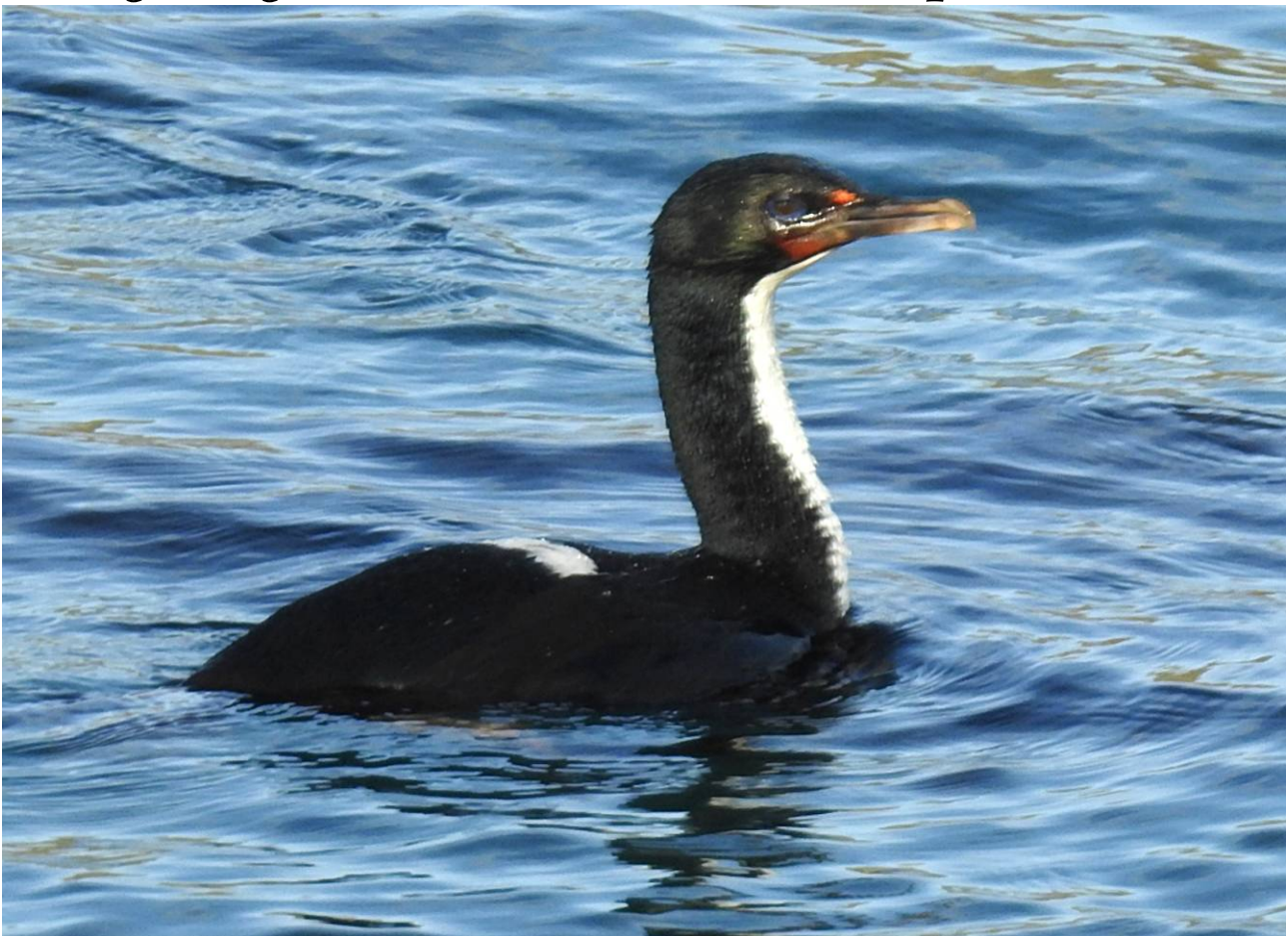


*Birds New Zealand*

Birds New Zealand  
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## *Otago Region Newsletter 9/2015 September 2015*



