

# The Wrybill

Newsletter of the Canterbury Region,  
Ornithological Society of New Zealand

Regional representative: Sandra Wallace  
31 Westmont Street, Christchurch 8041  
Ph 03 358 5706. Email: sandraw67@gmail.com



August 2017

What's on at OSNZ Canterbury:  
August to October 2017

## Field Trips

August 26 – Saint Anne's Lagoon. Meet at the Belfast pub and be ready to leave from there by 9:30am to drive up to the lagoon. We'll check on the state of the lagoon after it dried up earlier in the year. Either bring a picnic lunch or support one of the local cafés in Cheviot.

September 16 – Ashburton River Mouth. Meet near the saddlery in Templeton and be ready to leave from there by 9am. We'll explore the river mouth, part of the river itself and possibly Lake Hood if time permits.

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 October – A casual exploration of some birding spots on the West Coast. Feel free to join us for either one or two days. Closer to the time, a potential itinerary and more information will be sent to those who have expressed interest. If you think you might want to go, let Sandra know by the end of August.

For all field trips, please contact Sandra at sandraw67@gmail.com or on 358 5706.

## Rambles

August 15 – Pegasus Wetlands. Meet inside the main entrance off State Highway One.

September 12 – Yarrs Bay, Lake Ellesmere. Meet at the end of Wolfes Road.

October 10 – Travis Wetlands. Meet in the car park at the end of Beach Road.

All rambles begin at 9:30am. If you plan on attending, please remember to contact Bev on 03 313 7009 or 027 3184 713.

## Indoor Meetings

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

28 August – Nick Ledgard and Grant Davey will give a talk entitled Problems and Prospects for Breeding Birds on the Ashley/Rakahuri River.

25 September – The speaker will be announced closer to the time.

30 October – Jenny Dent will give a talk about memory informed foraging by Bellbirds.

### Birds NZ Conference Summary

My first ever Birds NZ conference began with a bit of a baptism by fire on Friday afternoon – the annual RR's meeting. This year it was a long six hour affair. I've been reassured that they are not usually that long, although I'm not sure whether that is true or just a line to ensure I didn't resign on the spot! Not only was it long; it seemed to involve a lengthy list of things that RR's should be doing (running more activities, providing more education, increasing membership, providing transport for potential members, running special youth activities...). There was also a fair amount of pressure for Canterbury to organize the 2020 AGM. I agreed to discuss the possibility with the Canterbury committee and come back with a decision at the 2018 AGM.

Saturday and Sunday were devoted to the conference proper, a plethora of bird focused papers, focusing on everything from the very local such as a presentation on the Kids Restore the Kepler Project, to the more international such as talks on the Galapagos Islands' Mangrove Finch and the likely importance of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to migratory seabirds. It seems that bird behaviour is a particular interest of mine, since many of my favourite talks were behaviour centered - Thomas Mattern's look at the behavioural versatility of the Fiordland Penguin, Kerry Weston's overview of the breeding ecology of the Rock Wren, and Courtney Hamblin's presentation on colony movement patterns in Black-fronted Terns. I'm also a sucker for good news stories and the conference delivered a few of these. A full nationwide survey of Black-billed Gulls indicates the population is significantly larger than previously thought while a survey in the Wairarapa showed a 50% increase in the local population of Black-fronted Dotterel compared to 1996. All those who were alarmed by John Dowding's report on southern New Zealand Dotterel after the Canterbury AGM will be relieved to hear that the most recent survey indicates numbers are finally heading in an upward direction again. Many other papers demonstrated the positive impact of pest

control on the survival of native birds. Challenges undoubtedly remain. John Cockrem's account of the likely adverse effects of proposed iron sand mining in the South Taranaki Bight and the difficulties of working through the Environmental Protection Agency process was one sobering reminder of this fact.

The final day of the conference was devoted to field trips. I had high hopes for the Milford Road trip since three species I was especially keen to see were mentioned as possibilities. However, neither Rock Wren nor Blue Duck nor Yellowhead were sighted on the day. Frustratingly, we heard Yellowhead but the bus had to move on before anyone managed to lay eyes on them.

Overall the conference left me feeling heartened about the future of New Zealand's birds. The depth and breadth of research on display highlighted the growing body of knowledge about New Zealand birds, which can only help in conservation and management efforts. Presentations on the garden bird survey, the banding scheme and the beach patrol scheme demonstrated the importance of these schemes and interested amateurs in contributing to this growing body of knowledge. Much was made of the greying membership but I was reassured by the number of young people in attendance. The quality of work presented by young researchers was excellent (Natalie Forsdick's talk 'Genetic diversity and population differentiation within and between island populations of Chatham Island black robins and tomtits' won the award for best student presentation; it was also one of the best talks overall in my opinion) and the presentation on the Birds NZ Youth camps showed that there is a keen group of teens who are gaining excellent skills and knowledge as a result of these camps.

