



Southern *Bird*

No. 55 September 2013 • ISSN 1175-1916

*The Magazine of the Ornithological
Society of New Zealand*



NEW ZEALAND
BIRD CONFERENCE
DUNEDIN 2013

IDENTIFICATION OF
MIDDLE SIZED TERNS

TRIBUTE TO
JOHN KENDRICK

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Robert Atkinson (Waikato); Bill Beale (Wellington); Barbara Binney (Manawatu); Stephanie Borrelle (Auckland); Karen Bourgeois (Auckland); Ilana Burton (Wellington); Helen Carey (Bay of Plenty); Les Feasey (Far North); Jean Fleming (Otago); Cornelia Gessner (Otago); Kay Griffiths (Hawke's Bay); Stefanie Grosser (Otago); Eleanor Gunby (Canterbury); Peter Hodge (Wellington); Ailsa Howard (Canterbury); Amanda Hunt (Volcanic Plateau); Joerg Kaestner (Wellington); Patricia Latas (United States); Stuart Laurenson (Auckland); Gail MacNeill (Manawatu); Andrew Marshall (Auckland); Stuart Mathieson (Otago); Jeremy Miller (Wellington); Susan Newell (Canterbury); Kate and Ross Pickard (Wellington); Philip Pointon (Otago); Nic Rawlence (Otago); Graeme Richards (Manawatu); Geoffrey Roche (Wellington); James Ross (Auckland); Robert Shaw (Taranaki); Craig Simpkins (Auckland); Su Sinclair (Auckland); Phoebe van der Pol (Nelson); Sandra Wallace (Canterbury); Peter Wilson (Canterbury).

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

Elizabeth (Biz) Bell,
Kevin Parker.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Geoff de Lisle has taken over the reins as Wellington RR. Many thanks to Geoff for taking on this role. Visit the OSNZ website www.osnz.org.nz for Geoff's contact details

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 objectives in encouraging and supporting the study and enjoyment of birds in the New Zealand region.

AUSTRALASIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE 2013

4 – 7 December
Unitec Institute of Technology, Auckland



REGISTRATION OPEN – details and on-line link at www.osnz.org.nz

Southern Bird



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QUOTATION

*Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune—without the words,
And never stops at all...*

Hope by Emily Dickinson 1830-1886

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COVER PHOTOS

Front Cover:

Gibson's Wandering Albatross off Kaikoura

Back Cover:

Wandering Albatross chick on Pitt Island

Both photos by Peter Langlands. Visit www.wild-capture.blogspot.com to see more of his work

Publisher

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

Articles for inclusion in *Southern Bird* are welcome in any form, though electronic is preferred. Material should be related to birds, birdwatchers, or ornithologists in the New Zealand and Pacific region, and can include news on birds, members, activities and bird study, literature/product reviews, letters to the editor, birdwatching sites, and identification. Illustrations are especially welcome, though they must be sharp. Copy deadlines are 10th February, May and August, and 1st November. The views expressed by the contributors to this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc.

BIRDS NEW ZEALAND RESEARCH FUND

The Society has recently been asked by a charitable trust if it would administer an annual grant for ornithological research. Council accepted this generous offer with obvious delight and has set up procedures whereby our executive officer, Ingrid Hutzler, will manage the process in addition to her existing role. It is intended that applications for next years funding will be called for in the September 2014 issue of Southern Bird along with details of the necessary criteria.

In the meantime, there were three applications already lodged with our funders and these have recently been granted. Summaries of these applications are printed below but are available in full on the society's website. Reports on progress will be available from time to time in both media.

Applicant:

The Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust

Proposal:

To study breeding biology through the use of PIT tags and automatic loggers

The Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust (HSCT) was established in 2008 by Geoff Harrow to encourage and promote the preservation, conservation, research, public education, and sustainable management of the Hutton's Shearwater. Since the formation of the trust it has obtained funds to build a predator proof fence around the new Te Rae o Atiu colony on the Kaikoura Peninsula and has carried out two additional translocations each of 100 chicks in 2012 and 2013 to enhance the returns of chicks from previous translocations. Better knowledge of the breeding biology of Hutton's Shearwater may allow managers to foster the survival of chicks at this new site. This work has already begun at colonies in the Kowhai River using passive integrated transponders and automatic recorders which log the coming and going of

adults and the young. The grant will be used to continue this work, helping to cover the transport and operational costs of volunteers on the project.

Applicant:

Taiko Trust

Proposal:

To establish a second breeding colony of Chatham Island Albatross

The Chatham Island Albatross is restricted to a single breeding location on The Pyramid. Research suggests that the population is stable at 5,000 pairs, and one reason for no population growth is lack of additional breeding space. To increase the breeding population, mitigate against present and future population threats, and improve the species conservation threat status, a second breeding site is the only option.

The selected release site is a protected area on private land in the south west corner of Chatham Island. The establishment of a new colony will be achieved by chick translocation, following methods developed by the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology which has successfully translocated Short-tailed Albatross. The leader of this project, Dr Tomohiro Deguchi and some of his staff will be available to assist on this project, bringing the world's leading authority on albatross translocations to this project. The project will involve transferring up to 60 chicks

each year for three years, from January 2014 to 2016. Each year's translocation will involve moving two groups of chicks at different stages in their development: in January (post guard stage chicks) and April (chicks at peak mass) in order to determine the best developmental age to shift chicks.

Applicant:

Te Papa

Proposal:

New Zealand Birds Online: scanning of Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds text and images

The New Zealand Birds Online website (www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz) project is a partnership between Te Papa, OSNZ and DOC. The website was launched at the New Zealand Bird Conference in Dunedin on 2nd June. Along with original text, images and sound files, the website includes extracts from selected reference books on New Zealand birds. At the time of the website launch, six titles were included, covering topics including taxonomy, nomenclature, field identification, distribution and the history of bird species discovery. The 7th title intended for inclusion was the comprehensive, detailed and authoritative *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds (HANZAB)*. The 7 volumes of HANZAB include 3,723 pages of text and 224 colour plates of bird species that are on the New Zealand list.

This grant from the Birds NZ Research Fund will allow scanning of HANZAB text and plates of the entire seven volumes to proceed to the required standard, including ensuring optical character recognition search capability. This will ensure that the website becomes the definitive and most authoritative site for information on our birdlife.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The weekend in Dunedin for the New Zealand Bird Conference was a huge success. I would reiterate my comments made at the conference dinner that our congratulations and thanks go to all of the Dunedin organising team. Even the weather played its part with a little snow earlier in the week just to remind us that we were heading south. However on the actual weekend it was fine and allowed the full range of activities to take place.

While organising the Annual General Meeting is a relatively large task it does give an opportunity for all members in a region to pull together for a common cause and it will often lead to a stronger region. There has been some talk that the success of the Dunedin conference means that smaller regions would not be able to match the high standard. However I believe that each region should treat the conference as a one-off event and put their own character into it without trying to outcompete the one before.

Following some hesitation the Manawatu Region has agreed to host the 2014 Conference and we look forward to visiting that region and no doubt look at the famed Manawatu Estuary.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEEKEND

Council Members

My previous report set out the outcomes of the elections with Sarah Jamieson now being elected as a full member and Colin Miskelly being re-elected.

The Council have now decided to co-opt Stefanie Grosser to fill one of the vacancies on the Council. Stefanie is a doctorate student at Otago University, Department of Zoology, and her research interests are evolutionary biology, genomics/transcriptomics, bioinformatics with focus on sequence analysis, conservation and population genetics, molecular biology, and animal biology, especially vertebrates.

She made a good contribution to the recent Australasian Seabird Group meeting, and her research interests are areas which would be useful for the OSNZ Council to have representation. Not only does Stefanie bring a research perspective to Council she also represents the younger female segment of our membership, which apparently is lacking in us older males that predominate on the Council at the present time. She has also advised me that her German ancestry will enable her to be a good organiser and we look forward to that aspect as well.

A fuller CV of Stefanie will appear in a future issue of *Southern Bird*.

New Zealand Birds Online

At the AGM the new website New Zealand Birds Online was launched jointly by Dame Claudia Orange representing Te Papa, Carol West representing the Department of Conservation, and myself representing the Ornithological Society. These three organisations were joint sponsors of this very extensive project.

The whole development of the website however was lead by Dr Colin Miskelly and he put countless hours into the project and the success of the site is a testament to this detailed planning.

Colin, however, would willingly acknowledge the contribution made by members of the Society in providing photographs, sound files or written material. There were several hundred contributors and I believe that those members can take great pride from the success of the website.

I urge all members to utilise this as a resource and direct anybody with a bird query to the site, nzbirdsonline.org.nz, as it is only by using it that the benefits will accrue.

Brand Name For Society

One of the exciting outcomes of the AGM was the adoption by the meeting of a brand name for the Society being **Birds New Zealand**. This will not affect the official registered name of the Society but will enable the brand name to be used in the community, to hopefully increase the visibility of our interests.

Council is still undergoing an exercise to ensure that the use of the brand name compared to the scientific name is understood and also that the layout and use of the *Notornis* image is standard across all aspects of the usage.

Another part of the motion was that *Southern Bird* would be renamed as *Birds New Zealand* and the layout of the front cover will also be part of the development package.

It is intended to bring these changes into use as soon as possible but I note that some regions are already calling themselves *Birds New Zealand*. That is fine and that is the way that it is intended to be applied. It is the printed version that we are looking to develop into a consistent format.

Australasian Ornithological Congress

This is a further reminder that the congress will be held in Auckland early in December 2013. This event has been relatively widely advertised but this is a reminder that members should register as soon as possible to give the organisers a better guidance on the numbers.

I understand that most of the registrants at the present time are Australians, and I would remind you that this is an opportunity that only comes to New Zealand at approximately 10-yearly intervals. Normally it is held in various Australian states. It is a chance to hear papers presented by the top researchers from New Zealand and Australia and have an opportunity to mingle with them during the breaks.

I am looking forward to the return of the Arctic migrants and the breeding season, but make sure you get out there and enjoy your type of birding.

DAVID LAWRIE, President

DAME CLAUDIA ORANGE (TE PAPA), CAROL WEST (DOC) AND DAVID LAWRIE (OSNZ) OFFICIALLY LAUNCH NEW ZEALAND BIRDS ONLINE



MINUTES OF THE 74TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC) HELD AT THE DUNEDIN MUSEUM ON 1ST JUNE 2013

Attendance:

The President, David Lawrie, opened the meeting and welcomed about 120 members and friends.

Apologies:

Paul Garner-Richards, Peter Frost, Rosemary Heather, Brian Bell, Stella and John Rowe, Bev Woolley, Chris Robertson, Eila Lawton, Neil Robertson, Phil Batley, Julia Melville, Gwenda Pulham, Brian Gill, Graham Turbott, Andrew Styche

Motion: That the apologies be accepted.

Mel Galbraith/David Melville (carried)

Recent deaths:

The meeting rose to remember Noelle MacDonald, Margaret Molloy, Alan Morris, Ralph Skinner, Dave Panckhurst, Alan Wright and Barry Lawrence who had died during the year.

Minutes:

Motion: That the minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and be approved.

