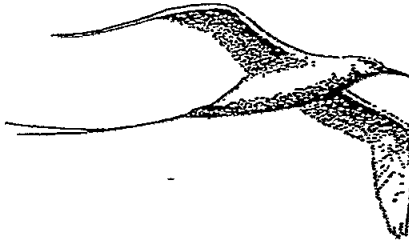


AMOKURA



*Newsletter
of the Northland Region
of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand*

February 2012

Amokura 103

Published in February, July and October of each year

MEETINGS of the Northland Branch of the O.S.N.Z. are held each month on the second Thursday, for the period FEBRUARY to DECEMBER.

TIME: 7-30p.m.

VENUE: Founders Room, Alzheimers Society, 321 Western Hills Drive, Whangarei.

COST: A donation of \$3-00 per person per meeting is requested toward the cost of hall hire, supper and the production and distribution of "Amokura".

ALL WELCOME

PROGRAMME TO JUNE 2012

FEBRUARY		AMOKURA 103
	9	Meeting: 7-30p.m.
	18	WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
	21	EAST COAST BEACH PATROL
MARCH	8	MEETING - AGM - Poss. Dale & Karen trip.
	17	WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
	20	EAST COAST BEACH PATROL
APRIL	12	MEETING - Poss. Cape York trip?
	14	WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
	17	EAST COAST BEACH PATROL
MAY	10	MEETING - Poss. Ron Burgin
	19	WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
	22	EAST COAST BEACH PATROL
JUNE	2-4	O.S.N.Z. AGM (Tauranga)
	10	WHANGAREI HARBOUR Survey 12:30 3.0m
	14	MEETING - t.b.a.
	16	WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
	19	EAST COAST BEACH PATROL
	23	KAIPARA HARBOUR Survey 12:55 3.8m

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE:	Janet Snell	438-5737
TREASURER:	Den Carter	435-1650
SECRETARY:	Ruth Crockett	435-0954
REGIONAL RECORDER:	Tony Beauchamp	436-2224
REGIONAL REPORTER:	Claire Burtt	435-1166
AMOKURA EDITOR:	Kevin Hayes	437-6470

CHANGE AT THE HELM

After what probably seemed to him to be a "lifetime sentence", David Crockett has asked for some time out to concentrate on a couple of projects that are dear to his heart – The Chatham Island Taiko Trust – The Whangarei Native Forest and Bird Protection Society finances – and most importantly, some family time.

He has therefore, stepped down as our R.R. and this position has been taken up by Janet Snell – who has also "been there before". Her term of Office started 1st January 2012 and she expects to be relieved of the "title" within two years – why not prepare **yourself** now, for a turn as R.R. – it need not be a "life sentence"?

100 issues of AMOKURA – What was hot and what was not!

You will recall that in AMOKURA 102, we re-visited some of the highlights from the first 30 issues of our newsletter. Here we pick up the thread with no.18, issued during March 1982 that recorded a substantial turn-out for the Anniversary weekend Far North Survey when some 120km of shoreline was walked, and the resulting observations passed to the Wildlife Service, which is expected to make use of the data. On 30th January 1982, a total population of birds numbering 11,000 from about 40 species, were noted – many on the Parengarenga Harbour.

Issue No.21 of November 1982 reported the successful launching of the vessel "Totorore" by Kerikeri ornithologist Gerry Clark on 20 October 1982 followed by the outfitting and provisioning of her in readiness for a mid-December departure for Juan Fernandez Island. O.S.N.Z. members were busily raising funds and seeking donations of supplies such as butter, cheese powder, milk powder, dried fruits etc for the voyage.

In February 1983 Amokura reported the recent publication of "Wildlife and Wildlife Values in Northland" by C. C. Ogle – "this would be the most important survey to date, on the birds of Northland, which includes historical records" and chairman Mike Kearns presented a comprehensive report on the latest Far North survey. The next issue, No.23, recorded the passing of Sandy Edgar on 6th June 1983 and mentioned his active involvement in birding from 1962 onward. He had been, deservedly, awarded the Sir Robert Falla Memorial Award for 1982 at the recent O.S.N.Z. AGM in Christchurch. This issue also reported the arrival in Chile on 10th May, of Gerry Clark on "Totorore", following a visit to the Chatham Islands.

