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Otago Region Newsletter 10/2023

October 2023



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/birdsotago/>

Ornithological Snippets

2 **Great Crested Grebe** have been present at Kaikorai Estuary throughout the period. The first **Shining Cuckoos** of the season were at Waitati on 21 and in the Botanic Gardens on 22 September.

A **Marsh Crake** was seen at Glenorchy Lagoon on 3 October, and a **Red Knot** was with the godwits at Hoopers Inlet 24 September

A **Brown Skua** was reported at Shag Point on 1 October, while less expected was a possible **Black Petrel** off Taiaroa Head on 8. Single **White Herons** continue to be seen at Kaikorai Estuary and Karitane.

There have been several sightings of a **NZ Kaka** on the Arawhata Track near Queenstown 26 September, and at least 2 **Fernbird** were heard at Glenorchy Lagoon on 3 October

Please send any interesting reports to cluthaphotos@gmail.com

Richard Schofield

eBird News

The 2023 eBird Taxonomic Update is currently under way. During the process, species names may appear in unexpected ways, other records may temporarily become subspecies groups, and your species totals may jump around. Please, **don't adjust your data** if you notice this!

It is recommended that all checklists in the app are submitted as soon as possible, and by 23 October at the latest, so that the latest changes can be implemented.

Richard 027 281 8701 or cluthaphotos@gmail.com

BirdsNZ Otago Branch News

Bittern Monitoring with Acoustic Recorders - Report

The bittern teams have been busy getting recorders in place for the October/November booming season.

Dawn Palmer in Queenstown has put recorders at Mt Nicholas Station lagoon, Glenorchy wetlands (heard and saw crake while doing this), Moke Lake, Lake Hayes and various other promising-looking swamps.

Franny and her team have put recorders out around the Tautuku region and Catriona in the Tahakopa catchment.

Mary, Ben, Daragh and Sue headed to Akatore and braved the sticky mud to put two recorders out there and the other two have been placed at the Livingstone wetland at Taieri Mouth.

Craig, Mary and Richard tackled Lake Tuakitoto last Wednesday in windy but not too soggy conditions; good to have Richard back from his overseas trip, and his trusty bike to get recorders to the far western side of the lake.

10 recorders will be placed this week in the northern Waipori/Waihola area and Sinclair Wetlands, where booms were heard last year.

That's nearly 50 recorders in the field at the moment!



Servicing Recorders

Plans for battery change/SD card collection and redeployment of recorders.

Check out the locations and dates below and let Mary know how, when and where you can be involved. Email nzmaryt@gmail.com

Akatore Wetland

Sunday October 22 (Labour Weekend) Field trip for all members Sunday

November 11 or 12 (weather dependent); collection of recorders

Lake Tuakitoto

Thursday November 2

Thursday November 23

Waiholo/Waipori

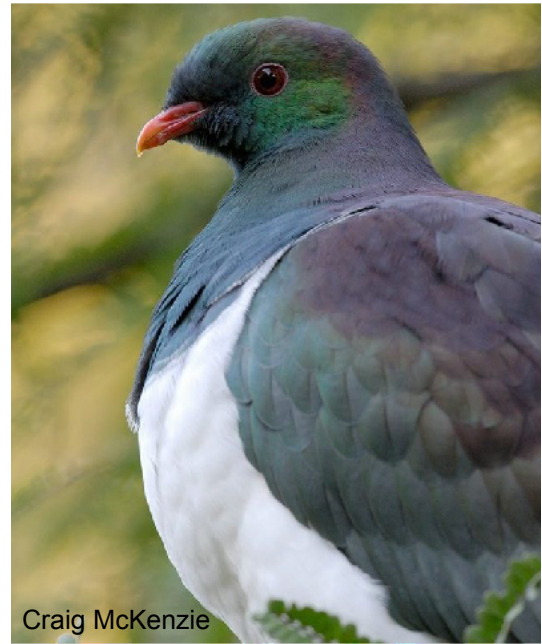
A team from Te Nukuroa o Matamata are using their boat to get the recorders into the wetlands.

If you are keen to be part of the bittern survey team, make sure you are added to the Email list to get bittern survey information.