Craig McKenzie/Gillian Vaughan (carried)

There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report:

Members had been provided with a copy of the report and statement of accounts as approved by the auditor. Bruce McKinlay spoke to these on behalf of Paul Garner-Richards. A copy of the report and accounts will be published in *Southern Bird*.

Motion: That the financial report and accounts be accepted.

Bruce McKinlay/Ian Armitage (carried)

President's Report:

The President presented his annual report providing an update on society activities and thanking those who had managed these for the membership. Special mention was made of the work of Colin Miskelly and Te Papa in developing the New Zealand Birds Online website which would be launched the following day in collaboration with OSNZ and the Department of Conservation as partners. Mention was also made of the ongoing and valuable contribution of Ingrid Hutzler as the Society's executive officer, in particular, her work in securing funding for the Birds New Zealand Research Fund to be administered by the Society. The full report and further details of these matters are published in *Southern Bird*.

Motion: That the President's report be accepted.

David Lawrie/Mary Thompson (carried)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEEKEND

Election of Officers

Three Council vacancies were advertised as the terms of Colin Miskelly, Murray Williams and Peter Frost had expired. Colin had been nominated for another term on Council with Murray and Peter standing aside. Sarah Jamieson has also been nominated. No election was necessary with Colin and Sarah being automatically appointed to Council. Two vacant positions remained, one being the position into which Sarah had previously been co-opted.

Motions notified for the AGM

Two motions had previously been notified in *Southern Bird*.

1. That the Society adopt the brand name of Birds New Zealand.
[proposed by Colin Miskelly and seconded by Peter Frost]
2. That the Society change the name of its publication *Southern Bird* to *Birds New Zealand*.
[proposed by Colin Miskelly and seconded by Peter Gaze]

Both motions were passed unanimously by the AGM.

Awards

Nori Bell was awarded the AT Edgar Junior Member Award with her citation presented by David Melville. Ray Clough was awarded the Meritorious Service Award.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

To the President, councillors and members for the 2012 financial year.
The audited accounts for the 2012 financial year are attached. The Society's finances are still in good shape. The Council continues to look into ways of increasing our revenue and decreasing expenditure.

The General Account income and expenditure remains fairly consistent with last year. Income exceeded expenditure over the year. Donations continue to show a decline from previous years. Income from the sale of data is now paid into the General Account, which this year brought in just under \$8,000. A review of the GST claimed for Executive Officer Contract found that \$12,000 had not been claimed since the commencement of the contract. This has now been claimed from Inland Revenue.

The income from annual subscriptions remains similar to last year. Around \$1,100 in subscription fees was lost to PayPal fees. Council is looking into ways of reducing this cost. New Zealand members can help by paying for membership with online banking rather than by credit card via PayPal. Overseas members should pay with credit card via PayPal, as the PayPal fees are substantially lower than the bank fees for international transfers.

The income from *Southern Bird* adverts increased this year to \$1,100, with three different companies advertising.

Printing costs for *Notornis* and *Southern Bird* have increased. However, postage costs have decreased due to an arrangement with The Caxton Press, which enables us to make use of their bulk postage.

The main expenditure from the Project Assistance Fund was regional allowances. The Fund was also used for funding the continued updating of the Society's website and training in its use. The money for this is from the annual grant from T-Gear Charitable Trust.

The Life Membership fund didn't receive any new members this year. There was no movement in Contracts Account this year. We have had a write-down of \$4,741 in our investment with Auckland Mortgage Trust. The Society still has \$2,059 in the investment.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors, the executive officer, the membership secretary and the members for all the assistance and support that they have given me over the last year. Unfortunately I will not be at the AGM to present the accounts. Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries.

I recommend acceptance of the 2012 Annual Accounts. I also recommend that John Khouri be re-appointed as auditor.

PAUL GARNER-RICHARDS
June 2013

(See page 6 for the audited accounts)

General Business

There was discussion on the new means of renewing membership through the website and the ease with which this was usually possible.

The meeting was reminded of the Australasian Ornithological Conference in Auckland in December.

The next AGM will be during Queens Birthday weekend 2014 in Palmerston North

The meeting closed at 5.50pm.

VISIT THE OSNZ WEBSITE
www.osnz.org.nz

The Society's website is a great source of information and resources:

- Read the latest news about your Society
- Join or manage your subscription
- Learn about the Society's schemes and studies
- Download scheme reporting forms, and check out reports from scheme convenors
- Find contact details for all those involved in helping run the Society
- Keep up to date with conferences available both here and abroad
- Check out the publications the Society produces or has produced
- Download and read newsletters from the Society's regions

FALLA MEMORIAL AWARD
A.T. EDGAR JUNIOR AWARD &
MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

Nominations are called for the above awards and should be with the OSNZ Secretary (P.O. Box 834, Nelson 7040) by 31st December 2013. Nominations should be on the standard forms, which are available from RRs, or the Secretary secretary@osnz.org.nz.

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

Further information on OSNZ award procedures is available from your RR or the OSNZ Secretary.

WHITE-HEADED SHELDUCK PAIR

The pair of Paradise Shelducks in the photo has been resident on the best pastures on our farm at Halkett in Canterbury from about June this winter, staying since. Initially I thought that lesbianism must be present in the Paradise Shelduck population. However on closer inspection of the plumage, behaviour and vocalisation of the pair, confirmed by our neighbour George McKay, it was clear that one was a male, albeit with a white head. We wonder if this is unique or just unusual. In some years a pair of Paradise Shelducks successfully rears a clutch and frequents our irrigation dam. It will be interesting to see whether these two follow the trend and if so, what proportion of their offspring will be white-headed. George is sceptical as to whether they will even breed!

ALASTAIR and JENNY NICOL



AUDITED ACCOUNTS

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2012			
GENERAL ACCOUNT		2012	2011
INCOME			
Annual Subscriptions NZ		\$45,190	\$48,463
Annual Subscriptions Overseas		\$13,890	\$15,309
Donations		\$2,772	\$2,943
Donation - T Gear Trust		\$5,000	\$5,000
Sales General		\$31	\$506
Sales Kakapo Issue		\$0	\$110
Sales Atlas		\$251	
Sales Data		\$5,400	
Notornis & Southern Bird Refunds		\$5,073	\$4,299
Copyright Licensing Fund Payment		\$613	\$833
GST Claim		\$11,297	
Interest		\$329	\$248
Sub Total		\$89,846	\$77,710
Transfers from	1. Life Membership Reserve Annual Contribution	\$1,997	\$1,893
	2. Projects Assistance Fund		
	i. Royalties	\$1,855	\$940
	ii. Grant Operating Costs	\$0	\$2,500
	3. Meadows Atlas Memorial Fund Closure	\$0	-\$20,006
	4. Library Auction Reserve Closure	\$3,852	-\$13,865
Sub Total		\$93,698	\$63,846
TOTAL INCOME			
EXPENDITURE			
Audit		\$800	\$800
Annual Return Fee		\$44	\$44
Atlas Storage		\$658	
Bank Fees		\$174	\$803
Conference & Meetings Expenses		\$8,448	\$9,623
ebird Hosting & Maintenance		\$0	\$1,156
Executive Officer Contract Fees		\$15,673	\$17,730
Freight		\$0	\$237
General Expenses		\$0	\$13
Insurance		\$525	\$500
Internet		\$335	\$377
Investment writedown		\$4,741	
Journal Subscriptions		\$195	
Journal Subscriptions		\$1,171	\$414
PayPal Fees		\$1,399	\$1,089
Postage		\$790	
Postage - Atlas		\$508	\$270
Postage - International		\$3,944	\$5,463
Postage - Notornis & Southern Bird		\$13,499	\$15,250
Printing - Notornis		\$16,212	\$10,717
Printing - Southern Bird		\$1,380	\$0
Printing - OSNZ Brochures		\$1,827	\$4,330
Printing & Stationery - General		\$17	\$109
Telephone		\$100	\$135
Website Domains Renewals		\$72,400	\$69,021
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			
Surplus/Deficit		\$21,298	-\$5,175
Plus Balance as at 1st January		\$612	\$5,787
Balance as at 31st December		\$21,910	\$612

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2012			
LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND		2012	2011
INCOME			
Interest			
New Life Members		\$682	\$1,734
TOTAL INCOME		\$682	\$1,700
EXPENDITURE			
Transfer to General Funds			
Surplus/Deficit		\$1,997	\$1,893
Plus Balance as at 1st January		-\$1,315	\$1,041
Balance as at 31st December		\$19,968	\$18,928
		\$18,654	\$19,968
LIBRARY ASSET ACCOUNT			
INCOME			
Library Exchanges			
Surplus/Deficit		\$1,700	\$1,700
Plus Balance as at 1st January		\$1,700	\$1,700
Balance as at 31st December		\$41,863	\$40,169
		\$43,563	\$41,869
PROJECT ASSISTANCE FUND			
INCOME			
Royalties Penguin Field Guide			
Sponsorship - T Gear Trust (for new website)		\$1,855	\$940
Payment from BDO Investment		\$3,240	\$3,240
Interest		\$0	\$3,466
TOTAL INCOME		\$3,251	\$6,275
EXPENDITURE			
Regional Allowances			
AOC Scholarships		\$6,920	\$6,920
Website Update & Training		\$0	\$2,000
Dotterel Survey Expenses		\$2,505	\$12,916
Shorebird Counting Course - Miranda		\$0	\$755
Willie Cook - Tern Project		\$0	\$522
Mike Bell - Tern Project		\$376	\$0
OSNZ Otago -2013 Conference Float		\$194	\$0
Sub Total		\$11,000	\$0
Transfers to General Account		\$10,995	\$23,112
Sub Total		\$1,855	\$940
TOTAL INCOME		\$1,855	\$940
EXPENDITURE			
Surplus/Deficit		\$12,850	\$26,552
Plus Balance as at 1st January		-\$4,504	-\$12,632
Balance as at 31st December		\$80,649	\$93,280
		\$76,145	\$80,649

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2012			
CONTRACTS ACCOUNT		2012	2011
INCOME			
TOTAL INCOME		\$0	\$0
EXPENDITURE			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		\$0	\$0
Surplus/Deficit		\$0	\$0
Balance as at 1 January		\$126,300	\$126,300
Balance as at 31 December		\$126,300	\$126,300

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2012			
STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT 31st DECEMBER			
	2012	2011	
MEMBERS FUNDS			
General Account			
Life Membership Fund	\$21,910	\$612	
TOTAL	\$40,564	\$20,581	
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
Project Assistance Funds			
Contracts Fund	\$76,145	\$80,649	
TOTAL	\$202,444	\$206,949	
TOTAL MEMBERS & RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$243,008	\$227,529	
ASSETS			
Bank			
Investments BNZ	\$23,049	\$26,282	
Investments Auckland Mortgage Trust	\$182,579	\$166,899	
Accounts Receivable	\$2,059	\$9,800	
Library Account	\$3,471	\$1,670	
GST	\$43,563	\$41,863	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$13,163	\$2,358	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$267,884	\$248,872	
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable			
Subscriptions in Advance	\$14,070	\$14,774	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$10,805	\$6,568	
NET TOTAL OF ASSETS	\$243,008	\$227,530	

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2012			
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2011			
	2012	2011	
1. RESERVES			
1. The Life Membership Reserve consists of life membership subscriptions and interest less annual transfer of 10% of balance to General Funds			
2. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE			
Royalties Penguin	\$0	\$940	
Interest BNZ	\$636	\$636	
Southern Bird Advert	\$335	\$93	
Sales Data	\$2,500	\$0	
TOTAL	\$3,471	\$1,670	
3. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE			
Audit Fee Accrued	\$800	\$800	
Annual Return Fees	\$44	\$44	
Notornis & Southern Bird	\$11,028	\$13,624	
Atlas Storage	\$62	\$61	
Expenses	\$576	\$245	
PayPal Fees	\$12	\$0	
Postage	\$48	\$0	
Project Assistance Fund Grant	\$194	\$0	
Website Maintenance	\$1,305	\$0	
TOTAL	\$14,070	\$14,774	
4. NOTORNIS & SOUTHERN BIRD REFUNDS			
Notornis/Library Exchanges	\$1,700	\$1,700	
Papers in Notornis	\$2,200	\$2,200	
Southern Bird Adverts	\$1,173	\$399	
TOTAL	\$5,073	\$4,299	
5. PROJECT ASSISTANCE FUND GRANTS MADE			
Regional Payments	\$6,920	\$6,920	
AOC Scholarships	\$0	\$2,000	
Website Update & Training	\$2,505	\$12,916	
Dotterel Survey Expenses	\$0	\$755	
Shorebird Counting Course - Miranda	\$0	\$522	
Willie Cook - Tern Project	\$376	\$0	
Mike Bell - Tern Project	\$194	\$0	
OSNZ Otago -2013 Conference Float	\$1,000	\$0	
TOTAL	\$10,995	\$23,112	
6. AUCKLAND MORTGAGE TRUST INVESTMENT			
OPENING BALANCE	\$9,800	\$2,635	
Writedown 31/3/2011	\$2,106	\$0	
Writedown 31/3/2012	\$3,000	\$0	
Capital Payments for 2012	\$2,059	\$0	
CLOSING BALANCE			
7. CASHFLOW STATEMENT			

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2012

General Accounting Principles
The general accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of earnings under the historical cost method of accounting have been adopted by the Society

Particular Accounting Policies

a. Subscription Income

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

b. Royalty Income

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

c. Interest Earned

Interest earned by investments of funds have been credited to respective funds by apportioning the total interest received over Restricted and General Funds

d. Goods & Service Tax

Income and expenditure are stated exclusive of goods and services tax

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

A LIST OF RECENT BIRD LITERATURE REGARDING **NEW ZEALAND BIRDS**, EXCLUDING THAT PUBLISHED IN *NOTORNIS*

With thanks to Bart Ellenbroek and Peter Gaze.

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Eens, M et al. Can starling eggs be useful as a biomonitoring tool to study organohalogenated contaminants on a worldwide scale? *Environment International* 2013; 51: 141-9.

Santos, E.S.A., Jamieson, I.G., Santos, L.L.S., Nakagawa, S. Low genetic and morphological differentiation between an introduced population of dunnocks in New Zealand and an ancestral population in England. *Biological Invasions* 2013; 15: 185-197.

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Cabezas, L.A., Ruiz, J., Yates, O., Bernal, M. The black petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*) in pelagic waters off northern Chile: A southern extension to the known distribution and interactions with the pelagic longline fishery. *New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research* 2012; 46: 537-544.

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programme. *New Zealand Veterinary Journal* 2013; 61: 121-126.

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D'Amico, M., Rouco, C., Russell, J.C., Román, J., Revilla, E. Invaders on the road: Synanthropic bird foraging along highways. *Oecologia Australis* 2013; 17: 86-95.

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van Heezik, Y., Freeman, C., Porter, S., Dickinson, K.J.M. Garden Size, householder knowledge, and socio-economic status influence plant and bird diversity at the scale of individual gardens. *Ecosystems* 2013; DOI 10.1007/s10021-013-9694-8.

AOC 2013

The Australasian Ornithological Conference will be held in Auckland in from Tuesday 3rd December to Saturday 7th December 2013. Plenary sessions, symposia and contributed papers feature on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Friday will be devoted to field trips. The conference kicks off with an informal social on the Tuesday night, and there will be a conference dinner on Thursday night. On Wednesday there will be a welcome function and poster session.

The following are the keynote presentations:

- Dr Matt Rayner and Chris Gaskin *Lost and found: hunting the New Zealand storm petrel in a world centre of seabird diversity*
- Professor Hamish G Spencer and Martyn Kennedy *Classification of the Cormorants of the World*
- Dr John Ewen *The biology and management of small bird populations*

Symposia will be held on the following subjects:

- Conservation and status of seabirds
- Avian evolution in our region in the era of genomics: where are we headed?
- Ecological and social dimensions of wild bird feeding
- Ratite ecology, genetics and conservation
- The Role of Australia and New Zealand in reversing shorebird declines in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway
- Biological insights from remote tracking
- The complexities of avian communication; sound, scent and sight

Field trips to the following destinations are to be provided:

- Miranda Shorebird Centre
- Tiritiri Matangi Island
- Inner Hauraki Gulf
- Hauraki Gulf pelagic trip
- Auckland Museum and Manukau Harbour

The conference is being hosted by the Department of Natural Sciences, Unitec Institute of Technology, Carrington Road, Mt Albert, Auckland. Visit the OSNZ website for more information and to register: <http://osnz.org.nz/news/aoc-2013>. For further assistance, please feel free to contact the organisers at aoc2013@unitec.ac.nz, or phone Mel Galbraith +649-8154321 ext. 7320.

SEWAGE POND BIRD COUNTERS WANTED

Small town sewage and wastewater treatment ponds are rather unsung birding locations. Whenever I visit one I'm delighted by the numbers and varieties of ducks I encounter, and then surprised by just how many dabchicks pop to the surface. But there is barely a comment or a note about these 'wetlands' in our birding literature.

I am looking for members who would be willing to count the birds on small town sewage and wastewater ponds around the country. Places like Waipawa, Waipukurau, Dannevirke and Woodville in Hawke's Bay; Waikanae, Otaki, Foxton, Bulls in the Horowhenua; Invercargill (that's a big town!), Riverton, Gore, Te Anau in Southland; Patea, Hawera, Stratford, Opunake, Manaia in Taranaki...and so on. In fact any small town sewage pond anywhere in the country that people are willing to visit. There's no wish to exclude the bigger towns either, but some of these may already have their own study (like Bromley Ponds in Christchurch).

The plan is to do monthly counts (preferably sometime in the last 10 days of the month) at each pond for each month of 2014. Thereafter the results will be written up, but hopefully some counters will be stimulated to carry on counting.

If the idea of being involved in a collaborative counting exercise at sewage ponds appeals to you, please get in touch.

MURRAY WILLIAMS

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OMARAMA SEWAGE PONDS BY NICK ALLEN

HOW DID THIS FALCON DIE?

A friend of mine recently found a dead New Zealand Falcon on his farm in the Greta Valley, North Canterbury. It was complete, other than for the back of its skull. This had been shattered by what looked to be pecking (see attached photo). The bird was dead on the ground in amongst limestone outcrops, which at that time happened to be frequented by a mob of Australian Magpies. One can imagine a Magpie mob attacking a lone Falcon and inflicting such fatal damage. In my experience, a cat or a mustelid would have difficulty catching a Falcon in open country, and even though they will eat into skulls, the damage is more of a 'clean-edged' chewing, rather than a 'shattered-edge' pecking. However, as the actual attack was not witnessed, the above can only be described as conjecture. I have often seen Magpies attacking Australasian Harriers, but it would be interesting to find out if any others have seen Magpies attacking Falcons.

NICK LEDGARD



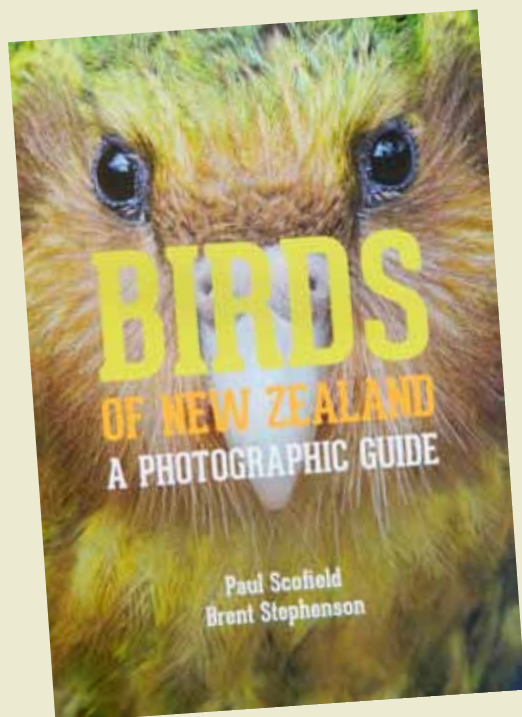
PHOTO BY ROB MCMILLAN

REVIEW

Birds of New Zealand: a Photographic Guide

Paul Scofield and Brent Stephenson

Auckland University Press, New Zealand.
2013. ISBN 9781869 407339. NZ\$60.00



For years, Paul Scofield and Brent Stephenson have been names synonymous with birding. Most recently, Paul served as co-author of *Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand* (Te Papa Press, 2010) and *Albatross, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World* (Princeton and A&C Black, 2006). Brent has long been an internationally recognised photographer and bird guide (Wrybill Birding Tours, New Zealand). So, collaboration on a photographic field guide would seem natural and could only have great results, right?

When I first saw the book, it definitely made me want to open it. The beautifully captured, sweet faced, soulful eyed Kakapo on the cover made me want to see more, and more I saw. With over 1,000 of Brent's incredible photographs, it was an almost endless supply (ok, it did end, as the book is only 544 pages) of pictures of the beautiful birds found in New Zealand. This is most capably complemented by Paul's interesting and detailed information. Even in the introduction you can 'feel' the experience and passion in words that can only be written with years of intimate knowledge of a subject.

The book is thoughtfully structured and easy to follow. Initially, it introduces the reader to New Zealand and New Zealand avifauna and provides a bit of a lesson in basic bird identification and photography. It then starts with the five species of kiwi and ends with the rare vagrants (love that they put in the rare vagrants). In each section there is a bit of information about the order and the family, followed by detailed descriptions of each species, including: identification, vocalisations, separation from similar species, distribution, breeding biology, biometrics (measurements) and taxonomic notes. Colour coding of the species name indicates abundance and conservation status and there are wee maps indicating the general location of the birds, colour coded according to, essentially,

presence only during breeding or all year. The photographs are included within the information sections and not as separate plates. I know people have varying opinions about whether it is best to have the pictures with the descriptions or separately, but I personally like this way. It works for the way my brain thinks. I also know that some people like pictures and some people like drawings but I like pictures (and they are excellent pictures), so this also works for me.

In fairness, I must give a two-sided review, so here are some of the minor criticisms. To enhance the overall experience, I would have liked there to be large maps included for the New Zealand mainland and surrounding islands. I think it would aid in understanding the locations that the arrows on the tiny maps in each section were indicating and would be a bonus for both geographically naive New Zealanders and interested foreigners. Although undoubtedly this book is good for people with little knowledge, a glossary may have helped the true beginners understand bird specific terms. From a practical perspective, this book is quite heavy and you likely aren't really going to carry it around in your backpack while you identify birds. However, it would be feasible, if you drove to and watched from a single location.

