



## NELSON REGION NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2014

Regional Representative  
Gail D. Quayle,  
6 Tresillian Ave,  
Atawhai . 7010

Regional Recorder  
Robin Toy,  
78C Little Sydney Rd  
Motueka

[stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz)

Ph 035450456

[twotoys@xtra.co.nz](mailto:twotoys@xtra.co.nz)

**Spring days** have their ups and downs, sunshine and warmth, then a brisk wind off snow from the mountains; I thought I'd have time to get the Sept newsletter out before the end of the month, but it turned out I didn't; and the godwits are arriving but inclement weather caused the cancellation of their public welcome to Motueka.

The day after the cancellation Sept 29 Rob Schuckard visited the Spit and sent in this report -

"Went today to Motueka Sandspit. Godwits most certainly have arrived ; 950 in total (1801 during February Count). A lot of the birds had very iron stained orange faces (and colour bands). Also, 2 juveniles.

Birds of interest:

- 2 male, 1 female with orange flag – Victoria Australia
- 1 male White/Green – Top of South Island
- 1 male with green flag (and metal ring on tarsus) – Queensland
- 1 big orange Engraved Leg Flag AKA – Victoria Australia
- 1 male with remnants of breeding plumage 3BRYB – Banded by us in Awarua Bay near Invercargill 11<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and last seen in 2011. This bird obviously is stopping over on its way down south.
- 1 male with BLACK M4 – Banded in Alaska
- 1 female Orange/Yellow – Banded in South Australia
- 1 female 3WBWR – Banded Motueka Sandspit 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006
- 1 male 1WBRB – Banded Motueka Sandspit 9<sup>th</sup> March 2005
- 1 male 3 WWYR – Banded Motueka Sandspit 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005

Birds were very approachable. All went up in the air when the floatplane was flying over. They didn't like that very much. Also, very low number of territorial Banded Dotterels, 1 pair by dog sign and 2 separate individuals up to beginning of spit. A total of 14 Red Knots have also arrived."

### **BATTLE FOR THE BANDED RAIL**

Banded rail evidence was seen in seven areas around Waimea Estuary during the survey on 6 September organised by the Waimea Inlet Forum. OSNZ members were among the 30 participants led by Graeme Elliot looking for footprint and other sign.

### **WEKA WOES** – coming from residents rather than the wekas!

Several adults are terrorising cats in Brookland's Road. Atawhai, (last month weka v cat in Moana Ave), weka are boldly entering kitchens uninvited, helping themselves to inside cat food, outside goldfish, and generally starting to make a nuisance of themselves. Still, I'd love to hear them outside my house of an evening. Half grown chicks have been seen already in Saxtons Road, and Tophouse.

**ERRATA:** Last month's photo of bellbirds should have been credited to Tama Wells, not Smith, my apologies Tama.

Welcome Swallow nest building on Atawhai Church



Photo Rebecca Bowater, 10 Sept 2014

### **THINGS TO DO IN OCTOBER**

**Go online for** a recent media release 'Migration of Shorebirds Under Threat'  
<http://osnz.org.nz/node/550>

**Listen out** for shining cuckoo, Amber from Tophouse heard their calls late September.

**Look for** red-billed gull colonies and nesting spoonbills.

**Read** an article or two in '*Notornis*',- the ones you didn't have time for previously.

**From the Pied Shag colony at Delaware Bay Sept 2014**



**Photo by Til Melis 2014.**

**A REQUEST:** Is there anyone able to help out here please.

From Rob Schuckard

'I am trying to sort an issue of transport for Gabriel Machovsky, the gannet man from Australia. Despite a very unsuccessful last season (he almost lost all of his equipment) Gabriel has been able to secure funding around his project to work with gannets for another year. The project will aim to get more GPS information about the birds whereabouts during feeding trips but also will try to get more video footage from the birds while they are feeding. New cameras (smaller and more sophisticated ) have been developed and the technology will bring a new range of possibilities for research, conservation and management.

At this stage, Gabriel will arrive from Australia at 28/12/14 at 16:00 in Nelson and he will meet Farewell Spit tours in Collingwood at 07:00 am at 29/12/14. The bus from the airport already left at 15:00 so he is asking if there will be someone able to provide transport on 28/12/14 between Nelson and Collingwood?

At this stage there are two people and some gear and food involved.

## **PROGRAMME 2014**

We meet **usually** on the 1st Monday of the month, at 7.15 pm in the "Solander Fisheries 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 October**  
**Indoor meeting**

**Floor Spots**

**Saturday 4 October**

**Talk by David Melville**  
**Senior net rooms Motueka**

**Monday 3 November**  
**Indoor meeting**

**Nelson**

**Wader Count**  
**7,8,9, November**

**Tasman and Golden Bays**  
**Rob Schuckard**

Thank you to this month's contributors.

Contributions for October newsletter by 24th, please email, snailmail, or phone:  
Gail 035450456, [stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz)