

RARE BIRDS COMMITTEE - Report for 2000

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Species to be reported to the Committee

An **interim** list of species to be reported to the Committee, and an Unusual/Rare Bird Report form, are now on the Society's web page at <http://osnz.org.nz>. Sightings of species referred to in the interim list are to be reported to the Committee for consideration until a revised list has been prepared.

Reports for 1998 and 1999

The following sightings included in the report which appeared in *Notornis* 47: 64-70 have been **accepted** by the Committee since that report was prepared:

- 1998**
- 98/09 Three **intermediate egrets** (*Egretta intermedia*) at Lake Ellesmere on 13/8/98 (C. Hill).
- 98/11 Freshly dead **common koel** (*Eudynamis scolopacea*) found in Lees Valley, Canterbury in March 1997 **1st New Zealand record**. (G. Tunnicliffe).
- 98/13 Single **long-toed stint** (*Calidris subminuta*) at Lake Ellesmere on 31/8 and 25/9/97 **1st New Zealand record**. (S. Petch, C. Hill, N.I. Allen).
- 98/14 Single **stilt sandpiper** (*Micropalama himantopus*) at Lake Ellesmere on 9, 10, and 11/9/98. **1st New Zealand record**. (C. Hill *et al.*).
- 1999**
- 12/99 Single **stilt sandpiper** (*Micropalama himantopus*) at Lake Ellesmere on 26/9 and 20/11/98 (N.I. Allen). These sightings may have been of the bird described in 98/14.
- 15/99 Single **pink-footed shearwaters** (*Puffinus creatopus*) off Kaikoura on 14/12/98 and 27/2/99 (G. Melville). These appear to be the 3rd and 4th New Zealand records of this species.
- 16/99 Single **Kermadec petrel** (*Pterodroma neglecta*) off Kaikoura on 25/1/99 (G. Melville). A photograph of this bird appears in Parkinson (2000: 71).
- 17/99 Single **soft-plumaged petrel** (*Pterodroma mollis*) off Kaikoura on 2/2/99 (G. Melville). A photograph of this bird appears in Parkinson (2000: 75).
- 25/99 Single **Arctic tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) at Manawatu Estuary on 2/4/99 (I. Saville *et al.*).
- 28/99 Single **atrifrons group Mongolian dotterel** (*Charadrius mongolus*) at Taporā Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour on 4/4/99 (G.R. Parrish). Details of this sighting have appeared in *Notornis* 47: 125-126.
- Note** Three of these reports (98/11, 98/13, 98/14) involve 1st New Zealand records of the species concerned. Full reports will be published in *Notornis*.
- Reports for 2000**
- The following sightings have been **accepted** by the Committee:
- 2/00 Single colour banded **shore plover** (*Thinornis novaeseelandiae*) first seen at Waiongana Estuary near New Plymouth on 28/12/99 (P. and J. Fryer, D.G. Medway, B.A. Hartley). It was not seen there after 31/12/99, but the same bird was at Manawatu Estuary on 3/1/00 (see 7/00 and 25/00). This shore plover (band combinations WO GB) hatched at the National Wildlife Centre at Mount Bruce on 30/11/98, was released at Portland Island in Hawke Bay on 15/7/99, and left the island between 9/9 and 3/10/99. WO GB has been seen only near New Plymouth and at Manawatu Estuary since it left Portland Island.
- 4/00 Single **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) at Manawatu Estuary on various dates between 9/3 and 9/6/99 (I. Saville *et al.*).
- 5/00 Single colour-banded **fairy tern** (*Sterna nereis*) at Manawatu Estuary on 19/12/99 (R. and P. Slack, S. Cresswell, T. Kastle, N. Pachana). Band combinations showed it had been banded as a chick at Mangawhai in Northland in 1/1999.
- 6/00 Single **Japanese snipe** (*Gallinago hardwickii*) at Manawatu Estuary between 4/12/99 and 9/1/00 (T. Wilson, I. Saville, J.L. Moore *et al.*). Photographs of this bird appear in *Forest and Bird* (May 2000) and *Miranda Naturalists' Trust News* (May 2000).
- 7/00 Single colour-banded **shore plover** (*Thinornis novaeseelandiae*) at Manawatu Estuary on 3/1/00 (I. Saville). This is the same sighting to which 25/00 refers. They involve the shore plover reported from near New Plymouth in 2/00.
- 8/00 Single **white-winged black tern** (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) at Manawatu Estuary on 9/1/00 (I. Saville).
- 9/00 Single **common tern** (*Sterna hirundo*) at Manawatu Estuary on 21/1/00 (I. Saville *et al.*).
- 10/00 Single **fan-tailed cuckoo** (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*) near Culverden, North Canterbury on 13/12/99 (G. Tunnicliffe). An account and photograph of this bird appeared in *The Press*, Christchurch (2/8/00: 40). This is the 5th accepted record of the species in New Zealand, and the 1st time the species has been photographed alive in this country.
- 11/00 Single **spine-tailed swift** (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) at Hamilton on 23/12/99 (B. and B. Woolley).
- 13/00 Single **willie wagtail** (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) at Mangere Island in the Chatham group on 27/10/99 (H. Gummer *et al.*). **1st New Zealand record**. A report will be published in *Notornis*.
- 14/00 Single **Hudsonian godwit** (*Limosa haemastica*) at Lake Ellesmere between 3 and 11/10/99 (C. Hill *et al.*).

- 15/00 Single **ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*) at Lake Ellesmere between 1/12/99 and 31/1/00 (C. Hill, S. Petch, K. Harrison).
- 16/00 Single **little whimbrel** (*Numenius minutus*) at Lake Ellesmere on 30/1/00 (C. Hill).
- 18/00 Single **whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus* ssp.) at Saltwater Creek, Ashley Estuary on 19/2/00, but indeterminate as to race (N.I. Allen).
- 20/00 Single **Kermadec petrel** (*Pterodroma neglecta*) off Kaikoura on 25/1/99 (L. Brinker). This is same bird to which 16/99 relates.
- 21/00 Single **noddy** (*Anous* sp.) at Waimarama Beach on 12/4/00, but indeterminate as to species. (D. Bell).
- 22/00 Single **common sandpiper** (*Tringa hypoleucos*) at Farewell Spit on 6/2/92 (W. Cook) (1st record at Farewell Spit).
- 24/00 Single **common tern** (*Sterna hirundo*) at Manawatu Estuary on 23/1/00, 5/3/00, and 19/3/00 (J.L. Moore *et al.*). These sightings may have been of the same individual reported by I. Saville in 9/00. The sighting of 5/3/00 was also reported by T. Kastle and N. Pachana under 30/00.
- 25/00 Single **shore plover** (*Thinornis novaeseelandiae*) at Manawatu Estuary on 3/1/00 (J.L. and M. Moore). This is the same sighting to which 7/00 refers.
- 26/00 Single **Japanese snipe** (*Gallinago hardwickii*) at Manawatu Estuary on various dates between 12/12/99 and 2/4/00 (J.L. and M. Moore). These sightings were of the same bird as in 6/00.
- 27/00 Single **great knot** (*Calidris tenuirostris*) at Turanga Estuary, near Whitford on 20/3/00 (B. Keeley).
- 28/00 Single specimen of **Newell's shearwater** (*Puffinus newelli*) found dead on Dargaville Beach by D.E. Crockett on 13/11/94; the skin is in Museum of New Zealand MNZ25004 (R. Palma). **1st New Zealand record**. A report will be published in *Notornis*.
- 29/00 Single specimen of **Bulwer's petrel** (*Bulweria bulwerii*) found dead on Te Horo Beach, Horowhenua by J. Luke on 8/1/98; the skin is in Museum of New Zealand MNZ25739, (R. Palma). **1st New Zealand record**. A report will be published in *Notornis*.
- 30/00 Single **common tern** (*Sterna hirundo*) at Manawatu Estuary on 5/3/00 (T. Kastle, N. Pachana). This is a sighting of the same bird reported under 24/00.
- 31/00 Single **sooty albatross** (*Phoebastria fusca*) at Anchorage Bay, Antipodes Island on 3/11/95 and on several days thereafter (G. Taylor *et al.*). 3rd record in the New Zealand region (previous records in *Notornis* 47: 64-70).
- 32/00 Single specimen of **Leach's storm petrel** (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) found dead on 90 Mile Beach by L. Honnor *et al.* on 17/10/98; the skin is in Museum of New Zealand MNZ25797 (G. Taylor). 7th New Zealand record.
- 33/00 Single **common sandpiper** (*Tringa hypoleucos*) at Hawera Oxidation Ponds on 15/6/98 (B.A. Hartley, M. Davis).
- 34/00 Single **Arctic tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) at Taumutu, Lake Ellesmere outlet on 29/2/00 (P. Reese).
- 35/00 Single **sanderling** (*Calidris alba*) at Opoutere on 15/10/99 (B. Chudleigh *et al.*).