Now that I have my first conference under my belt I'm looking forward to next year's at Waitangi. I'll just hope for a shorter RR's meeting and more cooperative birds!

By Sandra Wallace

### Recent Happenings

At May's monthly meeting, Vanessa Mander spoke to us on the Tui reintroduction project on Banks Peninsula. In 2009/10, 72 birds were translocated onto the peninsula, and Vanessa talked about the ongoing work monitoring their reintroduction – which turned out to be successful. She also spoke enthusiastically about the importance of citizen science. If you see any Tui in Christchurch or Banks Peninsula, especially banded birds, Vanessa would love to get the details. You can contact her by email: [ness.mander@gmail.com](mailto:ness.mander@gmail.com). Also, if you're interested in putting out sugar water for species in your garden, Vanessa helpfully recommended a recipe – one cup of sugar to two litres of water.

The following month, Biz Bell from Wildlife Management International talked about her work with Black Petrels on Great Barrier Island. As part of this, Biz tested four different radio transmitters on juvenile Black Petrels to see which provided the best data. As well as showing a clear winner, the recorded data proved quite interesting, and we were the first members of the public to see the results. In the non-breeding season, Black Petrels migrate out to the Pacific Ocean off the coast of South America, and juveniles will spend between two and three years out there before they're ready to breed. But a couple of the birds Biz tracked clearly didn't follow these rules. One started off correctly, but soon doubled back, flew over the North Island and crash landed! Another got part way and then began heading straight north – Biz suspects it may have hitched a ride on a boat.

And in July, Peter Reese spoke to us about mist netting and banding. We heard about Peter's fifteen plus year's banding in Wellington, and he explained the many aspects of banding, including how to check the moult and how to record the age of different birds. He also showed us his mist net and banding gear. Finally, Peter gave us a run-down on how to read, record, and report bands (see page 5 for more information).

Due to strong, freezing cold southerlies and the possibility of snow, May's field trip to the Ashburton River Mouth had to be cancelled. However, for anyone interested in the exploring the area, we're going to try the trip again in September – hopefully the weather will cooperate this time!

While cool, the weather was much improved for June's fieldtrip, the annual Winter Wader Count at Lake Ellesmere. Despite a low turnout, we still managed to cover our sections of the lake. There were very few birds to be found, although there appeared to be at least five different Gull-billed Terns present around the lake which was nice to see. Full results can be found on the spreadsheet attached to the end of the newsletter.

Weather also affected the Ashburton Lakes Count. After being postponed due to snow, it was finally held on 29 July. A good day out was had by all. Look for the results from the count in November's *Wrybill*.

Six members walked around Halswell Quarry for May's ramble. A good range of passerines and waterfowl were spotted, including three Grey Warblers and three Bellbirds, along with a Kingfisher. Surprisingly, nobody saw a Grey Teal during the trip, although they are often found at the quarry. Despite looking hard, no Cirl Buntings were seen.



Searching for the elusive Grey Teal! Photo by Angela Guy.

But two months later, on July's ramble to Sandy Point, at the Avon-Heathcote Estuary, our rambblers managed to spot two Cirl Buntings feeding along the track! A good total of thirty species were recorded on the trip, including eighteen Bar-tailed Godwits and five Banded Dotterel.

### **Botanic Garden Ramble — 13 June 2017**

The ramble day was cold but pleasant. The Eurasian Blackbirds appeared to think it was a great day for a picnic as most every expanse of lawn in the gardens was covered with them. A few Song Thrushes joined in as well. Common Chaffinch, New Zealand Fantail, Silvereye, Common Redpoll, European Goldfinch, European Greenfinch, and Dunnock were some of the other passerine birds present. Another was a Bellbird that we watched bathing in a small waterfall. One New Zealand Pigeon as well as Feral Pigeons were also spotted. Gulls included Red-billed Gull (one banded), Black-billed Gull, and Southern Black-backed Gull. Other birds on and near the ponds were numerous Mallard and Mallard x Grey Duck hybrids as well as Australian Shoveler, Paradise Shelduck, Canada Goose, New Zealand Scaup, and Little Pied Shag. As we departed we were surprised to come upon a Mallard x Grey Duck mother with five young. A surprising end to a good ramble.

By Angela Guy.



