

TARA

Newsletter of Auckland Region OSNZ
www.osnz.org.nz

July 2006

Farewell to Ted

Auckland OSNZ members Ken Bond (left) and Ted Wnorowski won the national Twitchathon this year with a record 100 sightings in 24 hours.

At the annual OSNZ Conference in Wellington in June, they were awarded the 'Porphyrio mantelli Mantelpiece Monstrosity' for their efforts.

Ted Wnorowski was recently farewelled at the Auckland monthly meeting, as he is moving to Brisbane to live.

Ted was given a copy of the book 'New Zealand's Unique Birds' by Brian Gill and Geoff Moon (also Auckland OSNZ members) as a farewell gift.

Ted has established an enviable record of sightings during his time in New Zealand and contributed hugely to the recently completed Atlas project.

(Photo: Nick Allen).



Good turnout and clear weather for Dabchick census

The day of the South Kaipara Lakes Dabchick Census was fine and clear after the previous night of driving wind and rain. Lake levels were significantly down with Kereta North Swamp, Poutoa and Karaka South 3 mostly filled with vegetation.

Lake Karaka had dried in some areas and had broken into smaller sections. A pair of Cattle Egrets were seen north of Parakai and Royal Spoonbills had been observed recently at Shelly Beach. Three Dabchick were seen at the Helensville sewage ponds on the day and a pair of Dabchick were seen at Lake Ototoa a few days after the count. Scaup had been seen recently on Tupare swamp, but were not observed on the day. Grey Teal nesting boxes were serviced on 23 April. Thirteen nests contained unhatched eggs. The Grey Teal nest boxes at Karaka had not been serviced yet due to water levels too low for boats - in some areas the nest boxes are over mud. (Judy Bendall).

Participants included N Waller, P & S Phillips, S Bethany, P Hammond, C Bindon, T Wnorowski, B Winslade, C Parker, J Lea, D & B Harvey, B Abbott, G Pulham, N Rothwell, J & E Bendall, T McMurdo, H Grey, P & E Asquith, T McLeod, D Harvey, B & K Chandler, J Mathews, J Ayers, and observers from Forest and Bird, and South Kaipara Landcare. **(Full census report on page 10)**



A group of Auckland birders check out a flock of Bar-tailed Godwits on the mudflats at Manukapua (Big Sand) Island on the Kaipara Harbour in February. (Photo: Suzi Phillips).

Help needed to spot wader colour bands

Auckland birders are needed to help look for colour banded shorebirds in July and October.

The National Shorebird Colour-band Spotting Weeks will be either side of the weekends of 15 and 16 July 2006 (to check for over wintering immature birds), and 7 and 8 October 2006 (to check for newly arrived birds, particularly as some may still be making their way to their final destinations).

In 2004, the Department of Conservation contracted the Ornithological Society of New Zealand to study the habitat networks of northern hemisphere migratory waders.

This study aims to determine the extent to which individual Bar-tailed Godwits and Red Knots use a network of estuaries while staging in New Zealand.

The OSNZ project has been running now for two years and has a final year to run.

The coming season will be the last to mark and intensively spot northern hemisphere migratory birds for this project. So far about 700 Bar-tailed Godwits, 300 Red Knot and 40 Ruddy Turnstones have been individually banded.

Efforts over 2006/07 will be aimed at filling in the gaps in our coverage. This pool of individual marked birds has already significantly increased our knowledge of how northern migratory species use New Zealand's estuarine habitats. Additionally, international sightings of banded birds (particularly godwits) on migration are proving extremely valuable for understanding the migrations of these species.

The project has already resulted in considerable public involvement and thus increased public awareness of issues relating to shorebird conservation both locally and internationally.

To increase involvement from the wider public, the Department of Conservation, and OSNZ, the organisers are holding two national colour-band spotting weeks.

"During these we aim to mobilise as many people as possible to get out and specifically look for colour-banded birds," says an OSNZ organiser, Rob Schuckard.

"As DoC involvement is likely to be during week-days and OSNZ during weekends, and appropriate tides vary around the country, we are targeting specific weeks rather than days. With increased intensive coverage we hope to cover a large proportion of the birds in New Zealand during those periods," he says.

"We have decided not to combine these efforts with the OSNZ annual winter and spring census, because making a full census and checking for bands are often incompatible tasks."

Auckland efforts will be concentrated on the Kaipara and northern Manukau Harbours, as well as east coast beaches and river mouths. For more information and recording forms either go to www.osnz.org.nz/nzwaderstudy or email suzi@dialogue.co.nz

Volunteers invited to Rarotonga for Kakerori census

The Kakerori (*Pomarea dimidiata*) is a small (22g) insectivorous passerine endemic to the Cook Islands. In 1989, it was one of the 10 rarest birds in the world, with a declining population of 29 individuals.

