

The Wrybill

Canterbury Regional Newsletter



November 2022

What's on at Birds NZ Canterbury: November 2022

Field Trips

November 27 - Our summer wader count at Lake Ellesmere. Meet at the end of Embankment Road at 8:30 am. Bring suitable clothing, footwear, and food and a drink bottle. Lots of volunteers are needed and for those new, you will be put with an experienced counter. Please contact Don ASAP if you're able to help out (breadmandon@gmail.com).

December 3 - A beach patrol. Meet at the car park at the sea end of Spencer Park at 9:30 am.

No trips organised for December/January but if you would like a trip contact Don.

February - The annual bird survey of Lake Ellesmere. Denise Ford has not provided Don with a date yet, but keep an eye out for more information at a later date.

Indoor Meetings

Evening meetings take place at 7.30 pm on the last Monday of the month at Mahaanui Area DOC Office, 31 Nga Mahi Road, off Blenheim Road, Sockburn. Plenty of parking is available.

November 28 - A get together for the last meeting of the year. We will have some quizzes and a supper - bring some finger food to share.

There is the opportunity to have short talks from members, so please let Don know if you have anything you would like to share. Hope to see you all there.

No meetings Decemer/January.

February 27 - Speaker to be confirmed.

March 27 - Branch AGM.

Rambles

A ramble was scheduled for Wednesday 16th November to the Kaiapoi River, but this has been postponed. Please contact Bev if you would like any further details (birdiebev@xtra.co.nz or 027 3184 713)

RR's Update

Meetings were well attended and very interesting. Speakers included were Sarah Wilson on her work on Bank Peninsula being predator free, Andrew Crossland on Banded Dotterel, Fraser Gurney on his Kermadec trip and Harry Boorman on his 2021 bird counting trips. There have been very few organised field trips over the last few months. If members have

any ideas for future trips, please contact me.

Lots of migratory birds arrived in NZ early this year. Shining Cuckoo arrived early. Lots of Wrybill (1271) arrived at Lake Ellesmere in early September as did Bar-tailed Godwits, Curlew Sandpiper, Marsh Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Red Knots, Ruddy Turnstones, and Red-necked Stints to name a few. A White-winged Black Tern and Antarctic Fulmar have also been reported. Little Owls are frequently seen.

It is very sad to note that Ron Nilsson passed away recently and our condolences have been sent to his family from Birds NZ. An obituary is being written for the next Birds NZ magazine by Jill West. Jill also wrote an article for about Ron for *The Wrybill* in April 2012:
https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/wrybill2012Jan_0.pdf

I'd like to thank Eleanor Gunby who has been editor of *The Wrybill* for many years for her tireless effort bringing out our newsletters. Thanks for a fantastic job. I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome our new editor Samuel Amaris, who will be taking over next year. I'm sure he will do a good job, and wish him well!

Don Goodale

Florence Merriam Bailey - Early American Ornithologist

When Florence Merriam Bailey was born in 1863, birds were more often seen ornamenting women's hats than they were in the wild! In fact, on one walk through Manhattan in 1886, she counted 40 different species, stuffed and mounted for fashion. The pioneering ornithologist wanted to stop this trend, which killed an estimated five million birds a year. Her

solution was to encourage people to go out and admire living birds through bird watching. "We won't say too much about the hats," she declared. "We'll take the girls afield, and let them get acquainted with the birds. Then of inborn necessity, they will wear feathers never more."

Bailey developed an early interest in birds, but when she went to Smith College in 1882, she learned that most ornithologists had little interest in bird behavior. Instead, they studied birds which had been killed, skinned, and mounted for private or museum collections. Bailey proposed that naturalists should learn to observe living birds in their habitats. She recommended an opera glass to allow bird watchers to see details: "The student who goes afield armed with opera-glass," she declared, "will not only add more to our knowledge than he who goes armed with a gun, but will gain for himself a fund of enthusiasm and a lasting store of pleasant memories."

