

TARA

Birds New Zealand
Auckland Regional Newsletter

Greetings,

2016 heralds changes for the Auckland Region. We have an adjustment in leadership with a new Regional Representative, Ian McLean, taking over the role from Mel Galbraith who held the position for seven years. We also have a new editor for Tara. I replace Sarah Killick who did a superb job in revitalising the newsletter after an hiatus and who leaves the role to continue with her studies.

I live in West Auckland and currently work as a teaching support technician at Unitec and am a recent Bachelor of Applied Science graduate in Biodiversity Management. During the course of preparing *Tara* for publication I have already developed several ideas for improvements for the next issue so watch this space! Suggestions from members are always welcome.

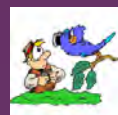
So far the Auckland Region has had a very productive year, from Muriwai beach patrols to wader counts. We have also taken part in public events and further developed some promotional activities. The later half of the year is equally busy with an interesting range of speakers planned for our meetings and new activities such as a Pakiri Beach Patrol in October (see our Programme on page 16).

Thank you to all contributors to this issue. Your input is invaluable. Keep those reports, articles and photos coming!

Trina Smith,
Tara Editor.

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New Regional
Representative

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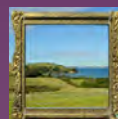
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New Regional Representative

Kia Ora. I am Ian McLean, the new Auckland Regional Representative for Birds New Zealand. I am a local and was born in Auckland from Scottish parents, sometime during the late 1960s! I have had an interest in birds since I first started primary school as my school always had very interesting field trips to places like Tahuna Torea in Glendowie. One of my first birding memories is of seeing tiny pied stilt chicks on the wetland there when I was 6 years old.

I have always been captivated by birds, both in my childhood and as a young adult: however, birding was very much a secret hobby of mine and to this day many of my friends still know of me as a keen footballer (soccer player) rather than a birder. It took me a while to realise that there were a good number of other birders out there and it was not until 10 years ago that I joined Birds New Zealand. Becoming a member further inspired my interest in birds, as there are many experienced people willing to share their knowledge. I have enjoyed developing friendships with people with whom I have a shared interest.



Ian on the Isle of May, Scotland.

My career in the tourism industry is one of selling New Zealand as a destination. This is very fortunate in that it has me travelling to Doubtful Sound to view Fiordland crested penguins, visiting Ulva Island to see mohua/ yellowheads, travelling to Queenstown to see great crested grebes and all whilst I am away working as a tour guide. I have many favourite birds, some of which are rare, including the long tailed cuckoo, saddleback and Australasian bittern; however, I also love common birds such as the song thrush and hearing one in song on a winter's morning always gives me a happy start to the day.



Ian and Trina at Wairau Lagoon, 2015 OSNZ Conference.
--Will Parsons.

As Auckland Regional Representative, I will be taking over the role from the very capable Mel Galbraith. Since I am new to the role, Mel is my mentor. I also have a number of experienced members to guide me. My vision (also shared by many others) is to increase our membership and profile in the Auckland Region. There appears to be a good number of people with an interest in birds, in particular bird photography and we seek to encourage those people to further develop their interest. As a result we will be using social media more often and are looking to take part in more public events with displays, information and some inspiration to foster an interest in birding. Happy Birding!

-- Ian McLean

Science Fair Winner

Last year's recipient of the Auckland Region Birds New Zealand special prize is Fraser Buchanan who was extremely excited to have his project win.

The Birds Auckland prize of \$100 is awarded annually to the student with the best bird-based research project in the NIWA Auckland City Science and Technology Fair. The competition was stiff at the 2015 fair with around 220 entries from 25 schools.



2015 OSNZ Award Winner: Fraser Buchanan



Fraser Buchanan is from Auckland Normal Intermediate and won with his project entitled "The Mighty Mite Massacre". Fraser's scheme looked at ways of preventing mites from eating away at the feathers of birds. Fraser was also awarded a Highly Commended in the Living World category for Years 7 and 8. The large amount of work involved and the high quality of his project was impressive.

-- Barbara Hughes

Unusual Bird Reporting is now online

There is a new online [rare bird reporting form](#) for submitting Unusual Bird Reports available from the Birds New Zealand website along with an online [rare bird database](#).

