

Birds New Zealand

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PO Box 834, Nelson. osnz.org.nz

Regional Representative: Mary Thompson

197 Balmacewen Rd, Dunedin. 03464787

Regional Recorder: Jim Wilson

PO Box 6149, Dunedin 9059 jim.wilson@actrix.co.nz

Otago Region Newsletter 7/2014 September 2014

“Beyond Orokonui” Field Trips and forest bird counts



At the briefing at Kelvin's Manse Rd farm. Photo by Mary

The first survey day was blessed with stunning sunny calm spring weather and about 14 people turned up at Manse Road farm just off Blueskin Bay, to practise survey methods for Beyond Orokonui survey.



Mt Watkins: Maree, Jinty, Mary, Pat, Francie, Lesley; photo by Jean Fleming

The method has now been fine-tuned to 5 minute bird counts in each habitat type marked by GPS. The next trip was to the Mt Watkin area with 8 intrepid surveyors lead by Kelvin. There was fine drizzle all morning but very calm conditions so listening for birds was excellent.

We all rendezvoused for lunch and on comparing notes found we had counted at 24 sites which was not too bad as some areas required clambering through gorse. Mt Watkin has large areas of kanuka forest as well as some areas of regenerating podocarp forest. We regularly encountered many brown creeper, silvereys, tomtit, fantails, bellbird and a few riflemen.

We plan to undertake group surveys every second weekend so please put these in your diary: 27th Sept, 11th Oct, 8th Nov, 22nd Nov, and 6 Dec. We can always use more counters even if you are only available for one or two days, so please let Mary know if you would like to be added to the email list for this survey.

Notices and Business

Little Shag Nesting Areas

During the recent Wader Count Jill Hamel and Lala Frazer were amazed to count 414 Little shags roosting in trees and on boatsheds between Bayfield Inlet and Taiaroa Head. This is the largest number either of them have counted before. This was despite two trees that previously held a large number of Little shags now having been abandoned.

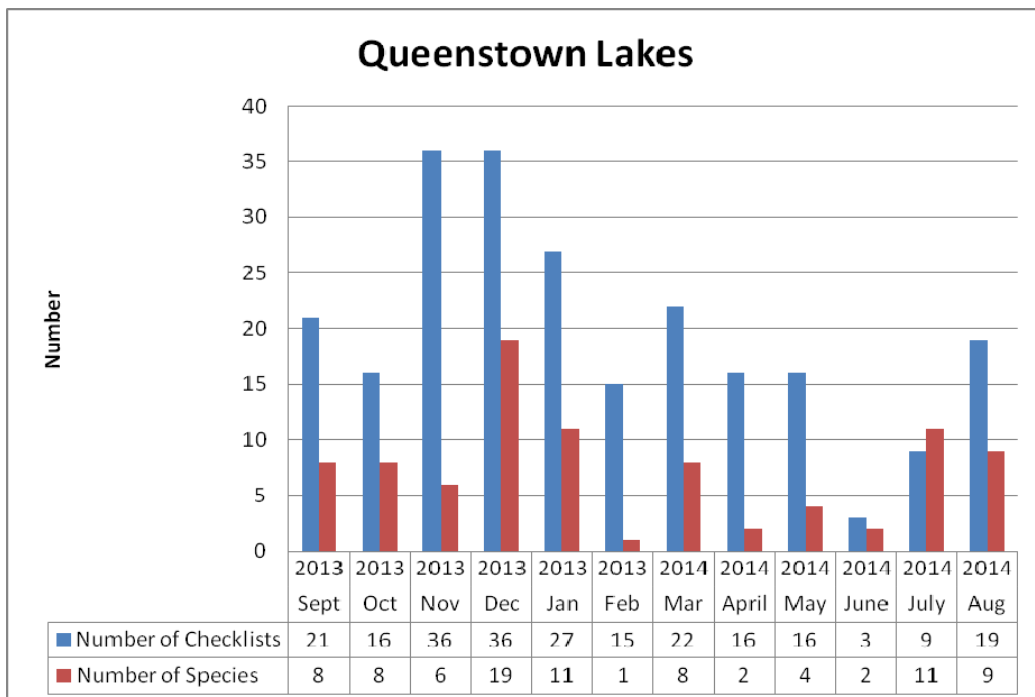
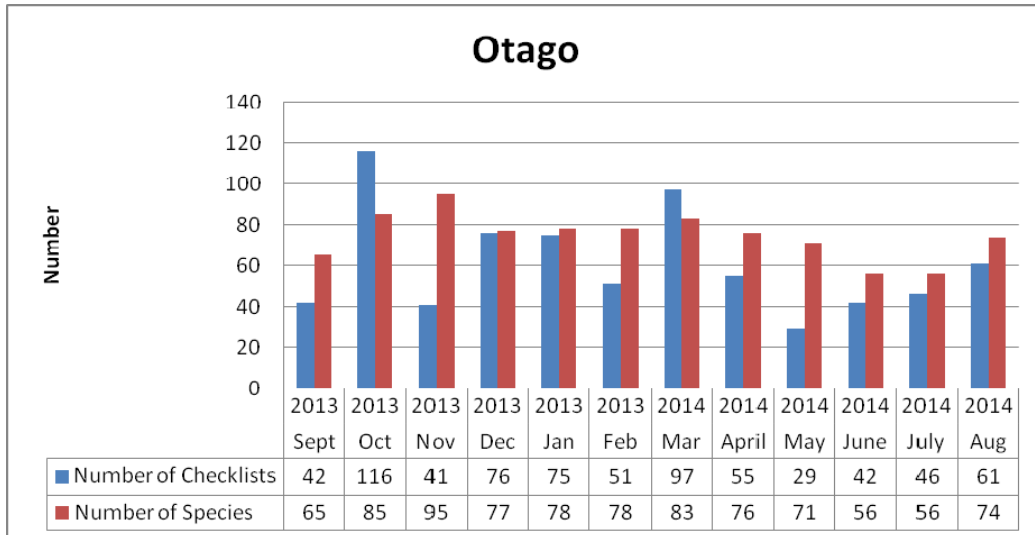
Linden Perriman reports that last season there were between 20 to 30 breeding pairs at Taiaroa Head and Gordon Douglas from Quarantine Island reports nesting there. Lala would like to hear of any other nesting areas in the Dunedin area. Email <lala.frazer@gmail.com>.

Lala Frazer



Regional Recorders eBird Report

Thank you to those of you who submitted to eBird the 61 check lists in August 2014. It is great to see the level of birding activity in Queenstown Lakes district and this month I have included the eBird data for last 12 months.



If you have any question regarding eBird I am happy to talk to you. Like every one I am still learning but I am more than willing to share my knowledge or try and find answers to your questions.

Jim Wilson Regional Recorder

Programme 2014

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

- Wed September 24 Jean Fleming. 'Learning to be a "birder"
a report on Heritage Expedition's Birding the
Pacific.'
- Sat September 27 Beyond Orokonui fieldtrip to Silverstream
Water-race tracks. Meet at carpark at end
of Silverstream Valley Road at 8.30 am.
For more info contact Mary 464 0787.
- Wed October 22 Derek Onley. The birds of Hawksbury
Lagoon-results of 4 years of surveys.
- Sat October 18 Seabird Trip We will join Forest and Bird.
Deborah Bay to beyond Taiaroa Head. Meet
Botany carpark (cnr Union and Great King St.
SH1 North) 7.30am or Deborah Bay 8.00am.
Cost \$100. Bookings essential. Contact
Graeme Loh 487 6125 or gloh@doc.govt.nz
- Sun November 16 Summer Wader Count. HT 10.50am, 1.8m.
Contact Peter Schweigman 4552790
peter.schweigman@xtra.co.nz
- Wed November 26 Direct from the Galapagos
Franny Cunninghame

Newsletter editor: Derek Onley, derekonley@yahoo.com

Many thanks to all who contributed.

Final date for copy for next newsletter 16 October.