West Asian-Australasian Flyway. Just because we now have colour-bands to look for doesn't mean that we should stop looking for flags, especially as researchers in Alaska are about to put coded flags on godwits before southward migration. Good spotting!

If you are interested in becoming more involved in this project, please contact us.

PHIL BATTLE
(philbattley@quicksilver.net.nz)

DAVID MELVILLE
(david.melville@xtra.co.nz)

Anyone looking closely at a flock of Bar-tailed Godwits in New Zealand in mid-October should notice a small number of somewhat brighter and spotty birds. These buffy birds are juveniles, and as they are easily distinguished by their plumage we can measure age ratios in flocks to gather important information about the productivity and migrations of godwits.

Why are we interested? Measuring age-ratios on the non-breeding grounds has been done from cannon-net catches in Australia for some years now to estimate breeding success in the Arctic, as high numbers of young birds making it to the non-breeding grounds implies that it was a good breeding season. However, there are some obvious and other less obvious problems with this approach – you need to be able to catch lots of birds, and to catch at many sites, and if you don't catch an entire flock there are chances that the sample may not represent the true age make-up. In species in which juveniles can be distinguished at a distance, however, visual scans can give the same information as catches, but much more easily and at multiple locations. Juveniles also arrive in New Zealand later than adults, so recording their presence at different sites around the country (and the flyway) can help us understand when young godwits migrate to New Zealand and where (if anywhere) they stop en route.

Ageing of godwits is done largely on the patterns and condition of the contour feathers on the wings, shoulders and back. Flocks of godwits in October-November may have three main age-classes present: adults newly returned from the breeding grounds, immatures that have stayed over the winter, and juveniles.

Juveniles have strongly patterned mantle ('back'), scapular ('shoulder'), tertial and wing covert feathers, which are dark with extensive pale 'notches' coming in from the edges (see photos). This results in a spangled look. All the body and wing feathers are the same age, and the scapulars are slightly smaller than on adults, so juveniles look 'neater' than adults.

Juveniles are also quite buffy in their overall colour, including on the breast, though this fades with time.

Adults typically undergo some body moult before migrating south, so birds newly-arrived in New Zealand can have a mixture of very worn, old breeding plumage feathers (often just the dark central part may remain on the upperparts) and new, grey-brown feathers with crisp edges. Some reddish plumage may be present on the underparts. The wing coverts of some adults can look at first like those of a juvenile, but closer inspection will show them to be frayed and worn. Juveniles have much fresher feathers in good condition. Immatures will be fairly uniform grey or brown above, with at most a smattering of breeding plumage feathers.

Juveniles moult into their first non-breeding (basic) plumage after arriving on the non-breeding grounds, but they can be easily distinguished throughout October and into November. Beyond mid-November ageing becomes more difficult, and while some birds can be told in December by retained juvenile tertials, age ratios can be unreliable if some first-year birds get overlooked. The best age ratios are obtained when all juveniles have arrived but before the early-moult of juveniles start to look like adults. Total counts of juveniles, even without accurate age ratio data, can help determine when numbers have levelled-off.

So if you are out looking at waders this spring, why not have a go at counting juveniles as well? It may be possible to count all 'adults' (including immatures) and juveniles in a flock, or it may be necessary to subsample the flock. Instructions on how to record these data are given on the OSNZ website or in the research section of www.nzshorebirds.com.

PHIL BATTLE

*Department of Mathematics and Statistics,
University of Otago
philbattley@quicksilver.net.nz*



Juvenile godwits, showing contrasting upperparts. Note that some adults may still retain notched tertials after breeding.
Photos: David Samways

Transfer of the Beehive Boys

The recent transfer of two Shore Plovers from Beehive Island to DoC's National Wildlife Centre at Mt Bruce wasn't without controversy. Having these birds in the Hauraki Gulf gave people a chance to see them without having to travel to the Chathams. So how did they come to be on Beehive and why were they taken into captivity?

The two birds are the sole survivors of the first attempt to establish a new wild Shore Plover population. Between 1994 and 2000, 75 juveniles were released on Motuora Island, 6 km from Beehive. Two pairs did attempt to breed on Motuora, but a population did not establish—Moreporks and Harriers killed many birds and scared others into dispersing to the mainland, where most didn't last long in the presence of rats, cats, stoats and dogs. A proposal to remove Moreporks temporarily proved unacceptable, and the recovery programme reluctantly decided to stop releases. No Shore Plovers remain on Motuora, but two males have been resident on Beehive Island for five years. One of them was captive-bred at Mt Bruce and released on Motuora in February 1998, the other was reared in the wild on Motuora during the 1999/2000 season.

The Shore Plover Recovery Group, which advises managers on the best way to achieve recovery of the species, has been considering the future of the 'Beehive boys' for several years. The group discussed releasing females on Beehive, but decided it could not be justified. The recovery plan specifies that the programme should be aiming to establish self-sustaining populations. When the group considered the very small size of Beehive, the presence of mammalian predators and/or Moreporks on many surrounding islands, as well as the failure to establish on Motuora, it had to conclude that there wasn't a high enough chance that a viable population would establish in the area.

In considering the future of the Beehive birds, the group was also looking ahead to the next re-introduction effort, which begins on



The first two chicks hatched on Motuora (hatched on Christmas Day 1998). These were almost certainly the first Shore Plover chicks hatched in the wild outside the Chatham Islands for about 120 years. (Photo by John Dowding)

an island off the South Island coast later this season. Maximum capacity will be needed in the captive population to provide juveniles for that, and the Beehive males will be very useful. One of them also has a pedigree that is under-represented in the captive population. The group therefore judged that getting these birds into the captive-breeding programme gave the best overall return to the whole recovery effort. In early July, the group proposed that the birds be moved to Mt Bruce and that proposal was approved by DoC's Auckland Conservancy.

The transfer itself went smoothly. On 26th July, Thelma Wilson, David Wilson (both DoC Warkworth) and I headed out to Beehive. By 11 am, the two birds were in the transfer box and we were on our way back to Sandspit. From there they were taken by road to Auckland Airport, then flown to Palmerston North. From there, Raelene Berry (DoC Mt Bruce) drove them to their new home. Total time in transfer was about 6.5 hours. Following a month in quarantine, the birds will be integrated into the breeding programme just in time for the coming season.

This wasn't a popular move in some quarters. However, at this stage there are still only 70 pairs of Shore Plover in the world and the recovery programme has to consider the bigger picture for the species. There is also the issue of what these reintroductions cost – this way there is a small return to the programme for the significant outlay on Motuora.

