



Southern Bird

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HAZEL HARTY

Membership Secretary

Oamaru Penguin Symposium, 2001

The third biennial Oamaru Penguin Symposium will be held on Friday 22 June 2001. The meeting will be centred on the Blue Penguin, as usual. However, papers relating to other species, particularly Yellow-eyed, will be welcomed for consideration.

A register of expressions of interest following the 1999 meeting has already been generated but reinforcement and any indication of a wish to present work will be welcomed at this stage. In the event of the prospect of sufficient material, the concept of an extra half day could be entertained. In order that such decisions can be reached in good time, it is important that would-be contributors indicate preliminary intention and subject for the end of September 2000.

Topics under consideration include

- Predation
- Habitat modification
- Taxonomy
- Tourism interaction
- Management strategies
- Biology & pathology

These subjects are flexible; papers outside such headings will be welcomed as presentations, either on their own or to generate a theme if the matter is sufficiently subscribed.

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Rare Birds Committee – 6 monthly report

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

- UBR 98/09 - Three **Intermediate Egrets** at Lake Ellesmere on 13/8/98 (Colin Hill).
- UBR 98/11 - Freshly dead **Common Koel** found in Lees Valley, Canterbury in March 1997 (Geoff Tunnicliffe).
- UBR 98/13 - **Long-toed Stint** at Lake Ellesmere on 31/8 and 25/9/97 (Sheila Petch, Colin Hill, Nick Allen).
- UBR 98/14 - **Stilt Sandpiper** at Lake Ellesmere on 9,10 & 11/9/98 (Colin Hill).
- UBR 28/99 - **Mongolian Dotterel** of *atrifrons* group at Tabora Sand Island, Kaipara Harbour on 4/4/99 (Richard Parrish).

Four of these (98/11, 98/13, 98/14, 28/99) involve apparent first New Zealand records. They will be fully written up for publication in *Notornis* in due course.

The following twenty-three reports have so far been received by the Committee during 2000. Their current status is indicated. Some of the sightings reported are mentioned in *Southern Bird* No.1 (March 2000).

- UBR 1/00 - Report from Rosemary Tully of an unidentified 'large bird of prey' seen above Otarawairere in the Bay of Plenty on 31 October 1999. It is not possible to determine the specific identity of the bird sighted. The report has been filed for possible future reference.
- UBR 2/00 - Report from Peter and Julie Fryer of a colour banded **Shore Plover** first seen at Waiongana Estuary near New Plymouth on 28 December 1999. It was not seen there after 31 December 1999, but the same bird was seen at Manawatu Estuary on 3 January 2000 (see UBR 7/00).
- UBR 3/00 - Report under consideration from Richard Parrish of a suspected **Common Tern** seen at Walker Island, Rangaunu Harbour on 14 November 1999.
- UBR 4/00 - Report from Ian Saville of a suspected **Chestnut Teal** seen at Manawatu Estuary on various dates between 9 March and 9 June 1999. This sighting has been accepted as being of a **Chestnut Teal**.
- UBR 5/00 - Report from Ian Saville of a colour banded **Fairy Tern** (of which the combinations were obtained) seen at Manawatu Estuary on 19 December 1999.
- UBR 6/00 - Report under consideration from Ian Saville of a suspected **Japanese Snipe** seen at Manawatu Estuary between 12 December 1999 and 9 January 2000.
- UBR 7/00 - Report from Ian Saville of a colour banded **Shore Plover** seen at Manawatu Estuary on 3 January 2000 (see UBR 2/00).
- UBR 8/00 - Report from Ian Saville of a suspected **White-winged Black Tern** seen at Manawatu Estuary on 9 January 2000. This sighting has been accepted as being a **White-winged Black Tern**.
- UBR 9/00 - Report under consideration from Ian Saville of a suspected **Common Tern** seen at Manawatu Estuary on 21 January 2000.
- UBR 10/00 - Report under consideration from Geoff Tunnicliffe of a suspected **Fantailed Cuckoo** seen by Hamish Ormand on his parents' farm near Culverden, North Canterbury on 13 December 1999.
- UBR 11/00 - Report from Bev and Bryan Woolley of a suspected **Spine-tailed Swift** seen at Hamilton on 23 December 1999. This sighting has been accepted as being of a **Spine-tailed Swift**.
- UBR 12/00 - Report under consideration of a suspected **Large Sand Dotterel** seen by Pam and Roger Slack at Manawatu Estuary on 24 December 1999.
- UBR 13/00 - Report from Helen Gummer of a suspected **Willie Wagtail** seen by herself and others at Mangere Island in the Chatham group on 27 October 1999. The Committee has accepted this significant sighting as being of a **Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys*. It appears to be the first New Zealand record of the species, and will be fully written up for publication in *Notornis* in due course.
- UBR 14/00 - Report under consideration from Colin Hill of a suspected **Hudsonian Godwit** seen in the Embankment Road area, Lake Ellesmere between 3 and 11 October 1999.
- UBR 15/00 - Reports under consideration from Colin Hill, Sheila Petch and Kathleen Harrison of a suspected **Ruff** seen in the Embankment Road area, Lake Ellesmere between 1 December 1999 and 31 January 2000.
- UBR 16/00 - Report under consideration from Colin Hill of a suspected **Little Curlew** seen at Embankment Road, Lake Ellesmere on 30 January 2000.
- UBR 17/00 - Report under consideration from Keith and Maeve Harrison of a suspected **Black Falcon** seen at Gillespies Beach, South Westland on 2 January 2000.
- UBR 18/00 - Report from Nick Allen of a suspected **Whimbrel** seen at Saltwater Creek, Ashley Estuary on 19 February 2000. This sighting has been accepted as being of a **Whimbrel** of indeterminate race.
- UBR 19/00 - Report under consideration from Nick Allen of an 'atypical **White-fronted Tern**' seen at Waipara and Ashley River mouths on 5 and 31 March 2000.
- UBR 20/00 - Report under consideration of a suspected **Kermadec Petrel** seen by Lysle Brinker of U.S.A. off Kaikoura on 25 January 1999 (This obviously relates to the same bird reported by Gary Melville - see UBR 16/99).
- UBR 21/00 - Report under consideration from Dave Bell of suspected **Brown Noddy** seen at Waimarama Beach on 12 April 2000.
- UBR 22/00 - Report under consideration from Willie Cook of suspected **Common Sandpiper** seen at Farewell Spit on 6 February 1992.
- UBR 23/00 - Report under consideration from Danny Boulton of French Pass Motels and Sea Safaris of '**White-capped Noddy**' seen at Stephens Passage on 2 February 2000.

DAVID MEDWAY

Convenor, Rare Birds Committee

