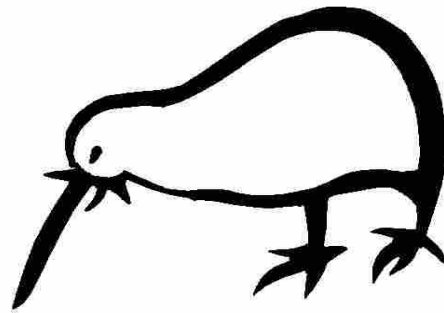


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Issue 11

April 2005



NEWSLETTER OF THE FAR NORTH REGION OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

DETLEF'S DELIBERATIONS

Here at last is the first newsletter for 2005. It has been a good summer for birds & for Far North birding trips, and warm dry weather continues. We have some possible new members in the Far North & we now have our 'slot' for leaflets in the Proctor Library in Kerikeri.

Again I would like to urge members to contribute something to this newsletter, however short & sweet, about anything bird-orientated, e.g. some notes about a species which you have perhaps studied in our area or a short account about birds seen elsewhere in New Zealand or on holiday abroad. Drawings & photos can be accommodated.

As indicated later under 'Programme', the OSNZ Annual Conference takes place over the weekend 3rd – 6th June in Hamilton. I will be attending the RRs meeting on the Friday & staying till Sunday. As the event is not so far away this year, it would be nice to see some other Far North members there. Details also follow of the combined Australasian Ornithological Conference in Blenheim & the Australasian Shorebird Conference in Nelson, both in December 2005.

Most Far North members have an email address. From time to time I circularise news by email such as programme changes, confirmation of times & meeting places of events, etc. If you do not have email & would like to be kept informed this way, please let me know & give me a phone number so that I can contact you with such information.

The Far North Regional Officers are as follows:

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RECENT EVENTS

Fri 14th Jan. Indoor Meeting

After a general chat & snack 17 of us enjoyed a highly informative & interesting talk by CJ Ralph about his New Zealand summer home, Moturoa Island. After intense predator eradication, native birds are thriving there, particularly the New Zealand Robin, and it is hoped that the island will become a safe haven for more of our special birds in the near future.

Sun 16th Jan. Moturoa Island

An impromptu day out at CJ & Carol Ralph's invitation; the RR & his Carol visited the island & took part in a census of the NZ Robins in 2 forested sites along the southern shore. We counted 6 birds & also found 2 Brown Teal, a Red-crowned Parakeet (attempts are being made to establish this species here), a Rook flying off to the mainland & a variety of other species.

Sun 23rd Jan. Hauraki Gulf Pelagic

Kiwi Wildlife Tours took the 2 of us & 4 other birders out from Sandspit for a day in the Gulf as far as Little Barrier Island & the Mokohinaus. Highlights included a male New Zealand Shore Plover on Beehive Island (2 have recently been released here), 3 Arctic Skuas, White-faced & New Zealand Storm Petrels, Cook's (& probably Pycroft's) Petrels, over 50 Grey Ternlets at Maori Rocks & great views of 5 or more Bryde's Whales.

Sun 6th Feb. Barbecue

At least 5 of us enjoyed (we hope) a barbecue at our house & mixed & mingled with non-birding people (I don't know if we converted any).

Sat 19th Feb. Parengarenga Harbour

Anthea, Detlef, Adrian Riegen from Auckland & various Forest & Bird & Kiwi Foundation members descended on the far Far North today. We stayed on the Paua side of the harbour & walked along the shore at low tide & back through the mangroves as the tide came in. Those with telescopes were able to show others the variety of waders present today including c.190 Bar-tailed Godwits, c.50 Red Knots, c.30 Pied Stilts, c.40 Banded Dotterels, 3 Turnstones, a Whimbrel, 2 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers & 11 Red-necked Stints. Later on the way back to the main road some of us found at least 30 Golden Plovers. We hope that newcomers were able to appreciate to some degree the enthusiasm of wader-fanatics!