Overall, this book gets an A+! It is the perfect gift for anyone who is interested in New Zealand, New Zealand native birds, wildlife photography or birds in general. It is a 'must have' extremely current resource for the naturalist, avian enthusiast, novice bird watcher and serious birder alike. It also has an app available with photos and sound recordings as a techie bonus. Frankly, I think this book is a steal at \$60.00 and will not only be buying one for myself, but also giving several as gifts in the not too distant future!

JODI SALINSKY



SHINING CUCKOO. PHOTO BY MARK DELANEY.

CUCKOO ARRIVAL REPORTS PLEASE

The Long-tailed Cuckoo and the Shining Cuckoo are New Zealand's only forest birds that migrate out of the country. They both breed in New Zealand, parasitising endemic species and using them to raise their offspring for them. Little is known about the migration patterns of either species, so I am conducting a study to find out a bit of information about the dates they arrive at each part of the country. If you hear or see one of these birds, please help me by reporting it using one of the Google forms links below. If you need further information about these species, please have a look at their pages on the New Zealand Birds Online website, which has a lot of useful photos and sounds to aid with correctly identifying them (Long-tailed cuckoo: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/long-tailed-cuckoo>, Shining Cuckoo: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/shining-cuckoo>).

Long-tailed Cuckoo spring migration form <http://goo.gl/CIBMWZ>

Shining Cuckoo spring migration form <http://goo.gl/CDjbuh>

Thanks

MICHAEL ANDERSON
Postdoctoral fellow, Massey University



LONG-TAILED CUCKOO. PHOTO BY MARK DELANEY.

THE IDENTIFICATION OF **MIDDLE-SIZED TERNS** IN NEW ZEALAND – PART ONE

Arctic and Common Terns are rare migrants from the northern hemisphere. Initially regarded as very rare birds, there are now probably at least a few of each species found every year. It is difficult to say just how many reach New Zealand because some of them look a lot like some White-fronted Terns. These birds usually feed at sea but could dot down on any beach to rest, usually staying for hours rather than days. The majority of field guides don't deal well with the non-breeding plumages and wing moult we usually get here and, when put to the test, understanding of how White-fronted Terns vary with age and moult may also be wanting. In fact the hardest part of identifying these rare terns is being sure whether any particular bird is or is not a White-fronted Tern.

White-fronted Terns are distinctive in fresh breeding plumage with a black cap stopping short of the bill (1) to leave a diagnostic strip of white. White below, their backs and upper wing surfaces are pale pearl grey, paler on the rump and grading into a pure white tail with white outer tail feathers (2). The tips of the secondaries are white and just the outer web of the outer primary is black, so the wings look more or less even pale grey. The tail is long and deeply forked projecting beyond the wing tips when the birds are at rest.



PHOTO IAN SOUTHEY

Terns have a pale grey frosting covering their feathers when newly grown that gradually wears away to expose the blackish base colour on the primaries. This happens first and most obviously on the tips and outer edges of the outer primaries, which are never covered by other feathers. By the

time the chicks have fledged the upper wings of their parents have changed to having dark grey to blackish outer primaries, especially the tips, giving a darker trailing edge to the wing tip (3).

White feathers appear in the crown from January and wing moult may also be starting, becoming obvious in February. Then the forehead and front of the crown become white and the mid crown is variably speckled black on a white background (4). The remainder of the crown and nape to below the ear coverts is black with a large black patch in front of the eye. There is black flecking below the eye joining the black areas that may be sparse and subtle, or dense and obvious (5).

For identification purposes these birds should be regarded as solid with a body like a brick, deep in the chest and behind the legs, supported on longish sturdy legs. The head is large with a moderately sloped forehead and a crown that may appear long and flat supported on a moderate length neck. The long black bill is gently curved along the top, sometimes looking slightly down curved. The wings are relatively short, tapering quickly from the body. Jizz, however, varies from bird to bird and with posture, moult and body condition.

Chicks fledge from December to March with a characteristically contrasting variegated blackish and pale grey plumage on their upper surfaces. From March or April juvenile birds moult into first winter plumage. Then their heads resemble those of non-breeding adults and they replace all



PHOTO IAN SOUTHEY



New Zealand Bird Conference 2014

This will be held in Palmerston North over Queen's Birthday weekend
31st May to 2nd June 2014.

Keep checking the OSNZ website www.osnz.org.nz
for news on this event.



PHOTO IAN SOUTHEY



PHOTO PHIL BATTLE



PHOTO IAN SOUTHEY

or most of the variegated feathers on their backs with plain grey ones, but retain patterned feathers on their wings (6). The retained juvenile primaries have a broader dark grey stripe along the outer edge, but with a white inner edge extending to the tip (7). Juvenile tail feathers have a blackish outer edge on the terminal half and a pale grey base (8). They carry this plumage into summer with the wings coverts losing their pattern except for the dark bar along the leading edge (known as a carpal or cubital bar) (9) and the dark centred tertials (10).

They moult completely when they are about one year old, any time from spring to summer. By the time this moult begins the old outer primaries are heavily abraded, especially the white areas, leaving extensive blackish tips (11), but they are replaced by paler grey feathers (12) similar in colour to the rest of the plumage. The tips of the outer two pairs of tail feathers are dark grey with a pale base (13) that may be visible at close range. Some birds, but not this one, have may a darker grey smudge near the ends of the tertials. Adults at this time are in breeding plumage with intact pale wings.

Young terns are still growing when they fledge, and even after a year they average a few percent smaller in bill and wing measurements and much

shorter in tail length. Perhaps also carrying a bit less body fat during the spring, they often look smaller than adults. Non-breeding and immature White-fronted Terns may also appear to have smaller rounder heads than adults. (See inset above.)

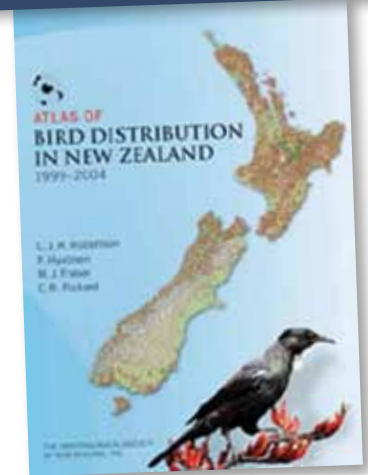
Although there are other differences, two details, not particularly easy to see, will confirm whether or not you are looking at a White-fronted Tern. Both Common and Arctic Terns have a fine blackish outer edge extending the full length of the outer tail feathers (14). These feathers are entirely white in adult White-fronted Terns, while the tail feathers have a pale base on younger birds and are only dark on the last half. The inside of the outermost primary feather on all of these species is white and the outer part is dark grey or blackish with the border reaching the edge of the feather near the tip (15). On the other nine primaries on Common and Arctic Terns the black tip extends back along the outer edge of the feather for a short distance to form a dark hook (16), enclosing part of the white on the inner vane. However, on White-fronted Terns all of the primaries are similar without these hooks although the dark stripe may widen as it reaches the edge. This feature is not exposed on a fully folded wing but is clearly visible during wing moult when a feather is missing.

IAN SOUTHEY



PHOTO IAN SOUTHEY

FREE ATLAS FOR NEW MEMBERS!!!



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

For details of how to join the OSNZ:

- Visit the Society's website www.osnz.org.nz and download a membership form.
- Contact the Society's Membership Secretary.
- Contact your local regional representative.

NEW ZEALAND BIRD CONFERENCE DUNEDIN 2013

Mayor, Dave Cull, got the weekend off to a good start, with a warm welcome for the conference participants. The first session of oral presentations began, with Bruce McKinlay in the chair to set the tone for the conference; friendly but firm. Local OSNZ members, from the university and the community, presented a diverse range of interesting papers. All the abstracts for the posters and presentations are available online at <http://osnz.org.nz/publications/2013-conference-abstractsdunedin>.

On Sunday morning a wide range of well-attended workshops were held. These varied from seriously scientific project planning, through high-tech eBird and photography to practical outdoorsy mist netting and low-tech arty drawing requiring little more than a pencil and paper. The final event on Sunday afternoon saw the launch of the digital encyclopaedia of New Zealand birds, New Zealand Birds Online www.newzealandbirdsonline.org.nz.

The organisers made sure that there were ample opportunities for serious ornithological

discussion, gossip and scandal over lunch, morning and afternoon tea. Vegetarians had to forage carefully in order to avoid ingesting unsuitable prey items.

The ageing population distribution of the society members has always led to worries about its future viability so it was good to see evidence of recruitment of younger individuals. The organisers survived the ordeal relatively unscathed, the tensest moments occurring when attempting to recall participants from the social feeding frenzies to the serious scientific business of the society.

Over the weekend there was an informal dinner on Saturday night at Technique, and a formal dinner at Cargill's on Sunday, with Neville Peat as the entertaining after dinner speaker.

Monday came, and tours whisked people to The Catlins, Orokonui, the Otago Peninsula and the Museum.

The Catlins River field trip was a winner. The weather turned fine and the three hours spent in the Catlins beech forest, following a scrummy lunch at Mohua Park with Fergus and Mary Sutherland, were very productive. Three groups of Yellowheads were encountered on sunny slopes just above the track in the two kilometres above the Franks Creek swing bridge. There appeared to be between four and six birds in each group. The nine field trip participants all got views of the birds and some managed to get reasonable images of Yellowheads feeding vigorously on the beech tree trunks. Other birds included good numbers of Brown Creepers, plus Bellbird, Tomtit and Fantail.

Thanks to the sponsors: DOC, Te Papa, UBS, SBS, Topflite and OSNZ.

SUE ODLIN, DEREK ONLEY & FERGUS SUTHERLAND



"WHEN I GROW UP I'M GOING TO BE A STUDY SKIN." BELLBIRDS GATE-CRASHING A KAKA FEEDER AT OROKONUI ECOSANCTUARY. BY CHRIS THOMPSON.



WALKING ALONG THE CATLINS RIVER IN SEARCH OF YELLOWHEADS. BY FERGUS SUTHERLAND



PAUL CUMMING, LEFT, AND HAMISH SPENCER AT OROKONUI. SPOT THE LOCAL - THE FORECAST FOR THE DAY WAS A HIGH OF 8 DEGREES! BY CHRIS THOMPSON



IAN SOUTHEY RECEIVING RAY CLOUGH'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD



SCIENTIFIC DAY



SUE BELL RECEIVING NORI BELL'S AT EDGAR JUNIOR MEMBER AWARD FROM THE PRESIDENT DAVID LAWIE. PHOTO BY GILLIAN VAUGHAN

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY

Johnny was my mentor and special friend. We shared a special bond spiced with a good deal of humour. There was never a dull moment with Johnny on the field trips. He was one of the most open-minded people I ever knew.

We went on many field expeditions together hunting for South Island Kokako, the grey ghost, initially when Johnny was with the Wildlife Service and then after he retired.