In his recent presentation to Conference, Hugh Robertson invited OSNZ members to volunteer for the Kakerori census survey that is held each August on Rarotonga.



Kakerori were confined to three steep forested valleys in the southern part of Rarotonga. Since 1989, rats and cats have been poisoned within the 155 ha Takitumu Conservation. The breeding success of kakerori improved, and their survival increased markedly. Despite naturally low annual productivity of 1-2 clutches of 1-2 eggs, the population grew rapidly, reaching 255 birds by August 2001.

Since then, the emphasis of management has shifted from the 'recovery' of kakerori to a programme aimed at 'sustaining' the population at 250-300 individuals on Rarotonga, and establishing an 'insurance' population on Atiu.

The kakerori population on Rarotonga has remained at over 250, despite five tropical cyclones battering the island during February-March 2005.

The cyclones caused the mortality rate to double, with young adults (<3 years old) and very old birds (>20 years old) being especially affected.

These storms highlighted the vulnerability of single-

island endemics, and underlined the value of establishing a second population on Atiu, where a minimum of 15 of the 30 birds transferred in 2001-03 plus two paired island-bred birds were found in the 2005/06 breeding season.

'Conservation of the Kakerori: To the brink and back'. Hugh Robertson and Ed Saul.



A juvenile Caspian Tern flies past a Reef Heron at Tawharanui Lagoon in March. (Photo: Suzi Phillips).

Keep an eye out for Grey Warbler nests this spring !

Do you have a Grey Warbler nest in your backyard? If it is occupied this spring, please contact me. I am a PhD student working on the breeding biology of the Grey Warbler and Shining Cuckoo. I am seeking Grey Warbler nests that have been parasitised by Shining Cuckoos at sites within the Auckland Region. The second clutch of the Grey Warbler that is parasitised by the cuckoo is from October to December. If you have a nest that you can see into, the cuckoo egg can easily be recognised, as it has olive-green to greenish-brown colouration, whereas the Grey Warbler eggs are white with reddish-brown speckling. If you have a Grey Warbler nest with a Shining Cuckoo egg, or are unable to see inside the nest, please contact me.

Michael Anderson
Ecology and Conservation Group
Massey University
Email: m.g.anderson@massey.ac.nz
Ph: 09 414 0800 extn 41197
Cell: 021 0677453

For more information about the project see our research group's website: <http://www.massey.ac.nz/~dhbrunton/>



Grey Warbler nest.

Auckland City birding notes

By Michael Taylor

The Waiatarua wetland - venue of the Auckland OSNZ summer picnic - continues to be a magnet for both birds and birders with plenty of clear patches among the lush vegetation.

Waterbirds in evidence on 6 June included 23 Scaup and a few Australasian Shovellers with the usual spread of Paradise Shelducks, Mallards and Pukekos.

Last year's White Heron may be testing other feeding grounds as one individual has been sighted in various places, including the Meadowbank Creek off Orakei Basin where a local resident, Lynda Scott, photographed this bird from her Lucerne Road garden on 31 May.

Orakei Basin, and in particular its long-standing roosts for three shag species - Pied, Little and Little Black Shags- has been the subject of recent attention during Auckland City Council resource consent hearings for an extension of the public walkway around the Basin.

The main roost is a dead pine where the birds had nested until the tree collapsed into the water and several other trees are now being used.

Most residents appear keen for the birds to stay. Only some 10 to 20 shags are regularly present (considerably fewer than was the case during the 1970s and '80s). The Little Black Shags which are visitors from the Rotorua Lakes attract attention all around the city's bays between April and August.

A flock of about 120 was feeding in Orakei Basin at 9 am on 16 May. A similar number - perhaps the same flock - was present in Judges Bay on 21 June whence they flew (like large leaves blown by the fresh southerly) low over Tamaki Drive towards the harbour.

In the Tamaki Estuary, an issue over the past year has been the ACC decision that the Tahuna Torea Reserve should exclude dogs (being the only Auckland City park so designated).

Judging from the presence of several family groups of Pied Stilts this exclusion may have proved beneficial to the birds. Regrettably however, the spread of mangroves appears to have rendered the shallow lagoon less suitable for other species, although the base of the sand-spit remains a favoured site at high tide.

A survey of Tamaki shorebird roosts on 4 May revealed moderate numbers in four places along the west bank of the estuary, as follows - Riddell Road:



A Kingfisher with crab on an old fencepost near the Waiwera River. (Photo: Suzi Phillips).

