

The Wrybill

Newsletter of the Canterbury Region,
Ornithological Society of New Zealand

Regional representative: Jan Walker
305 Kennedys Bush Road, Christchurch 8025
Ph 03 322 7187. Email: shesagreen@gmail.com



May 2013

To members on e-mail:

This issue of The Wrybill will be sent by postal mail to members not having an e-mail address. If you would prefer a paper copy please ask. The newsletter will also be placed on the OSNZ website.

**What's on at OSNZ Canterbury:
May to August 2013**

Indoor Meetings

Evening Meetings take place at 7.30 pm on the last Monday of the month at the Mahaanui Area DOC Office, 31 Nga Mahi Drive, off Blenheim Road, Sockburn. Plenty of parking is available.

MONDAY 27th May: Phil Bradfield, a committee member of the Hutton's Shearwater Trust at Kaikoura, presents an update on the situation with the birds at Kaikoura.

MONDAY 24th June: Niall Mugaun talking about his fabulous jobs as an RSPB warden on several coastal reserves around Britain.

MONDAY 20th July: Donna Falconer will speak about the Falcon, this year's winner of Forest and Bird's "Bird of the Year" competition, illustrated with a slideshow of rarely seen footage of their lives and habits.

MONDAY 26th August: Paul Scofield will present recently digitised 1930's footage of albatross and penguin breeding in Otago taken by pioneer seabird researcher, Lance Richdale. His work on the Royal Albatrosses at Tairoa Head and then on nearby colonies of Yellow-eyed Penguins led to his persuading local organisations and individuals that the birds were worth protecting. The rest is history.

Field Meetings

WEDNESDAY 12th June: "OSNZ Ramblers", Halswell Quarry, 9.30 a.m. Contact Bev Alexander to confirm final meet up details or if there is doubt about weather - Tel: 03 313 7009; email birdiebev@xtra.co.nz

SATURDAY 29th June [30th back up]: Winter wader count at Lake Ellesmere, and other local wetlands. For Lake Ellesmere meet at the far end of Embankment Rd at 9.30am to divide into groups for parts of the shore survey. Gumboots, telescopes, warm clothes, drinks and hats. Hopefully just for the morning. Beginner birders are always welcome. If you don't want to come to Lake Ellesmere, we need volunteers

The Wrybill - May 2013

for Ki-Wainono near Timaru, Washdyke and Normanby lagoons in Timaru, the rivermouths of all the rivers south of Christchurch and for the Waipara, Waiau and Hurunui rivers in the North. Contact Jan shesagreen@gmail.com or Tel: 322 7187

TUESDAY 16th July: "OSNZ Ramblers", The Groynes, 9.30 a.m. Contact Bev as above.

SATURDAY 20th July: Ashburton Lakes Waterbird Survey. This is undertaken annually by Ashburton Forest and Bird and OSNZ. It's a fantastic landscape out there and there's no need to be a proficient birder to join in. Contact Jan (see June above) to confirm meet up details and weather conditions.

WEDNESDAY 14th August: "OSNZ Ramblers", Travis Wetland, 9.30 a.m. Meet at the car park by the information centre off Beach Road. Contact Bev as above if in doubt.

SATURDAY 17th August: Port Hills Reserves and bush remnants in the Port Hills suburbs. A short trip to look at areas where 5-minute bird counts are being taken. Contact Jan as above.

A Talk with Colin Hill.

Sheila: You are English born – Where did you live?

Colin: I lived in Stowmarket, East Anglia. At the weekends I used to visit my Granny who lived in Burwell. That was a rural area. There was a huge swamp of willows nearby. They used to make the willows into chairs and baskets. I met the farmer who owned the cottage Granny lived in. I helped him stack wheat and oats for threshing and hoe beet. It was all hard work but I loved it.

Then we moved to Cambridge. I joined the YFC and met another farmer. I worked for him after school and at weekends. He was a sheep farmer. I learnt how to look after sheep. When they were lambing each ewe had a bale of straw in a little pen and was looked after individually night and day. It was very different from NZ.

Sheila: Why did you emigrate to N.Z?

Colin: When I left school that farmer suggested NZ would be a good place to go if I wanted to be a farmer and get a farm of my own. So I emigrated. I became a ten-pound POM. I was 19. I started working for Oakleigh Osborne a well-known farmer round Lake Ellesmere.

I met Cherry when I was 24. When we got married we bought a house and 20 acres. After



Photo: Anon (Lincoln High School Geography Student)
Colin showing students the lake

a few years we sold that property and bought 80 acres and an old house made of kauri. We built on to it and named it Fenland House. We bought adjoining land and still live here.

Sheila: When did you first become interested in birds?

Colin: I was always interested in wild life and brought books on trees and shrubs and British butterflies with me from England. I met Kathleen and you, Sheila, one day while I was out on my tractor and asked you what you had been doing.

Sheila: I remember that. We told you about all the exciting migratory waders we regularly came out to see.

The Wrybill - May 2013

Colin: That was the start; I began looking myself, with a large pair of binoculars, on my tractor. You and Kathleen came out, taking it in turns with your cars, and sometimes I took you on my sheep trailer on the back of the tractor to search for the migratory birds in season.

I found that I was quite good at identifying the different species. I gradually improved over the years and became quite expert. Being a farmer I had skills used in everyday caring for livestock that have helped me with bird identification. I can look at a big mob of sheep and one ewe looks a little different. It might have its ears down. Something in its stance tells me something is wrong. I can transfer those skills to bird watching. If I see a big flock of birds and one looks different, I focus more intently, and it is not a Red-necked stint, but a Little Stint, for example.

Sheila: Which birds have interested you most?

Colin: The migratory waders.

Sheila: What rare birds have you seen in your years of birding?

Colin: Little Stint – the 1st sighting in N.Z.; Little Whimbrel; Stilt Sandpiper (my first sighting); A family of 4 Black Stilt; Long-toed Stint (my first sighting); Hudsonian Godwit; Black-tailed Godwit; Oriental Pratincole; Red-necked and Wilson's Phalarope; Grey Plover and American Golden Plover; Mongolian Dotterel; Shore Plover; N.Z. Dotterel; Greenshank; Marsh Sandpiper; Terek Sandpiper; both Tattlers; Common Snipe; Great Knot; Broad-billed Sandpiper and Ruff.

I was always interested in photography. When I saw a bird I couldn't identify I got a better camera and took photos to prove it, then asked experts. I have got lots of photos from my quad bike with SLR and telephoto lens. Now I have a 100 to 400mm lens on a Cannon digital camera. Some of these have been supplied for bird I.D.

Sheila: Have you seen any changes over the years at Lake Ellesmere?

Colin: There do not seem to be as many migratory waders now. There could be many reasons for this. We hear that the habitat on the flyway is shrinking. For the past five years I have not leased the DOC block. It has been allowed to go back to nature. Anybody and his/her dog can walk or drive there. Perhaps more people disturb the birds. Maybe the food they eat is not so easy to access. Maybe there are more predators.

I do not have a reason to go out daily to check the sheep so I do less bird watching than I did. Perhaps I miss some birds. We had leased the block for forty years from the various owners. No stock grazing on the block means it is much harder now to see some types of birds. The vegetation is too high.

Sheila: How do you feel about the state of the migratory birds in the future?

Colin: I feel that there will not be as many migratory waders in the future. Some may stop coming to Lake Ellesmere.

Sheila: If you had a "most exciting or important experience" with birding what would it be?

Colin: Of course, it was exciting to have a first sighting of a Little Stint for New Zealand, and for it to be at the Lake. But the real excitement is going out birding after a storm, when you might see something that has been blown off course. Once we had a kea in the yard! And going out with people from all over the world who were thrilled to come. Visitors from the USA are particularly outgoing, appreciative and generous. Some have even sent me the latest bird identification books, as a thank you. One man who wanted to see Wrybills kept asking, "Where are they?" and I told him to keep still as one was almost pecking at his boot! I have made a heap of friends and had great times with them.

I would like to acknowledge, Sheila, how important meeting you and Kathleen was for me. It was a great stroke of luck, which has given me an interesting and fascinating hobby on the back doorstep, and one I could do while I worked. Who could ask for more!

Sheila Petch

Droppings from the Regional Rep

Some of the most interesting recent sightings have been of Gull-billed Terns catching and eating small finches at Lake Ellesmere. This is a probable new behaviour for this species in NZ, undescribed until now. Gull-billed Terns are a subtropical vagrant species from Australia.

On 24th April Sheila and I visited the lake and saw a Tern washing a large food item in a pool. Later we spotted 5 Terns hawking constantly over the salt meadows putting up clouds of small birds.

