



October 2018 Amokura 123

(Published in February, July and October of each year)

MEETINGS of the Northland Branch of the O.S.N.Z. are held each month on the second Thursday, for the period FEBRUARY to DECEMBER. **TIME:** 7-30p.m.

VENUE: Founders Room, Alzheimer's Society, 148 Corks Road, Tikipunga, Whangarei.

COST: A donation of \$3-00 per person per meeting is requested toward the cost of

Hall hire, supper and the production and distribution of "Amokura".

Or you can pay an Annual fee of \$60.00 to the Northland Branch bank account **12-3099-0614160-00.**

Be sure to include your Surname and the word Sub in the details.

ALL WELCOME

PROGRAMME TO February 2019

OCTOBER

11 MEETING – 7-30p.m.

WEST COAST BEACH PATROL – Contact Prue Cozens Ph 09 4377760

16 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL (Meet at the Kensington Carpark 12:30pm)

NOVEMBER

8 MEETING – 7-30p.m.

WEST COAST BEACH PATROL – Contact Prue Cozens Ph. 09 4377760

13 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL (Meet at the Kensington Carpark 12:30pm)

DECEMBER

13 MEETING – 7-30p.m.

WEST COAST BEACH PATROL – Contact Prue Cozens Ph 09 4377760

18 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL (Meet at the Kensington Carpark 12:30pm)

JANUARY

No Meeting

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Anne McCracken

438-1145

SECRETARY

Ruth Crockett

435-0954

TREASURER

Kevin Hayes

437-6470

REGIONAL RECORDER

Tony Beauchamp

436-2224

REGIONAL REPORTER

Vacant

AMOKURA EDITOR

Hilton Ward

946-0074

Previous Issues of Amokura - <http://www.osnz.org.nz/regnews.htm>

JULY

AT the July meeting Dayna Davies baffled all but Terry Toohil with a collection of bird calls that we tried to recognize. Lots of fun and learning too.

That was followed by Ben and Bevan from the Pukenui Trust (Whangarei's Western Hills.) informing us of the conservation work they are doing there; the trap lines, five minute bird counts and kiwi tracking. This large bush property is a real gem close to Whangarei. If you are interested in assisting or would like more information contact pukenuiranger@gmail.com

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Dayna Davies presented her experience at the Young Birders forum in Wellington through 14th ~ 16th July where they were tasked on laying out objectives and future programme for the Young Birders.

The meeting continued with Dai Morgan from North Tec discussing Urban Conservation. I.e. Why do we do predator control, what is the state of the biological asset, five minute bird counts and how the data can be used etc.

A note from Anne McCracken: For those of you at the Birds NZ meeting, you've had time to think about your readiness to be involved with Dai Morgan's interesting urban bird survey (involving 5MBCs along different routes in and around Whangarei). Dai Morgan thinks to do it this November (late spring is considered a good time of year for this, but bearing in mind 24th Nov is the Kaipara Harbour count date, with Whangarei Harbour count likely to be same weekend?) Also Dai and I think we (OSNZ) could partner with a North-Tec student, or with people from other affiliated groups (e.g. Forest and Bird), or interested members of general public.

A great opportunity to get involved. So, with all this in mind can you email back to me if you are willing to be involved to birds.northland@osnz.org.nz. Janet Snell has said yes, (so long as it doesn't involve mountain climbing). Heather, myself and I think Dayna are also starters.

Looking forward to hearing from you,
Anne

Jerry Pauli from the Matakoho – Limestone Is committee visited the meeting with a question. There has been a huge amount of planting for re-forestation o the island but with no regard to what the birds might need. He asked OSNZ for help in identifying the asset now and helping the committee in what they need to do to progress and improve birdlife on the Island.

Stories - Adventures – Yarns – Sightings

Graham McLean sent these photos of an Eurasian Sparrow Hawk in a friends garden in England. Great shots.





Oi at Taurawhata

We have determined by the change of activity using cameras monitoring two of the 30 odd Oi burrows at Taurawhata that there are now chicks in the burrows with both parent birds departing to feed and return for brief feeding top-ups for the chicks. Hilton climbed all over the colony on the 30th September and counted active burrows. That is ones with clear worn entrances and no cobwebs. It appears that there are 14 active burrows. (Submitted by Hilton Ward)

Sighting from Susan Steedman - Waipu

This is more than likely the NNZD (Northern New Zealand Doterel) that I sighted last year when it had terrible injuries to its head. Here it is at the high tide at Johnson Point Road on the 4th of September this year (2018). The scarring is evident on the crown and the feathers have grown around it in an unusual manner. Again it was the way it hangs its head while roosting that drew my attention to it. It still seems that it cannot turn the head to rest like the other NNZD.



We also have a Godwit that has been here since last summer that has only one leg. It too has survived here as it has been seen at the high tide roost site throughout the winter. A good way to pick this one from the flock is when the godwits come in to land. As it has to be sure it can do so with only one leg it flaps its wings more than others of the same species when it gets near touch down. If there is too much wind it often has more than one attempt.

Old Mill Lane Activity

On Saturday 22nd September while doing our trap round we met Daniel Hinkley on our boardwalk. He is from Spain and is currently on a bird watching tour of New Zealand. Daniel found our Old Mill Ln wetland on Ebird and that it is a good place to spot Mātātā (Fernbirds). After completing our trap round I joined him and played some recordings I have of Mātātā calls and they came to us. Daniel managed to capture the shot on page 5.

He returned on Sunday and we visited Mike and Jane Camm in the later evening and walked up a track to a good kiwi

listening spot on top of a hill near their house. In the moonlight in the small bush clearing we heard many calls from Kiwi all around. For Daniels short visit to Ngunguru he recorded four lifetime firsts; Mātātā, Pīpiwharauoa, Ruru and Kiwi. The next morning while, again on the boardwalk, he heard the Bittern booming. (Submitted by Hilton Ward)

