

APTERYX

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Photos:

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Carol Davies (CD)
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www.osnz.org.nz

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

It is proposed that these newsletters will be issued on a more irregular basis from now on, as and when there is sufficient news to report. Publications at precise intervals has become progressively more difficult but we hope to maintain the standard and interest of the material reported. I would like to encourage the submission of articles, photos and records of interesting sightings as always.



CAPTURING THE MOMENT . . . Shining Cuckoos generally start to migrate north by the New Year but this year they seem to have lingered and a number have been heard and seen up to at least 20th Jan. Here is a well-grown youngster being fed by a Grey Warbler on Moturoa Island on 9th January 2016 (DD).

The Far North Regional Officers are:

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RECENT & UPCOMING EVENTS

17 Dec – Red-billed Gull Survey – see page 6

18 Dec – Indoor Meeting at Les's house – see page 4

11 Jan – Bay of Islands Pelagic – see page 7

29 Jan – Indoor Meeting at Les's house – see page 5

26 Feb – Meeting at Les's. Lecture by Heather Rogers, the OSNZ's librarian. Details already circulated by email.

27 Feb – Bay of Islands Pelagic – this day trip was fully booked but now cancelled because of bad weather.

19 March – Bay of Islands Pelagic. Day trip out from Doves Bay to the 400 m sea shelf well outside the Bay. **Still 3 places available.**

Date in April – Meeting at Detlef & Carol's place in Kerikeri. Details to be announced.

RECENT REPORTS and SIGHTINGS

Compiled by Detlef Davies

These records cover the period from October 2015 to February 2016 unless otherwise stated. Contributors include Les Feasey (LF), Anthea Goodwin (AJG), Isabella & Derry Godbert, Kevin Matthews (KM), Detlef & Carol Davies (DD, CD), Gary Little & Asta Wistrand (GL, AW), Nick Barclay, Dan O'Halloran.

BOIP means the Bay of Islands Pelagic on 11th January.

North Island Brown Kiwi – 4 males & a female heard in Leslie Road, Cable Bay in September (Jenny Dymock per AJG).

New Zealand Dabchick – Juv on Stanners Road Lake, Kerikeri on 5 Jan.

Australian Little Grebe – 2 Lake Owhareiti on 5 Jan (DD)

Fluttering Shearwater – 17 off Spirits Bay on 13 Feb, many off Tokerau Beach, as well as on BOIP.

Buller's Shearwater - 1000s off Spirits Bay on 13 Feb, c.60 on BOIP.

Flesh-footed Shearwater – one off Spirits Bay on 13 Feb, c.10 on BOIP.

Little Shearwater – 1 on BOIP.

Black Petrel – 4 on BOIP.

Cooks Petrel – Pterodromas on BOIP all distant and fast but most were probably Cook's.

Pycrofts Petrel – 2 identified as this species from photos taken on BOIP.

Black-winged Petrel – 3 seen on BOIP, all frustratingly brief.

White-faced Storm Petrel – c.100 on BOIP, a local correspondent, Graham Clifford, commented that when he was boating in the mid-60s there were thousands off the Cavalis.

New Zealand Storm Petrel – great views of 4 on BOIP.

Fairy Prion – 1 on BOIP.

Common Diving Petrel – 1 on BOIP.

Little Penguin – occupied site at Mill Bay, Mangonui, in breakwater by boat ramp on 25 Nov (Steve Lange per AJG). 2 on BOIP.

Banded Rail – Matauri Bay Farm (Nick Barclay)





Wrybills – Kowhai Beach (CD)

Reef Heron – One at Spirits Bay on 13 Feb (DCD)

Royal Spoonbill – more elusive at Unahi Road lately, a few sometimes gathering in paddocks.

Brown Teal – often on lakes on Purerua

Grey Duck – c.15 on Lake Owhareiti 5 Jan.

Banded Rail – one regularly seen at a farm at Matauri Bay in December (Nick Barclay).

South Island Pied Oystercatcher – max 440 on paddocks at Paua & 80 on Fish Farm roof, 13 Feb.

Variable Oystercatcher – max count 21 Kowhai Beach 14 Feb.

New Zealand Dotterel – nest at Hihi Beach on shellbank 26 Jan., 2 nests at Otengi, Doubtless Bay threatened by high tides, moved successfully and at least 1 chick hatched. Pair with a chick by Waitangi boat club on 21 Dec, but soon disappeared, there were 2 earlier (DCD, LF).