Since then, a number of people have observed the Gull-billed Terns at Ellesmere and established that they do indeed prey on birds, catching them close to the ground and taking them to drown/wash in water, before swallowing them. They regurgitate pellets of undigested bones and feathers, one of which has been examined at the Canterbury Museum by Paul Scofield and found to contain 2 skulls, possibly those of redpoll, and redpoll feathers.

Observations have been made by Patrick Aldwell, Andrew Crossland, Niall Muga, Tony Crocker Mark McFadden, Bev Alexander, Sheila Petch and Jan Walker.

Jan Walker

Down South in Spring in the Allens' Birding Caravan

Part#

20th October

We drive Highway 1 from Christchurch to Moeraki through the usual lack of birds, this being relieved by the odd Black-fronted Tern and Pied Oystercatcher in the monotony of farmland and a colony of Black-billed Gulls just downstream of the Ashburton River Bridge.

Moeraki, for the uninitiated, is an avian biodiversity hotspot in coastal Northern Otago, with breeding colonies of Yellow-eyed Penguins, Stewart Island Shags (the northernmost) and Royal Spoonbills. Nearby bush at Trotters Gorge has a reasonable number

of species too.

In the evening we head to the lighthouse at Katiki Point to see Yellow-eyed Penguins. One is in a nestbox, only a few metres from the hide, incubating a couple of eggs, and calls of others can be heard. Back at the camp ground I find a newsletter that claims that Yellow-eyed Penguins are down to 14 pairs in North Otago (seven at Katiki Point), blaming human disturbance for the decline, people walking down to the end of the point preventing birds returning to their nests. The Shag Point colony is said to be extinct.

21st October

I take a pre-breakfast walk over the peninsula from the town, past the Marae to the Kaik, where on the small Maukiekie Island Stewart Island Shags are sitting on their flower-pot-like nests and Royal Spoonbills are in the stunted trees. Back at camp a fishing boat in the bay has attracted a small entourage of White-capped Albatrosses, plus one each of Southern Royal Albatross and Buller's Albatross. The day is spent doing family things, mostly at the Boulders.

In the evening I am booked on a night tour at the Orokonui EcoSanctuary near Waitati. This predator-proof-fenced reserve holds Bellbirds, Brown Creeper and Rifleman that were originally present, plus reintroduced South Island Saddleback, Takahe, Kaka and Haast Tokoeka (kiwi). A heavy drizzle is bearing down as we head for the aviary and Kaka feeding station at dusk, seeing three Kaka coming for food. Then after it gets dark we head down the same track again, past the aviary. A sudden shriek gives away the presence about 20 metres away of a male kiwi. Those at the front of the line catch a glimpse of the bird. Those at the back have to be content with being deafened. The rest of the tour is fairly uneventful, though the kiwi probe holes are interesting and the frog chorus at a small pond impressive. Tea tree tea back at the visitor centre is warming, if rather delicate in flavour.

22nd October

We drive south, with a final destination of Surat Bay in The Catlins. Along the way we stop at Orokonui EcoSanctuary to have a look at the reserve in the daytime. It is a little windy and

The Wrybill - May 2013



Photo: Nick Allen
Orokonui Sanctuary

the birds are not performing to their best, though it is a pleasant walk and the coffee is good in the restaurant afterwards. I learn that the Saddlebacks are usually found well down the valley – too far for a brief visit. The Takahe is/are usually in the more open areas at the top of the reserve, though we fail to see one.

Rain starts in earnest as we shop for supplies in Dunedin. Parking is difficult and I sit with the car and caravan in the middle of a wide entrance/exitway, only having to gingerly reverse and move forward a couple of times. Continuing south we stop at a place I hadn't visited in a good few years, Sinclair Wetlands. I wanted to check what access and facilities were available, the reserve having changed hands a couple of times. Squalls come through every few minutes and I decide not to bother going down the track as any Fernbird would be sheltering deep in the swamp. A pair of SIPOs is in an adjacent paddock shepherding their two mid-grown chicks.

At Surat Bay the weather is similar, and a walk to the beach produced nothing of note other than a numb face.

23rd October

A day spent touring The Catlins, with the Lost Gypsy at Papatowai being the most entertaining place visited. Hyeza was less than impressed by New Zealand's Niagara Falls. Porpoise Bay has a 4 m swell and nothing much is on or over the water apart from surfers making the most of the conditions. I chat to the camp ground owner who says the Hector's Dolphins return to the

bay in November and there are now about 20 pairs of Yellow-eyed Penguins in the area.

