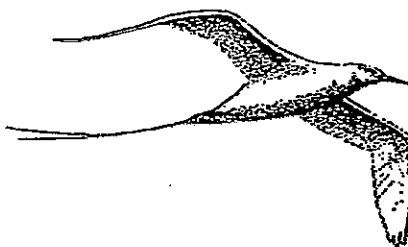


AMOKURA



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

February 2013

Amokura 106

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 2013

FEBRUARY		AMOKURA 106
	14	Meeting: 7-30p.m. Allan Ford – (Cape York visit)
	23	WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
	26	EAST COAST BEACH PATROL
MARCH	14	MEETING –AGM -
	23	WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
	26	EAST COAST BEACH PATROL
APRIL	11	MEETING –
	20	WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
	23	EAST COAST BEACH PATROL
MAY	9	MEETING –
	18	WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
	21	EAST COAST BEACH PATROL
JUNE	1-3	O.S.N.Z. AGM (Dunedin)
	t.b.a.	WHANGAREI HARBOUR Survey
	13	MEETING –
	22	WEST COAST BEACH PATROL
	25	EAST COAST BEACH PATROL
	t.b.a.	KAIPARA HARBOUR Survey

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 Burt	435-1166
AMOKURA EDITOR:	Kevin Hayes	437-6470

CHANGE!

How on earth did 2012 slip away on us so rapidly? – And what lies ahead of us as a group in 2013? First off, we send our messages of support to Claire Burtt and to Karen Miller who are fighting health issues. Jean Hawken suffered a painful fall and has endured a slow healing process on her wrist. We look forward to the “return to the fold” of all of you. Our sympathy is also extended to Janet Snell, whose husband Lloyd passed away recently.

Congratulations to Dr John Craig of Pataua North, on the recent award to him of a “gong” in recognition of his extensive work for conservation – particularly on Tiritiri Matangi Island.

Our special thanks go to Ben and Jo Barr, Rangers on Matakoho/Limestone Island, and a couple of their friends, for their sterling work in recording the nesting activity at the Caspian Tern colony on Knight Island in the Whangarei Harbour. Unfortunately, both FOMLI and we are losing Ben and Jo as their contract has expired and they feel that it is time for them to move on – dedicated and passionate people like them are very hard to find.

David and Ruth Crockett returned last month to their “home away from home” on the Chatham Islands to mark the 35th anniversary of the “re-discovery” of the Chatham Island Taiko/Magenta Petrel during January 1973 and we look forward to hearing about this visit upon their return.

Janet Snell – who has “been there before”, started her term of Office as Regional Representative on 1st January 2012 and has already completed a year in the position. As Janet expects to be relieved of the “title” within a year or so, why not prepare yourself now, for a turn as R.R? At the AGM we will be seeking nominations for the position as her deputy.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

On Tuesday 22nd January Janet and Claire drove down to Johnson Point Road, Waipu on a calm sunny afternoon and walked along the shelly bank to the left of the carpark as far as the groyne. They counted 25+ New Zealand Dotterel and as many Banded Dotterel – all sitting, enjoying the sunshine. After enjoying a cup of tea and a few “bikkies” and having shared the peaceful area with the Dotterels, they strolled back toward their car and two Fairy Terns landed so close in front of them that they were able to record the leg-band on one of them (– M – O). A very rewarding and satisfying walk.

Following an interesting presentation by the Hamilton Branch at the Tauranga conference of the Society, we decided to begin some work on the local Morepork – Ruru. At very short notice we obtained from Hamilton, a summary of their work and drafted a simple form for our members to record Morepork calls heard during a one hour period during a period of a week. At our October meeting 16 people indicated their willingness to participate and forms were distributed. Since then 7 sheets have been returned to Kevin. If you still have your copy tucked away, we would appreciate receiving it. The exercise proved to be both enjoyable and addictive. We still note it when we hear a call. The Morepork seems to be reasonably common around the City and we look forward to a better organized effort next year.

Kia ora tatou,

Professor Stuart Parsons of the School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland, has been approached for assistance in advertising a new citizen science project being developed by Dr Petr Procházka, Institute of Vertebrate Biology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (<http://www.ivb.cz/staff-rndr-petr-prochazka-ph-d.html>). Details of the project are given below. Professor Parsons has asked the OSNZ to help promote the project and solicit inputs from its members. **Could you please bring this to the attention of your branch members at monthly meetings, by email, and through your newsletters?** Many thanks.

