

Marlborough OSNZ Email Newsletter – January 2008

Welcome to 2008 everybody. I hope that you all had a great Christmas and New Year, and had a chance to get out to your old favourite birding haunts, or explore some new ones. Following is a list of the activities we have planned for the next few months.

New Year BBQ

Sue and Brian would like to invite everybody to a BBQ at their place to welcome in the New Year on Waitangi Day at 5pm. OSNZ will be providing the meat, but please bring a plate of salads or pudding.

Lake Grassmere counts

Our monthly count/ meeting will continue on the third Sunday of each month. Either meet at Sue and Brian's (35 Selmes Rd) at 9am to carpool, or at the Saltworks at 10am. Bring lunch as we always head to Marfell's Beach for lunch and a catch up. The next count is this Sunday, Jan 20th.

Cape Campbell Trip – Jan 27th

Jack Taylor has arranged access through to Cape Campbell for a day trip. This is a seldom visited site by bird watchers and a very beautiful area. The rock platforms and beaches could turn up anything, tattlers in particular like rock platforms such as this and it would be great to try and find one.

Meet at Sue and Brian's at 8.30 to carpool, or meet at the Marfell's Beach turn off at 9.30. Bring lunch, morning and afternoon tea as this will be a full day out exploring the coastline.

National wader census, Feb 8-11th

The National wader census in February is on and around the weekend of Feb 9/10th. As you will see below this is the same weekend that we are banding at Jacks, but we will head down to the Lake from there – Meet at the saltworks at 10am Sunday if you are not camping at Jacks for the banding. We need to walk all of the lake so helpers are appreciated.

I will contact others by phone to cover their local patches nearer the time.

Passerine Banding, Ward Feb 9/10th and 23/24th

Initially I have two banding weekends planned for Feb 9/10th and 23/24th. These will be run the same as in previous years. I will head down on the Friday afterwork (3pm) and set up camp, and mist nets ready for an early morning start the following morning. If anybody who can join me to help set up the nets I would be grateful. The following days we will band as many birds as we can catch. The focus of the weekend is to teach people to handle and band birds, for those who have that sorted we will move on to recording moult and measuring birds. We will also set a number of hawk traps, and catch and band harriers, aiming to hopefully catch some of the old birds Jack has banded there in the past.

I will bring a BBQ and gas ring, pots and pans. As in the past we can either all pool food, or people can cater for themselves. You will need your own tent though. If anybody needs more info, or directions to the site please get in touch.

Planning ahead...

At the January Grassmere count, and the Waitangi Day BBQ we will discuss what activities people would like to do over the next six months or so and make a programme of activities. Ideas thrown around so far include beach patrols along the Clarence coast, a slide evening at Andrew and Diana's, and a trip to Nelson Lakes. So bring your dairies along and we will start planning.

Enjoy your birding and I hope to see you at Grassmere and at Mum and Dad's on Waitangi Day. Fell free to contact me if you need any more details on any of the above.

Happy birding

Mike Bell

Ph 5779818, Mobile 021552768

10 Vickerman St, Grovetown