The surprise ducklings. Photo by Angela Guy.

### BRaid Seminar

BRaid held their annual seminar in late June. The presentations covered many different aspects of braided rivers, from fish and grasshoppers to the effects of weed invasion and, of course, birds. While all the talks were fascinating, I especially enjoyed the presentations about exciting new research that could potentially be used to help braided river birds in the future.

One of these was Courtney Hamblin's research on using social attractants – decoy birds and playback calls – as a management tool for Black-fronted Terns. Her experiments showed that the terns did interact with the attractants, and the attractants appeared to positively affect where the terns chose to nest. It is easier to manage predator control if we know ahead of time where the birds are likely to nest.

Another talk I found especially interesting was Grant Norbury's presentation about using unrewarding prey stimuli to reduce predator impacts. His research involved attracting predators to an area with an odour cue, but not giving them any reward in the form of prey. If this happened often enough, the theory is that a predator could learn to ignore the cue, no longer following it because they didn't associate it with food. This could be particularly useful during the breeding season, when birds are especially vulnerable.

If you're interested in learning more about any of the presentations given, the power point slides can be accessed here:

<http://braid.org.nz/seminar-2017/>. And if you haven't been to a BRaid seminar before, I'd definitely recommend attending next year – they're well worth a day of your time.

### eBird Seminars

Nikki McArthur will be holding two seminars on how to use and get the most out of eBird. The current plan is to hold a beginner's course in the morning and a more advanced course in the afternoon. The tentative date is October 7 but this has yet to be confirmed. Watch your inbox for confirmation and details of how to book.

### Youth Banding Camp

A youth banding camp is being held at Pukorokoro/Miranda Shorebird Centre at Labour weekend, from the 20-23 October. It is designed for keen birders aged between fourteen and eighteen to get some of the mist netting and banding experience needed to gain a formal banding qualification. To see the full information about the course, please refer to the poster attached at the back of the newsletter.

### Reading Bands

If you see or find a banded bird it's really important to record the bands carefully. The purpose of banding birds is to learn more about them and that only happens if sightings are accurately reported. To record colour bands, start at the top of the bird's left leg (make sure it is the bird's left and not your left). Record the colour of each band as accurately as you can (there are now light green, dark green and neon green bands, not just one shade), including any metal bands or coloured flags as they appear. Then do the same with the right leg. Metal bands have a number engraved on them, and while it is definitely easier to read this if the bird is dead, do your best with a live bird. Using a scope can help, as can taking a photo which you can then enlarge.

As well as the band combination, a bit more data is needed as well. Jot down the bird's species and sex (if you can tell) – this can help identify a bird if the bands can't be fully read or recorded – plus the date and location where you saw the bird and the cause of death (if known). The banding office will also want your name and contact details. The easiest way to report this information is online at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/bird-banding/reporting-a-bird-band/>. You can also download forms and post them in if you prefer.

### Photography Code of Conduct

Birds New Zealand has recently adopted a Code of Conduct for the Photography of Birds. The aim is to increase awareness of the potential negative impacts photography may have on birds, and to ensure respect for their security and welfare. Many of the points seem obvious and common sense and hopefully we are already practising them. However, in case anyone isn't sure or needs a reminder here are a few of the pertinent points. Many are applicable to all birders, whether or not they are taking photographs.

1. The security and welfare of birds shall have high priority and always take precedence over the interests of the observer. Remember most native bird species are legally protected.
2. It is essential to minimise stress to a bird and not expose them to danger. Use artificial light sparingly and never use spotlights or laser lights. Do not deliberately flush birds. Do not handle birds or eggs unless engaged in recognised research. Take time to observe the bird from a distance first so you can understand and evaluate the risk of disturbing it. Every species and potentially every individual is different so minimum distances can't be specified. Take special care around nesting birds since you

could cause nest desertion or attract predators to the nest.

3. Playback of calls and other means of attracting birds to a site are generally discouraged and audio calling should never be used during the breeding period.

4. Always get permission to enter private or Maori held land and practise common courtesy around other observers or photographers e.g. it is bad manners to approach a bird so closely that it is disturbed if others are also observing it. Of course, it's also bad for the bird!

If you would like a copy of the complete Code of Conduct please contact Sandra.

### Birds NZ Rebranding

As many of you will be aware Birds New Zealand is currently in the middle of a rebranding exercise. Our trading name has already been change to Birds New Zealand, and more change is underway, including a new logo (which was one of the most controversial topics at the conference). This is part of an effort to promote what we do and to increase membership. Hopefully you recall and participated in a survey last year which was part of this process. If you'd like to see the results of that survey and to better understand the reasons for the forthcoming changes please email Sandra. She'll forward you a PDF document of the slides presented by Helen Taylor, a Birds NZ Council member, entitled "How to Grow Birds NZ", which summarises the survey results and outlines why the Council sees change as necessary.

