SEABIRDS FOUND DEAD IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1978

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ABSTRACT

During 1978, 4350 kilometres of coast were patrolled by 195 members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand and their friends. 15 605 dead seabirds were found. There was a major wreck of Sooty Shearwaters *(Puffinus griseus)* in November and December. In late August and September there was a wreck of Antarctic Fulmars *(Fulmarus glacialoides)* and Antarctic Petrels *(Thalassoica antarctica)*. Localised wrecks caused high annual totals of Fairy Prions *(Pachyptila turtur)*, Flesh-footed Shearwaters *(Puffinus carneipes)*, Buller's Shearwaters *(P. bulleri)*, Fluttering Shearwaters *(P. gavia)* and Diving Petrels *(Pelecanoides urinatrix)*. This is the third year that specimens of Soft-plumaged Petrel *(Pterodroma mollis)* and Wedge-tailed Shearwater *(Puffinus pacificus)* have been found; the second year for Black-fronted Tern *(Chlidonias albostriatus)* and Little Tern *(Sterna albifrons)*; a new record on the New Zealand mainland for Rockhopper Penguin *(Eudyptes crestatus = chrysocome)* and Leach's Fork-tailed Storm Petrel *(Oceanodroma leucorhoa)* is a new record for beach patrolling.

INTRODUCTION

This paper records the results of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand's Beach Patrol Scheme for 1978. The coastline of New Zealand is divided into 15 sections (Imber & Boeson 1969) with an additional grouping "OI" for Outlying Islands, which this year includes patrols from the Chatham Islands. This year patrols were carried out on all sections of coast except Fiordland. 741 Beach Patrol Cards and 64 Specimen Record Cards were filed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The numbers of birds found and kilometres of beach travelled and covered per month and per coast are recorded in Table 1. The total distance travelled (5600 km) is the highest ever recorded (previous highest was 4582 km in 1975). The total number of birds found (15 605) is the third highest. The average number of birds found per kilometre of coast covered monthly (3.6) is a 44% increase over the average for previous years. Kilometres travelled (Table 1) are the total lengths of coast patrolled; kilometres covered are the lengths of coast covered monthly. Hence, if a kilometre of beach is patrolled three times in one month, three kilometres have been travelled but only one kilometre covered per month.

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TABLE 1 — Numbers of dead seabirds recorded and kilometres patrolled in 1978.

COAST	CODE		MONTH											TOTALS		BIRDS/KM
			JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	KM	BIRDS	/COAST
AUCKLAND WEST	AW	KM	112	101	127	123	139	132	173	220	222	211	183	98	1841		
		BIRDS	67	151	85	86	174	90	606	908	719	279	5640	1289		10094	5.5
TARANAKI	TA	KM	5	1	3	14	2	10	28	29	91	7	13	29	232		
		BIRDS	11	1	1	11	6	7	77	96	132	12	40	155		549	2.4
WELLINGTON WEST	WW	KM	1	59	22	27	42	5	38	67	79	157	20	9	527		
		BIRDS	2	113	22	34	16	3	25	256	159	251	56	45		982	1.9
WESTLAND	WD	KM	1	6	–	–	3	–	11	–	–	–	5	8	34		
		BIRDS	0	0	–	–	0	–	0	–	–	–	0	4		4	0.1
AUCKLAND EAST	AE	KM	38	48	23	70	50	35	69	64	46	15	43	36	537		
		BIRDS	43	214	51	179	45	26	137	381	88	27	51	155		1397	2.6
BAY OF PLENTY	BP	KM	69	23	21	22	24	10	34	24	8	5	8	15	263		
		BIRDS	145	42	17	47	64	4	55	79	14	4	4	62		537	2.0
EAST COAST NORTH IS	EC	KM	–	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13		
		BIRDS	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		1	0.1
WAIRARAPA	WA	KM	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	8	10		
		BIRDS	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	4		12	1.2
CANTERBURY NORTH	CN	KM	5	–	2	2	4	6	6	–	11	8	1	16	61		
		BIRDS	35	–	8	0	10	1	4	–	12	8	4	56		138	2.3
CANTERBURY SOUTH	CS	KM	7	6	6	10	5	5	8	6	14	8	5	–	80		
		BIRDS	51	3	38	23	35	22	15	6	14	9	17	–		233	2.9
OTAGO	OT	KM	–	2	–	27	21	20	8	2	2	–	–	2	84		
		BIRDS	–	13	–	72	22	31	5	5	4	–	–	14		166	2.0
SOUTHLAND	SD	KM	13	6	12	12	16	17	12	27	12	12	14	6	159		
		BIRDS	9	1	8	7	190	9	2	162	2	36	19	53		498	3.1
WELLINGTON SOUTH	WS	KM	16	37	14	19	38	24	17	28	55	106	10	13	377		
		BIRDS	73	13	10	48	279	51	81	57	78	68	20	33		811	2.2
NORTH COAST SOUTH IS	NS	KM	–	19	–	–	4	–	1	–	46	–	2	15	87		
		BIRDS	–	51	–	–	8	–	1	–	37	–	3	44		144	1.7
OUTLYING ISLANDS	OI	KM	35	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	5	45		
		BIRDS	31	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	–	8		39	0.9
TOTAL KM TRAVELLED			347	383	269	461	427	333	710	533	838	586	402	311	5600		
TOTAL KM COVERED			302	321	230	326	349	264	405	467	588	534	304	260	4350		
TOTAL BIRDS			467	603	240	507	849	244	1008	1950	1267	694	5854	1922		15605	
BIRDS/KM COVERED/MONTH			1.5	1.9	1.0	1.6	2.4	0.9	2.5	4.2	2.1	1.3	19.3	7.4			3.6