Janet Ledingham took this photo of this Stewart Island Shag off the Aramoana Mole on 8th September. With the impending split of the species into Otago and Foveaux Shags, pictures of them both in breeding plumage will be very useful. If anyone has good photos from Stewart Island and Foveaux Strait, (or is going down that way soon) please contact Hamish Spencer. [h.spencer@otago.ac.nz](mailto:h.spencer@otago.ac.nz)

## **Notices and Business**

### **Labour Weekend Field Trip at Te Anau**

Good interest was expressed at our last meeting for a weekend field trip so plans are in place for a do-it-yourself weekend field trip at Te Anau. Those coming will organize their own accommodation and food but we will all get together for joint activities during the weekend.

Folks keen to attend should book their own accommodation for Friday night 23rd October through to Monday 26th October. The Te Anau Lakeside Holiday Park has a variety of accommodation types to suit all budgets, so get together with partners and friends and plan to join us. You will need to book because it is a holiday weekend.

If you are coming or are interested please let Mary know so you can be kept up-to-date with any other information.

**Mary Thompson.**

### **Booming Bitterns at Sinclair Wetlands**

If we pick up booms on the acoustic recorders the plan is to try to locate the position (territory) of the booming birds. This will be done in late September or October on calm fine evenings.

To do this we need teams of people to be stationed at sites about 500m apart and to record booms and direction of booms from 30 minutes before sunset for 1.5 hours. We may need to repeat the survey a couple of times. We are following a standard DOC procedure so our monitoring can be used for nation-wide data gathering.

If you would like to be on the on-call email list to participate in this survey, please give your email and cell phone number to Mary; the survey requires calm fine weather so the scheduling will be short notice. Minimum of 4 people needed but more would be better.

### **“Beyond Orokonui” Surveys**

Our surveys of forest birds in the various habitat types in East Otago are taking place at least every second weekend in the mornings during spring.

Please mark these Saturdays in your diaries (with the Sunday as back-up day): 26<sup>th</sup> September; 10<sup>th</sup> October; 7<sup>th</sup> November; 21<sup>st</sup> November; 5<sup>th</sup> December. Depending on volunteer availability, some weekday surveys may take place. We are keen to have as many volunteers as possible as this is an extensive survey and offers of help even for just a few of the surveys would be valuable. Please contact Mary [maryt@actrix.co.nz](mailto:maryt@actrix.co.nz) or Maree ([mareej@kinect.co.nz](mailto:mareej@kinect.co.nz)) if you are interested to get on the email list.

**Spare copies of Notornis**

Mark Hanger has spare copies of Notornis dating from Vol 40, 1993 through to the present day if anyone is interested. Email him and he'll drop them off. [markhanger@naturequest.co.nz](mailto:markhanger@naturequest.co.nz)

**Slim newsletters** like this one make my job as editor easier but surely there must be more stuff/copy/ photos out there? Sightings for Ornithological Snippets have become very few and far between of late, seemingly because of the rise of Ebird and other online sites. If we want recent sightings to continue in the newsletter and be reasonably comprehensive, then maybe we need someone to compile the best and most interesting from these sources? Anyone interested? **Derek Onley**

## Programme 2015

Monthly Indoor Meetings will be held at 7.30pm in the Benham Seminar Room, Benham Building, Department of Zoology, 340 Great King Street.

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Wed Sept 23  | Catriona MacLeod and Priscilla Wehi<br>'Building Trustworthy Biodiversity Indicators'   |
| Sun. 4th Oct | Sinclair Wetland Survey.<br>Contact Mary Thompson 464 0787  |
| Wed Oct. 28  | to be arranged  |
| Sun. Nov. 8  | Summer Wader Count. High tide 1435hrs in<br>Dunedin. Height 1.9m.<br>Contact Peter Schweigman 455 2790<br>peter.schweigman@xtra.co.nz |
| Wed Nov. 25  | Philippa Agnew "Foraging behaviour of Little<br>Blue Penguins at Oamaru."   |

Newsletter editor: Derek Onley, [derekonley@yahoo.com](mailto:derekonley@yahoo.com)

Many thanks to all who contributed.

Final date for contributions to next newsletter: October 17.