



NELSON REGION NEWSLETTER JULY 2012

Regional Representative
Stuart Wood
Acting RR
Gail D. Quayle
6 Tresillian Ave,
Atawhai NN

Ph (03) 5450456
stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz

Regional Recorder

Don Cooper
1/26 William Street
Richmond
Nelson 7020

Ph (03) 5448109
doncooper@actrix.co.nz

I've been doing a lot of drive-by birding lately. High tides are pushing birds up from estuaries onto the grass verges of our main highways. The snacking must be good. From Atawhai into town one afternoon I counted nine variable oystercatchers, two spur winged plovers and a white faced heron. I have seen up to four heron at times. Some feed pretty close to wheels on the bitumen. Not all make it back to the estuary. (I gave up walking on the edge of Q E II Drive years ago). And I didn't get the numbers off the white flagged VOC on the verge of the Motueka coastal road, too many cars in front of me, behind me and whizzing along the other way. I've seen white geese, white herons and white buoys out from the corner of my eye in the Moutere embayments and the levels of the fresh water embayment seem to fluctuate as do the number of scaup. Pukeko dart around a bit when close to humming motors and not all of them make it back to the other side of the fence either.

SHOW AND TELL

It wasn't pretty and some photos looked as though they were straight out of a sci-fi movie with the climax ending in the demise of the lead actor, but last meeting, David Melville at very short notice gave us an informative talk and discussion on Avian Pox, brought about by a Rabbit Island **VOC** being seen with massive lesions and growth on one of its legs. The bird was subsequently caught and flown to Massey University for surgery and analysis. It didn't come back. Thanks for your presentation David.

On a happier note we welcome two new members, Paul and Marina Bennett.

Next meeting on 6 August Dave Butler will present 'Adventures in Bird Conservation in Samoa'. Hope to see you there.

OUT AND ABOUT

Appleby has been the stamping ground for cattle and wintering **cattle egret** for many years now. Currently up to seven egret have been seen there, particularly with dairy cows. Golden Bay is another area to spot these paddock birds. Willie reports 45-50 **little black shags** have arrived in the Waimea.

DORIS' DAY

9 July 2012

She was found washed up on the beach, barely alive, on Lennox Head, NSW, many miles from her home. Storms had been ravishing the coast for several weeks with recurring low pressure systems and other storm birds had landed exhausted, But this lovely **gannet** from the sub Colony on Farewell Spit was rescued and put into the care of Rochelle from Australian Seabird Rescue Inc WildlifeLink Sanctuary, Ballina, with no apparent injuries.

PROFILE

Previously

known as: Doris

Currently

known as: Donnell

Gender: Male

DNA results: from Lennox Head Veterinary Clinic A79272

Age: unknown

Born: unknown

Juvenile years: unknown

Adult years: first recorded on 15 October 1999, Farewell Spit

Body adornment: leg bands - M 70565; BX80

Sightings 2000, 2007, 2008, 2009 - Always on sub colony

Family: recorded with chick 14 January 2012 :

Associate: Rob Schuckard

Travel: Found in washed out condition in NSW, 9 July 2012

Weight: As at 12 July, 2.8kg

Achievements: A significant record of being in Australia in July as the first recovery of an adult gannet travelling over the Tasman after breeding at Farewell Spit. BX80 has been in the company of another gannet, at WildlifeLink Sanctuary, feeding well and recovering. Rochelle says having two of a kind is a positive thing for both individuals.

Epilogue: Donnell was last seen flying east from Lennox Head on the North coast of NSW on Friday 20 July 2012.
We wish him well on his flight back to Farewell Spit!

ROYAL SPOONBILLS

First reported from Castlepoint in 1861, confirmed breeding at Okarito in 1949, a count of 49 during a cattle egret survey in 1979, their own census in 1991 with 240 birds and 950 of these stately birds were spotted in their last census in 2000. Now there are 15 breeding colonies mostly in the South Island with winter dispersal northwards. Twelve years on from the last count, OSNZ is conducting a full winter census in August, when it's easier to count birds on their roosting sites. Most NZ regions will be counted on 12 August but here in Nelson we've set aside **19 August** with a more suitable high tide. All known roosting sites in both Golden and Tasman Bays will be covered. If you're interested in joining the count at a site near you (or further afield) please contact Gail 03 5450456, stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz

THINKING ABOUT SPRING

A Notice from Pauline

Motueka is once again having a celebration to welcome the return of the **godwits** to our estuaries. We would like as many OSNZ members as possible to bring along their binos and telescopes to let the public see the godwits feeding in the estuary.

Date: Sunday 23 September

Time 10am - 1pm

Place Old Wharf Motueka Quay Rd. (This is on the Motueka waterfront near the wreck of the Janie Seddon. Turn right at the clock tower)

There will also be various artists and exhibitions along the waterfront, and a driftwood or sand sculpture session at the beginning of the Sandspit.

In the following week there will be a lecture by Rob Schuckard titled “**Bar-tailed Godwits in Top of South Island.....an OSNZ brief of long term monitoring**”

Date: Wednesday 26 September

Time 7.30pm

Place SeniorNet rooms, 42 Pah Street. (Turn right into Pah St, after the 3rd pedestrian crossing, opposite Guthrie Bowron building. SeniorNet rooms are down a driveway on the right, after Memorial park cricket grounds. \$2 donation includes supper after the talk.

Willie sent in this photo from the Waimea.

A good view to compare the size difference between:

black-fronted tern and little tern.



PROGRAMME 2012

We meet usually on the 1st Monday of the month, at 7.15 pm in the "Solander Building", Cross Quay, off 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, 6 August
Indoor meeting

Speaker: **Dave Butler**
'Adventures in Bird Conservation
In Samoa'

August 19

Royal Spoonbill Count
Gail, stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz
03 5450456

Monday, 3 September
Indoor meeting

Speaker: **Peter Gaze**

Sunday, 23 September
10.00am – 1.00pm

Motueka, Welcome the Godwits
Old Wharf Quay Road

Wednesday, 26 September
Lecture, 7.30pm

Rob Schuckard
Motueka SeniorNet Rooms

Not in Rebecca's back yard, but from her travels in Australia. 'Osprey'



Thanks to those who contributed.

Contributions for the August newsletter: please email or phone by 25 August,
Gail 035450456, stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz

