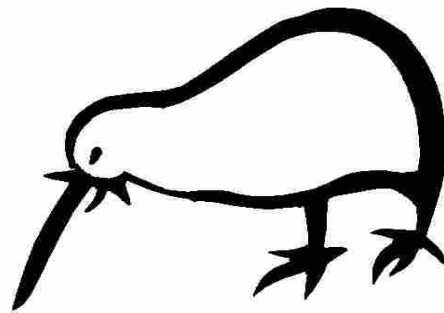


APTERYX

Issue 15

August 2006



NEWSLETTER OF THE FAR NORTH REGION OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND



Come wader-banding in
late Sept. See page 7

(All photos by
Detlef & Carol
Davies)



REGIONAL REP'S REFLECTIONS

I would like to draw members' attention to the efforts made by other local organisations which support & assist the wellbeing and protection of our local birds. These include the local branch of Forest & Bird, the Kiwi Foundation, the Puketū Forest Trust and the Guardians of the Bay of Islands. Where possible I would like to include at least some of their events in our newsletter and welcome birding news items from their members.

Most Far North members have an email address. From time to time I circularise news by email such as programme changes, confirmation of times and meeting places of events, etc. If you do not have email, please give me a phone number so I can contact you with this information.



Robins are
coming.
See page 6

One of our former RRs, Leigh Honnor will soon be working at the DOC office in Waipoua & would welcome Far North members to that area to assist with monitoring programmes for Kiwi, Kokako & other proposed surveys. Her email is lhonor@doc.govt.nz

The Far North Regional Officers are as follows:

Regional Representative

Detlef Davies, 180 Landing Road, Kerikeri
09 407 3874 detlefdavies@yahoo.com

Regional Recorder

Lauren Alston, 48a Riverview Road, Kerikeri
09 407 8747 laureen.a@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer

Isabella Godbert, 67 Waipapa West Road, Kerikeri
09 407 8058 godbert@xtra.co.nz

Secretary

Carol Davies, 180 Landing Road, Kerikeri
09 407 3874 carolanndavies@yahoo.com

Carol has also agreed to act as publicity officer for the region.



Kaka at Karori
Wildlife Park
June 06

RECENT EVENTS

Fri 5 May Greg Blunden spoke at our indoor meeting tonight, his subject being the recent progress with predator control with particular reference to our local Kiwi population and the ambitious future plans through the Kiwi Foundation.

1 – 5 June ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

Detlef, Russell, Gay & Pauline attended this event in Wellington. The Regional Reps meeting took place on the Thursday followed by 2 days of scientific presentations. These were all of a very high standard & excellently illustrated. Unfortunately the sunshine which subsisted throughout the indoor events gave way to rain for the planned field trips so boats to Kapiti Island & Mana Island did not run. Some of us managed to get to Somes Island in Wellington Harbour & saw some Red-crowned Parakeets in the rain and 3 of the Far North contingent took a break from one afternoon's lectures to go to Karori Wildlife Park.

To mention just a few things discussed, it is proposed to put the regions' newsletters on the Society's website so Far North will hopefully be featured there soon. The Brand Name discussion continues & a further referendum seems to be necessary in the near future.

Fernbird, Purerua, 2 Sept 06



Fri 9 June FAR NORTH AGM

This took place at Detlef & Carol's house at 180 Landing Road, Kerikeri and the minutes were taken by Isabella, as follows:

Meeting commenced at 7.40 p.m.

Present: Detlef Davies R.R, Isabella Godbert – treasurer, Carol Davies, Ian Wilson, Anthea Goodwin, Kerry and Jane Walshe, Russell Thomas, Derry Godbert.

Apologies: Bill Campbell, Chris and Marianne Sale, Gay Blunden, Pauline Stephinson, Lynette and Bill Smith, Mike Bryan, Paul and Edith Asquith, Laureen Alston.

Minutes – the minutes of last years AGM were taken as read (having been set out in the Aug 05 newsletter).

Matters arising – No results had been received of the dotterel recounts – to be investigated.

R.R. report – Detlef read out his report, he listed events as they had happened – received with thanks.

Treasurer's report -- Isabella presented the financial report. She moved that it be accepted, Russell seconded, all approved.

Election of officers –

Detlef is happy to stay as R.R., Isabella is happy to stay as Treasurer and Lauren, although not able to be present, had indicated that she is happy to stay as Regional Recorder.

Russell moved that the existing officers should stay, this was approved.

Carol volunteered to be secretary – Detlef moved that this should be accepted as a new position, Isabella seconded and all agreed.

Bird recording in the Far North and proposed **site guide** – Detlef reported that at the conferences RRs were asked to help produce a site guide for their area. He listed suitable sites to be investigated.

Report from 2006 conference – 4 members went to the conference, Detlef, Russell, Gay and Pauline. It was a very interesting conference though bad weather meant there were no field trips.

Far North programme – Detlef asked for ideas, Anthea suggested Awanui harbour. Detlef suggested contacting Chris Sale.

Boat – Detlef said we had hoped to get a boat for wader surveys but the offer for this seems to have been retracted & no longer seemed likely. Kaitaia DOC have been very helpful in providing boats so far.

Russell reported that a group of people were coming up from Auckland to capture and ring waders by mist-netting in mid September and would need lots of help. Detlef will inform people when he knows more.

Other business - Isabella produced a beach patrol report.

A discussion was held about contribution to petrol costs. Agreed where applicable but Far North funds are insufficient & we would need to look to central funds for some contribution.

Leaflets – Detlef showed the new leaflets which will be put in the library.

A general thanks and appreciation was given for Detlef's newsletters.

Detlef and Carol asked for contributions for the newsletters.

A discussion was held about the format of the evening meetings.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Following the AGM, Russell Thomas showed us some slides of the Chatham Islands, where he has been many times. For islands which are not a great distance from the New Zealand mainland, they hold a surprising number of endemic birds.

16 – 17 July Winter Wader Count

As so often happens, winter weather delayed our wader count in June but boats to wader roosts were able to run this weekend and the totals of the various species are shown on pages 4 & 5.

RECENT REPORTS

We have little to report this time other than birds seen during the wader counts. Kevin Maxwell reports a **Nankeen Kestrel** near Kaitaia airfield in July and again in late August; it has probably been resident in the area for some time. We also hear of 2 **Kakas** seen regularly in the vicinity of Peacock Gardens, Kerikeri.

BEACH PATROLS

John Dawn (message dated 18 July)

Our 2 last beach patrols have taken place during very high tides when the beach was being swept clean right up to the dunes. It seems likely that we have missed birds either washed out to sea or buried. Some of the dates for the rest of the year have been changed again to times when the tides are later or earlier, in the hope that birds washed ashore will still be there.

90 Mile Beach dates (& high tide times): 2 Sept (4.00), 7 Oct (8.00), 4 Nov (8.45) & 2 Dec (7.15).

Karikari dates (& high tide times): 21 Oct (7.45), 18 Nov (6.30) & 16 Dec (4.45).

Ornithological Society of New Zealand - WADER CENSUSES 2004 - 2009

OSNZ REGION	FAR NORTH	MAIN SITE	Rangaunu Harbour
YEAR	2006	COMPILER	Detlef Davies
MONTH	July	Tide Height, Time, Weather etc	
CENSUS DATE	16th	Tide 0.9 metres, 11.00 am - 2.00 pm, dry, cloudy, SE wind up to 20 knots.	

DATE >	16.07.06	16.07.06										
TIME >	11.30- 2.	1 - 11.30										
PRINCIPAL COUNTER>	DD	DD										
LOCAL SITES >	Walker Island	Awanui Wharf										
SITE TOTALS >	1086	220										

SPECIES TOTALS v

Pied Oystercatcher												
Variable Oystercatche	48	48										
Pied Stilt	600	600										
New Zealand Dotterel	4	4										
Banded Dotterel												
Black-fronted Dotterel												
Wrybill												
Pacific Golden Plover												
Spur-winged Plover												
Turnstone	2	2										
Lesser Knot	20	20										
Curlew Sandpiper												
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper												
Pectoral Sandpiper												
Red-necked Stint												
Far-eastern Curlew												
Whimbrel	12	12										
Bar-tailed Godwit	400	400										
Black-tailed Godwit												
Grey-tailed Tattler												
Marsh Sandpiper												
Terek Sandpiper												

OTHERS

Royal Spoonbill	220	220										
Caspian Tern	47	47										
White-fronted Tern	16	16										
Grey Teal	25	25										
Grey Duck	4	4										
Little Shag	20	20										
Black-backed Gull	65	65										

MAIN SITE TOTAL >

Return June sheet by 31 July to Adrian Riegen. riegen@xtra.co.nz Fax 09-814-9741

COMMENTS

231 Forest Hill Rd, Waikarua, Auckland 8

Counters: Detlef Davies, Kevin Matthews, Bet Jacques, Frank Jacques.

