



THE
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(INCORPORATED)

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Otago Region Newsletter 1/2006 February 2006

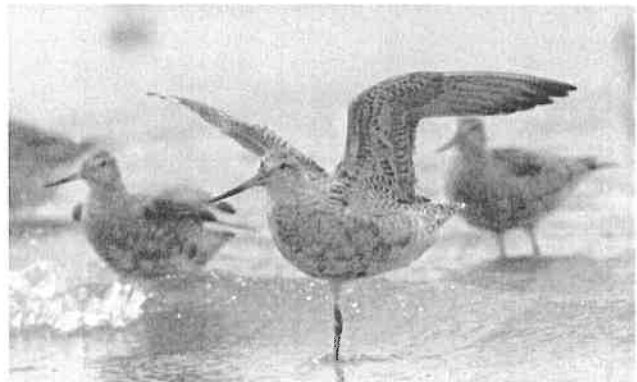
Otago Winter Wader Count, 27 November 2005

	Aramoana	Papanui Inlet	Hoopers Inlet	Harbour West	Harbour East	LPG Depot	Totals
South Island Pied Oystercatcher	11	77	82		11		181
Variable Oystercatcher		15	12		31		58
Bar-tailed Godwit	320		510		21		851
Banded Dotterel							0
Pied Stilt	4	14	36				54
Royal Spoonbill		1	26				27
White Heron							0
White-faced Heron	4	10	9				23
Caspian Tern	1						1
Kingfisher		2	1				3

As well as the **Godwits** counted in the harbour survey in the standard manner, there were the following numbers elsewhere:

Blueskin Bay	516
Karitane	144
Inch Clutha	16
Catlins	302

With the Otago Harbour's 851, there was a total of at least 1829 **Godwits** seen in Otago.



Bird Books & DVDs Added to the Dunedin Public Libraries' Collection in 2005

Books

The Australian Magpie: Biology and Behaviour of an Unusual Songbird by Gisela Kaplan

A Bird in the Bush: A Social History of Birdwatching by Stephen Moss

Birds of the Chatham Islands by Hilary Aikman

City Birds: A Dunedin field Guide by Stephen Jaquier

The Geese of Beaver Bog by Bernd Heinrich

The Grail Bird: Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker by Tim Gallagher

How to be a Bad Birdwatcher by Simon Barnes

Kiwi Hunter: Endangered Icons, the View from Ground Level by Sid Marsh

On the Wing: To the Edge of the Earth with the Peregrine Falcon by Alan Tennant

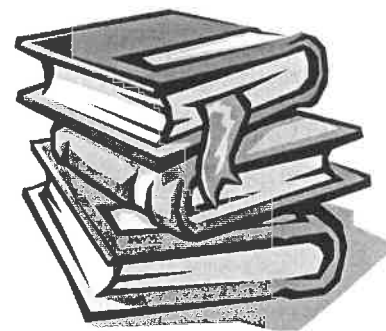
Seabirds: A Natural History by Tony Gaston

Shorebirds of North America: The Photographic Guide by Dennis R. Paulson

Tales of Waikanae Estuary, Kapiti Coast, Wellington by Michael Peryer

Why Birds Sing: A Journey through the Mystery of Bird Song by David Rothenberg

The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill by Mark Bittner



DVDs

Grandma: The Oldest Albatross

Meet the Real Penguins

Travelling Birds

Ornithological Snippets



On 14 Jan 2006 on Otago Harbour, in the bay beyond Portobello, Mary Thompson saw about 20 gannets feeding quite close to road. She had great views. There was obviously some interesting food as the seagulls were also in a frenzy. A cold nor-east wind was bringing mist up the harbour so it may have brought the gannets in too.

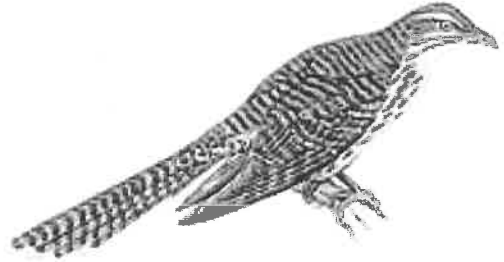
Derek Onley saw 2, maybe 3 **Hudsonian Godwits** and Blueskin Bay/Warrington Beach amongst 537 **Bar-tailed Godwits** on 12 Nov 2005. Of these godwits, 5 were banded, 2 from Australia and the two banded at Warrington Beach (see Mary Thompson's article in the latest newsletter). That same day he also saw a **Turnstone** and more importantly, a **Reef Heron**.

Peter Schweigman saw at Aramoana on 15 Nov 2005 a very rare Asiatic **Whimbrel**. Rare for Otago, that is. Peter saw another one back in December 1988, also at Aramoana.

Alan Baker reports a **Southern Skua** at Kakanui on 1 Jan 2006.

Mary Thompson tells of a sighting on 6 January 2006 from the lower Kepler track between Rainbow Reach and towards Lake Te Anau. It was the one day in early January when the rain eased off and they had a chance for a walk. Things were pretty quiet birdwise, just the usual **Bellbirds**,

Tomtits, **Grey Warblers** and **Fantails**. But in the quiet we heard several repeated loud fairly harsh calls quite close, which I had never heard before; **Long-tailed Cuckoo**, she thought, but frustratingly, had no glimpse of it. On returning home she played the tape of bird calls and sure enough the tape of the **Long-tailed Cuckoo** sounded exactly like the calls we had heard!



Programme 2006

Wednesday, 22 February

Indoor Meeting

Speaker: Hamish Spencer

Topic: A Summer Visit to Alaska

8 p.m., Benham Building, Department of Zoology, 340
Great King Street

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