TABLE 2 — Seabirds of which 1 to 15 specimens were found dead in 1978.

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES	NUMBER FOUND	COAST(S)	MONTH(S)
Megadyptes antipodes	13	WW(2),CN,CS,OT(5),SD(2),WS(2).	MAR,APR(2),MAY(7),AUG,OCT(2).
Eudyptula albosignata	11	CN(5),CS(5),NS.	JAN(2),FEB,MAR(2),AUG,SEP(2),DEC(3).
Eudyptes crestatus	1	CN.	MAR.
p. pachyrhynchus	3	OT(2),SD.	APR,MAY,AUG.
Diomedea exulans	1	AE.	AUG.
epomophora	5	TA,WW,SD,OI(2).	JAN(3),JUN,SEP.
melanophris	11	AW(7),TA(2),WW(2).	AUG(4),SEP(4),NOV(2),DEC.
bulleri	10	AW(2),SD(4),WS(4).	APR,MAY(4),JUL,AUG(3),SEP.
cauta subspp*	12	AW(6),TA,WW,OT,WS(3).	FEB,MAR,APR,MAY(3),JUN(2),JUL,AUG,NOV(2).
salvini	11	AW,WW(2),AE,BP,WS(6).	JAN,FEB,AUG(3),SEP,OCT(4),DEC.
Phoebetria palpebrata	5	AW(5).	MAY,AUG,DEC(3).
Pterodroma spp*	5	AW,AE(2),OI(2).	JAN(2),APR(2),MAY.
mollis	1	WS.	JUN.
h. nigripennis	8	AW(7),AE.	FEB(3),APR,OCT,NOV,DEC(2).
Pachyptila desolata	11	AW(10),BP.	APR(2),JUN,JUL(6),AUG(2).
crassirostris	8	AW,WW,WA,WS(5).	JUL,AUG(4),SEP(3).
Procellaria cinerea	4	AW,TA,WW,AE.	AUG,OCT(2),DEC.
parkinsoni	6	AW,AE(5).	JAN,FEB,APR,OCT,NOV(2).
westlandica	11	AW(6),SD,WS(4).	APR(2),MAY,JUL,AUG(2),OCT,NOV(3),DEC.
aequinoctialis	5	AW(5).	FEB,NOV(2),DEC(2).
Puffinus pacificus	1	AW.	APR.
Oceanodroma leucorhoa	1	AW.	AUG.
Garrodia nereis	1	WS.	SEP.
Phalacrocorax spp*	2	AW,OT.	APR,MAY.
sulcirostris	2	AW,BP.	AUG,SEP.
brevirostris	10	TA,WW(4),AE,BP,CN,WS(2).	JAN,FEB(4),MAY(2),JUN,SEP,DEC.
Leucocarbo carunculatus chalconotus	10	OT(5),SD(5).	MAR(2),APR(4),JUL,AUG,OCT,NOV.
Stercorarius spp*	1	AE.	APR.
skua lonnbergi	2	AW,SD.	AUG,NOV.
parasiticus	3	AW(2),OI.	JAN,APR,MAY.
Chlidonias albostriatus	1	BP.	JUL.
Hydroprogne caspia	10	AW(5),WW(3),AE,BP.	FEB(2),MAR,JUL(2),AUG,SEP,OCT,NOV(2).
Sterna albifrons sinensis	1	AW.	NOV.
fuscata	1	AW.	JUL.
TOTAL	188		