### Recent Sightings

#### **Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report April-July 2017**

This report covers the period 26th April to 27th July and is compiled from reports posted onto eBird, the Birding NZ internet discussion site, and New Zealand Birders Facebook page. Your regional recorder would welcome news of any interesting bird sighting, unusual behaviour or searchable sources of other sightings. Email christchurchnzbirders@gmail.com.

Key to letters after bird names:

A = all reported occurrences (for rare/scarce species or escaped/released species etc)

S = significant numbers/occurrences (for species regularly encountered in the regions)

V = vagrant

**Feral Goose (S)** Washdyke Lagoon: 142 27/4 PS, 78 16/5 PS.

**Canada Goose (S)** Washdyke Lagoon: 646 16/5 PS.

**Cape Barren Goose (A)** Brooklands Lagoon: 3 13/5 DE, 2 25/5 TR. Lower Styx Road: 2 8/6 PC, 3 10/6 MD. Rakaia RM south side: 6 30/6 DL.

**Mute Swan (A)** Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 2 8/5 BA. Pegasus Wetland: 2 17/7 BA. Travis Wetland: 1 4/5 KR, 2 24/5 KR, 2 25/6 KR, 1 16/7 KR. Bexley Wetland: 1 imm 15/7 GB. Lincoln Wetlands: 2 13/5 EG. Embankment Road: 4 17/6 EG & SW. Yarrs Bay: 7 18/7 PR & BA. Harts Creek: 2 1/7 DL. Timberyard Point, Lakeside: 2 8/6 SH, 2 10/6 BA. Coopers Lagoon: 12 13/5 BA, 8 22/6 BA, 2 18/7 PR. Rakaia RM lagoon, northern side: 2 10/6 BA. Spider Lagoon: a flock of 11 flew north 29/5 PS, 2 10/6 AC.

**Australasian Shoveler (S)** Kaiapoi WTP: approx. 140 13/5 SP. Washdyke Lagoon: 232 16/5 PS.

**Muscovy Duck (S)** The Groynes: 7 18/7 BA. Riccarton Bush: 1 13/5 AG. Westland Reserve, Halswell: 4 2/5 PR, 4 9/5 BA, 4 10/5 PR, 4 13/5 EG, 5 9/6 PR, 4 10/7 PR. Lincoln Wetlands: 4 13/5 EG.

## The Wrybill - August 2017

**New Zealand Scaup (S)** Lake Forsyth: 320 15/7 BA. Lake Evelyn: 200 26/6 DL. Lake Henrietta: 62 26/6 DL. Lake Heron: 400 27/6 DL. Lake Clearwater: 300 27/6 DL.

**Indian Peafowl (A)** Factory Road, Sefton: 8 11/6 BA. Okoura Farm nr Birdlings Flat: 1 fem 1/5 "last one at Okoura Farm, others have been shot" PC, KR.

**Chukar (A)** Mt John Lower Lake Track: 13 30/5 PSh & BNZ Wairarapa.

**Feral Turkey (A)** Okoura Farm nr Birdlings Flat: 1 fem 1/5 PC, KR.

**Australasian Crested Grebe (A)** Lake Roto Kohatu: 4 ad 1 imm 10/5 BA. Catons Bay, Lake Forsyth: 1 1/5 PC, 3 2/5 PC. Lake Forsyth: 5 7/5 MS, 82 30/5 AC, 101 2/7 PC, 21 15/7 BA. Kaituna Lagoon: 2 9/6 SH. Kaitorete Spit: 1 17/6 PC. Coopers Lagoon: 2 22/6 BA, 1 18/7 PR. Lake Evelyn: 1 26/6 DL. Lake Selfe: 8 26/6 DL. Lake Henrietta: 4 26/6 DL. Lake Clearwater: 2 27/6 DL. Lake Tekapo southern shore: 2 30/5 TdL, PSh & BNZ Wairarapa. Lake Ruataniwha, Wairepo Arm: 2 12/5 PR. Kelland Pools: 1 22/5 LF. Wainono Lagoon: 1 16/6 PS & DS.

**Northern Buller's Albatross (A)** Albatross Encounters pelagic: at least 1 11/6 MD.

**Light-mantled Sooty Albatross (A)** Off Kaikoura: 1 imm 8/6 AE.

**Antarctic Prion (A)** Albatross Encounters pelagic: 1 11/6 MD.

**Grey Petrel (A)** Albatross Encounters pelagic: 1 11/6 MD.

**Little Black Shag (A)** Pegasus Wetlands: 1 17/7 BA. Brooklands Lagoon: 2 13/5 TR. Lincoln Wetlands: 1 24/5 JWa. Wolfes Road bay: 13 18/7 PR & BA.

**Pied Shag (S)** Harts Creek: 47 in large nesting colony 27/6 PR, 50 1/7 DL.

**Australasian Bittern (A)** Travis Wetland: 1 2/5 MA.

**White Heron (A)** Tulls Road, Waikuku: 1 20/7 BA. Little Ashley Stream, Waikuku: 1 22/5 BA. SH1, Waikuku: 1 12/7 BA. Ashley Estuary, Raupo Berm 1 18/6 NA. Taranaki Creek Lagoon, Waikuku: 1 8/6 BA. Gressons Road, Waikuku: 1 10/6 MD. Pegasus Wetlands: 1 13/5 BA, 1 12/7 BA, 2 17/7 BA. Linwood Canal: 1 29/4 IK, 1 2/7 MD. Lake Forsyth: 2 21/6 AC, 2 15/7 BA. Kaitorete Spit, Coop's: 1 17/6 AC. Halswell Flats, Lake Ellesmere: 2 17/6 KR, NMo & MH. Yarr's

Bay: 2 17/6 EG & SW. Timberyard Point, Lakeside: 1 10/6 BA.

**White-faced Heron (S)** Tulls Road, Waikuku: 150 31/5 EG.

**Reef Heron (A)** Jimmy Armer's Beach, Kaikoura: 1 26/5 AHo, 1 11/6 MD.

**Cattle Egret (A)** Tulls Road, Waikuku: 2 22/5 JH, BA, 3 23/5 JH, 3 24/5 BA, 3 28/5 KH, 30/5 JH, BA, 3 31/5 EG, 1 8/6 BA. The Lake Road: 2 13/5 BA, 7 15/7 PC, 13 18/7 BA & PR, 2 19/7 MD.

**Glossy Ibis (A)** Tulls Road, Waikuku: 1 30/5 JH, BA, 31/5 EG, 8/6 BA, 10/6 MD. Kaiapoi Pa Road, Waikuku: 1 3/7 BA, 1 17/7 BA.

**Marsh Crake (A)** Travis Wetland: 1 20/5 MA.

**Pukeko (S)** Linwood Paddocks: 150 11/7 BA & BirdsNZ Canterbury. Harts Creek: 62 1/7 DL.

**Australian Coot (S)** Styx Mill Walkway: 54 3/6, 70 1/7 SLLT Bird. Travis Wetland: 1 25/6 KR. Lake Heron: 27 27/6 DL.

**Black Stilt (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 2/5 BA, 13/5 BA, LB, 18/5 BA, 8/6 BA, 9/6 SH, 18/6 NA. Kaiapoi Pa Road, Waikuku: 1 25/7 BA. Kaituna Lagoon: 1 2/7 JV. Tasman Fan: 4 22/5 LF.

**South Island Pied Oystercatcher (S)** Ashley Estuary: 260 29/4 BA, 312 18/6 NA. Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 1359 30/6 AC.

**Variable Oystercatcher (S)** Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 107 30/6 AC.

**Spur-winged Plover (S)** Ashley River, Smarts Road area: 105 roosting in riverbed 8/5 BA.

**Shore Plover (S)** Thinornis Bay, Rangatira, Chatham Is: 3 pairs & 1 juv roosting at high tide 9/4 AH. Whalers Bay, Rangatira: 2 16/4 AH. Front Landing, Rangatira: 4 19/4 AH.

**Black-fronted Dotterel (A)** Waipara RM: 1 6/5 KR, 2 18/6 NA. Washdyke Lagoon: 3 16/5 PS, 2 17/6 PS & JS.

**Wrybill (A)** Greenpark Sands, Jarvis-Embankment Roads: 1 17/6 JWa. Washdyke Lagoon: 1 16/5 PS, 1 17/6 PS & JS.

**Bar-tailed Godwit (S)** Brooklands Lagoon: 15 21/5 BA, 16 27/6 AC. Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 107 30/6 AC.