This new system also gives the ability to check whether a rare bird report has been submitted before it has been appraised by the Rare Birds Appraisal Committee (RAC). It allows for searches of the database by location, species and year of sighting or submission and the search results can be downloaded as an Excel file. There is now a much quicker turnaround time for assessments by the RAC and a decision should be received within 2.5 to 4.5 months from submission.

Before you fill in the online form, consult the list of [reportable rare bird species](#) to ensure that it is on the list of birds unusual for your region. You can contact the Regional Representative for information on any recent reported species locations.

OBITUARY - Michael Taylor, 1936 - 2015

On 15 October 2015 Auckland ornithology lost a great friend and its 'elder statesman' in the sudden death of Dr Michael John Taylor at the age of 79.

Michael was from Yorkshire, gained his degree in chemistry at Oxford, married a New Zealander, Christine, and emigrated to New Zealand in the early 1970s to become lecturer, then Associate Professor of Chemistry. Although living in suburbia at Orakei, Michael was a countryman at heart, appreciating the joys of nature, the changing seasons and especially getting out to observe birds, a passion that developed from boyhood out of a twin interest in building and flying model aircraft and in bird-nesting.

In this country he quickly realised the urgent need for protection of disappearing habitat. He became Chair of Central Auckland Branch of Forest & Bird and in the years after we met in 1976 we worked very closely together on several conservation causes including taking a strong stand, with many others, against the destruction of native forests in the central North Island where kokako were barely hanging on. We together set up the very active Waitakere Branch, as well as the significant creation of the first block of Matuku Reserve, named for the endangered bittern, a Society reserve of forest and wetland in the Waitakere Valley, a predecessor to the later major 'Ark in the Park' restoration project.

Throughout the rest of his life Michael retained an interest in and generous financial support of habitat protection, becoming a trustee of the NZ Native Forest Restoration Trust and meticulous editor of its publication 'Canopy' for several years after his retirement in 1995. A particular passion of later times was his involvement in the purchase of the Trust's haven for waterfowl, the Marie Neverman Reserve at Lake Tupare in the South Kaipara. With others, he moved quickly to help when it was revealed that a consortium of duck shooters was interested in buying most of it. A section of land he bought there has been bequeathed to the Trust. He organized



Michael relaxing after the 2015 dabchick census.

--Judy Bendall

weeding parties there, leading by example as he was determined not to leave any Woolly Nightshade growing. As a trustee he supported the reserve's extension over saltmarsh flats to the harbour. Another activity was Tahuna Torea Reserve at West Tamaki, created by Ronald Lockley and later Chris Barfoot from what was to be a rubbish tip. Michael continued to support its development and preservation, most recently advising on submissions to Auckland Council on dog control.

His commitment to ornithology was outstanding. Involved at the very beginning in setting up the Miranda Naturalist Trust in 1975 he in turn served on the Trust Council from 1983 to 1986. Working closely

with former OSNZ Regional Representative Sylvia Reed, he eventually succeeded her in that position in the early 1980s, remaining in the role until the end of 1990, working hard to continue and initiate projects in the Auckland Region particularly in surveying bird numbers and populations. Just one example was his involvement in the South Kaipara Lakes dabchick survey, which later extended to joint field day surveys with South Head Landcare and led to him producing a poster on the survey for an OSNZ conference; he became a mentor to people such as Judy Bendall, giving wise and practical advice on essential things such as results sheets. In his later years he set up a series of annual surveys by members at Shakespear, a park he was particularly interested in, and these results have provided a useful benchmark to compare with other counts carried out there by staff since the Open Sanctuary was established.

Many members would agree that Michael was the perfect person to work with on a survey, as he was knowledgeable, practical, and sociable in his quiet way. He was a modest, yet enthusiastic, driving force without being forceful, getting people together “to do stuff”. Certainly his was an academic personality, belied by an often subtle sense of humour, but he was never dry and he was extraordinarily interesting to talk to. He once gave, as a filler, an off-the-cuff very humorous speech at an OSNZ conference. Those who attended our end of year functions will remember his well crafted and clever, even zany, ornithological quizzes. Many friends will personally miss Michael’s friendship, encouragement and support.

