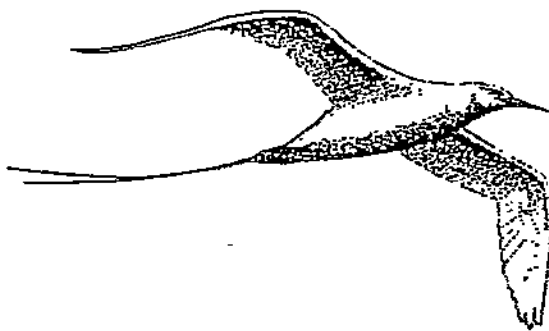


AMOKURA



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

June 2009

Amokura 96

RECENT EVENTS



NO WARDEN FOR WAIPU!

FAIRY TERN UPDATE.

There has been a hitch in the Fairy Tern programme for the coming season.

DoC will not have enough money to cover both the Mangawhai and Waipu sites with a warden so Waipu is being left out.

DoC says permanent staff will cover where possible but in the last 3 seasons volunteers have had to cover up to 4 days a week because no-one at DoC was available so the situation does not look good.

There were no chicks hatched at Waipu last season as the eggs were removed virtually as soon as they were laid so this was not unusual, but they didn't hatch elsewhere either.

I think the birds must be allowed to brood their own eggs except in unusual circumstances until it is proved they are not able to do so.

We are told that human disturbance must be kept to a minimum therefore human intervention should be kept to a minimum also

O.S.N.Z. and Trust volunteers will do their best to cover the DoC shortfall over the 20 weeks necessary but it will be an uphill task.

This is my personal opinion after 25yrs of monitoring Fairy Terns at Mangawahi and Waipu.

Audrey Williams. Vol. Co-ordinator.

An Interesting Birding Weekend

By Janet Snell

One Sunday afternoon, 16 March 2009, Lloyd and I took off in our little camper and headed for a nights camping at Mahinepau Beach. The weather was great – sunny but with a little wind off the sea. The camp-ground is a piece of private Maori owned land and right on the beach with a freshwater stream flowing out behind the camp-ground. The birds loved bathing in the area where the freshwater mixed with the seawater as the tide receded. During the late afternoon the following birds were seen sitting on the stony beach:

Reef heron	2
Variable oystercatcher	2
Little shag	2
NZ dotterel	2
Australasian gannet (flying)	2
Pied stilt	2
White-faced heron	1
White-fronted tern	10
Red-billed gull	35
Black-backed gull	12

And sitting in the sun on the rocks around the edge of the Bay – 24 pied shags.

But the highlight of the afternoon for me was seeing 2 reef herons sitting on a branch in a pohutukawa tree with the sun shining in on them. They were preening themselves and each other. I watched them for ages through the telescope, fascinated at seeing them and watching their behaviour. After they had both flown off, I walked around to the tree they had been in and looked to see if there was any sign of a nest or the beginnings of one, but couldn't see anything. A bit early, I guess. I had never seen reef herons in a tree before, let alone two together. I hope they were displaying pre-nuptial behaviour.

The next afternoon we headed home and just before we came to the intersection of Mahinua Rd and the Main Rd we saw a whole bunch of Californian quail as they ran across the road in front of us, all running behind each other. Of course we slowed right down and were able to count them – 22 in all; with quite a few young ones. They continued to run, one behind the other into the scrub and out of sight. We called into Helena Bay and saw a few red-billed gulls and black-backed gulls on the beach, but no NZ dotterels. We didn't see the shag colony on the northern end of the beach as entered in the Shag Register, but found a colony on the southern end of the beach in an old pohutukawa tree clinging to the cliffs. We counted 11 pied shags and one black shag in the tree, and 10 nests with some occupied with hungry young ones.