Mary Thompson bittern survey coordinator

Foods of the native pigeon in the Dunedin area

For 15 years, from 16 August 2008 to 15 August 2023, I recorded the plants I saw being eaten by native pigeons. The great majority of records are from Dunedin City, the others from the south-eastern Waitaki District. They are from both natural and cultivated habitats. Many observations were made from home or while walking to and from work, shops, etc. The Dunedin Botanic Garden has always been one of my favourite birdwatching locations because of the great diversity of plants growing there, many of them very rare in Dunedin. The pigeons' feeding pattern varied from year to year according to the supply of fruits. There is often little fruit eating after May, but in the remarkable



Craig McKenzie

fruiting year of 2016 pigeons were still eating native bush fruits in September and October. My aims in this study were to find out which plants are eaten by pigeons in this area and when they are eaten. I do not show the relative importance of foods – the numbers in the following list reflect not only the birds' preferences but also other factors such as how often I saw the plants and the frequency of fruiting. The list includes plants I saw pigeons eating on more than one day. For each plant I give the botanical name; one common name if it is likely to be better known than the botanical one; the number of days when I saw pigeons eating it; the months when I saw pigeons eating it (abbreviated to Ja F Mr Ap My Je Jl Ag S O N D); and, in brackets where applicable, the months when I saw pigeons eating it on 15 or more days.

Fleshy Fruits

Plants native to the study area:

Cordyline australis cabbage tree 386 F-Ag, D (F-Je). *Carpodetus serratus* marble-leaf 191 Ja-N (F-My). *Fuchsia excorticata* 159 N-Mr (D-F). *Myrsine australis* māpou 131 S-Je (D-Mr). *Pseudopanax crassifolius* lancewood 123 Mr-O (Ap-Jl). *Griselinia littoralis* broadleaf 110 F-O (Mr-My). *Solanum laciniatum* poroporo 108 F-Jl (Mr-My). *Myoporum laetum* ngaio 102 F-Je (Mr-Ap). *Aristotelia serrata* wineberry 93 Ja-Ap (Ja-F). *Melicytus ramiflorus* māhoe 92 Ja-Jl (F-Ap). *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* kahikatea 91 Mr-My (Mr-My). *Pectinopitys ferruginea* miro 88 F-S (Mr-My). *Pseudowintera colorata* horopito 79 Mr-S (Mr-Ap). *Prumnopitys taxifolia* mātāi 50 F-Ap, Je (Mr). *Raukaua simplex* haumakāroa 35 Ap-O. *Coprosma robusta* karamū 29 F-Ap, Je (Mr). *Schefflera digitata* patē 23 Mr-Je, Ag. *Pennantia corymbosa* kaikōmako 22 F-Ap. *Lophomyrtus obcordata* rōhutu 18 Mr-Je. *Ripogonum scandens* supplejack 18 F-Jl, S-O. *Podocarpus totara* tōtara 16 Mr-My. *Ileostylus micranthus* mistletoe 14 F-My. *Elaeocarpus hookerianus* pōkākā 11 Ap-Je. *Pseudopanax arboreus* five-finger 7 Ja-Ap.

Streblus heterophyllus milk tree 6 Mr-Ap. *Raukaua edgerleyi* raukawa 5 Mr. *Coprosma linariifolia* 3 F-Mr. *Meliccytus lanceolatus* 3 F, Mr, My. *Dacrydium cupressinum* rimu 2 Mr-Ap.

Other plants native to New Zealand:

Nestegis lanceolata white maire 63 D-Ap (F). *Nestegis cunninghamii* black maire 46 Je-D. *Corokia x virgata* 35 Ap-Je. *Elaeocarpus dentatus* hīnau 19 Ap-Je. *Coprosma grandifolia* kanono 18 Ja-Mr, Je. *Vitex lucens* pūriri 16 Mr-My, D. *Beilschmiedia tawa tawa* 15 Ja-Mr. *Corynocarpus laevigatus* karaka 9 F-My. *Cordyline banksii* 7 Mr-My. *Lophomyrtus bullata* ramarama 7 Je-Ag. *Myrsine salicina* toro 7 F-My. *Meliccytus macrophyllus* 6 Mr. *Hedycarya arborea* pigeonwood 5 Ja-Mr. *Meliccytus chathamicus* 4 Ap-My. *Coprosma antipoda* 2 F. *Coprosma macrocarpa* 2 F-Mr. *Coprosma wallii* 2 F.