*Species or subspecies could not be identified by patroller.

TABLE 3 — Coastal distribution of the more common seabirds found dead in 1978.

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES	COAST															TOTAL
	AW	TA	WW	WD	AE	BP	EC	WA	CN	CS	OT	SD	WS	NS	OI	BIRDS
Eudyptula minor	462	35	37	1	313	117	–	–	8	2	6	35	18	17	7	1058
Diomedea spp*	10	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	4	3	2	–	25
chrysostoma	32	1	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	40
cauta cauta	14	2	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	–	24
Macronectes giganteus	11	4	2	–	7	1	–	–	1	1	–	2	4	–	4	37
Fulmarus glacialoides	352	38	46	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	4	8	7	1	458
Thalassoica antarctica	62	4	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	73
Daption capensis	57	8	20	–	9	4	–	2	–	7	1	11	25	2	–	146
Pterodroma macroptera	12	–	–	–	33	19	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	–	67
lessoni	33	1	4	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	41
inexpectata	26	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	27	–	–	2	58
brevirostris	24	3	3	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	–	34
cooki	3	–	1	–	20	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	25
Halobaena caerulea	38	4	10	–	4	2	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	60
Pachyptila spp*	121	12	122	–	20	2	–	–	26	–	6	18	34	27	2	390
vittata	9	2	6	–	–	1	–	–	4	26	1	49	1	–	2	101
salvini	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	16
belcheri	65	2	6	–	2	1	–	–	1	5	–	–	–	2	–	84
turtur	637	37	150	–	100	23	–	3	5	2	7	28	96	10	1	1099
Puffinus spp*	13	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	–	21
carneipes	32	–	1	–	66	19	–	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	122
bulleri	369	10	12	–	57	12	–	–	–	1	–	–	8	1	–	470
griseus	6082	109	46	–	31	27	–	1	25	30	37	252	264	2	7	6913
tenuirostris	110	8	6	–	98	85	–	–	–	–	2	2	3	–	–	314
gavia	699	144	165	–	368	71	1	3	13	25	–	–	40	8	–	1538
huttoni	18	1	5	–	–	1	–	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	29
assimilis	76	1	–	–	7	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	93
Pelagodroma marina	4	–	–	–	9	8	–	–	–	11	–	–	1	–	–	33
Pelecanoides urinatrix	290	37	153	–	116	70	–	1	–	–	2	16	69	10	1	765
Sula bassana	128	7	4	–	31	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	176
Phalacrocorax carbo	9	1	1	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	4	–	–	19
varius	5	–	–	1	12	4	–	–	3	–	–	1	–	–	–	26
Stictocarbo punctatus	6	1	2	–	–	4	–	–	13	76	8	2	2	5	–	119
Larus dominicanus	132	23	129	1	30	13	–	1	10	33	45	11	140	41	7	616
novaehollandiae	51	36	11	1	29	24	–	–	13	1	17	5	40	8	–	236
bulleri	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	11	4	–	–	–	22
Sterna striata	22	8	6	–	17	3	–	–	2	1	–	1	9	–	–	69
TOTALS	10027	543	965	4	1383	531	1	11	130	227	152	483	783	143	34	15417

*Species or subspecies could not be identified by patroller.

TABLE 4 — Monthly distribution of the more common seabirds found dead in 1978.