11/16

WEST COAST BEACH PATROL SUMMARY – Compiled by Prue Cozens July to December 2007

DATE – 2007	9-07-07	14-08-07	17-09-07	6-10-07	3-11-07	1-12-07	
FROM	Bayley's	Mahuta	No	Bayley's N	Bayley's	Bayley's	
TO	Glinks	Glinks	Patrol	Glinks S	Glinks	Mahuta	
DISTANCE (km)	21	11		25	23	9	Total
Wandering albatross							
Black-browed mollymawk				2			2
White-capped mollymawk				2			2
Grey-headed mollymawk				1			1
Buller's mollymawk	1			2			3
Light-mantled sooty albatross					1		1
Flesh-footed shearwater							
Buller's shearwater	1			1	1	6	9
Sooty shearwater				1	2	15	18
Short-tailed shearwater					4	4	8
Fluttering shearwater	2	9		4	1		16
Little shearwater							
Shearwater sp.						1	1
Common diving petrel	1					2	3
Black petrel							
White-chinned petrel							
Kerguelen petrel							
Cape pigeon		1			1		2
Antarctic fulmar							
Northern giant petrel		1					1
Fairy prion	1	8		3	2	4	18
Broad-billed prion							
Lesser broad-billed prion							
Thin-billed prion				1			1
Antarctic prion							
Fulmar-billed prion							
Prion sp.				1		1	2
Blue petrel							
Cook's petrel							
Mottled petrel							
Grey-faced petrel		3					3
White-headed petrel					1		1
White-faced storm petrel						1	1
Blue penguin	2	6			1		9
Australasian gannet		6		5	3	6	20
Black shag							
Pied shag							
Little shag							
Southern black-backed gull	1			1			2
Red-billed gull							
Caspian tern							
White-fronted tern							
Blackbird						1	1
Paradise Duck	1						
Magpie		6				2	8
Albatross Sp.		1					1
SIPO							
TOTAL	10	41		24	17	43	135

Patrollers: C. Burt, P. Cozens, J. Hawken, L. Honor, L & A Howell, K. Miller, C. Parkes, L. Simpkin, M. Smith, P. Smith, B. Stevens.

WEST COAST BEACH PATROL SUMMARY - 2008

Compiled by Prue Cozens

2k 5h Onamati
↓

DATE	19-1-08	17-5-08	10-13-7-08	16-8-08	12-9-08	11-10-08	
FROM	SLINICKS	SLINICKS	Mahuta Gap	Mahuta Gap	Mahuta Gap	Mahuta Gap	
TO	3k N Bay legs	3k N Bay legs	3k N Bay legs	3k N Bay legs	3k N Bay legs	3k N Bay legs	
DISTANCE (km)	2.1k	2.1k	1.2k	1.0k	1.0k	7k	Total
Wandering albatross sp	1	1					
Black-browed mollymawk							
White-capped mollymawk							
Grey-headed mollymawk		1					
Buller's mollymawk					1		
Light-mantled sooty albatross							
Flesh-footed shearwater							
Buller's shearwater	1	5					
Sooty shearwater	2	15	4				
Short-tailed shearwater		5		10			
Fluttering shearwater	2	3			4	1	
Little shearwater							
Shearwater sp.							
ommon diving petrel		2	18				
Black petrel							
White-chinned petrel							
Kerguelen petrel					1		
Cape pigeon					1		
Antarctic fulmar							
Northern giant petrel							
Fairy prion		5	18	6	8	1	
Broad-billed prion			1				
Lesser broad-billed prion		1					
Thin-billed prion				1			
Antarctic prion							
Fulmar-billed prion							
Prion sp.	1	2		2	2		
Blue petrel			1				
Cook's petrel							
Mottled petrel							
Grey-faced petrel							
White-headed petrel						1	
White-faced storm petrel							
Blue penguin	1	3	1	3	15		
Australasian gannet	4	1	1	1	9		
Black shag							
Pied shag		1					
Little shag							
Southern black-backed gull	9				2		
Red-billed gull							
Caspian tern							
White-fronted tern	1						
Sooty tern							
SP Oyster Catcher sp	1						
Mallard Duck	1	1					
Red tailed Tropicbird		1					
Antarctic Petrel		1	1				
TOTAL	33	42	15	13	47		

Patrollers:

L. Simplicin, C Parkes, A Bremner, L. Howell, P. Cozens,
A. Howell, T. Scott, B Langston, L Honor & S. Gardiner + Sam Rony

