



Southern *Bird*

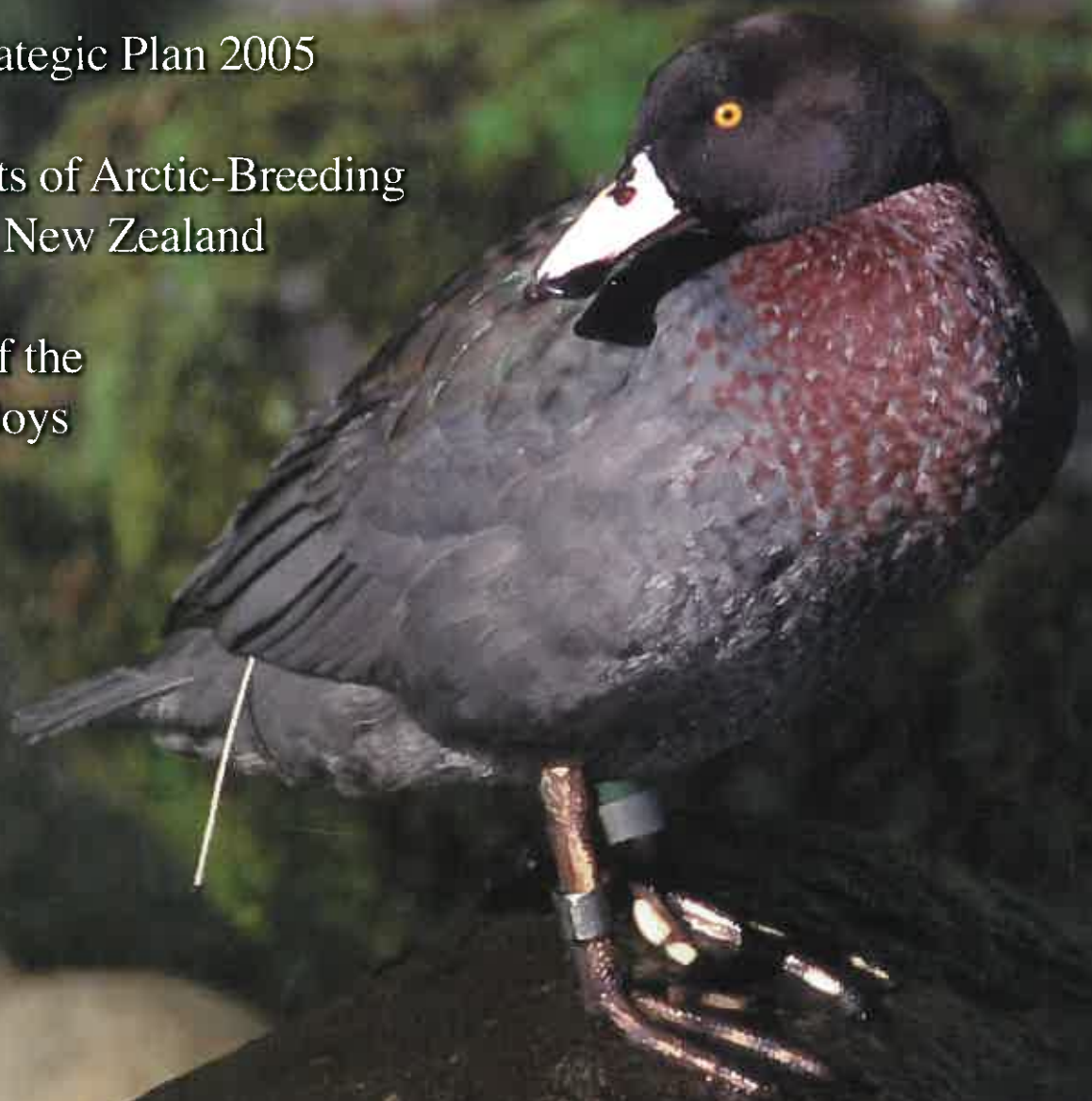
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Minutes from the
66th Annual General

