

CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES, SOUTH ISLAND AND OUTLYING ISLANDS, 1 JULY 1999 to 30 JUNE 2000

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Classified Summarised Notes (CSN) are a selection of bird observations provided by members and friends of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand each year. The purpose of CSN is to record the results of bird census counts, anecdotal observations of behaviour and habitat, sightings of rare species and common species outside their normal range, and to improve our understanding of New Zealand bird distribution and regional status. Compilations from Regional Recorders from Canterbury, Otago and Southland were received, but not from other regions, although several individuals provided sightings from them.

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Regional Recorders: C. Hill - Canterbury, J.A. Wilson - Otago, L. Esler - Southland.

Regional Abbreviations: [NE] Nelson, [MA] Marlborough, [WC] West Coast, [CA] Canterbury, [CI] Chatham Islands, [OT] Otago, [SO] Southland.

Abbreviations: ad adult; AF Airfield; asl above sea level; B Beach; BP Banks Peninsula; c. approximately; Crk Creek; E East; Est Estuary; fem female; grp group; Hbr Harbour; Hd Head; HQ Headquarters; ha hectare; h hours; imm immature; incl including; I Island; Is Islands; juv juvenile; km kilometres; L Lake; Lgn Lagoon; max maximum; m metres; min minimum; Mt Mount; Mts Mountains; NP National Park; Nth North; pr pair; Pk Peak; Pen Peninsula; Pt Point; R River; Ra Range; RM River Mouth; Rd Road; SP Sewage Ponds; Sd Sound; SHW State Highway; Sth South; Stm Stream; SF State Forest; Stn Station; Str Strait; Trk Track; V Valley; W West.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Australasian crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus australis*
[CA] L Forsyth, 36 on 23/9. Kaituna, L Ellesmere, 4 on 23/9 (NA). L Middleton, 2 on 18/4 (JB). [OT] L Johnson, 2+4 juv + 2 pr in Oct (DY). L Dunstan, 8 on 9/8, first record from this area (PH), 7 pr in Oct, 2 nests failed because of

increased water levels (GC), 7 pr on 1/11, 1 nest floating on weed beds disappeared when the lake level rose (EK,AH), 7 pr in Nov (BMcK).

Sooty shearwater *Puffinus griseus*
[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, exceptionally common on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Common diving petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*
[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, 1 on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Kerguelen petrel *Lugensa brevirostris*
[OT] Chisholm Park Golf Club, 1 on 7-8/9 (K&JVM).

Antarctic fulmar *Fulmarus glacialisoides*
[OT] Doves Patch, 14 km off Otago Pen, 1 on 5/9 (GL).

Mottled petrel *Pterodroma inexpectata*
[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, common on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Grey-backed storm petrel *Oceanites nereis*
[SO] Borland Rd, 1 on 24/11. Gertrude Saddle, 1 dead in 1999 (LE).

Yellow-eyed penguin *Megadyptes antipodes*
[OT] Pilots B, 1 on 29/12, rare inside Otago Hbr (PG, JAW).

Blue penguin *Eudyptula minor*
[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, 1 on 29/12-3/1 (DB).

Fiordland crested penguin *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*
[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, 2 on 6-9/11, others heard (CFJOD).

Australasian gannet *Morus serrator*
[SO] Off Omaui I, 4 on 6/2, uncommon in Southland (LE).

Black shag *Phalacrocorax carbo*
[OT] Upper Manuherikia V, 6 on 18/2. Falls Dam, 11 on 21/2 (K&JVM). Coal Pit Dam, 1 on 31/1 (JAW).

Little black shag *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*
[CA] Ashley Est, 1 on 25/9 (NA).

Little shag *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*
[CA] C. Hill's Pond, 1 on 14/12 (CH).

Stewart I shag *Leucocarbo chalconotus*
[SO] Islet off Rabbit I, Bluff Hbr, 60 ad (c.50:50 bronze & pied phases) and 51 chicks on 22/11 (WC).

Spotted shag *Stictocarbo punctatus*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, occasional on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

White-faced heron *Ardea novaehollandiae*

[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, several on 29/12-3/1 (DB).

White heron *Egretta alba*

[CA] Yarrs Flat, L Ellesmere, 1 on 3/6 (CH). [OT] All Day Bay, 1 on 27/2 (ARB). Anderson's Bay Inlet, 1 on 16/3 (JVM). L Waipori, 1 in early April (AN). [SO] Ermedale, 1 associating with a feral goose on 14-20/5 (LE). Milford Sd, 1 at head on 2/2 (BMCK).

