



Southern *Bird*

No. 12 December 2002. • ISSN 1175-1916



Rare Birds Committee - 6 Monthly report

The following sightings have been accepted by the Committee since preparation of the report in *Southern Bird* 10: 5-6.

UBR 27/02 - Report and photograph from Brent Stephenson of a *Fiordland Crested Penguin* (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*) seen by himself and Bridey White at Whirinaki Beach, north of Napier on 11 February 2002, and at Marineland, Napier on 18 February 2002.

UBR 28/02 - Report and photographs from Brent Stephenson of a *Snares Crested Penguin* (*Eudyptes robustus*) seen by himself and Ed Minot near Clifton, Hawke Bay on 7 February 2002, and at Marineland, Napier on 17 February 2002.

UBR 29/02 - Report and photograph from Brent Stephenson of a *Ruff* (*Philomachus pugnax*) seen at Ahuriri Estuary on 26 December 2001.

UBR 30/02 - Report from Matthias Retter of a banded *Black Stilt* (*Himantopus novaehollandiae*) seen at Lake Ellesmere on 9 February 2002.

UBR 31/02 - Report from Matthias Retter of 2 *Cape Barren Geese* (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*) seen at Lake Ellesmere on 30 November 2001.

UBR 32/02 - Report and photographs from Matthias Retter of a *Red-necked Phalarope* (*Phalaropus lobatus*) seen by himself, Daniel Kissling & Colin Hill at Lake Ellesmere on 18 & 21 January 2002. A photograph of this bird by Colin Hill appeared in *Southern Bird* 10 (June 2002): 8.

UBR 38/02 - Report and video from Ian Saville of 2 *Gull-billed Terns* (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) seen by himself, Jim Moore, and Roger & Pam Slack at Manawatu Estuary on 15, 16, 18 & 19 January 2002.

UBR 39/02 - Report and video from Ian Saville of a *Great Knot* (*Calidris tenuirostris*) seen at Manawatu Estuary on 25 November 2001.

UBR 40/02 - Report and video from Ian Saville of a *Large Sand Dotterel* (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) seen by himself, Brent Stephenson, and Roger & Pam Slack at Manawatu Estuary on 8, 9 & 10 October 2001.

UBR 41/02 - Report from Johan Kok (via Paul Cuming) of a *Common Tern* (*Sterna hirundo*) seen by himself and Charlotte Wiemand at Raglan on 3 December 2001.

UBR 42/02 - Report from Liz Wang (via Paul Cuming) of a *Nankeen Kestrel* (*Falco cenchroides*) seen at Te Kuiti on 8 November 2001.

UBR 46/02 - Report from Nigel Milius & Wendy Hare of

a *Brown Skua* (*Catharacta skua lonnbergi*) seen near Port Jackson, Coromandel Peninsula on 14 May 2002.

UBR 48/02 - Report from Ian King (via Phil Rhodes) of a pure adult *Black Stilt* (*Himantopus novaehollandiae*) seen at Wendon, near Gore from 4-15 June 2002.

UBR 49/02 - Report from Bill Plunket (via Rosemary Tully) of a *Wilson's Storm Petrel* (*Oceanites oceanicus*) seen in Ohiwa Harbour on 4 April 2002.

UBR 50/02 - Report and photographs from David Lawrie of a *Black Kite* (*Milvus migrans*) seen by himself near Mercer on 9 & 12 May 2002, and by several other observers at various South Auckland locations between April 2000 & May 2002. All these sightings probably relate to the same bird as the one reported by Ted Wnorowski under UBR 76/01. Together, they constitute the 4th accepted record of the species in New Zealand, and the 1st for the North Island.

UBR 51/02 - Report from Richard Parrish of a *Little Egret* (*Egretta garzetta*) seen by himself & Audrey Williams at Stables Landing, Kaipara Harbour on 16 May 2002.

UBR 52/02, 52A/02, 52B/02, 52C/02 - Reports and photographs from Nick Allen, Jack Davidson, Alexander Phillips & John Lyall (via Graeme Taylor) of a *White-necked Heron* (*Ardea pacifica*) seen just south of Hokitika from 23 June 2002. This appears to be the 4th accepted record of the species in New Zealand. An account and photograph of the bird by Nick Allen & Jack Davidson appeared in *Southern Bird* 11 (September 2002): 8.

UBR 53/02, 53A/02, 53B/02, 53C/02 - Reports, photographs & painting from Nick Allen, Alan Wright, Dave York, Peter Schweigman & Derek Onley of a *Franklin's Gull* (*Larus pipixcan*) seen at Tomahawk Lagoon, Ocean Grove, Dunedin on 2 & 3 July 2002. This is the 1st accepted record of the species in New Zealand. A full account will appear in *Notornis* in due course.

UBR 54/02 - Report from Ben Bell of a shag seen in Wellington Harbour on 14 July 2002, accepted as being a *Leucocarbo* shag, probably a *New Zealand King Shag* (*Leucocarbo carunculatus*).