In 1889, at the age of 26, she published "Birds Through An Opera-Glass." It was the first modern bird watching field guide: an illustrated guide to recognizing 70 common species in the wild, written for hobbyists and young people. Her approach of watching birds through magnification formed the basis of modern bird watching, which still uses binoculars today. Her book was also unusual because it was published under her own name, an uncommon practice at the time. Bailey's independent and feminist streaks come out in her writing about her beloved birds too. "Like other ladies, the little feathered brides have to bear their husbands' names, however inappropriate," she lamented. "What injustice! Here an innocent creature with an olive-green back and yellowish breast has to go about all her days known as the black-throated blue warbler, just because that happens to describe the dress of her spouse!"

Bailey went on to write over 100 journal articles and ten books, including the "Handbook of Birds

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of the Western United States," which remained a standard text for over 50 years. Bailey was named the first woman associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1885; in 1929, she became its first woman fellow and received its Brewster Medal, which recognizes authors of exceptional work about birds, in 1931. In a fitting tribute to this trailblazing advocate for birds, eminent American biologist Joseph Grinnell named a subspecies of mountain chickadee after her in 1908: with the scientific name of *Parus gambeli baileyae* and the common name of Mrs. Bailey's Chickadee.

Article passed on by Janet Burton, reproduced from "A Mighty Girl" Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/amightygirl/photos/a.360833590619627/5432813940088208/?type=3>)

Recent Sightings

Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report June to August 2022

This report covers the period 1st June to 31st August 2022 and is compiled from reports posted onto eBird and the Birding NZ internet discussion site. Your regional recorder would welcome news of any interesting bird sighting, unusual behaviour or searchable sources of other sightings. Email christchurchnzbird@gmail.com.

Key to letters after bird names:

A = all reported occurrences (for rare/scarce species or escaped/released species etc)

S = significant numbers/occurrences (for species regularly encountered in the regions)

V = vagrant

Great Spotted Kiwi (A) Mt William, Denniston: 1f 22/6 RN. Bullock Creek Road, Punakaiki: 2m 1f 24/7 MS, BS, BH. Paramount Road, Barrytown: 1m 21/6

NC, 1 2/7 NC. Lake Poerua: 1f 3/7 MC.

Cape Barren Goose (A) St Anne's Lagoon: 2 14/6 DG. Travis Wetland: 2 3/6 PS, RW, TS, 1 21/6 NF, 1 29/6 NA, 2 16/7 JM, 2 17/7 NF, 2 19/7 DG. Englishs Road: 1 19/6 DG, 3 7/7 FG.

Mute Swan (S) Stanton Road, Amberley: 1 28/8/22 NA. Taranaki Paddocks, Waikuku: 1 3/6 BA, 1 14/6 BA, 5 26/6 NA, 5 29/6 BA. Travis Wetland: 1 5/6 HA, 1 12/8 BC. Avon River nr North Avon Road: 2 16/7 DLo. Heathcote-Avon Estuary, Northern Arm: 1 2/8 DG. Rhodes Lagoon: 7 12/8 PSa. Wilsons Road, Kerrytown: 4 23/6 PSa, 5ad 2imm 15/8 PS, JS.

Blue Duck (A) Upper Edwards River: 1 17/4 MO. Kawhaka Creek: 1 22/7 OT, NF.

Muscovy Duck (S) Aerodrome Lake, Greymouth: 1 6/6 DM. Kesteven Place Wetland, Ravenswood: 1 2/7 BA. Lakeside Domain: 1 21/7 KW.

Northern Shoveler (V) Ashley Estuary: 1m 29/7 BA, JH. Pegasus Wetlands: 1m 3/6 BS, 1 5/6 OT, BS, FG, JG, NF, 1 6/6 DG, CM, PF, NA, SA, DE, 8/6 BS, WA, 10/6 ACo, 14/6 BA, 11/7 BA, 24/7 NF, OT, 3/8 BA, JB.

Chestnut Teal (V) Travis Wetland: 1 6/6 NF, 1 7/6 MS, PC, FG, CS AC, BS, NF, GA, HR, 1 8/6 BS, DG, JC, GM, 9/6 HR, 1 10/6 FG, DHo, NF, 15/6 DG, 26/6 SA, 28/6 JR, 30/6 NA, BC, 1/7 NF, 6/7 MP, 19/7 DG. Saltwater Creek Preserve, Timaru: 1 that may have been this species 3/6 OT, GP.

Helmeted Guineafowl (A) Ernle Clark Reserve: 2 30/8 DG. Timberyard Road: 13 11/7 LD, SD.