In the backcountry, Johnny's enthusiasm was always a pace or two faster than his thinking speed. This often resulted in him hitting a low bough, tripping over a vine, or foundering in some muddy pool. I soon learned to increase the number of bandages in the first aid kit prior to any trip with him.

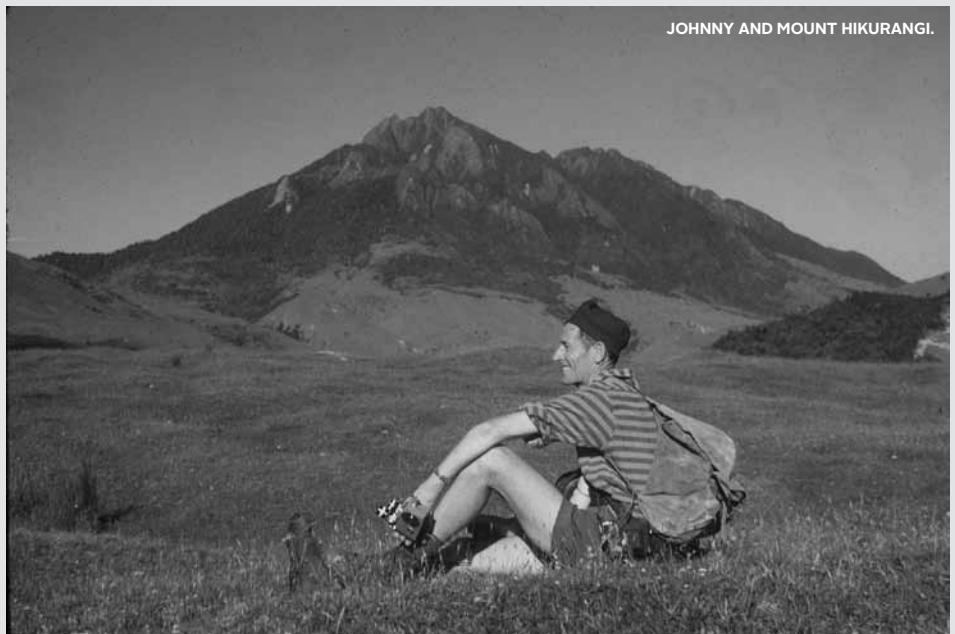
Classic was when he was racing up the Heaphy Track at speed (I had a 35 kg pack carrying his gear) when I soon caught up with him as he had tripped on a vine or Nikau leaf, and looking a lot worse for wear. One of the last field trips with Johnny was in the Nina Valley over the Lewis Pass. Once again, Johnny had charged ahead and slipped in a muddy section of the track where I found him flat on the ground among mud and roots, obviously in some pain, but laughing it all off in his usual way.

In the drama of the moment Johnny was often very astute. While crossing a fallen log on a tributary of the Caples just after Graeme Elliott had crossed, the bridge collapsed sending Johnny and expensive audio equipment crashing into the stream. Johnny's values were quite clear as he held his expensive Uher tape recorder and Nakamichi microphone above the water, not apparently caring where he ended up. His back took a year or so to come right I believe.

For Johnny, everything was done at speed, usually accompanied by loud continuous chatter, meaning the chances of encountering South Island Kokako, if it existed, was fairly unlikely. Being with Johnny when he set up makeshift hides was often so funny it was hard to contain laughter. I never forget one instance when we had set up a log hide, put out a model Kokako and started playing recorded calls through his tape recorder. After a while we heard this distinct movement of a smallish animal through the litter and we got very excited. However, Johnny couldn't contain his excitement and stood up sharply shouting: "what was that!" Oh well, Johnny's philosophy was: if the Kokako wasn't to be found in the bit of bush we were looking in, it would be where we planned to look next. Such was his positive attitude to life and his enthusiasm.

Johnny was a fast driver: that fitted the way he talked, moved and behaved in his everyday life. Apparently he specialised in trying to run over Mynas on the side of the road while travelling at speed. He told me that quite recently (then in his 80s) he drove a German tourist down from Auckland to Bluff and return. Just as they were driving into the Auckland Airport on return the tourist turned around to Johnny and asked him if he had ever been a racing driver! I remember crossing busy downtown Wellington streets at speed with Johnny many years ago. I said to him "isn't this dangerous" to which he replied "No, we go too fast".

But I will remember Johnny with most endearment during expeditions hunting for



John Kendrick (1922-2013)

John, sound recordist, photographer, film maker, and former Wildlife Service officer died in June. Tributes by two ornithologists who worked with him follow.

South Island Kokako. Probably the most special time was on that expedition into the Caples Valley in 1983 when I first had the pleasure of getting to know Johnny. The team comprised the best ornithologists I ever worked with: Johnny, Graeme Elliott and the late Peter Child. We searched hard for two and more weeks but found not a trace of evidence of the grey ghost. Graeme and Peter had left and Johnny had another day or two. On the second last day I found sign of the possible crow and encouraged Johnny to get up real early the next morning in the hopes that we might hear it calling at that site. We were on the spot before dawn, recording gear set up, and the bird called about 5:15. I will never forget Johnny's expression when these loud ethereal cathedral-like bells resonated from one side of the valley to the other. Johnny stood up silently and turned around and around soaking in the atmosphere of these exquisite calls. I had never seen him so silent and after a few minutes when the bird stopped calling he told me that was the first South Island Kokako he had heard after many attempts of searching for it.

The next major trip was in a remote area of the Freshwater Valley, Stewart Island in 1984, where I had seen and heard a Kokako calling. The Wildlife Service called in Johnny to confirm (or reject) my sighting. I had been working with young Carey Adams, son of Ralph Adams, the Director of Wildlife Service of the time. We were beside ourselves with excitement having tape-recorded several extraordinary calls and had glimpses of a largish grey bird power gliding in the dense forest. Bill Black the helicopter pilot flew Johnny in to a small gap in the forest on a streambed. It was raining steadily so no good for searching. With typical Johnny enthusiasm, he wanted to hear our recordings immediately after he settled into our large tent.

I was playing these when suddenly we heard a loud organ call coming from just outside our tent. Johnny leaped out of the tent at such speed he tore through the mosquito netting! Carey and I followed him more sedately though we struggled to contain our laughter. We strained our eyes searchingly into the canopy without avail, looking for the creature that had made this call. The grey wraith may have outwitted us again, but in no way diminished Johnny's passion to find this bird!

Johnny is more than a legend. We will miss him dearly.

I wrote this poem some years ago meaning it to be the frontispiece of a book I'll probably never write. I dedicate this poem (and the book if it happens) to Johnny. As we know from his colourful interview with Kim Hill, Kokako were Johnny's favourite bird.

Dawn and the first song

McLeod Ganj, India, 10th September 1990

*Under this steep hill
The forests bask in silence
Held in these transient times
When not a single sound
Passes to our ears.*

*Then from the wooded valley
In mists shafted with light
A sound so clear and pure
Sweeter than the lyre or flute
A kokako sings.*

RHYS BUCKINGHAM

continued on page 14.

continued from page 13

On receiving Rhys's Tribute to Johnny I laughed and remembered those funny little quirks that made JK such a special person. He was always so pleased to see you when you fronted up in Wellington, full of enthusiasm and wanting to hear the very latest information on the birds I had seen on my last expedition. Sometimes you had to listen so carefully, as the speed of his voice was such, coupled with that infectious enthusiasm that you could easily miss those golden gems of knowledge that Johnny had accumulated over the years.

He truly was a treasure to all his wildlife colleagues and his legacy of bringing native bird song into the kitchens of every New Zealand household makes him an absolute ornithological icon.

I have several snippets of stories of Johnny in the field which I am sure you will enjoy.

In 1972, there was a Saddleback translocation to the Southern Muttonbird Islands and JK was part of a large team. On a fine cold March morning a number of us arose at 3am to watch one of the wonders of the ornithological world, the departure of hundreds of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters flying out from the island to their feeding grounds. Johnny had made the 40 minute walk slipping and sliding and cursing as we negotiated our way under the low scrub to one of the strategic take off points for the birds. His plan was to photograph this truly amazing sight. As we all settled down Johnny organised his camera equipment only to find that he had left his special blue flash bulbs back in the hut.

Off he went back to the hut slipping sliding, and cursing, and returned sometime later. However, by then the last of the Sooty Shearwaters had winged their way off the island; dawn was well on its way.

Kakapo were rediscovered, so to speak, in the Esperance Valley of Fiordland in November 1974. I had found a Kakapo garden with small tracks running through the alpine vegetation. Don Merton flew in, and within several nights had come face to face with a Kakapo. Don quickly realised that if we could get recordings of the Kakapo there was a possibility that we may be able to locate other birds. A radio message had Johnny Kendrick flying in within the next few days laden down with considerable recording equipment. I remember the first night, a group of about four of us sitting quietly in the middle of this Kakapo garden. Not a word was said and then about midnight suddenly Johnny stood up and said loudly "Bugger! The batteries are flat in the tape recorder." Off he went back to the tent some distance way and retrieved a fresh lot of batteries. We had named this Kakapo 'Johnathan' and by 2am our friendly Kakapo was recorded "scraaking" for the very first time by the enthusiastic JK. That particular recording did attract another male Kakapo 'Jill' about another 300 m further up the hill. When morning report plays the booming of the Kakapo on the radio it starts off by the "scraaking" calls of a Kakapo. This is the same recording that Johnny made at 2am that particular morning and I often just have a little grin to myself as I remember the four of us sitting in a circle and suddenly being awoken by this loud "bugger!" He did

in fact complete the task and the recordings are now in the archive library for posterity.

Late in 1975 we found what turned out to be a group of three Kakapo in a beech ridge high in the Sinbad Valley. They were later found to be booming and we set up a photographic hide overlooking the most active bowl. A number of us were privileged to spend a night watching the booming display from this hide; a piece of black canvas sown to a frame of four sturdy poles. It was a draughty place and cold because you could not move about, and not very waterproof. Johnny Kendrick was invited down to photograph this unique display and off he went up the ridge to spend his 'special night with a Kakapo'. That night and all of the next day it rained hard; 24 inches fell in 24 hours and the Sinbad Valley was a mass of running water with a howling north-west wind. Don Merton was a worried man. There was no radio link in those days with Johnny and there was a fast-flowing stream to cross before one climbs up to the beech ridge. Don hoped that JK would stay put. He did, and after 36 hours a very wet and bedraggled Johnny Kendrick appeared with a grin on his face and said "now that was a storm and a half".

Johnny was in fact a real tough bugger who had my respect as a bushman and there was no way he was going to do anything stupid in such storm conditions. He did get to spend his special night with the Kakapo and took a number of photographs that later graced the walls of the Wildlife Service Office in Wellington. He just got a little wet along the way.

RON NILSSON





AUCKLAND

At the Albany Mega Centre (a large shopping mall) there is vacant land, ultimately destined for development (perhaps 25 ha), that is the regular home for a breeding population of New Zealand Dotterels. On 2nd June two pairs were observed defending separate territories. By 30th June two of the four pairs known to be in the area were building nest cups, and on 20th July a nest with three eggs was located, the earliest full-clutch record for this site. There were an additional six or seven pairs in the area, plus a small non-breeding group (at least five birds).