At least 6 Spoonbills had bands, communicated to Peter Schweigmann

Anthea Goodwin checked Wallace Road today, 190 Stilts, 5 Caspian Terns, 2 SIPOs, 27 W-f Herons.

Site totals do not include 'others'.

Ornithological Society of New Zealand - WADER CENSUSES 2004 - 2009

OSNZ REGION	FAR NORTH	MAIN SITE	Parengarenga Harbour
YEAR	2006	COMPILER	Detlef Davies
MONTH	July	Tide Height, Time, Weather etc	
CENSUS DATE	17th	Tide 0.85 metres, 10.30 am - 3 pm, dry & sunny, SE wind up to 15 knots	

DATE >	17-Jul	17-Jul	17-Jul							
TIME >	10.30- 3	11 -2.30	2.30pm							
PRINCIPAL COUNTER>	DD	DD, DL	DL							
LOCAL SITES >	Paua Paddocks	Kokota Sandspit	Ahiaruhe Shellbank							
SITE TOTALS >	1165	1102	889							

SPECIES TOTALS v

	722	675	2	45										
Pied Oystercatcher	722	675	2	45										
Variable Oystercatcher	110	20	47	43										
Pied Stilt	1275	375	280	620										
New Zealand Dotterel	15		15											
Banded Dotterel	1		1											
Black-fronted Dotterel														
Wrybill	65		65											
Pacific Golden Plover														
Spur-winged Plover														
Turnstone	4		4											
Lesser Knot	168		168											
Curlew Sandpiper														
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper														
Pectoral Sandpiper														
Red-necked Stint														
Far-eastern Curlew														
Whimbrel														
Bar-tailed Godwit	796	95	520	181										
Black-tailed Godwit														
Grey-tailed Tattler														
Marsh Sandpiper														
Terek Sandpiper														

OTHERS

Royal Spoonbill	80	80												
Red-billed Gull	500	30	70	400										
Black-backed Gull	60	20	40											
Caspian Tern	24	4	20											
Reef Heron	1		1											

MAIN SITE TOTAL >

Return June sheet by 31 July to Adrian Riegen. riegen@xtra.co.nz Fax 09-814-9741

COMMENTS

231 Forest Hill Rd, Waiatarua, Auckland 8

Counters: Detlef Davies, Carol Davies, Kevin Matthews, David Lawrie, Lynn Lawrie, Rajesh Bhargava, Richard Stone.

One Bar-tailed Godwit with a red flag on the right leg.

Flock of c.20 Redpolls on Kokota, one on the Shellbank.

Site totals do not include 'others'.

ROBINS ARE RETURNING TO NORTHLAND

By Pauline Stephinson

As part of my 2006 Royal Society Teacher Fellowship, hosted by Greg and Gay Blunden of the NZ Kiwi Foundation, we have just completed our DOC application to transfer 50 robins to the Russell Peninsula in autumn next year. With the support of Russell Landcare Group and as part of the Pest-Free North of Auckland initiative, this will be the first of a series of native bird translocations planned for Northland over the next decade.

Why robins you might ask? North Island robin are considered ideal for translocation as they are not currently endangered and are easy to monitor and transport. They are a relatively easy bird for a first transfer and are a people-friendly species which is great for advocacy.

After research, we decided the source of robins was to be the Mangatutu Block in the Waikato as there is an abundance of accessible birds. The birds will be released onto private land on the Russell Peninsula which contains 3,000 hectares of integrated pest management.

Perhaps the most important requirement in the whole process is to monitor the release area for predators and establish the best eradication scheme. The rat numbers at Russell are less than 5% and a series of baited ground tunnels has been set up to maintain these low levels, particularly with the monitoring presence of Norway rats.