Michael was a remarkably diligent, patient ornithologist, a fine observer and a meticulous note-taker. With a particular interest in shags, he carried out an eleven-year detailed analysis of the little shag colony conveniently sited at Hobson Bay close below his Orakei house. I treasure his seven large notebooks packed with detailed notes, observations and diagrams of plumage differences and nest positions in the trees, often observed from the Waterfront Motel. That colony has now gone but the results of his study were published in *Notornis*,

and together with John Dowding a subsequent paper shed some light on the genetics behind their interesting highly variable plumage differences.

After his retirement Michael made a significant contribution to ornithology at the Auckland Museum as a volunteer under curator Brian Gill, going in most Tuesdays to organise and annotate its egg collection (influenced no doubt by his collecting interests in boyhood) and meticulously to set in good order the Ornithological Society’s manuscript archives. I know that he was quietly delighted at receiving at the 2014 OSNZ AGM a special “Meritorious Service Award” for acting as the Society Archivist and Regional Representative for Auckland for many years. In all his work he has given the same patient, careful attention to detail, the same thorough and thoughtful approach to his work that he had shown as a research scientist.

Michael had a fine ear for birdcalls, particularly important in the dense NZ bush where most birds are heard rather than seen. Coming from England, he was particularly adept too at identifying calls of introduced birds and he taught me much especially of smaller passerines. He had a particular interest in the practical science of recording birdcalls and I have pleasure in recalling many hours with him recording kokako and other species using his old but trusty Panasonic cassette recorder connected to a parabolic reflector that he had made, in his typical practical manner, from a very large plastic lampshade. I was intrigued by his use of the consistent and stable sound output of a cicada to calibrate his equipment. He achieved some high quality recordings.

He was a well-rounded man with many interests: wide reading especially of biographies, enjoyment of theatre, jazz, opera and classical music, and a life building and flying model planes with a completely different set of friends in the Auckland Model Aircraft Club. A particular love was poetry, the poetry of landscape, of living things especially birds, and also of aviation. At evening musical events held by Auckland Clef Music Club and Auckland Lieder

Group he combined these two interests by reading poetry. And he read it magnificently, the words in perfect cadence and sense groups. He could write poetry: he wrote "In Praise of the Sonnet", in sonnet form, and a gentle but witty parody of "Daffodils", which was read at his funeral.

Going birding with Michael was very instructive but also a delight. He was such a meticulous note-taker with his stub of a pencil and tiny notebook. In his group, everyone tended to relax: "Don't worry – Michael's here, he's sure to have the correct tally!" Such good memories Karen and I have of birding trips with him, either as a formal census or just as part of several holidays we spent together. A standout was the three successive Labour Weekends in the 1980s that Beth Brown organized for groups to scour the Coromandel Ranges in search of kokako. We found one at Golden Cross and will never forget that hauntingly beautiful but sad song of a lone old male at dawn headed for sure extinction at that site.

Though of course interested in special and rarer birds, Michael was no ornithological snob. He delighted also in the common species such as his special bird, the little shag, as well as introduced species, encouraging students to study blackbirds or whatever, and enlightening beginners in the many bird walks he was pleased to lead around Cornwall

Park in its seasonal events programme. After introducing the range of species in the park and then in his gentle way getting the group to be quiet, people said they were amazed at how many birds they could hear and eventually identify!

I will never hear a yellowhammer without thinking of Michael and his interest in its song: the famous vocalization of this as "a little piece of bread and no cheese..." was the salient line of the song played as Michael's casket was taken out at the end of his funeral service.

The last word should be with his colleague Brian Davis: "Michael's published research, the care and nurture that he extended to his research students and his lifetime's work for ornithology and the environment will continue as a testament to the life of a true scholar and a caring and thoughtful gentleman."