We visit Waipapa Point, for no better reason than I hadn't been there before, passing Haldane Bay on the way. In this small under-watched estuary there are about half a dozen Royal Spoonbills and three dozen Bar-tailed Godwits, but the semi-regular Eastern Curlew is absent. Waipapa Point is beautiful in a bleak sort of way, and has a proper lighthouse. Impressive new facilities mark the site of the shipwreck that caused the largest loss of life in New Zealand, and offer some shelter from the southerlies.

24th October

I get up early and drive past a sleeping Owaka and up the Owaka Valley, crossing over to The Wisp in the upper Catlins Valley, arriving in the gloom at 6.30. The Catlins River is slightly swollen from the previous day's rain as I follow it into the forest. Over the first swing bridge and up over a bluff my ears are straining for the far-carrying sharp calls of Yellowheads. I slither down the other side of the bluff and am about to give up when there is the staccato call about 5 minutes down the track. I locate a pair of birds where the track flattens out, though fail to see them clearly as they feed and sing in the canopy. I make recordings of the distinctive Catlins song dialect and calls. The forest up the Catlins Valley is merely a veneer in places, and here Starlings can be heard in the background, explaining the strange Yellowhead-like calls, mimicry of the trills, heard in the camp ground the previous night.

The plan after breakfast was to drive to Te Anau, though after battling through gales on the Waimea Plains we stop at Lumsden, where we spend a rather shaky night in a basic, but welcome, camp ground.

25th October

Te Anau is reached at 10.30 in the morning. We decide to walk a small flat section of the Kepler Track from the control gates to Dock Bay. On my previous visit I had taken the riverside part of the track to Rainbow Reach, and found good populations of Robins and Yellow-crowned Parakeets. Today there were lots of Grey Warblers, and a few Tomtits and Fantails. From the bird make-up it seems the forest has gone

The Wrybill - May 2013

seriously downhill as far as predator pressure goes. Bait is being put out for rats in tunnels, but perhaps this isn't sufficient to save to birdlife here. The structure of the forest and abundant crown fern suggests the deer are doing well. It's a shame the forest isn't.

26th October

Just as twilight is giving way to proper daylight I take a walk around the suburbs of Te Anau just north of the town centre. The highlight was a group of four New Zealand Pigeons fighting and courting. I even heard the seldom-given 'coo' and saw what seemed to be a male acting like a town pigeon, puffing itself up and parading along a tree branch.

After breakfast we drive through increasing rain to Milford Sound. The Lake Gunn Nature Walk (now renamed the Cascade Creek Nature Walk for some reason) was very quiet. Rifleman was the commonest native species, followed by Brown Creeper. The wind roared through the tall beeches, with a couple of Kaka noisily kraaking overhead being one of the few noises to get through to the ground. Up past the slip of huge boulders that closed the road recently the Monkey Creek Blue Ducks are not showing, but two Kea are in the car park, one drinking rain water from the tarmac surface. Blue Ducks likewise are not visible from bridges down the Cleddau Valley west of the tunnel. Avalanche danger prevents us from stopping at the tunnel mouth.

In Milford Sound Deepwater Basin is the unkempt and unpolished bit that non-New Zealanders are obviously not supposed to see; craypots are piled in high walls, refrigeration units warble away, ordinary fishing boats are tied up to an even more ordinary wharf, and there is a distinct aroma of old damp fish. I search the marshy margins of the fiord in case a Brown Teal is loafing on a sheltered bit of water, but one isn't. I check out a couple of little shags roosting on a piece of wood sticking out of the water, and am surprised to discover they are both Little Black Shags; straight from Aussie? A dolphin surfaces a few times in the middle of the basin. It is distant, but the lack of obvious markings suggests bottlenosed. A Kaka flies over, calling as usual. Off our tour boat, caught at one of the flashy wharves outsiders are supposed to see, one Fiordland Crested Penguin is seen

through the wind and rain close to the outer end of the fiord on the southern side. The intercom on the boat doesn't announce its presence, despite a promise to do so, and possibly one other person with binoculars (that I tell) and I are the only people on the boat to notice it. Out in the ocean is a White-capped Albatross and an adult Australasian Gannet. On the way back we stop at the underwater observatory to view the surprisingly abundant and sometimes colourful fish.

