

# The Wrybill

Newsletter of the Canterbury Region,  
Ornithological Society of New Zealand

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May 2018

What's on at OSNZ Canterbury:  
May to July 2018

## Field Trips

Saturday 5 May – We'll be exploring different parts of Canterbury as part of the Global Big Day initiative. All the information about the Global Big Day can be found here – <https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-5-may-2018>. To take part in Canterbury's efforts contact Bev at [birdiebev@xtra.co.nz](mailto:birdiebev@xtra.co.nz) or 027 3184 713.

Sunday 17 June – This will be the winter wader count at Lake Ellesmere. Note the change of day to Sunday. This is in an effort to improve the poor turnout for recent wader counts and better suits the city council ranger team who cover much of the lake. Plenty of warm clothes and footwear that you are happy to get wet and muddy will be essential for this. Contact Sandra ([sandraw67@gmail.com](mailto:sandraw67@gmail.com) or 358 5706) by 8 June please, so she has plenty of time to organise teams and ensure that the entire area is surveyed as thoroughly as possible.

Saturday 14 July – A four hour pelagic off Kaikoura. The trip leaves from Kaikoura at 9 am. Cost is currently \$160 per person but will hopefully reduce. Numbers are limited and will be restricted to members only. Be in quick. If you are keen but four hours is too long please let me know. If there is enough interest I may be able to organise a two hour pelagic in July as well. To book contact Sandra ([sandraw67@gmail.com](mailto:sandraw67@gmail.com) or 358-5706).

## Rambles

These are short, easy and informative walks.

May 15 – Otukaikino Reserve at the Belfast/Chaney's Corner, and if time to to the Kaiapoi Lakes.

June 12 – Christchurch Botanic Gardens and/or to the museum.

July 10 – Bexley Wetlands.

Walks will start at 10 am. Please contact Bev, at [birdiebev@xtra.co.nz](mailto:birdiebev@xtra.co.nz) or 027 3184 713, for more information and to say you can come. Let's hope we have better weather. Look forward to seeing you all on these walks.

## 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 May – Courtney Hamblin will speak about her research into Black-fronted Terns, undertaken as part of her Masters degree at Lincoln University.

## The Wrybill - May 2018

25 June – John Dowding will talk on lessons learned from the Chatham Islands Oystercatcher programme.

30 July – Stephanie Galla is a postgraduate student at the University Of Canterbury. She does research on conservation genomics of captive bred kaki. Her presentation will focus on making captive pairing recommendations for this species.

### Birds NZ Youth Camp 2018

This year, Birds NZ's youth camp was held around Southland and Stewart Island. It was longer than other camps, a whole week instead of four or five days. It was also larger than previously with twenty two young birders, including myself and William from Christchurch, attending.

Day one was spent getting all of us to Invercargill. While most people flew into Dunedin, a few arrived directly in Invercargill. They, along with the earliest Dunedin arrivals, did a bit of local birding including finding Fernbird and Brown Creeper. The rest of us were collected from Dunedin just after midday. When we reached Invercargill, we met up with the others, had dinner and went to Lloyd's house for a get together.

Day two started with the very bumpy ferry over to Stewart Island. Upon arriving, we settled into our accomodation and had lunch before heading out to Mamaku Point Reserve, which is surrounded by a predator proof fence. We were given a talk about their predator control work before our short walk. That evening, we walked out to Acker's Point, where we spotted a Little Blue Penguin. Later, some people headed out and managed to see Tokoeka.

Day three was my favourite day of the entire camp. After the short ferry over to Ulva Island, we split into smaller groups to spend the

morning exploring. Everyone saw Red-crowned Kakariki, Brown Creeper, South Island Robin, South Island Saddleback and Yellowhead, and some found Yellow-crowned Kakariki as well, although I dipped on those.



A South Island Saddleback on Ulva Island. Photo by William Harland.

While all those species were exciting, none of them were the highlight of Ulva for me. That came when we reached an area where Lloyd mentioned kiwi had been seen occasionally during the day. If only we could be so lucky, I though enviously. Just then, a rustling sound came from the bushes, and Liam went closer to investigate. Tokoeka! We were treated to excellent views as it moved around in the bushes before walking down the track in front of us.



A Buller's Albatross. Photo by William Harland.

That afternoon was the much anticipated pelagic. I almost decided to skip it after the previous day's ferry ride, but I'm definitely glad I didn't. It seemed like we'd barely left land before White-Capped and Buller's Albatross and Sooty Shearwaters appeared. We were scanning the rocks around Bench Island for penguins when the cry of 'Crested Penguin!' went up. After some deliberating and consulting of field guides, photos and more experienced birders, it was identified as a Snares Crested. As we went further out and started chumming, more seabirds appeared. These included Cape Petrel, Northern Giant Petrel, Common Diving Petrel and, excitingly, Southern Royal Albatross. There were also two Hutton's Shearwaters and two Westland Petrels. On the return trip, we even managed to spot a couple of Yellow-eyed Penguins.



The Snares Crested Penguin. Photo by William Harland.

Day four was a mix of activities on Stewart Island. In the morning, two young birders went back to Ulva Island, while three more hired a boat and did some seabird spotting. The rest of us walked around part of the island. We didn't find much, but it was a great chance to see more of the area. After gathering for lunch, we split up again. Those who hadn't come to camp before had a bird ID and field note taking session. Us old hands divided into three groups – one to do weeding, one to do planting, and one to clear leaf-filled ditches beside a track. We spent the evening listening to presentations

and doing an entertaining drawing exercise. Afterwards, some people went kiwi spotting and managed good views of two Tokoeka.

Day five began with an extremely unexpected bird. While waiting for the ferry, we discovered a Cook's Petrel sheltering in a stack of pellets on the wharf. Ian carefully removed it and put in on the water. Once back on the mainland, we started the drive to Borland Lodge, with a few stops along the way. One was at Tip Lagoon, where we found a very white-breasted Australasian Shoveler – definitely not a Northern, though. No other birds of particular note were spotted until we piled out of the van at Borland to find people from the other vehicle discussing a possible Chestnut-breasted Shelduck that George had spotted in a paddock just a little way back. David shuttled us back down the road, and sure enough, George's ID was right on the money. The rest of the afternoon was spent either observing the shelduck or doing a nature walk in the bush. After dinner, some young birders went to try and spot Little Owl, but to no avail. We were also given an informative and entertaining talk on eBird by Michael and George.

Day six was spent driving to Milford Sound and back with plenty of birding on the way. We stopped briefly at Te Anau foreshore, Mirror Lakes, and a few other areas without seeing anything especially interesting – until we reached Monkey Creek. We could see Kea before we even got out of the vans. We were also treated to excellent views of a pair of Blue Duck. Next stop was Homer Tunnel to try our luck for Rock Wren. Sadly we dipped on these – my biggest disappointment of the trip. Our final stop was at Milford Sound, where we saw a White Heron perching atop the roof of a campervan. We watched in amusement as the campervan drove slowly off down the road with the White Heron still there. Eventually it flew off, only to find a new perch atop another parked car. That evening, most of us decided to mark the last night of camp by abandoning our bunkrooms in favour of a group sleepover in the lounge.



A Blue Duck at Monkey Creek. Photo by William Harland.

Day seven began early since we had to clear up the lodge before hitting the road. We saw the Chestnut-breasted Shelduck one last time as we drove away. On the drive to Dunedin airport, we made two stops of interest. The first was at Rakatu Wetlands, where we got nice views of a couple of Fernbird. The second was at Nugget Point. Highlights were Buller's, White-capped and a Southern Royal Albatross, plus Sooty Shearwater and a Northern Giant Petrel. From there, it was on to the airport to say our goodbyes.

Thank you to everyone who made the camp possible – the other incredible young birders and the amazing adult leaders, especially Lloyd for organizing the whole thing. These youth camps are always brilliant, and this one was certainly no exception, despite the terrible weather! I'd also like to give a big thank you to Birds NZ Canterbury for paying the camp fees for William and me.

By Eleanor Gunby

### RR's Annual Report

2017 was somewhat unusual in that Canterbury has seen a change of RR. At last year's AGM I was elected RR to take over at the start of 2018. However, since Jan had a very busy year line, I ended up taking on the RR's role gradually throughout the year. I apologise if any of you noticed a loss of service. It's taken me a while to get to grips with the role

We ran nine main field trips over the year. Four of these were bird surveys – the annual all bird count at Lake Ellesmere in conjunction with several other agencies, the summer and winter wader counts plus the Ashburton Lakes survey in July. We also visited two spots on Banks Peninsula (Oashore Bush and Le Bons Bay), the Ashburton River mouth, St Anne's lagoon, and made an overnight trip to the West Coast to meet up with some of our West Coast members. Sadly, many of the field trips were poorly attended – with double digits being the exception rather than the norm. This is especially problematic when it comes to wader counts since sending single people into sections is less than ideal from a safety standpoint and makes it more likely that birds are missed. As well as the major field trips we also held nine mid-week rambles at locations in or just outside Christchurch. These continue to be ably organised by Bev and typically attract 7 people.

Our evening meetings regularly attract 20 or more attendees. Last year we were treated to a variety of talks ranging from those focussing on local birds and projects such as Tui, Bellbirds, Rock Wren and the Ashley/Rakahuri river, to those looking further afield in New Zealand (Black Petrels and the long running Wellington bird banding project) and beyond (Peru and the Galapagos Islands) plus one asking the philosophical and provocative question of whether ecological restoration is possible or desirable.

We've also been involved in a few public outreach events this year – the Farewell to the Godwits event, the BioBlitz at Lincoln, a family event during Conservation Week, the annual

Waihora symposium, plus a smaller beach clean up and environmental awareness event at Waikuku Beach. These are all good opportunities to promote our organisation and to share our knowledge of birds with the wider community. We hosted two eBird seminars run by Nikki McArthur, which were a great opportunity to train members and non members alike.

The most exciting development this year has been the establishment of a local passerine banding project. Very big thanks to Peter Reese for enabling this. Currently five people (Andrew Crossland, Phil Crutchley, Kenny Rose, Eleanor Gunby and Ron Nilsson) are working with Peter to obtain their level two banding qualifications. Once they have done that they will be able to band without Peter's physical supervision being required. This will hopefully enable us to expand the scope of the banding. Once they earn a level three certification they will be able to supervise and train other beginner banders. It is a slow process though.

Current membership stands at 121 for Canterbury and 15 for the West Coast. Of some concern is the fact that 30 of these are grace members whose membership will expire if not renewed by the end of the month. The loss of email addresses when providers such as Paradise ceased operating plus the fact that not everyone has provided Birds NZ with a telephone number make it difficult to contact some of them.

I'd like to thank the committee for all they have done over the year. Jan has kindly held my hand and answered a myriad of questions as I've slowly got to grips with the role of RR. Bev continues to run the mid week rambles and can always be relied upon for plenty of helpful people- focused suggestions as to what we can do and how we can try and do things better. Nick does a sterling job as Regional Recorder – I often receive positive feedback on the comprehensiveness and presentation of the recent sightings that he compiles so I know I'm not the only one who appreciates his effort. As always John keeps us on track financially and

Eleanor continues to produce a quality quarterly newsletter. Thanks also to the Ron for sharing his wealth of knowledge and for cutting short his trip to Twizel and racing back to Christchurch just to make a committee meeting!

Finally thanks to you, the members. Every time you attend a meeting or field trip, share a sighting or submit something to Wrybill you benefit others and make this group stronger.

By Sandra Wallace

### Recent Happenings

Our year got off to a busy start field trip wise. Many members participated in the annual bird survey at Lake Ellesmere at the beginning of February. All up over 51,000 birds were counted, well up on the previous three years. Grey Teal were by far the most numerous species, followed by Black Swan, Canada Geese and Pied Stilt. The attached spreadsheet has all the details. Contact Sandra if you would like a spreadsheet that includes all the Canterbury sites.

The following weekend five of us returned to Lake Ellesmere along with a group of 17 from Birds NZ Otago, who were keen to benefit from our local knowledge and see what the lake had to offer. We started at Wolfes Road, which just the week before had been jam-packed with birds, including a good selection of Arctic migrants including at least nine sandpipers. Murphy's Law being what it is the place was practically devoid of any bird life whatsoever, although six Red-necked Stints kindly flew in as we walked back to the cars. After lunch we regrouped to Embankment Road and thankfully found the birds. Plus the weather cooperated – the heavy rain shower that started as we pulled up was mercifully brief. We started walking down the fenceline and it wasn't long before we saw a large group of Wrybills and Banded Dotterel. Careful scoping revealed four Sharp-tailed Sandpipers as well as a Sanderling.

## The Wrybill - May 2018

A week later Sandra and Bev were kept busy by a keen group of KCC youngsters over at South shore, where they were learning all about Bar-tailed Godwits. The optical magic of our scopes was much appreciated. The following week a larger group of us returned to Southshore to lend our scopes and expertise to the public Farewell to the Godwits event. Thanks to all who helped here.

Low numbers led to the postponement of April's planned trip to Hinewai Reserve. Weather conditions may have led to its cancellation anyway. Weather did force the cancellation of two planned rambles but the trip to Liffey Stream did go ahead. Five of us enjoyed a very pleasant 2km stroll, observing fourteen species plus three other taxa along the way. We hope to reschedule Hinewai in the spring.

February's Members Night was somewhat "interesting" as several speakers were unable to attend at the last minute and technical issues plagued the beginning of a video. Still we persevered and had an enjoyable evening, the highlight of which was undoubtedly a quiz Bev put together based on a video compiled by Jill Hanna. In both March and April we benefited from local members sharing their birding experiences both close to home (Halswell, Central Otago and the West Coast) and further afield (Sumatra, Borneo and England). Thanks to Jan, Janet, William, Andrew and Phil.

### Tui and Fantail Awards

In an effort to encourage more active birding and involvement in our group Bev Alexander has kindly donated the Fantail Award and the Tui Award. These will be awarded at our monthly meetings, so long as there is a worthy recipient. The Tui will be awarded for eBird submissions – the most interesting bird, the most submissions or something else that catches Bev's eye. The Fantail is for contributions to the local group such as participation at a meeting or a submission to The Wrybill.

The inaugural recipient of the Fantail was Jill Hanna. Jill is a North Canterbury member who enjoys photographing and videoing birds. Although she is unable to attend meetings, she happily shares her work with us, via the conduit of Bev. A quiz based on one of Jill's videos was the highlight of our Members Night in February.



Jill Hanna with the Fantail award. Photo by Bev Alexander.

Nick Allen was the first to be awarded the Tui. He has been a regular contributor to eBird since it began in New Zealand, and is one of the top 5 all-time Canterbury contributors. In addition, Nick is an eBird moderator, checking to make sure that submissions are as accurate as possible. If you inadvertently enter an incorrect and rare bird Nick could well be the one to check that what you entered is what you actually saw.



Nick Allen with the Tui award. Photo by Bev Alexander.