- 36/00 Single **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) at Manawatu Estuary on 2, 16, and 17/7/00 (J.L. Moore *et al.*).
- 38/00 Single **black kite** (*Milvus migrans*) at Waihopai Valley Road, Marlborough on 14 and 15/8/00 (R. Radd *et al.*). These sightings constitute the 3rd record of the species in New Zealand (previous records in *Notornis* 47: 64-70).
- 39/00 Single **little tern** (*Sterna albifrons*) at Te Whanga Lagoon, Chatham Island between late 12/97 and mid 2/98 (M. Bell *et al.*). These sightings constitute the **1st record for Chatham Islands**.
- 41/00 Single **marsh sandpiper** (*Tringa stagnatilis*) at Lake Ellesmere on 27/10/00 (T. Crocker *et al.*).
- 41A/00 Single **marsh sandpiper** (*Tringa stagnatilis*) at Lake Ellesmere on 11/11/00 (C. Hill *et al.*). This was probably the same bird reported under 41/00.
- 42/00 Single **Hudsonian godwit** (*Limosa haemastica*) at Lake Ellesmere on 7/9/00 and several times thereafter (C. Hill *et al.*).
- 43/00 Single **Mongolian dotterel** (*Charadrius mongolus*) at Lake Ellesmere on 16/9/00 (C. Hill, S. Wratten).
- 44/00 Single **Terek sandpiper** (*Tringa terek*) at Lake Ellesmere on 23/9/00 (C. Hill).
- 45/00 Single **Cape gannet** (*Sula capensis*) at Plateau Colony, Cape Kidnappers on various dates including 21/12/97, 20/12/98, and 18/12/99 (C.J.R. Robertson, B. Stephenson). **1st New Zealand record**. A report will be published in *Notornis*.
- 46/00 Single immature male **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) at Manawatu Estuary on 26/3/00 (I. Saville).
- 47/00 Single female **chestnut teal** (*Anas castanea*) at Manawatu Estuary on 8/4/00 (I. Saville *et al.*).
- 48/00 Single **gull-billed tern** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) at Lake Poukawa on 5/6/00 (I. Saville).
- 49/00 Single **white-capped noddy** (*Anous tenuirostris*) found alive at Rapahoe in Westland on 7/9/00, released the following day (J. Lyall).
- 50/00 Single **marsh sandpiper** (*Tringa stagnatilis*) at Waiongana Estuary, near New Plymouth between 22/2 and mid 3/98 (P.J. Fryer, D.G. Medway). Ref.: *OSNZ news no. 87 (1998)*: 10; *Notornis* 47 (2000): 207.
- 51/00 Single **greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*) at Waiongana Estuary, near New Plymouth on 28/2/98 (P.J. Fryer). Ref.: *OSNZ news no. 87 (1998)*: 10; *Notornis* 47 (2000): 207.
- 52/00 Up to 3 **white-winged black terns** (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) in various plumages at Bell Block Oxidation Ponds, near New Plymouth between 11/98 and 6/99 (P.J. Fryer, B.A. Hartley, D.G. Medway). Ref.: *OSNZ news no. 90 (1999)*: 11; *Notornis* 47 (2000): 229.
- 53/00 Single **spine-tailed swift** (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) at Pungaereere Stream, near Rahotu on 3/12/98 (D.G. Medway, B.A. Hartley). Ref.: *OSNZ news no. 90 (1999)*: 11; *Notornis* 47 (2000): 231.
- 54/00 Single **spine-tailed swift** (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) at Farewell Spit on 13/11/99 (D.G. Medway *et al.*). Ref.: *OSNZ news no. 93 (1999)*: 3.

LITERATURE CITED

- Parkinson, B.. 2000. *Field guide to New Zealand seabirds*. Auckland, New Holland.