In November 1983 we were reminded that "AMOKURA" had achieved a quarter century of publication (from 1958) and that during February 1984 Gerry Clark was in the Magellan Strait and running dangerously low on fuel because of the adverse currents that precluded sailing. In September of that year, Amokura recorded the largest number of seabirds washed ashore in our region since 1974 – predominantly Blue and Kerguelen Petrels. Interestingly, the August issue reported "Folkert Nieuwland, Waikato, reports an Intermediate (Plumed) Egret (*Egretta intermedia*) on a farm where there was also a flock of 221 Cattle Egret in the same paddock. The "Plumed Egret" appeared to be associating more with some nearby White-faced Herons, than the Cattle Egrets". (*Could this be the answer to the mystery of "Two white birds" seen by Janet and Claire at Horeke?*)

AMOKURA 36 recorded the death on 28th September 1986, of Charlie Devonshire of Tamaterau who was a keen observer and a guardian of the shoreline. The next issue, No.37, of December 1986 reported at least four Black Stilt sightings during the past six months – all on the Kaipara coast.

AMOKURA 44 & 45 dated January 1989 reported that our R.R., David Crockett, was Acting-President of O.S.N.Z. as well as leading a further major Chatham Island Taiko expedition. Even by 2012 nothing much has changed - he is still a very busy man!

More history in our next issue.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

On 26th October 2011 a group of walkers on the track to Whale Bay, Matapouri, observed a female Pied Tit busily feeding two young. On 31st December, Pauline Smith reported seeing a Spotted Dove perched on a power-line outside our home – probably a caged bird escapee.

On New Years Day, a White Heron was seen roosting in a Pohutukawa tree at the Shag colony at the Waipu Refuge. Then on the 4th January, Pauline and I watched a pair of Gannets playing in the thermals, as they flew in a leisurely manner up the Hatea River toward the Whangarei Falls. This unusual behavior was preceded by some nine White-fronted Terns on the same "flight path", but they were travelling more rapidly and purposefully. Two days later another two White-fronted Terns were seen – most unusual for Tikipunga!

There were ca.35 Ruddy Turnstones at Waipu on 20th January and three New Zealand Dabchicks on Semenoff's sand ponds on the 30th. To round out this brief summary, there were two Morepork observed in the Crawford Reserve on the Ngunguru road on 1st February at 10-00a.m. – perhaps they had a heavy night out!

FAIRY TERN NOTES

During the December/January period several of our members have been assisting DoC with monitoring Fairy Tern at the Waipu Refuge where 2 juveniles have been successfully fledged and remain with the adult pairs where they are still being fed by the parents.

At the Mangawhai colony, two juvenile Fairy Tern were hatched in mid-January but Australasian Harriers were seen to be menacing the nest. This led to the implementation of a dawn to dusk watch being established from a nearby hide and several of our group helped out with "manning the watch" during evening hours. This was a new experience for us, as was the trip across the estuary in "*TARA ITI*" the boat belonging to the Fairy Tern Trust. We understand that several Harriers have been trapped, as has one cat.

THE 2011 NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL SURVEY

During mid-October 2011 our members responded to the call and covered our West and East Coast beaches to count N.Z. Dotterel as a segment of the National Survey. Our Northland Branch effort was coordinated by Tony Beauchamp and Kevin Hayes who were thrilled by the willing participation of our limited number of physically active members. A big vote of thanks to all of you who took part, with special thanks to Karen Miller and Dale Calvert who were delivered to the southern end of the Hokianga Harbour by Audrey Williams, before tramping down the West Coast for three days, counting as they walked. They experienced higher than anticipated river crossings and spent two nights under canvas before arriving at the spot where their vehicle was parked.

Janet Snell and Claire Burttt stayed overnight on the northern East Coast, as did Kevin Hayes and Pauline Smith, to get a good start on their respective territories while the tide was right. Both Logan Forrest at Pouto, and the Department of Conservation teams from Dargaville and Waipu, completed their areas efficiently. Special thanks also to Genelle and the Environmental Team at the N.Z. Refining compound for covering a population that we would not otherwise know about. A pair of Spur-winged Plover was observed there, having "stolen" the nest of a pair of frantic Dotterel, and were sitting on the Dotterel eggs.