## The Wrybill - May 2018

In April the Tui was awarded to Phil Crutchley. Phil is a prolific user of eBird and for many years has posted several lists most days. To the end of April Phil had posted 366 lists from Canterbury (more than twice as many as the next highest contributor) recording 86 species (also more than any other contributor).



Phil Crutchley with the Tui award. Photo by Bev Alexander.



Banding a Song Thrush. Photo by Sandra Wallace.

### Passerine Banding Project Update

Our passerine banding and bander training programme is progressing well. We continue to operate from Halswell Quarry. We've managed seven sessions so far this year and everyone (bar Phil who has been away recovering from surgery for most of the year - it was great to finally have him back in action at the end of April) has been getting plenty of hands-on practice and doing a lot of learning about moult scores. We've also had the opportunity to do plenty of informal PR work with interested members of the public.

If you are interested in seeing what we are up to I recommend you check out Peter's blog - <http://wgttnzbanders.blogspot.co.nz>. Or come and visit us in Halswell Quarry. Thursday morning seems to be our regular day but we are not there every week. Contact Sandra and she'll be able to let you know when our next session is planned.

### Forest and Bird Trip to Kaikoura

In mid April, Forest and Bird held a weekend field trip to Kaikoura. Birds NZ member Janet Burton reports "I was invited by Colleen to join her group on a visit to the Hutton's Shearwater breeding area as they had arranged to get involved and help remove the recording/monitor boxes over the winter."



One of the recording devices used at the colony being put away. Photo by Janet Burton.

## The Wrybill - May 2018



A close up look at the Hutton's Shearwater colony.  
Photo by Janet Burton.

### Recent Sightings

#### Canterbury and West Coast Bird Report February to April 2018

This report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> February to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 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 christchurchnzbirder@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

**Great Spotted Kiwi (A)** Pororari River Track, Punakaiki: 1 23/4 OTh.

**Cape Barren Goose (A)** Lower LII Pools: 3 4/4 AC PC.

**Mute Swan (A)** Taranaki Stream, Waikuku: 2 ad 2 juv 7/3 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 4 11/2 BA, 2 18/2 BA. Bromley WTP/Te Huingi Manu: 2 15/4 ACa, EG, MB-S & OTh. Ernie Clark Reserve, Cashmere: 2 (captive?)

15/4 BAI. Lincoln Wetlands: 3 2/4 JW, 7 18/4 PR. Lake Forsyth west end: 3 19/4 PR. Lower LII Pools: 11 4/4 AC PC. Harts Creek: 2 ad 4 juv 26/2 CE. Timberyard Point: 3 4/4 BA. Winchesters Farm nr Coopers Lagoon: 4 24/3 BA. Coopers Lagoon: 8 2/3 PR, 18 24/3 BA, 8 23/4 BA. Washdyke Lagoon: 5 20/3 PS.

**Muscovy Duck (A)** The Groynes: 2 2/4 BA. Travis Wetlands: 1 23/2 MB, 1 24/2 BA. Christchurch Botanic Gardens: 2 11/2 MA, 3 4/3 TB. Riccarton Bush: 1 16/4 BAI. Westlake Reserve Ponds: 4 5/2 PR, 3 4/3 PR, 3 6/4 PR, 3 16/4 PR. Liffey Stream, Lincoln: 1 13/3 OSNZ Canterbury. Ashburton Domain: 1 13/3 PC.

**Blue Duck (A)** Oparara Basin: 2 2/2 A,B,J&SA. Kawhaka Creek: 2 5/4 KW.

**Grey Teal (S)** Embankment Road: 3185 10/2 EG. Washdyke Lagoon: 612 27/2, 812 20/3 PS, 691 19/4 PS.

**New Zealand Scaup (S)** Kaiapoi Ponds: 183 15/4 ACa, EG, MB-S & OTh.

**Helmeted Guineafowl (A)** Mt Hutt Sta: 5 (semi-domestic) 16/2 PR.

**Peafowl (A)** Factory Road, Sefton: 2 m 2/2 BA.

**Wild Turkey (A)** Lakeside Reserve (Lake Ellesmere): 7 3/2 PR.

**Australasian Crested Grebe (A)** Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 1 on nest 9/2 BA, 2 14/2 BA, 2 2/3 BA 2 ad 1 yng 19/3 BA. Pegasus Wetlands: 2 10/3 BA. Kaiapoi Ponds: 1 9/2 AG, 2 ad 2 imm 17/2, 24/2 BA, 2 2/3 BA, 1 ad 1 juv 4/3 KH, 3 ad 1 small chick 9/3 CE, 6 ad 2 yng 10/3 CE, 2ad 1 yng 18/3 BA, 2ad 1 yng 7/4 BA, 1 15/4 ACa, EG, MB-S & OTh. Roto Kohatu: 2 ad 3 juv 13/3 BA. Westlake Reserve Ponds: 1 imm 16/4 PR, 22/4 AC. Catons Bay, Lake Forsyth: 1 12/2 MG&MC, 2 28/2 BA, 3 19/4 PR. Lake Pearson: 2 7/3 AI. Lake Coleridge eastern end: 1 9/3 KR. Lake Heron: 2 16/2 VP, 1 10/3 LB. Lake Tekapo S end: 2 18/2 OT. Lake Pukaki near Glentanner: 2 30/3 PC. Wairepo Arm, Lake Ruataniwha: 5 26/2 JL, 2 5/3 BW, 1 8/3 BdB.

