

## **September OSNZ Otago Update**

### **Memo from Mary Thompson**

#### **September Indoor Meeting**

The fourth Wednesday of the month has crept up on us very quickly; it is this Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September. We are looking forward to hearing about Murray Efford's studies of tuis and bellbirds and hopefully also about some aspects of his recent time in USA.

#### **October meeting**

I have been talking to the Otago Museum people about having a tour of the Museum bird and egg vaults with Cody Fraser, Natural Sciences Collections curator, as our guide. The plan was for this to be the October Meeting on Wed 27<sup>th</sup> October. There was quite a bit of interest expressed in this but since then I have found that this tour would cost us each \$25 so I am a little reluctant to confirm this event until I hear from you how many would be attending; so please could you email me your interest ASAP. [maryt@actrix.co.nz](mailto:maryt@actrix.co.nz)

#### **NZ Falcon Survey Up-date by Steve Lawrence**

This spring/summer we aim to locate as many nest sites as possible in Wenita Akatore pine forest ( near Waihola) and monitor them to obtain information on breeding success. A couple of trips to Mt Allan will also be undertaken to record all bird species present.

We will collect prey remains and pellets as well as recording eggs, chicks and fledglings. As we know the approximate territories from last year and earlier records it should be possible to pinpoint the nest sites after some time spent observing the adult birds behaviour and of course being divebombed.

It will involve a full day outing and patient observation from vantage points- binoculars and spotting scopes will be useful.

The survey will begin in early October with trips about every second weekend, depending on the weather, and I will e-mail those who have indicated interest early in the week prior to each trip. It would be helpful if those still interested from last year could confirm by e-mail and anyone else who would like to participate is also very welcome to contact me.

Steve Lawrence

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### **Ornithological Snippets**

August 23 2010 Louise Foord and Neil Clayton heard two kingfishers at home on Portobello Road beside Glenfalloch. One seen in trees above the house. The other in Glenfalloch. Called to each other for some time around lunch time.

On 24th July, about 300m from the start of the Millenium track at the Henley end, Steve Lawrence saw and heard a fernbird in a small patch of scrub and swamp adjacent to the Tairei river. This is the first time I have seen a fernbird there in about 10 trips over the past 18 months. A falcon is seen on most occasions.

More Otago Harbour survey figures in the October newsletter.