---- John Staniland

• *The Michael Taylor Memorial Fund has been established to continue Michael's contribution to ornithology through supporting students to further their involvement in the discipline. Donations would be most appreciated and can be made following the instructions below.*

-
1. Direct credit: Birds New Zealand. BNZ account 02-0290-0164715-00.
Enter "MJT Fund" as the required reference, and email the Treasurer with your details so that a receipt can be issued to: treasurer@osnz.org.nz.
 2. Cheque by post: The Treasurer, Birds New Zealand
35 Selmes Road
Rapaura, RD3
Blenheim 7273
Please state that the donation is for the Michael Taylor Memorial Fund, and include your name and contact details so that a receipt can be issued.

Note: Birds New Zealand is a registered charity (CC41020), and donations are eligible for tax credits.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Annual Summer Picnic

2016

The Auckland Region Summer Picnic was held on a very warm and bright summer evening at Ambury Regional Park in January. At 7pm we headed for the hide. As it was just on high tide we got close views of several waders, including wrybill and turnstones. However we found we were looking directly west into the setting sun, making viewing difficult, so mornings would be a better time to visit the hide. Walking a little further on we looked out over the small islands towards Puketutu.

Taking the higher of the two tracks allows views down onto the banks. From there the evening light was perfect for viewing the flocks of roosting birds, including spoonbill, Caspian tern and godwit. Time did not allow us to continue round to Island Road where sightings of Japanese snipe and curlew had been reported. The evening was enjoyed by 13 people. The total number of bird species recorded was 33.

-- *Chris Thompson*



Birds take to the air over the shellbank. -- Chris Thompson



Members observe from the hide. -- Chris Thompson

Species observed on the day:

Pied shag, white-faced heron, royal spoonbill, mallard, Australasian harrier, pukeko, southern pied oystercatcher (SIPO), variable oystercatcher (VOC), wrybill, spur-winged plover, New Zealand dotterel, eastern bar-tailed godwit, lesser knot, pied stilt, black-backed gull, red-billed gull, Caspian tern, rock pigeon, kingfisher, skylark, spotted dove, Barbary dove, grey warbler, tui, silvereye, welcome swallow, blackbird, greenfinch, goldfinch, house sparrow, starling, myna and yellowhammer.

Ambury Park Farm Day

In October 2015 the Auckland branch participated in Ambury Park Farm Day at Mangere with a display stand to promote Birds New Zealand. The annual event, now in its 27th year, is run by the Auckland Council with support from 200 volunteers providing the public opportunities to enjoy farm-style fun with farming activities, rides and live entertainment.

Four keen members took on the task of setting up and manning the stand for the day - Mel Galbraith, Oscar Thomas, Ian McLean and Trina Smith. We benefitted greatly from having the opportunity to engage with a slice of the more than 30,000 visitors the event pulls in each year. Our promotional stand attracted a constant stream of over 400 visitors, helped no doubt, by our proximity to the wood-chopping and kite-flying displays. The majority of people we spoke to had not heard of us before, which was somewhat expected but really helped to underline our presence at the Park.



Activities keep the children entertained.
-- Mel Galbraith

A range of mounted and skin specimens of birds likely to be found in the park were a great hit, attracting patrons to our stand, along with a collection of feathers, eggs and skulls. Join-the dots and colouring-in proved very popular and kept the younger children occupied whilst we engaged with parents. We had some interest in members joining and many of the children were keen on birds, some already having their interest sparked after visiting Tiritiri Matangi on a school trip. Overall a great team effort!

Our thanks to all those who provided us with material. In particular, Brian Gill who kindly lent us the skins; Josie Galbraith who provided the activity sheets and eastern rosella mounted specimen and Maria Galbraith for her harrier and fantail. Valuable insight was gained from the experience which will be utilised for future promotional activities. With improvements in mind, we look forward to making this an annual fixture.

--Trina Smith.



Set up complete! -- Mel Galbraith



Ian and Oscar engaging with the public.
-- Mel Galbraith

Farewell to the Godwits

On the 27th February, the annual Farewell to the Godwits event was held at Ambury Regional Park as they prepare to depart on their migration to the Yellow Sea beginning in early March.

Members of Birds New Zealand (Auckland and South Auckland Regions) and Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust, along with SEAWEEK, Friends of the Farm and Ambury Park Rangers, supported Auckland Council staff to host the event.

Approximately 120 people from the community turned up to view the displays, take part in the family-friendly activities and observe birds on their high tide roost.