WEST COAST BEACH PATROL SUMMARY - 2008

Compiled by Prue Cozens

DATE	2/11/08	4/12/08			
FROM	Mohaka Gap	Mohaka Gap			
TO	3k N Boyles	3k N Boyles			
DISTANCE (km)	10k	10k			Total
Wandering albatross					
Black-browed mollymawk					
White-capped mollymawk					
Grey-headed mollymawk					
Buller's mollymawk					
Light-mantled sooty albatross					
Flesh-footed shearwater					
Buller's shearwater	5				
Sooty shearwater	6	1			
Short-tailed shearwater	1				
Fluttering shearwater	4	3			
Little shearwater					
Shearwater sp.					
Common diving petrel					
Black petrel					
White-chinned petrel					
Kerguelen petrel					
Cape pigeon	1				
Antarctic fulmar					
Northern giant petrel					
Fairy prion					
Broad-billed prion					
Lesser broad-billed prion					
Thin-billed prion					
Antarctic prion					
Fulmar-billed prion					
Prion sp.		1			
Blue petrel					
Cook's petrel	1				
Mottled petrel					
Grey-faced petrel					
White-headed petrel					
White-faced storm petrel					
Blue penguin					
Australasian gannet		1			
Black shag					
Pied shag					
Little shag					
Southern black-backed gull					
Red-billed gull					
Caspian tern					
White-fronted tern					
Sooty tern					
SIPO					
TOTAL	19	5			

Patrollers:

K. Miller, C. Parkes, P. Cozens.

NATIONAL WADER CENSUS - NORTH KAITIARA

Compiled by David Crockett

Date: 24 November 2007 Tide Height: 4:25 m Time: 10:50 am Weather: Variable southerly winds.

	Borcks	Oneru	Ngamotu	Batley-Tanoa	Tinopal	Whakapirau	Ruawai	Tangahae-Kellys Bay	Okaro Creek	TOTAL
Black shag		2				4				6
Pied shag	→				1			1	→	2
Little black shag										
White-faced heron		11	5	3	2	1	50			77
White heron										
Reef heron										
Royal spoonbill										
SI pied oystercatcher				2	60	300+		240		602
Variable oystercatcher				2				11		13
Pied stilt			17	20			35			72
NZ dotterel				2						2
Banded dotterel										
Wrybill										
Pacific golden plover										
Spur winged plover										
Turnstone										
Lesser knot										
Far-eastern curlew										
Asiatic whimbrel										
Ear-tailed godwit				443		300				743
Black-backed gull				1		2		3		6
Red-billed gull						15				15
Caspian tern			1	3	3	3		4		14
White-fronted tern					14	8	21			43
Fairy tern										
Little tern										
Cattle egret										
Black swan										
TOTAL	0	13	23	481	80	633	106	259		1595

Not surveyed

Not surveyed

no birds present

Surveyed

Participants: C Burtt D Calvert D Carter D Crockett J Hawken C Parkes L Simpkin
M Smith P Smith J Snell L Snell B Stevens P Yardley
Note: Tanoa-Batley ~ One VOC nest with 3 eggs. One NZ Dotterel nest with 3 eggs.

Compiled by David Crockett

NATIONAL WADER CENSUS - NORTH KAIA IUA

Date: 7 June 2008

Tide Height: 4.1 m

Time: 13:19

Weather: Fine

Northwesterly breeze

	Borcks	Oneriri	Ngamotu	Bailey-Tanoa	Tinopai	Pahi-Whakapirau	Ruawai	Tangahae-Kellys Bay	Okaro Creek	TOTAL
Black shag										2
Pied shag			2			14				21
Little black shag										3
Little shag			3							3
White-faced heron						24	21			47
White heron										
Reef heron										
Royal spoonbill						16				16
SI pied oystercatcher		218	227			480	230	640		2437
Variable oystercatcher						6		2		17
Pied shill						192		125		845
NZ dotterel						4				4
Banded dotterel		23				29				52
Wrybill							17			17
Pacific golden plover										
Spur winged plover		3					6			9
Turnstone										
Lesser knot										
Far-eastern curlew										
Asiatic whimbrel										
Bar-tailed godwit							6	5		11
Black-backed gull								4		8
Red-billed gull								145		272
Caspian tern			1			4	97	20		28
White-fronted tern			3			8		120		306
Fairy tern										
Little tern										
Cattle egret										
Black swan										
Black-billed gull										7
All banded										7
TOTAL	0	244	268	737	209	1284	570	825		4137

Participants: C Burtt D Calvert D Carter P Cuzens D Crockett J Hawken
 S Ploverman A Randall M Smith P Smith J Snell L Snell
 B Stevens J Vaughan A Williams P yardley