**Australasian Little Grebe (V)** St Anne's Lagoon: 1 25/4 OTh, 28/4 'smalva'.

**Erect-crested Penguin (V)** Stony Bay: 1 13/2 RA.

**Sooty Shearwater (S)** Albatross Encounter,



## The Wrybill - May 2018

Kaikoura: 700 25/4 MH & OTh.

**Pink-footed Shearwater (V)** Albatross Encounter, Kaikoura: 1 12/2 MA, AE.

**Leach's Storm Petrel (A)** Rangatira/South East Island: 1 in burrow incubating an egg 10/2 (first breeding record for New Zealand) GG, GT et al.

**Little Black Shag (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 ad 4 imms 14/2 NA, 2 19/2 KG, 4 7/3 BA, 3 19/3 BA, 10 28/3 BA, 1 7/4 KW, 1 14/4 BA, 1 26/4 OTh. Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 1 8/2 EG. Kaiapoi Ponds: 1 9/2 AG. Lake Kate Sheppard: 5 2/2 PC. Windsurf area Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 2 21/3 JC. McCormacks Bay: 5 2/3 TB. Milford Lagoon: 1 25/4 BM. Washdyke Lagoon rockpools: 1 ad 2 juvs 27/2, 2 20/3 PS.

**Pied Shag (S)** Waimakariri RM: 35 10/3 CE.

**Otago Shag (A)** Ashburton RM: 1 26/3 AC, 3 23/4 AC.

**Spotted Shag (S)** Ashburton RM: c800 26/2 RR, 7180 26/3 AC, 7370 23/4 AC.

**Australasian Bittern (A)** Tutaepatu Lagoon: 1 31/3 BA.

**Reef Heron (A)** Jimmy Armer's Beach: 1 25/4 OTh. South Bay, Kaikoura: 1 7/4 KW. Albatross Encounter pelagic: 1 12/2 MA, 1 25/4 MH & OTh. Paia: 1 16/2, 17/2 SN.

**White Heron (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 14/2 NA, 2/3 EG, 28/3 BA, 21/4 PR, 26/4 OTh, 27/4 DT. Taranaki Creek, Waikuku: 1 14/2 BA, 13/4 BA. Kaiapoi Ponds: 1 9/2 AG. Linwood Canal: 1 29/4 GMc, IK. Little River: 1 6/4 KR PC, Lake Forsyth east end: 3 (2 together) 19/4 PR. Lake Forsyth Birdlings Flat: 1 17/2 OT. Piako Drive, Darfield: 1 landed in garden JH.

**Royal Spoonbill (S)** Ashley Estuary: 20 24/2 MP. Jarvis Road: 100 30/3 KaR. Embankment Road: 50 19/2 KG. Marshalls Island (Lake Ellesmere): 120+ 3/2 PR.

**Pied Stilt (S)** Jarvis Road: 1113 2/4 EG. Yarrs Bay: 600+ 18/2 TC.

**Black Stilt (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 12/2 BA, 13/2 EG, 14/2 NA, 19/2 KG, 25/2 OT, 7/3 BA, 7/3 GK, 9/3 CE, 19/3 BA, 20/3 EG, GM, JMc, 25/3 BA, 27/3 EG, 28/3 BA, 29/3 BA, 2/4 BD, 3/4 BA. 7/4 "bands dirty but appeared to be KOR/KY" KW, 11/4 RB, 14/4 BA, 15/4 ACa, EG, MB-S & OTh, 21/4 PR, 26/4 OTh, 27/4 DT. Lake Murray: 2 10/3 'Mxyzptlk'. Tasman Fan: 2 18/2 OT, 40 25/2 RR, 45 5/3 AI, 51 (2 ad, 11 juv, 38 subad)

6/3 CE, 40 18/3 JC, 7 29/3 PC. Kaki Lagoons, Twizel: 2 27/4 KR.

**South Island Pied Oystercatcher (S)** Southshore Spit, Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 780 roosting on sandbank 24/2 BA. Okarito Lagoon: 250 7/3 CE.

**Pacific Golden Plover (A)** Jarvis Road: 8 30/3 KaR, 14 31/3 AC, 8 1/4 SW, 16 2/4 EG BA, 4 4/4 MA AC, 1 17/4 MA.

**Banded Dotterel (S)** Point Kean: 51 (one banded 1RR-YY, W flag) 10/3 GK. Jarvis Road: 583 2/4 EG, 710 4/4 AC.

**Shore Plover (S)** Mangere Landing, Chatham Is: 18 in one flock 6/3 CM. Thinornis Bay, Rangatira: 22 29/3 CM.

**Black-fronted Dotterel (A)** Waipara RM: 2 27/3 EG. Milford Lagoon: 1 25/4 BM.

**Wrybill (S)** Jarvis Road: 194 31/3 AC, 116 2/4 EG, 150+ 4/4 AC. Embankment Road: 204 10/2 EG, 120 17/2 RS, 60 19/2 KG. Wolfes Road: 119 10/2 BA. Washdyke Lagoon: 1 18/2 RS.

