Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
Based on: Watola, G. 2009. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (2nd Edition)
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.
Updated and amended text supplied by George Watola, October, 2011.
Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
Australian reed warbler: p 213.

Australian Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus australis* (Gould 1838), Vagrant (1) 14/11/2004 St. Anne's Lagoon, Cheviot, Canterbury

There seems to be some confusion regarding who actually found this. It was apparently first noticed by an expatriate Dutch non-birder, Harry Furling, on the 14th November. Sheila Petch was notified by Harry, and on being also informed, Nick Allen (2004) went to see the bird. It frequented a small patch of raupo, and was also seen by a party of Dutch birders who had dropped in to see Cape Barren Geese.

The subject of discussion as to whether it attracted many "twitchers", only 20-30 birders had seen it after a fortnight, although at least 100 O.S.N.Z. members live in Canterbury. It was photographed and sound-recorded. It was last seen on the 28th.

A common migrant in south-east Australia, it moves northwards in March-April. Oriental Reed -Warbler *A. orientalis* is another possibility, it being a rare migrant as far south as New South Wales during January-March.