SI Pied Oystercatcher 8, Caspian Tern 3, Red-billed Gull 25; Tahuna Torea: SIPO 200, Pied Stilt 15; Riverside Avenue: SIPO 65, Pied Stilt 150, Caspian Tern 6, Red-billed Gull 75; War Memorial Reserve: SIPO 250, Red-billed Gull 30. The wader tallies, SIPO 525, Pied Stilt 165, are typical for the winter months.

The eastern bays between the city and St Heliers hold small numbers of both Pied and Variable Oystercatchers during the winter months. White-faced Herons are generally present and it is still worth looking out for a Reef Heron; a pair of these at Okahu Bay on 17 April was a rare surprise.

My Orakei garden list has not gained any novelties for some time (a party of over-flying Royal Spoonbills produced the last addition).

Spotted Doves are almost always present and Kingfisher is a regular visitor, finding worms on the wet lawn. A Song Thrush was recorded singing on 11 May. Blackbirds usually start about a month later and this year was no exception, with first song noted on 13 June.



Australasian Shovellers and Grey Teal (left) at Straka's Pond near Waiwera. (Photo: Suzi Phillips).

Grey-faced Petrel banding on islands

Jamie MacKay and James Russell
University of Auckland

In April this year James Russell and I spent some time with Graeme Taylor (DOC banding co-ordinator) on his long-term study islands at Te Henga.

The purpose of this visit was to be trained in how to handle and band Grey-faced Petrels (*Pterodroma macroptera gouldi*).

This would enable us to start our own banding programmes on some of the islands we visit through our work investigating the way rodents invade islands.

Graeme has been banding birds on Ihumoana and Kawahia Islands for the last 18 years and he is interested in whether any of his birds have made it to some of the other colonies off the coast of the North Island. The first island we visited was Moturemu in the Kaipara harbour on the night of April 29th 2006.

The population of Norway rats on the island was poisoned in 2004 and we were visiting the island with a rodent dog to confirm the eradication.

The island supports a large population of Grey-faced Petrels and over a couple of hours that evening we banded 52 birds (Bands E-205401-452).

Four pairs of birds were found together in burrows (419-20, 423-24, 425-26 and 451-52) and one bird had an area of de-pigmentation on its left leg, so its right leg was banded instead.

Graeme Taylor banded some birds on Moturemu a number of years ago, but there were no re-captures. A visit to Tiritiri Matangi Island on May 3rd and 4th provided the opportunity to band more petrels.

After speaking to Mel Galbraith we caught and banded nine new birds (Bands E-205217-225) and also we had six recaptures.

Five of the birds were banded on Tiri by Mel Galbraith and one was banded on Motuotau Island, Mount Maunganui on 06/01/99 as a chick by Hugh Clifford. Our final banding trip of the season was to Goat Island at Leigh on May 17th. Goat Island supports a good-sized population of Grey-faced Petrels on the southern and western fringes of the island.

On this trip we banded 44 new birds (Bands E-



Grey-faced Petrel (Photo: Roger McNeill).

205351-394) and had one recapture (Band E-190329). The recaptured bird was banded at Ihumoana Island, Te Henga on 08/11/1994 as a chick, by Graeme Taylor. Four pairs of birds were found together in burrows (Bands 351-52, 359-91, 371-72 and 386-89).

So far we have only found one Te Henga bird at the other colonies we have visited. There are probably more out there, so there is plenty of petrel work to be done.

James and I plan to return to Goat Island and Moturemu in the summer to band chicks and any other adults we can find and we also have our eye on the populations on Motuhoropapa, Moturekareka and Hauturu (Whangamata) Islands. Watch this space!



Moturemu Island in the Kaipara Harbour offshore from Lemon Tree Bay is home to a breeding colony of Grey-faced Petrels. (Photo: Suzi Phillips).

Auckland OSNZ presents

**'Petrels at Bethell's Beach -
what changes have occurred in
the past 18 years?' with Graeme
Taylor**

**(Followed by our end of year celebra-
tion with quiz, wine and cheese.)**

Tuesday 5 December

Evening meeting 7.30pm

**Unitec Environmental Sciences
Building. For more info contact Suzi
Phillips on 021-271-2527**

2006 OSNZ Conference Scientific Paper Abstracts

These are brief reports from a selection of the many scientific papers presented.