Peafowl (A) Banks Road, Sefton: 19 3/7 BA. Factory Road, Sefton: 1 9/7 BA. Altonbrook, Southbridge: 3m 22/6 PR.

Chukar (A) Godley Peaks Road/Mt John: 3 30/8 TM. Te Akatarawa Road between camp & Aviemore dam: 5 9/6 SS, RS.

Turkey (A) Turiwhate: 1m 2f 15/8 ACa. Timberyard Road: 6 21/7 KW. Gormans Road, Hakataramea: 28 8/6 RS, SS.

Australasian Crested Grebe (S) Lake Brunner nr Moana Marina: 1 6/6 DM. Lake Poerua: 1 14/7 MC, 1 21/7 MC. Lake Forsyth: 206 28/7 ACr. Caton's Bay, Lake Forsyth: 53 13/6 EW, TW. Tramway Road, Mount Somers: 1 26/6 DGe. Lake Alexandrina outlet: 4ad 2juv 4/6 DA. Lake Pukaki at Braemar Station homestead: 1imm 6/6 DP. Lake Wainono: 1 7/6 AC, BS, 11/6 KO, SL. Lake Paringa: 1 14/8 BS.

New Zealand Dabchick (V) St Annes Lagoon: 1 6/6 SR, DB, 7/6 RSc, 2 14/6 DG.

Little Black Shag (S) Orowaiti Lagoon: 2 24/7 JR, FG. Birdlings Flat: 3 20/8 JB, DG. Kaituna Lagoon: 1 20/8 JB. Harts Creek: 22 6/6 OT, FG, AC, GA, NF, BS.

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Okarito Lagoon: 25 23/6 BS.

Otago Shag (A) Timaru Harbour: 2 22/7 CC. Waitaki RM: 1 bronze morph 11/6 NA.

Australasian Bittern (A) Styx Mill Reserve: 1 1/7 AS. Travis Wetland: 1 5/6 HA, 25/6 KW.

White Heron (A) Tulls Road, Waikuku: 1 10/6 BA, 17/6 BA, 1 1/7 BA. Ashley Estuary: 1 24/6 NA, 1 30/8 BA. Kaiapoi Pa Road, Waikuku: 1 3/8 JB, BA, 9/8 BA. Avon River at Kibblewhite Street: 1 25/8 BC. Linwood Canal: 1 9/6 DG, 14/6 DG, 17/6 DG, 18/6 PR, 24/6 DG, 27/6 DG. Lake Forsyth: 1 23/7 AB. Lake Forsyth outlet: 1 12/6 KW. Kaituna Lagoon: 1 26/6 BN, 1 20/8 DG, 1 29/8 JK. Lakeside Domain: 2 6/6 FG, 1 11/7 SD, LD. Johnston's Bay: 1 18/6 BA, JB. Lower Lake Road: 1 18/6 BA, JB. Opihi RM: 1 20/6 PSa. Saltwater Creek Preserve, Timaru: 1 5/6 DGe. Wainono Lagoon: 1 22/6 PSa.

Reef Heron (A) Kean Point: 1 12/6 SL, KO. Kaikoura Peninsula walkway: 1 9/6 EW, 1 30/8 SW. Albatross Encounters pelagic: 1 7/6 JG.

Cattle Egret (A) Kaiapoi Pa Road: 1 1/7 BA, 3 29/7 BA, 3 3/8 BA, 3 9/8 BA, JB. Boggy Creek: 11 18/6 JB, BA. The Lake Road nr Drain Road: 11 6/6 NF, FG, GA, 11 9/6 PR, 1 21/7 KW.

Glossy Ibis (V) Flagstaff Road, Karamea: 1 8/6 DM.

Marsh Crake (A) Lost Lagoon, Westport: 4 22/7 FG, JR, 1 31/7 BS. Styx Mill Reserve: 1 1/8 BK. Travis Wetland: 1 19/7 DG. Catons Bay, Lake Forsyth: 2 16/6 EW. Harts Creek: 1 10/6 DHo, FG.

Spotless Crake (A) Harts Creek: 3 6/6 OT, FG, AC, GA, NF, BS, 2 10/6 FG, DHo.

Black Stilt (A) Broad Road, Sefton: 2 9/7 BA, 2 22/7 BA. Ashley Estuary: 2 24/6 NA, 1 11/7 SD, LD, 1 16/7 BA, HR. Taranaki Paddocks, Waikuku: 1 3/6 BA.