Birds NZ members assisted in providing spotting scopes to view the flocks of godwit and other birds roosting on the protected shell islands, along with informative displays. Children were catered for with activities such as a Rat Throwing Game (set off the trap to protect a native bird!), a colouring-in competition and playdough bird making. The birds put on impressive flying displays as the tide came in with large flocks of godwit, South Island pied oystercatcher and wrybill taking to the air. Other roosting and flying birds included royal spoonbill, knot, Caspian tern, NZ dotterel, turnstone, and the less common: curlew sandpiper, eastern curlew and sharp-tailed sandpiper.

Thanks to the Auckland Council for supporting this event! Hopefully next year we can achieve an even greater turnout from the public for such a wonderful occasion. We recommend you come along next year!

-- Trina Smith



Royal spoonbills and oystercatchers on one of the shellbanks. -- Mel Galbraith



Spotting scopes ready for action -- Mel Galbraith



Visitors signing the guestbook. -- Trina Smith

Shakespear Regional Park Annual Survey 2015

Annual surveys by Birds NZ started just before the predator-proof fence was installed in 2011. In 2015, after a very wet week, Saturday 26th September brought a sunny and calm day. A bright yellow carpet of kowhai flowers in Waterfall Gully was a glorious sight, with a cacophony of tuis above.

A new species was added to the list this year. In July a total of 60 whitehead (popokatea) were translocated to the Park - 40 from neighbouring Tiritiri Matangi Island, and 20 birds from Tawharanui Regional Park. They were released in the Defence Land, as far away from the predator-proof fence as possible. They have since been seen at various locations around the park, both inside and outside the fence. Reports of whitehead sightings on the day of the survey include: four while we ate lunch at Waterfall Gully carpark, two birds on the bush face above the campground/urupa, at least two on the clifftop part of the Tiritiri Track, and a group in the bushes on the right at the entrance to the park, opposite the bus turn-around (this is outside the fence).

Okoromai Bay is not included in the survey, as the area is tide-dependent. However the following observations were made: pied stilt 6; NZ dotterel 11; Caspian tern 3; bar-tailed godwit 20; southern black backed gull 6; red billed gull 115; white-faced heron 10; black swan 46; variable oystercatcher 3; reef heron 1. It was good to see the godwits are returning from their breeding grounds in Alaska.

Other sightings on the day include spotless crane, 3 or 4 brown quail and also 2 kakariki (red-crowned parakeets) in Waterfall Gully, a pair of black swans with cygnets at the bottom of Peach Gully and 12 New Zealand dotterel at Te Haruhi Bay.



Participants assembled for instruction.

Thanks to the participants: Beth Gibbs, Donald Snook, Gwenda Pulham, Ian McLean, John Staniland, Mike Dye, Noel Ward, Oscar Thomas, Paul Asquith, Peter Thompson, Richard Chambers, Robin Child, Sharen Graham and Trina Smith.

Obviously results like this are very dependent on the day, and it is more the trends that we note rather than individual results.

-- *Chris Thompson*

2015 Shakespear Regional Park Bird Survey							
	Total all areas	AREA 1	AREA 2	AREA 3	AREA 4	AREA 5	AREA 6
Bellbird							
Black swan	6		6				
Blackbird	57	1	5	23	10	5	13
Brown teal							
Brown quail	3						3
California quail	16		2	1	2	6	5
Caspian tern							
Chaffinch	43	2	4	6	11	1	19
Fantail	33	4	6	7	4	4	8
Fernbird							
Godwit							
Goldfinch	59	3	2	9	11	1	33
Greenfinch	26	1	4		5		16
Grey warbler	52	12	9	15	5	7	4
Gull, black-backed	29	4	4	5	4	4	8
Gull, red-billed	38	10		12		1	15
Harrier	8	2	4		1	1	
Heron, reef							
Heron, white-faced	2	1		1			
House sparrow	49	5		6	3	2	33
Kakariki							
Kereru	20	3	6		4	2	5
Kingfisher	20	2	4	5		3	6
Magpie	12	2	5	2	2		1
Mallard							
Myna	63	5	11	12	4	5	26
NZ dotterel	3			1			2
Oystercatcher, SIPO							
Oystercatcher, VOC	5	2		3			
Paradise shelduck	8	4		2			2
Peacock							
Pheasant	22	3	4	4	1	5	5
Pied stilt	15	15					
Pukeko	218	10	37	65	14	55	37
Redpoll							
Rock pigeon	2			2			
Rosella	66	20	9	10	3	9	15
Shag, little	1	1					
Shag, little black							
Shag, pied	4	3					1
Shining cuckoo							
Shoveler							
Silvereye	37	1	3	10	5	2	16
Skylark	109	1	19	21	15	28	25
Song thrush	119	7	9	51	8	15	29
Spotless crane							