Black Petrels studied in the Hauraki Gulf

The black petrel, *Procellaria parkinsoni*, a medium-sized, endemic seabird, breeds on Little and Great Barrier Islands. The main population on Mount Hobson, on Great Barrier Island, has been studied as part of an ongoing long-term monitoring project which began in the 1995/96 breeding season. This study investigates causes and timing of mortality, breeding success, estimating population size, current population trends, foraging and recruitment in relation to fisheries interactions.

Black petrels feed in areas where there is long-lining for many months of the year, and migrate to South America where by-catch of unknown cause has occurred. In New Zealand waters they have been hooked in both commercial and recreational fisheries. Observer coverage of the fisheries that potentially interact with this species has been poor, and it is suspected that more black petrel are taken incidental to fishing than are reported. No reliable long-term population data exists for the black petrel. Before a maximum level of fishing related mortality can be set, survival, recruitment and population size must be known.

The breeding population on Great Barrier Island has been monitored for eleven years (1995/96 to 2005/06 season). Over this period, up to 367 study burrows have been intensively monitored, and use by breeding birds varies from 60-70 percent, by non-breeding birds from 20-25 percent and the remaining burrows have been empty. Several factors affecting the black petrel breeding success have been noted. Breeding success rates range from 69-84 percent. Nine census grids were monitored within the study area and account for 142 of the inspected burrows. Extrapolating from the random transects, and the grid and study burrows, the black petrel population estimate around the peak of Mount Hobson (30 ha) range from 1640 to 2154 birds. Over 1000 adults and 700 chicks have been banded during this study. There have been 42 'chicks' from

earlier breeding seasons recaptured within the Mount Hobson colony. 'Chicks' banded during this study have also been recaptured in Australia and Peru.

Foraging data was collected during the 2005/06 breeding season using two types of logger (light and GPS). Eleven light loggers and fourteen GPS loggers were placed on breeding adults. All eleven light loggers were recovered and nine GPS loggers were recovered. Flights locations ranged widely from close to the colony (Hauraki Gulf area), to East Cape, towards Fiji and to the Chatham Islands. **'Great Barrier and beyond ... monitoring Black Petrels on Great Barrier Island'**. Elizabeth Bell and Joanna Sim.



Black Petrel (Photo: Roger McNeill)

RANZ sets up website for NZ Falcon Sightings

The New Zealand falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) is a fast-flying raptor that is endemic to New Zealand. There are three forms of the falcon, the Bush, Eastern and Southern falcon. These vary in size, colouration and the habitat in which they live. Regarded as an iconic species, encounters with falcon tend to be remembered and more often than not recorded. RANZ is embarking on an ambitious project to enter all the sightings of the New Zealand falcon from around the country into a database. Since the 1970's, when Dr Nick Fox carried out the initial detailed distribution survey, there have been records indicating that falcon numbers have declined (e.g. Gaze & Hutzler 2004). The aim of the present study is to get a more detailed picture of the distribution of the species rather than overall population size. This is important in understanding what factors may be affecting the species, and such a survey will highlight some important nest sites, which could be used as ongoing monitoring sites or for future research. Initially a web site (www.ranz.org.nz) to capture present and future New Zealand falcon sightings will be set up, and then further effort will be put into collating additional historical records from around the country. **'New Zealand Falcon Surveys - Past, present and the future'**. Dave Bell.

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Food hoarding in NZ Robins

Like humans, New Zealand robins are monogamous and pairs live together on exclusive territories. Males and females must therefore share food resources, which often leads to conflict. Previous work has shown that both sexes hoard food to offset periods of food scarcity, but fights over cached food are commonplace. We tested whether conflict over caches is mediated by differences in their spatial orientation. We hypothesized that males aggregate caches to facilitate their defence, while females scatter caches more widely to make them more difficult for males to find. Results confirmed that males aggregate caches while females segregate them in space. However, cache spacing patterns did not reduce cache theft. Females stole male-made caches when males left them unattended. Similarly, males were able to locate female-made caches. Conflicting patterns in cache orientation and retrieval suggest that selfish hoarding and mate cooperation interact to determine food hoarding dynamics in New Zealand robins. **'Battle of the sexes: Food hoarding in New Zealand Robins'**. Jayden van Horik and K.C. Burns

(Photo: Suzi Phillips)



Beach Patrol records and diaries aid study

The results of an 11-year study of Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) behaviour and ecology were outlined by Henrik Moller at the OSNZ Conference in Wellington.

The study was done by New Zealand and international ecologists and mathematicians working with the Rakiura Maori 'muttonbirding' community.

The harvest of the chicks of Sooty Shearwaters ('titi') from 35 islands off Rakiura (Stewart Island) has until now been guided by traditional ecological knowledge (Matauranga Maori). This science partnership sought to add information, especially about harvest and non-harvest impacts on the birds, to assess prospects for titi remaining sufficiently abundant to allow the mokopuna (grandchildren) to harvest.

Satellite tracking and data loggers revealed the detail of superb long-distance and rapid migratory paths and foraging range of the Titi and their diving stamina. Despite the miniature size of the transmitters and loggers, they were found to interfere with movements and foraging enough to distort patterns of colony attendance and chick provisioning.

OSNZ beach patrol records show that Titi numbers have declined over the past four decades. Breeding burrow entrance density, burrow occupancy and harvest success diaries kept by muttonbirders, also indicate declines, especially from 1989 until 1998.

Although these are not nearly to the extent of declines in counts from ships off the western seaboard of USA over the same period. Bycatch in North Pacific driftnets until 1991 may have driven some of the declines, but correlations with climate oscillations suggest a potential impact of climate change on food supplies or the ability of the parent birds to provision their chicks.

Declines in Titi breeding density have occurred in both harvested and unharvested islands, so harvest pressure alone is an insufficient explanation for population declines unless rapid migration between islands obscures a harvest impact signal. Introduced rats and weka may have contributed to declines in some places.

An oil spill off California, USA, in 1998 killed up to 30,000 titi, including one of our banded birds, so Rakiura Maori successfully petitioned the US Law Courts for cultural damages from the owners of the tanker.

This resulted in a grant of around \$500,000 for eradication of rats (egg and chick predators) from four large Titi Islands in winter 2006 to replace the birds killed in the oil spill and to establish improved quarantine procedures amongst the birding community. Introduced predators currently occupy around 47 percent of the breeding colonies in New Zealand.

If eradication and quarantine are successful, this will be reduced to 14 percent. The research project and ensuing restoration effort is an encouraging cross-cultural and trans-national example of community-led conservation.

'Sooty Shearwaters across the Pacific: A long term study of Titi behaviour and population ecology for harvest sustainability and island restoration'. Henrik Moller

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Unravelling Storm Petrel sightings in the Hauraki Gulf

On 25 January 2003 the sighting of a small black-and-white storm-petrel off of Whitianga, North Island, New Zealand, started a controversy that still ensues today.

Brent Stephenson told the 2006 OSNZ Conference that photos taken of that bird showed that it differed in many ways from all extant black-and-white storm-petrels known at the time, but closely resembled the supposedly extinct New Zealand storm-petrel, *Pealeornis maoriana*.

Known from only three specimens, and varying from being described as a distinct species (*P. maoriana*), to an aberrant form of Wilson's storm-petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus*, the taxa had not been seen for more than 150 years.

A second sighting of up to 20 similarly marked black-and-white storm-petrels just north of Little Barrier Island, Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand, on 17 November 2003, provided evidence that a population of these birds existed, but was still not able to provide the evidence needed by OSNZ's Rare Birds Committee to officially recognise the rediscovery.

Since these initial sightings the birds have been regularly seen in the Hauraki Gulf between October and March, and further offshore during April and May.

The pattern of these sightings has led to the suggestion that the bird breeds somewhere in the Hauraki Gulf during the summer months, and disperse more widely post-breeding.

Several attempts to locate the breeding grounds and capture birds have been conducted since the initial sightings, but on 4 November 2005, a bird flew onto a trawler anchored for the night off Little Barrier Island.

The bird was examined, measured, photographed and released the following day. In January 2006 a team managed to catch three more birds, examining the birds closely, and fitting them with transmitters in the hope of following them to a breeding site.

This talk provided the first preliminary analysis of these captures, and presented further evidence linking the black-and-white storm-petrels found in the Hauraki Gulf, with the three museum specimens.

It provided an overview of the story to date, examined potential taxonomic relationships between this taxon and other storm-petrels, and outlined future work.

'Unravelling the grey issue of the black-and-white Storm Petrels'. Brent Stephenson, Richard Griffiths, and Halema Jamieson.

Kiore eradication benefits Cook's Petrel

The negative impacts of introduced mammals on island avifauna are well established and much conservation effort goes into the control and eradication of such species.

At the recent Wellington OSNZ Conference, Matt Rayner said that while predator-control strategies often focus upon removal of top predators, such actions can result in a mesopredator release of smaller carnivores with subsequent negative impacts upon small vertebrates.

The mesopredator release hypothesis predicts 1) higher nesting success in presence than absence of top carnivores, 2) an inverse relationship between the abundance of top carnivores and mesopredator abundance, and 3) positive relationship between mesopredator abundance and vertebrate predation. While the hypothesis has been supported by studies in continental habitats, there is little field evidence for this hypothesis following predator eradications from island systems.