25 Cattle Egrets were recorded on 13th June north of Parakai (South Kaipara). Five Banded Rails were observed at Sandspit (near Warkworth) on 30th June, foraging on grass verge beside the public car park at high tide.

The winter harbour censuses resulted in some significant records for the region: in the Kaipara Harbour (22nd June) 17 Royal Spoonbills were located at a new roost; in the Manukau Harbour (23rd June) 61 New Zealand Dabchicks were recorded from the Mangere wastewater storage pond and a record 550 Royal Spoonbills were on the roost islands; and in Mangawhai Harbour (29th June) three Royal Spoonbills and a Little Egret were at a roost and a new Black Shag colony was located in a small arm of the harbour with 20 birds present and a minimum of eight active nests.

MEL GALBRAITH

BAY OF PLENTY

Big white birds have been making an appearance in the Bay of Plenty these past few months: 82 Spoonbills have been seen at Little Waihi; Thornton Beach, Rangitikei River Mouth had two White Herons; and Cattle Egrets have been seen at various river mouths around the coast. A Wandering Tattler was spotted at Otawairere, near Opotiki, and an Australasian Bittern popped up and froze at Matua Saltmarsh, Tauranga City. A Rook has been lurking near Katikati, and could be blamed for a speculative Kokako sighting at Aongatete, near Katikati, during the same period.

Seasonal Black-fronted Tern records have been scant, but there has been one at the Tarawera River Mouth. Ian Maclean saw and heard Kaka weekly during the winter in the vicinity of the 17th Ave valley, Tauranga City. He was almost run down by two of them on 16th Ave in early August so they were flying very low. Sighting distance was two metres! Kaka were also seen at Mount Maunganui in a pecan tree in August, and at Ohauiti the same month. Redpolls were also seen at Ohauiti in May. Three Australasian Shovelers (two males and one female) were seen on a pond up the Kopurererua Valley (the wetland below the hospital) near the end of the paths heading away from Waikareao Estuary. 14 Tui were seen in one tree on Mauao, whilst on the beaches below the mountain, a Buller's Mollymawk lay injured and was sent to Oropi Bird Rescue Centre in May.

Our winter harbour censuses were spectacular for the weather and the awesome displays of Stingrays seen from Don Merton's old boat. Little Penguins and Grey-faced Petrels are laying eggs as I write (early August), so more about them next time.

PAUL CUMING

TARANAKI

As usual during winter field trips are controlled by the weather, but May's trip to Araheke Scenic Reserve and Lake Mangamahoe was held on a fine day. A flock of 75 Paradise Shelducks was noted and numerous Fantails seen at Araheke and dozens of Tui were feeding on *Cornus capitata* fruit; the air was full of their song. There were also New Zealand Dabchicks, Coot, New Zealand Scaup and two pairs of Black Swans with downy cygnets at Lake Mangamahoe.

There was a report of 10 New Zealand Dabchicks and 22 Grey Teal at Opunake Oxidation Ponds, 40 Australasian Shovelers (an uncommon species around Taranaki) were on the Opunake Lake and 11 Royal Spoonbills were reported at the Mokau River Mouth.

In June two members meandered around Barrett Lagoon before finding a spot in the sun and attempting to count the dozens of Tui coming and going from the coastal Banksias and the Fantails flitting around over the grass and shrubs; ultimately a futile exercise.

During July David Medway saw a Bellbird in Pukekura Park, the first in four years, and many hundreds of Red-billed Gulls were at the mouth of the Henui Stream in central New Plymouth. Twenty Royal Spoonbills and a White Heron were at Mokau. Falcons were reported from three separate locations around New Plymouth and a Morepork was heard during the day at the Messenger's property.

A pair of New Zealand Dotterels have been coming and going from Waiongana, and on the South Taranaki coast the regular four at Sandy Bay and three at Pungareere are back on their territories. Banded Dotterel also featured with 39 at Sandy Bay and at least 50 at Waiongana. A Kaka was seen at a North Taranaki property. Scarce in the region 14 Pied Shags were at Awakino in May.

Beach patrolling has been quiet these last months with a Snares Cape Petrel and a White-capped Albatross being the most interesting.

Australasian Pipits, once common along the coast, are now a rarity with one seen occasionally at Waiongana. Pied Stilts have been hard to find with the biggest flock of around 25 to 36 concentrated at Mokau.

PETER FRYER

HAWKE'S BAY

Over winter white birds have been a focus. One Little Egret has been frequently reported from a number of locations, mostly between Haumoana and the Waitangi Estuary, but on occasions at Ahuriri and the Georges Drive stream at Marewa. There have also been two and possibly three White Herons regularly seen. At Ahuriri up to 45 Royal Spoonbills are currently present with a few others being seen around Waitangi and Haumoana as well.

The three Plumed Whistling-ducks which have been at Anderson Park in Taradale since September 2011 have now become two. The fate of the third bird is unknown.

From 24th June until 6th July a Gull-billed Tern was present at Ahuriri. The old Embankment Bridge gave good elevation to observe its feeding behaviour of surface snatching. Barbary Doves are regularly seen around Hawke's Bay.

On 8th June there was a group of 22 clustered on a power pole at Muddy Creek taking advantage of a patch of early morning sunshine on a cold morning. On 5th August a group of 42 were seen on a grass verge at Haumoana.

A smaller than usual number of Black-fronted Terns have been noted over this winter with between two and seven birds the most seen at their usual roosting sites. Stormy conditions on 12th July brought 74 to the Tukituki River Mouth. 24 were roosting, with the remainder flying close to shore darting amongst the huge waves. By the following weekend there were no birds around so perhaps this group were on their way south to the breeding grounds?

Our July field outing explored the wetland areas from Waitangi to the Tukituki Estuary. At The Horseshoe three Australian Bitterns were seen, which got the morning off to a good start. This is a reliable place to find the species. A few Spotted Shags were present at the sewer outfall at East Clive, the only site they are regularly seen in Hawke's Bay, and a Little Egret flew in as we were checking out the channel at Haumoana. Everyone got great views as it fed, displaying foot trembling and its active 'dancing' style of feeding.

MARGARET TWYDLE

MANAWATU

While not unique species sightings, notably relatively large numbers of Pied Shags (up to 13) and Red-billed Gulls (about 1,000) have been seen at the Manawatu Estuary through the winter months. This contrasts with smaller numbers than usual of Wrybills and Bar-tailed Godwits. A Glossy Ibis was reported in June proved elusive after initial sightings. Regular sightings of a White-winged Black Tern at the estuary have faded out, but a recent sighting of the same species at Lake Horowhenua by Colin Miskelly makes one wonder if the bird has moved homes.

Visits to Lake Omanu by Ian Saville, amongst others, have been turning up a range of species including White Heron, Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Australasian Bittern and Fernbird.

Interestingly, Common Mynas have been sighted at Foxton, the first recorded sightings there since 1946. It has been interesting to talk to some of the older locals, who have memories of Mynas being around when they were kids locally both in Feilding and Palmerston North, but Manawatu locals need to travel to Wanganui or Hawkes Bay to see a Myna normally, not that I know of anyone who has travelled to those places for that express purpose!

CRAIG STEED

WAIRARAPA

At the moment (mid-August), it feels and looks like spring in our region and this has resulted in the early blossoming of trees, spring and summer flowers are appearing and the grass is growing very fast. Bird populations are responding as they would in spring with many already nesting. Eggs are hatching, fledglings are appearing.

Our region, with a long and exposed coastline and few vehicle access points, is a haven for many birds. New Zealand Dotterels (two males

and one female) have been sighted on a few occasions close to Riversdale, just south of the area where a Reef Heron was sighted earlier in the year. Near to Lake Wairarapa John Cheyne has spotted quite a few Spotless Crake, as well as many other waders and water birds such as New Zealand Dabchicks. Canada Geese are outnumbering Black Swan on Lake Wairarapa and its nearby lagoons, where Australian Bittern, Little Egret and White Herons have been seen.

This year we are hoping for a greater increase in the number of breeding Royal Spoonbills. Last season two nests were seen at the top end of Lake Wairarapa for the first time. It is not usual for Royal Spoonbills to nest in this part of the country though large flocks have been seen in various locations around the lake.

Many people have reported seeing a New Zealand Falcon in the Greytown area and others have seen one close to a large apple orchard. New Zealand Falcons have been seen as far apart as Carterton (Central Wairarapa) and at the Aorangi Forest Park close to the southern coast bordering on Cook Strait. Tomtits are appearing in the lower reaches of the Tararua ranges. One person reported a sighting of a Myna in Carterton, but this has not been verified.

In my home garden I delight in watching the antics of our many birds as they flit, dart and race across my line of vision. When we first moved to our new house, eight years ago, it was bare paddock, so we started quickly planting trees to attract birds and bees, for which we are now being amply rewarded. As well as Song Thrush and Blackbird, which are determined to eat every seed I sow and to uproot small seedlings, there are numbers of Silvereye, Tui, Fantail, Pukeko, Grey Warbler, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Welcome Swallow, Australian Magpie, Australasian Harrier, New Zealand Pigeon and Yellowhammer, plus of course House Sparrow and Starling. I am now trying to attract Bellbirds after seeing the great display in Orokonui during the Otago New Zealand Bird Conference.

PEGGY DUNCAN

WELLINGTON

Ornithologists/birders should always expect the unexpected. In August, in search of Fernbirds at Waikanae, a Marsh Crake was observed. Not only was one seen but was also photographed, so there is no argument over the identity of the bird. This is the first record of Marsh Crakes occurring at Waikanae, an area which has been extensively surveyed for over 70 years. The nearest reports of the species to Waikanae in the 1999-2004 Atlas project were at Lake Wairarapa and southern Lake Taupo. The cryptic nature of the species probably deserves some responsibility in the lack of observations. Interestingly in the latest Atlas one observer recorded 75% of the marsh crake seen in the North Island. A search for the bird at Waikanae the day after it was first seen yielded three Fernbirds but no Marsh Crake.

Sirocco the maladjusted Kakapo is back at Zealandia (Karori Sanctuary) for another season and once again is proving a very popular attraction. This is a rare opportunity for the general public to see this extraordinary bird.

GEOFF DE LISLE

NELSON

Sixteen people participated in the Tasman winter wader census, counting about 18,000 shorebirds, 17% of them migratory, the remainder native. These are pretty average figures, and include good numbers of wintering Bar-tailed Godwits and Lesser Knots at Farewell Spit, reflecting a good breeding season last year. At Farewell Spit there were two Eastern Curlews and a New Zealand Dotterel showing developing summer plumage. Two New Zealand Dotterels have been seen regularly on Motueka Sandspit since April, one of them a juvenile colour-banded on Stewart Island in January 2013. Wrybills have been congregating in the Waimea Inlet in flocks of nearly 50.

Cattle Egrets have been visiting, presumably from Australia, with up to 12 reported roosting in Mahana in May and nearly as many have been regularly feeding in a paddock outside Riwaka for several weeks.

This is the fourth year in a row that New Zealand Dabchicks have been seen at the Wakapuaka Sewage Wetlands. eBird shows they've been seen regularly since late May. Dabchicks are also to be seen on Lake Killarney in Golden Bay and have been seen ousting a pair of New Zealand Scaup from the lake. In July Wakapuaka Sewage Wetlands also hosted a Coot and Marsh Crakes have also been seen regularly. Graeme Martyn took some fine video of the crakes foraging quite openly in broad daylight.

