

**CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES,  
SOUTH ISLAND**

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**LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI *Apteryx owenii***

D'Urville I, 1 at Wells Peak on 24/9 (RP).

**GREAT SPOTTED KIWI *A. haastii***

West Coast, locally common with the usual high numbers near Charleston (DJO). Glasgow Ra to Seddonville, present on 17/4 (PG, RS).

**BLUE PENGUIN *Eudyptula minor***

West Coast, common and breeding. Charleston, several new burrows occupied on 17/5 (DJO).

**ROCKHOPPER PENGUIN *Eudyptes chrysocome***

Papanui Beach, 1 in April (WA).

**SNARES CRESTED PENGUIN *E. robustus***

Moeraki, 2 on 21/2 (JJ).

**FIORDLAND CRESTED PENGUIN *E. pachyrhynchus***

West Coast, locally common with breeding colonies at Munro and Murphy Beach and at Martins Bay. Greymouth, 1 injured on 28/9, cared for and released (CSL). St Kilda, 1 on 17/1 (PS).

**ERECT-CRESTED PENGUIN *E. sclateri***

Murdering Beach, 1 moulting on 16/4 (K & JVM).

**SOUTHERN CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus***

L Rotoroa, Kaikoura, 3 ad and 3 chicks on 8/1 (PL), 3 on 22/9, 1 ad and 2 imm on 6/2, 4 on 8/6 (BEE). West Coast, uncommon and breeding. L Mapourika, 1 pr with 2 small young on 23/1; L Ianthe, 3 pr and 4 imm on 24/1 (BB). These appear to be the major sites, though recent records also from Lakes Moeraki and Paringa. No records from L Brunner for the last 3 years (DJO).

NEW ZEALAND DABCHICK *P. rufpectus*

L Elterwater, 1 on 17/6 (BDH).

HOARY-HEADED GREBE *P. poliocephalus*

L Elterwater, 1 on 17/6 (BDH).

AUSTRALIAN LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

L Brunner, 1 juv on 23/8 (CSL).

NORTHERN ROYAL ALBATROSS *Diomedea epomophora sanfordi*

Taiaroa Hd, 10 young hatched (PS).

MOTTLED PETREL *Pterodroma inexpectata*

Front I, Dusky Sd, breeding in Nov/Dec (KM).

BROAD-BILLED PRION *Pachyptila vittata*

Fiordland, breeding in Breaksea Sd, Dusky Sd, and Chalky Inlet in 1986 (KM).

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER *Puffinus carneipes*

Trio Is, 50 feeding on fish offal on 21/2 (PL).

WHITE-BELLIED STORM PETREL *Pelecanoides urinatrix urinatrix*

Hampden Beach, 1 found dead on 12/6, identity confirmed (TM).

AUSTRALASIAN GANNET *Sula bassana serrator*

Frequently seen feeding in Tasman and Golden Bays. Farewell Spit, breeding began in Nov 1983 with 70-80 nests, increasing each year until 350+ for 86-87 season; 360 young in Jan (JMH). Nelson, up to 30 seen on several occasions during July, once feeding with dolphins (GDQ, AB). Moeraki, 25+ feeding on 10/5 (PL).

BLACK SHAG *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Nelson region, frequently seen in coastal areas and in numbers less than 10 from many inland sites. Motueka Est, max of 138 on 4/1 (AC), 200+ on 10/5 (GDQ). West Coast, small numbers regularly at coastal estuaries and rivers. Grey R, max of 15 on 15/9 (PL).

PIED SHAG *P. varius*

Nelson region, seen around coastline in numbers up to 6; Rocks Rd, Nelson, 139 birds in Norfolk pines in Feb but no apparent nesting, 120 with 25+ nests in Sep (DB). L Rotoroa, Kaikoura, 20 with 4 nests with young on 8/11 (PL). Kohaihai Est, 4 on 21/11 and have been resident for last 3 years; Oparara Lagoon, 1 on 24/6; Little Wanganui Est, 1 on 21/11 and 24/6 (CSL). Buller Est, 1 on 22/6 (DJO).

LITTLE BLACK SHAG *P. sulcirostris*

Nelson Haven, none recorded this year; Waimea Est, up to 3 in Jan (AC).

LITTLE SHAG *P. melanoleucos*

Nelson region, frequently seen, particularly in Waimea and Motueka Est. Rocks Rd, Nelson, max of 40 roosting with Pied Shags in Norfolk pines in Feb (DB). West Coast, many records of small numbers at coastal lake and river sites. Maximum recorded from many sites in June, Karamea Est, 7 on 25/6; L Ryan, 8 on 6/6 (CSL). Orowaiti Est, 8 on 22/6 (DJO). Otago Hbr, 400+ during harbour count on 11/5 (PL). Shag Pt, 1 in a Stewart I Shag colony on 1/2 (ATH).

STEWART ISLAND SHAG *Leucocarbo carunculatus chalconotus*

Shag Pt, colony of c.12 on 1/2 (ATH).