JOHN DOWDING



Male Shore Plover. (Photo by John Dowding)

Report of the Checklist Committee

The Committee has made significant progress in its task of producing a new checklist, and members are working well as a team. At the time of writing, first drafts of the full species entries for about 60% of the birds have been compiled and circulated to members. Compiling the checklist texts for the various groups of species has been apportioned

between eight of the nine Committee members. Paul Scofield was co-opted to the Committee in August 2004, and he has compiled an appendix covering the failed introductions of birds to New Zealand.

It is a time of great change in bird taxonomy, fuelled by developments in molecular biology that are casting fresh light on the relationships between different groups of birds. The Committee is taking a cautious approach, accepting changes only when they are well-supported by published studies, and attempting to maintain as much stability as possible. However, inevitably there will be considerable change from the 1990 checklist.

A few previously well-known scientific names will change, some birds formerly regarded as subspecies will be listed as species in their own right, and there will be much change to the order and arrangement of birds in the list.

Coverage of the checklist is being extended beyond that of the 1990 edition to include Norfolk Island. This is because Norfolk Island is as much a part of the New Zealand biogeographic region as are the Kermadec Islands. The argument is not so strong for Lord Howe Island which will be excluded.

There is still much work to be done in checking details and finalising texts. Publication of the new checklist is at least a year away.

BRIAN GILL
Convenor

.....Twitchathon News.....

TWITCHATHON 2004 was a bit of a disaster, with only three teams sending in bird lists to the organiser. The issue was discussed at the RRs meeting prior to the OSNZ Conference and AGM in Hamilton in June. Sav Saville was persuaded to give the event one more try, but the month will be changed to January when birders are perhaps a little less busy with spring censuses, there is more daylight and the weather is more settled.

For those who have yet to take part in a twitchathon it is an exercise in having a bit of fun with your mates whilst testing your birdwatching skills. The rules are pretty simple, and are outlined below. You may choose any 24-hour period in the month of January. Starting part way through one day and finishing at the same time the next is fine.

It may be attractive to work within self-imposed restrictions e.g. no boats, no islands, 20 km radius, no driving etc. I urge the inclusion of school-age children as much as possible – some of you are teachers, how about a class project?

Entry is open to all, and if there is sufficient interest there may well

be some real prizes to supplement the dubious pleasure of protecting the 'Mantelpiece Monstrosity' for a year.

After your Twitchathon effort, please let Sav have a list of claimed species by mail, fax or email as soon as you can.

The rules:

- Teams are to consist of at least two members. For a species to count, two or more team members must agree the identification (by sight or sound).
- Wild, live birds count (zoos, museums, corpses, Wood Ducks etc. do not).
- Team members must stay within visual contact of each other for a species to be registered.

Please send your bird lists, with name of team, participants, and what self-imposed restrictions you competed under to:

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

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Southern Royal Albatross on Campbell Island

A nine-person expedition, jointly run by Marine Conservation Unit and the Southern Islands Area Office of DoC, searched Campbell Island for banded Southern Royal Albatrosses last summer.

Some 35,000 birds were banded at the Subantarctic nature reserve from the 1940s onwards, particularly from the late 1960s to early 1980s, when large numbers of chicks were banded by volunteers from the Meteorological Station. This banding increased our knowledge about movements at sea (for example, juveniles and non-breeders travel to feed in South American waters) and provided a valuable resource for estimates of survival and recruitment. However, expedition leader Peter Moore's research in the 1990s found that some of the untrained banders in some years had not closed the bands correctly, and these open bands embedded in the birds' legs, resulting in some nasty injuries. In total 7% of birds banded as chicks and 0.5% of birds banded as adults were injured by their bands (see *Notornis* 50: 211-220).

The new work hopes to find as many banded birds as possible and remove their bands, and in the process find and treat any injured birds. Many live in parts of the island where searches have never taken place, so this was also the first chance to find out which birds were still alive. Because of the biennial breeding pattern and large size of the island, the task will take five years to complete.

The 'needle in the haystack' job was taken up by a team of enthusiastic people: Peter Moore, Peter Dilks (DoC staff), Matt Charteris (contractor), Stacy Moore, Terri McCurdy, Kiri Pullen, Annabel Gosset, and Greg Coats (volunteers). Eric Larsen from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point also joined the team for a short period helping with GPS and nest-mapping.

Approximately 5,200 nests in the northern two-thirds of the island were visited at least twice over seven weeks in January-February to find as many of the breeding birds as possible; 1,264 banded birds were found and 742 of these bands were removed. At the Col study area and part of Moubray, 511 birds were re-banded with a new and improved stainless steel band (the steel is 1.25 mm thick, rather than the old 1.0 mm-thick bands). The new design should reduce the 'springiness' and fewer bands will open with time.

There are obvious advantages in maintaining a visibly-marked population, particularly if birds move outside the study areas or are found away from the island (e.g. caught on a fishing boat), so we are hoping that the new bands will prove to be reliable. With these bands confined to the study areas, checks will be easier. In case they still open an unacceptable amount and need to be removed, many of the study birds were implanted with small transponders – these are individually coded and are read at close range using an electronic reader. Although not being a visible mark has its drawbacks, at least individually-known birds will be available for any future work in the study areas if the new bands are removed.

The oldest birds we found were 38 years old. They were banded as chicks in 1968! Some are now breeding several kilometres from where they were reared – an important finding, as otherwise the results from our smaller study areas would underestimate the rates of survival and recruitment. The total number of nests we found was similar to counts during the last full census in 1995/6. This suggests a leveling off in nest numbers recently. Therefore, the long-term recovery in the 20th Century, that began when farming, fires and hunting of birds ceased in the 1930s, has now halted. Whether temporary or part of a new decline we hope to find out over the next few years.

The banding problems that occurred on Campbell Island may be unusual in that a large number of birds were banded by inexperienced banders in a place where it was difficult to monitor the end results. There is no doubt that banding is an invaluable tool for research and management of species. However, the Campbell Island experience reminds one that good band design and training of banders is essential. Also, maintenance checks, particularly for the larger bands used on albatrosses and penguins, must be part of any banding programme. If the birds' welfare is being compromised then, in some cases, band removal is the best option.