Dr Procházka writes: 'The principal aim of the proposed project is to explore yellowhammer song dialects both in Great Britain and New Zealand. The idea behind this is based on the well-known fact that yellowhammers were introduced to New Zealand from Great Britain and we would like to test how stable over time their song dialects are. The past research undertaken in Europe discovered that yellowhammers show sharp borders between populations with particular song dialects. By mapping the geographical pattern of yellowhammer dialects in Great Britain and New Zealand we might reveal how the newly founded population spread across the free space and whether some new dialects emerged during the process of cultural evolution.'

'The recent Czech citizen science project investigating the distribution of yellowhammer dialects in the Czech Republic involved a decent number of people from the public and the results were encouraging. During two years we obtained more than 1700 recordings. The recording it is very easy for the public as common devices (mobile phones, digital cameras or video-cameras) are sufficient for this purpose and yellowhammer song can easily be recognized. The results can be viewed here: <http://www.strnadi.cz/kde>.'

'The website <http://yellowhammers.net> allows users to upload their recordings and it gives them all necessary information about the project and the study species. I would greatly appreciate if you could circulate this information among potentially interested people. You can also like and share the Facebook group <http://www.facebook.com/YellowhammerDialects> or use other social networks to spread the public awareness of this new project. Thank you for any help you can provide.'

Many thanks in advance for helping to promote the project.

All the best,

Peter

Peter Frost (OSNZ Project & Activities Committee)
87 Ikitara Road,
Whanganui 4500
NEW ZEALAND
phone: +64 (0)6 343 1648
mobile: +64 (0)21 1037 730

Ornithological Society of New Zealand
"fostering the study and enjoyment of birds"

NORTHLAND WEST COAST BEACH PATROL – Code NW - SUMMARY

Compiled by Prue Cozens – Period JULY to DECEMBER 2012

MONTH	19-07-12	11-08-12	14-09-12	1-10-12	10-11-12	08-12-12	
FROM	3.5k Nth Bayley	Omamari	Glinks	3.5k Sth Bayle	Mahuta Gap	Mahuta Gap	
TO	3.0k Sth.Bayley	Kailwi Stm.	Rocks 3.5k	3.5k Nth.Bayl	3k Nth.Chases	3k Nth.Chase	
DISTANCE	6.5km.		20.5km.	0km.	0km.	0km.	TOTAL
PATROLLERS: <i>D. Calvert,</i>	<i>J. Snell</i>	<i>H. Applegate</i>	<i>P. Cozens</i>	<i>E. Applegate</i>	<i>M. Medei</i>		
Wandering Albatross							
Royal Albatross							
Black-browed Mollymawk							
White-capped (shy mollymawk)							
Storm Petrel Sp.							
Buller's Mollymawk							
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross	1						1
Flesh-footed Shearwater							
Buller's Shearwater			1				1
Sooty Shearwater							
Short-tailed Shearwater							
Fluttering Shearwater	2						2
Hutton's Shearwater							
Little Shearwater				NO			
Common Diving Petrel	1			PATROL			1
Black Petrel			1	DONE			1
White-chinned Petrel							
Kerguelen Petrel							
Cape Pigeon	1						1
Antarctic Fulmar							
Northern Giant Petrel							
Fairy Prion	4		3				7
Thin-billed Prion	1						1
Antarctic Prion			3				3
Broad-billed Prion			1				1
Lesser Broad-billed Prion		NO	6		NO	NO	6
Prion sp	1		2				3
Blue Petrel		PATROL			PATROL	PATROL	
Pycroft's Petrel							
Cook's Petrel		DONE			DONE	DONE	
Black-winged Petrel							
Mottled Petrel							
Grey-faced Petrel	1		1				2
White-headed Petrel	1		1				2
White-faced Storm Petrel							
Blue Penguin							
Australasian Gannet			1				1
Pied Shag							
Grey-headed Mollymawk							
Shearwater Sp.							
Variable Oystercatcher							
Southern Black-backed Gull							
Red-billed Gull							
Salvins Mollymawk							
White Fronted Tern							
TOTAL	13	Nil	20	Nil	Nil	Nil	33