continued overleaf

Spotted dove	3			2			1
Spur-winged plover	30	2	1	18	3	4	2
Starling	243	8	35	14	94	34	58
Tui	218	30	49	31	21	29	58
Turkey							
Welcome swallow	58	7	4	13	3	7	24
Whitehead	14		1			9	4
Yellowhammer	33	1		1	15		16
Total # of individuals	1744	172	243	352	248	239	490
Total species:	38	31	25	29	24	24	31

Top 10 species comparison from the last 3 surveys.

2015		2014		2013	
Starling	243	Tui	179	Tui	82
Pukeko	218	Goldfinch	159	Gull, red-billed	63
Tui	218	Pukeko	124	Pukeko	41
Song thrush	119	Blackbird	109	Starling	41
Skylark	109	Song thrush	105	Goldfinch	39
Rosella	66	Yellowhammer	97	Blackbird	38
Myna	63	Myna	89	House sparrow	36
Goldfinch	59	Skylark	77	Skylark	34
Welcome swallow	58	Rosella	72	Welcome swallow	34
Blackbird	57	House sparrow	64	Song thrush	30

GREAT BIRDING LOCATIONS

Okura Walkway

Just north of Auckland off the back road to Orewa, the walkway crosses the estuary before going through kauri forest. The track has been upgraded since my last visit and is now finely gravelled and firm with new steps in steeper places. A trapping programme is in progress but long lines are not permitted with fears of transporting the kauri die-back problem. Tui and kereru were abundant. It appears to be a good fruiting year for the forest.

www.okurabush.org.nz

and further afield...



--Chris Thompson

Ohinetonga Reserve at Owhango

The small township of Owhango is located between Taumaranui and National Park. You will have driven through it if you go that way to Mount Ruapehu. You may have seen the sign and noticed the small bump as you cross the 37 degrees south parallel.

Follow the 'Walking Tracks' sign to get to the Ohinetonga Reserve carpark. In days gone by there were 11 mills here but this part was spared from logging in recognition of its beauty and environmental value. The café on the main road has leaflets with a map of the tracks, which is worth picking up as there are no signs at the carpark. Follow the track by the river downstream. Blue duck were easily seen. The track then goes up steeply through the forest but it is benched and gravelled and has steps in places. Robins and other small birds were abundant – the leaflet lists tui, riroriro, toutouwai, kereru, korimako, whio, miromiro, piwakawaka and popokatea *. Our visit was in autumn and we saw many varieties of fungi. The track descends and crosses a road to a lagoon surrounded by forest. Sightings of New Zealand dabchick have been reported there recently. If you have a couple of hours, do the full loop, otherwise the walk downstream and a short distance into the bush is very rewarding.



Blue Duck at Ohinetonga Reserve. --Peter Thompson

www.owhango.co.nz

* tui, grey warbler, robin, wood pigeon, bellbird, blue duck, tomtit, fantail and whitehead.

- Chris Thompson



What's been happening on...