PETER MOORE and MATT CHARTERIS

OSNZ Council replies: Peter Moore's 2003 paper (*Notornis* 50: 211-220) highlighted the unquestionably unacceptable situation of band injuries to Southern Royal Albatrosses. However, OSNZ does not agree that the solution the Department of Conservation has devised to deal with the problem is correct, or in the long-term interests of the birds.

As Moore & Charteris state in this article "The new work hopes to find as many banded birds as possible and remove their bands". Moore's previous work (*Notornis* 50: Table 2, page 214) shows that some (albeit an unacceptably large number) of the chicks banded in 6 cohorts, mostly during the 1970s, had incurred injuries and yet DoC has decided to remove bands from all birds on the island and re-band only those in the study colonies.

The OSNZ believes that the decision to remove bands from all Southern Royal Albatrosses on the island and re-band only those in the study colonies was not based on scientific evidence, and simply cannot be supported scientifically, or indeed ethically. The birds outside the study colonies are critically important to measuring two of the most significant unknowns of seabird population demography: the level of temporary and permanent emigration from the island; and where the birds disperse to.

Banding programmes on long-lived birds are, of necessity, long term. There is a need for regular banding of annual or biennial cohorts extending over at least two generation times to evaluate the age-specific characteristics of a population. Population models need to include breeding and survival characteristics of birds of all ages, including the very young and the very old, if they are to become substitutes for ongoing field programmes. Long-lived seabirds are proving very useful first indicators of environmental change by showing major changes in at-sea distribution and in breeding performance. Having large samples of birds banded regularly across decades is as much an investment for future wildlife managers and biologists as it is for those of today. What has been misunderstood by the Department is that the removal of bands from several thousands of albatrosses will now restrict research and monitoring possibilities in the future, a task already made hard enough by the naturally low recovery rate of banded birds at sea (0.68% for the Campbell Island Southern Royal Albatross). For this sort of work, a large pool of banded birds is an essential requisite, and the removal of bands from unaffected birds is an extremely short-sighted response to what we all agree was an undesirable circumstance affecting *circa* 7% of birds banded as chicks and 0.5% of those banded as adults.

Following the International Wildlife Management Conference in Christchurch 2003, ten of the World's leading experts on mark-recapture methods wrote to DoC protesting the proposal to remove bands from unaffected birds. They pointed out that the information that could still come from these unaffected birds is exceptionally important. Their letter was ignored and letters from OSNZ to the Minister of Conservation and the Director General of Conservation late last year were answered politely by a "sorry, but we are doing it anyway" reply. We point out that the OSNZ letters were not from a small pressure group on animal rights, but represented the views of New Zealand's professional and amateur ornithologists. Again, it was not a knee jerk reaction, but a carefully considered document taking into account all the points raised by Peter Moore in his 2003 paper. The OSNZ felt that what DoC had decided to do was scientifically wrong: the Department's response showed no accountability to outside expert opinion. Because of its Constitution, it is not OSNZ's job to advocate directly for conservation, but it *is* the Society's responsibility to advocate for the role of *science* in New Zealand bird conservation.

The Department of Conservation has known about the issue with band damage to Southern Royal Albatross since 1987, and so the timing of the push to do something about it nearly 20 years later seems odd. At a time when climate change and associated changes in the oceanic food chain are of global concern and importance, the DoC decision to continue with the band-removal programme will cost us an ongoing appraisal of distributional change in relation to changing ocean/climate factors.

Finally, the Department needs to explain two things. First, if band damage is such a serious problem, why, when at least five published studies have demonstrated that penguin flipper bands cause flipper damage that reduces foraging efficiency and reduces survival, is there no major effort to alleviate that problem. Second, we can ask why, of all the species of albatross and petrel that DoC could be studying, they have chosen to spend a large proportion of the non-industry-funded seabird research money on a species that (based on good data – from the very banding programme that is being compromised) is not known or suspected to be declining?

Seven of the nine **Great Spotted Kiwi** released near Lake Rotoiti in 2004 were recaptured in May to allow their radio transmitters to be changed and for the condition of the birds to be checked. The birds were found to be in generally good condition, with some having put on weight. The two birds that were not caught had dropped their transmitters and could not be found. The chick that hatched this year also could not be found. Great Spotted Kiwi have a reputation for being elusive, so all ten may still be extant in the area. An eleventh kiwi that sustained a broken beak in the 2004 transfer, and which at least partially re-grew it whilst held at Massey University's Wildlife Health Centre was released in early May, but was found to have lost a considerable amount of weight on being re-caught later the same month, so was taken back into care.

In the third of five planned releases of the species 62 captive-reared **Brown Teal** were released at Port Charles near the northern tip of the Coromandel Peninsula. Traps in the area will protect the birds from predation and they will be provided with kibbled maize from streamside feeders until they are able to fend for themselves. The local community are helping look after the teal, and Banrock Station Wines have provided \$21,000 for transport, quarantine and transmitters.

A joint venture developed between raptor expert Nick Fox (of International Wildlife Consultants) and the Marlborough Wine Research Centre aims to establish a sustainable population of wild **New Zealand Falcons** in the Wairau Valley. It is hoped that the project will provide an opportunity and resources for Falcon research, the monitoring of wild populations of the species and provide protection for grape crops in the area. This is probably the first practical conservation measure for the species. Nick Fox and IWC have had successes in the past with the Mauritius Kestrel, the Saker, and Red Kites (the latter the extensive project to re-introduce the species to the UK).

Numbers of **Takahe** have taken off this year. A census of the population in a core area of the 50,000 ha Takahe Special Area of the Murchison Mountains in Fiordland National Park found 171 adult birds, a 13.6% increase over 2004. Breeding pairs have increased 7.9% over the same period. Intensive Stoat-trapping is occurring on 15,000 ha of the Takahe Special Area, and deer control using helicopters maintains regeneration of the tussocks that the Takahe rely on for food, and which are only now returning to their original condition. The Murchison Mountains population of Takahe is thought to be reaching capacity now, and DoC is hoping that the species will successfully spread into areas outside the specially protected area.

Record numbers of **Black Stilts** have been released this year from the captive-breeding programme based in Twizel. This breeding season 105 birds were released compared with 76 in 2004 and 58 in 2003. A large-scale trapping programme is now also in place in the Tasman Valley with 281 traps set for Cats, mustelids, Hedgehogs and Possums.

Orange-fronted Parakeets have been rediscovered in the North Branch of the Hurunui River, with DoC rangers Jack van Hal and Delia Small finding one there in May. This past breeding season eight nests of the species were found, five in the Hawdon, one in the Poulter and two in the South Branch of the Hurunui River. Five nests fledged young, two were abandoned in February/March and one never established properly for unknown reasons. None of the nests was lost to predation. Preliminary results suggest that overall Orange-fronted Parakeet distribution within the valleys has increased from previous years.

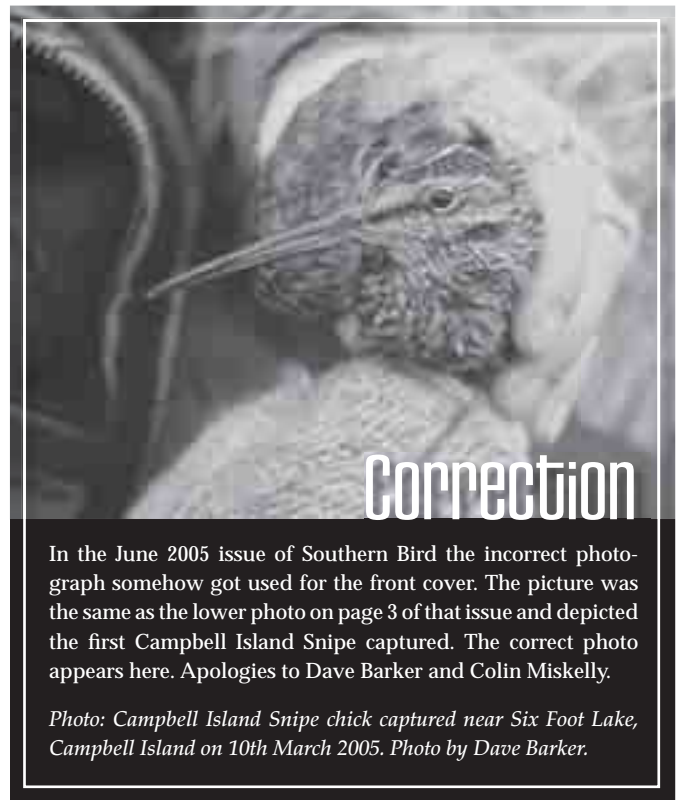
A series of cyclones in summer 2005 may have devastated the populations of many species of birds in the southern Cook Islands, notably the **Rarotonga Monarch** (known locally as the **Kakerori**). This species is conservation-dependant requiring rat-trapping along with other measures to survive. In 2003 the population stood at about 290 birds (up from 38 in 1987), and a small population had been transferred to Atiu, 200 km north of Rarotonga, in order to found an 'insurance population' in case of natural disasters such as cyclones hitting the main area of population. However, Atiu was hit by the 'once in 50 years storm' Cyclone Nancy in February, probably causing a double whammy setback for the species.

Saddlebacks have been translocated to Motuihe Island in the inner Hauraki Gulf, just 15 km from downtown Auckland. The ten males and ten females involved came from nearby Tiritiri Matangi Island. Supporters of the transfer included the Motuihe Trust, DoC, the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi, iwi, and sponsors Mobil Oil New Zealand.

SHORT REPORTS:

Australasian Crested Grebes continue to winter over on Lake Forsyth (Banks Peninsula) in increasing numbers with counts of 197 and 345 (unconfirmed) in mid-July. These numbers would roughly equate to somewhere between 50 and 90% of the known New Zealand population based on the recent summer survey of the species. On Mount Maunganui the **Grey-faced Petrel** colony seems to have survived the 'big wet' that hit the Bay of Plenty in May relatively unscathed with probably only about half a dozen burrows affected by large mud slips that affected the peninsula. In early August there were reports of large numbers of starved **Blue Penguins** washing up on beaches north of Auckland, though the event seemed to be very localised. The Abel Tasman area produced a **Brown Booby** for a visiting American birder in May. It may be the same individual seen a few months earlier in the same area. **Cattle Egrets** may have migrated to New Zealand in larger-than-usual numbers this year, reversing the downward trend of recent years. Flocks in some areas were larger than usual, and birds have been seen in some areas where they have been absent for a number of years. The regular **Glossy Ibis** has over-wintered again at Travis Wetland, Christchurch. In Marlborough a **Black Kite** has been seen this winter up Waihopai Valley Road. A record wintering flock (for recent decades at least) of the South Island race of **New Zealand Dotterel** was counted on the Southland wader count on 2/7. Wynston Cooper counted a total of 74 at their regular haunt of South Awarua Bay/Cow Island. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was seen on the wader count at the southern end of Warrington Beach (Otago) on 2/7. The **Marsh Sandpiper** and **Black-tailed** and **Hudsonian Godwits** remained for at least part of the winter at Miranda. A breeding-plumaged **Red-necked Phalarope** graced Lake Grassmere. The winter wader census of the Kaipara Harbour produced a surprise in the form of a moribund **Sooty Tern** at the southern end of Big Sand Island, Tapora on 25/6. The bird was found dead the next day and was to be sent to the Auckland Museum. The Firth of Thames has hosted a stray **Fairy Tern** this winter. A possible **Red Wattlebird** was reported from Buckland (south of Pukekohe) on 17/5.

SOURCES: What's Up DoC? Website newsletter, @DoC email newsletter, Birding-NZ email group, BirdLife News Alert.



Correction

In the June 2005 issue of *Southern Bird* the incorrect photograph somehow got used for the front cover. The picture was the same as the lower photo on page 3 of that issue and depicted the first Campbell Island Snipe captured. The correct photo appears here. Apologies to Dave Barker and Colin Miskelly.

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



Far North

Our members were delighted with the news that Kerikeri Unichem Pharmacy has agreed to sponsor the Far North newsletter to the extent that we can produce a quality publication with colour illustrations without recourse to using as much of central funds as would have been necessary.

Two Far North members participated in a pelagic trip organised by Pterodroma Pelagics on a weekend in May. This was a highly productive trip which took them well beyond North Cape. Two Kermadec Petrels and three Providence Petrels were recorded along with a host of albatrosses. Some interesting-looking storm petrels with white rumps gave rise to a considerable identification debate. One was certainly a Wilson's, Black-bellied was probable and New Zealand Storm Petrel likely.

We finally had a successful June wader count, or more accurately, June/July wader count. Far North waders have a devious habit of finding high tide roosts that require the use of boats to access, so it was late July before we had the essential combination of the right weather, daytime high tides, a DoC boat and skipper, and enough people. So it was great news when we heard that the Society is to provide funds for our own boat for future counts and censuses, and we are looking for something suitable. Numbers of birds were reasonable for a winter count, with a highlight being the three Eastern Curlews on Walker Island.