Banded Dotterel – 30+ in paddocks at Paua 13 Feb, imm on Kowhai Beach 14 Feb. Flock of 28 by the runway at Kerikeri Airport on 22 Feb (DD).

Pacific Golden Plover – c.40 on paddocks at Paua on 13 Feb, c.20 Kowhai Beach on 14 Feb.

Turnstone – c.100 on paddocks at Paua, 12 Te Hapua 13 Feb, c.151 Kowhai Beach 14 Feb.

Wrybill – Dick Ulrich Rd, Tokerau Beach: 4 on 6 Sept, 7 on 17 Jan (AJG), 10 on 29 Jan (DCD), 21 on .

Bar-tailed Godwit – high tide roost on Kokota Sandspit, Kowhai Beach and on Walker Island photographed from the air, c.130 at Paua & 75 at Te Hapua on 13 Feb, c.1864 on Kowhai Beach on 14 Feb.

Lesser Knot – c.1016 on Kowhai Beach 14 Feb.

Arctic Skua – 2 light phase in BOI 17 Dec on Red-billed Gull survey (LF), 2 dark phase on BOIP, 1 light phase in Whangaroa Harbour 14 Feb (Dan O'Halloran).

Pomarine Skua – 1 or 2 on BOIP.

Spotted Dove – 3 separate birds seen on telegraph wires along SH10 north of Kerikeri on 13 Feb (DCD). May be starting to colonise our area?

Shining Cuckoo – still calling 20 Jan (AJG), seen Landing Road, Kerikeri well into Jan. One imm being fed by Grey Warbler on Moturoa Island 9 Jan.

Long tailed Cuckoo – Strong calls heard Herekino 4 Jan (& earlier)(GL, AW). This seems early for migrants of this species.

Morepork – Taumarumaru Reserve - bred for 4th consecutive year & raised 2 chicks. Pair in Detlef & Carol's garden raised 3 chicks.

Tomtit – Recorded on track from Mangonui to Rangikapiti in Dec. Also from Mataraua, Puketi & Moturua Is.

Fernbird – Recorded from several of the usual sites.

North Island Robin – 2 seen Moturoa Island in Jan, in



North Island Robin on Manginangina Boardwalk, 3 Feb (Dave Davenall)



Female Tomtit on Moturua Island (DD)

Puketi they have now been seen by Manginangina Boardwalk (CD).

New Zealand Pipit – Common and tame at Spirits Bay 13 Feb, also Tokerau Beach, edge of Puketi & elsewhere.

North Island Saddleback – Regular sightings on Moturua & Urupukapuka suggest that the introduced birds are doing OK so far.

Whitehead – Moturoa Island birds seem common.

Kokako – reports from central Puketi are encouraging; strangely 2 blank visits to Mataraua in Dec / Jan.

Redpoll – One seen in Mataraua Forest on 4 Jan.

FAR NORTH MEETING – 18 DECEMBER

Les Feasey



Aerial views of shorebird flocks on Kokota Sandspit, Kowhai Beach & Walker Island.
Taken on return flight from Three Kings after Red-billed Gull survey (LF)



Our December 2015 meeting was more of a fun party than a meeting. We had the good fortune of having Carol and CJ Ralph from the USA, long time members of the Far North OSNZ, visiting us, and that made the evening special.

Apologies: Kevin Matthews, Susie Lindauer, Russell Thomas, Bill Campbell. Minutes of AGM 16 August 2015 were read and accepted.

The following matters were discussed:

Minutes of meeting, 19 November 2015 at the Bakehouse, Kaitaia

Three Kings survey.

Photos of waders at Parengarenga, Kowhai Beach and Rangaunu. On the flight back from the Three Kings Islands on 19 November, 2015 we passed over Parengarenga, Kowhai Beach and Rangaunu. Photos of the roosting waders provided good insight of the location and distribution of these Arctic migrants.

Bay of Islands Red-billed gull survey completed, 17 Dec 2015.

See the separate article in this issue on this survey.

Planned Bream Head 5 minute bird count survey, 21-22 Dec.



CJ and Carol Ralph and Les Feasey are doing a bird count on the Bream Head tracks and will report at the next meeting.

Mataka Station Kiwi survey.

Mataka Station has approached OSNZ for help in doing kiwi counts at this site. The Station has done extensive predator control for a number of years and is anxious to get clarity on the effectiveness of the program with bird counts. A number of options are being considered.

