



Studying NEW ZEALAND'S BIRDS

OSNZ®

NELSON REGION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2012

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I had a phone call the other day from a pleasant enough sounding young woman telling me in rather mono tones as she read from her sheet, that the Bug Exterminator was in my area and would I like all my spiders inside and out, cockroaches, silverfish, wardrobe moths etc etc eradicated. The product used **is** environmentally friendly she assured me, guaranteed effective (to kill) for 12 months, and recommended I cover all pet bowls, goldfish bowls, crockery and cutlery, put food away and stay out of the house for several hours. I let her complete her whole spiel then said no thankyou I have an environmentally friendly fantail that comes into the house and does most of that job for me, and I can stay there to watch. I'm sure she jotted down something against my name. Possibly derogatory.

BIRDS SCENE

Through the E. bush telegraph in recent weeks, there's been comment on raptors. We might be a bit thin on species but **harriers** are "widespread and very common, especially compared with the number of raptors seen in other parts of the world" (Field Guide) Earlier this month an estimated 200 were observed heading north from Stephens Is, on a sou/easterly. Evidently there is some history regarding harriers and Stephens Is. **Falcons** are being spotted frequently down from the hills. Look for them in municipal parks. Stuart was alerted to one sitting in a tree in Washbourne Gardens a few weeks ago, devouring a small passerine. Another sighting came from near Thorp Street, Motueka. Ken George reports Golden Bay's coastal areas are teeming with flocks of birds. Great wintering grounds for SIPO, black swan, royal spoonbill and over-staying godwits. He also spotted two **cattle egret**, the first reported sighting for this year, just south of Puponga

SHOW AND TELL

Dabchicks definitely stole the show at April's Avian Medley night. Ten members enjoyed gorgeous photos from those who have nipped over the hill for close-ups, with a bit of bird detective discussion on previous sightings or not.



Photo by Willie Cook

M4 Travel Blog

And I'm not talking about hurtling along out of London and over to Wales. M4 is a bar-tailed godwit who started her life of travel in Alaskan climes in 2009 and was decorated with a black flag (M4) on 24 Aug that year. As a juvenile she was spotted here in our tourist destination of sunny estuaries on Motueka Sandspit Feb 2010 and Nelson Haven June 2010. Now this intrepid female traveller has been seen in Yalu Jiang in China, on 21 April 2012 by David M. What did she do in 2011? Nelson spotters included, David M., Julia M., Peter F., Peter Fr., Don C., Ingrid H., Rob S.

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A reminder for those of you with computer savvy and computers (or visit an internet cafe or your local library), you can update your details, change of address etc directly on-line. You need to **remember** your user name and password to log in. These were given out in an email in October last year.

You can also pay your subs, register for the AGM and Conference, and check out E.Bird on line. You can read newsletters from other regions, and check out other groovy stuff, without having to log in.

(The Small print) don't record your password in an obvious place and don't divulge it to anyone else. But somehow DO remember.

A message from:

Hugh Robertson & Rod Hitchmough
Science & Technical Group
Department of Conservation
Wellington

"In 2008, a panel of ornithologists assessed the conservation status of New Zealand birds against the NZ Threat Classification System. The results of this analysis were published in the September 2008 issue of Notornis (Vol 55: 117-135). The next revision of the threat status list for New Zealand birds is soon underway. Status will be assessed using the same criteria as used in 2008.

We would be very grateful for any submissions providing new information, especially any census or trend data, on bird species, subspecies, etc. that you consider to be threatened or at risk, or very poorly known but seldom encountered and possibly threatened. We would also be very interested in receiving arguments why you think that the 2008 panel got a particular classification wrong, or where you think that the status has changed sufficiently since 2008 to warrant a change in classification.

The 2012 expert panel will meet to review the classification of New Zealand birds on 12-13 June 2012, so please let us have your submissions by 10 June. More information and submission forms can be found here:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/new-listing-of-the-threatened-status-of-nz-frogs-reptiles-bats-and-birds/> "

Parish Notices

We welcome two new members, Pam McConnell and Janet Thorp to our flock.

Local projects.

An on-going, long-running project is the thrice yearly **wader counts** from Farewell Spit to Delaware Bay. Please contact Rob Schuckard for details and to get your name on his list. rschckrd@xtra.co.nz (03)-5765371.

For **wader catching** and banding please contact David Melville.
david.melville@xtra.co.nz (03) 5433628

Other small projects pop up now and then. If you would like to be involved in field work please let me know, and we'll keep you in the loop.
stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz (03) 5450456

PROGRAMME 2012

We meet usually on the 1st Monday of the month, at 7.15 pm in the "Solander Building", Akersten Street, Port Nelson (opposite the red Cruising Club building). All birders are welcome! Contact: Don Cooper 03-544 8109 or Gail 03-5450456.

Monday, 7 May Indoor meeting	Sandy and Robin Toy 'Petrel Boards and Black Robins, Volunteering on Rangatira'
Queen's Birthday Wknd	AGM and Conference Tauranga
Monday, 4 June	No local meeting
June	Wader count
30 June – 8 July	Garden Bird Survey
Monday, 2 July Indoor meeting	Speaker to be confirmed
Monday, 6 August Indoor meeting	Speaker: Dave Butler
August 12	Royal Spoonbill Count
Monday, 3 September Indoor meeting	Speaker: Peter Gaze

Thanks to all who contributed.

Contributions for the May newsletter: please email or phone me by 20 May.
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