Plants not native to New Zealand:

Ilex aquifolium holly 243 F-Ag (Mr-Je). *Taxus baccata* yew 167 Ja-Je (F-My). *Prunus* spp plum 112 D-F (D-Ja); cherry 17 N-Ja. *Arbutus unedo* strawberry tree 70 Mr-Jl (Ap-Je). *Sorbus aria* whitebeam 40 F-Ap (Mr). *Phellodendron amurense* Amur cork tree 38 Ap-Je (My). *Crataegus stipulacea* 26 Je-O. *Luma apiculata* Chilean myrtle 25 Mr-Je, Ag. *Prunus laurocerasus* cherry laurel 14 F-Mr. *Crataegus x lavalleyi* 13 Ap-Je. *Sambucus nigra* elder 12 F-Mr. *Prunus lusitanica* Portugal laurel 11 Mr-My. *Drimys winteri* 3 Mr-Ap. *Ligustrum vulgare* privet 2 Je. *Cornus mas* 2 Ja-F.

Other Foods (chiefly leaves, buds and flowers):

Plants native to the study area:

Sophora microphylla kōwhai 699 all (all). *Plagianthus regius* ribbonwood 220 Ap-N, F (Je-S). *Calystegia tuguriorum* 86 N-S (Ja). *Meliccytus ramiflorus* māhoe 86 My-N, Ja-Mr (Je-Ag). *Hoheria angustifolia* lacebark 46 Je-O, D, Mr (Jl). *Coprosma rotundifolia* 28 Jl-Ag (Ag). *Parsonsia* spp native jasmine 24 My-S, D, F. *Streblus heterophyllus* milk tree 10 Je-S, D, F. *Coprosma crassifolia* 7 My-Ag. *Korthalsella salicornioides* 5 F, Mr, My.

Other plants native to New Zealand:

Sophora tetraptera kōwhai 628 all (My-Mr). *Sophora molloyi* 255 all (Ap-N, Ja-F). *Hoheria* spp (evergreen) lacebark 62 Mr-Ja (Jl). *Hoheria* spp (deciduous) mountain ribbonwood 8 F, Ap, O, D. *Sophora fulvida* 6 Ag-D. *Sophora longicarinata* 4 Ag, S, N.

Plants not native to New Zealand:

Ulmus spp elm 751 all (My-Ja). *Laburnum anagyroides* 553 Ag-Ap, Je (S-Mr). *Prunus* spp cherry 526 S-Je (S-F); plum 517 all (Jl-Ja); almond/peach 65 Ja-N (Ap). *Chamaecytisus palmensis* tree lucerne 411 all (My-Ja). *Virgilia* spp 292 all (Je-O, D-F). *Sophora cassioides* 200 all (O-F, My, Ag). *Genista stenopetala* 151 all (Je-S). *Magnolia* spp 132 Ag-F (S-N). *Crataegus* spp hawthorn 124 Jl-D (Ag-O). *Sorbus aucuparia*

rowan 119 O-Mr (O-Ja). *Euonymus* spp spindle tree 115 S-Jl (S-N). *Tetradium daniellii* 89 O-F (O-D). *Robinia pseudoacacia* black locust 83 S-Ap (N-D). *Alnus glutinosa* alder 78 O-Jl (N). *Cytisus scoparius* broom 75 S-Ap, Je-Jl (O-N). *Fraxinus excelsior* ash 69 F-Je (F-Ap). *Populus* spp poplar 69 Ag-N, Mr (O). *Salix* spp willow 69 Ag-D, F-Ap (S-O). *Styphnolobium japonicum* pagoda tree 58 S-F, Ap-My (N). *Malus* spp apple 38 S-D, Mr (O). *Amelanchier* spp 33 S-Ja (O). *Aesculus hippocastanum* horse chestnut 24 Ag-O (S). *Celtis australis* 24 O-D. *Aphananthe aspera* 18 O-F. *Acer palmatum* Japanese maple 17 Ag-O (S). *Pyrus communis* pear 17 S-O. *Celastrus orbiculatus* 15 S-Ja. *Tilia* spp lime 12 S-O, Ja-F. *Tropaeolum speciosum* Chilean flame creeper 12 My-S, D-Ja. *Spartium junceum* Spanish broom 11 Jl-Ag, O-Ja. *Styrax japonica* 11 S-O. *Calystegia sylvatica* bindweed 5 D-Mr. *Prunus mume* flowering apricot 5 S-O, Ja. *Sorbus domestica* service tree 3 O.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to the staff of the Dunedin Botanic Garden for identifying plants for me.

Alan Baker

e-mail: alan.baker53@gmail.com

Town Belt Bird Count for Conservation Sun 29 Oct, 10am - 12 noon

Learn to do 5-minute bird counts, increase your bird identification skills, and help monitor conservation efforts with help from members of Birds New Zealand.