Godley River Delta: 6ad 52juv 19/8 MPo, 5ad 54juv 26/8 MPo. Tasman Fan: 2 22/7 SJ.

Black-fronted Dotterel (A) Kesteven Drive Wetland: 5 3/6 BA, 2 6/6 SA, JB, DL, 5 2/7 BA, 4 22/7 BA, 10 24/7 OT, NF, 4 3/8 JB, BA. Riverbridge: 4 6/6 OT, AC, BS. Lake Hood: 12 6/6 DGe. Ashburton RM: 5 14/8 DGe. Washdyke Lagoon: 2 23/6 PSa. Saltwater Creek Preserve: 4 3/6 OT.

Wrybill (S) Ashley Estuary: 2 6/6 DG, IM, TS, SA, PF, NA. Jarvis Road: 400 28/8 KR.

Turnstone (A) Jarvis Road: 1 28/8 KR.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (A) Travis Wetland: 1 3/6 PS, RW, TS.

Black-billed Gull (S) Ashley Estuary: 700 16/7 HR. Waikuku Beach Road: 2000 22/7 BA.

Little Tern (V) Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 1 10/6 KW.

Barbary Dove (A) St Johns Anglican Cemetery, Rangiora: 1 9/6 BA. Kippenberger Ave, Rangiora: 2 19/7 FG. Ellesmere Cemetery: 3 5/7 BA.

New Zealand Falcon (S) Springs Junction: 2 3/6 GT. University Drive: 1 5/6 SN. Mountfort Street, Spreydon: 2 7/6 DH. Godley Head: 1 18/7 PC. Sign of the Kiwi: 1 7/6 KO, SL. Gebbies Pass Road: 1 4/6 PC. Purau: 1m 26/6 ACr. Stony Bay Saddle: 1 1/8 PC. Misty Peaks Reserve: 1 22/6 PC. Kaitorete Spit: 1 23/7 KR. Godley River Delta: 1 attempted to catch juv Black Stilt 26/8 MPo.

Kea (S) Lake Poerua: 1 24/7 MC. Jordan Saddle: 1 4/6 JJ. Poulter Valley: 1 25/6 SL. Perth River upstream Nolan's Hut: 3 5/8 BS. Pauline Creek, Perth Valley: 4 4/8 BS. Pakihi Walk, Okarito: 2 9/8 BS. Okarito Forest nr Alpine Lake: 1 22/6 BS, 1 30/8 BS, 1 31/8 BS. Lake Paringa: 1 14/8 BS. Knights Point: 1 14/8 BS.

Kaka (A) Denniston: 2 6/6 RN, 1 21/6 RN, 1 23/6 RN. Nelson Creek Road, Ngahere: 1 10/7 DD. Maruia Springs: 2 15/8 SLa. Gore Bay: 1 17/7 KB.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (A) Prices Valley: 24 12/6 KW, 39 19/6 DG, 5 29/7 PR, 4 20/8 JB, DG.

Yellow-crowned Parakeet (A) Pauline Creek, Perth Valley: 4 4/8 BS. Perth River above Nolans Hut: 7 19/8 BS. Okarito Forest nr Alpine Lake: 1 22/6 BS.

Orange-fronted Parakeet (A)

Rock Wren (A) Coral Track, Arthur's Pass: 1 5/6 DD.

Yellowhead (A) Poulter Valley: 1 25/6 SL.

Fernbird (S) Lake Wainono at Wainono Lake Road: 3 7/6 AC, BS.

Cirl Bunting (A) Scarborough Street, Kaikoura: 4 6/8 KW. Kaikoura Lookout: 4 6/8 CH. Limestone Bay, Kaikoura: 1 1/7 SK. Atiu Point, Kaikoura: 1 23/6 SK. Atlantis St, New Brighton: 1 3/6 BC. Wigram Retention Basin: 1 17/6 DG. Lake Clearwater: 1 23/7 DG.