Thurs 24th Feb. Stephenson Island & northern Cavalli Islets

With the close of the 5 year Atlas project only 4 days away & 3 Far North 10 km squares still unvisited at all during the 5 year period, 2 of those squares were accessed by boat today. Chris Sale kindly offered to take 5 of us (Anthea, Detlef & Carol, Ian & June) from Whangaroa Harbour to land on 4 islands. We walked nearly the full length of Stephenson Island & landed briefly on adjacent Cone Island. We struggled to find more than the commonest land birds but were aware of the importance of providing as complete a picture as possible for the project. So birds such as Harrier, Silvereye, Grey Warbler, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit & even Myna were noted. The next Atlas square to the east included the northern Cavalli islets & we landed on Hamaruru & Panaki Islands. A Greenfinch on the latter was less usual, as were several skinks & a gecko; small reptiles clearly thrive well on small predator-free islands. One of the skinks which we photographed was identified as McGregor's Skink, a very local species. We also recorded a variety of coastal & sea birds, including Blue Penguins, 4 species of shearwater (one Little Shearwater was a surprise) & Diving Petrels.

Sat 12th March Motupapa Island

About 30 Forest & Bird members attended today including many people who had helped with the original planting in 1991. Since then 10,000 native trees & shrubs have been planted on the island & it was an opportunity to look back on all the good work & the success of the venture. The island will now be left to nature although weeds will still need to be controlled. DOC put on an excellent barbecue.

26th – 27th March 2005 FAR NORTH BIRDING WEEKEND (See later)

Sun 3rd April Moturoa Island

After the recce in January, this was the 'official' Far North OSNZ visit & 10 of us enjoyed a dry sunny day on the island. Bill & Lynette Smith kindly offered their boat & ferried us over in 2 shifts. The 10 of us included our hosts, Paul & Enid Asquith who have a home on the island and gave us a highly informative tour around. New Zealand Robins are more difficult to see at this time of year but 2 birds responded to some vocal enticement by landing almost at our feet. There were 6 Brown Teal on the ponds, a Banded Rail crossing the track & a Reef Heron on the coastal rocks. Anthea & Gay heard a Tomtit.

PROGRAMME

Sat 7th May Kiwi Foundation AGM, Aroha Island, 4 pm.

The internationally well-known artist, and patron of the Foundation, David Barker, will give a talk on his work with conservation. For further details please phone Greg or Gay Blunden on 09 407 5243.

Friday 13th May Far North AGM, 180 Landing Road, Kerikeri, 7.30 pm.

Please note that this is a week later than originally planned in order to give more time for anyone to suggest agenda items & matters for discussion. Would anyone like to offer an informal talk / slide show / video to follow? If not, your RR will come up with something.

Sat 21st May Tree Planting on Motukawanui Island

Improvement of vegetation has resulted in an increase in Kiwis on this island in the Cavallis from 14 to 60 in 10 years. If you would like to help with planting today please phone Rod Brown on 09 407 4294.

Fri 3rd – 6th June OSNZ Annual Conference & AGM, Hamilton

This is an opportunity for Far North members to attend as it is not often that it takes place relatively close to us. Please phone me on 09 407 3874 if you would like to come.

Tues 14th June Tree planting on Waewaetorea Island

More habitat creation, this time in the Bay of Islands. Please phone Rod Brown for details, 09 407 4294.

Beach Patrols See later.

I hope to organise a field trip in late June, an indoor meeting in July & a field trip in August. As this is winter & birds may be less evident, I will rely on members to make some suggestions & will email some specific plans.

RECENT SIGHTINGS (December 2004 to April 2005)

These notes cover just the Far North but do not repeat all the extensive wader & seabird sightings on the Easter Weekend.

AG – Anthea Goodwin, GB – Gay Blunden, MB – Mike Bryan, TH - Tony Habraken, IW – Ian Wilson, D&CD – Detlef & Carol Davies.

