



NELSON REGION NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

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Growing up near the Wangapeka Valley we would hear the first **shining cuckoo** of the season around Father's birthday, 22 September. Later, but not all years, he would also hear them around that time, close to the Wakapuaka Cemetery. True to form our little harbinger of spring has been well reported throughout our region during the last two weeks. And my sister heard one in Katikati last week. Golden Bay: 20 Sept, *I heard the first shining cuckoo of the year and then had a good view of one right out in the open on a willow tree branch at the start of the wooden walkway down the end of Selwyn Street here in Pohara KG*; Rabbit Island: earlier this week, one calling middayish. WC.

WEKA IN THE SOUNDS

Earlier on this month a good attendance of members heard Ralph Powlesland give an informative and interesting talk on the ecology and biology of these fascinating birds near his patch in the Sounds. Ralph's study dedication and scientific expertise shone through, even changing his nocturnal patterns so as to observe theirs. Thanks for a great presentation Ralph.

IN THE BAY - The Golden one, that is

From Ken George: 23 Sept

"There's the usual good amount of spring activity over here in the Bay.....the **tui** are getting bolshy, there are **kereru** all over the place, I've counted 6 of them in one tree at a couple of different locations. Plus there were 5 **cattle egret** in a tight little group, standing in with the cows in a dairy paddock to the right of the main road just before the Takaka River bridge going north. I see them regularly here in the Bay at this time of the year, but not as many as 5 in one group before. We also have at least a pair still here from the group of **mute swans** which spend the winter here on the farm at Motupipi. Apparently the **godwits** are starting to appear here in Golden Bay; I ran into a friend in town this morning and she said they are coming in – some good numbers back already."

From Mac Harwood:

"Recently saw 14 **white faced herons** feeding 100m from our home. Never seen so many in a flock" (Cobb Valley Road).

MYSTERY PHOTO

Where is this new sculpture and how many bird species are depicted?
Bit of a trick question, poetic licence may have been employed!

Photo by Benjamin Kennard, Sept 2015.



Woodn't it be lovely –

To have **Australian wood ducks** confirmed as a new breeding bird for NZ, especially in our region. In January two adults and two juveniles were recorded on private property in the Tasman area but not confirmed as breeding there and recently on several occasions different combinations of one female and three male adults have been reported in the same vicinity.

But do we need this?

Again from Ken George: –23 Sept “darndest thing – I stopped in at the Lake Killarney here in Takaka late last week; I have a look in regularly to see if the resident dabchick is still there (it is) and got a bit of a surprise. After a cold start to the day, the sun had come out and there, sunning itself right out of the water on a half-submerged log in the middle of the lake, was a dinner plate size tortoise!!”

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We welcome new junior member Sophie Mephan introduced to the Society by Amber.

Our President David Lawrie will be in Nelson next week and hopefully will attend our upcoming meeting on Monday night. Come along and say hello to him and gloat about Nelson birds with or without your photos.

PROGRAMME 2015

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.

Red Billed Gull Colony Counts

this breeding season

Monday 5 October

Indoor evening meeting

Monday 2 November

Indoor evening meeting

**Sunday 15 November
Motueka**

Welcome the Godwits

27-30 November

**Top of the South Wader
Count**

Thank you to this month's contributors.

Contributions for October newsletter by 23 October, please email, snailmail, or phone: 03 5450456, stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz
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