Signs for Paihia Beach and Waitangi Beach.

Far North District Council and Focus Paihia, a community group, are using OSNZ photos to inform the visitors and residents about our abundant bird life. The plan is to erect a series of signs along the beach front in Maori and English describing the birds in our area.

DOC Acoustic recorder PhD project at Massey - provided data.

The Head Ranger at Bream Head has over 600 recordings of bird calls. He has offered it to a Massey University PhD student who is doing research in the area. As this project develops it might present itself as an elegant solution to the Mataka Station kiwi survey project.

eBird competition - Russ Canning and Neil Robertson leading on 172, I'm on 161 and need 10 birds to catch them.

Detlef says he is using Brent Stephenson's recording form – he has 253 birds but it's not on eBird.

Carol Davies Project

Carol Davies and Carol Ralph and Lois Wagener worked during the meeting to outline a project to do a survey. Carol to present a plan next meeting.

The meeting closed at 10:15pm – actually a fun pre-Xmas party for all.

FAR NORTH MEETING – 29 JANUARY

Les Feasey

Minutes of meeting held at Opua at Les Feasey's house on 29th Jan 2016.

Present

Les Feasey R.R., Detlef and Carol Davies, Isabella Godbert, Anthea Goodwin, Ian Wilson, Lois Wagener, Susie Lindauer, Alison Stanes, Penny Burbank and Sandra Scowen.



Apologies

CJ and Carol Ralph, Russell Thomas, Kevin Matthews, Bill Campbell. Mike Bryan tendered his resignation from the branch as he is leaving the area and he wished the branch well.

Minutes

Les Feasey read minutes from the last meeting on 18th December

Financial report

Isabella Godbert presented the financial report the account now has \$2082.41. There has been a \$1000 donation from those who flew to Three Kings for the Red-billed Gull survey. The treasurer will request Birds NZ for a tax donation receipt for the donations.

Reports on Projects & Field Trips

Puketi Forest

Ian Wilson reported that the rat numbers were down for the Puketi Forest & it seems like a good breeding season. The trust had decided to leave the Kokako alone for the breeding season apart from predator control in their area. There will be monitoring in March by a contractor.

Pelagic

Detlef reported on the pelagic held on 11th January with Kit Staff – the first time from Doves Bay. They went out to the 400m shelf. There is a report on page but he commented that it was pleasing to see NZ Storm Petrels but surprising to see no albatrosses.

Ipipiri Census

A successful census was done in January with 2 monitoring lines manned in each of Urupukapuka, Roberton and Moturua Islands. The results will be printed in a newsletter. It is hoped the other islands will be checked in the near future.

Bream Head survey

Les reported that he had done a survey of Bream Head with CJ and Carol Ralph, hoping to hear Bellbirds. None were heard though there was plenty of bird life. One of the rangers said he had heard them in winter and thinks they go to the Hen and Chicken Islands for breeding during the summer and return in the autumn to feed. We were accompanied by Adam Willetts the first day, and by Melissa Arsenault on the second day.

Myna

A discussion was had about the pest control of Myna.

Future events

Pelagic next pelagic to be on 27 February there are 3 places vacant

Meeting Les said the next meeting would be at the same place on 26th February when Heather Rogers – Birds NZ librarian is to speak.

Warawara forest survey - DOC had invited the branch to do a rifleman survey date to be announced.

Bream Head survey - Les plans to do a survey 1st week in April and needs volunteers to help.

Whangatapu wetland Sandra said she had been doing surveys to see how the bird life improves as the wetland gets established.

Matauri Bay - Carol and Lois are working on a proposal for a survey in the Matauri Bay area as requested by Dianne Cresswell a local resident. They are very keen to let it be led by locals.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

RED-BILLED GULL SURVEY – 17 DECEMBER

Les Feasey

On the 17th December 2015 the Far North OSNZ undertook the second phase of a two-phased survey of the Bay of Islands nesting sites of red-billed gulls. The first phase had detected or confirmed probably nesting sites, and the second phase was to count birds and nests at these sites. As these adventures usually do, the trip didn't go as planned, it went much better than planned.

We counted all the red-billed gulls we saw in the Bay of Islands, and the principal nesting sites, Cape Brett, Tapeka Point, and the Black Rocks. Derry did some brilliant counts, and photographs were used to adjust these based on what they revealed. We were on the water at 8:00am and finished by 2:00pm in advance of the weather that was closing in. We even took time out to gather some scallops. Results were posted on eBird.