Regional meetings have been in short supply lately but we have some new members, and the latest newsletter, out within a few days, has a programme of speakers for indoor meetings. OSNZ seems to be generating new interest in the Far North area, and with luck a willing Regional Recorder may be found so that the two 'double R' jobs will no longer be rolled into one.

DETLEF DAVIES

Northland

Things have quietened down a bit over winter. There was no meeting in June, with the AGM in Hamilton, which four members from Northland attended. The July meeting was an update on the AGM and scientific day talks, and August saw a catch-up meeting on activities coming up over spring and summer – including Banded Rail and Black-backed Gull surveys.

Monthly beach patrols continued on both west and east coast beaches, with members finding higher than usual numbers of Blue Penguins, as has been reported from other areas around our coastline. The Whangarei and Kaipara Harbour counts were carried out in June and July with the usual birds counted on the west coast, but lower numbers of waders on the Whangarei Harbour. One unusual bird was sighted on a farm paddock in a quiet corner of Whangarei Harbour, a Glossy Ibis. It had been around for a little while according to the farm owner. We have also seen the return of Cattle Egrets. This species hasn't been seen in the area for the last few years.

KATRINA HANSEN

Auckland

Winter has passed quickly in Auckland with plenty of birding despite the season.

One of the highlights has been the 'discovery' of the Waiatarua Wetland Reserve in central Auckland (near Meadowbank) by many members. This area once used to include Lake Waiatarua, but it was drained for farming last century. More recently, it has been occupied by the Remuera Golf Course, but the Auckland City Council has now restored it to a beautiful wetland park of about 8 ha.

A White Heron has inhabited the wetland since late April and was still there in late August. This drew a large number of birders over winter. They were also delighted to view a variety of wetland birds including Australasian Bittern, White-faced Heron, Australasian Shoveler, New Zealand Scaup, Grey Teal, Little Shag, Black Shag, and Pukeko: all within ten kilometres of Auckland's city centre.

In June, many members attended the annual conference in Hamilton. Wader censuses were carried out in local harbours (Kaipara, Manukau, Waitemata, the Firth of Thames and north to Mangawhai) and were well-supported by members.

An overview of progress towards the new bird distribution atlas was given by Chris Robertson for our June evening meeting. He had some interesting statistics on the atlas project including 32,000 Atlas sheets received, 97 per cent coverage of New Zealand, and about

300 of the sheets recording 50 or more species. The highest number of species on one sheet was 76 species, and the average 'full list' was 26. The Blackbird was the most often reported bird, recorded on 70 per cent of sheets followed by Starling, Harrier and Chaffinch.

The highlight for July was an evening talk on Tawharanui Regional Park by manager, Jo Ritchie. The park now has a 3.5 km predator-proof fence across the peninsula. Last October an aerial poison drop helped to eradicate all pests from within the park's fenced boundary and a buffer zone to the south. Since then eradication and monitoring work has been ongoing, with mice now the biggest problem.

Auckland Regional Council heritage scientist and ornithologist Tim Lovegrove, added to the above presentation with a report on the bird-monitoring programmes at the park, and the trends in bird numbers. In autumn, the park's 'Ecology Bush' was colonised by about 100 Bellbirds (largely locally extinct around Auckland and north), which are believed to have migrated across the Hauraki Gulf from nearby Little Barrier Island. It is hoped that a core population will remain there and breed.

The Cook's Petrel on Little Barrier Island was the subject of Matt Rayner's presentation in August. Matt detailed his research work into the bird's breeding success and abundance. Little Barrier Island is one of only two main breeding sites in New Zealand for *Pterodroma cookii*, the other one being Codfish Island. He described these petrels as highly pelagic and solitary trans-equatorial migrants, that were historically abundant in New Zealand, as evidenced by the fossil record in North and South Islands from coastal to sub-alpine zones.

The focus of Matt's work is studying the species' potential for translocations to protected mainland sites such as Maungatautari, to assess the size and stability of the Little Barrier Island population, and its response to the recent Kioere eradication. His presentation looked in detail at breeding success and computer-modelling to assess the size of the population. In this first season since the Kioere eradication, the breeding success of the Cook's Petrels on Little Barrier Island was estimated at about 70 per cent, more than double the previous estimate.

In August, many members were involved in beach patrols to collect dead Blue Penguins, washed up in large numbers on mainly east coast beaches. Greater numbers than usual were also found on Muriwai Beach. The Department of Conservation has sent specimens to Massey University for examination in an attempt to ascertain what is killing the penguins.

SUZI PHILLIPS

South Auckland

At our June meeting Rachel Fewster, a lecturer in statistics at the University of Auckland, updated us on her studies on the colonisation of rats in New Zealand. At the present time her studies revolve around determining the method of invasion of rats to islands in an attempt to develop a strategy for the maintenance of rat-free islands. Part of that study is to try to determine the minimum water gap that would keep an island safe from re-invasion by swimming. The study included the deliberate release of rats onto rat-free islands to determine the amount of sign that is made so that early indicators can be developed of re-invasions.

Rosalie Stamp from the Department of Conservation in Auckland was the speaker at the July meeting. Rosalie gave us an update on the work that is taking place on Little Barrier Island and other projects in the Auckland Conservancy.

In August Gwenda Pulham brought us up to date with the New Zealand Fairy Tern population and promoted several theories as to why the number of breeding pairs of this rare species is not increasing in line with the increase in the total population. Clearly there is still much study that needs to be completed on this species.

Ian Southey has been co-ordinating the preliminary work in trying to determine the size of the Weka population at Kawakawa Bay that has been mentioned in my previous reports. On two separate evenings teams have been spaced around the area listening for the evening calls and this work has indicated that there is a reasonably-sized population occupying the coastal farmland to the east of Kawakawa Bay. Upwards of 20 different birds have been heard calling by the members of the teams although there appears to be a 'hot spot' immediately to the east of the houses at the settlement. Local people are now taking an interest and have developed a predator-control network which we hope will assist the population expand. Ian intends to undertake further call counts later in the year. It should be noted that no birds have yet been sighted by the OSNZ members!