Northland Brown Kiwi

Seeing a wild kiwi is a rare treat. 21 were seen in 2 hours at Mataka Station (by private invitation) & 2 at Marsden Cross during March (D&CD). Harry, the kiwi-guide at Aroha Island saw one up to its neck in water by the causeway there on 10th April.

Australian Little Grebe

7+ on Lake Rotokawau on 19th Feb, 15 there on 25th March (D&CD)

New Zealand Dabchick

5+ on Lake Rotokawau on 19th Feb, 3 there on 25th March (D&CD). Pair with 2 chicks recently on a pond between Puketi & Kerikeri (IW)

Fluttering Shearwater

c.150 off river entrance at Taipa on 11th March, c. 6,000 feeding off Tokerau Beach on 20th April (AG).

SEABIRDS

See Easter Sunday pelagic report for a bonanza of seabird sightings.

Cattle Egret

3 at Awanui Wharf on 19th Feb & 3 (different ones) on 19th March (D&CD)

White-faced Heron

Huge numbers in fields around Awanui recently.

Royal Spoonbill

119 in the macrocarpa tree at Awanui Wharf on 16th April (MB), smaller numbers on other dates.

Canada Goose

150, Awanui on 16th April (MB), 40 – 45 Dick Ulrich Road, 13th Feb (AG), smaller numbers elsewhere.

Brown Teal

Only reports are from Moturoa Is & the familiar site at Teal Bay (outside our area).

Banded Rail

Apart from Aroha Is, seen recently at Tauranga Bay & on Moturoa Is.

South Island Pied Oystercatcher

High numbers include over 100 at Parengarenga & Rangaunu Harbours in March.

Variable Oystercatcher

High numbers include 40 at Aroha Island on 20th Feb.

Pied Stilt

Some large flocks from Awanui northwards.

Banded Dotterel

Highest count: 355 in a paddock at Parengarenga on 19th Feb.

New Zealand Dotterel

8 Tauranga Bay & 2 Tokerau Beach 19th March (D&CD), 28 Kowhai Beach 27th March (TH).

Large Sand Dotterel

1 or 2 Parengarenga on 26th March were either this or Mongolian (TH)

Pacific Golden Plover

Up to 35 Parengarenga & Kowhai Beach (D&CD, TH)

Grey Plover

1 Rangaunu Harbour on 27th March (TH)

Wrybill

4 at Tokerau Beach as early as 13th Jan (AG), 14 there on 19th March (D&CD), 41 Kowhai Beach 27th March (TH).

Turnstone

High numbers: 93 Kowhai Beach & 360 Rangaunu Harbour on 27th March (TH)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

2 Parengarenga on 19th Feb (D&CD et al)

Red-necked Stint

11 Parengarenga on 19th Feb (D&CD et al), 40 there on 26th March (many obs.)

Asiatic Whimbrel

1 Parengarenga on 19th Feb, (D&CD et al) 40 Rangaunu Harbour on 27th March (TH).

Far Eastern Curlew

2 Rangaunu Harbour on 27th March (TH)

Bar-tailed Godwit

Flocks of up to 17 seen at Taipa & up to 22 at Mangonui. Up to 1,400 at Parengarenga & 2,500 at Walker Island

WADERS

See 'Recent Events' for more wader sightings & Tony Habraken's wader bonanza over Easter weekend.

Arctic Skua

2 Tauranga Bay, 19th March (D&CD).

White-fronted Tern

High numbers include 330 off Tokerau Beach on 2nd April (AG).

Fernbird

2 seen & 2 more heard recently on Aroha Island (GB); 2 seen between Opua & Kawakawa 21st March & 2 seen in Inlet Road, Kerikeri on 23rd March (D&CD).

Tomtit

Male inside the window of Anthea's house on 20th April. Also recorded Moturoa & Moturua Islands recently.

New Zealand Robin

6 seen on Moturoa Island on 16th Jan, 2 there on 3rd April

Kokako

Another male has been caught in Puketi Forest & taken to Lady Alice Island. There may now be only one male left (IW)

Redpoll

Heard on Moturoa Island 3rd April

Rook

1 on Moturoa Island on 14th Jan

Have just found a note from Anthea saying that Bill Campbell saw a Storm Petrel (with a white rump?) off Karikari Peninsular a month or 2 ago.

