



# OSNZ news

Edited by PAUL SAGAR, 38A Yardley Street, Christchurch 4,  
for the members of the Ornithological Society Of New Zealand (Inc.)

Please note that sightings recorded in this Newsletter are subject  
to confirmation.

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Note: Deadline for the June issue will be 15th  
May.

## AGM — Hamilton

Plans for the 1985 AGM, to be held in Hamilton during the weekend of 25-26 May, are well underway. After the success of the 'live-in' style of the Nelson AGM last year, it was decided to hold a similar one in Hamilton. The Waikato University campus is the chosen venue, and members will be accommodated in the Student Village.

The field trip, lectures and workshops will be open to the general public as part of Waikato University's Continuing Education Programme. Non-members wishing to attend should register through the University of Waikato.

The field trip to the Otorohanga Kiwi House will give people an opportunity to see an excellent collection of waterfowl, including Grey Teal, Brown Teal, NZ Scaup, and Blue Duck, as well as Shore Plover, the resident kiwis, and many other native birds.

The 'Status of Kokako' and 'Wetlands' are the themes of the papers to be presented on the Saturday afternoon. Workshops on Moulting and on Beach Wreck Identifications will be held on Sunday morning, and the AGM and Conference will be concluded with short talks by Tim Lovegrove and Don Merton.

With the excellent facilities available, the Waikato members are looking forward to welcoming a large attendance.  
FOLKERT NIEUWLAND

## Labour Weekend Camp — Hawkes Bay

Members are reminded that there will be a dotterel count on Hawkes Bay rivers during Labour Weekend 1985.

Full details will appear with the June issue of *Notornis* and we hope for a good muster of members. All visitors will be especially welcome.

KATHLEEN TODD

## Nest Records Cards

The Annual Report of the Nest Record Scheme will be completed during April and members are requested to forward all completed cards to me by 15 April.

Blank cards are available from your Regional Representative or from me (21 McMillan Avenue, Kamo, Whangarei).  
DAVID E. CROCKETT

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr JOHN WARHAM, who has been advised that his parent university, Durham, is awarding him the D.Sc. degree for his work on seabirds. John retired recently but still retains a desk in the Zoology Department, University of Canterbury, and plans to complete a number of substantial research projects in the next few years.

## National Wader Count — June 1985

The second national winter wader count is planned for June 1985 and once again members and friends are encouraged to participate. Last year's count was a really good effort, when over 200 people participated to complete a truly national count.

The main aims of the winter count are to count NZ-breeding species (Banded Dotterel, Wrybill, SIPO, Variable Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Black Stilt), and overwintering arctic migrants.

The success of this project depends solely upon the enthusiasm of every participant, and the more participants we have, the more complete is our count. Therefore members are asked to contact their RR now, and enroll as a wader counter.  
PAUL SAGAR

## News from the Rare Birds Committee

The Committee had a quiet time between August and November 1984 and just when we considered that all rare birds had forsaken New Zealand things started to liven up.

The first of a flock of interesting records was a Black-tailed Native Hen, observed at Granite Creek near Karamea. The bird was first seen at the end of August and was thought to be a small 'chook' by the landowner. However, the true identification was confirmed shortly afterwards and the bird remained in the area until at least early October (N. Stopforth, F.D. Richards).

Fairy Martins were seen at Leigh, North Auckland in November 1984 and at Papakura, South Auckland in January 1985. These were probably separate individuals (K. J. Taylor, B. Brown). Fairy Martins have been recorded with some regularity throughout the country and observers are advised to keep an eye open for this species as it may be the next colonist from across the Tasman.

An Oriental Cuckoo was photographed at Tukurau, Golden Bay in early December (W.R.L. Wilkins).

Some unusual waders have been recorded recently. A Ruff was found at Lake Ellesmere in January and is the first confirmed record for New Zealand (K. Harrison, J. & J. Fennell). A record of an Hudsonian Godwit from the same location was held, pending confirmation because of the discovery of 11 Asiatic Black-tailed Godwits soon after. Two unusual stints were located at Miranda and are being reviewed at present. The Committee also has been given preliminary notification of a White-winged Black Tern at Tauranga and a Chestnut-breasted Shelduck at the Snares. Further details of these sightings are awaited.

JOHN FENNELL, Secretary R. B. C.

## 1984-85 Chatham Island Taiko Expedition

Following the radio telemetric trials on the Chatham Island Taiko, from October to December 1982 it becomes evident that a more comprehensive tracking system was required to obtain positive results.

With the guidance and support of Hugh Best, scientist, Research Section, Wildlife Service, a telemetric system was designed to track the fast-flying, nocturnal Taiko.

Through the generosity of 35 companies I was able to arrange sponsorship of materials and equipment, which allowed the manu-