Back in dry Te Anau Olivia and I make a short visit to see the captive birds at the wildlife centre. A Takahe is initially vocal, but then falls silent. Most of the parrots have seemingly lost the plot, especially the Kea. It may look outwardly like a Kea, but the strange calls and unusual postures reveal what must be a tormented soul. It is unusual to see a couple of Canada Geese nesting in an enclosure, seemingly protected for some strange reason. All in all the place is a bit of a bizarre experience. A Crested Grebe is present near the DoC visitor centre as usual.

Nick Allen

(Part 2 of Nick's article covering Queenstown and the West Coast will be in the next issue of Wrybill. Ed.

Recent Sightings

February: 4th Colin and Steve, Halswell Rivermouth – 96 Spoonbills. 6th Stevex2, Ashley Estuary – Whimbrel flying with large flock of Godwits. 11th Andrew, Bexley Avon Rivermouth/Naughty Boys Island area – 2 Bitterns which have spent summer in the area – a new development. South bank Waimakariri Styx rivermouth area – at least 2 Bitterns and a Spotless Crake – first confirmation of Spotless Crake at this site for many decades. Bitterns also seen at Brooklands Lagoon Spit and around Lake Ellesmere shoreline. 12th Andrew, private bay on NE Banks Peninsula – Erect-Crested Penguin; Kaituna Lagoon – 2 Black Stilts; Greenpark Sands – at least 6 G-billed Terns (not associating with large Caspian Tern colony closeby); Crescent Island area, Kaitorete Spit – 1-2 G-billed Terns. 18th Andrew, Southshore

The Wrybill - May 2013

Spit – 3 dark and 2 pale Arctic Skuas and 1 Pomarine Skua seen harrassing W/F Terns and Red-billed Gulls 400m offshore. 26th Rakaia Fishing Competition – Juv Fiordland Crested Penguin.

March: 4th, Colin and Steve, Embankment - 72 Wrybills, 7 R-n Stints, 18 Bandies; Jarvis Road – 13 Bandies; Greenpark – 3 Bandies; Halswell Rivermouth – 3 Bandies, 52 Stilts, 13 Spoonbills. 5th, “local birder” (via Andrew) Avon-Heathcote Estuary - possible sighting of Lesser Frigatebird. 15th Colin and Steve, Lower Selwyn Huts towards L2 rivermouth – 2 Wrybills, 9 Bandies; On adjacent Lake shore – 63 Stilts, 3 Bandies, 4 Caspian Terns, 5 W/F Terns; Embakment – 38 Bandies, 11 R-n Stints, 121 Wrybills; Nearer Yarr's – 15 R-n Stints, 5 Sharpies, 2 Pectoral Sps. 15th Niall Muga, Bromley Oxidation Ponds – 2 Chestnut-breasted Shelducks. 20th Bev, Kaiapoi Ponds – White-eyed Duck. 29th John, Bligh's Garden (Evans Ave end across river from Pacific Park and Bexley Wetlands – 2 Kotuku; Bexley Wetlands – 2 Caspian Terns and 24+ Spoonbills roosting on remaining islands in the wetlands at high tide. 30th Brian, old Pleasant Point Yacht Club – 60 Spoonbills roosting. 31st Brian, estuary side of end of South Shore Spit - 32 Caspian Terns.

April: 1st, Andrew, Dyers Pass Road – Shining Cuckoo, rarely seen at this time of year. 3rd, Colin and Steve, Yarr's – 3 Pectoral Sps, 5 R-n Stints, two with red necks; Embankment – 267 Wrybills, 9 R-n Stints 3 with colour; Greenpark – 60 Bandies, 30 Stilts; Bev, Kaikoura Peninsula – 47 Turnstones. 4th, Bev, Ashley



Photo: Asburton Guardian
Juvenile Fiordland Crested Penguin attending the Rakaia Fishing Competition