SPOTTED SHAG *Stictocarbo punctatus*

Tasman Bay, present in 2-3 thousands during winter, roosting on Pepin I and feeding in the Bay and Nelson Hbr. Roost also on Motueka Breakwater, Fifeshire Rock and Abel Tasman NP coastline. Smaller numbers in Golden Bay (GDQ). Perpendicular Pt, Punakaiki, c.300 nests with young at all ages on 20/11, large numbers at the colony on 24/6; Ten Mile Rocks, 7 occupied nests on 31/8 (CSL). Waitaki R Mouth, c.200 juv on 12/5 (ATH). Oamaru Hbr, 700 on sea wall on 10/5 (PL).

WHITE-FACED HERON *Ardea novaehollandiae*

West Coast, present in most coastal and agricultural areas. Max of 18 at Rotomanu on 18/4. Mokihinui Est, 2 feeding on blowflies on a dead cow on 24/6 (CSL). Turnbull R, 1 chased and probably caught a small bird on 20/1 (BB). Southland coast, 127 during winter census on 19/7; 259 on 10/1. Oreti R, 41 on 25/10 (MLB).

WHITE HERON *Egretta alba*

Nelson region, visits most estuaries. Golden Bay 1 and Tasman Bay 1 during Nov census; Golden Bay 1 and Tasman Bay 6 during June census (GDQ). West Coast, few spring records away from Okarito breeding area. Greymouth, first 'autumn' arrivals of 2 on 10/12 and 1 during Jan (CSL). Orowaiti, first birds returned in Feb with 1 or 2 present in following months. Other records widespread from March with max numbers recorded in June. Most localities had only single birds (DJO). Oamaru, 1-3 frequently seen at lagoons south of town from Feb to May (ARB, ATH). Dunedin, regular winter visitor in small numbers to lagoons and estuaries (PL, ALN). Southland, 4 records of single birds during winter months (MLB).

LITTLE EGRET *E. garzetta*

Mapua, 1 in Nov, Aug and June (AB, PDG, RP). Heaphy Est, 1 on 6/10 (PR). Orowaiti Est, 1 on 25/6 (CSL); 2 on 31/12, 1 on 8/5, 1 on 22/6 (DJO).

REEF HERON *E. sacra*

Nelson region, not often seen, and usually in Golden Bay rather than in Tasman Bay (GDQ). Marlborough Sounds, resident pairs on the more exposed coastlines (PDG).

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

Rangihæta, first sighting for the year, 7 flew in from Farewell Spit in April (EN). Takaka, max 41 on 24/8 (PL). Tasman Bay, max and latest record 47 on 3/11 (PDG, RP). Grovetown, 29 on 10/4, 62 on 12/5, 88 on 20/5, 44 on 11/6 (WFC). Greymouth, last spring record of 6 on 24/11 with 2 in breeding plumage (CSL); first autumn record of 2 on 7/4 (PG, RS). West Coast, widespread records by mid April in flocks of up to 12 (AB, CSL, DJO). Karamea, 2 large flocks until mid June (CSL). Westport, c.29 on 8/5, c.20 on 22/6, 51 on 30/6 (DJO). Taieri, 1 or 2 flocks present throughout the year; numbers varied from max of 128 on 5/7 to min of 17 on 11/12 (HB, GAG, ATH, PS). Southland, first sighting for the year 2 at Milford Sd on 29/4. Southland census, 352 on 23/8 (WJC).

**AUSTRALASIAN BITTERN** *Botaurus stellaris*

Nelson region, rarely seen. Wakapuaka, 1 on 15/4 (JMH). Havelock, 1 on 11/9 (AB). Waituna Lagoon, 1 on 10/1 (WJC).

**GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus*

L. Tuakitoto, 2 in Sep. Berwick, 1 April to June (PS). Te Anau, 1 feeding in a paddock with Pukeko 2-16/5 (KM, AW).

**ROYAL SPOONBILL** *Platalea regia*

Nelson region, a regular visitor in winter months. Golden Bay, max 36 in June census, 1 or 2 during summer months; Tasman Bay, birds arrive in Waimea Est at end of Feb moving to Motueka Est during shooting season and return again shortly before leaving the region. Max 19 in June census (GDQ). Waimea Est, 17 on 23/4 (GW). Otago region, bred on Mauhiki I again this summer, a maximum of 27 birds and 10 nests on 14/2 (JJ). After breeding, records from All Day Bay to Karitane with max 29 at Shag R Est on 28/3 (FJT).

**BLACK SWAN** *Cygnus atratus*

West Coast region, recorded from many locations south to L Ianthe. Okarito, max of c.50 with some young on 23/1 (BB). L Ianthe, c.60 on 2/5 (AC). L Elterwater, 1 with 4 young on 1/12 (TJT). Otago region, recorded from coastal wetlands, many with colour-coded collars. Max numbers L Waiholo, c.1250 on 12/5; Inchclutha, 59 on 13/9 (ATH).

**CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis*

Kongahu, 19 in mid Aug (RL). Karamea Est, 14 on 21/11 (CSL). Mokihinui Est, 3 all year (DJO). Otago region, small numbers recorded from coastal wetlands; Waitaki R Mouth, 78 on 12/5 (ATH). Southland, Acclimatisation Society census, L George 127, Waimatuku Mouth 27, L Echo 172, L Thomas 85, Waituna Lagoon 106 during mid Jan.

**CHESTNUT-BREADED SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadornoides*

Buller R, 1 near St Arraud with flock of Paradise Shelduck in Dec (MC).

**PARADISE SHELDUCK** *T. variegata*

Bests I, Nelson, 154 feeding on pomace on pig farm in April (GW). West Coast region, many records from agricultural areas and coastal lagoons, occasionally recorded from native forest (PG, RS). Millerton, 21 flying south on 8/5 (DJO). Ward, a flock of 460 and another of 220 on separate lucerne paddocks in April (TJT). Southland, Acclimatisation Society census of moulting birds, L Thomas 6000, Redcliff Reserve 3000, Wairaki Lagoon 2400, L George 2500 in mid Jan.

**MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

West Coast region, recorded from many wetlands; monthly counts indicate a tendency to move between locations (DJO, CSL). Blaketown Lagoon, monthly max, 25 in Jan, 66 in Feb, c.100 in Mar, c.30 in April, 15 in June (CSL). Orowaiti Est, c.15 from Dec to 23 April, 60 on 28/4, 86 on 29/4, 15 in May and 56 in June (DJO). Westport Airport Reserve, max of c.300 on 22/6 (DJO). Cobden Lagoon, c.170 on 7/2 (CSL).

**GREY DUCK** *Anas superciliosa*

West Coast region, recorded in numbers less than 10 from a range of lakes, lagoons, estuaries and rivers. The following two records are higher

than most. Blaketown Lagoon, 30-40 on 25/4 (CSL). Evans Ck, N of Mt Hercules, 40 on 24/1 (BB). Oreti R, 10 during survey on 25/10 (MLB).

**GREY TEAL** *A. gibberifrons*

Nelson SP, up to 6 present at various times; Bells I SP, up to 100 present (GDQ). Kaikoura Lakes, a few present on 8/1 (PL). L Te Anau, 66 at south end on 19/5 (JVM).

**BROWN TEAL** *A. aucklandica*

Loch Maree, Fiordland, 3 on 23/5 (IF).

**NEW ZEALAND SHOVELER** *A. rhynchotis*

Nelson SP, fewer than 6 on occasions; Bell I SP, no accurate counts this year but would be the stronghold for this species in the region (GDQ). Motueka R Mouth, 11 ad, including 1 pr with 12 young, on 9/1 (AC). Westport Airport Reserve, 15 on 22/6 (DJO). Cobden Lagoon, 4 on 7/2, 17 on 2/5 (CSL). Blaketown Lagoon, 1 on 11/4, 2 on 25/4; L Ianthe, 1 on 24/1 (BB). L Rotorua, Kaikoura, 70 moulting on 8/1 (PL). L Waihola, c.450 on 12/5; Tomahawk Lagoon, 120 on 12/5 (PL). L Te Anau, 44 at south end on 19/5 (JVM). Oreti R, 40 during survey on 25/10 (MLB).

**NEW ZEALAND SCAUP** *Aythya novaeseelandiae*

L Brunner, 3 at Iveagh Bay and 53 at Cashmere Bay on 23/8 (CSL). L Te Anau, 203 at south end on 8/5; Te Anau Downs, 156 on 14/6 (JVM).

**AUSTRALASIAN HARRIER** *Circus approximans*

Greymouth, 1 was chased by a NZ Falcon on 10/6 (CSL).

**NEW ZEALAND FALCON** *Falco novaeseelandiae*

Nelson region, not common but isolated records from many locations. Grampions Hill, Nelson, 1 mobbed by 3 tuis on 5/10 (GDQ). Wither Hills Walkway, 1 on 20/8 (NJJ). Flaxbourne R, 1 pr with 2 young in Jan (TJT). West Coast region, more records than in recent years. Apart from 1 at Fairdown on 25/11 (LL), all records outside native forest were in late autumn and winter (DJO).

**NANKEEN KESTREL** *F. cenchroides*

Okarito, 1 female on 11/4 (GW). Awarua Bay, 1 seen twice during late July by Mark Sutton (WJC).

**WESTERN WEKA** *Gallinallus australis australis*

Nelson region, widespread and common in Golden Bay and Abel Tasman NP but very localised distribution elsewhere (GDQ). West Coast, usual widespread records from north of Taramakau R. Lame Duck Hut, Karangarua R, 1 on 4/11 (KJT).

**MARSH CRAKE** *Porzana pusilla*

Dog 1 Lighthouse, 1 found dead beneath light in Feb, positively identified. Dog 1 is 18 km across sea from the nearest crake habitat at Waituna Wetland Reserve (RRS).