Reef heron *Egretta sacra*

[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, 1 on 29/12-3/1 (DB).

Cattle egret *Bubulcus ibis*

[OT] Henley, Berwick Rd, 6 on 20/4, 12 on 4/6 [AN]. [SO] Dipton, 3 on 17/8. Oporo, 35 on 25/9, 41 on 13/10, 4 on 13/4 (LE).

Australasian bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

[CA] C. Hill's Pond, 1 on 3/7, 4/12. Yarrs Flat, L Ellesmere, 1 on 1/8 (CH). Harts Creek, L Ellesmere, 2 on 24/9 (NA). Opihi R, nr Hanging Rock, 1 on 17/12 on *Mimulus*-lined backwater (CFJOD). [OT] Emerald Crk, Macraes Flat, 1 feeding on 27/5 (GL).

Royal spoonbill *Platalea regia*

[OT] Maukiekie I, 80, no nests on 25/10, 60 + 16 nests on 8/2 (PS). Hawksbury Lgn, 34 on 23/3 (K&JVM). L Mahinerangi, 1 on 11/4. Green I, 30 nests on 8/12. Taieri I, 91 ads + juvs on 14/1 (PS). Nugget Pt, Catlins, 2 on 29/12 among red-billed gulls nesting on cliff (BG). [SO] Invercargill Est, 24 incl 2 with buff heads and bodies on 2/9 (KM). Omaui I, 49 on 6/2 (LE).

Mute swan *Cygnus olor*

[CA] Greenpark Sands, L Ellesmere, 4 on 10/10 (NA).

Canada goose *Branta canadensis*

[OT] Upper Manuherikia V, scattered groups + large downy juvs on 27/12. Falls Dam, 422+ on 21/2. L Logan, nest + 7 eggs on 24/10, 80+ and 1 downy juv on 25/12 (K&JVM). Lwr Coal Pit Dam, 2 on 8/1, 16/1. Hawksbury Lgn, 6 on 20/3, 4 on 11/7, 17 on 17/12 (JAW). Tomahawk Lgn No 2, 9 on 16/4. Leith Est, 2 on 1/3 (K&JVM).

Paradise shelduck *Tadorna variegata*

[OT] Clear Stm headbasin, Hawkdun Ra, fem on tarn at 1640 m asl on 19/2 (K&JVM).

Grey duck *Anas superciliosa*

[SO] Spencer (Tokore) I, Bluff Hbr, 2 on 22/11 (WC).

Grey teal *Anas gracilis*

[OT] Lwr Coal Pit Dam, 4 on 18/2, 17 on 22/2. L Logan, 23 on 25/12, highest count since 1983 (K&JVM).

NZ shoveler *Anas rhynchotis variegata*

[OT] Lwr Coal Pit Dam, 11 on 13/5. Hawksbury Lgn, 86 on 23/4 (K&JVM).

NZ scaup *Aythya australis*

[CA] L 2 RM, L Ellesmere, 50 on 1/9, an unusual site for them (CH).

NZ falcon *Falco novaeseelandiae*

[CA] Upper Hope V, 1 on 16/8 (CFJOD). L Ohau, 1 on 30/4 (ARB). [OT] Moke L, falcon killed by another falcon on 24/2 (GC). Rock and Pillar Ra, not recorded 24/10-18/3. Outram Glen, heard on 16/1 (K&JVM). [SO] Eyre Crk, Eyre Mts, 1 in beech forest on 22/1. Blue Mts, Tapanui, 2 nests on 16/11 (WC).

California quail *Callipepla californica*

[OT] Naseby, heard on 16/4 (JAW).

Spotless crane *Porzana tabuensis*

[CA] C. Hill's Pond, 1 on 25/10 (CH).

Marsh crane *Porzana pusilla*

[CA] Yarrs Flat, L Ellesmere, 1 on 15/11 (CH). Opihi R, nr Hanging Rock, 3 calling at night on 17/12 from willow-lined backwaters (CFJOD). [SO] Waimatua, 1 on 17/4 (LE). Eglinton V, calling in Mirror Lakes and Deer Flat wetlands in Jan (CFJOD).

Pukeko *Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*

[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, 3-4 on 29/12-3/1 (DB).