**Turnstone (A)** Point Kean, Kaikoura: 10 4/7 PM, 6 16/7 PM. Kaikoura Peninsula: 19 24/7 PM.

## The Wrybill - August 2017

**Red-necked Stint (A)** Kaitorete Spit tip: 5 17/6 PC.  
**Arctic Skua (S)** Point Kean, Kaikoura: 1 6/7 PM.  
**Black-billed Gull (S)** Ashley Estuary: 212 (1 banded red on left and A35/metal on right) BA, 300 9/6 SH.  
**Red-billed Gull (S)** Kaikoura Peninsula: 500 24/7 PM.  
**Gull-billed Tern (V)** Lake Forsyth: 1 30/5 AC. Kaituna Lagoon: 1 24/6 ID. Lake Ellesmere, Halswell Flats: 1 19/6 KR, NMo & MH. Lake Ellesmere near Halswell RM: 4 22/7 PC. Greenpark Huts-Jarvis Road: 1 17/6 BD. Jarvis-Embankment Roads: 2 17/6 JWa. Embankment Road: 3 17/6 EG & SW, 1 24/6 ID. Kaitorete Spit: 4 24/6 ID. Selwyn Huts: 5 25/6 ID.  
**Caspian Tern (S)** Ashley Estuary: 23 29/4 BA, 21 18/5 BA. Brooklands Lagoon: 11 27/6 AC. Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 16 30/6 AC. Lake Forsyth: 12 21/6 AC.  
**White-winged Black Tern (A)** Bromley Oxidation Ponds: 1 juv/imm 5/6 AC, 1 24/6 ID, 1 1/7 EG, 1 5/7, 13/7, 14/7 GB, 1 16/7 PC.  
**Black-f roned Tern (S)** Point Kean, Kaikoura: 50 late afternoon 5/7 PM, 6/7 PM. Ashley Estuary: 83 (1 banded metal on left and yellow flag JF on right) BA.  
**White-f roned Tern (S)** Ashley Estuary: 250 13/5 LB.  
**Barbary Dove (A)** Akaroa Harbour: 1 29/4 DE.  
**New Zealand Pigeon (S)** Avon-Heathcote Estuary, windsurf area: 1 flew across estuary heading south 26/4 PR.  
**New Zealand Kingfisher (S)** Ashley Estuary: 11, including 6 on one branch 18/5 BA.  
**New Zealand Falcon (A)** Kaikoura Peninsula: 1 22/7 PM. Bush Gully bridge, Clarence River: 1 6/7 NM. Hope Valley, Lake Sumner FP: 1 26/5 MR. Lake Daniells Track: 1 24/6 SH. Mount White: 1 15/7 JM. E of Prices Valley: 1 9/5 PC. N of Little River: 1 8/5 KR, 1 14/5 PC, 1m 1f 10/7 PC. Little River: 1 10/7 PC. Upper Prices Valley: 1 11/7 PC. Hill behind Catons Bay, Lake Forsyth: 1 1/5 PC, KR. Lake Ellesmere, Halswell Flats: 1 17/6 RHe & MR. Mount Potts lookout: 1 imm 27/6 DL. Pleasant Valley: 1 24/5 PS. Round Hill, Lilybank Road: 1 24/7 RH. Mt John Lower Lake Track: 2 30/5 PSh & BNZ Wairarapa. Mueller Lookout Walk: 1 25/5 PT. Governor's Bush Track, Mount Cook: 1 7/5 MaS.  
**Kea (S)** Death's Corner Lookout: 15 feeding in a flock on rock face above car park 7/5 KG, Otira Valley: flock of 10-15 23/7 BW.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (A)** Prices Valley: approx. 30 13/5 JW, 19 15/7 BA. SH75 near Bayleys Road, Birdlings Flat: 12 26/4 PC, 2 1/5 PC, KR.  
**Eastern Rosella (A)** Victoria Park: 1 28/6 MR.  
**Tui (S)** Factory Road, Hapuku: 2 5/7 PM, 2 11/7 PM. Lyttelton Harbour: present 13/5 JW. Okuti Valley Road: 2 15/7 BA. Opuha Nursery, Geraldine: 5 in flowering gum 21/5 PS. Pleasant Valley: 3 24/5 PS.  
**Cirl Bunting (A)** Linwood Paddocks: 2 11/7 BA & BirdsNZ Canterbury. Awatea Road Flood Pond: 1 male 5/5 PR. Halswell Quarry Park: 2 13/5 EG, Fibonacci Way, Leeston 3 10/6 BA, 8 1/7 BA.