**PUKEKO** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Southland winter flocks, Colyers Rd 74 on 19/7; Otaitai Bush 328 on 16/7, 423 on 10/8; Bay Rd 164 on 10/5, 179 on 9/6 (MLB).

**AUSTRALIAN COOT** *Fulica atra*

L Rotoiti, Kaikoura, 4 on 8/1 (PL). L Wakatipu, pair with 2 juv on 11/2; L Hayes, up to 80 ad plus juvs through Feb (ATH).

**SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus finschi*

Nelson region, present in all estuaries for most of the year. Highest numbers in Golden Bay with greatest concentrations on Farewell Spit. Some breeding on braided section of local rivers. Howard R, 10 + 3 young on 18/10; Upper Buller R, 20 on 18/10; Matakītaki R, also recorded (GDQ), West Coast, recorded in small numbers at most estuaries. Main concentrations as follows: Karamea, 74 on 25/6, Oparara, 150-200 on 24/6, Orowaiti, 390 on 22/6 (DJO). Okari Est, 98 on 20/11, 142 on 22/6 (CSL, DJO). Inland records: Rotomanu, 1 possibly breeding on 23/8; Waikiti Down, 2 on 23/8, Waitaha Valley, 7 on 30/8 (CSL). Maruia, common and breeding, 1 chick on 19/10 (PL). Camerons Beach, Greymouth, breeding (CSL). Charleston, a southerly movement of birds at night on 10/8 (DJO). Mararoa Dam, pair with large chick on 20/9 (K & JVM). Southland coast, winter census, 1639 on 9/7; summer census, 1007 on 15/11; OSNZ camp census, 7855 on 10/1; some pairs appeared on paddocks in June, earlier than usual (MLB).

**VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER** *H. unicolor*

Nelson region, widespread around coast and estuaries. Very few birds with any white, greatest numbers in Golden Bay (GDQ). West Coast, small numbers in many coastal sites. Highest numbers from: Jacksons Bay, 12 on 12/1 (BB). Okuru, 42 on 21/4 (AB). Otago region, 67 during coastal census on 27/6 (PS); Moeraki, 1 pied bird on 2/1, unusual for Otago (ATH). Southland coast, winter census, 24 on 19/7; OSNZ camp census, 34 on 10/1 (MLB). Gorge Rd, 14 on 1/5 (SLL).

**SPUR-WINGED PLOVER** *Vanellus miles*

Nelson region, has become more widespread and numerous in the last 10 years; some flocking in summer months. Main concentrations: Riwaka R Mouth, 100+ on 30/12; Motueka Est, 300+ in Jan (AC). West Coast, recorded from many coastal and agricultural areas. Main concentrations: Springs Jct, c.200 on 30/12 (AC); Orowaiti, 150+ on 22/6 (DJO). Mosgiel, an unseasonal nest with hatching date 12/5 (PS). Oreti R survey, 909 on 25/10 (MLB).

**LEAST GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis fulva*

Farewell Spit, only site recorded for Nelson region this year (GDQ). Greymouth Airfield, 2 ad and 2 juv on 27/10 and 9/11, 2 on 2/1, 10/1 and 7/3 (CSL). Southland coast, OSNZ camp census, 174 on 10/1 (MLB). Gorge Rd, 2 overwintered on fallow paddock of short grass and wet patches from 1/5 to 30/6 (SLL).

**NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL** *Charadrius obscurus*

Farewell Spit, never more than 3 recorded this year; Motueka Sandspit, not seen for last 2 years (GDQ). Southland coast, present in singles and small groups from Jan to Aug, max 28 at Awarua Bay on 19/7 (K & JVM, MLB).

**BANDED DOTTEREL** *C. bicinctus*

Nelson region, seen throughout the year with highest concentrations at Farewell Spit. Breeds at a number of coastal sites and on some sections

of braided rivers. Howard R, 132 and 4 young on 22/11: Upper Buller R, 46 on 18/10; Matakītaki R, 132 and 4 young on 22/11 (GDQ). West Coast, widespread coastal records of small numbers in summer. Bred at Mokihinui Est, Greymouth Beach, Blaketown Lagoon, Cobden Lagoon, L Ryan and on the Maruia R. Movement of birds through the area in mid April, when highest numbers were recorded from most areas. The seasonal change in numbers is illustrated by counts at Blaketown Lagoon, 5 on 27/10, 30 on 10/4, 19 on 2/5, and 6 on 8/6 (CSL, DJO, BB, PL). Southland coast, winter census, 425 on 19/7, OSNZ camp census 900 on 10/1. Oreti R census, 460 on 25/10. Winter flocks often feed among densely packed strip-grazing sheep (MLB).

**BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL** *C. melanops*

Taieri R, 7 birds present near Outram during winter 86 (GAG). Mararoa R, 9 on 23/5 (K & JVM). Oreti R survey, 5 ad and 1 juv on 25/10. Aparima R at Thornbury, 2 egg nest on 17/11, deserted by 24/11 (MLB). Aparima R survey on 14/1: Wreys Bush to Otautau, 16 ad and 1 chick (BDH, HAR, JH-J); Otautau to Thornbury, 4 (OJL, WJC).

**WRYBILL** *Anarhynchus frontalis*

Nelson region, seen infrequently and seldom stay for long. Farewell Spit, 2 in Nov census. Waimea Est, 47 on 13/6; Nelson Haven, 8 on 8/10 (PDG, RP). Orowaiti Est, 1 from 28/4 until June (DJO). Oreti beach south, 6 on 19/7, 4 on 7/8, 2 on 10/6, 5 on 26/6 (MLB).

**FAR-EASTERN CURLEW** *Numenius madagascariensis*

Farewell Spit, only record for Nelson region. Papanui Inlet, 1 on 21/9 (ATH). Southland coast, OSNZ camp census, 11 on 10/1 (MLB).

**ASIATIC WHIMBREL** *N. phaeopus variegatus*

Farewell Spit, only record for Nelson region. Orowaiti Est, 1 from 28/4 to June (DJO). Waituna Lagoon, 1 on 10/1 (BDH, HAR, JH-J).

**AMERICAN WHIMBREL** *N. phaeopus hudsonicus*

Farewell Spit, only record for Nelson region.

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa*

Nelson Haven, 1 among godwits, which were uneasy with its presence, on 4/12 (GDQ).

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *L. lapponica*

Nelson region, present in all estuaries over summer with some overwintering. Greatest concentration on Farewell Spit. Nelson Haven, first arrivals in late Sep, reaching 800-850 by mid Oct. An overnight increase of 500-600 occurs in late Feb and numbers begin decreasing by early March (JMH). West Coast, max summer numbers: Kongahu, c.175 on 21/11; Okari Est, 54 on 20/11. Recorded from other estuaries in North Westland. Winter records: Oparara, 1 on 24/6; Orowaiti, 4 in April, 5 in May, 8 in June; Westport Airport, 1 on 10/4; Okari, 4 on 22/6 (CSL, DJO). Armers Lagoon, Kaikoura, 1 in May and June - unusual to overwinter here (BEE). Invercargill Est, Jennings paddocks on 16/9, 600 + flew in from high up, three tight flocks, landing in paddocks after circling

farm and estuary. Strong easterlies for previous three days. Southland coast, summer census 3242 on 15/11; OSNZ camp census 2646 on 10/1 (MLB).

**GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

Awarua Bay, 1 seen 4 times from 18/10 to 14/12 (K & JVM).

**WANDERING TATTLER** *T ringa incana*

Armors Beach, Kaikoura, 1 on 18/12, dark grey, its whistle ending in a long trill (BEE).

**SIBERIAN TATTLER** *T. brevipes*

Armors Beach, Kaikoura, 1 on 18/12 lighter grey than the Wandering Tattler and its whistle was of 5 notes and with no trill (BEE). Papanui Inlet, 1 bird identified by call, overwintered '87 (ATH). Awarua Bay, 2 on 10/1 (HAR).

**TATTLER** sp.

Awarua Bay, 2 seen 3 times from 18/10 to 14/12 (K & JVM).

**TEREK SANDPIPER** *Xenus cinereus*

Farewell Spit, only location within Nelson region (GDQ).

**TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*

Nelson region, summer flocks mostly occur at Farewell Spit, Motueka Est and Waimea Est. Uncommon elsewhere. Motueka Sandspit, c.400 on 28/3, 7 on 30/4, 25 on 16/5 (GDQ, JMH). Southland coast, winter census 114 on 19/7, summer census 602 on 5/11; OSNZ camp census 1615 on 10/1 (MLB).

**SNIPE** sp. *Gallinago* sp.

L George, 2 on 12/1 (WJC). One was reported from the same location last year.

**KNOT** *Calidris canutus*

Nelson region: The most common wader on Farewell Spit. Regularly recorded from Motueka Est and occasionally from Waimea Est and Nelson Haven (JMH, GDQ). Okari Est, 10 on 20/11 (CSL). Seal I, Kaikoura, 2 on 22/11, 7 years since last seen here (BEE). Knot numbers have increased in Southland in recent years. This year numbers built up from Nov to Jan, when most birds were at Fortrose. The arrival of more birds late in the season is interesting, there being no indication of where they came from. Southland coast: winter census, 60 at Awarua Bay on 19/7; summer census, 469 on 15/11; OSNZ camp census, 1168 on 10/1. Fortrose Est, max of 1326 feeding on a falling tide (4 counts on 4 consecutive tides) on 30-31/1. Invercargill Est, at Sandy Pt, 202+ on 14/2; 500+ on 19/2. These 500+ may or may not have been part of the main Fortrose flock (MLB).

**SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** *C. acuminata*

Southland coast, summer census, 5 on 15/11; OSNZ camp census, 10 (at Waituna) on 10/1 (MLB).

