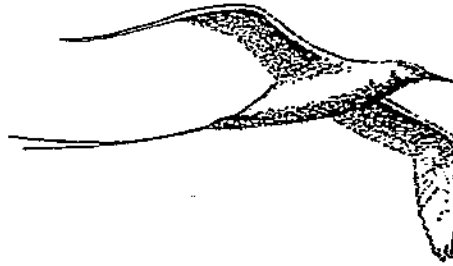


AMOKURA



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

February 2011**Amokura 100**

Published in February, May 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 meeting is requested toward the cost of hall hire, supper and the production and distribution of "Amokura".

ALL WELCOME

PROGRAMME TO APRIL 2010

| | | |
|----------|----|---|
| FEBRUARY | | AMOKURA 100 |
| | 10 | MEETING – Ron Bergin, bird photos Alzheimers Rooms, 7-30p.m. |
| | 12 | WEST COAST BEACH PATROL |
| | 15 | EAST COAST BEACH PATROL |
| MARCH | 06 | WHANGAREI HARBOUR CENSUS |
| | 10 | MEETING –AGM - Poss. Detlef Davies on Seabirds |
| | 12 | WEST COAST BEACH PATROL |
| | 15 | EAST COAST BEACH PATROL |
| APRIL | 14 | MEETING – Poss. Pouto rep. update |
| | 16 | WEST COAST BEACH PATROL |
| | 19 | EAST COAST BEACH PATROL |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE: | David Crockett | 435-0954 |
| TREASURER: | Den Carter | 435-1650 |
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| REGIONAL RECORDER: | Tony Beauchamp | 436-2224 |
| REGIONAL REPORTER: | Claire Burt | 435-1166 |

WRAPPING-UP 2010

The presenters at our November meeting were Carol and Detlef Davies who had recently returned from a trip to Ecuador where they were guests of the owner of a new jungle accommodation lodge who wants their assistance and expertise to prepare pamphlets to promote his lodge to bird-watchers and others by making them aware of the immense variety of birds, butterflies, frogs etc. A major concern for them is the destruction of habitat by both mining and logging operations; leading to projects to provide alternative income for the locals.

Detlefs power-point presentation covered five weeks in Peru and three weeks in Ecuador and gave us a glimpse of Tiger Heron, Pygmy Owl, Humming birds, Rufous Spine-tail and Andean "Cock of the Rock". Many species of frogs there are, as yet, unidentified.

Members also admired and purchased some of the desk-top calendars prepared by Carol using their photographs of local and exotic wildlife.

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Our final meeting of the year was an enjoyable pot-luck dinner followed by a DVD compiled by a recent newcomer to our group, Trevor Storr, whose bird photography of a visit to the island of SKOMER (off the south-west coast of Britain) was a pleasant surprise. Trevor's visit to the island was extended when the weather cut up rough and he was not able to leave as planned. Skomer is off the coast of Wales and the rugged cliff faces are home to an interesting range of sea-birds. Your presentation was much appreciated Trevor, especially the bonus clip of the motorcycles!! Nice to see Carol and Detlef join us again

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RECENT SIGHTINGS

Out in our garden in Takahe Street, Tikipunga, at 11-00a.m. on Wednesday 29th December 2010 a lot of twittering was heard in the trees on our southern boundary fence. Standing quite still, we noticed a Grey Warbler feeding a very well grown and podgy Shining Cuckoo chick.

The Shining Cuckoo chick followed the Grey Warbler very closely, begging for food as soon as it saw the host getting close. Then, eight days later on 6th January, we again saw the Cuckoo following the Warbler in the same area – an interesting observation.

Pauline and Kevin.

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Late in the afternoon of 3rd January we took a drive out to Marsden Point and walked along the N.Z. Refining Co. boundary to a point where the Ponding area is for the internal surface-water cleansing operation. This is where Red Billed Gulls had nested within the NZRC compound following a malfunction of their bird-scaring system. Although it was late in the nesting season, we counted ca.200 birds, half of whom were juveniles, and a few still on nests.

As we walked along the fence-line returning to the car-park, we noted three pairs of N.Z. Dotterel plus two young chicks within the compound. There were a further two single Dotterel hovering on the margins of the territory of the pairs – perhaps they are observing the mating behaviour!!

Pauline and Kevin.

P.S. Note change of meeting venue. The Bissett Wetlands visit will be scheduled for later this year.

BEACH PATROL – BREAM BAY – NE SUMMARY

Compiled by P. R. SMITH – Period JULY to DECEMBER 2010.....

| MONTH | JULY | AUGUST | SEPT. | OCTOBER | NOV. | DEC | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------|
| FROM | M. Pt. | Mair Rd. | M. Pt. | Mars. A | M. Pt. | Ruakaka R. | |
| TO | Waipu R. | Waipu R. | Waipu R. | Waipu R. | Waipu R. | Waipu R. | |
| DISTANCE | 11.5km | 13km | 11km | 15.5km | 8.5km | Nil km | |
| PATROLLERS | C.L. Burt J. Snell | P. Cozens | J. Hudson | J. Hawken | C. Parkes | M. Smith | |
| Wandering Albatross | | | | | | | |
| Royal Albatross | | | | | | | |
| Black-browed Mollymawk | | | | | | | |
| White-capped (shy mollymawk) | | | | | | | |
| Grey-headed Mollymawk | | | | | | | |
| Buller's Mollymawk | | | | | | | |
| Light-mantled Sooty Albatross | | | | | | | |
| Flesh-footed Shearwater | | | | | 9 | | 9 |
| Buller's Shearwater | | | | 1 | 3 | | 4 |
| Sooty Shearwater | | | | | 8 | | 8 |
| Short-tailed Shearwater | | | | | | | |
| Fluttering Shearwater | | | 1 | 1 | 6 | | 8 |
| Shearwater Sp. | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Little Shearwater | | | | | | | |
| Common Diving Petrel | | | | | 13 | | 13 |
| Black Petrel | | | | | | | |
| White-chinned Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Kerguelen Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Cape Pigeon | | | | | | | |
| Antarctic Fulmar | | | | | | | |
| Northern Giant Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Fairy Prion | | | | | 4 | | 4 |
| Thin-billed Prion | | NO | | | | NO | |
| Antarctic Prion | | | | | | | |
| Broad-billed Prion | | BIRDS | | | | PATROL | |
| Lesser Broad-billed Prion | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | | FOUND | | | | | |
| Blue Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Pycroft's Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Cook's Petrel | | | | | 3 | | 3 |
| Black-winged Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Mottled Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Grey-faced Petrel | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| White-headed Petrel | | | | | | | |
| White-faced Storm Petrel | | | | | 5 | | 5 |
| Blue Penguin | 1 | | | | 11 | | 12 |
| Australasian Gannet | | | | 1 | 7 | | 8 |
| Pied Shag | | | | | | | |
| Paradise Shelduck | | | | | | | |
| Mallard duck | | | | | | | |
| Variable Oystercatcher | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Southern Black-backed Gull | | | | | | | |
| Red-billed Gull | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| NZ Dotterel (Chick) | | | | | | | |
| Blackbird | | | | | | | |
| Thrush | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Prion Sp. | 1 | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| SUMMARY | 4 | Nil | 2 | 5 | 70 | Nil | 81 |

WEST COAST BEACH PATROL – Code NW - SUMMARY

Compiled by Prue Cozens – Period JULY to DECEMBER 2010

| MONTH | - 07-10 | -08-10 | 18-09-10 | 16-10-10 | 21-11-10 | 18-12-10 | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| FROM | Mahuta Gap | Mahuta Gap | Omamari | Mahuta Gap | Mahuta Gap | Mahuta Gap | |
| TO | 3k Nth.Chases | 31/4k Nth Cha | Mahuta Gap | 3.5k Nth.Bayl | 3.5k Nth.Bayl | k Nth.Chases | |
| DISTANCE | km. | km. | km. | 11.5km. | 11.5km. | km. | TOTAL |
| PATROLLERS: | <i>K. Miller</i> | <i>C. Parkes</i> | <i>P. Cozens</i> | <i>D. Calvert</i> | | | |
| Wandering Albatross | | | | | | | |
| Royal Albatross | | | | | | | |
| Salvins Mollymawk | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| White-capped (shy mollymawk) | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Storm Petrel Sp. | | | | | | | |
| Buller's Mollymawk | | | | | | | |
| Light-mantled Sooty Albatross | | | | | | | |
| Flesh-footed Shearwater | | | | | | | |
| Buller's Shearwater | | | | 1 | 15 | | 16 |
| Sooty Shearwater | | | | | 15 | | 15 |
| Short-tailed Shearwater | | | | | 3 | | 3 |
| Fluttering Shearwater | | | | | | | |
| Hutton's Shearwater | CARDS | CARDS | NO PATROL | | 2 | NO PATROL | 2 |
| Little Shearwater | | | | | | | |
| Common Diving Petrel | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Black Petrel | SENT IN | SENT IN | THIS | | | THIS | |
| White-chinned Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Kerguelen Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Cape Pigeon | | | MONTH | 1 | | MONTH | 1 |
| Antarctic Fulmar | | | | | | | |
| Northern Giant Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Fairy Prion | | | | | | | |
| Thin-billed Prion | | | | | | | |
| Antarctic Prion | | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Broad-billed Prion | | | | | | | |
| Fulmar-billed Prion | | | | | | | |
| Prion sp | | | | | | | |
| Blue Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Pycroft's Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Cook's Petrel | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Black-winged Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Mottled Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Grey-faced Petrel | | | | | | | |
| White-headed Petrel | | | | | | | |
| White-faced Storm Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Blue Penguin | | | | | | | |
| Australasian Gannet | | | | 3 | 4 | | 7 |
| Pied Shag | | | | | | | |
| Paradise Shelduck | | | | | | | |
| Mallard duck | | | | | | | |
| Variable Oystercatcher | | | | | | | |
| Southern Black-backed Gull | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Red-billed Gull | | | | | | | |
| Turkey | | | | | | | |
| Bunches of feathers.?Teredroma? | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | Xx | | Xx | 10 | 42 | Nil | 52 |