Unfortunately the M.V. *RENA* ran onto the Astrolabe Reef about the time of the survey and this played havoc with the schedule of John Dowding who is coordinating the survey for O.S.N.Z. so we still await his official record of the survey. An interim schedule for our Branch follows;

Surname	Name	Grid No.s	2011	2004	1996	1989
Forrest	Logan	N1 Kellys Bay & Inner Kaipara	11	0	0	2
Forrest	Logan	N2 Okaro Creek	22	not done	2	4
Forrest	Logan	N3 Walkere/Tauhore Creeks	6	not done	not done	0
Forrest	Logan	N4 Pouto - Kaipara Head	44	20	14	6
Searle - DOC	Barbara	N5 Kaipara Head - North Head	2	5	10	6
Searle - DOC	Barbara	N6 North Head - Causeway	2	5	4	14
Searle - DOC	Barbara	N7 Causeway - 7km north	0	4	17	18
Searle - DOC	Barbara	N8 7km north - 14km north	0	1	6	15
Searle - DOC	Barbara	N9 14km north - Tikiui	0	1	8	0
Searle - DOC	Barbara	N10 Omamari	0	0	2	0
Miller & Calvert	Karen & Dale	N11 Maunganni Bluff to Kawerua	12	20	20	20
Miller & Calvert	Karen & Dale	N12 Kawerua to Kalkai Beach	8	9	10	6
Miller & Calvert	Karen & Dale	N13 Kalkai Beach to South Head	5	6	not done	0
Beauchamp	Tony	N88 Whangamumu Bay	0	0	not done	0
Beauchamp	Tony	N89 Umahoke & Pahi Bays	1	0	4	4
Hayes & Smith	Kevin & Pauline	N90 Elliot Bay	7	5	8	6
Hayes & Smith	Kevin & Pauline	N91 Bland Bay	3	16	27	7
Hayes & Smith	Kevin & Pauline	N92 Bays at East and West ends of Bland Bay	7	0	0	1
Hayes & Smith	Kevin & Pauline	N93 Admirals and Puriri Bays	0	0	4	not done
Hayes & Smith	Kevin & Pauline	N94 Okura Beach	3	3	0	0
Not done		N95 Moku Bay	0	0	0	2
Not done		N96 Nops Island	not done	0	2	not done
Burgin	Ron & Dee	N97 Mohel Bay	not done	0	0	0
Burgin	Ron & Dee	N98 Otara Bay	Access den	0	0	0
Burgin	Ron & Dee	N99 Te Mimiha - Helena Bay	6	3	0	0
Burgin	Ron & Dee	N100 Ngawal - Teal Bay	0	1	0	0
Cogan	Des	N101 Okurekureia Bay	0	2	0	0
Cogan	Des	N102 Taiwaraewe Bay	0	0	0	0
Hawken & Hudson	Jean & Julie	N103 Paparahi Beach	0	0	0	0
Hawken & Hudson	Jean & Julie	N104 Ngahau Bay	0	3	2	2
Hawken & Hudson	Jean & Julie	N105 Waikoha Bay	2	2	0	0
Hawken & Hudson	Jean & Julie	N106 Mimiwhangata Bay	2	3	1	6