Australian coot *Fulica atra australis*

[OT] Ida Burn Dam, 1 ad feeding downy juvs on 22/2 (K&JVM). Butchers Dam, 1 on 29/10 (BMCK).

SI pied oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus finschi*

[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, 120-150 on 29/12-3/1 (DB). [CA] Ashley Est, 1 paired with variable oystercatcher during summer (NA). [OT] Centre Rd, Otago Pen, 2 ads + 2 new juvs on 17/10 (K&JVM).

Variable oystercatcher *Haematopus unicolor*

[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, 20 incl 3-4 pr with single chick on 29/12-3/1 (DB). [CA] Ashley Est, 3 hybrids on 25/10 (TC). [SO] Sandhill Pt, 4 on 15/10. Spencer (Tokore) I, Bluff Hbr, 6 on 22/11. Porpoise Bay B, 27 on 23/4. Curio Bay rock platform, 2 pr, 1 on nest with 3 eggs, 1 with 2 chicks on 11/12 (WC). Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, present on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Australasian pied stilt *Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus*

[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, 20 on 29/12-3/1 (DB).

NZ dotterel *Charadrius obscurus*

[SO] Oreti B, 1 on 3/1 (PR). Tiwai Spit, Awarua Bay, 47 on 3/4, 51 (highest since May 1972) on 4/4 (WC).

Banded dotterel *Charadrius bicinctus*

[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, 20 incl pr with single chick on 29/12-3/1 (DB). [OT] Upper Manuherikia V, 10 ads and juv on 28/12 (K&JVM). Blakely's Dam, 27 on 16/1, 4 on 18/4 (JAW). Waikouaiti Est, 46 on 20/3 (K&JVM). [SO] Tiwai Spit, Awarua Bay, chicks seen on 10/8. Oreti B, no breeding observed due to erosion this season (LE). Awarua Bay E, 58 on 5/4 (WC). Eglinton V, 1 pr in Jan (CFJOD).

Black-fronted dotterel *Charadrius melanops*

[CA] Ashworths Lgn, 1 on 9/10 (NA).

Wrybill *Anarhynchus frontalis*

[CA] Embankment Rd, L Ellesmere, 65 on 25/8 (4 colour banded), 115 on 28/8 (2 colour banded), 25 on 2/9, 100 on 1/12, 17 on 21/1, 87 on 6/3, 30+ on 2/3 (CH). Greenpark Sands, L Ellesmere, 1 on 10/10 (NA).

Pacific golden plover *Pluvialis fulva*

[CA] Clarkes Rd, L Ellesmere, 1 on 1/10, 10 on 3/10 (CH). Greenpark Sands, L Ellesmere, 16 on 10/10 (NA). Jarvis Rd, L Ellesmere, 29 on 3/11, 29 on 21/1, 63 on 27/3, 39 on 9/4 (CH). [SO] Awarua Bay Sth, 13 on 17/10 (PR).

Spur-winged plover *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae*

[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, 3-4 on 29/12-3/1 (DB).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

[CA] Ashley Est, 1 on 25/9 (TC). Greenpark Huts, L Ellesmere, 20 on 3/11, 22 on 22/11. Yarrs Flat, L Ellesmere, 39 on 1/12. Jarvis Rd, L Ellesmere, 9 on 21/1 (CH). Kaitorete Spit tip, 7 on 30/6 (NA). Rakaia RM, 25 in late Sept, 15 on 3/10 (AC). [OT] Waitaki RM, 20 on 24/10 (OSNZ). [SO] Waituna Lgn, 41 on 1/9 (KM). Waipapa Pt, 2 on 23/4 (WC).

Lesser knot *Calidris canutus*

[CA] Embankment Rd, L Ellesmere, 44 on 8/10, 3 on 3/10. Greenpark Huts, L Ellesmere, 37 on 29/10. Embankment Rd, L Ellesmere, 20 on 3/11, 1 on 16/11, 11 on 7/1, 9 on 21/1, 3 on 27/1, 8 on 28/2, 10 on 6/3 (CH). [SO] Awarua Bay E, 18 on 31/8 (KM).

Curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

[CA] Yarrs Flat, 1 on 28/8, 2 on 5/9, 2 on 10/9 (CH), 6 on 2/29 (NA), 8 on 29/9. Embankment Rd, L Ellesmere, 10 on 3/10, 14 on 8/10. Greenpark Huts, L Ellesmere, 15 on 29/10. Jarvis Rd, L Ellesmere, 9 on 21/1 (1 in full breeding plumage). Embankment Rd, L Ellesmere, 3 on 27/1, 8 on 28/1, 14 on 6/3, 6 on 12/3, 8 on 27/3, 7 on 9/4 (CH).