**Grey-tailed Tattler (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 27/3 EG, 29/3 BA, 2/4 BD, 3/4 BA, 7/4 KW, 11/4 RB, 14/4 BA, 15/4 MA, ACa, EG, MB-S & OTh, 21/4 PR, 26/4 OTh, 27/4 DT.

**Bar-tailed Godwit (S)** Ashley Estuary: 209 7/3 BA. Southshore Spit, Avon-Heathcote Estuary: 372 24/2 BA. Okarito Lagoon: 80 7/3 CE. Northern Te Whanga Lagoon (Chatham I): 100 3/3 CM.

**Turnstone (A)** Point Kean, Kaikoura: 5 16/3 PC. Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway: 18 19/3 AvN. South Bay, Kaikoura: 17 7/4 KW. Jarvis Road: 4 31/3 AC. Cape Pattison, Chatham I: 14 5/3 CM.

**Lesser Knot (A)** Ashley Estuary: 1 9/3 CE. Jarvis Road: 2 31/3 AC, 1 1/4 MA, 2 17/4 MA. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 19 8/2 PC, 10 4/3 MAs, 19 15/3 AC. Northern Te Whanga Lagoon: 300 3/3 CM.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (A)** Jarvis Road: 11 30/3 KaR, 4 31/3 AC, 11 1/4 SW, 4 2/4 EG BA, 10 4/4 MA. Embankment Road: 3 4/2 AC, 5 10/2 EG, 4 17/2 EG, RS, 1 19/2 KG, 8 25/3 GK. Wolfes Road: 4 10/2 BA, 2 18/2 TC.

**Curlew Sandpiper (A)** Jarvis Road: 4 31/3 AC, 1 1/4 MA, 3 4/4 MA. Embankment Road: 2 10/2 EG. Wolfes Road: 1 10/2 BA.

**Red-necked Stint (A)** Jarvis Road: 8 31/3 AC, 10 1/4

## The Wrybill - May 2018

MA, 29 2/4 EG, approx. 50 4/4 MA, 57 4/4 AC, 10 8/4 MA, 25 17/4 MA. Embankment Road: 2 4/2 AC, 8 5/2 PRo, 28 10/2 EG, 1 17/2 EG, RS, 6 19/2 KG. Wolfes Road: 21 7/2 AC, 42 10/2 BA, 6 17/2 RS, 2 18/2 TC.

**Sanderling (V)** Embankment Road: 1 17/2 EG, RS, BA, 1 16/3 AC.

**Pectoral Sandpiper (A)** Jarvis Road: 1 6/4 MA. Clarkes Road, Greenpark Sands: 2 8/2 PC, AC. Embankment Road: 2 10/2 EG. Wolfes Road: 2 10/2 BA. Tip of Kaitorete Spit: 2 15/3 AC.

**Gull-billed Tern (V)** Lower LII Pools: 1 4/4 AC PC.

**White-winged Black Tern (A)** Bromley Oxidation Ponds: 1 15/3 AC, 1 16/3 GB.

**White-fronted Tern (S)** Point Kean, Kaikoura: 500 23/2 MB. South-east coast of Pitt Island, Chatham Is: 150 6/3 CM.

**Common Tern (V)** Taumutu: 1 8/2 AC.

**New Zealand Pigeon (S)** Timbervard Point: 1 at unusual location for species 4/4 BA.

**Chatham Island Pigeon (S)** Taiko Camp paddock: 93 27/4 KW.

**Shining Cuckoo (S)** Late birds included: Mount Pleasant: 1 24/3 MR. Ridge Road, Greenpark: 1 31/3 AC.

**New Zealand Kingfisher (S)** Kairakau, Chatham I: 1 5/3 CM, if accepted will be the 6<sup>th</sup> recorded on the Chatham Is.

**Kea (S)** Upper Otira Valley: 3 24/4 OTh, Julia Hut, upper Taipo Valley: 1 1/4 DN. Mueller Hut Route, Mount Cook: 1 30/3 PC. Fox Glacier township: 2 28/4 JMu.

**Kaka (A)** Dillon Hut, Taipo Valley: 1 2/4 DN.

**Suppur-crested Cockatoo (A)** Prices Valley: 40+ 28/2 BA, 16 7/4 BA, 52 19/4 PR. SH75 nr Bayleys Road: 3 18/4 PC.

**New Zealand Falcon (A)** Puhi Puhi Valley: 1 17/2 SN. Lyall Historic Area, Inangahua: 1 2/2 G&LC. SH73 near Cass: 1 3/3 TB. Cave Stream: 1 2/3 JM. Upper Otira Valley: 1 8/3 AI. Dillon Hut, Taipo Valley: 1 2/4 DN. SH6 N of Ross: 1 13/2 MA. Victoria Lake, Hagley Park: 1 17/4 PR. Mt Somers: 1 17/3 LB. Lilybank Road, Lake Tekapo: 2 18/4 PG. Tasman Fan: 1 6/3 CE. Kea Point, Mt Cook: 1 ad 1 juv 5/3 AI. Red Tarn Track, Mount Cook: 1 18/3 JC. Sealy Tarns Track,

Mount Cook: 1 30/3 PC. Mount Cook area: 2 29/3 PC. Franz Josef Glacier Walk: 1 14/2 BP.