OSNZ Strategic Plan 2005

Movements of Arctic-Breeding
Waders in New Zealand

Transfer of the
Beehive Boys



Rare Birds Committee Report for the six months to 31 July 2005

RECONSIDERATION OF HISTORICAL RECORDS

In preparation for the forthcoming revision of the *Checklist of New Zealand Birds* it has been decided to re-assess some records of rare species in New Zealand to ensure that there is a uniform standard for first New Zealand records. In the past six months four records of two species were re-assessed by the Rare Birds Committee (RBC).

Brolga *Grus rubicundus* (two records 1947 and 1968) **Case 19/05**

There are two New Zealand records: Early March to 10th May 1947, Clevedon (McKenzie & Cunningham 1951 and 1952) and 8th Jan 1968, Punakaiki (Westerskov 1968). Both observations were made and published before the RBC was formed, thus the only information available is that given in the original publications. The committee

concluded that both observations were definitely cranes (*Grus* sp.), but that neither record contained enough information to prove the individuals were Brolga and not Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*. The committee has therefore resolved to remove Brolga from the New Zealand list pending a record of an individual that can definitively be identified to species.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (two records 1970 and 1983) **Case 33/05**

The first record was made before the RBC began (6th Dec 1970 to 29th May 1971, Firth of Thames (Brown *et al.* 1971)). Assessment in this case was made from published photographs. The original observers did not consider Semi-palmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, as this species and Ringed Plover were believed to be conspecific at the time. The second record (9th Nov 1983 to

10th June 1985, Access Bay, Firth of Thames (Howell 1986)) has been assessed twice by the RBC. In light of new characters published in recent years the photographs and written evidence were re-examined. The committee was unanimous in rejecting both records as being Ringed Plover; therefore Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* is removed from the New Zealand list. The committee had mixed views on whether the 1971 record contained enough information to be unequivocally identified as a Semi-palmated Plover and a literature search indicates that, in the eastern Canadian Arctic, a zone of hybridisation may occur between the two taxa (Smith 1969). The committee did feel that the second record was undoubtedly of a Semi-palmated Plover and therefore Semi-palmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus* is added to the New Zealand list.

continued on the next page ►►

OSNZ POLICY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL SURVEYS, AND ADOPTION AND USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

1. The Ornithological Society of New Zealand (henceforth OSNZ) is an organisation that exists ultimately to gather and publish information on the birds of New Zealand.
2. OSNZ should be the major entity gathering and publishing information on the birds of New Zealand.
3. Web-based methods of data entry and dissemination are the way of the future, but...
4. Web-based methods have huge logistic problems inherent in their maintenance, and in the analysis, problems that most overseas organisations have ignored in concentrating on early web presence rather than content.
5. OSNZ believes that web-based monitoring of New Zealand birds should be developed according to best practice, to develop the simplest and most useable platform to suit local purposes, which are not necessarily, or even likely to be, consistent with the basis for surveys and monitoring done elsewhere.
6. Before any scheme is launched by OSNZ, the membership will be fully consulted, and the results of that consultation incorporated in the development of the platform and in survey and monitoring objectives that are both valid scientifically and feasible for the membership.
7. It is crucial to consider the outcome of any survey or information-gathering scheme or process, and especially the analytical methods required to achieve that outcome, before any scheme is adopted.

address changes

Tim Barnard, RR for the Volcanic Plateau and Bay of Plenty has moved house to 23 Tennyson Drive, Poets Corner, Owahata, Rotorua. His phone and email contact details are unchanged ((07) 345 3433 tim.barnard@xtra.co.nz).

Ian Armitage has taken over the job of RR for Wellington from Stuart Chambers, who has joined Council. Ian can be contacted at 50 Ranui Terrace, Tawa, Wellington. Phone (04) 232 7470 and email ian.armitage@xtra.co.nz.

