



NELSON REGION NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2016

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WELLINGTON: Large Editor, ...I mean, Editor at Large.

Going about my everyday activities here in Wellington, I've been ticking off avian (and butterfly) species. Luckily I move through several different areas and habitats. Richard W has also been to Wellington and reported kakariki on Somes Is, but I bet he had to climb to see them. I can see kaka fly past Mr TQ's city pad! Chris P has also been in Wellington and heard kaka call "just out of busy central Wellington".

The number of thrushes surprise me, - there seem to be very few. Their paucity has been noted by others too.

I missed seeing the bittern in Napier that some of the other conference delegates spotted (Closer to home Don H saw one in Parapara Est on May 5) but was thrilled to see black-fronted dotterel Napier and Tauranga, and NZ dotterel mainly Tauranga but also round the top of East Cape. Check out OSNZ/Birds NZ website for coverage of the well presented scientific papers.



Photo: Wells family April 2016. South Westland. Richards's comment: .."he was just getting his rotor speed up!

FRIENDS OF THE COBB

From Chris Petyt: “We did a **kiwi** survey 19th April, 17 people (inc 2 kids) at 10 sites from Cobb Cottages to Tent camp (2 teenagers there). I was at Chaffey’s Hut and 2 **whio** arrived and whistled a great deal leading me to think they were probably the young from the party of 4 seen previously and their parents had deserted them. “

ALSO FROM OVER THE HILL: 16 and 17 May, Jeroen Lurling reports:

Blue duck

- In dry road ditch 15 m south of Aaron Creek bridge, Upper Takaka

Banded Rail

- Ruataniwha Estuary – at northwestern side of estuary, in extensive beds of *Apodisma similus* and *Juncus Krausii* var *austaliensis*

Fernbird

- Motupipi Estuary, near golf course
- Pohara freshwater swamp
- Ruataniwha Estuary, at northwestern side of estuary x2 birds

The rail and blue duck were observed from 3m away (blue duck was blinded in car headlights and banded rail was accidentally flushed while walking through saltmarsh). I’m unsure whether the blue duck had colour bands, but it seemed like a healthy individual in a very odd location near a lowland agricultural stream. Perhaps a juvenile looking for a territory.

FROM ROB: 2016 TOP OF THE SOUTH WINTER WADER CENSUS.

The 2016 winter census of the Top of South Island was likely done during the most favourable weather on record. About **23.500 shorebirds** were counted, 86% endemic.

Steve Wood recorded a **Lesser Sandplover** at Farewell Spit as the only irregular visitors.

Farewell Spit: Number of Pied Oystercatchers was the second highest count on record since 2000. This high number was not recorded in other areas of the Top of South Island. Also a pleasing high number of Banded Dotterels was recorded, the second highest number since 2009.

Golden Bay: Average numbers of shorebirds were counted apart from 89 Red Knots from Westhaven Inlet. This number has been the highest ever counted in the winter time.

Tasman Bay: Average numbers were counted apart from Banded Dotterels. Like Farewell Spit, 292 is the highest on record since 1996.

PETE GAZE REPORTS: April, “.... a very successful **robin** transfer (from Adele Island to Pitt Head in Abel Tasman). The destination has been subject to some very effective rat control by Birdsong Trust. The robins on Adele seemed incredibly abundant, guess it was end of summer breeding and before any winter mortality.”

PARISH NOTICES

2016 GARDEN BIRD SURVEY 25 JUNE 3 JULY

online: <http://gardenbirdsurvey.landcareresearch.co.nz>

From NMIT

NMIT has scheduled a 5 Minute Bird Count workshop for Nelson to run on the 12-13 July. The workshop runs over 2 days, is free of fees and is an excellent jump-start to those interested in learning their bird identification. We can take up to a maximum of 12 participants and currently have 2 people enrolled.

Five Minute Bird Count – 12-13 July (NMIT campus, Nelson)

FREE Course fees!

· The five-minute bird count technique (5MBC) monitors the abundance of forest birds over time. The 5MBC course is based on the Dawson and Bull field method. This course uses innovative techniques, such as an online programme and pre-recorded bird calls, to help you identify common forest bird species. This course covers unit standard 26373.

Specific course details are attached, but more information about how the course runs can be found at the [DOC website](#).

To enrol, please visit our NMIT website – [Field Skills workshop enrolment](#).

TOP OF THE SOUTH WADER CENSUS

Next Spring Census will be between 17 and 21 November 2016. Spring tide is not exactly in the weekend so see if we can get a team for Farewell Spit during the week. Please contact Rob - rschckrd@xtra.co.nz

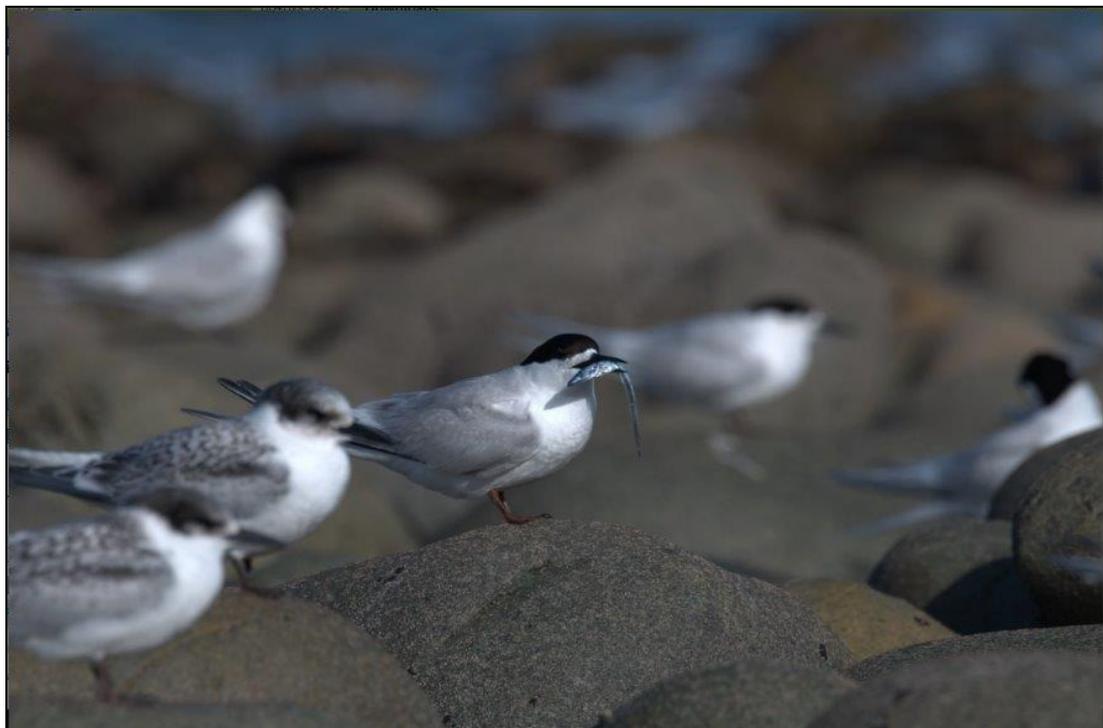


Photo: Willie Cook, Jan 2016. White fronted terns adult and juveniles.

PROGRAMME 2016

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 4 July
Indoor Meeting

'Talk Among Yourselves'

Monday 1 August
Indoor Meeting

Bird Lecture

Monday 5 September
Indoor Meeting

Bird Lecture

Spring Wader Count 17-21 November

Thank you to this month's contributors.

Contributions for July newsletter by 20th please, email, snail mail or phone.
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