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *C. melanotos*

Waituna Lagoon, 3 on 10/1 (HAR, JH-J). Gorge Rd, 1 on 13/5, stayed a few days with wintering Golden Plovers and Spur-winged Plovers (SLL).



**CURLEW SANDPIPER** *C. ferruginea*

Awarua Bay, max 9 from Dec to Feb (K & JVM).

**RED-NECKED STINT** *C. ruficollis*

Awarua Bay, max 28 from Nov to Jan (K & JVM).

**PIED STILT** *Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus*

Nelson region, flocking along the coast during winter with many more in Tasman Bay than Golden Bay during June census (GDQ). L Grassmere, 30 on 18/6 but 350 on 21/6 (TJT). West Coast: Widespread reports from agricultural and coastal areas, including 8 breeding birds at Maruia R on 19/10 (PL). Max numbers: Oparara lagoon, 24 on 24/6 (CSL); Orowaiti, 46 on 8/12, 69 on 22/6 (DJO); Green I Lagoon, Otago, 465 + on 27/1. Oreti R. survey, 488 on 25/10. Southland coast, winter census, 290 on 19/7; summer census, 249 on 15/11; OSNZ camp census 1177 on 10/1 (MLB).

**BLACK STILT** *H. novaezelandiae*

Nelson region, hybrid birds occasionally seen as they pass through. Motueka R Mouth, 1 type E on 31/12 (AC).

**SOUTHERN GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua lombergi*

Breaksea Sd and Dusky Sd, breeding in Nov and Dec (KM).

**ARCTIC SKUA** *S. parasiticus*

Marlborough Sds, several in the western sounds on 22/2 (PL). Hokitika, 1 on 1/5 (AC).

**SKUA** sp.

Tasman Bay and Golden Bay, regularly seen in summer (JRJ, JMH). Motueka R Mouth, 1 pirating Black-billed Gulls on 5/1 (AC). The Glen, Nelson, 4 on 4/4 with terns and gulls (AB).

**BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus dominicanus*

Nelson region: Farewell Spit, 2 colonies of 38 and 71 nests and isolated breeding pairs noted for the first time. Boulder Bank, Nelson, largest colony with 1111 nests in Nov, 500 young banded in Dec. Bells I, 270 nests in Nov; Rabbit I, c.30 nests in Nov (JMH). West Coast: common and breeding throughout region. Bruce Bay, 3 birds feeding on rimu fruit 20-25 m above the ground. The birds were perched in the canopy and feeding in a similar style to the NZ Pigeon, 23/3/1985 (JAG). Upper Cascade R, old nests found on 27/2 (PG, RS). Max, Grey R Est, 430 + on 5/9 (PL).

**RED-BILLED GULL** *L. novaehollandiae scopulinus*

Farewell Spit, no breeding since Gannets began nesting there; Onekaka, some nesting on derelict wharf: Boulder Bank, Nelson, c.1200 nests in Nov (JMH). Hoopers Inlet, c.1000 on 4/9 (AJDT).

**BLACK-BILLED GULL** *L. bulleri*

Nelson region: Small numbers at many coastal areas in winter. Upper Buller, a previously known breeding colony not active in Nov (PDG). Tapawera, c.50 on 19/9; Maruia R, 12 nests on 19/10 (PL); Springs Junction, 30 on 30/12 (AC). West Coast: Small numbers from many coastal sites. Max: Kongahu, 105 on 25/6; Greymouth Airfield, c.100 on 2/5; Hokitika Est, c.60 on 8/6 (CSL). Neills Beach, S Westland 55 on 21/1 (BB). Oreti R survey, 63 300 on 25/10 in three main colonies, 2400, 15 000 and 44 800 (MLB).

**WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Josephville, 2 in full breeding plumage, over pasture on 27/8. Redcliff Wetland Reserve, 2 on 4/11 (WJC).

**CASPIAN TERN** *Hydroprogne caspia*

Farewell Spit, main colony in Nelson region, c.150 nests, appears to be increasing since arrival of Gannets; Bells I, 2-3 pairs most years; Boulder Bank, normally 3-4 nests but none this year (JMH). Motueka R Mouth, c.200 on 20/9, max of 38 in Jan (AC). West Coast, small numbers throughout the year with max at Kongahu, 20 on 25/6 (CSL). N Taieri, 1 inland on 10/4 (ATH). Invercargill Est colony, 47 nests on 26/10; leg-bands sighted on 51% of adults (8 out of 16, 12/27, 11/27, 12/20, 11/18, 17/28) on 22/11. Oreti R survey, 8 downstream of Centre Bush Bridge, none upstream to bushline above Nicholas Bridge on 25/10. Southland coast, OSNZ camp census, 109 on 10/1 (MLB).