Estuary – 25 Spoonbills, 1 White Heron. 6th, Bev, Bexley Wetland – 1 White Heron. 13th, Bev, Montgomery's Rd, Little River – 11 Californian Quail. 14th, Bev, Taranaki Stream, Waikuku Beach – 2 Cape Barren Geese; Ashley Estuary – 1 Turnstone. 15th Colin and Steve, Yarrs, Embankment and Jarvis – 320 Wrybills, emphasising again the importance of this site as a within- NZ migration stopover for this species; 21 R-n Stints, 344 Stilts, 18 Bandies, 1 Caspian Tern, 40 Spoonbills. 17th David, canal eastern end Linwood Ave – 2 White Herons. 20th Sue, Matua Gardens reported blackbirds tapping on windows with beaks and feet, over and over for hours on end for weeks, which has been happening for 3 years, usually in spring but this time in autumn. Jan, Halswell – male Gird Bunting. 24th, Bev, Ashley Estuary – 5 Lesser Knots; Jan and Sheila, Embankment Rd – 8 R-n Stints, several in stunning breeding plumage, 40-50 Wrybills, 5 G-billed Terns with black caps, one with a reasonable sized prey item which it washed in a pool before swallowing it. 27th Sheila and Tony, Embankment – watched for over an hour G-billed Terns hawking back and forth over masses of passerines. 7 birds seen on ground, all adults with full black cap. One ejected a pellet with feathers in it which will be analysed. 50 Wrybills also still present; Prices Valley – 33 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. 28th Jan, Embankment – returned to watch G-billed Tern behaviour. Four birds seen harrying passerines constantly. One seen carrying a body which could have been a mouse or bird. Reported at monthly meeting – John, Woolshed Creek (Mt Somers) – 2 NZ Falcons. Ron said Little Owls had begun calling again in Spreydon Domain. Roger, Anzac Day ceremony – 1 Bellbird calling.

May: 3rd, Jan, Bev and Sheila – Embankment Road – 2 G-billed Terns. Bev scoped one tern catching a small bird almost at ground level in mid-flight. Jan saw one Tern carrying a bird which it dropped and caught again as it fell. Both birds flew 0.5k to a pool where they presumably washed the prey before swallowing; Bev and Sheila, between Lake Road and Rushbrooks Road – 5 Cattle Egrets, 6 Mute Swans, 1 White Heron, 270 White-faced Herons. 5th, Andrew and Niall, Kaitorete Spit – G-billed Tern repeatedly swooping low over saltmeadow buzzing feeding flocks of Redpolls confirming behaviour happening both sides of

The Wrybill - May 2013

lake; Bev and Jill, Rushbrooks Road – 5 Cattle Egrets. 12th Colin and Steve, Embankment and Jarvis – 6 G-b Terns, 7 R-n Stints, 14 Bandies, 20 Stilts, 2 Mute Swans, 300 Canada Geese.

My "Big Year"

I am 12 years old and a pupil at St Andrew's College.

My interest in birds began when I was very young and I liked looking at my Dad's bird egg collection. He collected them when he was about 10yrs old. Mum bought me the DK book called Birds a few years ago and I have spent hours reading about all the birds around the world. When I went to Europe in Sept-Oct 2011 my main focus was visiting my favourite Classical composer's homes but for a break from museums, I visited all the main aviaries and zoos to see as many bird species as I could. I especially loved the Hawk Owls, macaws and raptors.

Back in NZ my family watched the movie, The Big Year which inspired me to do my own Big Year of NZ birds. I started in August last year and through joining the OSNZ I was introduced to Bev Alexander who has taken me to see some special birds, such as the Black-fronted Dotterel. If I see something unusual Mum takes a photo which we email to Bev for confirmation.

Some highlights for me so far have been the pelagic trips in Kaikoura and Stewart Island. In Kaikoura I saw the very noisy Wandering Albatross and Fairy Prion and in Stewart Island the photogenic Buller's Albatross. We also visited Ulva Island in Stewart Island where I saw several rare species such as the S.I. Saddleback, Yellowhead and S.I. Robin. A bonus was seeing the NZ Dotterel on The Neck, Stewart Island.

My tally so far is 107. I don't count anything in captivity.

When my NZ list is finished I will start my lifetime list. I would also like to make a universal list when I travel overseas.

Finn van Dorsser



Photo: Brenda Scarr

Finn taking part in summer wader count, Lake Ellesmere.