The researchers used eradications of feral cats (*Felis catus*) and kiore (*Rattus exulans*) and a long-term breeding study of Cook's petrel (*Pterodroma cookii*) on Hauturu (Little Barrier Island) to test the predictions of the mesopredator release hypothesis. When cats were eradicated from Hauturu in 1980, Cook's petrel breeding success declined significantly and data available suggest an increase in kiore numbers in conjunction with diet switching at high altitudes as causal mechanisms.

Kiore eradication in 2004 provided a test of prediction three, demonstrating that kiore presence was the predominant factor in the reduction of Cook's petrel breeding success. From the study they found support for the mesopredator release hypothesis on Hauturu and the role of the kiore as a predator of small seabirds such as the Cook's petrel.

They suggest that environment can play a major role in predator-prey relationships and conservation management strategies should be considered on an island-by-island basis. **'One burrow, two burrows, three burrows, four, a bunch of Cook's Petrel and kiore no more: A test of the mesopredator release hypothesis on Hauturu'. Matt Rayner and Michael Imber.**

Bird sightings around Auckland

Compiled by Adrian Riegen

A selection of bird records for the OSNZ Auckland region July 2005 - June 2006. This is by no means a complete record, (NB. some records may not have been cleared by RBC yet).

Little Egret: One seen by (TW) at Mangere between 4 - 16.04.06.

White Heron: Regular sighting from Mangere and Waatarua reserve in east Auckland and another seen at Jordan's on Kaipara Census in June 06 and the same day (TW) saw one at Kaukapakapa in a flooded paddock.

Reef Heron: Single birds seen at several east coast of Auckland sites throughout the year.

Cattle Egret: The regular flock near Paraki had 27 on 05.08.05 and 3 were at Mangere on 04.04.06

Bittern: A good number of sightings particularly from around the Kaipara with 4 at Leighton's Pond on 25.04.06 seen by (TW).

Glossy Ibis: 1 at Mangere on 25.07.05 (TW).

Royal Spoonbill: A regular bird on the Kaipara at Shelly Beach with 55 on 10.07.05 (RB) and 122 at Mangere on 28.04.06 (HRC).

SIPO: Always plenty in the Auckland region with a count of 9000 on Kiwi Esplanade on 12.03.06. (ACR).

Variable Oystercatcher: The east coast is the stronghold for this species in our area with 110 at Mangawhai on 19.11.05 (GAP etal).

Pied Stilt: Between 600 and 1000 were around the Mangere Ponds in March (GAP etal).

NZ Dotterel: Omaha had 101 on 13.01.06 and 130 on 16.03.06 (SPC).

Black-fronted Dotterel: Now a regular breeding bird at the Mangere ponds with up to 12 birds seen (TW etal).

Large Sand Dotterel: 1 seen at Mangere between 01.10.05 - 06.11.05 (TW etal).

Wrybill: The upper Manukau Harbour is still the stronghold for this species in the Auckland region with c2000 in the area.

Pacific Golden Plover: 15 at Tapora on 15.10.05 (GRV etal). 28 at Mangere on 19.02.06 (GAP).

Grey Plover: 1 at Tapora 7 - 15.10.05 (GRV. IS. GAP).

Turnstone: Several hundred at Tapora over the summer, the regions main site for Turnstone.

Lesser Knot: 4000 at Mangere on 10.10.05 (TW) and 4000 at Tapora 03.01.06 (GAP. DSW).

Sanderling: 1 at Tapora 07.10.05 (GAP. JLS. PEH).

Curlew Sandpiper: 3 at Mangere on Oct- Nov 05 (TW etal).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: 14 at Mangere on 19.02.06 (GAP).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 at Mangere from Oct - Feb

Red-necked Stint: 7 at Mangere 10.10.05 (TW).

Black-tailed Godwit: 5 at Mangere in early Nov 05

(TW etal).

Whimbrel: 13 at Jordan's on 24.10.05 (GAP. JLS). 2 at Mangere in Nov 05 (TW etal), possible a first record for Mangere.

Bar-tailed Godwit: Thousands at Tapora and Mangere and up to 800 at Omaha.

Siberian Tattler: 1 at Mangere 10.10.05 and 06.11.05 (TW).

Marsh Sandpiper: 1 at Mangere 01-06.11.05 (TW).

Terek Sandpiper: 2 at Tapora on 15.10.05 (GRV. IS). 1 at Mangere over the summer (TW).