**Rock Wren (A)** Upper Otira Valley: 1 6/4 KW, 2 24/4 OTh, 2 25/4 PB.

**Tomtit (S)** Upper Sefton Road nr Sefton: 1 m in garden 27/2 JHa. Eyrewell Forest: 1 27/4 DH.

**Robin (S)** Cockayne Nature Walk, Kellys Creek: 2 18/3 PC.

**Common Myna (V)** New Brighton Road, Hawke Street, Keyes Road, Pratt Street area of Christchurch: 1 9/4 JS, 11/4 JS, 12/4 GB, 17-19/4 JS, 19/4 GB, 29/4 PC.

**Australasian Pipit (S)** Te Hurunui Drive, Pegasus Township: 11 6/4 BA.

**Girl Bunting (A)** Scarborough Street, Kaikoura: 1 24/2 MB. Point Kean, Kaikoura: 2 15/2 RR. South Bay, Kaikoura: 1 16/2 RR. Victoria Park main driveway: 1 29/4 PC. Halswell Quarry Park: 1 16/2 NA.

Observers:

A,B,J&SA Annie, Ben, Jackson & Shem Abramovitz, BA Bev Alexander, NA Nick Allen, BAI Brent Allred, MA Matt Anderson, MAs Michael Ashbee, RA Rich Armstrong, GB Grahame Bell, PB Peter Bellingham, RB Richard Bonser, MB Mario Botros, TB Thomas Brown, LB Lori Brummer, MB-S Michael Burton-Smith, ACa Amber Calman, MC Marthe Charlebois, JC Julie Clark, G&LC Gary & Louise Clewley, TC Tim Cole, AC Andrew Crossland, PC Philip Crutchley, BD Benjamin Davis, BdB Bill de Belin, CE Cameron Eckert, AE Albatross Encounters, PG Penelope Gillette, GG Gemma Green, MG Marc Gregoire, KG Kay Grinnell, EG Eleanor Gunby, AG Alan Gutsell, DH Don Hadden, JHa Jill Hanna, JH J Heffernan, MH Mark Herse, AI Ann Inouye, GK Glenn Kincaid, IK Ian Kington, JL Jesse Lee, JM Josh McGeehan, GMc Greg McKenzie, BM Bruce McKinlay, GM Gabriel McMurren, JMc Juliet McMurren, CM Colin Miskelly, JMu Jess Murphy, DN Dean Nelson, SN Stuart Nicholson, VP Viola Palmer, MP Marvin Piwoni, BP Bryan Pugh, PR Peter Reese, RR Ron Ridout, PRo Paul Roisen, KaR Karen Rose, KR Kenny Rose, PS Paul Sagar, RS Richard Schofield, JS John Stewart, OT Oliver Tan, GT Graeme Taylor, DT David Thomas,

OTh Oscar Thomas, AvN Andrew van Norstrand, JW  
Jan Walker, BW Bob Wheeler, KW Kailash Willis, SW  
Steve Wratten.

### The Bittern Award



Jan Walker was presented with the Phil Howell award at our AGM for her outstanding services to the Canterbury branch during her long tenure as RR. Photo by Bev Alexander.

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# TE WAIHORA/LAKE ELLESMERE WETLAND BIRD COUNT 10 FEBRUARY 2018

Wind affected lake level (10/2/2018) was 0.80m and the lake was closed to the sea. Weather (Christchurch Airport): Minimum 13 °C, maximum 24°C, wind SSW < 9km/h to 12 noon, E rising to 15km/h by 2.30pm, and a max of around 30km/h at 5.30pm