BA Bev Alexander, NA Nick Allen, MA Michael Ashbee, LB Lisa Babcock, GB Graham Bell, AC Andrew Crossland, PC Phil Crutchley, BD Brian Darlow, ID Igor Debski, MD Matthias Dehling, TdL Toni de Lautour, AE Albatross Encounters, DE D England, LF Les Feasey, KG Ken George, EG Eleanor Gunby, AG Angela Guy, JH Jill Hanna, MH Mike Hargraves, AH Annette Harvey, RHe Robbie Hewson, AHo Ailsa Howard, KH Kirsten Hunter, RH Rachel Hufton, SH Shawn Herron, IK Ian Kington, DL David Lawrie, NM Nikki McArthur, PM Paul Maury, NMo Nigel Morrith, JM John Moss, SP Sheila Petch, TR Trevor Raines, PR Peter Reese, KR Kenny Rose, MR Matt Rose, DS David Sagar, JS Joy Sagar, PS Paul Sagar, PSh Paul Shortis, MS Marc Simmel, MaS Matthew Sim, PT Peter Taylor, JV J van Baar, JWa Jan Walker, SW Sandra Wallace, BW Ben Weatherly, JW Jill West.





Sheila Petch & Andy Anderson (from Cairns, Australia), birding friends for some 35 years. Photo courtesy of Bev Alexander.

### Canterbury Region Contacts

Regional Representative: Sandra Wallace  
31 Westmont Street, Christchurch 8041  
Ph 358 5706  
Email: sandraw67@gmail.com

Regional Recorder: Nick Allen  
11 Seagrave Place, Christchurch 8041  
Ph 03 358 5994  
Email: nick\_allen@xtra.co.nz

Education and Outings Officer: 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: Eleanor Gunby  
31 Westmont Street, Christchurch 8041  
Ph 358 5706  
Email: eleanor.gunby@gmail.com

# CANTERBURY WADER COUNT JUNE 2017

Species	Waipara RM	Ashley/Swater Crk Est	Taranaki Creek Paddocks	Waimakariri Bridges	Brooklands Lagoon	Travis Wetland	Avon-Heathcote Estuary	Lyttelton Harbour	Port Levy	Pigeon Bay	Okains Bay	Akaroa Harbour	Lake Forsyth	Ahuriri Lagoon	Tip of Kaitorete Spit	Kaitorete Spit	Birdlings A	Birdlings B	Kaituna Lagoon	Halswell Flats B	Halswell Flats A	Osbornes
Counters/NC	NA	NA	NA	AC	AC	AC,PC, JS,TR	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	RH,NMo, MR,KR,MH	PC	PC	AC	AC	AC	KR, NMo, MH	RH,MR	DH, UH, WH
Notes	18-Jun	18-Jun	18-Jun	27-Jun	27-Jun	14-Jun	30-Jun	30-Jun	21-Jun	21-Jun	21-Jun	21-Jun	21-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun
Date counted																						
Aus Crested Grebe																						
Mute Swan																						
White Heron	1												2									
Royal Spoonbill	3																					
Pied Oystercatcher	312			1	50	16	1359	228	44	30	49	207			2		2	1	5	3		
Variable Oystercatcher	18				10		107	17	1	13	13	34	7									
Hybrid Oystercatcher	15																					
Pied Stilt	54			2	41	10	61	36			10	16	24	61	14	10	2	16	59	114	87	9
Black Stilt	1																					
Hybrid Stilt	1																					
Banded Dotterel	31				5		42								64	39	82	365	20	2		2
Black-fronted Dotterel	2																					
Wrybill																						
Spur-winged Plover	1		10	6	24	31	49	6	8	2	41	6	50	236	5	11	26	81	117	10	2	2
Red-necked Stint															5							
Bar-tailed Godwit					16		107	1														
Black-billed Gull	39																					
White-winged Tern							1															
Gull-billed Tern																						
Black-fronted Tern	10	17													7					1		
Caspian Tern		7		1	11		16					2	12		5	1			4			
White-fronted Tern		2																				
New Zealand Falcon																						
Site totals	13	501	10	10	157	57	1742	288	53	45	113	265	95	297	102	62	112	465	205	148	90	19
Wader site totals	3	432	10	9	146	57	1725	288	53	45	113	263	81	297	90	90	60	463	201	130	89	13
% of total count	0.05	7.19	0.17	0.15	2.43	0.95	28.70	4.79	0.88	0.75	1.88	4.38	1.35	4.94	1.50	1.50	1.00	7.70	3.34	2.16	1.48	0.22
# wader species at site	2	7	1	3	6	3	6	5	3	3	4	4	3	2	5	5	3	4	4	5	2	3

Bev Alexander = BA Nick Allen = NA Grant Bowden = GB Scott Butcher = SB Andrew Crossland = AC Phil Crutchley = PC Brian Darlow = BD Eleanor Gurnby = EG Mike Hargraves = MH Duane Harland = DH William Harland Una Harland = UH Robbie Hewson = RH Nigel Morrill = NMo Niall Muggan = NM Tom Rauto = TR Kenny Rose = KR Matt Rose = MR Joy Sagar = JSa Paul Sagar = PS David Sagar = DS John Skilton = JS David Thomas = DT Jan Walker = JW Sandra Wallace = SW Peter Wilson = PW

Lake Ellesmere 4/7/16 = 1.11 m, closed.