With this Newsletter is a simple recording form on which please let me know what you have seen. This will make preparing this section easier.



New Zealand Robin & Brown Teal
Moturoa Island, 3rd April 05



NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL CENSUS

The results of the Northland part of the census which took place in October last year are set out below. The organiser, Richard Parrish, has commented that the far north-east of the region had very scanty coverage & this accounts for the area from Pandora / Spirits Bay to Paxton Point showing over 100 birds less than in 1996. This should be taken into account when making comparisons & the numbers of birds present are probably similar to those in 1996.

Site number	Location	Numbers of birds	
		1996	2004
West Coast			
N1	Kellys Bay	0	0
N2	Okaro Creek	2	Not done
N3	Waikere/Tauhere Creeks	-	Not done
N4	Pouto - Kaipara Head	14	20
N5	Kaipara Head - North Head	10	5
N6	North Head - Causeway	4	5
N7	Causeway - 7km north	17	4
N8	7km north - 14km north	6	1
N9	14 km north - Tikinui	8	1
N10	Omarari	2	0
N11	Maunganui Bluff - Kawerua	20	20
N12	Kawerua - Kaikai Beach	10	9
N13	Kaikai Beach - South Head	-	6
N14	Waitapu - North Head	0	6
N15	North Head - Waihopai River	7	1
N16	Waihopai River - Mitimiti	12	9
N17	Mitimiti - Otoi Rock	18	9
N18	Orongomai Stream Beach	-	20
N19	Unnamed beach north of Koekoe Beach	0	7
N20	Herekino Harbour	0	5
N21	Herekino Harbour - Hunahuna Stream	0	4
N22	Hukatere Stream - Okura Stream	2	8
N23	Okura Stream - Ahipara	11	3
N24	The Bluff - Kahokawa Beach	10	10
N25	Twilight Beach	-	2
N26	Cape Maria van Diemen - Te Werahi Beach	2	1
	sub total	155	156
East Coast			
N27	Sandy & Tapotupotu Bays	1	5
N28	Pandora Beach/Spirits Bay	19	20
N29	Matirarau Bay/Te Huka Bay	11	4

N30	Tom Bowling Bay		6	4
N31	Waikuku Beach		22	8
N32	Whareana Beach		17	6
N33	Ngakeno Beach		15	3
N34	Ngamaru Point		3	Not done
N35	Kokota Spit		25	2
N36	Kokota Spit - Te Kahika Stream		0	2
N37	Te Kahika Stream - Paxton Point		38	2
N38	Rarawa Beach		8	12
N39	Henderson Bay		4	10
N40	Kowhai Beach		10	4
N41	Houhora Bay		0	7
N42	Houhora Heads - 8km East Beach		14	18
N43	8km East Beach - Kaimaumu		0	8
N44	Walker Island		18	6
N45	Wairakia Point - Motutara Bay		0	0
N46	Puwheke Beach		5	2
N47	Karikari Bay		14	10
N48	Whataru Bay		2	Not done
N49	Matai Bay		3	8
N50	Waitamatau Cr - D Urlich Rd		0	2
N51	D Urlich Rd - Tokerau Beach Rd		0	0
N52	Tokerau Beach Rd - Awapoko		0	8
N53	Aurere Beach		1	0
N54	Otengi Bay		1	0
N55	Taipā Beach		0	1
N56	Cable Bay		0	0
N57	Coopers Beach		0	0
N58	Hihi Beach		0	0
N59	Taemaro Bay		8	11
N60	Waimahana Bay		2	2
N61	Motukahakaha Bay (2)		12	8
N62	Tupou Bay		6	2
N63	Camp Bay		6	Not done
N64	Taupo Bay		0	0
N65	Tauranga Bay		1	2
N66	Whangaihe Bay		2	2
N67	Mahinepua		3	2
N68	Wainui Bay		0	3
N69	Piapia/Taiaie Bays		2	2
N70	Whau Bay		0	0