Another requirement is monitoring of the banded birds once they are released. No one knows for sure where they will head to but our goals are :

- To successfully capture, translocate and release up to 50 toutouwai with an approx 50:50 sex ratio adults/juveniles, from the Maungatutu block, Rangitoto Range to the Russell Peninsula.
- For this translocation to have a less than 10% mortality rate covering transportation and the first winter season.
- To have birds breeding in the release catchment within the first year.
- To monitor for successful breeding by the sighting of unbanded birds and for dispersal within the release areas or beyond.
- To have 50% of transferred birds remaining in the release area.
- To establish a viable self-sustaining breeding population by 2017.

We still have some way to go in terms of finding a suitable vet to do the disease screening, finalising iwi consent, informing bordering neighbours, learning about banding, and most importantly, having our application accepted by DOC. We welcome any help and advice and intend having a public awareness meeting in Russell within the next two months. Watch this space and we will keep you up to date as things progress.

PROGRAMME – SEPT to DEC 2006

Thursday 21 September **Focus on Species**

AROHA ISLAND ECOLOGICAL CENTRE RANGITANE

New Zealand Reptiles, Kauri Snail, Rowi Kiwi & North Island Robin

Join us at **Aroha Island** for four illustrated talks from 2006 Maths Science and Technology Royal Society Teacher Fellows, **Sally Richardson** (Auckland) **Laura Wallace** (Whangarei) **Julie Wolbers** (Franz Joseph) & **Pauline Stephinson** (Kerikeri)

Nibbles provided from 7 pm. BYO beverages. Presentations begin at 7.30
Everyone welcome, adults and children. Entry by donation. **RSVP** Phone 094075243

Sat 23 – Thurs 28 Sept. Wader Mistnetting & Banding at Parengarenga

Three wader enthusiasts, Phil Battley, Rob Schuckard & David Melville will be carrying out mistnetting of waders on Kokota Sandspit over this period. They would appreciate as much help as possible and it will be an opportunity to see these birds in the hand and learn something about their movements. Some of us will be going up for the first couple of days and if you would like to take part any time, please telephone Detlef on 09 407 3874.



Golden Plover & Lesser Knot during cannon-netting in Kaipara Harbour in Feb 2005.

Sat 30 Sept Puketi Kauri Ball & Auction, Copthorne Hotel & Resort, Waitangi

A special fund-raising event organised by Puketi Forest Trust. Tickets available soon at various locations, for more info telephone Elizabeth Chestney on 09 402 6230

Fri 13 Oct Indoor Meeting, 180 Landing Road, Kerikeri 7.30 pm

Detlef & Carol will give a presentation on their recent trips to Panama and the rich bird-life of the rainforest. Drinks and nibbles as usual.

Sun 3 Dec Barbecue at 180 Landing Road

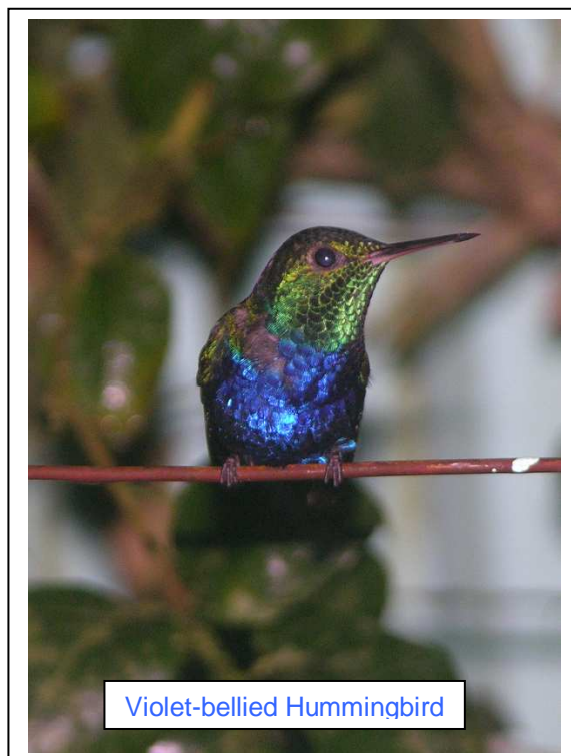
from 3 pm. More details to follow, we hope to find a speaker for the evening.