A summary of the results (Birds seen and Birds nesting) follows:

LOCATION	BIRDS SEEN	BIRDS NESTING
Nine Pin	30	
Bird Rock	747	
Piercy	97	
Lighthouse Bay	199	124
Bay of Islands	30	
Tapeka Point	394	119
Black Rocks	134	46
TOTAL	1631	289

A particular vote of thanks is due Roger Chignall who generously donated his boat and a day of his time to help us with the survey. Thanks also to Derry Godbert, who organized the trip, and Tina, for adding some glamour and demonstrated her scallop gathering skills.

New Zealand Birds Online notes this, that Red-billed Gull breeding starts in September and extends to January, and we have seen this behaviour. It was evident that many of the pairs had already nested and their offspring made up parts of the colonies we visited. Some late starting birds we seen copulating in December.

On a fun note, here are some of the sights from the day on the water:

A pair of Arctic Skuas chased a hapless Red-billed Gull for its lunch, and having obtained that, they relentlessly kept after it for some time.



A pair of Little Penguins was displaying:



A pod of Orca decided to invade the Bay of Islands and gave the visitors on the cruise ship in the harbour something to talk about:



Most important of all, we saw some **RED-BILLED GULLS!!**



BAY OF ISLANDS PELAGIC – 11 JAN

Detlef Davies

Left Doves Bay Marina on Kit Staff's 58 foot cruising yacht at 7.10 am with Dave & Amanda Mason, Les Feasey, Michael Szabo, Anthea Goodwin, Jenny Atkins & crew of Evan and Marcel. Picked up CJ Ralph and Paul Asquith from the wharf on Moturoa Island. Headed eastwards out of the Bay & NE towards 400m depth line. Chumming there and laying oil slicks from 11.45 to 1.15 pm. SE breeze most of day, very warm, often sunny.



Pied Shags, gulls & Caspian & White-fronted Terns in the Bay, along with 2 dark phase Arctic Skuas harassing the terns & a Pomarine Skua

near Cape Brett. One Bottlenose Dolphin leapt clear of the water. 2 [Little Penguins](#) in the outer part of the Bay where the first [Fluttering](#) & [Buller's Shearwaters](#) and [White-faced Storm Petrels](#) started to appear.

From about 9 am we picked up other species like [Flesh-footed Shearwaters](#), [Black Petrels](#) and some distant Pterodromas. Fish oil, pilchards and salmon berley were slow in attracting birds in spite of the breeze; however storm petrels eventually came in good numbers. A single [Little Shearwater](#) gave a brief view on the water before taking flight and to everyone's delight we had good encounters with at least 4 [New Zealand Storm Petrels](#). Photos taken of the fast-flying [pterodroma](#) petrels revealed that at least 2 were [Pycroft's](#) and the distinctive [Black-winged Petrel](#) was observed at least 3 times.

We sailed back into the Bay about 4.15 pm.

Estimated species numbers:

[Little Penguin](#) - 2

[Fluttering Shearwater](#) – c.50

[Buller's Shearwater](#) – c.60

[Flesh-footed Shearwater](#) – c.10

[Little Shearwater](#) – 1, a brief view as usual.

[Black Petrel](#) – c.4 but none coming to chum.

[Cook's Petrel](#) – a couple close enough to identify

[Pycroft's Petrel](#) – 2 identified from photos afterwards

[Black-winged Petrel](#) - 3

[Pterodroma sp.](#) – c.20, probably mainly Cook's

[White-faced Storm Petrel](#) – c.100

[New Zealand Storm Petrel](#) – 4

[Fairy Prion](#) – 1

[Common Diving Petrel](#) - 1

[Australasian Gannet](#) – c.40

[Arctic Skua](#) - 2

[Pomarine Skua](#) – 1 or perhaps 2 imms.



Pycroft's Petrel
Flesh-footed Shearwater
New Zealand Storm Petrel
White-faced Storm Petrel



OPINION - BATTLE ON THE BEACH

Carol Davies

A tale of a cat or a dog versus bird might make an enjoyable cartoon or facebook video. But a real life version would be serious. Birds unfortunately lose when cats and dogs are around. Many people think dogs and cats should roam freely. Both are introduced to New Zealand and however much we may enjoy them as part of our daily lives, they are not part of our native wildlife, nor are they part of our ecosystem. In the Far North cats and dogs pose a serious threat to the continued survival of beach-nesting birds like New Zealand Dotterel and our endemic oystercatchers.