**BLACK-FRONTED TERN** *Sterna albostrata*

Nelson region, recorded from coastal areas in winter months. A breeding colony on the Upper Buller has dropped in size; other small colonies on braided rivers. Motueka Est, max 50 on 16/5 (AC, GDQ). Maruia R, 9 on 19/10 (PL). Mararoa Dam, 78 on island on 20/9 (KM). Oreti R survey, 298 in 3 colonies (96, 97, 42) on 25/10. Waimatuku Mouth, 717 on 15/2 (MLB); 303+ on 20/2, of which 13% (32 out of 285, 8/64, 16/100, 12/86, 11/197, 6/12) were juveniles (MLB, RRS). Colyer Rd, 22 on 22/4, 42 on 25/4, 18 on 1/6 (MLB).

**LITTLE TERN** *S. albifrons*

Tasman Bay, regularly seen during summer; Motueka Est, 3 in Nov (GDQ). West Coast, 3 records this year, which is unusually high. Mokihinui Est, 1 imm on 30/11; Orowaiti, 1 ad on 9/2 and 1 in winter plumage on 9/6 (DJO).

**WHITE-FRONTED TERN** *S. striata*

Nelson region: Present around coast in summer but seldom seen between June and Oct. Farewell Spit, no breeding since arrival of Gannets; Motueka Sandspit, occasionally breeding with up to 100 nests; Boulder Bank, Nelson, 300-500 nests in most years; first birds arrived back on 16/10, 153 young banded in Dec (GDQ). Wainui Inlet, 50+ on 25/8 (PL). West Coast: records from many coastal areas. Max: Oparara, 300-400 on 21/11; Mokihinui Est, 212 on 24/6; Hokitika Est, 200 on 8/6 (CSL). Probably bred at Oparara and Mokihinui (CSL, DJO). Okari Est, 290 on 22/6 (DJO, KS). Charleston, adults feeding young on beach on 26/1 (DJO).

**NEW ZEALAND PIGEON** *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*

Green Island, Dunedin, unusual record of a pair present over winter 1986 (ATH).

**FERAL PIGEON** *Columba livia*

Otago region, several records from Dunedin suburbs and Taieri Plain (K & JVM, PL, FJT).

**SOUTH ISLAND KAKA** *Nestor meridionalis meridionalis*

Nelson Lakes NP, a study of the birds in this area has shown the importance of honeydew on the beach trunks as food (PRW). West Coast,

recorded in small numbers throughout the region. Max: L Daniells, 2 groups of 4 in Dec (PL) and Cascade R, 8 on 26/2 (PC, RS). Charleston, 1 outside of usual range, calling at night on 3/12 (DJO)

**KEA** *N. notabilis*

Mt Cobb, NW Nelson, present on the higher tops in flocks of up to 12 birds during April. Recorded from many localities west of the main divide and south to Fiordland. Most mountain records are during summer months, and sightings at lower altitudes are usually restricted to the winter. The former probably reflects a movement by ornithologists and the latter a movement by the birds (PDG). Haast Motor Camp, 1 on 20/8 (AJDT).

**YELLOW-CROWNED PARAKEET** *Cyanoramphus auriceps*

Pelorus Bridge SR, 1 or 2 birds present throughout the year (PDG). Te Anau township, 1 seen on 4 occasions from 4/7 to 12/9 (K & JVM).

**SHINING CUCKOO** *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

Ward, first birds seen in October but not calling (TJT). West Coast, most records between Oct and Jan. Last record, Charleston on 10/3 (DJO). Dunedin, first heard on 8/11 (ATH).

**LONG-TAILED CUCKOO** *Eudynamys taitensis*

Nelson region, recorded infrequently and then usually from high-altitude beech forest (PDG). West Coast, would expect people to report this species but very few reports in the last 3 years, despite keen trampers in the region who regularly report Blue Duck, kaka, parakeet and robin. This may indicate a real decline in numbers (DJO). Okarito 2 on 21/1 (BB).

**MOREPORT** *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

West Coast, a few widespread records from forested parts of the region; Greymouth, present within the township (CSL).

**SPINE-TAILED SWIFT** *Chaetura caudacuta*

Greymouth, 1 on 20/4; Twelve Mile Bluff, 1 on 7/5; only 2 other records from West Coast during the last 10 years (CSL).

**NEW ZEALAND KINGFISHER** *Halcyon sancta*

Invercargill coastal area, last sighting for year on 22/10; first sighting for 1987 on 4/3. Apart from Stewart I, there seem to be no records of Kingfishers breeding in Southland (MLB).

**SOUTH ISLAND RIFLEMAN** *Acanthisitta chloris chloris*

West Coast, many records from southern part of the region but few records from north of the Grey R; this probably reflects observer activity (DJO). Mokikinui R, present on 18/4; Fossil Ck, Paparoa Ra, c.10 on 11/4; Arthurs Pass, common in July (KS).

**ROCK WREN** *Xenicus gilviventris*

Fox Glacier, c.10 on 18/4 (CSL). Beresford Pass, 2 on 1/3; Four Brothers Pass, 2 on 2/3; Olivine R, 2 on 3/3 (PG, RS).

**SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

Turnbull R, the most southerly record from West Coast, 4 on 20/1 (BB).

**WELCOME SWALLOW** *Hirundo tahitica neoxena*

Widespread summer records from northern West Coast but not noted through South Westland and Arthurs Pass in late Jan, apart from: Turnbull R,

2 on 20/1 (BB). Some evidence of winter flocking: Westport Beach, 50+ on 22/6 (DJO, KS). Greymouth Airfield, 20+ on 12/6; Cobden, 20+ on 12/6 (CSL). Present in Westport suburbs during winter for the first time. Movements: Cape Foulwind, 53 flying north during 2 hours on 2/5 (DJO). 1985/86 CSN reported 1 pair breeding at Te Anau but, although a nest was built, the birds did not breed. A similar occurrence in 1986 (KM). First confirmed breeding at Te Anau in 1986 when 2 broods raised from 3 nests; 2 adults in moult on 5/4 (KM, MLB). Pigeon I, Fiordland NP, 2 on 14/5 (IF).

**NEW ZEALAND PIPIT** *Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*

West Coast, a few widespread records from coast, pakihi and open tops (CSL). Records from infrequently visited areas: Glasgow Ra, present on 17/4; 1000 acre Plateau, present on 20/4; Rockburn, 2 on 4/3 (PG, RS). Arthurs Pass, 1 on 25/7 (KS).

**SOUTH ISLAND FERNBIRD** *Bowdleria punctata punctata*

Bluff Hill, 1 juv in scrub on SW face on 19/4 (MLB).

**BROWN CREEPER** *Finschia novaeseelandiae*

West Coast, recorded from forest throughout the region. Charleston, fairly common and breeding, some local dispersal from Jan to July (DJO).

**YELLOWHEAD** *Mohoua ochrocephala*

Makarora R, up the gorge from Davis Flat, several in a mixed flock of c.20 birds with Brown Creepers, 2 seen separately (BS, PB),

**GREY WARBLER** *Gerygone igata*

West Coast, common and breeding throughout region (DJO).

**SOUTH ISLAND FANTAIL** *Rhipidura fuliginosa fuliginosa*

West Coast, some autumn/winter dispersal away from preferred forest habitat: Westport High Street, 1 in April (DJO). Greymouth, 2 in a suburban garden on 18/6 (CSL). Southland, widespread reports of absence from usual sites, or reduction in numbers in winter and spring; signs of recovery in summer/autumn with high proportion of juvs to adults (RRS, MLB).

**SOUTH ISLAND ROBIN** *Petroica australis australis*

Charleston, noticeable lack of the usual post-breeding dispersal into the area; only one recorded from 17/1 to 31/1 (DJO).

**BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

West Coast, male bird collecting nest material on 18/1 (CSL).

**SILVEREYE** *Zosterops lateralis*

Millerton, morning observations on the movement of autumn flocks showed the following southerly bias: 142 south and 91 north on 12/4, 218 south and 3 north on 13/4, 267 south and 3 north on 8/5 (DJO).

**TUI** *Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*

L Mahinapoua, 1 ate shell of a fowl's boiled egg on 24/1. Arawata R, 1 disputing territory with a NZ Pigeon on 21/1 (BB).

**CIRL BUNTING** *Emberiza cirius*

Nelson Haven, regularly seen flocking with Yellowhammers during winter months (GDQ).

**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

Millerton, 58 flying north on 12/4. Cape Foulwind, northerly movements noticed in early morning during autumn, 120 on 28/4, 157 on 2/5, 202 on 3/5 (DJO).

**GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

Millerton, an obvious northerly movement in the early morning in autumn, 280 on 18/4, 76 on 8/5. Cape Foulwind, similar observation, 150 on 2/5, 288 on 3/5, 185 on 16/5, 151 on 6/6 (DJO). Turnbull R, 1 on 20/1, extends knowledge of a patchy distribution on the West Coast (BB).

**GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Millerton, a northerly movement during early morning in autumn recorded as follows: 92 on 12/4, 79 on 18/4, 51 on 8/5. Cape Foulwind, similar northerly movement recorded as follows: 324 on 28/4, 124 on 30/4, 804 on 2/5, 288 on 3/5, 288 on 16/5, 865 on 6/6 (DJO).

**STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Turnbull R, roosting on small offshore islands on 20/1 (BB).

**WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE** *Gymnorhina tibicen hypoleuca*

Nelson region, absent from Golden Bay and most of the Waimea Plains. A few resident birds at Tapawera; infrequently encountered in the Buller Valley. Karamea, usually absent, 1 in August (RL). Springs Jct, 10 seen from road during 40 km drive to the north on 13/1 (AC). Te Anau, 2 on 1/1 (AW).

**ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

Karamea, 1 in November (RL). Springs Jct, 2 on 19/10 (PL). West Coast, c.6 records in the past 10 years (DJO). Clydevale, Clutha, a rookery of 28 birds, 1986-87 (PS).