Observers: WA William Abbott, BA Bev Alexander, HA Hana Allan, NA Nick Allen, SA Samuel Amaris, DA David Anderson, GA Georgie Archibald, AB Alfie Benbow, KB Kim Bestic, DB Dan Burgin, JB Janet Burton, ACa Arna Carlson, NC Nicki Carter, AC Annette Ching, ACo Adam Colley, JC Jack Colley, CC Christian Cosgrove, MC Marilyn Court, ACr Andrew Crossland, PC Phil Crutchley, BC Brett Curry, DD Dylan Davies, LD Lucy Dean, SD Sara Dean, DE Daria Erastova, NF Noah Fenwick, PF Peter Fryer, DGe Don Geddes, DG Don Goodale, JG Jesse Golden, FG Fraser Gurney, DH Don Hadden, JH Jill Hanna, CH Clint Hook, DHo Dave Howes, BH Bernd Huss, JJ Jean Jack, SJ Sean Jacques, JK Jan Keast, BK Bruce Keeley, SK Stefan Kopec, SL Sara Larcombe, SLa Simon Lamb, DL David Lawrie, SL Stephen Legg, DLo Don Lovett, GM Greg McKenzie, IM Ian McLean, TM Troy Makan, JM Jane Meiforth, DM David Melville, CM Colin Miskelly, BN Benoit Navarron, RN Richard Nichol, SN Stuart

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Nicholson, KO Kirsten Olsen, MO Mats Olsthoorn, DP Dawn Palmer, GP Georgina Pickerell, MP Micah Pomare, MPo Mathieu Poot, SR Samantha Ray, PR Peter Reese, HR Heather Rogers, KR Kieran Rowe, JR Jesse Rubenstein, PSa Paul Sagar, RS Richard Schofield, RSc Rob Schuckard, SS Suzanne Schofield, BS Bradley Shields, PS Phil Smith, TS Trina Smith, AS Anita Spencer, CS Christopher Stephens, MS Michael Szabo, GT Graeme Taylor, OT Oscar Thomas, ST Shelley Trotter, SW Sandra Wallace, RW Rowena West, EW Edin Whitehead, TW Tony Whitehead, KW Kely Withington.

Health and Safety

For everyone to have an enjoyable time on field trips and other activities we need make sure everyone stays safe. Here's how you can do your bit.

1. Wear clothing appropriate for the activity such as plenty of warm layers, hat and gloves in winter; sunhat and sunglasses in summer. Bringing a raincoat is always a sensible option.

Footwear needs to be suitable as well – think sturdy soles and good ankle support for many walks, especially on hills, something that can get wet and muddy especially at Lake Ellesmere in winter. Walking poles could be helpful to some on steep and/or uneven ground.

2. Be honest and open about your physical abilities. Not all trips will be suitable for everyone. If you have a preexisting medical condition that could impact the trip (such as – but not limited to - asthma, allergy to bee stings, diabetes) please notify the trip leader of the condition, any problems that could arise and what the trip leader and others may be required to do to assist you. This information will be kept confidential unless a medical event requires it being shared. Make sure you bring whatever medications you may need.

3. Bring enough food and drink for the event plus a little extra in case the trip takes longer than planned. Fresh water is not always available and dehydration can be a concern in summer so bring your own drinking water.

4. Listen to the health and safety briefing given at the beginning of each trip. Keep your eye out

Tara photography competition

Help us find out what White-fronted terns are eating all around Aotearoa! We're kicking off a photographic citizen science research project into tara diet with a competition, so submit your images and be in to win!

DETAILS HERE

nzseabirds.com/tara/



photo & video
INTERNATIONAL



for any unexpected hazards and talk to the trip leader and others if you have any concerns along the way. Let the trip leader know of any accidents or near misses.

5. Stay with the group at all times unless you have the trip leader's okay.
6. The trip leader reserves the right to decline participation in any trip if they have concerns about anyone being unable to participate safely or not being suitably equipped.
7. Health and safety incidents or concerns must be reported to the trip leader/RR immediately.

Scopes for Loan

If you are in Canterbury and wish to borrow a scope, contact Sandra (sandra67@gmail.com). If you are on the West Coast and wish to borrow a scope, contact Liz Meek (ronmeek555@gmail.com).

Submissions

The editor invites members to submit articles and/or photos by January 20 for inclusion in the next issue of *The Wrybill*, which is due out in early February. Please email any contributions through to eleanor.gunby@gmail.com. Many thanks to everybody who contributed to this edition of *The Wrybill*.

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