Sharp-tailed sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

[CA] Embankment Rd, L Ellesmere, 1 on 1/10 (CH).

Pectoral sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

[CA] Embankment Rd, L Ellesmere, 1 on 1/10, 1 on 3/10, 2 on 8/10, 1 on 7/1, 4 on 28/2 (CH). Greenpark Sands, L Ellesmere, 2 on 10/10 (NA), 2 on 3/11 (CH).

Red-necked stint *Calidris ruficollis*

[CA] Yarrs Flat, L Ellesmere, 5 on 25/8, 44 on 1/12, 39 on 9/4. Embankment Rd, L Ellesmere, 22 on 22/9, 24 on 3/10, 30 on 8/10, 37 on 11/10, 83 on 3/11, 75 on 27/3 (CH). Greenpark Sands, L Ellesmere, 14 on 10/10 (NA). Jarvis Rd, L Ellesmere, 82 on 21/1, 20+ on 12/3 (CH).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

[CA] Yarrs Flat, L Ellesmere, 1 between 1/12 and 31/1 accepted by Rare Birds Committee UBR 15/00 (CH, KH, SP).

Eastern curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

[CA] Ashley Est, 1 on 25/9 (NA).

Asiatic whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus variegatus*

[CA] Saltwater Creek, 1 on 12/9 (NA).

Little whimbrel *Numenius minutus*

[CA] Embankment Rd, L Ellesmere, 1 on 30/1 accepted by Rare Birds Committee UBR 16/00 (CH).

Eastern bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica baueri*[CA] Yarrs Flat, L Ellesmere, 3 on 5/9, 77 on 3/11, 18 on 15/11 (1 orange leg flag), 34 on 6/4 (1 orange flag). Embankment Rd, L Ellesmere, 6 on 29/9, 28 on 4/10, 18 on 8/10, 8 on 28/2, 6 on 2/3, 1 on 9/4 (CH). Greenpark Sands, L Ellesmere, 26 on 10/10 (NA). [OT] Karitane, 120 on 17/9 (TM, PS). [SO] Awarua Bay E, 139 on 31/8. Invercargill Est, 19 on 2/9. Waituna Lgn, 45 on 1/9 (KM). Waihopai Arm, Invercargill Est, several regular in Oct on newly restored mudflat following *Spartina* spraying (LE). Te Anau Basin, 11 on 7/11, unusual this far inland (BN).**Hudsonian godwit** *Limosa haemastica*

[CA] Embankment Rd, L Ellesmere, 1 on 3/10, 11/10 accepted by Rare Birds Committee UBR 14/00 (CH, SW).

Terek sandpiper *Tringa terek*

[SO] Awarua Bay Sth, 1 on 17/10 (PR), 1 on 3/4 (WC).

Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[OT] All Day Bay, 1 on 27/2 (ARB).

Southern black-backed gull *Larus dominicanus*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, common on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Red-billed gull *Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, common on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Black-billed gull *Larus bulleri*

[SO] Tuatapere, report from ploughman that birds sometimes follow plough so closely that they get buried and have to be dug out (LE).

White-winged black tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

[CA] Rangitata R, 1 on 3/10 (AC).

Black-fronted tern *Sterna albostrata*

[OT] Bendigo Reserve, L Dunstan, c.35 prs breeding on 5/2 (GC). Aramoana, 500 roosting on 1/4 (unusual number) (K&JVM).

Caspian tern *Sterna caspia*

[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, 3-4 on 29/12-3/1 (DB). [OT] All Day Bay, 8 on 27/2 (ARB). Hawksbury Lgn, 5 juvs on 20/3 (JAW). [SO] Wyndham, 1 on 15/11, unusual so far inland (LE).

Antarctic tern *Sterna vittata*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, 5 pr breeding above sea cave on western coast, others seen courting around island on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

White-fronted tern *Sterna striata*

[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, 40-50 on 29/12-3/1 (DB). [SO] Waipapa Pt, 150+ on 23/4 (WC). Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, occasional on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

NZ pigeon *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*

[CA] Hope V, common on 25-26/8 (CFJOD). [OT] Leith Saddle, 30 on 4/7 (GL). Wakari, 1 seen on ground on 15/8, 35 between 1900 and 2000 hrs on 23/11 (JAW).