New Zealand Dotterels are vulnerable to wild and domesticated animals and also to human disturbance. They weigh in at c.180g and are feisty birds, using several techniques to distract potential threats. Their ability to blend in with their surroundings can make the birds difficult to spot by beach users. Their strategy can backfire when faced with a mammalian predator such as a cat or dog. Dotterel chicks are flightless and independent upon hatching and forage for themselves on the beach, quickly gaining weight. But disturbance quickly exhausts them so they are no match for a cat or a dog. Even a well fed cat will hunt birds and dogs chasing birds may destroy nests and kill the chicks. While we cannot tell the birds where to nest, we can control cats and dogs.



New Zealand Dotterel with chick at Waitangi boat club (CD)



I'm just a-walking the cat . . .

Many local organisations along the Far North coast donate many hours to the protection of our shorebirds. Our local Council has recently tightened up the enforcement of our Dog Control Bylaw which is good news for us and our little Jewel of the North. There is now a strengthening movement in New Zealand to control cats in a similar way with a proposed Cat Bylaw in order to register, microchip, neuter and contain cats in a similar way as there is to control dogs.

The Bay of Islands is a major flocking site for New Zealand Dotterel and has a large population of breeding Variable Oystercatchers. In December 2015 a pair of dotterels produced 2 chicks at the rocks by the Waitangi Boat Club. The chicks lasted only a few days in spite of the prompt erection of a fence around the area. What happened to them? With better awareness and protection of shorebird habitat along here a brood of dotterel chicks may become a regular feature on the beach.

It is a few years since we last conducted a NZ Dotterel Census which must surely be due again soon.

YOUTH CAMP IN APRIL

Younger enthusiasts may be interested in a Youth Camp taking place at Miranda Shorebird Centre over ANZAC weekend 22 to 26 April. An opportunity to gain experience with birds under expert tuition and a chance to develop skills in bird ecology. For details contact Andrew Styche at astyche@doc.govt.nz or on 07 858 1013. You should enquire as soon as possible. The cost is \$100.

WADER CENSUS – FEB 2016**Detlef Davies**

Over the weekend 13 to 14 February 4 of us undertook a wader count on some of the Far North high tide roosts. It was a warm and sunny weekend but strong easterly winds prevailed. Carol and I met Lois Wagener at her home at Houhora Heads on Saturday morning, met Jackie Malcom there too and the 4 of us arrived at Paua at 10 am. As expected, the wind prevented us from launching our dinghy onto Parengarenga Harbour and thereby reaching Kokota Sandspit, although we had taken the trouble to bring it with us. A flock of c.80 South Island Pied Oystercatchers on the roof of the fish farm building was interesting and some useful birding and counting was possible by focussing our telescopes onto Ahiaruhe Shellbank.

On leaving the area about midday we found a large number of birds roosting in the long grass opposite the fish farm, some of course being much more conspicuous than others.

In not reaching the Sandspit we had time to spare today and we spent the afternoon at Spirits Bay which has an interesting list of species to its credit, not least, last year's 2 Wandering Tattlers. Today however, we made do with some nice tame NZ Pipits, a passage of thousands of Buller's Shearwaters, a few Flutterers and one Flesh-foot, also a Reef Heron. Two of us went on to Te Hapua and did a count of a few waders there before returning to Houhora Heads for the night.

On Sunday just Carol and I were available for wader pursuits and we made our way to Kowhai Beach, which never disappoints on a high summer tide through being undisturbed and having a regular flock of unconcerned waders. We had to walk the full length of the beach to get to the dense flock of Godwits, Knot, Pacific Golden Plovers and Turnstones, although a scattering of NZ Dotterels, Variable Oystercatchers and Wrybills eyed us up on the way past.

Although very approachable, the main wader flock was mobile from time to time and so a succession of photos made the counting much more realistic, if not perfect. For convenience all species of note are included in this table.