Hawken & Hudson	Jean & Julie	N107	Black Beach	0	0	0	0	0
Hawken & Hudson	Jean & Julie	N108	Kaituna Beach	1	0	0	0	0
Beauchamp	Tony	N109	Okupe Beach	3	0	0	0	0
Beauchamp	Tony	N110	Komakorara - Te Ruatahi Is.	3	2	2	2	8
Beauchamp	Tony	N111	Te Ruatahi	0	3	4	not done	0
Beauchamp	Tony	N112	Parepareua Bay	1	2	4	0	0
Burt & Snell	Claire & Janet	N113	Rockells Bay - Motutara Point	not done	0	0	0	0
Burt & Snell	Claire & Janet	N114	Whananaki Estuary	5	3	7	7	7
Burt & Snell	Claire & Janet	N115	Memorial Bay	0	2	not done	3	3
Burt & Snell	Claire & Janet	N116	Orusea Bay	0	1	0	0	1
Burt & Snell	Claire & Janet	N117	Sandy Bay	0	2	2	2	0
Pullman	Nan & Malcolm	N118	Mary Lou's, Daisy & Sheltered Bays	7	0	2	2	2
Pullman	Nan & Malcolm	N119	Woolleys Bay	1	6	0	0	2
Buckley	Darlene & Chris	N120	Matapouri Bay & Estuary	0	1	0	0	2
Whitburn	Denise	N121	Whangaumu - Wellingtons Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Ward	Hilton	N122	Ngunguru Estuary	18	12	10	10	12
Calvert	Dale	N123	Kumi Point - Horahora River	4	10	6	6	3
Miller & Calvert	Karen & Dale	N124	Parauwanui Beach (Pataua North)	15	5	4	4	7
Dowdell-Hutchinson	Margaret & Peter	N125	Taiharuru Estuary	6	0	0	0	2
Dowdell-Hutchinson	Margaret & Peter	N126	McGregors Bay	0	1	0	0	0
Gibson	Lynnie	N127	Kauri Mountain Beach	16	12	28	32	32
Gibson	Lynnie	N128	Ocean Beach	3	0	0	0	0
Barr	Ben & Jo	N129	Whangarei Harbour-Limestone Is.etc.	8	8	0	0	4
Slack	Genelle	N130	Refinery compound	25	2	5	3	3
Hansen & Pilon	Katrina & Gerard	N131	Ruakaka Ponds (Sand & Sewage)	0	4	4	4	6
Hicks	Margaret	N132	Ruakaka Estuary	7	9	7	11	11
Browne & Others	Tiff	N133	Ruakaka To Waipū (Inc, estuary)	38	37	21	26	26
Mataira	Matu	N134	Langs Beach	6	2	4	0	0
Beauchamp	Tony	N135	Andersons Bay (Breem tail to Mangawhai River	0	0	0	0	0
Pulham & 9 others	Gwenda	N136		0	0	0	0	0
"	"	N137	Mangawhai Spit & Estuary	108	86	81	not done	not done
"	"	N138	included in N137 total	0	not done	81	not done	not done
TOTALS				418	319	413	250	

O.S.N.Z. Northland Branch

Proposed Calendar for 2012

JANUARY	21	WEST COAST BEACH PATROL	
	24	EAST COAST BEACH PATROL	
FEBRUARY		AMOKURA 103	
	9	Meeting: 7-30p.m.	
	18	WEST COAST BEACH PATROL	
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JUNE	2-4	O.S.N.Z. AGM (Tauranga)	
	10	WHANGAREI HARBOUR Survey 12:30	3.0m
	14	MEETING - t.b.a.	
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REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE:			
TREASURER:		Janet Snell	
SECRETARY:		Den Carter	
AMOKURA EDITOR:		Ruth Crockett	
REGIONAL RECORDER:		Kevin Hayes	
REGIONAL REPORTER:		Tony Beauchamp	
		Claire Burt	

JULY

AMOKURA 104

- 12 MEETING - Poss.
- 14 WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
- 17 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL

AUGUST

- 9 MEETING:
- 11 WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
- 12 National Winter Royal Spoonbill Census
- 14 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL

SEPTEMBER:13

- 15 MEETING - Poss.
- 18 WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
- 22 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL
- Caspian Tern Nesting survey

OCTOBER

- AMOKURA 105
- 11 MEETING -
- 13 WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
- 16 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL

NOVEMBER

- 8 MEETING - Speaker t.b.a.
- 10 WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
- 13 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL
- 17 KAIPARA HARBOUR survey 1:55pm
- 4.3m

DECEMBER

- 1 WHANGAREI HARBOUR survey 10:30am
- 3.1m
- 5 MEETING - Wed. Socialise - details t.b.a.
- 8 WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
- 11 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL

CONVENORS:

- West Coast Beach Patrols: Prue Cozens 437-7760
- East Coast Beach Patrols: Claire Burt 435-1166
- Whangarei Harbour Census: Tony Beauchamp 436-2224
- Kaipara Harbour Census: David Crockett 435-0954
- Limestone/Matakohe Island: Gerry Brackenbury 437-7532
- Bird Recovery Centre: Prue Cozens 437-7760
- Suppers: Pauline 437-6470

NATIONAL WADER CENSUS - NORTH KAIPARA

Compiled by David Crockett
Date: 26th November 2011

Weather: Fine-blustery winds.

Time: Noon

Tide Height: 3.3m

	Borcks	Oneriri	Ngamotu	Batley - Tanoa	Tinopai	Pahi-Whakapirau	Ruawai	Taingahae-Kellys Bay	Okaro Creek	TOTAL
Black shag										
Pied shag				1		10			15	26
Little black shag									17	17
Little shag										
White-faced heron				8		20		6	12	46
White heron										
Reef heron										
Royal spoonbill										
SI pied oystercatcher				9	86			150	58	208
Variable oystercatcher								70	60	130
Pied stilt				2	2			7	9	20
NZ dotterel										
Banded dotterel	NO									
Wrybill										
Pacific golden plover	BIRDS									
Spur winged plover		4						30	26	60
Turnstone	PRESENT									
Lesser knot										
Far-eastern curlew										
Asiatic whimbrel										
Bar-tailed godwit				1270		500		15	780	2565
Black-backed gull				3	6	20		3	14	46
Red-billed gull						20			6	26
Caspian tern				1		6		20	7	34
White-fronted tern					17			70		89
Fairy tern										
Little tern										
Cattle egret										
Black swan										
Paradise Shelduck										
TOTAL	0	4	1294	0	111	576	5	368	1004	3362

PARTICIPANTS: P. Cozens, P. Smith, L. Forrest, J. Snell, D. Crockett, K. Hayes, P. Yardley.
NOTE:

NATIONAL WADER CENSUS - WHANGAREI

Compiled by Kevin Hayes

Date: 27th November 2011

Tide Height: 3.3m

Time: 10:00

Weather: Fine & clear

	McLeods Bay	Parua Bay	Tamaterau	Waikaraka	Skull Creek	Marsden Canal beach	Albany Road	Marsden Point	Mair Road Marsden Pt.	TOTAL
Black shag	1									1
Pied shag	1			1						3
Little black shag										
Little shag	1									1
White-faced heron			1	1	7					9
White heron										
Reef heron										
Royal spoonbill										
SI pied oystercatcher										
Variable oystercatcher	3			4	2	110		12	83	214
Pied stilt	2							2		2
NZ dotterel										
Banded dotterel										
Wrybill										
Pacific golden plover							4			4
Spur winged plover										
Turnstone										
Lesser knot							132			132
Fair-eastern curlew										
Asiatic whimbrel										
Bar-tailed godwit							267			267
Black-backed gull	3	4	1	73						81
Red-billed gull	8	5	1	3				830		847
Caspian tern	2	1					3		2	8
White-fronted tern										
Fairy tern										
Little tern										
Cattle egret										
Black swan										
Mallard cross duck	1	1		1						3
Australasian Gannet		1								1
TOTAL	20	14	3	83	9	111	406	844	85	1575

WHANGAREI HARBOUR SURVEY

Compiled by Kevin Hayes.

DATE 27th November 2011

	North shore	Portland	Skull creek	Takahiwa	Marsden Point	Port Whangarei	Waipu	Ruakaka	TOTAL
Pied Shag						12		15	27
LB Shag									
W shag									
WF Heron		2	7	1		1			11
Reef Heron									
Spoonbill									
NZ pied oystercatcher		20					5	4	29
Variable oystercatcher			2				67	34	103
Pied Stilt		4		5			2	2	13
NZ dotterel								7	7
B Dotterel									
Wrybill									
Spurs-winged Plover									
Bar-tailed Godwit				2000			103	97	2200
BB gull		24		6				15	45
RB gull				4				11	15
Caspian tern						1		13	14
White-fronted tern									
Black swan									
Australasian Gannet						1			1
TOTALS	50	60	9	2016	15	177	198	2465	

Counters: Margaret & Peter Hutchinson, Pauline Smith & Prue Cozens, Kevin Hayes, David Crockett, Dennis Carter, Julie Hudson, Janet Snell, Gerard Pilon, Genelle Slack.