SI kaka *Nestor meridionalis meridionalis*

[CA] Boundary Stm, Hope Valley, 2 on 19/9 (NA). Upper Hope V, 14 seen on 25-26/8 (CFJOD). [OT] Weston area, 1 for 4 months from June (AGH). Craig Rankin Reserve, Catlins, 1 on 14/9 (FS).

Kea *Nestor notabilis*

[CA] Upper Hope V, 8 seen on 25-26/8 (CFJOD). [SO] Little Jungle Crk, Eyre Mts, 2 on 23/2 (WC).

Yellow-crowned parakeet *Cyanoramphus auriceps*

[CA] Boundary Stm, Hope V, 28 on 19/9 (NA). [SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, common on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Parakeet *Cyanoramphus* sp.

[CA] Hope V, 62 groups encountered in 8 hr of searching on 25-27/8. Only yellow-crowned birds identified to species (CFJOD).

Shining cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

[CA] Hanging Rock Bridge, 1 on 25/9 (JW). [OT] Wakari, 1 on 26/10 (JAW). Thisbe Stm, Catlins, 1 on 28/9 (GL). [SO] Port Craig, first of the year heard on 13/10 (WC).

Morepork *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

[OT] Wakari, heard throughout year, 1 road kill on 5/4 (JAW). Mornington, heard on 18/3 (DW).

Little owl *Athene noctua*

[CA] C. Hill's Farm, 1 on 23/3 (CH). [OT] Flag Swamp, 1 on 11/12 (BMcK). Wakari, heard on 7/8 (JAW), 2 seen on 18/5 (PG). Castlewood & Camp Rd, Otago Pen, present Jan-Jun (K&JVM). Glenoamaru, Catlins, 1 on 11/10 (GL).

NZ kingfisher *Halcyon sancta vagans*

[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, >20 on 29/12-3/1 (DB). [OT] Waianakarua Est, 1 on 23/4. Dunback, 2 on 13/5. Inch Valley, 1 on 13/5. Hawksbury Lgn, 1 on 23/2. Blueskin Bay, 1 on 4/9, 2 on 13/5. Purakanui Inlet, 6 on 4/7. Aramoana, 3 on 29/1. Papanui Inlet, 2 on 11/6. Hoopers Inlet, 6 on 28/8 (K&JVM). Mt Grand, 1 on 19/1 (ARB). Taieri Ferry, 1 ate skink on 20/8 (K&JVM). Wakari, 1 on 13/5 (JAW).

SI rifleman *Acanthisitta chloris chloris*

[OT] Larnachs Castle, 1 on 5/2 (K&JVM).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

[OT] Redbank, Macraes Flat, first song on 20/7 (GL).

Hedge sparrow *Prunella modularis*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, uncommon on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, uncommon on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

SI fernbird *Bowdleria punctata punctata*

[NE] Awaroa, Abel Tasman NP, 5-6 on 29/12-3/1 (DB).

Codfish fernbird *Bowdleria punctata wilsoni*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, c.20 on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Grey warbler *Gerygone igata*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, common on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

SI fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa fuliginosa*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, common on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

SI tomtit *Petroica macrocephala macrocephala*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, common on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

SI robin *Petroica australis australis*

[OT] Chalkies Track, 3 on 25/4. Silverstream, 4 on 25/4 (K&JVM).

Stewart I robin *Petroica australis rakiura*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, 2 on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, 1 only on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Bellbird *Anthornis melanura*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, exceptionally common on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Tui *Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*

[CA] Boundary Stm, Hope V, 20 on 19/9 (NA). [SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, exceptionally common on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, 1 only on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

[CA] Hope V, 5 flocks of 100+ each feeding on beech seed on 25-27/8 (CFJOD).

House sparrow *Passer domesticus*

[OT] Long B, 100 feeding on marram on 5/3 (K&JVM).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, 2 on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

SI saddleback *Philesturnus carunculatus carunculatus*

[SO] Putauhinu I, sthn Titi Is, common on 6-9/11 (CFJOD).

Australian magpie *Gymnorhina tibicens*

[OT] Glenorchy, pr, both black-backed form on 8/4 (BP). [SO] 1 isabelline form collected in Dec (LE).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

[OT] Blakely's Dam, 2 on 18/4 (JAW).

E. & O.E.