Species	Greenpark Huts-Jarvis Road	Jarvis-Embankment Rds	Embankment Rd	Yarvs Flat	LII RM to Selwyn Huts	Rennie's Bay	Irwell RM	Drain Road	Harts Creek	Timberyard Point	Johnston's Bay	Lower Lake Road Flats/Paddocks	Fishermans Point	Subtotal Lake Ellesmere	Coopers Lagoon	Rangitata RM	Spider Lagoon	Ophi RM	Washdyke Lagoon	Ki-Wainono	TOTAL	
Counters/NC	BD	JW	EG, SW	EG, SW	NM	n/c	BA	n/c	BA	BA	n/c	BA	BA	BA	BA	AC, SB	PS	PS	PS, JSa	PS, DS		
Notes				EG, SW	17-Jun	17-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	10-Jun	20-Jun	20-Jun	17-Jun	16-Jun		
Date counted	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun	17-Jun		22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	22-Jun	10-Jun	20-Jun	20-Jun	17-Jun	16-Jun		
Aus Crested Grebe														1	2						1	4
Mute Swan			4											4	8							12
White Heron				2										5								8
Royal Spoonbill									1					20								23
Pied Oystercatcher		89	2						2			8		114			1	1	4	1	1	2417
Variable Oystercatcher														0				1	1	24		253
Hybrid Oystercatcher														0								15
Pied Stilt	57	254	47		37		30		32			67		835				4	49	215		1418
Black Stilt														0								1
Hybrid Stilt														1								4
Banded Dotterel	4	17	18		97							7		717				17	34	17		863
Black-fronted Dotterel														0					2			4
Wrybill		1												1					1			2
Spur-winged Plover		88	2		34			16	16	1				411			19	3	2	21		926
Red-necked Stint														5								5
Bar-tailed Godwit		1												1								125
Black-billed Gull		236			23				31	1				294				116	68	39		556
White-winged Tern														0								1
Gull-billed Tern	1	2	3											7								7
Black-fronted Tern														7		105		3	1	3		146
Caspian Tern		1			1									12				1	1	2		65
White-fronted Tern														0				4				6
New Zealand Falcon														1								1
Site totals	62	689	76	2	192	0	30	0	82	2	0	98	0	2436	10	113	20	150	186	301		6862
Wader site totals	61	450	69	0	168	0	30	0	50	1	0	98	0	2063	0	8	20	26	116	256		6011
% of total count	1.01	7.49	1.15	0.00	2.79	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.83	0.02	0.00	1.63	0.00	34.32	0.00	0.13	0.33	0.43	1.93	4.26		100.00
# wader species at site	2	6	4	0	3	0	1	0	3	1	0	4	0	8	0	1	2	5	7	5		11

# Birds New Zealand

## Youth banding camp

Pukorokoro – Miranda Shorebird Centre,  
Labour weekend 20<sup>th</sup>– 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017.

### For keen birders aged 14-18

Under the supervision of level three qualified banders we teach a practical introduction to mist netting, bird handling and banding. We aim to catch song birds in an orchard and in mangroves morning and evening and then waders at night, but there will be time to sleep.

This is intended as an opportunity to gather some of the experience required for formal banding qualifications.

#### Details:

- **How Many:** There are 12 places available.
- **When:** Start time 16:30 Friday 20 October, Finish 13:30 Monday 23 October (you can arrive late - until Saturday morning but you may miss some activities)
- **Where:** Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre, located on the Firth of Thames an hour from Auckland
- **You:** an average level of fitness is required, and you should have a working knowledge of NZ birds.
- **Cost** to participants is \$100.00 food and bunkroom accommodation with shared facilities, snacks not included. If cost is an issue let us know, we may be able to help.
- **Travel:** Pick ups from any suitable airport, train station or bus stop can be arranged. If travel is a problem let us know as we may be able to organise a ride with some else.

**How:** Please register your interest in attending with Ian Southey by email at [iansouthey@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:iansouthey@yahoo.co.nz) We'll get back to you with more detail.