Birds Auckland



Gulls fighting.
Anna Arrol - April 16



Little shag, Shakespear Park.
Michele Nel - April 3

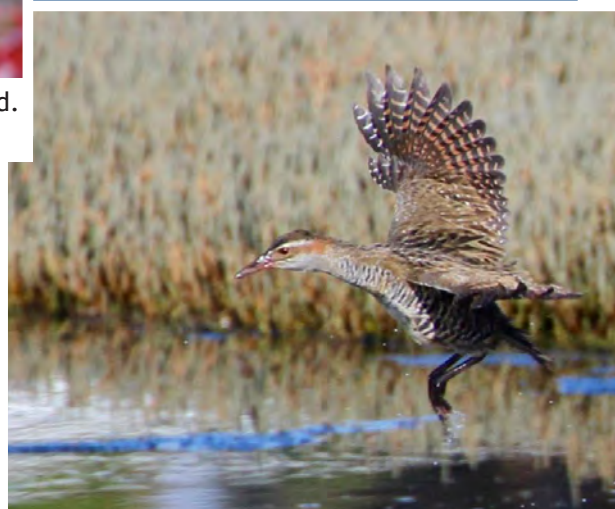


Woody drops the ball on Herald Island.
Mike Hassett - March 28

To date, our facebook group has **915** members. An increase of over 100% since the last *Tara*!



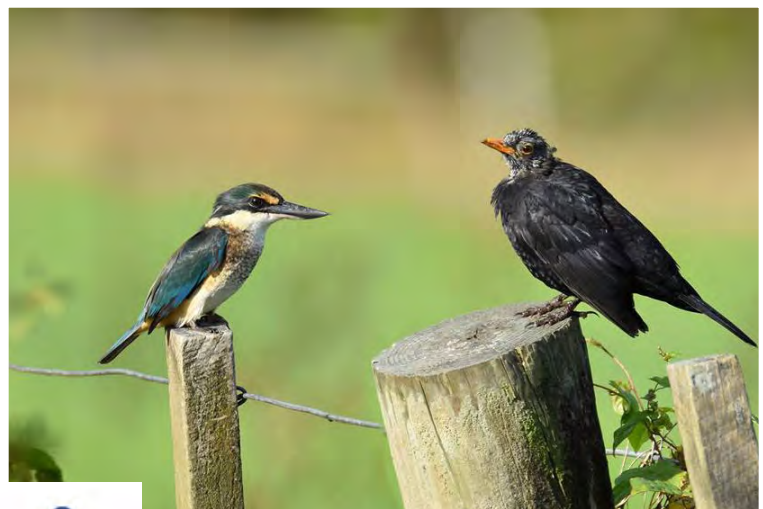
Upside down booby.
Annette de Raat - May 11



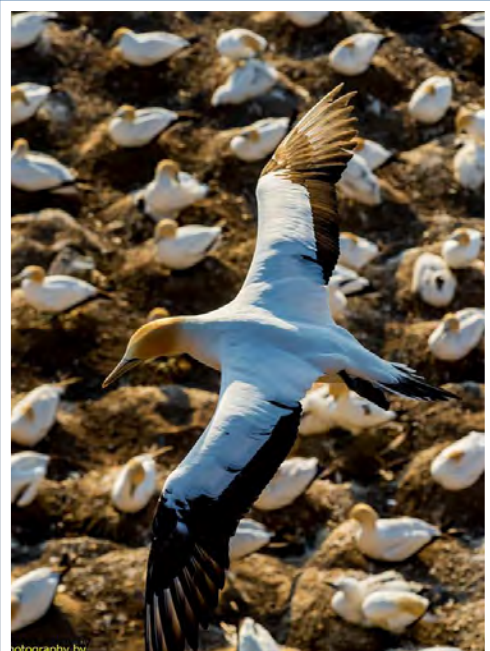
Banded rail in flight
Donald Beresford Snook - April 22



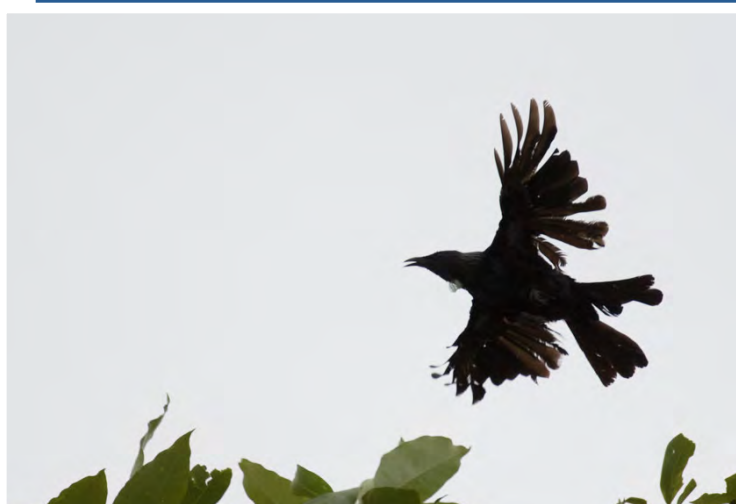
Pied stilts at Taumanu Reserve, Onehunga.
Paul Haffner - Feb 7



