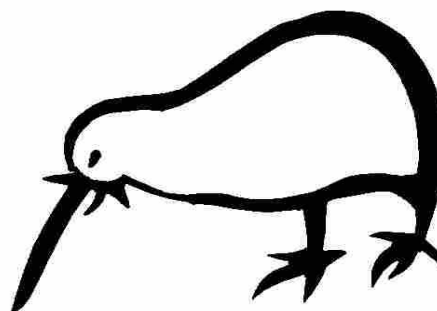


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Issue 16

December 2006



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



Bar-tailed Godwits
Aroha Is, 4 Nov 06

(All photos by
Detlef & Carol
Davies)



REGIONAL REP'S REFLECTIONS

We have had an eventful year and plenty of ornithological things going on. As always I would like to encourage all members to contribute articles, illustrated or not and however technical or otherwise, to the newsletter. Is anyone holding an event with a birding slant, or would anyone else like to host a meeting, perhaps outside Kerikeri? Do you have a presentation, however short, which can be put on a CD? We have a Powerpoint Projector which we will be using at most, if not all, of our meetings.

We entered the Godwit photo above in the Kerikeri photo competition for which pictures had to be taken within 8 kilometers of Kerikeri on 4th November. We looked for Kiwis that night at Rangitane and even saw one but it didn't want its picture taken! There were very few pictures of birds or other wildlife so it was nice to enter this one (but no, it didn't win).



OSNZ has funds available to pay reasonable travel and accommodation expenses when taking part in projects like wader counts, spotting banded birds and submitting the records, wader mistnetting etc. Expenses for the November wader count are still 'in the pipeline'.

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.

Lesser Knot, Parengarenga Harbour, Sept 06

The Far North Regional Officers are as follows:

Regional Representative

Detlef Davies, 180 Landing Road, Kerikeri
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Regional Recorder

Laureen Alston, 48a Riverview Road, Kerikeri
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Treasurer

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Secretary & Publicity

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



Morepork,
Purerua,
Nov 06

RECENT EVENTS

Sat – Thurs 23 – 28 Sept WADER MIST- NETTING

This was a visit to the Far North by OSNZ members, David Melville, Rob Schuckard, Phil Battley and Willie Cook who are involved in research into migration routes of Arctic waders which visit New Zealand in the northern winter so are seen here in the greatest numbers in the southern summer. As those who were present at our last meeting will have seen from Laureen and Carol’s presentation, it was a very interesting week.

There were 15 of us on the Sunday but this reduced to 7 on Monday, a few of us were able to stay all week. We met at North Wind backpackers near Henderson Beach with a view to setting up nets on Kowhai Beach where a tight flock of over 200 Godwits were present. The whole project was very much at the experimental stage as no mist-netting had been done in the Far North before. We had no idea which route the waders took when they flew in from Houhora Harbour & nothing was caught that night. It was decided to move operations to Parengarenga Harbour where a boat & some locals helped us find our way around & get an idea of birds’ movements. Nets had to be put up in the evening so as not to be visible and target birds were the ones flying to their night time roosts. Eventually on the last day, with nets erected on Ahiaruhe Shellbank, 3 Godwits and 1 Knot were caught for banding. We were very pleased with the support and enthusiasm from the local people who will no doubt be pleased to hear that we will be back soon.





Wader mist-netting week



Eagle Ray, Parengarenga

Fri 13 Oct INDOOR MEETING – PANAMA



We hope you enjoyed the presentation on our holiday in this very bird-rich country. We have been to Panama twice now and recommend it as a place for both beginner and expert. Many birds are both numerous, conspicuous and colourful; at the same time there is plenty, such as antbirds, woodcreepers and tyrant flycatchers, to test the experts.

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan, Darien. Panama, August 2006

Mon – Tues 13 – 14 Nov PUKETI FOREST

Ian Wilson, Detlef and Carol did the trek up to the DOC hut in the pest controlled part of the forest, staying overnight between the 4 hour walk each way. Early on Tuesday morning we listened for the Kokako but heard nothing; if it was still there, it wasn't singing perhaps because of a moderate breeze. We heard and saw lots of Tomtits & a few Pigeons and a Shining Cuckoo sang during one of our 5 minute bird counts.

Sunday 3 Dec BARBECUE AND VIDEO SHOW

We opened this event to Forest & Bird & to the Kiwi Foundation but nearly all of the 15 of us present were OSNZ members. We hope that some future events will attract a wider audience. However, we enjoyed a social evening with Lauren & Carol's presentation on the wader mist-netting week & some spectacular filming by David Attenborough on his famous wildlife films.