Canterbury Region Contacts

Regional Representative: Jan Walker
305 Kennedys Bush Rd, Christchurch 8025
Ph 322 7187
Email: shesagreen@gmail.com

Secretary: Nick Allen
11 Seagrave Place, Burnside, Christchurch
Ph 358 5994
Email: nick_allen@xtra.co.nz

Regional Recorder: Bev Alexander
63 Golding Ave, Rangiora 7400
Ph 03 313 7009
Email: birdiebev@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer: John Allan
67 Clifton Terrace, Christchurch 8081
Ph 326 4966
Email: johnruth@xtra.co.nz

The Wrybill Editor: Ann Sherlock
102b Knowles Street, St Albans, Chch 8052
Ph 355 4194
Email: robnann@paradise.net.nz

Garden Bird Survey 2013

This year's survey takes place in the week 29th June – 7 July. For details on how to take part, record and report your observations see <http://gardenbirdsurvey.handcareresearch.co.nz>

LAKE ELLESMERE WATERBIRD COUNT 9th FEBRUARY 2013

Average wind-affected lake level (8/2/13) was 0.51m and the lake was open to the sea, Weather (Christchurch Airport): at 9am foggy 15C SSW 11kmh. Fog lifting by late morning to passing clouds and a max temp of 27C at 3pm. Wind initially increasing to 17kmh but decreasing by 2pm to S 7kmh, turning E by 3pm and slowly strengthening. Air pressure 1019hPa initially, decreasing to 1017hPa

Species	Kaitorete Tip	Kaitorete Spit	Birdlings Flat A	Birdlings Flat B	Kaituna Lagoon	Halswell Flats B	Halswell Flats A	Osbornes	Eastern Greenpark	Embankment Road	Yarrows Flat	Selwyn	Rennies Bay	Doyleston	Harts Creek	Lakeside	Taumutu	SPECIES TOTALS
Aus Crested Grebe					2													2
Black Shag	4	31	22	47	27	11	3		12		9	19	12		13	186		396
Pied Shag	1				8		19				3	12	25	16	8	38	29	159
Little Shag					1							17	2	1	5	2		28
Spotted Shag																	2	2
White Heron					2								1		1	1		5
White-faced Heron	2	3	10	1	2		4	4	2	2	5	8	10	2	14	17	13	99
Australasian Bittern								1										1
Royal Spoonbill		25	2	6	18	277		57	28		50	24	1	1	40	2		531
Mute Swan											1				5			6
Black Swan	30	808	182	126	1482	292	146	174	1579	1287	706	786	286	297	129	170	118	8598
Feral Goose	1												285	163	1	80		530
Canada Goose	11	263	246	264	2598	9	29	56	29	30	373	952	441	136		139		5576
Paradise Shelduck		50	46	2059	127	218	110	1	150	74	22	23	1190	25	40	28		4163
duck sp		92				640				167	870					173		1942
Mallard (& Grey Duck hybrids)	45	420	301	112	302	168	110	3	1552	655	111	17	3	18	1752	277	70	5916
Australasian Shoveler	1	1620	627	190	2041	390			55		163	49		1	13	19	4	5173
Grey Teal		2466	375	736	1782	1577	197		1197		447	1409	1888	292	13	671	52	13102
New Zealand Scaup								1		19					45	1	16	82
Australasian Harrier	1	3	4	6	8	3	2	8	4	6	4	1	4		7	4	2	67
Pukeko				30	22	16						6	1		25	14		114
Pied Oystercatcher	11	5											3			2	12	33
Pied Stilt	34	419	15	23	1278	31	2	47	6	108	246	530	136	83	33	586	149	3726
Black Stilt				2														2
Hybrid Stilt				1								2				1		4
Banded Dotterel	230	164	64		2	33		18	72	222	204	156	4			57	2	1228
Wrybill	41	37								1	1	349						429
Spur-winged Plover	8	25	19		4	4	1		9	8		6	24	27	9	47	6	197
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper												12						12
Red-necked Stint												34						34
Bar-tailed Godwit	30	192			36	68				27		83						436
Black-backed Gull	120	201	6	112	194	414		8	260	42	20	16	94	60	70	72	44	1733
Red-billed Gull	17	2					27	1	2						4		4	57
Black-billed Gull	1	106	2	158	28	15	69	1	115	1	63	6	33	16		48	167	829
Black-fronted Tern	5	31	4		1				1								4	46
White-fronted Tern	1	13															45	59
Caspian Tern	6	4	1	37		2	10	5	203		2	1	29		1	2	9	312
Gull-billed Tern		1								1								2
New Zealand Kingfisher					1							1		2				4
Site totals	600	6981	1926	3910	9966	4168	729	385	5276	2649	3301	4519	4472	1140	2228	2637	748	55635