N71	Parua Bay		0	1
N72	Matauri Bay		0	4
N73	Cavalli Islands		10	8
N74	Waiaua Bay		3	4
N75	Takou Bay		28	17
N76	Taronui River		11	6
N77	Tauatahi Creek		7	2
N78	Wiwiki Beach		4	4
N78a	Waipiro (Wairoa) Bay		-	7
N79	Onewhero		10	9
N80	Moturoa Island		5	0
N81	Okahu Island		1	0
N82	Moturua Island		2	0
N83	Motuarohia Island		6	2
N84	Waewaetorea Island		6	0
N85	Urupukapuka Island		9	14
N86	Paroa Bay		2	4
N87	Clendon Cove		3	6
N88	Whangamumu Bay		-	0
N89	Umaheke/Pahi Bays		4	0
N90	Elliot Bay		8	5
N91	Bland Bay		27	16
N92	Unnamed bay east of Bland Bay		0	0.0%
N93	Admirals/Puriri Bay		4	0
N94	Oakura		0	3
N95	Mokau Bay		0	0
N96	Nops Island		2	0
N97	Mohei Bay		0	0
N98	Otara Bay		0	0
N99	Te Mimiha (Helena) Bay		0	3
N100	Ngawai (Teal) Bay		0	1
N101	Okurekureia Bay		0	2
N102	Taiwaraewe Bay		0	0
N103	Paparahi Beach		0	0
N104	Ngahau Bay		2	3
N105	Waikoha Bay		0	2
N106	Mimiwhangata Bay		1	3
N107	Black Beach		0	0
N108	Kaituna Beach		0	0
N109	Okupe Beach		2	0
N110	Komakoraia Beach		2	2

N111	Te Ruatahi Beach		4	3
N112	Pereparea Beach		4	2
N113	Rockells Bay - Motutara Point		0	0
N114	Whananaki Estuary		7	3
N115	Memorial Bay		3	2
N116	Oruaea Bay		0	1
N117	Sandy Bay		2	2
N118	Sheltered Bay		2	0
N119	Woolleys Bay		0	6
N120	Matapouri Bay		0	1
N121	Whangaumu Bay (Wellingtons)		0	0
N122	Ngunguru Estuary		10	12
N123	Kumi Point - Horahora River		6	10
N124	Paraukawau Beach		4	5
N125	Taiharuru Estuary		0	0
N126	McGregors (Taiharuru) Bay		0	1
N127	Kauri Mountain Beach		28	12
N128	Ocean Beach		0	0
N129	Whangarei Harbour		0	8
N130	Marsden Point oil refinery		4	2
N131	Ruakaka sewerage ponds/sand ponds		4	4
N132	Ruakaka Estuary		7	9
N133	Waipu Estuary		21	37
N134	Langs Beach		2	2
N135	Andersons Bay		0	0
N136	Mangawhai Heads		0	0
N137	Mangawhai Estuary		81	86
	TOTALS		782	678



New Zealand Dotterel & eggs.

Wainui Beach, 17th Oct 2004.

Detlef Davies

FAR NORTH EASTER BIRDING WEEKEND, 25th – 28th March

On the evening of Good Friday 25th March, 9 OSNZ members, Detlef & Carol Davies, David Wilson, Steve Wood, Roger & Megan McNeill, Tony Crocker, Nigel Milius & Tim Barnard arrived at Pukenui for the start of 2 days birding in the Far North. Steve & Tony had travelled from the South Island for this Far North experience. On the Friday some of us had done some birding on route, there were 32 Spoonbills at Awanui Wharf & 15 Australian Little Grebes & 3 New Zealand Dabchicks on Lake Rotokawau. Most of the participants stayed 3 nights at Pukenui YHA & a couple at the Holiday Park.

