

East Coast Birds – Trends 2017 & 2018

Species	Spring 2017	Winter 2018	Possible explanation
Black-fronted tern	6	24	Breeds inland, winters on the coast with large winter roost at Lake Grassmere
Southisland pied oystercatcher	21	42	Breeds inland, migrates North for winter. The Spring count possibly first year birds not breeding, the winter birds migrating out of rivers and moving north. Remember a significant migration route goes up the coast past Cape Campbell
Turnstone	45	0	Northern hemisphere
White fronted tern	94	4	SE Australia (90% of population migrates)
Banded dotterel (2012 survey in brackets)	103 (84)*	92	No movement of coastal breeders
Variable oystercatcher	62	79	Coastal breeders, small increase in winter numbers, higher grade habitat for wintering
Pied shag	32	118	Spring count lower as birds at local breeding colonies, winter has more birds as birds not occupied at colonies and roosting on the coast (note when breeding these birds are still commuting to the coast to forage, but return to colonies)
Spotted shag	2	89	Migration from south, or possible Marlborough Sounds. Not unexpected.
Caspian tern	16	6	Local colony at Grassmere? Yes, would agree high Spring count is birds foraging from the Lake Grassmere colony