



## NELSON REGION NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2014

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### BLAST FROM THE PAST 7 January 1884

*"Eighty thousand children in the north of England form the 'Dickey Bird Society'. They are pledged to protect birds and to feed them in winter."  
'Manawatu Standard'*

**More recently** though, here at Atawhai welcome swallows are dipping into the muddy puddles of my driveway collecting material for their nest just round the corner and out of range from my binoculars, and a female blackbird is finding damp and strong smelling black and mouldy vegetation in my gutters for her nest hidden away in a high clump of ivy. I have the first of the sweet smelling spring flowers in a vase in the kitchen.

We've had a photo of a falcon resting in flax recently, we've all seen the red/orange headed starlings, I wish I took a photo of rosellas nibbling flax seeds in Dunedin a few years back, and of course tui love the nectar, but here is a photo at Lake Ohau last December.

Photo Tamar Smith 2013



**The Technical gremlin** visited our August meeting as usual but the Members Medley was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Paul Bennett, Gillian Pollock and Pete Gaze for photos from mostly far off places, discussion, and some rather funny anecdotes. And further from Paul: - *'below is the link to birding pals which I mentioned on Monday. I really do recommend this to anyone heading overseas. Met some wonderful people and seen some great birds though this.'*

<http://www.birdingpal.org/>

This coming Monday is open for floor spots, and discussion on upcoming projects. Rebecca will show some of her lovely photos.

**Wellington** has Zealandia, Dunedin has Orokanui and we have The Brook Waimarama Sanctuary. Ingrid has been involved in 5mbc and is inviting interest from other OSNZ members to join her. More on this on Monday night.

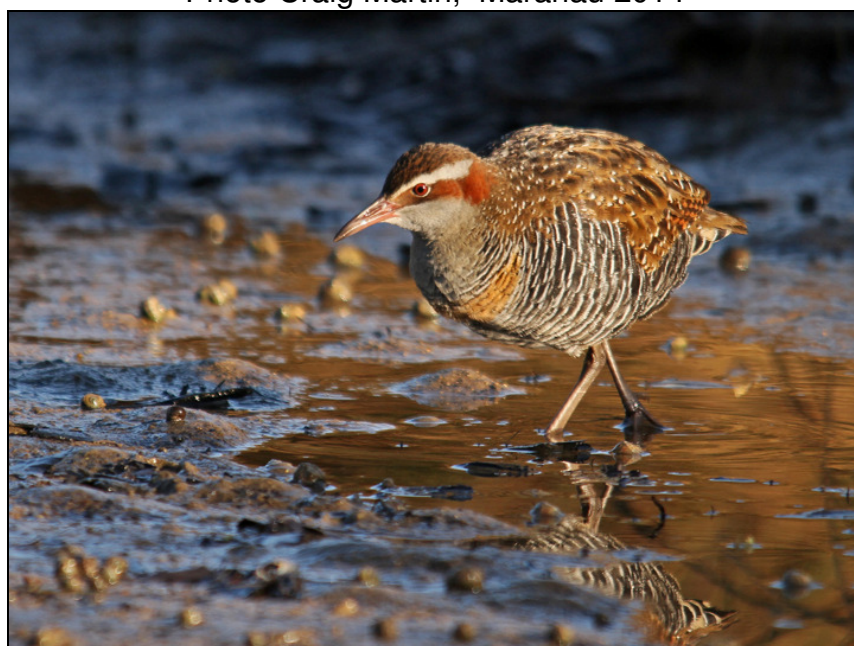
### **Battle for the Banded Rail**

Recently the community group Waimea Inlet Forum secured government funding for the above project around the Waimea Estuary.

**6 September** – Graeme Elliott will lead a session to identify footprints and other sign and then participants will head off to allocated sections of the estuary edges to look for the presence or otherwise of these great little birds. Members of the Waimea Inlet Forum, local community, DoC and OSNZ will be involved.

If you'd like a day in the mud, eyes to the ground, with the thrill of detective work, and hopefully a clue or two, please contact me ph 5450456, or [stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz)

Photo Craig Martin, Marahau 2014



Banded Rail

### **Dabchick Days**

10 August, Peter Field was thrilled to report two dabchick out at Wakapuaka settling ponds, both keeping close company. On Tuesday past I spotted just one, mystery question: where was the other bird?

**Last month's** white swans in a paddock was a Golden Bay scene, and Gillian has commented she noted a group on one of the Moutere embayments a few years ago, but added, they may have come from a private pond.

### **Weka Watch**

On 4 Aug Tanya was convinced she saw a pointy tail and the two legged gait of something brown disappearing into her bushes in **Moana Ave**, then on 17 August she and a neighbour reported two adult weka and three chicks within their properties. And, her daughter has seen a cat being chased by an adult weka.

Amber keeps a close watch on her resident weka family at Top House and reported one with visible head and eye injuries on 21 July but by 9 August had appeared to be well healed.

## **WELCOME TO THE GODWITS CELEBRATION**

### **From Pauline in Motueka**

This year's event, to welcome the arrival of the godwits after their non-stop flight from Alaska, will be held on Sunday 28 September, 10am - 1pm. The godwits and other birds can be viewed from the Old Wharf, Motueka Quay (next to the wreck of the Janie Seddon). In addition to the displays and activities on Sunday, there will be a talk by ornithologist David Mellville the following Saturday, 4 October, 7pm at the SeniorNet Rooms, 42 Pah Street, Motueka.

For further information, including competitions for children, see [www.motuekaonline.org.nz](http://www.motuekaonline.org.nz)

### **Whio Forever**

Through the bush telegraph I heard that a **blue duck** has been seen recently in the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary. Great news for Nelson city. Further afield, The Department of Conservation put out a media release on 28 July, "*Aerial pest control and 'nest egg' programme boost whio population*" and within the article mentions: *'Since 2003, 60 WHIONE(Whio Operation Nest Egg)-reared juveniles have been released into the Wangapeka-Fyfe Whio Security Site. The goal is to establish 50 pairs in the site which currently has around 30 pairs.'*

THROUGH this newsletter I would like to pass on condolences to Don Cooper on the recent loss of his wife Molly. All who know you Don, will, I'm sure, be thinking of you during this sad time.

## **PROGRAMME 2014**

We meet **usually** on the 1st Monday of the month, at 7.15 pm in the "Solander Fisheries 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 1 September**  
**Indoor meeting**

**Floor Spots**

**Saturday 6 September**

**Banded Rail survey**  
**Meet Stringer Creek**

**Sunday 21 September**

**ECO Fest Motueka**

**Sunday 28 September**

**Welcome the Godwits**  
**Motueka 10am -1pm**

**Saturday 4 October**

**Talk by David Melville**  
**Senior net rooms Motueka**

**Monday 6 October**  
**Indoor meeting**

**Nelson**

Thank you to this month's contributors.

Contributions for September newsletter by 26<sup>th</sup>, please email, snailmail, or phone:

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