RECENT REPORTS and SIGHTINGS

This covers the Far North region since August, compiled by Lauren with additions from Detlef.

North Island Brown Kiwi One found on Heritage bypass work site south of Kerikeri River on 23 Nov & relocated. Successful breeding at Aroha Island & on Purerua.

Australian Little Grebe One on the small lake in Stanners Road, Kerikeri on 10 Dec.

Northern Giant Petrel 8 juvs astern of the San Columbia 3nm S of Cape Brett on 19 Oct.

Cape Pigeon (Pintado Petrel) Several at same site south of Cape Brett on 19 Oct.

Blue Penguin 1 in Opito Bay on 7 September.

Australasian Bittern One at Mountains Estate on Purerua on 2 Sept, one standing unconcerned by roadside near Karikari turning from SH10 on 15 Oct.

Royal Spoonbill 174 on mudflats at Te Hapua on 25 Sept.

Black Swan 5 flying east to west over Waipapa Basin on 22 Nov

Brown Teal One pair on pond on north end of Urupukapuka Island on 27 Oct.

Nankeen Kestrel The one seen a few months ago around Kaitaia Airport still shows occasionally.

Brown Falcon Kevin Matthews has reported another falcon in Kaitaia looking like this species, a potential first for New Zealand.

Bobwhite Quail 2 or 3 at Kauri Cliffs on 19 Oct (where have they come from?).

Weka One was reported in the Te Ngaere Bay area in May & June (John & Christine McBain)

Spotless Crake Many (7 or more) calling at Mountains Estate on Purerua on 2 Sept.

Variable Oystercatcher Pair nesting at Taemaro Bay.

Black / Smudgy Stilt One with Pied Stilts at Dick Ulrich Road, Tokerau Beach.

Pacific Golden Plover One feeding on Hauai Bay, BOI on 4 Nov.

New Zealand Dotterel
 Pair with 2 egg nest & 1 chick at Urupukapuka Bay on 27 Oct.
 Pair on Parenuui Beach north of Orokawa on 28 Oct
 Pair at Waipao Bay, Moturua on 31 Oct
 8 birds & a chick on Onewhero Beach early Nov, 14 birds there in late Nov.
 Pair with 3 half grown chicks & a bird sitting at Taemaro Bay on 22 Nov.

Bar-tailed Godwit Apart from usual counting sites, 26 at Aroha Island from 4 Nov.

Wandering Tattler One at Parengarenga Harbour on 24 Sept.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 4 at Paua on 24 Sept.
 (Other wader records in count charts)

Kaka One in Russell on 16 Sept. The 2 seen earlier in the Stone Store Hill, Kerikeri were not seen after early November.

Shining Cuckoo Heard in Russell 22 Sept & Waitiki Landing 25 – 27 Sept; heard & seen Landing Road, Kerikeri on 13 Oct & at Ruapekapeka Pa on 12 Nov. Many more heard; it has been a very good season for this species.

Long-tailed Cuckoo One heard in Kerikeri on 4 Sept.

Fernbird Seen Mountains Estate 2 Sept & between Kawakawa & Opuia on several dates.

Tomtit One between Russell & Tapeka, male on track between Otupoho & waterfall, Moturua on 31 Oct. Many heard & at least 10 seen in Puketi Forest 13 – 14 Nov.

New Zealand Robin 2 heard, one each side of waterfall, Moturua, 31 Oct.

PROGRAMME

Fri 19 – Fri 26 Jan WADER MIST- NETTING - PART 2

After the experimental but ultimately successful wader netting in September, the team from Nelson (& Auckland) will be back at Parengarenga Harbour to try to catch & band more waders. Helpers will be most welcome for all or any part of the period, let me know if you are coming so that transport sharing can be arranged but please arrange your own accommodation. The organizers will be staying at Waitiki Landing. Over the same period it is hoped to do wader counting and band-spotting both at Parengarenga and at Walker Island & Kowhai Beach.

Fri 16 Feb INDOOR MEETING

Adrian Riegen, the co-ordinator of the wader counts will hopefully be available to come & give a presentation on wader identification & migration. In the course of his studies, Adrian has been to

Alaska where many Arctic waders breed, & to China, an important migration resting place for thousands of birds.

Weekend 3 – 4 March WARAWARA FOREST

We hope at long last to get to this exciting remnant forest to look for Riflemen. Much interest was generated when we first tried to organize the trip so let me know in good time if you would like to come. If we stay overnight we propose to use Campbell Homestay in Broadwood.