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES	MONTHS JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL BIRDS
Eudyptula minor	33	53	37	115	124	33	118	244	163	39	50	49	1058
Diomedea spp*	–	1	–	–	–	1	4	6	8	3	2	–	25
chrysostoma	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	16	11	4	4	2	40
cauta cauta	–	1	–	–	2	–	5	6	2	2	2	4	24
Macronectes giganteus	6	1	1	1	1	5	6	5	5	3	3	1	37
Fulmarus glacialoides	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	49	280	72	52	3	458
Thalassoica antarctica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	64	1	–	–	73
Daption capensis	1	4	2	1	2	3	12	48	33	23	14	3	146
Pterodroma macroptera	8	18	2	3	12	1	3	10	3	2	–	5	67
lessoni	1	–	–	2	–	1	–	4	5	7	13	8	41
inexpectata	6	7	2	1	8	1	–	18	–	–	–	15	58
brevirostris	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	5	22	5	–	–	34
cooki	2	7	2	11	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	2	25
Halobaena caerulea	–	–	–	1	–	–	7	20	23	7	–	2	60
Pachyptila spp*	30	65	6	9	9	4	31	87	38	36	43	32	390
vittata	33	4	–	1	4	–	1	5	3	1	1	48	101
salvini	–	–	–	–	2	1	8	3	–	1	1	–	16
belcheri	–	3	–	1	–	–	39	32	8	–	1	–	84
turtur	15	43	15	17	8	4	374	310	72	77	114	50	1099
Puffinus spp*	3	2	1	4	2	–	–	2	–	–	5	2	21
carneipes	11	34	12	12	4	2	–	–	–	4	32	11	122
bulleri	21	50	13	28	9	3	1	–	7	43	259	36	470
griseus	22	28	17	43	452	49	9	94	15	47	4937	1200	6913
tenuirostris	62	29	4	9	13	6	–	–	1	11	36	143	314
gavia	29	100	51	59	31	6	135	625	247	91	107	57	1538
huttoni	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	9	11	4	29
assimilis	1	2	–	1	–	2	13	5	11	12	38	8	93
Pelagodroma marina	9	2	2	3	2	–	–	1	4	2	4	4	33
Pelecanoides urinatrix	34	32	2	11	13	7	155	237	118	66	11	79	765
Sula bassana	6	9	6	11	6	9	12	17	15	27	37	21	176
Phalacrocorax carbo	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	19
varius	2	2	4	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	2	3	26
Stictocarbo punctatus	16	2	7	11	22	12	10	7	7	11	8	6	119
Larus dominicanus	83	47	31	72	59	53	27	33	57	60	28	66	616
novaehollandiae	13	31	13	41	25	24	11	10	13	8	12	35	236
bulleri	3	5	–	8	1	2	–	1	–	–	2	–	22
Sterna striata	2	6	1	8	9	6	3	5	11	4	7	7	69
TOTALS	458	590	232	483	827	238	993	1920	1251	681	5837	1907	15417

*Species or subspecies could not be identified by patroller.

Monthly and coastal distribution of the less common birds is given in Table 2 and of the more common birds in Tables 3 and 4.

Throughout the year there was an increase in numbers of Blue Penguins *(Eudyptula minor)* and Black-backed Gulls *(Larus dominicanus)* found. Part of this appears to be due to increased patrolling, particularly in the Bay of Plenty with respect to Blue Penguins and Wellington South for Black-backed Gulls.

The largest wreck of the year was of Sooty Shearwaters *(Puffinus griseus)* found during November and December on Auckland West and Taranaki beaches. From mid-October into December the weather over most of the Tasman Sea was considered to be fine. South of a line between Tasmania and Stewart Island there were brief periods of strong south-west winds and north of this line there were moderate but persistent south-west winds. A Sooty Shearwater wreck at this time of the year is now expected. The weather this year does not appear to have been bad enough to cause the wreck. Other, unknown, causes are more likely, and the persistent winds, with the south-west sea currents in this area, carried the birds to shore. A number of birds were alive when found. The total number of Sooty Shearwaters found during November is higher than the total for any previous year. On Auckland West beaches in November Sooty Shearwaters were found at a rate of 26.7 birds per kilometre covered; this is some five times higher than previously recorded for this species (Veitch 1977).

TABLE 5 — The distribution of Antarctic Fulmars and Antarctic Petrels on the west coast of the North Island from August to October 1978.

		Aug	Sep	Oct
Auckland West	Fulmarus glacialoides	23	227	47
	Thalassoica antarctica	4	58	0
Taranaki	Fulmarus glacialoides	4	32	1
	Thalassoica antarctica	0	4	0
Wellington West	Fulmarus glacialoides	18	9	19
	Thalassoica antarctica	0	2	1

During late August and September, with some birds still being found until December, there was a wreck, mainly on the west coast of the North Island (Table 5), of Antarctic Fulmars *(Fulmarus glacialoides)*, Antarctic Petrels *(Thalassoica antarctica)*, and lesser numbers of Blue Petrels *(Halobaena caerulea)*. The total numbers of birds found was not high (Tables 3 & 4), but when numbers found previously and the normal range of these species are considered, this wreck is very interesting. Seven Antarctic Fulmars were found between 1935 and 1959, one in 1964, one in 1965, and subsequent records are shown in Table 6. Antarctic Fulmars breed south of the Antarctic Circle but are now regarded as regular stragglers to New Zealand waters (Falla 1979). Falla (1979) records this species as breeding

TABLE 6 — Previous records of Antarctic Fulmars and Antarctic Petrels on New Zealand beaches.

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Fulmarus glacialoides	16	3	5	134	19	639	10	0	455
Thalassoica antarctica	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	1	73

around the edge of Antarctica, moving north with the pack ice, but seldom north of 60° south latitude (c. 15 000 km south of Invercargill). Towards the end of winter 1978 there were unusual numbers of Antarctic Petrels (some hundreds) from Preservation Inlet to Stewart Island (Barlow 1979). During 1978 the numbers of Blue Petrels found dead was about five times the normal level. It appears that most of this wreck was of first-year birds (M. P. Kearns, pers. comm.). The three species involved feed their young mainly on the krill *Euphausia.* The identified diet of young Blue Petrels is known to be 82% by weight *Euphausia superba* (Prince, 1980), which was noticeably scarce around South Georgia during the 1977-78 summer (Bonner *et al.* 1978) and presumably equally scarce throughout its circumpolar distribution. During recent years, owing to the reduction in numbers of baleen whales, which eat similar food, it is likely that these Antarctic-breeding petrels have increased in number (M. J. Imber, pers. comm.). This increase would have accentuated the effect of the observed krill shortage, and all birds would have moved further north than usual in their search for food. From 20 August there was a period of strong south-west winds to the south and west of New Zealand, but these rapidly moderated and during the first two weeks of September north-west winds prevailed over the Tasman Sea. It appears that the prevailing south-west sea currents brought the birds ashore despite the north-west winds. M. J. Imber (pers. comm.) examined the stomachs of several of these beach-wrecked birds and found that they had been eating the same species of squid that Grey-faced Petrels *(Pterodroma macroptera)* eat. He considers that in such a competitive feeding situation the Antarctic Fulmars and Petrels would not get sufficient squid to replace their normal krill intake.

Ten Specimen Record Cards were completed for Antarctic Petrels. Data from these are summarised in Table 7.

TABLE 7 — Measurements of Antarctic Petrels **(Thalassoica antarctica)** found dead during August and September 1978.

	bill length	bill depth	bill width	mid toe & claw	tarsus	wing	tail	total length	span	weight
Number of specimens	10	8	8	10	10	10	10	8	8	8
Mean	36.2	14.3	14.6	61.6	44.4	310	127	430	1003	399
Range	32.0	13.3	13.1	57.0	41.1	293	112	420	970	300
	38.3	15.3	15.8	65.0	46.4	325	139	445	1100	525

In February and April frequent moderate easterly winds brought increased numbers of Fairy Prions *(Pachyptila turtur)*, Flesh-footed Shearwaters *(Puffinus carneipes)*, Buller's Shearwaters *(P. bulleri)* and Fluttering Shearwaters *(P. gavia)* to Auckland East beaches.