Advance Notice

Warawara Forest. The proposed weekend visit to this remote forest is now postponed to 2007. This is because after discussions with DOC in Kaitaia, March would be a good month to visit as this was the month some years ago that the last bird survey was done & it would make a better comparison.

Puketi Forest

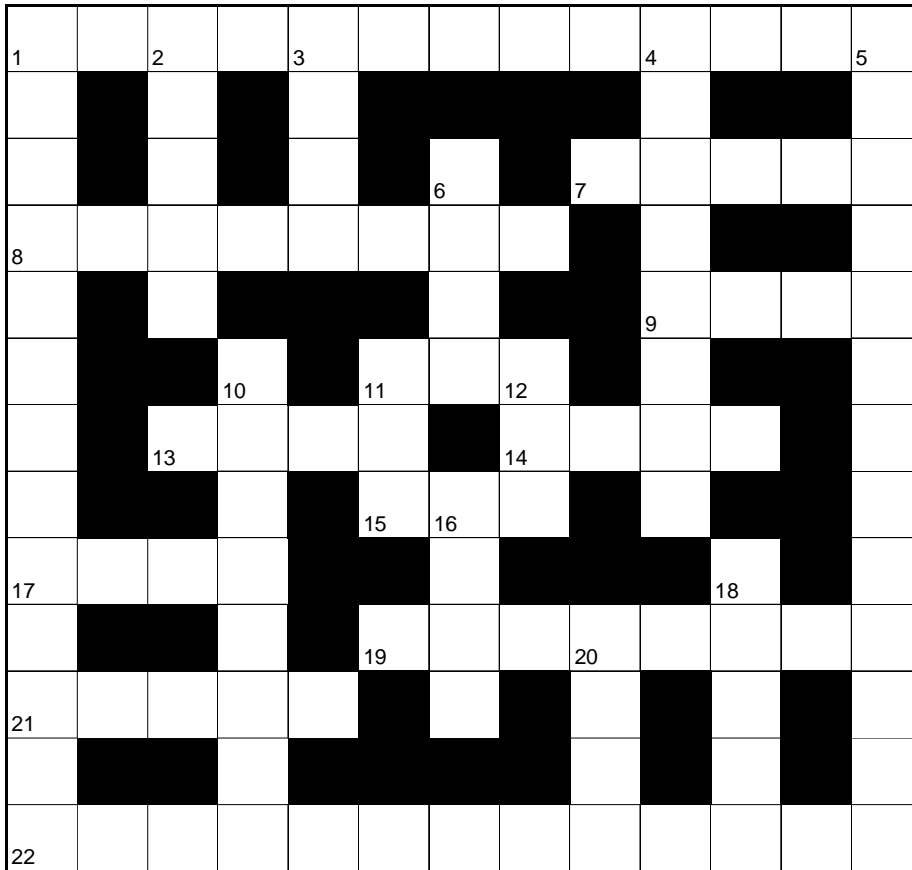
Some time later in the year we hope to arrange an overnight trip into Puketi to hear, or even see, the last Kokako, if it has not been removed by then for translocation. Details to follow.



Violet-bellied Hummingbird

SPRING CROSSBIRD PUZZLE

Solution in December newsletter



Clues across

1. Common white New Zealand bird (3-6, 4)
7. See 5 down.
8. Former American Long-tailed Duck
9. Grey, Brown & Campbell Island ones occur in New Zealand
11. Genus of endangered Hawaiian birds
13. See 18 down
14. Extinct New Zealand bird
15. Lacking moisture
17. Metal decay or part of a tanager that isn't yellow?
19. Colourful European woodland bird
21. 2 under par for the raptor
22. Decorative species of antbird? (6, 7)



Clues down

1. Argentina's national bird (6, 7)
2. Well-dressed person?
3. Trouble-ridden country but home to the babbler
4. British garden bird (5, 3)
5. Baby boomer? (6,7) and 7 across: prefix for an even smaller one?
6. Extinct Hawaiian bird
10. Australian nuthatch?
11. Aged
12. Timid species of albatross?
16. Huge South American bird
18. (and 13 across) North Atlantic auk
20. One of many on the breast of a thrush

