



Studying NEW ZEALAND'S BIRDS

OSNZ®

NELSON REGION NEWSLETTER JUNE 2012

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SHOW AND TELL

(this month's travel promotion)

Queen's birthday weekend is a good time for a short break away. I'd recommend attending the OSNZ Scientific day/AGM/Conference. This year five local members took the trek to Tauranga. The host region supplied great organization, the talks and presentations were illuminating, the workshops inspiring, the food was plentiful, and to cap it all off, the Monday field trips. These outings are a wonderful organized opportunity to see great birding spots around the country, this time, Mayor Is, Maketu estuaries, Athenree Wetland and Rotorua Lakes. Thank you OSNZ Bay of Plenty. I always enjoy the camaraderie of fellow birders, the chance to catch up with birders from around the country and hear what they have on their patch, the chance to hear the latest research, and the chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. I've started planning for Queen's Birthday weekend in Dunedin next year already.

OSNZ SCIENTIFIC DAY

Many of this year's presentations, not surprisingly, had a 'Rena' inspired theme. Talks covered different aspects, including the logistics of organising the oiled wildlife response, the impact on seabirds, management of the NZ dotterels, causes of seabird mortality, the actual process of cleaning up oiled birds and even a sociology talk on the impact on volunteers. Aside from the actual physical effects on oil covered birds, a question was raised on the effects of ingested hydrocarbons. The clean-up of this disaster was a collaborative effort of different organisations, Massey Oiled Wildlife Response Team, DOC, BOP Council, and the co-operation of local people and volunteers, and funded by Maritime NZ.

Other topics included morepork studies in Hamilton, SBBG studies on Rangitoto Is, shag studies, a talk presented by our own Alec Milne from Golden Bay on distribution of SI Kokako – Grey Ghost, and research into moult, hydrophobicity of feathers and the uropygial gland of hihi and kiwi.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

I was supposed to be clearing up piles of stuff but starting reading what I came across. Here's a comment from OSNZ News, Dec 1978 '.....and to watch over the apparent slow decline of the Royal Spoonbill in New Zealand'. Well, well, how times have changed!

BIRDS A-COUNTABLE

Three censuses are coming up soon.

Waders

Unfortunately the June wader count had to be postponed so it's now happening 4 – 7 July. To be part of this please contact Rob, rschckrd@xtra.co.nz 035765371.

Royal Spoonbill

Summer counts were done nationally some years ago, now a nationwide winter census is being organised through Peter Schweigman and Mary Thompson from Dunedin. This will happen on 19 August. Please contact Gail, stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz PH 035450456

Garden Bird Survey

In conjunction with Landcare Research and OSNZ. 30 June – 8 July. Details and a form were printed in the March issue of *Southern Bird*, or go to www.osnz.org.nz At the moment info is on the home page.

Rebecca Bowater spotted this cosy family earlier in the year when days were balmy. How many chicks are there?



PROGRAMME 2012

We meet usually on the 1st Monday of the month, at 7.15 pm in the "Solander Building", Cross Quay, off Akersten Street, Port Nelson (opposite the red Cruising Club building). All birders are welcome! Contact: Don Cooper 03-544 8109 or Gail 03-5450456.

Monday, 2 July
Indoor meeting

Speaker: **David Melville**

4 July – 7 July

Wader Count
Rob, rschckrd@xtra.co.nz
03 576371

30 June – 8 July

Garden Bird Survey
www.osnz.org.nz

Monday, 6 August
Indoor meeting

Speaker: **Dave Butler**

August 19

Royal Spoonbill Count
Gail, stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz
03 5450456

Monday, 3 September
Indoor meeting

Speaker: **Peter Gaze**

Thanks to those who contributed.

Contributions for the July newsletter: please email or phone me by 25 July, Gail 03 5450456 stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz

