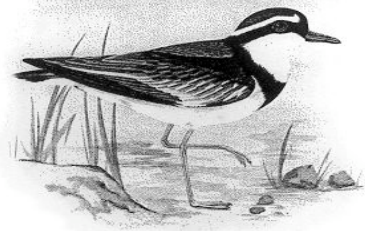


ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY N.Z.
WAIRARAPA BRANCH



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE. MILES KING
PH.06 377 5252
<kingsmeade@contact.net.nz>
REGIONAL RECORDER. COLIN SCADDEN.
Ph. 06378 6423 <cescad@xtra.co.nz>

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER
2006 UPDATE

Thurs.Nov.9. 7.30 pm,at the
Dennison's 129 Renall
St.Masterton.

**KAKAPO on CODFISH
ISLAND / WHENUA HOU.**

Trevor Thompson will tell us of his
work with these avian taonga.

-Sunday,Nov.19. Meet 1.30 pm
Moore Wilson's car park Masterton
for Field Trip to Glenys Hansen's "
TIDSFORDDRIV." Many of you
will know that Glenys has created a very
bird-friendly wetland in conjunction with
her Bed & Breakfast
business.....maybe better referred to
as BED, BREAKFAST & BIRDS.
Convenor : Betty Watt (Ph : 06 378 6259)

REPORT ON OCT. MONTHLY MEETING.

submitted by Colin Scadden.....
**The Ghost of Sir John
Hanham & unravelling the
mysteries of the extinct
Stewart Island Snipe**

were the subjects of

Miskelly's intriguing address. To
produce the talk required many, many
hours of research delving into old
records and contacting family members
of the great figures of New Zealand
Ornithology, Stead, Wilson and Guthrie-
Smith. These heroes had been to the
southern off-shore islands in the 1920's
searching for Snipe and were
successful. Colin had eventually tracked
down their notes, photographs and
correspondence and found that they had
found Snipe nests on Big South Cape
Island off Stewart Island. The notes
mentioned that "JH" had collected 2
eggs. After much time and
correspondence, it was discovered that
"JH" was Sir John Hanham, who was
Governor Bledisloe's nephew and
equerry. He had gone with Stead and
Wilson to Big South Cape where he had
collected the eggs. The trail stopped
there as it is now believed that those 2
eggs are somewhere in the family estate
in England.

The talk reminded us of the Stead
legend that said he could identify any
bird from a single feather! Also he had
the uncanny ability to be able to find
nests where nobody else could. The talk
also reminded us that Guthrie-Smith had
been aware of the threat of extinction of
many New Zealand Species 50 years
before the possibility was recognised.
In thanking Colin, Tenick reminded us of
the passion and perseverance of Colin
to produce such an interesting talk.

A snippet from the "SUNDAY STAR TIMES"(Oct.10)In awards for the Ignominious Nobel Prizes (as opposed to the Nobel prizes)a scientist received the ornithological prize for his paper on how Woodpeckers avoid headaches. Apparently, the Woodpecker's skull and brain are so arranged that the muscles around the skull act like a perfect shock-absorber for the sensitive brain tissues . GO WOODY WOODPECKER !!!!!

Report on the Field Trip to THE TAUHERENIKAU GORGE, Saturday, Oct.14.(Compiled and photographed by Barbara Lovatt.)



On arrival at the road-end, the group (8 people) opted to "take the high road"and trudged up the steep and zig-zagging path through stands of Kanuka,Mahoe, Rangiora and other natives. This path was sign-posted TO THE RIVER, but it would have been more aptly sign-posted FROM THE RIVER, because the river was increasingly far below and in the distance. The birds observed were predominantly Grey Warbler, but also Fantail,Bellbird, Tui (h) Thrush, and a Kereru who eyed us disdainfully from

above.
Here he is, in the picture below.



The comparative dearth of birds was perhaps due to the high winds. Undaunted, the group took the opportunity to discover some botanical treats. Colin Scadden was especially able to contribute his knowledge of ferns, shrubs, trees, lichens and climbers. In quoting Latin names, Colin pointed out that such names actually described the plant.



Clematis Foetida (foul-smelling) The rich creamy-coloured flowers were very eye-catching, especially in the dappled sunlight.

Maori Jasmine, *Parsonia heterophylla*, a fine-leaved climber, with small, fragrant white flowers and long seed pods. (seen below)



One of our native orchids, *Thelymitra*, about to burst into flower.



NEW WEBSITES.

An innovative new web-page has been created on www.osnz.org.nz by Brent Stephenson for our benefit. OSNZ Branches are invited to submit their newsletters, programmes etc . Brent will keep these up-to-date. This a great opportunity for sharing our branch newsletters on the OSNZ website. Not only will we all be able to discover what is happening around the Branches, but we will also be able to join in activities if and when we travel around the country. Another new site has been created by our own member, Narena Olliver.....

www.nzbirds.com/more/backyard.htm

This site invites you to sign up for a sharing of your backyard birding observations, anecdotes, pics etc. FOOTNOTE: For those of you who have not yet entered the world of computers and the internet, the editor recommends you embark on this journey. It opens up a whole new world of information and opportunities. Three years ago, the editor was completely computer-illiterate, and planned to stay so, until her grandchildren challenged her to this daunting new venture.

Learning is truly a Life-Long experience!!

WELCOME

to new participants.....
Terry & Jeannie Sale, Masterton.
Peter Griffiths, Masterton.

THANK YOU

to Ngaire Chamlet and Enfys Graham
who brought some unsolicited,
scrumptious baking for supper, at our
last meeting.

BIRDS of the WAIRARAPA

3 copies of this excellent little handbook
were sold at the last meeting. Cost \$5
for paid-up OSNZ members, otherwise
\$10 .

Available at meetings, or by contacting
Tenick Dennison. This handbook would
be ideal for a Christmas gift.

EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE

This will be the last UPDATE for the year.
Since becoming editor, Barbara Lovatt
has been developing the content and
format. Consequently, there has been a
lack of consistency from month to
month, for which the editor apologises.

Having recently acquired her own
printer, copier, scanner, this UPDATE
will be her first printing attempt .
Previously, her husband, Des, has done
the printing on his printer.

As UPDATE is your forum, your
contributions are always most welcome.
A special thanks to Colin Scadden who
has regularly contributed reports, on
meetings and field days.

END of YEAR DINNER

at
"KINGSMEADE"

The home of Janet & Miles King,
Olivers Rd. R.D. 6 Masterton.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER

9

6 P.M.

POT-LUCK FOOD

to include pre-dinner snacks /
nibbles, hot and cold dishes,
salads, some vegetarian main
dishes, and desserts.

You will be phoned / emailed
re. your food contribution, in mid-
November. As far as possible, you
will be asked to bring a dish that
you (or your partner) prefer to
make, & sufficient to serve 6
people

B.Y.O.

Do remember to BYO.

ALL WELCOME !

Especially to all our new people.
This is always a great evening to
socialise and have fun. Mind you,
our lot have never had any
difficulty socialising and having fun

!

so, let's all.....

BE THERE !