There is a range of birds at Miranda including a Hudsonian Godwit, a Black-tailed Godwit, a Fairy Tern, a White Heron and nine Royal Spoonbills. Phil Battley reported a Whimbrel on the 19th August, which he thinks may be recently arrived. On the Manukau Harbour the interesting waders have left, though there is still a reasonable selection of the more common species, including a number of banded Bar-tailed Godwits and Lesser Knots.



At the Mangere Sewer Ponds there is a one-legged Black-tailed Godwit in a reasonable state of breeding plumage. Could this be the same individual that was at Lake Ellesmere earlier in the year, or what would be the odds of having two in New Zealand in the same year? There are also 120 Royal Spoonbills present.

There have been an increased number of Kaka sightings throughout the South Auckland area, perhaps indicating the success of breeding at Little Barrier Island, but maybe also from reports of breeding in the Hunua ranges during the last breeding season. Maria Staples-Page has reported flocks of up to 15 birds on the Hauraki Plains.

At Matarangi Beach on the Coromandel Peninsula Bruce Mackereth is continuing his monthly counts of the birds on the sand spit, and this is now developing into a very valuable stream of data. Small individual contributions such as that being accumulated by Bruce need to be encouraged and gathered for the Society records, as they contain much valuable data.

DAVID LAWRIE

Bay of Plenty/Volcanic Plateau

In July Dick Veitch popped in from Papakura for a very interesting talk on Lesser Knots in Delaware Bay, on the eastern seaboard of the USA. A project there had him studying the birds from a house perched so near the ocean that they could spit into it - the ocean, not the house. The birds have a symbiotic relationship with the Horseshoe Crab, and Dick had brought a carapace of one along to the show and tell. He mentioned he did NOT have a symbiotic relationship with the myriad of biting insects that invaded the house and feasted on the occupants like vultures. Dick talked about cannon-netting and nuns - ask him about that... It was interesting to hear from another flyway's perspective. About 26 people turned up, making it a worthwhile afternoon. We appreciated Dick coming down this far on his own 'flyway'!

Bird sightings have been fairly limited this winter, giving weight to the theory that we aren't a rainy day bunch here in the Bay. The rains have given the area a right going-over, with our prime waterfowl habitat, Matata, virtually written off in massive floods. However, a Kaka was seen there by John Groom in July, rummaging in the oranges. Citrus were fair game at Whakatane in August too, with Tui into the tangelos, reported by Rosemary Tully.

Phil Battley has been rather migratory lately, mimicking his study subjects, the Bar-tailed Godwits. Two flagged examples of the latter were gleaned from an August flock at Matahui Point: one from Victoria and one from South Australia. Whilst ranging for Godwits, he also rounded up 30 Royal Spoonbills at Maketu. Other big white birds at Maketu seen in July were Cattle Egrets, eight being seen by Tim Barnard.

A small white bird visited Margaret and John Brierley's Kawerau garden in June - a Whitehead! John has a photo of it eating lard from a hanging mesh bag. The heron family provided surprises on Mauao (Mount Maunganui), in July, with three Reef Herons being seen and photographed beautifully by Murray Smith. Another photographer of birds reported up to 90 Pied Stilts and 60-70 swallows at Uretara Stream in June - Brian Chudleigh.

Ohiwa was a rich dotterel-hunting ground in May, with 56 New Zealand, and up to 150 Banded Dotterels at a big post-breeding function on the sands. John Groom's eyes also picked out 4 Little Terns and a lone Whimbrel.

PAUL CUMING

Taranaki

In contrast to previous meetings there was a smaller turnout for June and July with many members away overseas or having prior commitments. Ian Dudding told us that the local Blackbirds were busily devouring his crop of apples but had an aversion to the Granny Smiths. This was supported by another member who noted the same happening in his orchard. Bill Messenger (still recovering from frost bite) gave us a brief summary of the AGM scientific day, which was interesting as always.

The June field trip saw a small group touring localities around North Taranaki, Tui were plentiful feeding on *Banksia* flowers.

In keeping with tradition the election of officers happened so quickly at the July meeting that all incumbents were returned to their respective positions before they knew what was happening. Democracy is a wonderful thing! Beach patrols have yielded little with two giant petrels and a very fresh Grey-faced Petrel being the main finds. David Medway provided a very interesting review of the history and taxonomy relating to the 'rediscovered' New Zealand Storm Petrel.

Barrett Lagoon on the western outskirts of New Plymouth was the destination of our July field meeting. This locality is always worth a visit, with its surrounding bush and amenity plantings containing a good variety of birdlife. Thirty-three species were recorded: 18 native and 15 introduced. Then it was on to visit Bill van Gorkom's new surroundings with 40 Blackbirds on the playing fields close to his house

being almost enough for two pies.

The August meeting saw a good turnout with members returning from various sojourns. Being a relatively mild winter and with spring just around the corner members reported many birds now staring to sing. Bill and Rosemary Messenger were delighted to hear a Bellbird in a Puriri close to their home: the first in 55 years. Fantails are in abundance all around, but three Kaka in Pukekura Park are proving elusive to some. Cees Bevers gave a talk regarding his involvement with a number of trapping programs being run in Taranaki. Two of the major ones are at Rotokare Scenic Reserve and Egmont National Park, with several smaller ones around New Plymouth. A summary of the results makes interesting reading.

In August a field trip to Lake Ratapiko and surrounds was curtailed by inclement weather but a flock of 14 Fantails flitting around the top of a large pine tree was an amazing sight.

PETER FRYER

Wellington

Notable recent local observations include New Zealand Dabchicks at Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve and in the East Harbour Regional Park (the first Dabchicks seen there for about 20 years), New Zealand Scaup in the East Harbour Regional Park, a black Fantail in Tawa, several sightings of Falcons in Wellington suburbs, a Grey Warbler exhibiting unusual flying behaviour in the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, a large flock (c.80) of Little Black Shags in Porirua Harbour, two New Zealand Pigeons in Miramar, and a Kaka in a Wainuiomata garden.

At our July meeting Chris Robertson presented an update on the progress being made with the analysis of national bird atlas data. Chris said that now that fieldwork has concluded there is several months' work ahead checking the accuracy of the field information. Interesting initial conclusions are that the Blackbird is the most reported bird, and farmland is the most common habitat type.