Key: TW - Ted Wnorowski, RB - Robin Bush, HRC - Ray Clough, ACR - Adrian Riegen, GRV - Gillian Vaughan, IS - Ian Southey, GAP - Gwenda Pulham, DSW - David Wilson, JLS - John Simmons, PEH - Phil Hammond.



Curlew Sandpiper (Photo: Roger McNeill)

**Auckland OSNZ
presents
October 3 Tuesday
Meeting 7.30pm**

**'Snipe - New Zealand's bird of myth and mystery' with
Colin Miskelly.**

**For more info contact Suzi
Phillips on 021-271-2527**

South Kaipara Lakes Dabchick Census (See report page 1)

Date: April 25 2006
Start time: 9.0am
Weather: fine and clear

OSNZ (Auckland) in Association with South Kaipara Landcare

Compiled by Judy Bendall

Species	Count Sites																																Species Total	2005 Species Total				
	Group 1 (North)						Group 2 (Middle Chain)																				Group 3 (Sth)											
	Walters Ponds	South Head Lake	Robokowhai Lake	Shrimp Ponds	Ototoa	Kuakatai	Tupare Swamp	Te Kanae	Kereta Puddle	Kereta North 1 & 2	Kereta Main	Kereta Swamp Nth	Kereta Swamp Sth	Kereta Sth 1	Kereta Sth 2	Karaka Main Lake	Karaka Main B	Karaka Sth 1 A	Karaka Sth 1 B	Karaka Sth 2	Karaka Sth 3	Hedleys 1	Hedleys 2 #	Hedleys 3	Poutoa #	Orakanini Topu Nth	Ngakaru	Tarawera Lakes	Piripoua	Orakanini Topu Sth	Paekawau *	Okiritoto *			Okaihau *			
NZ Dabchick (Adult)	2						19				16			1		3	4										2		5	1					53	56		
NZ Dabchick (Juv.)																						2					1		1						4	5		
Au Little Grebe (Ad.)							11				16																1		2	2					32	21		
Au Little Grebe (Juv.)																																				0	5	
unID Grebe Species			1																																	1	0	
Total Grebe Species	2	0	1	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	32	0	0	1	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	8	3	0	0	0		90	87		
Black Shag				1		4	8				10																									23	3	
Pied Shag						47	13									23	1		1																	85	74	
Little Black Shag					32	5					1																									38	8	
Little Shag	2	3	1		13	2				4	16																									41	9	
White Faced Heron						2	3			2	4	1																								12	9	
White Heron																																					0	0
Cattle Egret																																					0	6
Bittern						4				1	1								1	1									2							10	8	
Royal Spoonbill																																					0	0
Black Swan					1	12	17			8	69					4	2					7		4			8									132	184	
Canada Goose											3																										3	0
Paradise Shelduck	42			3		2				4	14						4							2			2		2	5						80	308	
Mallard					26	18	16			28						2	7	4				2					8	14		1						126	161	
Grey Duck			2		8	5	11			68						1	31					4				4	11		1	5						151	159	
Mallard/Grey Duck	68	50			7					4	7	4	2											4												146	224	
NZ Shoveler							28									1	91													2	6					128	91	
Grey Teal		2					24			2						20	172	11				4					4		6							245	210	
NZ Scaup																	9	1				2														12	12	
Spotless Crane						p										p													p							p	0	
Pied Stilt							2										14	4											2							22	p	
Fernbird																p					p									2						p	0	
Caspian Tern										p																										p	p	
Total No. of Birds	114	55	4	4	80	104	156	0	4	26	252	1	2	1	24	354	31	0	2	0	1	21	0	10	0	12	43	1	28	14	0	0	0	1344	1553			

■ = total birds counted

* = Lake not visited

p = present but not counted

= visited but nil count

NZ Dotterel protection workshop at Miranda

The Miranda Naturalists' Trust is holding a course on management and protection of New Zealand Dotterels at the Miranda Shorebird Centre on 12-14 September 2006.

Coastal bird expert, John Dowding will tutor the course, along with a guest tutor with experience in practical predator control.

This course is suitable for people such as Department of Conservation shorebird wardens, Regional Council staff managing shorebirds, and community groups and individuals protecting dotterels.

Topics to be covered include:

- o Basic information about endemic shorebirds such as numbers, distribution, and threat classification, ecology and behaviour, and resources and contacts.
- o Monitoring dotterels and other shorebirds, including finding and monitoring nests, information from banded birds, recording and reporting.
- o Managing threats during the breeding season, such as reducing disturbance, controlling predators, field session on demonstrating trapping techniques, watching tides and weather.
- o Advocacy and protecting habitat.