UBR 55/02 - Report from Colin Miskelly of a *White-headed Petrel* (*Pterodroma lessonii*) seen between Kapiti Island and Paraparaumu Beach on 26 June 2002.

UBR 56/02 - report (via Colin Miskelly) of a *Cape Barren Goose* (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*) seen by Blake Abernethy at Waikanae sewage ponds on 5 August 2002.

UBR 57/02 - Report from Gwenda Pulham of a



Rare Birds Committee - 6 Monthly report

Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) seen by herself and John Simmons at Papakanui Spit on 15 June 2002.

UBR 58/02 - Report from Gwenda Pulham of 2 *Australasian Little Grebes* (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*) seen by herself and Ted Wnorowski at Mangere sewage ponds on 16 June 2002.

UBR 59/02, 59A/02 - reports from Nick Allen & Peter Howden of a *Black-tailed Native-hen* (*Gallinula ventralis*) seen by themselves, Jan Walker & others at Lake Hood, first sighted there by Peter Howden on 9 August 2002. This appears to be the 5th accepted record of the species in New Zealand.

UBR 60/02 - Report from Lloyd Esler of an *Australian Wood Duck* (*Chenonetta jubata*) shot on a farm pond at Otapiri, near Winton, on 4 May 2002 and identified by Maurice Rodway, Manager, Southland Fish & Game, by comparison with a stuffed specimen.

UBR 61/02 - Report and photographs from Paddy Latham of a pair of *Australasian Little Grebes* (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*) with 1 young at Lake Rotoehu on 3 August 2002. The adult birds were apparently first seen there by David Lawrie in April 2002, and subsequently by others including Malcolm Hutton & John Brierley. Stella & John Rowe reported seeing a single Australasian Little Grebe there on 8 October 2002 (UBR 61A/02).

UBR 62/02 - Report from Peter & Iris Tait (via Phil Rhodes) of a *Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike* (*Coracina novaehollandiae*) seen at Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island on 1 & 2 July 2001.

UBR 63/02 - Report and photograph from Lindsay Rowe of a *Fiordland Crested Penguin* (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*) seen at Kaikoura Peninsula on 10 February 2002.

UBR 65/02 - Report and photograph from Vic Hensley (via Alison Howell) of a *Brown Booby* (*Sula leucogaster*) seen by David Kay at Houhora Harbour on 7 August 2002.

UBR 66/02 - Report from Tony Crocker of *Common Terns* (*Sterna hirundo*) seen at Ashley Estuary on 30 & 31 July 1995 (1), 18 August 1995 (2), 27 August 1995 (1), & 16 September 1995 (1).

UBR 67/02 - Report from Trevor Worthy of a *Black Kite* (*Milvus migrans*) seen by himself and Aaron Worthy near Pirinoa, Wairarapa, on 26 September 2002. This is the 5th accepted record of the species in New Zealand, and the 2nd for the North Island.

UBR 68/02 - Report from Alan Collins (via Nick Allen) of a *Cape Barren Goose* (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*)

seen at Seadown, near Timaru on 9 September 2002.

UBR 69/02 - Report from Alan Collins (via Nick Allen) of a *Wilson's Storm Petrel* (*Oceanites oceanicus*) seen off Kaikoura on 5 April 2002.

UBR 70/02 - Report from Alan Collins (via Nick Allen) of a *Yellow-nosed Mollymawk* (*Diomedea chlororhynchos*) seen off Kaikoura on 2 July 2002.

UBR 71/02 - Report and photographs from Peter Fryer of a *Ruff* (*Philomachus pugnax*) seen by himself and Julie Fryer at Waiongana, near New Plymouth, on 6 October 2002.

UBR 72/02 - Report from Chris Petyt of a *Grey Plover* (*Pluvialis squatarola*) seen at Farewell Spit on 31 January 2002.

UBR 73/02 - Report from Chris Petyt of an *Australasian Little Grebe* (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*) seen at Puponga Farm Park, Golden Bay on various dates between 29 July 1994 and November 2001, and of 2 on 3 January 2002 (1 sitting on nest), with sightings since. These are no doubt the same 2 birds which were reported in UBR 4/02.

The following sightings have also been determined by the Committee since the last report was prepared.

UBR 20/02 - Report from Margaret Conal of a "*Bush Wren*" seen by herself and Mike Arnold in Northern Tararua on 23 January 2002. The Committee considered that this bird was undoubtedly either a female or a juvenile North Island Rifleman (*Acanthisitta chloris granti*).

UBR 43/02 - Report from Brent Stephenson of a suspected *Phoenix Petrel* (*Pterodroma alba*) seen by himself and Ian Saville off Foxton Beach on 30 March 2002. The Committee considered that this sighting could not be accepted as being of the species claimed by the observers.

UBR 47/02 - Report from Colin Scadden of a suspected *Lesser Yellowlegs* seen by himself and Brian Boesen at Lake Wairarapa on 25 January 2002. The Committee considered that the bird reported was possibly a Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) as claimed.

DAVID MEDWAY
Convenor
17 November 2002