Saturday 26th March Parengarenga Harbour

We left Pukenui c.8 am & travelled north to Parengarenga Harbour where we were joined by Tony Habraken. The weather was warm but often cloudy; the rain which had been forecast never materialised. The tide was already high as we scanned the area by the wharf & good numbers of gulls, terns, oystercatchers, stilts & godwits were resting on the nearby sand islands. Shortly after 9.30 am a boat took us across to Kokota Sandspit where we spent c.2 & half hours. Bar-tailed Godwits & Knot which had been roosting at the seaward side of the spit were already moving west onto the widening shoreline, followed later by Banded Dotterels, Wrybills & Red-necked Stints.

Species seen included:

Bar-tailed Godwit c.1,400 of which c. a third were in or approaching breeding plumage & two carried an orange flag on the right leg.

Red Knot c.140 including many in smart breeding plumage.

Turnstone c.126

Pied Stilt 100+

Caspian Tern 3

Wrybill c.30

Red-necked Stint c.40

Variable Oystercatcher Few

South Island Pied Oystercatcher 100+

Banded Dotterel c.20

New Zealand Dotterel 1

Grey Teal c.15

Reef Heron 1

Also a Gannet, many Paradise Shelducks, White-faced Herons, Pied Shags, etc.

Banded Dotterel
on nest
(Okarito)

Detlef Davies



Returned to Paua c.12.45 with the tide fast receding. Waders began to scatter over the vast mudflats. With few other birding locations in the vicinity, we drove to Cape Reinga & visited the lighthouse with hordes of tourists. However, close views of NZ Pipits & Manta Rays & other fish in the shallow water below were worth noting. A scan over wetlands from the gravel road revealed only common waterfowl, herons, Pukekos etc. & we returned to Pukenui early evening.

Tony Habraken had stayed longer at Parengarenga & seen more waders on the flats during falling tide, at least 2 Golden Plover, 7+ New Zealand Dotterel, a Whimbrel & 1 or 2 Large or Mongolian Sand Dotterel. He was amused to see some Knot landing on the beach hitting the deck with their bellies as their legs & feet seemed unable to support their weight.

Easter Sunday, 27th March. Pelagic trip from Houhora.

The 9 of us were joined the previous evening by Chris Gaskin, Russell Thomas & Gay Blunden, & this morning by Anthea Goodwin. We gathered on the quay before 7 am & boarded Murray Rae's 50 foot cruiser, "Te Wairoa". We left the harbour in warm but cloudy weather & a light north-west wind. Sea temperature varied from 20 – 22 C, deeper water was warmer.

In the harbour were c.23 SIPOs & 19 Pied Stilts, increasing to c.80 & c.60 respectively at the harbour mouth. We headed out of the harbour & northwards towards North Cape. The first 2 hours produced flocks of Fluttering Shearwaters & a few solitary Common Diving Petrels; a distant Pomarine Skua was a surprise, otherwise a few Blue Penguins, & occasional Gannets & Buller's Shearwaters completed the picture.

By 10 am there was little change although a pod of Bottlenose Dolphins arrived under the bows of the boat, numbers of Buller's Shearwaters increased & the first Flesh-footed Shearwaters appeared. These were soon to be outnumbered by Black Petrels, a few distant Pterodroma petrels proved hard to identify but some were surely Cook's. Cetaceans then stole the show as a large pod of Common Dolphins moved quickly ahead of us, some under the bows; a large whale, yet to be identified made a couple of appearances & another was noticed on a later playback of a video of the dolphins. A long protruding fin was initially a puzzle but turned into a Fur Seal.

We headed for a spot 10nms ENE of North Cape & over the edge of the continental shelf; here excitement started with a Wilson's Storm Petrel (the first of at least 4) beside a group of Buller's Shearwaters, we followed it briefly & then stopped for our first chumming session. The very light wind meant that birds were slow picking up the scent but eventually they arrived, including several Black-browed & Campbell Albatrosses – adults & juvs, & lots of aggressive Black Petrels. Grey-faced Petrels & Wandering (Gibson's) Albatrosses, including a highly distinctive dark brown juvenile, joined the birds feeding adjacent to the boat. A Little Shearwater was seen briefly, one Hutton's Shearwater gave great views & there were probably more, & another pod of Common Dolphins leapt past. A nearby long-line fishing boat seemed to be attracting a lot of birds so we homed in, as we did so a group of about 7 superb Orcas surfaced quite close; this was for many the highlight of the trip; remaining in view for some time, one male having an exceptionally tall fin.