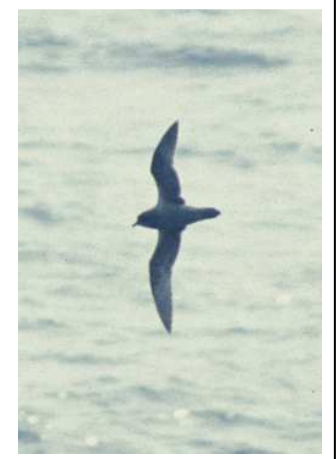
Sat 24 March PUKETI FOREST. A Forest & Bird field trip to the stoat-trapping line & the Waipapa River in the forest. Contact Ian Wilson for details, 09 401 9056.

BEACH PATROLS

These take place every 4th Sunday at 90 Mile Beach and less frequently on Karikari Peninsular. More volunteers would be welcome. Contact Isabella Godbert on 09 407 8058 for details. Full results for 2006 are shown below.

NINETY MILE BEACH - 2006											
Date	28	12	12	22	20	18	16	13	2	6	3
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	DEC
Species											
Wandering Albatross					1						
Grey-headed Albatross								1			
Yellow-nosed Albatross							1				
Light-mantled Sooty Alb.										1	
Shy Albatross							1	1	1	2	
Southern Giant Petrel						1	3				
Buller's Shearwater					1	1				1	1
Sooty Shearwater					12					1	6
Short-tailed Shearwater	1									1	
Fluttering Shearwater	1	4		1				14	6	5	4
Allied Shearwater			1								
Westland Black Petrel											1
Black Petrel			1								
Grey Petrel											1
Common Diving Petrel					1	2		8			
Pintado Petrel								1	1		
Fairy Prion									3	1	
Antarctic Prion									1		
Cooks Petrel					1						
White-headed Petrel	2				2					2	1
Kerguelen Petrel											
Grey-faced Petrel					1					2	
White-faced Storm Petrel										1	
Blue Penguin	1	1	4	25	67	5	1		2	1	3
White-tailed Tropicbird				1							
Australasian Gannet	2	3	1	1	2	1	6	4	12	17	2
Sthern Black-backed Gull	3	2	4	1	2		2	1	4	18	4
Black-b Gull Juv		3	2								
Red-billed Gull											
Total	10	13	13	29	90	10	14	30	30	53	23
Pied Shag											1
Long-tailed Cuckoo											1

EAST COAST - 2006				
Date	26	19	19	17
	FEB	OCT	NOV	DEC
Species				
Buller's Shearwater			2	
Sooty Shearwater			1	
Fluttering Shearwater	4	1	3	
Lesser Broad-billed Prion			1	
Grey-faced Petrel		1	1	
Blue Penguin	61	2		
Australasian Gannet (ad.)	5		1	
Black-backed Gull	4			
Red-billed Gull	3			
Caspian Tern		1		
Total	77	5	9	Nil
Variable Oystercatcher		2		
Paradise Shelduck	1			
Lesser Knot		1		
Pukeko			1	



Beach patrol species in 2006 – Pintado Petrel, Kerguelen Petrel & Southern Giant Petrel. (Prince Edward Is, 2002)

CROSSBIRD PUZZLE SOLUTION

R	E	D	B	I	L	L	E	D	G	U	L	L
U		A		R					R			I
F		N		A		M		L	E	A	S	T
O	L	D	S	Q	U	A	W		A			T
U		Y			M				T	E	A	L
S			S		O	O	S		T			E
H		B	I	L	L			H	U	I	A	B
O			T		D	R	Y		T			I
R	U	S	T			H				R		T
N			E		R	E	D	S	T	A	R	T
E	A	G	L	E		A		P	Z			E
R			L					O		O		R
O	R	N	A	T	E	A	N	T	W	R	E	N

This is the solution of the puzzle in the last newsletter. Nobody got it completely right but Russell Thomas had a solution which was almost correct & fitted the grid. He had 'Kagu' instead of 'Mamo' & 'Ous' instead of 'Oos'.

The Kagu is from New Caledonia & still survives but the Ou is another Hawaiian bird in a different family from the Oo.

The pictures showed a Little Bittern photographed at Lake Kinkony in Madagascar and a Greater Rhea taken near Jujuy in Argentina.

Another puzzle another time.
(Detlef)

Ornithological Society of New Zealand - WADER CENSUSES 2004 - 2009

OSNZ REGION **FAR NORTH** MAIN SITE **Walker Island**
 YEAR **2006** COMPILER **Detlef Davies**
 MONTH **November**
 CENSUS DATE **28th** Tide Height, Time, Weather etc

High tide 14.07 at 0.83 metres, 13.30 - 15.30, sunny, mod W wind.