In August Jayden von Horik, a Masters graduate at Victoria University, gave members an interesting account of his studies on the 'Function of Diversity in the Vocal Repertoire of the North Island Kaka'. Working on Kapiti Island Jayden commented firstly about the characteristics of parrot song noting that it is complex and that there is no set song length or syllable order. Parrot song is considered to be affiliative, compared to the territorial song of songbirds. More information is considered to be needed by parrots to maintain small stable flocks and co-ordinate social interactions amongst flock members. The aims of Jayden's studies were to determine the function of a diverse vocal repertoire and, in particular, to ask whether vocalisations have different communicative ranges, and if call types vary under different behavioural conditions.

Field observations made were categorisation of call types by ear, making record calls for spectrographic analysis, call types and responses, call rates, caller elevation, transmission distances and behavioural correlates. Jayden said that there is no variation in abundance of different call types emitted daily and there is no relationship between call type and caller elevation but that different calls appear to be associated with different transmission distances. Sound transmission experiments have showed that call diversity is attributable to variation in transmission distance; short-range calls have high frequencies and low amplitudes whilst long-range calls have low frequencies and high amplitudes.

Several members helped with the final quarterly survey of birds in the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, with a monthly survey of birds in the East Harbour Regional Park, with the bird-banding project at Wellington Zoo led by Peter Reese, and with the Somes Island/Matiu survey.

At the request of Meridian Energy Ltd the Wellington Branch provided some comments to the company concerning the possible impacts of Project Westwind, a proposed electricity wind farm to be built west of Wellington City, upon birds in the natural environment. We are pleased to observe that a great deal of care is being taken in project design to minimise bird strikes upon towers and turbines but we noted that possible impacts might impinge on Falcon, Pipits and Kaka.

IAN ARMITAGE

Nelson

Two of the region's wader workers have been overseas this winter. Rob Schuckard has been away for two months banding waders in NE Russia while David Melville has been working with waders in Alaska.

Regional Roundup



Nearer home Willie Cook and Don Cooper are continuing to monitor nine traps set along a length of the perimeter of the Waimea estuary. In recent weeks three hedgehogs and three ferrets have been caught, one of these a female. It is hoped to provide better protection for the remnant Banded Rail population by trapping such pests. The poisoning of Black-backed Gulls at a nearby transfer station caused the secondary kill of a cat which for some months has been visiting the estuary shell bank, home to many resident and migratory waders. The cat had eluded the trap which Willie kept set for it, though there may be yet more to come.

Willie, Don, Henk Heinekamp and others are continuing to mist-net Greenfinches. It is easy to catch the birds, which cluster in hundreds on piles of boysenberry and apple mush put out as cattle food, and 230, with a few Chaffinches, have been banded so far. The banding processing of the birds includes weight, wing length, moult and fat content. Greenfinches were first released in New Zealand in the Nelson area by the Acclimatisation Society in 1862 and one reason for doing this study is to compare, in the future, the size, breeding and general habits of the population here with the UK population. DNA testing would also be interesting. It appears the clutch sizes in New Zealand may be much smaller and the pair territories larger.

Members will assist DoC in November by doing 20 five-minute bird counts along the Flora track in Kahurangi National Park where intensive pest trapping has been done for several years. The counts will continue on three days during each November for five years.

Both the new Nelson visitor centre at Miller's Acre and the new Nelson Museum, in the main street, which opens in October, include interesting bird displays and information.

GILLIAN POLLOCK

Marlborough

Our monthly Grassmere Saltworks count has continued, along with the 'lunch meeting' at Marfells Beach. The counts continue to give interesting and often unpredictable results, but patterns of bird activity are slowly emerging. By the end of the year we hope to be in a position to write-up the preliminary findings. A highlight for all was the presence of a Red-necked Phalarope in breeding plumage during the winter months.

In addition to the basic Saltworks count a full count of the whole lake was made for the National Winter Wader Count. Members also counted the Kaikoura Peninsula, Havelock harbour, the Grove (head of Queen Charlotte Sound) and parts of the Wairau Lagoons. The highlight of the count were two Black Stilts at the Wairau Lagoons and another (possibly a hybrid) at the Grove. An Asiatic Whimbrel was seen some weeks later at the Wairau Lagoons.

Passerine-banding has been a prominent activity during autumn and winter. Bird numbers fell away at Jack Taylor's at Ward so a new banding site was established at the Blenheim sewage ponds. This is situated on the salt flats associated with the Wairau Lagoons, where huge flocks of finches feed on the *Sarcocornia*. This proved to be a great spot and the return was an average of 200 birds per day. One day fifteen Cirl Buntings were banded. People wanting to see a Cirl Bunting in the winter should look just beyond the start of the Wairau Lagoons Walkway (at the end of Hardings road, just south of Blenheim).

A banding station was also established at Selmes Road and this was used to provide banding demonstrations and instructions for the local branch of Forest and Bird and a group of students from Queen Charlotte College.

The survey of the vineyard irrigation dams has begun to establish whether they are making a contribution to wetland bird diversity. It is too early to give a definite answer but indications are that some of the dams (the habitat on each is being assessed) have increased the range of New Zealand Scaup in the region. There have been some really attractive small lakes created. Access to most is strictly controlled but most owners appreciate the approach being taken by the Society.

Two major bird projects have begun in the region and it is likely the society will have some input into both. The first is the Black-fronted Tern nesting survey on the Wairau River. In this the Society is taking a leading role. It is planned to survey some 80 km of riverbed to locate all the tern colonies (as well as Black-billed and Black backed Gull colonies). DoC plans to carry out research on one or two of the colonies. The Society plans to monitor two or three others to determine productivity and when predation occurs etc. There is a lot of interest

in the river at present because of a proposed hydro scheme. Many other groups (Fish and Game, Forest and Bird, Jetboat and Kayak associations) plan to help with the initial survey. It will give exposure to the Society's research role.

The other project is the management of New Zealand Falcon to return them to the Wairau Plains. This is being run by Dr Nick Fox's International Wildlife Consultants. Some older members will recall Nick's work on the Falcon when he completed his PhD at Canterbury University. We are hopeful that there will be some role for members, at least in monitoring if nothing else.

While on birds of prey, we still have 'our' Black Kite patrolling the skies just west of Fenwick (near the junction of SH63 and Waihopai Valley Road). There was also an unconfirmed report of a Nankeen Kestrel in the Awatere Valley in mid-August.

BRIAN BELL

Canterbury

Maybe I blinked, but winter this year seems to have been very short (so far), with only a very few mild frosts. It is almost as though autumn moved directly to spring. At the time of writing (late August) the breeding season is really getting into gear with Banded Dotterels on eggs on the rivers and gulls seriously thinking about doing the same.