On Sunday 29 October, 10am to 12 noon, Birds New Zealand is hosting a training session to introduce members of the public to 5-minute bird counts and the birdcount.nz app and we will walk sections of the Belt Bird Count Trail to do counts. We will **meet outside Olveston in Cobden Street at**



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10am.

event,

We need your help to run this so please come along; don't be put off if you feel you aren't all that good at doing 5-minute bird counts as we will pair you up with a more experienced birder; the main thing is enthusiasm and good eyes and ears.

Please let **Mary** know if you are coming to help.

021 029 80504 nzmaryt@gmail.com

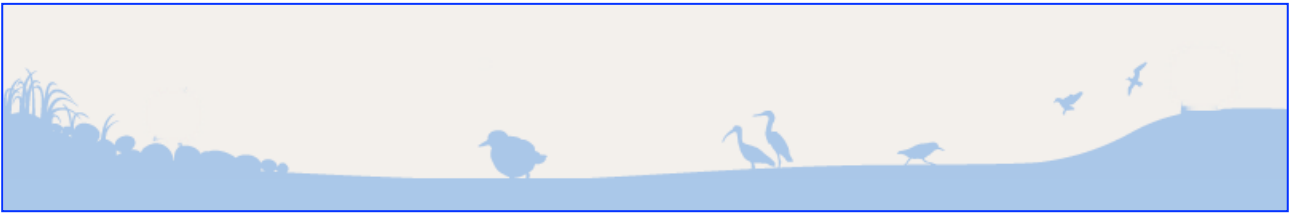
Wader Count

Volunteers wanted for wader count on **Sunday November 26th**. High tide (2.05M) at Dunedin is at 2.50pm. There is no reserve day.

All members are most welcome to participate.

Up until November 16th please contact Maree Johnstone at email: mareej@kinect.co.nz, or phone 027 6609446 to be assigned to a team.

From November 17th send all enquiries to Dawn Palmer at email: birds.otago@birds.nz.org.nz



Special eBird Workshop/seminar: “eBird as a research tool for bird conservation”

eBird is the premier, worldwide, curated database of bird species, locations and numbers. Data is entered by citizen scientists through to professional ornithologists. The database is freely available for researchers and other members of the public to use. It was developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and has been adopted by most professional ornithological bodies around the world, including Birds NZ.

A team from eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is visiting NZ in December and Birds NZ is sponsoring them to run a free workshops on how eBird can be used in research on bird abundance, distribution and movements, biodiversity, especially to inform conservation planning. This is a unique opportunity for us to learn more about the value of eBird to bird conservation. Please put this event in your diary and plan to attend.

Dunedin event: Tuesday 12 December 4pm to 6pm in the Zoology Benham Seminar Room.

Queenstown event: Wednesday 13 December, 3pm to 6pm in Lake Hayes Pavilion.

The **Cornell** Lab  of Ornithology



eBird



Programme 2023

Monthly Indoor Meetings will be held on the 4th Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Valley Project Community Rooms, 262 North Road, NEV. Just past the primary school, with a parking area in front. Look for the NZ Falcon Mural.

We will try to zoom the talks live for those unable to attend. We welcome our members from Central Otago area and others who can't get to Dunedin, and members not so comfortable with attending meetings at this time. You can join the meetings by Zoom link.

A new Zoom link for meetings

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83476387704?pwd=Vy9Fd2VEZk4zSnF6Z05pVnljZjBhdz0>

The meeting passcode is: 523492

October, Tuesday 24	Hamish Spencer Birding in Colombia
October, Sunday 29	Town Belt Bird Count; 5MBC training day for members of the public in conjunction with City Sanctuary. Meeting in Cobden Street outside Olveston at 10 am. Help from members would be appreciated. Contact Bruce 0273891477 president@birdsnz.org.nz
November, Tuesday 28	Abby Smith will compère the annual Quiz Night
December Tuesday 12	Ian Davies and Tom Auer, Cornell Lab of Ornithology eBird as a research tool for bird conservation Benham Seminar Room, Department of Zoology, 340 Great King Street, Dunedin
December Wednesday 13	Ian Davies and Tom Auer, Cornell Lab of Ornithology eBird as a research tool for bird conservation Lake Hayes Pavilion. 710 Lake Hayes-Arrow Junction Highway.

Regular Field trips are held, usually on first Saturdays or Sundays. Check for details within the newsletters. We carpool for these trips and share expenses.

Suggestions for locations for field trips and atlassing trips, and offers to help lead trips would really be appreciated, please contact Dawn birds.otago@birdsnz.org.nz

Contributions for inclusion in the next newsletter should reach the editor by **21 November**
sodlin@gmail.com

Disclaimer

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