By 2 pm we had headed south-east along the edge of the shelf about 20 nms E of North Cape (north of Cape Karikari); we had 2 more productive chumming sessions, more Black-browed, Campbell's & Wandering Albatrosses, more Wilson's Storm Petrels & remarkable numbers of Black Petrels. With the intermittent sightings of Grey-faced Petrels was a bird which became the subject of some debate on board, it was brown with a white belly, & some streaking or barring down the flanks. Thoughts were divided between a pale Kermadec Petrel or an aberrant Grey-faced Petrel. Most of us felt that we would have seen conspicuous white wing patches had they been present & so the latter, which occasionally has white on the belly, was more likely.

From c.3 pm we started to head back but those on the foredeck had a hunch that more was to come. One late Wilson's Storm Petrel & 2 White-faced Storm Petrels among more flocks of shearwaters kept our eyes alert & sure enough 2 Pterodromas appearing from our right were easily identified as Black-winged Petrels; more were seen off the bow. Then suddenly another strange petrel with a white belly came past & this time there was no mistaking the white flashes both below & above the wings, a superb intermediate phase Kermadec Petrel! Fairy Prions started to appear in 2s & 3s & then in dozens; later, good numbers of commoner species such as Fluttering Shearwaters & Diving Petrels were around until dusk. It was dark by the time we returned to Houhora at c.7.30 pm.

Bird species list

Blue Penguin
Wandering (Gibson's) Albatross
Black-browed Albatross
Campbell Albatross
Buller's Shearwater
Flesh-footed Shearwater
Fluttering Shearwater
Hutton's Shearwater
Little Shearwater
Common Diving Petrel
Black Petrel
Fairy Prion
Cook's Petrel
Pycroft's Petrel (probable)
Black-winged Petrel
Grey-faced Petrel
Kermadec Petrel
Wilson's Storm Petrel
White-faced Storm Petrel
Australasian Gannet
Pied Shag
South Island Pied Oystercatcher
Pied Stilt
Pomarine Skua
Black-backed Gull
Red-billed Gull
White-fronted Tern

Mammal species list

Bottlenose Dolphin
Common Dolphin
Orca

Two large baleen whales sighted, possibly a Sei Whale & a Bryde's Whale; several more distant blows seen.

New Zealand Fur Seal

Meanwhile Tony Habraken had another wader-filled day (this is an extract from his email):

Kowhai Beach. The birds were all at the north end of beach so didn't need to walk far.

Godwit 282 (lots more colour than at Parengarenga, i.e. higher proportions)

Knot 500 (Orange flags x3, Yellow flags x1)

Golden Plover 35

Wrybill 41

Banded Dott c200 (spread far and wide)

NZ Dott 28

Turnstone 93

VOC 4

P Stilt c20 + 250 in lakes behind dunes with various waterfowl, Grey Teal, Swan, Pari as obvious ones.

No colour coded birds



Campbell Albatross

27.3.05

Detlef Davies



Wandering (Gibson's) Albatross

27.3.05

Detlef Davies

Walker Is, Rangaunu Harbour

Far Eastern Curlew 2

Whimbrel 40 (came from Eastern Beach at c10.45)

Godwit c2500 (Orange flag x1)

Knot c2000 (Orange flags x5, Yellow flags x1, White flags x3 [two flags only, one ? tarsus out of sight over a sand rise])

Turnstone 360 (Orange/yellow flag x1)

VOC 39

SIPO c100

Grey Plover 1

P Stilt c80

Black Stilt / hybrid 2 (cF nodes+)

NZ Dotts 5

Banded Dotts c20

Caspian Tern c30

Little Tern 21

R billed Gull c30

WFTern c30

Turnstone one taken back, in rehab, couldn't walk except shuffle on it haunches, suspected botulism

No colour banded birds here either



NZ Dotterel
Karikari
(DD)

However on my way home passing Kaimaumau (village?) I couldn't resist a check of shore line where I sighted a flock of c120 knot and a number of NZ Dotts along the foreshore. So I buckled at the knees in delight of not letting an opportunity pass and went in pursuit of a few more waders.