Up to six Cirl Buntings have also been seen around Wakapuaka, the sand flats off the boulder bank and near Nelson airport. There have also been reports of a Long-tailed Cuckoo in Motueka in May, a rare sighting for this time of year.

Finally, Alec Milne from Golden Bay reports on developments on the South Island Kokako front. "Eleven of the best sightings 1990- 2008 were submitted to the Records Appraisal Committee, which considers unusual bird reports. One (Rainy Creek, Reefton, March 2007) was 'accepted', the rest considered 'probable' or 'possible'. The sightings came from the Marlborough Sounds, North West Nelson, West Coast and The Catlins. These same sightings were forwarded to the Threatened Species Panel (DOC) in June 2012, and led to the South Island Kokako being taken off the 'extinct' list (current status 'data deficient')." Clearly, if any members have been sitting on South Island Kokako sightings, Alec would be really keen to hear about them (or lodge them at the www.greyghost.org.nz website).

ROBIN TOY

MARLBOROUGH

The highlight of the last few months was the sighting of a Franklin's Gull feeding in a paddock, near Rarangi, north of Blenheim, with a flock of Black-billed Gulls. This occurred on 5th July when a visiting OSNZ member notified one of our group, who then phoned around to let others know of the sighting. Several of us descended on the adjacent paddock to watch the gull, commenting that this was a first for Marlborough ... twitching!

Unfortunately the gull was very shy and remained at the far side of the paddock behind

some cows, but we were able to get glimpses of the slight pink colouration on its breast. This is the third sighting of Franklin's Gull in New Zealand, the fourth if Raoul Island is included. It was only seen once more in a nearby paddock the following day.

Another unusual sighting was six New Zealand Scaup on the pond near Marfells Beach. We have no record of Scaup at this site before, and a month later there was no sign of them.

We have had a very social few months with a mid-winter pot-luck dinner with shared pictures between courses. We had pictures of Antarctica, Birds of Queensland, Chatham Islands and Memories of OSNZ activities. The later prompted another dinner evening to share photos from nine years of bird banding camps at Jack Taylor's farm near Ward. It was fun to see how the children had grown and how our camp has evolved.

Our last meeting was the monthly count at Grassmere followed by lunch at Marfells Beach. This was on July 21st and while we were sitting eating we were given a sudden sharp jolt from one of the several earthquakes that day. We were sitting looking out at the epicentre, not knowing that worse was to come that evening.

DIANNE JOHN

CANTERBURY

Interesting bird observations around the region include a Weka, photographed on a local's porch in Amberley, in March. In May a Tui banded in Akaroa in July 2013, and last seen at Governor's Bay near Lyttelton, was found at Leithfield. Unlike the Kokako which ventured from Auckland's Ark in the Park and turned up in Glendowie two years later, the Tui was left to its own devices. Two juvenile Black Stilts with colour bands were seen at the Ashley Estuary in May. In June 16 Cattle Egrets stayed for several weeks at Rushbrooks Road, Lake Ellesmere and in August, 18 birds were present.

The winter wader count at Lake Ellesmere finally took place in July, after a couple of cancellations due to raised water levels. Far fewer birds than usual were seen. Of special note were two Lesser Knots seen at Jarvis Road. This species does not usually over-winter in our area.

Egrets have been causing some excitement around the place. In May a Little Egret was at the Avon-Heathcote Estuary feeding with White-faced Herons. There were two Little Egrets in the Lakes Forsyth/Ellesmere area: in June one was on farmland between Lake Forsyth and Little River; and in July a bird was present for a week at Selwyn Huts on Lake Ellesmere. A few days later one was at Lake Forsyth in the company of a White Heron and White-faced Heron, and was still there in early August. As well as regular reports of single White Herons in Canterbury, people have been seeing the species in groups: four along Timberyard Road, Lake Ellesmere; two at Lake Forsyth in June; five at Kaituna Lagoon; and three at Selwyn Huts in July. Group behaviour is not generally seen in New Zealand birds, suggesting they are Australian Great Egrets. Then, in August, Andrew Crossland found a group of nine "white herons" at the Christchurch City Council Reserve on Kaitorete Spit. At least one,

and probably two of them, seemed noticeably smaller, shorter and thinner necked with shorter wings, and Andrew wonders if Plumed Egrets may also be present.

As well as New Zealand Falcon sightings outside the city at Glentui and the Ashley Estuary, they have been seen at Sumner Beach, both ends of the Port Hills and, a thrilling sight for onlookers, one was seen taking a pigeon in Cathedral Square in Christchurch CBD. In these post-earthquake times Australasian Harriers are also commonly seen hunting over the Avon River and the red zone, with its derelict homes and weedy, abandoned sections, as far upstream as Stanmore Road in the heart of suburbia.

Finally, birds with a story to tell: a Canary was seen at Isaac's Wildlife Trust sanctuary and an underweight White-headed Petrel found in Victoria Square in the Christchurch CBD was handed in to a wildlife rehabilitation centre in Christchurch.

ANN SHERLOCK

OTAGO

The group of White Herons still at Tomahawk Lagoon (as of mid August) has generated a great deal of interest. As reported in the last Regional Roundup, five birds were first seen by Dave York on 4th May, and by 7th July the number had increased to seven. A group of dedicated enthusiastic members have been keeping a regular watch on them every day since mid-July. These seven were seen every day until 25th July and since then there seems to have been a lot more comings and goings, or they have figured out where to conceal themselves, with some days none showing themselves, then up to five. With strong north-easterly winds the preferred place now seems to be among the bulrushes between the two lagoons. Most of the birds have some plumes,

and close-up some observers think the bills have tinges of black—indication of breeding. Several people have witnessed the whole flock fly up and circle around in response to an Australian Harrier flying overhead. Does this indicate an 'Aussie' sensitivity to birds of prey? Do our White-faced Herons react when a Harrier flies over? Gulls have been seen harassing the White Herons as well.

There have been reports of other groups of five to nine White Herons at various places around the country this winter, with the suggestion that these are due to an influx from Australia rather than our Okarito birds, which typically turn up only in ones or twos. It will be interesting to see what 'our' White Herons do. If they are birds new to New Zealand they won't know about heading to Okarito, so what will they do? Hence our project to watch them every day to see if and when they move on. There are some very nice trees to nest in by the lagoon!

During the autumn there were a goodly number and variety of seabirds off the Otago coast, making the most of Slender Tuna feeding on krill: Cape Pigeons, Fairy Prions, Buller's Shearwaters, Sooty Shearwaters, several mollymawks and giant petrels. Some unseasonal juvenile Australasian Gannets were seen off the coast too. About 20 Royal Spoonbills have stayed in Otago this winter (only four were present last winter for the count) instead of heading north, but this only represents less than 1% of the total population. The winter wader count revealed a continuing decline in Bar-tailed Godwits, down another 30% this year. The seasonal counts of Hawksbury Lagoon continue, but there have been no rarities for a while now. We are starting to plan the annual 'Morepork listen' for urban Dunedin. We hope other regions are also doing this.

MARY THOMPSON

SOUTHLAND

The biggest news of recent months was the sighting of a Pacific Heron at Otapiri on May 26th. This is the southernmost sighting of this species in New Zealand and only the 7th nationally. Unfortunately there were issues with finding out exactly where the bird was photographed and no local members managed to get a glimpse of it. As the photographer worked for the Southland Times it appeared on the front page of the paper in glorious colour.

Pete McClelland spotted an Australasian Bittern on the Haldane-Curio Bay Road on June 1st. He said it was the first he had seen in this area. Sadly Pete has now moved from Southland to Lord Howe Island for a three year contract and will be really missed for our wader counts and other activities.

Lloyd Esler reported that he heard several parakeets during a June bird count on Bluff Hill and was also told by members of the local pest trapping team that Moreporks had been seen and heard. The trapping of stoats and rats on Bluff Hill is benefiting many species that already manage to survive there, as well as visitors such as the parakeets which probably came over from Stewart Island.

Shawn Herron saw a Cirl Bunting near Manapouri on June 9th, the first time the species has been reported from this area.

Our winter wader count was finally completed in July after bad weather and lack of counters prevented a June count. Highlights were a possible two Terek Sandpipers at Awarua bay along with two Wrybills and the usual Red-necked Stints and Turnstones. Glenda Rees managed to photograph a Pacific Golden Plover near Cow Island that was still in breeding plumage. Overwintering Golden Plovers are rare in Southland.

PHIL RHODES

JOINING THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

For our very reasonable subscription fee of \$70 (students pay just \$35.00 and overseas/corporate rates etc are also available) you will receive a quarterly issue of this magazine *Southern Bird*, which is the Society's main mouthpiece to members, has articles of bird/ornithological interest and both national and local news; a quarterly issue of *Notornis*, the Society's scientific journal; an annual issue of *The State of New Zealand's Birds*, reporting on the status of a group of species or those species using a particular habitat type; and from time



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

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

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

- Visit the Society's website www.osnz.org.nz
- Contact the Society's membership secretary.
- Contact your nearest regional representative.

This feature contains news of sightings that have not received official acceptance by the Records Appraisal Committee of the OSNZ. Period covered: 1st December 2012 to 31st August 2013

A small number of **Okarito Brown Kiwi** translocated to Blumine Island (Marlborough) have produced a chick. The birds were previously unproductive as far as breeding was concerned in their native Okarito area, and the pair that was successful did so after swapping mates.

A team ventured out south from Noumea in mid-May and saw the as yet undescribed **New Caledonian Storm Petrel** on each of the six days of their expedition. Unfortunately attempts to catch an individual with a net gun were unsuccessful. The bird closely resembles the New Zealand Storm Petrel but is larger and has a different flight action and habits.

42 **Yellow-eyed Penguins** were found dead on Otago Peninsula in February. The deaths were suspected to be due to a marine biotoxin.

Four predator-controlled areas in the central North Island produced a record 229 **Blue Duck** fledglings in the 2012/3 breeding season. The previous highest total was 177 fledglings.

The re-introduced population of **Shore Plover** on Portland Island (Gisborne/Wairoa) crashed last year, with only 20 birds found in late 2012, a quarter of its previous size. The cause is not yet known.

Arctic Terns fitted with geolocators in The Netherlands were found to travel to their wintering grounds in Wilkes Land in Antarctica via Australia and, in one case, New Zealand, according to a paper published in the journal *Ardea*.

None of the **North Island Kokako** translocated to Secretary Island (Fiordland) could be found on a recent search of the island, with a spike in stoat numbers postulated for being the cause of their demise. Better news comes from their natural range in the North Island where there has been a 20% rise in breeding pairs in the Auckland region. One bird released in the Ark in the Park in the Waitakeres was found 31 km away in a garden in Glendowie on the other side of Auckland City in early May. In the Far North 10 Kokako were translocated from Mataraua to the Puketū Forest in October 2012 in a first step to bring a population back to that area.

North Island Saddlebacks were returned to Maungatautari (Waikato) in May with the translocation of 40 birds from Tiritiri Matangi. A number of the 90 birds translocated to the Tawharanui Open Sanctuary in March 2012 were reported to have produced many fledglings by March this year.