DD	KM								
Walker Island	Kaimau-mau								
3,709	2								

SITE TOTALS >	SPECIES TOTALS v								
Pied Oystercatcher									
Variable Oystercatcher	18	18							
Pied Stilt									
New Zealand Dotterel	2	2							
Banded Dotterel									
Wrybill									
Pacific Golden Plover									
Spur-winged Plover									
Turnstone	85	85							
Lesser Knot	604	604							
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper									
Red-necked Stint									
Far-eastern Curlew									
Whimbrel	2		2						
Bar-tailed Godwit	3000+	3,000+							
Grey-tailed Tattler									

OTHERS

White-fronted Tern	35	35							
Caspian Tern	65	65							

MAIN SITE TOTAL > 3,711 Return November sheet by 31 December to Adrian Riegen. riegen@xtra.co.nz Fax 09-814-9741

COMMENTS
 231 Forest Hill Rd, Waiatarua, Auckland 8
 Totals do not include 'others'. Only 5 of us & only able to observe from small island near Walker Island so birds seen from long range.

Counters: Detlef Davies, Kevin Matthews, Anthea Goodwin, Laureen Alston & Lynette Smith. Boatman: Kevin Matthews.
 Anthea thought Godwit total was nearer 4,000. No bands seen.

OSNZ REGION **FAR NORTH** MAIN SITE **Parengarenga Harbour**
 YEAR **2006** COMPILER **Detlef Davies**
 MONTH **November**
 CENSUS DATE **30.11.06** Tide Height, Time, Weather etc

High tide 16.07 at 0.81 metres. Strong NW wind & rain until 2.30 pm, then SW & lighter

DD	DD	DD	DD	DD					
Paua	Kokota Ocean	Kokota Spit pans	Kokota landward side	Kokota Spit north end					
64	13	5	5	85					

SITE TOTALS >	SPECIES TOTALS v								
Pied Oystercatcher	30	30							
Variable Oystercatcher	4		2		2				
Pied Stilt	5			5					
New Zealand Dotterel	3			2	1				
Banded Dotterel	1			1					
Wrybill	8				8				
Pacific Golden Plover									
Spur-winged Plover									
Turnstone	59	14	11	2	32				
Lesser Knot	17	11			6				
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	3				3				
Red-necked Stint	27				27				
Far-eastern Curlew									
Whimbrel									
Bar-tailed Godwit	15	9			6				
Grey-tailed Tattler									

OTHERS

Caspian Tern	3	1		2					
White-faced Heron	40	40							
Red-billed Gull	97				97				
Aus Gannet	11				11				
Black Swan	100s					100s			

MAIN SITE TOTAL > 172 Return November sheet by 31 December to Adrian Riegen. riegen@xtra.co.nz Fax 09-814-9741

COMMENTS
 231 Forest Hill Rd, Waiatarua, Auckland 8
 Totals do not include 'others'. Only 3 counters present so very limited area could be covered. No large Godwit flock found.
 Counters: Detlef Davies, Carol Davies, Laureen Alston. Boatmen: Willie Macrae & Lester Bridson from DOC, Kaitaia.

ARGENTINA in AUGUST 2006

Detlef and Carol Davies

We spent a week in Argentina this year where Seriema Nature Tours took us on a tour through the Andes of the north-west of the country. Our Guide, Hector Slongo, picked us up at Tucuman Airport and in a couple of hours we were high in the cloud forest looking at special birds like the Torrent Duck and Rufous-throated Dipper.



Bright-rumped
Yellow Finch &
Burrowing Owl



We stayed 2 nights at a lovely lodge in Tafi del Valle, then travelled on northwards towards Cafayate, Salta & Jujuy, eventually to within 60 kms of the Bolivian border at Abra Pampa. Accommodation became progressively more basic but birding momentum was maintained. Among the more exciting species were Andean Condor, Andean & Ornate Tinamous, hummingbirds such as the Red-tailed Comet and Blue-capped Puffleg, the magnificent Cream-backed Woodpecker and a whole range of furnarids or ovenbirds including several species of Cinclodes, Canasteros, Earthcreepers, Spinetails, Miners & Thornbirds. These are what cause Argentina to be regarded sometimes as the 'land of the little brown birds' but we found them fascinating.

Cerro de Obispo



Sunset at
Humahuaca
Gorge

On the last day we were by the high Andean lakes at over 4,000 metres, here we found 3 species of Flamingos - Chilean, Andean & Puna; also Andean Avocet, Mountain Caracara and a selection of high altitude finches.



The trip ended at Jujuy from where we boarded a plane back to Buenos Aires. As well as 194 bird species, we enjoyed the Andean mammals such as Guanacos, Vicunas and the strange Mountain Vizcacha. A very exciting experience throughout, despite not escaping the southern winter.