The course is specifically targeted at anyone involved in the management or field monitoring of Dotterels, including agency staff and community volunteers. While focused primarily on Dotterels, much of the course content will be applicable to other coastal spe-

cies such as Terns, Gulls and Variable Oystercatcher. The course opens with registration and afternoon tea at 3pm on Tuesday 12, the first session beginning at 4.30pm sharp. The course will finish around midday on Thursday 14th, with lunch provided before departure. The fee of \$200 includes accommodation and all meals.

Please register with the Centre Manager, Keith Woodley, by phone or email shorebird@xtra.co.nz or 09 232 2781. Participant numbers are strictly limited. If possible, please give the names, designations or affiliations of participants at time of booking.



A male NZ Dotterel in full breeding plumage feeds on the edge of the tide at Waipu Estuary in June. (Photo: Suzi Phillips).

Auckland OSNZ Activities and Meetings Programme for 2006/7

July

- Saturday 1 Mangawhai Wader Census, contact Gwenda Pulham, Ph 480-5535
Sunday 2 Firth of Thames Wader Census, contact Tony Habraken, Ph 238-5284
Tuesday 4 Meeting 7.30pm, 'The Red Knots of Delaware Bay' with Dick Veitch.
Saturday 8 Muriwai Beach Patrol, contact John Simmons, Ph 828-8642
Sat/Sun 15/16 National Wader Study Colour Band Spotting Weekend, and week either side.
For more information contact Suzi Phillips, see below.

August

- Tuesday 1 Meeting 7.30pm, 'In Search of Godwits in Alaska' with Adrian Riegen.
Saturday 5 Muriwai Beach Patrol, contact John Simmons, Ph 828-8642

September

- Tuesday 5 Meeting 7.30pm, 'The genetic and social mating systems of Bellbirds on Tiritiri Matangi' with Taneal Cope.
Saturday 2 Muriwai Beach Patrol, contact John Simmons, Ph 828-8642
Date TBC Fairy Tern Watchers Orientation Day, contact Gwenda Pulham Ph 480-5535.
Saturday 30 Cornwall Park Bird Survey, meet 7am, Cornwall Park end of Puriri Drive.
Contact Michael Taylor, Ph 524-9234.

October

- Tuesday 3 Meeting 7.30pm, 'Snipe - New Zealand's bird of myth and mystery' with Colin Miskelly.
Sat/Sun 7/8 National Wader Study Colour Band Spotting Weekend, and week either side.
For more information contact Suzi Phillips, see below.
Saturday 14 Muriwai Beach Patrol, contact John Simmons, Ph 828-8642

November

- Saturday 4 Kaipara Wader Census,(HT10.10am, 4.1m) contact Gwenda Pulham, Ph 480-5535
Sunday 5 Manuaku/Waitemata Wader Census, contact Tony Habraken, Ph 238-5284
(Adrian Riegen overseas).
Tuesday 7 Meeting 7.30pm, Kevin Parker on "Memetic movement:The impacts of translocation on the cultural evolution of the North Island saddleback" - plus a quick update on the Tiritiri Matangi Fernbird translocation.
Saturday 11 Mangawhai Wader Census, contact Gwenda Pulham, Ph 480-5535
Saturday 11 Muriwai Beach Patrol, contact John Simmons, Ph 828-8642
Sunday 12 Firth of Thames Wader Census, contact Tony Habraken, Ph 238-5284
Sat/Sun 25/26 Tiritiri Matangi Census, contact Mike or Sharen Graham, Ph 817-5537

December

- Tuesday 5 Meeting 7.30pm, 'Petrels at Bethell's Beach - what changes have occurred in the past 18 years?' with Graeme Taylor, followed by our end of year celebration with quiz, wine and cheese.

Evening meetings are held in the Natural Sciences Building at Unitec, Gate 1 or Gate 3, off Carrington Road in Point Chevalier. For a meeting room location map, or any other information on the programme, contact Suzi Phillips on 021-271-2527 or at suzi@dialogue.co.nz



‘Art for the Kaipara’

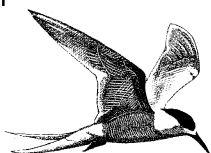
Art Auction from 6pm Sunday 30 July.

Exhibition opens Friday July 28 to Sunday 30th

At BeesOnline Honey Centre and Cafe, 791 SH16, Waimauku.

Paintings, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed media by leading Kaipara and NZ artists - raising funds for conservation.

**See our online Art Auction Catalogue link at
www.kaiparaforestandbird.org.nz**



TARA Newsletter of Auckland OSNZ
Private Bag 1, Helensville 1250