

Olivers Road to Walkhams Road

South Branch Ashburton River

Bird Count 12 February 2019

South Branch of the Ashburton from Olivers Road (NZTM E1491803 N 5147281) Walkhams Road (NZTM E1489090 N 5150687)

Survey

On the 12 February 2019 I walked the area between Olivers road and Walkhams Road, a distance of 4.4 kms. I went into the middle of the area and scanned the site for birds. There was a reasonable number of birds sighted, particularly in the downstream 2 km of the reach.

Birds Sighted at Olivers Road entrance

Pied stilt	3
Banded dotterel	4
Paradise shelduck	2
Black-fronted tern	2
White Faced Heron	1

Birds Sighted for next 2 kilometers up

Pied stilt	23 including 9 identified juveniles
Banded dotterel	13
Black-fronted tern	5 one juvenile
Spur winged plover	4

Birds sighted upstream 2 kilometers

Black Back Gull	1 juvenile
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Total Birds

Pied stilt	26
Banded dotterel	17
Paradise shelduck	2
Black-fronted tern	7
White Faced Heron	1
Spur winged plover	4

Overall Comment

I was surprised at the number of birds found in the lower reach of the survey area.

None of the birds sighted were sitting on nest and did not appear to have nests in the vicinity. I see no reason for the ATP not to go ahead, however it would be wise for the machinery operator to be aware of the bird feeding areas, generally sandy and fine shingle areas close to water and to try not to disturb them.



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