	Ahiaruhe Shellbank	Paddocks	Spirits Bay	Te Hapua	Henderson Rd Lakes	Kowhai Beach
New Zealand Dabchick					1	
Buller's Shearwater			1000s			50+
Fluttering Shearwater			17			100+
Flesh-footed Shearwater			1			
Australasian Gannet	1		#			10+
Pied Shag	24		9			2
Little Shag			1		1	
Black Shag					1	
Black Swan					4	
Canada Goose					9	
Paradise Shelduck		10	#		#	10
Grey Duck					1	
White-faced Heron		c.40	1	#		
Reef Heron			1			
Variable Oystercatcher			1			21
S Island Pied Oystercatcher	c.100	c.520				
Pied Stilt	15	c.250	2			
Wrybill						12
New Zealand Dotterel	4					23
Banded Dotterel		c.30				1 juv
Pacific Golden Plover		c.40				20
Turnstone	3	c.100		12		151
Bar-tailed Godwit	130			75		1864
Lesser Knot						1016
Caspian Tern	10			3		6
White-fronted Tern	3					
Red-billed Gull	c.150		#			#
Black-backed Gull	13 (9 juvs)		#			c.30
New Zealand Pipit			8			



BEACH PATROL TO SHOREBIRDS

Isabella, Derry and Les

On 21st Feb we set out for a beach patrol and also intended to look at some wader sites. There were Derry and Isabella Godbert, Anthea Goodwin and Les Feasey.

The beach patrol was very unusual, the sand had been blown freshly over the beach so there was very little debris. The only 2 birds we found were Little Blue Penguin in both cases killed by cats. There were cat footprints near the birds.

These are our live bird results it was a very interesting day with a total of 1590 birds and in most cases there were more birds than we had seen previously at those places.

NOTE that this report was received after the compilation of 'Recent Reports and Sightings' so these records are not included in that list.

Dick Ulrich Road 10:30 AM - 10:50 AM 9 species:

Pied Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*) 11
 South Island Pied Oystercatcher (SIPO) (*Haematopus finschi*) 2
 Variable Oystercatcher (*Haematopus unicolor*) 13
 New Zealand Dotterel (*Charadrius obscurus*) 2
 Wrybill (*Anarhynchus frontalis*) 21 Most we've seen, normally 6-7.
 Red-billed Gull (*Chroicocephalus scopulinus*) 10
 South Black Backed Gull (*Larus dominicanus*) 17
 Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) 1
 White-fronted Tern (*Sterna striata*) 19

Lake Waiporohita, 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM 10 species

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) 77
 Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) 4
 Paradise Shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) 10

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 14
 Grey Teal (*Anas gracilis*) 2
 New Zealand Scaup (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*) 3 First time for us in this location
 New Zealand Dabchick (*Poliocephalus rufopectus*) 4
 Black Shag (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) 4
 Pied Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*) 2
 Spur-winged Plover (*Vanellus miles*) 25 Counted and recounted. Seemed to be a convention.

Ninety Mile Beach 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM 38.0 kilometer(s) 7 species

Pied Shag (*Phalacrocorax varius*) 3
 Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) 3
 Spur-winged Plover (*Vanellus miles*) 3
 Red-billed Gull (*Chroicocephalus scopulinus*) 122
 South Black Backed Gull (*Larus dominicanus*) 270
 Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) 9
 White-fronted Tern (*Sterna striata*) 75

Houhora mudflats, 3:45 PM - 4:00 PM 8 species

Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) 420
 Paradise Shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) 6
 Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 159
 White-faced Heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*) 17
 Pied Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*) 2
 Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) 150
 Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) 6

Taipa estuary 4:40 PM - 5:00 PM 8 species

Little Pied Shag (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*) 1
 South Island Pied Oystercatcher (SIPO) (*Haematopus finschi*) 59
 Variable Oystercatcher (*Haematopus unicolor*) 6
 New Zealand Dotterel (*Charadrius obscurus*) 13
 Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) 17
 Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) 2
 Red-billed Gull (*Chroicocephalus scopulinus*) 9

PERU ON OFFER!

3 week tour from 16 August 2016. 2 places left !
 Lowlands – Andes – Coast

SPECIAL TRIP – 18 days from 6 Sept – New itinerary! Bargain price !

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OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIRDING ABROAD

In the course of our travels abroad, we are gathering much useful information about bird sites and local guides who would be well able to arrange birding or wildlife tours without the necessity to use large, expensive tour companies. Very often a group of 4 or 6 people could easily arrange an economical trip arranged almost entirely in the destination country.

Contact us for information on Fiji, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand, Ecuador, Cambodia, Scotland, Brazil, Argentina, Europe, parts of Africa, Madagascar and a number of other places. A group of us wanting to do a birding cruise might get a good price by block-booking places on the ship. We are open to all such ideas.