There are a number of changes to personnel and contact details for Council members and convenors. Full contact details for these can be found elsewhere in this issue of *Southern Bird*.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Meritorious Service Awards

Do you know anyone who has selflessly helped the OSNZ? These awards are one opportunity to officially recognise this person, and for the Society to thank them.

The person need not be a member, and need not even reside in New Zealand. Posthumous nominations are also welcomed. The person can even receive more than one Meritorious Service Award, though they need to be for different services to the Society.

The award is conferred for service furthering the objects of the OSNZ. These are:

- To encourage, organise and promote the study of birds and their habitat use
- To foster and support the wider knowledge and enjoyment of birds
- To promote the recording and wide circulation of the results of bird studies and observations
- To produce a journal and any other publication containing matters of ornithological interest
- To effect cooperation and exchange of information with other like organisations
- To assist the conservation and management of birds by providing information, from which sound management decisions can be derived
- To maintain a library of ornithological literature for the use of members and to promote a wider knowledge of birds
- To promote the archiving of observations, studies and records of birds
- To carry out any other activity which is capable of being conveniently carried out in connection with the above objects, or which directly or indirectly advances those objects

A maximum of five Meritorious Service Awards can be made every year. Nomination is easy. Simply write a citation of **not more than 150 words** on one side of an A4 sheet setting out the achievements of the person nominated, and include the signatures of two members of the Society.

The closing date for nominations is 31st December 2005. They should be sent to:

The Awards Secretary, OSNZ, P.O. Box 12397, Wellington



Rare Birds Committee Report continued

FIRST RECORDS

The committee encourages the observers of the following species to submit accounts of these records for publication.

Royal Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus schlegeli* [First record for the Chatham Islands]

UBR21/05 20/02/2005 Pitt Is, Chatham Islands Colin Miskelly

Hybrid Shore Plover *Thinornis novaeseelandiae* x New Zealand Dotterel *Charadrius obscurus*

UBR45/04 10/07/2004 Omaha Sandspit Gwenda Pulham
This interesting record of a bird at Omaha is believed to be the progeny of a mixed pair breeding on Beehive Island.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica* [First record for the Chatham Islands]

UBRs18/05, Nov - Dec Te Whanga Colin Miskelly,
49/05, and 2004 Lagoon, Felipe Moniz and
62/05 Chatham Is Sarah Money

Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel* [First record for The Snares]

UBR14/05 25/11/2004 The Snares Brian Bell *et al*

Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis* [First New Zealand record]

These sightings refer to the same individual.

UBR54/04 15/11/2004 St Anne's Sheila Petch
Lagoon, Cheviot

UBR02/05 14/11/2004 St Anne's Nicholas Allen
Lagoon, Cheviot

Bellbird *Anthornis melanura* [First records for Campbell Island]

UBR11/05 Dec 2004? Campbell Island Brian Bell *et al.*
UBR25/05 19/09/2004 Camp Cove, Pete McClelland
Campbell I

UBR28/05 Mar-Apr Camp Cove, Sandy King
2003 Campbell I

RARE SPECIES

Reports of the following rare species were accepted by the Rare Birds Committee during the current reporting period.

Australasian Little Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

UBR48/04 14/10/2004 Rosedale Graham Don
Treatment plant,
North Shore City

Snares Crested Penguin *Eudyptes robustus*

UBR20/05 5/02/2005 Mangere I, Colin Miskelly
Chathams

UBR22/05 Feb 2005 Pitt I, Chathams Colin Miskelly

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

UBR42/04 22/11/2003 Lake Daniells, Heidi Schlumpf
Nelson

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

UBR35/05 24/02/2005 near Lake A.M. Bussers
Ellesmere, on
Christchurch to
Akaroa Rd

Large Sand Dotterel *Charadrius leschenaultii*

UBR46/04 29/05/2004 Omaha Sandspit Ted Wnorowski

UBR46/04 26/06/2004 Tauhoa, Kaipara Harbour Ted Wnorowski

UBR46/04 7/08/2004 Mangere Ponds Ted Wnorowski

UBR46/04 31/08/2004 Karaka, Ted Wnorowski
Manukau
Harbour

UBR53/04 24/10/2004 Awarua Bay Phil Rhodes

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

UBR47/04 10/05/2004 S of Ruawai, Ted Wnorowski
North Kaipara
Harbour

UBR01/05 28/11/2004 Maketu Estuary Paul Cuming

Japanese Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

UBR26/05 27/02/2005 Waipara River Nicholas Allen
Mouth

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

UBR03/05 6/10/2003 Miranda Phil Battley

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

UBR55/04 14/11/2004 Awarua Bay Phil Rhodes

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

UBR07/05 11/11/2004 Kiwi Esplanade, Phil Battley
Mangere Bridge

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

UBR29/05 29/01/2005 Ahuriri Estuary Margaret &
Wayne Twydle

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

UBR49/04 12/10/2004 Porirua Harbour Ian Armitage

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

UBR30/05 26/12/2004 Ahuriri Estuary Margaret &
Wayne Twydle
Peter Field

UBR32/05 1/11/2004 Nelson Haven

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

UBR31/05 19/03/2005 Farewell Spit Don Cooper

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

UBR16/05 5/10/2004 Taharoa Peter Brown

South Polar Skua *Catharacta maccormicki*

UBR13/05 28/11/2004 Between Brian Bell *et al*
Auckland &
Macquarie Is

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

UBR43/04 29/08/2004 Waikanae R Janice Woon
Estuary

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

UBR36/05 18/11/2003 Ruapuke Beach Hugh Clifford

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

UBR50/04 6/11/2004 Kapiti Island Colin Miskelly

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*

UBR23/05 Jan 2005 Whataroa, Phil Herry
S Westland

Spine-tailed Swift *Hirundapus caudacutus*

UBR56/04 1/12/2004 near Tuku Tony Wilson
Reserve,
Chatham Islands

Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel*

UBR06/05 7/07/2004 Tapora, Kaipara Phil Battley
Harbour

SPECIES OUTSIDE THEIR USUAL RANGE

Fiordland Crested Penguin *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*

UBR08/05 26/10/2004 Waikanae Beach Ian Cooksley

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

UBR51/04 6/11/2004 Kapiti Island Colin Miskelly

Brown Teal *Anas aucklandica chlorotis*

UBR04/05 1/02/2004 Waihou River Phil Battley
mouth, Firth of
Thames

UBR05/05 4/01/2005 Mangere Sewage Phil Battley
Ponds

Spur-winged Plover *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae*

UBR24/05 12/09/2004 Tucker Cove, Pete McClelland
Campbell I

OLD RECORDS

A single record that was overlooked by previous committees was assessed:

Frigatebird *Fregata sp.*

UBR39/01 27/01/2001 Mangere Island David Roberts
Assignment of species to this record could not be made.

THE FOLLOWING SIGHTINGS

HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED:

Black falcon *Falco subniger*

UBR27/05 26/02/2005 near French Pass

The committee was divided as to the identity of this falcon seen by two extremely experienced observers. The original records of this species are currently under review and it was considered that only a unanimous verdict was acceptable.