During December higher numbers than usual of Short-tailed Shearwaters *(Puffinus tenuirostris)* were found on Auckland East and Bay of Plenty beaches. There was also an increase in numbers of Broad-billed Prions *(Pachyptila vittata)* found on Southland beaches. There are no apparent reasons for these wrecks, although a Short-tailed Shearwater wreck may be expected at this time of year.

Other apparent wrecks, e.g. Southland in August, may generally be attributed to patrols in new areas where many old specimens were found.

Black-winged Petrels *(Pterodroma nigripennis)* have been recorded during most years since 1969 but never more than two in any one year. During 1978 eight birds were found, perhaps the result of increased patrolling on Auckland West beaches. This species is considered to be expanding its range (R. B. Sibson, pers. comm.).

Fulmar Prions *(Pachyptila crassirostris)* were first recorded in 1970 when three were found (AW, 2; WW). Subsequent records are 1971 two birds (CS), 1973 two birds (CN), 1977 one bird (WS), and eight in 1978. There is no obvious reason for this large increase but five of these specimens were found on Wellington South beaches where the amount of patrolling more than doubled in 1978.

This is the fifth year that Sooty Terns *(Sterna fuscata)* have been found. Previous records are: 1960 four birds; 1964 one (TA); 1968 one (TA); 1971 seven (AW, 4; TA, 1; AE, 2).

Wedge-tailed Shearwaters have been found in two previous years: 1962 two birds (WW) and 1966 one (AW).

The Soft-plumaged Petrel *(Pterodroma mollis)* found on Petone Beach in June is the third time this species has been found during beach patrols. Previous records are from 1971 (BP) and 1974 (AE).

In 1978, a Black-fronted Tern *(Chlidonias albostriatus)* and a Little Tern *(Sterna albifrons)* were found for the second time during beach patrolling. Previous records are of single birds in 1976 (WS) and 1975 (CS) respectively.

This is the first time a Rockhopper Penguin *(Eudyptes crestatus = chrysocome)* has been found during beach patrolling. It breeds on our subantarctic islands, regularly moults on Snares Island and live birds have been found ashore occasionally as far north as Gisborne.

The Leach's Fork-tailed Storm Petrel *(Oceanodroma leucorhoa)* found near Dargaville (AW) in August is a new record for the Beach Patrol Scheme and the third time this species has been found in New Zealand. The previous records are of single birds found on Muriwai

Beach in 1922 (OSNZ 1970) and near Waharoa in April 1978 (Fooks 1978).

Miscellaneous birds recorded, but not considered to be seabirds, totalled 252. These were: 44 magpies (both subspecies), 33 Rock Pigeons, 28 Mallard Ducks, 26 Black Swans, 16 Blackbirds, 15 Grey Ducks, ten Pukekos, eight Domestic Fowls, seven Domestic Geese, six unidentified ducks, six Harriers, five Song Thrushes, five Variable Oystercatchers; four each of Pipit, Starling and California Quail; three each of Goldfinch, Pheasant, Godwit and White-faced Heron; two House Sparrows, two Mute Swans, and one each of Skylark, Tui, NZ Pigeon, SI Weka, NZ Dotterel, Morepork, heron sp., Shoveler Duck, Banded Dotterel, Pied Stilt, NI Kaka, Paradise Duck, SI Pied Oystercatcher and Spine-tailed Swift.

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SHORT NOTE

GLOSSY IBIS AMONG SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHERS

During a beach patrol along Ward Beach on 18 January 1980 (part of the field work of OSNZ summer school), I became separated from the rest of the party and, while fossicking on the beach opposite Chancet Rocks, saw about 50 Pied Oystercatchers *(Haematopus finschi)* flying north in a fairly tight flock just offshore at about 5 m high above sea level. Among them was a Glossy Ibis *(Plegadis falcinellus)* whose long curved bill was clear and unmistakable. The ibis was completely integrated in the flock, near the front but not in the lead. The flock flew steadily north as though on migration.

Previous to this I have not seen any other species flying with SIPO except the occasional Variable Oystercatcher *(H. unicolor)*. Pied Stilt will often fly adjacently but not on a migration flight.

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