Species	Kaitoreke Tip	Kaitoreke Spit	Bridlings-Flat A	Bridlings-Flat B	Kaituna lagoon	Halswell Flats B	Halswell Flats A	Osbornes	Eastern Greenpark	Embankment Road	Yarrrs Flat	Selwyn	Rennies Bay	Doyleston	Harts Creek	Lakeside	Taumutu	SPECIES TOTALS 2018	Species group totals	SPECIES TOTALS 2017	Species group totals	SPECIES TOTALS 2016	Species group totals	SPECIES TOTALS 2015	Species group totals	SPECIES TOTALS 2014	Species group totals	SPECIES TOTALS 2013	Species group totals	Species groups	
Aus Crested Grebe																		0		0		2		1		3		2			
Black Shag	6	34	9	16	18	4	11	1	5	3	2	5	4	4	2	67	22	213	246	341	339	339	615	396							
Pied Shag	3	19	7		1	29	3	8			4	8	34	2	13	18	69	218	212	187	137	137	240	159							
Little Shag		4	1		1	22		1				2	5			17	1	54	18	15	6	6	51	28							
Spotted Shag	1																	1	486	4	480	3	546	0	482	4	910	2	585		
White Heron															1			1	1		0	4	4	3	5						
White-faced Heron		4	3	2	25		1	10	1		3	2	5	6	3	3	6	74	21	39	78	78	92	99							
Australasian Bittern																		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1						
Royal Spoonbill	3	37	5	88	1	109	4		7	36	1	151	23	12	35	269	4	785	860	720	742	656	696	689	771	871	966	531	636		
Mute Swan															2			2	5	5	6	6	9	14	6						
Black Swan	47	310	114	67	2968	1375	309	51	765	919	976	983	205	115	64	245	18	9531	5898	7186	5528	5528	7473	8598							
Feral Goose												14	143	31		273		461	507	206	206	291	291	443	530						
Canada Goose	76	713	282	811	30	189	188		493	366	6	492	254			371		4271	4848	4537	4537	3312	3312	3777	5576						
Cape Barren Goose																		0	1		2	2	3								
Paradise Shelduck		2	4	9	595	1143	165		99	60	218	14	207	3	13	1		2533	3423	4085	4085	4548	4548	5148	4163						
Chestnut-breasted shelduck																		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0						
duck sp														33	27			60	0	0	0	0	749	696	1942						
Mallard (& Grey Duck hybrids)	30	108	84	48	231	34		79	185		24	114	153	166	638	188	50	2132	2227	1896	1896	2610	5173	5916							
Australasian Shoveler	1	408	304	53	1117	264		18	389		314	118	10	409		15	88	3508	1838	2086	2086	2070	2070	5893	5173						
Grey Teal	235	1688	307	46	5345	793	1265	101	449	1266	3185	1852	271	394	5	547	24	17773	12832	12565	12565	13145	12504	13102							
grey teal/shoveler																		0	1043		80	80	2947	780							
New Zealand Scaup	1				27	1				6			5		28	24	275	367	40638	187	32809	170	32820	70	36282	12	41913	82	45088		
Australasian Harrier		4	4	6	7	1	3	2	5	10	2	2	2	6	2	12	4	72	75	75	75	76	76	67	67						
Pukeko			6	4	19	10						6	16	13	9	2		85	29	29	87	90	90	97	114						
Variable Oystercatcher																		0	0	0	0	0	0	2							
Pied Oystercatcher	6	1		1		4				1								13	18	12	12	18	17	17	33						
Pied Stilt	15	278	143	329	525	832	83	37	519	410	361	82	134	70	159	161	23	4161	2821	3261	3261	4777	4959	3726							
Black Stilt																		0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2						
Hybrid Stilt					1					3	1							5	2	3	3	2	2	0	4						
Banded Dotterel	185	157	36	230		194			560	156	82	81	18			6		1705	2831	1323	1323	2325	1496	1228							
Wrybill	13	1		3					18	64	204			2		2		307	291	216	216	167	243	429							
Spur-winged Plover	1	16	12	15	78	12		4	2	1			4		2			147	6338	259	6222	66	4883	169	7460	328	7047	197	5619		
Turnstone									2									2	7			0	0	4	1						
Marsh Sandpiper (seen 12/2)																		0	1												
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	16								2		5							23	1	9	9	3	18	12							
Red-necked Stint		1								1	28							30	45	23	23	61	44	34							
Bar-tailed Godwit		3				47			37	1	7							95	182	224	224	189	120	436							
Pacific Golden Plover									98										98	15	24	24	10	45	7						
Red Knot	19																	19	42	44	44	40	44	9							
Curlew Sandpiper											2							2	4	3	3	9	18	2							
Pectoral Sandpiper											2							2	3	2	2	0	6	3							
Sanderling										1								1	1	0	0	1	2	2							
Common Greenshank																		0	272	0	301	0	329	0	313	1	302				
Arctic Skua																		0	2												
Black-backed Gull	103	149	1	16	8	419	29	13	126	13	6	54	13	14	2	78	9	1053	1263	878	878	812	691	1733							
Red-billed Gull									1	8				1	1	10	7	28	72	16	16	43	38	57							
Black-billed Gull	3	54	9	27	1		10	46		46	5	33	14	9		14		271	409	183	183	433	2359	829							
Black-fronted Tern	13		1	1		2			9									29	21	34	34	23	61	46							
White-winged black tern																		0	1												
White-fronted Tern				2		1							1					29	29	166	166	48	175	59							
Common Tern																		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Caspian Tern	2	13					1	23				38	4	1		19		101	91	115	115	113	386	405							
Gull-billed Tern																		0	1512	0	1888	0	1392	2	1474	16	3726	7	3136		
New Zealand Kingfisher														1		1		2	3		3	1	10	6	4						
Welcome Swallow	50	258	164	96	24	214	102	31	202	195		45	31	23	53	49	5	1542	303	759	759	899	127								
Site totals	828	4263	1496	1870	11022	5699	2163	368	4050	3512	5479	4030	1611	1321	1088	2339	668	51807	42852	41590	41590	47858	55164	55755							