Bird sightings include larger numbers of Cattle Egrets than of late (more than double the numbers of the past couple of years) and in places such as Kaikoura that they haven't graced for many a year. The regular Glossy Ibis has been seen on and off at Travis Wetland. Record numbers of Australasian Crested Grebes were counted on Lake Forsyth this winter, with peak counts over the weekend of 16 and 17/7 of 345 and 197, though the former was not replicated by other counters close to the date and is almost double the highest previous count. A Black-tailed Godwit turned up in August at the Ashley Estuary joining the Whimbrel that has over-wintered. Variable Oystercatchers at the Avon-Heathcote Estuary peaked at a new record of 151 birds in June.

At the May indoor meeting we were treated to the knowledge and expertise of local bird-rehabilitator Jackie Stevenson, with an account of how she obtains, looks after and releases wild birds that get into strife, and a great video of the release of one of her successes; a Northern Giant Petrel. Paul Rushworth from the Willowbank animal sanctuary then brought us up to date with conservation work being undertaken there with Brown Kiwi, Blue Duck and Kea.

The June wader census found nothing particularly out of the ordinary at Lake Ellesmere, with perhaps less Pied Stilts and Banded Dotterels than usual, and those that were present were not in the normal hotspots of Embankment and Clarkes Roads, instead being further east, off Jarvis Road. It was fairly interesting crunching through the ice in places on one of the few cold days of winter.

Tony Crocker took us on a visual tour of those other (New Zealand being the first of course) bird islands, the Galapagos in June, with interesting accounts of the islands he visited and the changes in fauna and flora between the islands due to climate, soils and sea currents.

The annual pilgrimage to the Ashburton Lakes for the wildfowl census in conjunction with Ashburton Forest and Bird took place in mid-July. Going with the theme of a mild winter the amount of ice-cover was well down on recent years. The lack of ice may have induced many ducks and swans to stay put for winter rather than move to the lowlands. Australasian Crested Grebe numbers were about normal with 21 counted, as were New Zealand Scaup at 2,289. Coot seem to have undergone a renaissance with an astonishing 444 present mostly in the bay of Lake Heron near the camp ground. This is a large increase on previous years and a reversal of a recent decline. The highlight of many people's day was seeing a Falcon: four singles were seen at widely-scattered locations. Other participants' highlight was probably the delicious soup and convivial get-together after the count at a bach overlooking picturesque Lake Clearwater.

The July meeting was speaker-less for one reason or another, but entertainment was provided in the form of a quiz on identifying Australian birds courtesy of Barry Armstrong. Members managed to identify all sorts of strange birds, but when it came to a picture of that quintessentially Aussie bird the Laughing Kookaburra, everybody was stumped. My excuse was it was photographed from a long distance away!

An afternoon and early evening field trip to the Ashley Estuary to view birds (especially Black-fronted Terns) coming into roost was less than successful on that score, but did connect with the Black-fronted Godwit, Whimbrel, a couple of Wrybills and five Royal Spoonbills as compensation. Very few birds came into roost – a modest flock of Black-billed and Black-backed Gulls and the resident Canada Goose flock. Interestingly, a few days later John Dowding visited the estuary in the daytime finding 121 Black-fronted Terns and 37 Wrybills, good totals of both species at this site.

NICK ALLEN

Southland

Though a little late this year, we managed to sneak in our winter wader count on the first weekend of July. The weather was clear but cold and three of our main wader sites were inspected. Lloyd Esler and Wynston Cooper did counts at the head of Awarua Bay and Cow Island/South Awarua Bay respectively while I sloshed through the muddy ooze of the estuary to check out the shellbanks.

Good numbers of Banded Dotterels (262) and a new winter count record for New Zealand Dotterel (74) were the highlights of the afternoon. We hope to muster more members for the spring and summer counts. We also expect the wader catchers here again in October and hope this time to catch Godwits and Turnstones rather than the 70+ Pied Oystercatchers that were caught in February. A Southland-flagged Bar-tailed Godwit was spotted amongst a flock of 70 at Hoopers Inlet, Otago on September 30th.

Southland's Cattle Egret numbers seem to be diminishing year by year although we have had reports of 17 at Gorge Road in May and seven on the Snares Islands in mid-April.

Lloyd Esler scanned a flock of Pied Stilts on the estuary near Stead

Regional Roundup



Street, Invercargill recently, hoping to spot a Black Stilt and as if by magic one appeared. He did not manage to get a good look at the bands but we presume it may be the same bird that has appeared in Southland in previous years. The Southland Times photographer was alerted and some nice pictures appeared in the paper.

Lloyd is also running his popular three day 'Birds at Borland' programme again this year. Based at Borland Lodge near Lake Monowai there are trips to the Wairaki River mouth, the Mararoa Weir and the Redcliff Wetland.

Apology – in the March issue of *Southern Bird* I stated that Wynston Cooper had found the dead Australasian Bittern on the Tiwai Road. This was a typographical error and should have read that I had found this bird.

PHIL RHODES

What's on



Far North

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

Northland

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

Auckland

Suzi Phillips, 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, 23 Tennyson Drive, Owkata, Rotorua. Ph (07) 345 3433. Email tim.barnard@xtra.co.nz

Gisborne/Wairoa

RR's position vacant.

Hawke's Bay

Murray Jeffries, 2a Cobden Road, Napier 4001. Ph (06) 834 3865. Fax (06) 834 3867. Email mcjeffries@xtra.co.nz
Indoor meetings are held on an irregular basis, but field trips are organised regularly. Please contact Murray Jeffries for details.

Taranaki

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

Wanganui

Tom Teasdale, 33 Paterson Street, Aramoho, Wanganui 5001. Ph (06) 343 9992. Email teasdale.family@clear.net.nz
Evening meetings – fourth Tuesday of the month, Davis Lecture Theatre, Wanganui Regional Museum (Watt Street).

Manawatu

Ian Saville, 23 Duke Street, Feilding. Ph (06) 323 1441. Email binzsav@clear.net.nz
Evening meetings – second Wednesday of Feb, May, Aug and Nov, Lido Centre, Park Street, Palmerston North, 8pm. Beach patrols – first Wednesday of each month and also at other irregular times.

Wairarapa

Miles King, Olivers Road, R D 6 Masterton 5921. Ph (06) 377 5252. Email ian.armitage@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 Terrace, 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. Ian Armitage (04) 232 7470. 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. 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 Otagata, 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.