SHORT REPORTS

The Taradale (Hawke's Bay) **Plumed Whistling-ducks** were probably present throughout the period, but decreased from three to two birds in mid-May. Seven were reported from near Whataroa (West Coast) on 7/8. The farmer of the land where they were present said they had been present for two years. Wandering singleton **Cape Barren Geese** were near Matakana (Auckland) on 4/8 and near

Amberley Beach (Canterbury) in early August and 21/8. A **Chestnut-breasted Shelduck** was on the Auckland Islands in February, with two maybes on the Bromley Oxidation Ponds, Christchurch on 16/3, and one on 17/3. Single wandering **Brown Teal** were reported from Western Springs in central Auckland on 19 and 29/12, Wellington Harbour near the Hutt River on 27/12, Matakana on 30/12, near Tauhoa (Kaipara Harbour) on 27/4 and Mangere sewage retention pond (Auckland) on 23/7. For the second autumn in a row an **Australian White-eyed Duck** was on Kaiapoi Ponds (Canterbury), being seen from 20-29/3.

A **Snares Crested Penguin** was found moulting at Halfmoon Bay (Stewart Island) on 26/4. As it was in a place where it may have been disturbed it was moved by DoC to nearby Ackers Point. Other wayward penguins were an **Erect-crested Penguin** on Banks Peninsula (Canterbury) in early February with another on Campbell Island in February, and a **Royal Penguin** at Tora (Wairarapa) in mid-February. This bird was taken into care and died a few days later. A very lost **Red-tailed Tropicbird** was found moribund in a Te Anau (Southland) garden on 17/3, dying shortly after. This is the southernmost record of this species in New Zealand.

Australian Pelicans continued to be seen widely and sometimes in fairly large flocks in the northern part of the North Island. In the Far North one was in the Parengarenga Harbour 9/3, with eight there on 2/5; two flew over Taipa, Doubtless Bay on 14/7; and at the Ranganu Harbour one was present on 22/1 and 9/2, and four on 8/6. In Northland one flew over Helena Bay on 3/3. Six appeared on the Waipu Estuary on 28/8. The Kaipara Harbour continued to hold the largest flocks with Ruawai holding nine on 24/1, eight on 28/3 and 12-13 on 19/5. This group probably wandered upriver with 10 seen in Dargaville on 4/8. A larger flock, probably separate to that on the Wairoa River was found in the Journey's End area of the harbour with 14 present on 7/4 and 18 late that month. Elsewhere in the Kaipara Harbour seven were seen near Glorit on 12/3 and three in Kellys Bay on 18/7. In the Waitemata Harbour of suburban Auckland three were seen off Waterview on 17/1 and seven off the Te Atatu Peninsula on 11/3. In the Manukau Harbour three were near Puketutu Island on 17/5 and two probables were at Papakura on 13/7. Three birds wandered as far south as Meremere in the Waikato in late May, with probably one of these individuals being illegally shot, found just upriver at Rangiriri a few days later.

A **Brown Booby** was reported from Bird Rock (Bay of Islands, Far North) in early April. Another was found in the unlikely spot of Tamaki Drive (Central Auckland) sitting on the road during rush hour on 23/4. This bird was taken into care but died the following day. Continuing the sub/tropical seabird theme a possible **Lesser Frigatebird** was reported from the Avon-Heathcote Estuary, Christchurch in early March.

As with pelicans there seems to have been a continuing presence of herons that seem to have come over from Australia. Large groups of White Herons continue to be reported from various parts of the country, exhibiting traits

not normally seen in New Zealand-bred birds such as hunting and roosting together and taking flight when an Australasian Harrier is approaching. **Little Egrets** were often in consort with these White Herons, and also present in both greater numbers and more widespread than usual. One was at Lake Horowhenua (Manawatu) off and on between 26/4 and 20/7. One was with five White Herons on Tomahawk Lagoon, Dunedin (Otago) 4-5/5. Four were in the coastal wetlands near Clive (Hawke's Bay) in autumn, with a number of White Herons, and two or three were present on 21/7. One was on the Waipu River near Waipu township (Northland) on 11/5. Two were in the Mangere area of Manukau Harbour on 23/4 increasing to three by 23/7. Another (or one of the same group) was nearby at Weymouth (South Auckland) on 25/5 and another sighting was made of one in the Pahurehure Inlet on 24/8. One was on the Avon-Heathcote Estuary, Christchurch on 30/5, probably moving to Kaituna Lagoon (Lake Ellesmere, Canterbury), where it was seen on 23/6 and 24/8, and the adjacent Lake Forsyth (26/6-10/8). Another individual was seen simultaneously in the Selwyn Huts area of Lake Ellesmere on 20/7 (local residents reported it had been present for a week). In the lower North Island one was on the eastern shore of Lake Wairarapa (Wairarapa) on 6/6 and one was at Lake Omanu (Manawatu) on 20/7. Further north one was on the Mangawhai Harbour (Auckland/Northland) on 19/8.

Other heron species possibly part of this influx were two probable **Plumed Egrets** on Kaitorete Spit (Canterbury) in early August, and another probable nearby on Lake Forsyth on 20/8. A **Pacific Heron** was photographed somewhere in the Otapiri area near Winton, Southland in late May.

In contrast to the egrets **Glossy Ibises** have not appeared in any greater numbers: the usual two birds were on the Wairau Lagoons (Marlborough) probably throughout the period; two were on the Ohiwa Harbour (Bay of Plenty) 19/1 and mid-April; the regular wintering individual was reported from Travis Wetland (Christchurch) 20/2 – 13/8 but seldom seen; and one was at the Manawatu River Mouth (Manawatu) from 23-27/6.

The **Black Kite** that has been a semi-permanent feature for many years near Renwick (Marlborough) was reported on 19/1. Possible **Black Falcons** were reported from the Tarawera RM (Bay of Plenty) on 1/2 and near Blenheim (Marlborough) in early June. A possible **Nankeen Kestrel** was at Te Mata Peak (Hawke's Bay) on 27/12, with the one near Kaitaia (Far North) still present in late December 2012 (and probably throughout the period). A crane was reported flying over a road near Darfield (Canterbury) on 27/12.

Little Waihi (Bay of Plenty) held a very confiding **Great Knot** between 1-14/4. **Sanderlings** were reported from Little Waihi, where the long-staying bird was last seen on 23/3, Waionui Lagoon (Kaipara Harbour) (4 on 1/1 and 3 on 9/1), Kaitorete Spit (1 on 8/1) and Miranda (South Auckland) (1 on 20/5). The long-staying **Black-tailed Godwit** was present off and on throughout the period at Miranda. Otarawairere Beach (Bay of Plenty) had a **Wandering Tattler** present in July. A **Grey-**

tailed **Tattler** continued at Warrington Spit, Blueskin Bay (Otago) last being seen on 27/12. Little Waihi attracted a **Common Sandpiper** on 23/3. **Common Greenshanks** were seen on Kaitorete Spit on 1/12 and at the Manawatu RM on 16/12 and 7-18/1. The Wairau Lagoons held a **Marsh Sandpiper** on 15/12, with other birds at the Manawatu RM (12-17/1), and Miranda (19/12 to 23/7). That regular haunt for the species, Awarua Bay (Southland), had a **Terek Sandpiper** on 2/12, and 2 on 20/7.

A **Greater Sand Plover** spent a number of months at Miranda being seen between 15/12 and 20/5 at least. This individual, or maybe another as it carried a white (maybe black/white) flag was present on 14/7. Another was at Maketu (Bay of Plenty) on 13/1. One of the Lake Ellesmere **Shore Plovers** mentioned in the last Bird News returned to its birthplace at the Peacock Springs (Christchurch) captive breeding cages on 1/12. The other Lake Ellesmere bird was last seen on 2/12. Single birds were at Miranda between 5/12 and 2/1 and the Manawatu RM on 8/12 and 18/3. Five birds were on the Plimmerton (Wellington) shore on 1/5.

A **South Polar Skua** was reported from Cook Strait on 19/1. **Pomarine Skuas** were reported off Southshore, Christchurch on 18/2, with two at Tapora/Big Sand Island (Kaipara Harbour) on 27/4. Perhaps find of the year so far, a **Franklin's Gull** was on farmland near Tuamarina (Marlborough) on 5-6/7. Searches for it on subsequent days were fruitless, and so far this bird has been a two-dayer in comparison to the last two fairly long-stayers.

Marsh terns reported comprised a **Whiskered Tern** at Tapora/Big Sand Island on 29/3 and **White-winged Black Terns** at the Manawatu RM (one from 27/12 to 28/4, with 2 on 6/2), and one at nearby Lake Horowhenua 18-24/8.

Gull-billed Terns continued to be seen in small flocks following the influx over a year ago, with up to seven around Lake Ellesmere, mostly on Greenpark Sands and Kaitorete Spit. Elsewhere a singleton was at Motueka Sandspit (Nelson) on 15/2 and 28/3, six were at the Waikawa Estuary (Southland) on 6/3 and one was at the Ahuri Estuary (Hawke's Bay) from 24/6-6/7. A first winter **Common Tern** was at the Manawatu RM between 9/1-17/2 and 18/3. Another probably this species was at Port Waikato (Waikato) on 18/4.

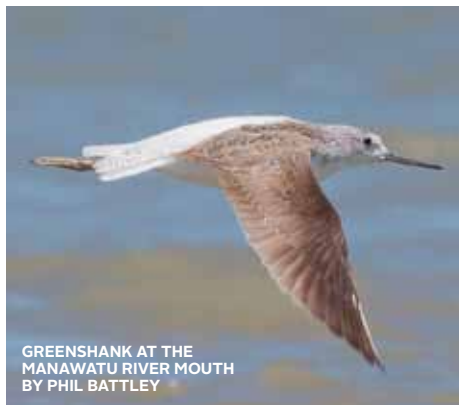
Probable escapes, two **Crested Pigeons** were reported from Ngaiotonga (Northland) on 6/3. The Kaitaia (Far North) **Barn Owls** almost certainly stayed throughout the period, though were only reported once. A very off-course **Laughing Kookaburra** was seen in the Christchurch suburb of Huntsbury on 19/1. Prompted by information on the New Zealand Birds Online a householder reported a **Satin Flycatcher** in Mount Roskill, Auckland on 15/7. Finally a **Tree Martin** was reported flying around the summit of Little Barrier Island (Hauraki Gulf) on 18/2.

SOURCES

Birding-NZ email group. Birding NZ internet chat group. What's Up DoC? electronic newsletter, Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari website, Puketi Forest Trust website, Miranda Naturalists' Trust website, Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc website, Southern Bird regional roundups.



AUSTRALIAN PELICANS AT THE WAIPU ESTUARY BY SIOUX PLOWMAN



GREENSHANK AT THE MANAWATU RIVER MOUTH BY PHIL BATTLETT



FRANKLIN'S GULL NEAR TUAMARINA BY WILL PARSONS



LITTLE EGRET AT LAKE HOROWHENUA BY CRAIG STEED

From this issue I intend to include photographs of some of the birds featured in Bird News. Please send your photo of a reportable rare bird to the Southern Bird email address southernbird@osnz.org.nz



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