Frigatebird <i>Fregata</i> sp.	UBR44/04	21/10/2004	Lone Kauri Rd, Karekare
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	UBR12/05	7/12/2004	Between Pitt I & South-East Islands
Brown falcon <i>Falco berigora</i>	UBR52/04	5/12/2004	Riwaka
Brolga <i>Grus rubicundus</i>	UBR17/05	27/10/2005	near Poolburn Viaduct, Ida Valley, Central Otago
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	UBR15/05	21/11/2004	Wellington Harbour wharves
Australian Tree Martin <i>Hirundo nigricans</i>	UBR10/05	8/12/2004	Waitangi, Chatham Island
	UBR34/05	7/02/2005	Between Cass & Bealey

SPECIES TO BE REMOVED FROM THE RBC APPRAISAL LIST

It has been decided that due to the large number of records submitted the following species no longer meet the criteria to be classified as rare birds, and so have been removed from the RBC appraisal list:

- Australian Little Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*
- Large Sand Dotterel *Charadrius leschenaultii*
- Mongolian Dotterel *Charadrius mongolus*
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
- Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*
- White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Please note the committee does have a policy that any member may submit descriptions of any species that they are unable to identify.

The RBC would like to express their thanks for the work of Mike Imber who stood down from the committee at the recent AGM after many years of service. We wish him well in his retirement.

Literature Cited

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- Howell, L. 1986 Classified Summarized Notes, North Island. 1 July 1984 to 30 June 1985. *Notornis* 33: 95-119.
- McKenzie, H. R.; Cunningham, J. M. 1951. Mystery Bird Puzzles Observers - Australian Brolga visits Auckland District. *The Weekly News* July 18, 1951, p. 38.
- McKenzie, H. R.; Cunningham, J. M. 1952. Occurrence of the Brolga (*Megalornis rubicundus*) in New Zealand. *Notornis* 4: 198.
- Smith, N.G. 1969. Polymorphism in Ringed Plovers. *Ibis* 111: 177-188.
- Westerskov, K. E. 1968. Australian Brolga (*Grus rubicunda*) Recorded in New Zealand. *Notornis* 15: 248-253.

R. PAUL SCOFIELD
Convenor

Bird Watchers Experience Norfolk Island

27 November
to 04 December
2005



The Bird Watchers Experience will be hosted by Norfolk's Flora and Fauna Society and will incorporate bird watching and information data recording, a welcome reception, cliff-top fish fry, social gatherings and an abundance of great scenery and bird watching!
Activities/Registration fees TBA

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\$713
per person

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Please fill in this form and airmail or fax bottom portion to:
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Alternatively email lee@travelcentre.nf for more details.

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Please send me further information regarding 'Bird Watchers Experience', November 2005

I am interested in travelling the following dates.....

Travelling from.....

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Address.....

Phone.....Facsimile.....

Email.....

Membership Renewals

Subscriptions are due on 1st January. Those members with email will receive a membership renewal form via that medium. Those members who do not have email (or those where the Membership Secretary has not been informed of an email address) will receive a renewal form as an insert with this issue of *Southern Bird* and *Notornis*. Please endeavour to pay close to the due date - the Society depends greatly on your subscription to continue the furtherance of its objects in encouraging and supporting the study and enjoyment of birds in the New Zealand region.

New Members and Donation

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

Richard Baker (Auckland); Beatrice Beatty (USA); Mike Bryan (Far North); Kenneth Buchanan (Otago); Bernard Card (Wellington); Francesca Cunnigham (Otago); Christine Debruyne (Canterbury); Nic Dillon (Marlborough); Murray Efford (Otago); Ian Farrell (UK); Frances Gazley (Wellington); Greenspace Unit (Canterbury); F. Neil Hayes (Wairarapa); Jennifer Hensley (South Auckland); Elizabeth Jacques (Far North); Frank Jacques (Far North); Paul Jacques (Southland); Halema Jamieson (Auckland); Sharon Kast (Auckland); Jane Kitson (Southland); Nikki La Monica (Wellington); Lifestyle Tourism Holdings Ltd (Nelson); Wayne Linklater (Wellington); Peter McClelland (Southland); Beverley & Nelson North (Marlborough); Jason Roxburgh (South Auckland); Bernadette Russell (Southland); Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu (Canterbury); Joanne Thorne (Wanganui); Tony Whitehead (Volcanic Plateau).

We also thank the following member for their generous donation to the Society:

Dr R. E. Fordyce

