



THE
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF NEW ZEALAND
(INCORPORATED)

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Otago Region Newsletter 5/2003 October 2003

Regional Recorder and Classified Summarised Notes (CSN)

Thanks to Jim Wilson who has fulfilled the Regional Recorder position and recently resigned. Jim will complete the CSN to June 2003, which will appear in *Notornis*. Frank Austin takes over the position of Regional Recorder—thank you Frank.

The observations that are included in CSN relate to species which are vagrant, uncommon and threatened. Information on behaviour, mortality and natural foods may also be noted. Distribution records may be compared with the Atlas, which we are currently in the process of updating. If a bird is not commonly seen in your area it may be included in CSN.

Rare birds require confirmation – photos, drawings and complete descriptions are helpful. Immediate notification of a rare bird gives others the opportunity of seeing it, e.g., the phalarope that many of us saw a few years ago at the Clutha Mouth.

Louise Foord

More New Zealand Falcon Sightings

On Saturday 4 October, Lesley Gowans, Alan Baker and I were out on the Pigroot, looking at Wild Dog square, just south of Dead Horse Pinch. We saw two **Falcons** fly over the road into a gully on our right. About 15 km. further down the road we visited Shag Valley Station and, while we were in the garden, a **Falcon** flew past with something small in its talons. We spent much of the day on the high plateau with snow-covered ranges in sight – the Horse Range, the Kakanuis and the Rock and Pillars. We came away about 5 p.m. with snow beginning to fall on us.

Louise Foord

Otago Winter Wader Count, 8 June 2003

	Aramoana	Papanui Inlet	Hooper's Inlet	Harbour West	Harbour East	LPG Depot	Total
SIPO	88	94	215	23	138	64	622
VOC		13	2		10		25
Bar-tailed Godwit	91	43	39				173
Banded Dotterel	63		89				152
Pied Stilt	35	14	212		2		263
Royal Spoonbill							0
White Heron							0
White-faced Heron		4	3				7
Caspian Tern	17	7	6		1		31
Black-fronted Tern							0
Kingfisher	2		5				7

Atlassing in Otago in the Winter

The fourth winter survey has been completed! For the record, we managed to visit 64 squares, 22 not visited previously. Rarities seen or heard in only one square were **Black-fronted Dotterel**, **Cattle Egret**, **Fernbird** and **Morepork**. The **White Heron** was reported in two squares, the **Little Owl** in three, but the **NZ Falcon** in nine!

We are well in the spring survey, our fourth. Still, a number of gaps do need our attention, especially a large area around Glenorchy, the area south of Waipahi, the Owaka and Middlemarch areas and a number of squares north of Idaburn. See the map in the previous newsletter. Let's see what can be achieved this season.

Peter Schweigman
Atlas coordinator for Otago

Atlassing Trips: Labour Weekend & November

We plan to survey parts of North Otago and South Canterbury, staying at Kurow on Saturday, 25 October, and Waimate, Sunday, 26 October. We are inviting Canterbury members to join in. The cost of motels and food will be \$80 per person. While there may be a subsidy on these costs, it will have to be retrospective, depending on approval of our plans. Please contact Louise Foord at 467 5041 if you are coming: motel space is limited and requires confirmation.

Another atlasing weekend will be coming up in the latter half of November in cooperation with Southland. The date is to be advised: again, contact Louise Foord.



The Royal Spoonbill

Otago has by far the highest number of breeding colonies of the **Royal Spoonbill** in New Zealand. If one considers two or three nests a colony (and why not?), we have a total of at least six, and one hopefully to be confirmed this breeding season. It would be ideal to have a better record of their movements within Otago. Readers are kindly asked to report any sighting in their travels, Atlas-wise or just birding. This newsletter has a survey sheet to help you to record any sightings. This sheet has been very satisfactorily used for a couple of years for the Otago Peninsula and the Kaikorai Estuary, but it would be ideal to use it for the whole of Otago. Indeed, I have no objections if this form of reporting is used nation wide. It would be nice if this recording comes off.

Peter Schweigman

Fernbird Records Wanted

I wonder if anybody had any comments or records on the distribution of **Fernbird** along the coast north of Dunedin. I ask because a friend of mine recently saw about four pairs in Kurinui Creek behind Hampden.

Traditionally, I had thought that Flagstaff, Mt Cargill and the hills along the north of the city had marked the limit of the distribution of **Fernbird** and now here we have them turning up about 70 km north of this. Also once I started asking about them David Blair reports a population at Okia on the Otago Peninsula. In the late eighties and early nineties Kim and Jenny Morrison and others had filed records with the CSN about **Fernbird** in Big Stream and around Mt Allen.



So I would be interested in hearing if anyone has records from else where in coastal Otago particularly in the north branch of the Waikouaiti or the Shag Catchment.

Bruce McKinlay, Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 5244, Dunedin

Ph (03) 4770677; Fax (03) 4778626; e-mail: bmckinlay@doc.govt.nz



Myna Records Wanted

DoC has received a report of 2 **Indian Mynas** in the ground of the school at Mosgiel near Glenbrook Drive, near the woollen mill. They would like any confirmation of this sighting as they treat **Mynas** as a serious pest. Please contact Graeme Loh, Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 5244, Dunedin; Ph (03) 4770677; Fax (03) 4778626; e-mail: gloh@doc.govt.nz

Ornithological Snippets

Alan Baker reports a **White Heron** at Lake Benmore on 26/8/2003 and 2 **Crested Grebe** on Kelland Pond (beside the road between Omarama and Twizel) on 27/8/2003. Louise Foord also saw **Crested Grebes**, 4 on Lake Johnson near Queenstown on 14/9/2003. Alan also saw 4 **NZ Scaup** on Bowalley Lagoon on 28/9/2003.

Programme 2003

The indoor meetings are in the Otago Art Society Building on the corner of Great King and Albany Streets starting at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, 22 October	Indoor Meeting Topic: Putauhinu	Speaker: Bruce McKinlay
Saturday, 25 October – Monday, 27 October	Atlassing Trip to North Otago Contact: Louise Foord ☎467 5041	
Sunday, 2 November	Summer Wader Count. High tide at Aramoana 10.15 a.m. (Backup date 30 November, High tide 8.45 a.m.) Contact: Ken Gager, ☎487 6670	

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