EAST COAST BEACH PATROL – SUMMARY – Code NE

Compiled by P. R. SMITH – Period JULY to DECEMBER 2012

MONTH	17 JULY	14 AUGUST	18 SEPT.	16 OCTOBER	13 NOV.	27 NOV.	TOTAL
FROM	Surf Club	Ruakaka	Ruakaka River	Ruakaka Riv.	Ruakaka Riv..	Mair Rd.	
TO	Uretiti Tip	Waipu R.	3.5 Sth.Uretiti	Waipu Tip	Waipu Tip.	Ruakaka Riv.	
DISTANCE	7.5 km	6.0 km	10.5 km	9.0 km	9.0 km	4.0 km	
PATROLLERS		M. Robinson J Snell	P. Cozens J. Hudson	A. McCracken			
Wandering Albatross							
Royal Albatross							
Black-browed Mollymawk							
White-capped (shy mollymawk)							
Grey-headed Mollymawk							
Buller's Mollymawk							
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross							
Flesh-footed Shearwater					2		2
Buller's Shearwater				1	1		2
Sooty Shearwater						1	1
Short-tailed Shearwater							
Fluttering Shearwater	3		2	2	1	1	9
Hutton's Shearwater							
Little Shearwater							
Common Diving Petrel				2		1	3
Black Petrel							
White-chinned Petrel							
Kerguelen Petrel							
Cape Pigeon							
Antarctic Fulmar							
Northern Giant Petrel							
Fairy Prion	1						1
Thin-billed Prion							
Antarctic Prion							
Broad-billed Prion	10						10
Lesser Broad-billed Prion							
Prion sp	1						1
Blue Petrel							
Pycroft's Petrel							
Cook's Petrel							
Black-winged Petrel							
Mottled Petrel							
Grey-faced Petrel							
White-headed Petrel							
White-faced Storm Petrel						1	1
Blue Penguin					8		8
Australasian Gannet		1		3	2	1	7
Pied Shag							
Paradise Shelduck							
Shearwater Sp.							
Variable Oystercatcher							
Southern Black-backed Gull							
Red-billed Gull							
Caspian Tern		NOTE: NO	DECEMBER	PATROL			
White-fronted Tern		TWO IN	NOVEMBER				
Black Swan							
Black Shag							
Australasian Harrier							
Southern Skua							
TOTALS	15	1	2	8	14	5	45

NATIONAL WADER CENSUS - NORTH KAIPARA

Compiled by David Crockett

Date: 17th November 2012

Tide Height: 3.7m

Time: 1-4pm

Weather: Variable winds.

	Borcks	Oneriri	Ngamotu	Batley - Tanoa	Tinopai	Pati- Whakapirau	Ruawai	Taingahae- Kellys Bay	Okaro Creek	TOTAL
Black shag									2	2
Pied shag						8			14	22
Little black shag									4	4
Little shag										
White-faced heron				30		20	24		10	84
White heron										
Reef heron										
Royal spoonbill						15				15
SI pied oystercatcher						12	500+		300	1238
Variable oystercatcher				8	67	3		426		78
Pied stilt				7	1	20	200	9	18	255
NZ dotterel				2				6	10	18
Banded dotterel	ROOST	NOT	NOT							
Wrybill										
Pacific golden plover	NON									
Spur winged plover							3		30	33
Turnstone	EXISTENT	SURVEYED	SURVEYED							
Lesser knot										
Far-eastern curlew										
Asiatic whimbrel										
Bar-tailed godwit				720			200		400	1320
Black-backed gull					24	25			15	64
Red-billed gull									5	5
Caspian tern				3	2		11	2	6	24
White-fronted tern					15					15
Fairy tern										
Little tern									8	8
Cattle egret										
Black swan										
Paradise Shelduck										
TOTAL	0	0	0	770	109	103	938	443	822	3185

PARTICIPANTS: P. Cozens, P. Smith, L. Forrest, J. Snell, P. Yardley, J. Hudson, A. McCracken, J. Pyke.

Site	North shoreline	Airport	Portland	Skull creek	Takahawai	Marsden Bay	Port Whangarei	Waipū	Ruakaka	Totals
Little Black Shag									1	1
Little shag									1	1
White Faced Heron	40				30			2	2	74
NZ pied oystercatcher	27								9	36
Variable oystercatcher	18				4	121		11	52	206
Pied Sillit				14			39		2	55
NZ dotterel		1				23		2	4	30
Turnstone								11		11
Knot				705					2	707
Bar-tailed godwit				2687		200		95	18	3000
Black-backed gull	10	4		9	11		37		11	82
Red billed gull	29				2	10			53	94
Caspian tern	2				1	3	3	1	17	27
NZ fairy tern								2		2
White fronted tern	8									8
Australasian gannet										11
Spur winged plover		3								3
Totals	134	8	Nil	3415	48	357	79	124	183	4348

**Counters Whg. Harbour
18 th Nov.2012**

Margaret Dowdell, Tony Beauchamp, Katrina Hansen, Pauline Smith, Prue Cozens, Janet Snell, Julie Hudson, Anne McCracken

**NOTE: The Marsden Bay total
includes 22 N.Z. Dotterel
counted within the Refinery
boundary by Genelle Slack &
team.**