NZ Dotts 9

Godwit 7

Reef Heron 1

Knot c120 (Orange flags x3, hard to believe they were representing most of the ones seen earlier on Walker Is. and one colour coded bird from Miranda, banded mid Feb). So was worth the extra hour when all seemed rather quiet on colour coded front, but that's what it was all about, seeing who and what was where.

Mon 28th March Returning from Pukenui today, we called in at Kaimaumau where we saw a single Reef Heron & had a brief view of a Fernbird. We revisited Lake Rotokawau where the small grebes were still present, and for those who might be interested, we photographed a large dragonfly which we later identified as *Trapezostigma loewii*, a vagrant from Australia & the first New Zealand record.



Juv Wandering Albatross (DD)
Kermadec Petrel (Steve Wood)
Trapezostigma loewii (DD)
27 – 28th March 2005



BEACH PATROLS

MAY – AUGUST 2005

These are scheduled for the following Saturdays:

90 mile Beach: 28th May, 25th June, 23rd July & 20th August.

Karikari Beach: 14th May, 11th June, 9th July & 6th August.

However, these may change & you should check dates with the organisers: Isabella Godbert – 09 407 8058 or John Dawn – 09 407 8658. The results for the last 4 months are set out below.

NINETY MILE BEACH

DATE	Feb 5th	Mar 5th	Apr 2nd	May 1st
DISTANCE	28 kms	29 kms	29 kms	32 kms
Grey-headed Albatross	1			
Southern Giant Petrel				1
Buller's Shearwater	2	1		1
Sooty Shearwater	5	1		1
Short-tailed Shearwater	4			
Flesh-footed Shearwater		1	1	
Hutton's Shearwater	1	2		
Fluttering Shearwater	5	22	5	3
Allied Shearwater	1		1	
Common Diving Petrel				1
Cook's Petrel	1			
Mottled Petrel	1			
White-headed Petrel		1		
Blue Penguin	1	15	2	1
Australasian Gannet	20	10	6	2
Southern Black-backed Gull	9	1		1
SBBG Juv		12	3	1
Red-billed Gull	1	1		
Total	52	67	18	12
Duck	1			
Harrier			1	
Cattle Egret				1

KARIKARI PENINSULAR

DATE	Jan 5th	Mar 20th	Apr 16th
DISTANCE	23 kms	23 kms	23 kms
Flesh-footed Shearwater			1
Sooty Shearwater	5		
Buller's Shearwater		1	
Short-tailed Shearwater			1
Fluttering Shearwater	1	1	2
Allied Shearwater	2		
White-faced Storm Petrel	2		
Grey-faced Petrel	1		
Blue Penguin	12	1	1
Australasian Gannet (ad.)	1	1	
Pied Shag	1		
Southern Black-backed Gull	2	1	
Red-billed Gull	2		
Caspian Tern	1	1	
Total	30	6	5

Patrollers: J.Dawn, B. Couper,
I. & D. Godbert, C. MacDiarmid,
P. Gardiner



Grey-headed Albatross (DD)
Prince Edward Is. Nov 02

STOP PRESS

1st May

Having started printing this newsletter out, details of the Australasian Ornithological Conference & the Australasian Shorebird Conference appear on a separate leaflet & are not within the newsletter.

THE AGM IS NOW ON THURSDAY 12TH MAY

and not Fri 13th May. This is so as not to coincide with Kiwi Wildlife Tours overnight pelagic from Houhora over weekend 13th – 15th May.