**
 **

Not surveyed

No birds present

EAST COAST BEACH PATROL – BREAM BAY SUMMARY

Compiled by P. R. SMITH – Period JANUARY to JUNE 2008

MONTH	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	TOTALS
FROM	Mair Rd.	Mars Pt	M Pt-Race/C	Mars. Pt.	Surf Cl.	M.Pt.-Race/C	
TO	Waipu R.	Waipu R.	Surf Cl.-Wai	Uretiti Tip	Waipu R.	Uretiti-Waipu	
DISTANCE	14km	15km	13km	12.5km	9.5km	10km	
PATROLLERS	C. L. Burtt M. Smith	D. Carter L & J Snell	P. Cozens A. Williams	J. Hawken	C. Parkes	L. Simpkin	
Wandering Albatross							
Royal Albatross							
Black-browed Mollymawk							
White-capped (shy mollymawk)							
Grey-headed Mollymawk							
Buller's Mollymawk							
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross							
Flesh-footed Shearwater				10	3		13
Buller's Shearwater		1		3		1	4
Sooty Shearwater	1			1 (Sp.)		1	3
Short-tailed Shearwater							
Fluttering Shearwater	6	3	2	6	4	3	24
Hutton's Shearwater							
Little Shearwater							
Common Diving Petrel		1		4	14	8	27
Black Petrel	1			1 (Sp.)			2
White-chinned Petrel							
Kerguelen Petrel							
Cape Pigeon							
Antarctic Fulmar							
Northern Giant Petrel							
Fairy Prion							
Thin-billed Prion						1	1
Antarctic Prion							
Broad-billed Prion							
Lesser Broad-billed Prion							
Prion sp							
Blue Petrel							
Pycroft's Petrel				1			1
Cook's Petrel				2			2
Black-winged Petrel							
Mottled Petrel							
Grey-faced Petrel						1	1
White-headed Petrel							
White-faced Storm Petrel							
Blue Penguin	11	3	1	7			22
Australasian Gannet	1	2		3			6
Pied Shag	1	1					2
Paradise Shelduck					4		4
Mallard duck						1	1
Variable Oystercatcher							
Southern Black-backed Gull		1	1	1		1	4
Red-billed Gull							
Caspian Tern							
White-fronted Tern							
Australian Magpie				1			1
White-tailed Tropic Bird		1					1
Tui				1			1
Duck Sp.						1	1
TOTALS	21	13	4	41	25	17	121

NORTHLAND REGIONAL OFFICERS

Northland OSNZ

Regional Representative – Katrina Hansen
 Treasurer – Den Carter
 Regional Recorder – Tony Beauchamp
 Amokura Co-ordinator – vacant

Convenors

Whangarei Harbour Surveys – Tony Beauchamp
 North Kaipara Harbour Surveys - David Crockett
 East Coast Beach Patrols – Claire Burt
 West Coast Beach Patrols – Prue Cozens
 NZ Fairy Tern Volunteer Co-ordinator – Audrey Williams
 Oiled Birds – Audrey Williams

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES 2009

MEETING DATES AND FIELD EVENTS

11 th June	Meeting
June – date tbc	Kaipara Harbour Census: contact David (Ph. 435 0954)
June – date tbc	Whangarei Harbour Census: contact Tony
9 th July	Meeting
13 th August	Meeting
10 th September	Meeting
8 th October	Meeting
12 th November	Meeting
November – date tbc	Kaipara Harbour Count: contact David (Ph 435 0954)
November – date tbc	Whangarei Harbour Count: contact Tony
12 th December - tbc	End-of-year dinner

BEACH PATROLS – Dates to be confirmed

West Coast	Contact: Prue Cozens	East Coast	Contact: Claire Burt
Dates:	High Tide: time, height	Dates:	High Tide
20 th June	7:10 am	16 th June	13:20 2.3
18 th July	5:30 am	14 th July	12:02 2.3
15 th August	4:00 am	11 th August	10:51 2.4
12 or 19 th September	2:30 am	8 or 15 th September	09:46 or 16:04 2.5
10 or 11 th October	2:20 – 3:30	6 th October	08:41 2.6
14 th November	8:50 am	10 th November	13:22 2.6
12 th December	12:12	8 th December	12:09 2.7