Just good mates.
Marie-Louise Myburg - April 8



Where's my nest and how do I land?
Axel Mertens - May 17



More scruffy.
Derek Tearne - Feb 28

**Thanks to everyone who
contributed to the Birds
Auckland Facebook page!**

BIRDS NEW ZEALAND (Auckland)

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND



Programme 2016

Meetings 1st Tuesday of every month except January, held 7.30pm at Unitec Institute of Technology (Mt Albert). All visitors welcome.

www.osnz.org.nz

Further information on meetings, venues and activities:

**Ian McLean (Regional Representative) - IMcLean@southernworld.com
ph. 021535121 (AH)**

JULY

- 2 Muriwai beach patrol: contact Mel Galbraith (4801958).
- 5 Monthly meeting 7.30pm: **Alice Baranyovits (University of Auckland):**
Movement of kererū in urban areas.

AUGUST

- 2 Monthly meeting 7.30pm: **Colin Miskelly (Te Papa):**
An Indian (Ocean) Summer - Seabird conservation & research on Reunion, Crozet & Kerguelen Islands.
- 13 Muriwai beach patrol: contact Mel Galbraith (4801958).

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Monthly meeting 7.30pm: **John Perrott: TBA**
- 10 Muriwai beach patrol: contact Mel Galbraith (4801958).
- 24 Shakespear Regional Park survey: contact Richard Chambers (09 4247699).

OCTOBER

- 2 Ambury Park Farm Day (Promotional stand): contact Ian McLean (021535121).
- 4 Monthly meeting 7.30pm: **Simon Fordham:**
Galapagos Islands - One for the bucket list.
- 8 Muriwai beach patrol: contact Mel Galbraith (4801958).
- 8/9 Motutapu Island survey. Accommodation at Education Camp, contact Mike Graham (sharen.graham@ihug.co.nz or 8135537).
- 15 Pakiri Beach Patrol from Pakiri River Mouth at 0915 (HT 0705): Ian McLean (021535121).

NOVEMBER

- 1 Monthly meeting 7.30pm: **Oscar Thomas: *My Chatham Island birding adventure.***
- 5 Muriwai beach patrol: contact Mel Galbraith (4801958).
- 12 Kaipara Harbour wader census (HT 1015): contact Adrian Riegen (8149741).
- 13 Manukau (HT 1010) & Waitemata Harbour (HT 0640) wader censuses: contact Adrian Riegen (8149741).
- 19 Mangawhai Harbour wader census (HT 1110): contact Gwenda Pulham (4805535).
- 20 Firth of Thames wader census (HT 1218): contact Adrian Riegen (8149741).

DECEMBER

- 6 Monthly meeting 7.30pm: **Annual quiz (John Staniland, quiz-master) and Christmas festivities.**
- 10 Muriwai beach patrol: contact Mel Galbraith (4801958).

2017

Jan 24 Annual picnic: **Harbourview, Te Atatu Peninsula:** contact Chris Thompson (021426839)

Meet at the foreshore car park, end of Harbourview Road, Te Atatu Peninsula. Picnic from 6pm; walk along coastal walkway at 7pm.
www.teatutupeninsula.co.nz/harbourview



Further information on meetings, venues and activities:

Ian McLean (Regional Representative)

IMcLean@southernworld.com

ph. 09 838 2226 (AH)

mob. 021 535 121

OR ...



... go to www.facebook.com
... set up your own account,
... search for *Birds Auckland*
... **request to be added to the group!**

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Back Issues:

Back issues are available in PDF format from
the OSNZ website www.osnz.org.nz

For further information on Birds New Zealand please visit
www.osnz.org.nz