



*Newsletter of the Northland Region of the  
Ornithological Society of New Zealand - trading as **Birds New Zealand***

## **July 2015      Amokura 113**

(Published in February, July and October of each year)

**MEETINGS** of the Northland Branch of the O.S.N.Z. are held each month on the second Thursday, for the period FEBRUARY to DECEMBER.

**TIME:** 7-30p.m.

**VENUE:** Founders Room, Alzheimers Society, 148 Corks Road, Tikipunga, Whangarei.

**COST:** A donation of \$3-00 per person per meeting is requested toward the cost of Hall hire, supper and the production and distribution of "Amokura".

**ALL WELCOME**

### **PROGRAMME TO OCTOBER 2015**

#### **JULY**

AMOKURA 113

11 WEST COAST BEACH PATROL

9 MEETING – 7-30p.m. Speaker – Dai Morgan – Environmental Scientist at Northtec

14 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL (Meet at the Kensington Carpark)

#### **AUGUST**

8 WEST COAST BEACH PATROL

13 MEETING – 7-30p.m. Speaker – Peter and Helen Todd – Trip to Africa

18 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL (Meet at the Kensington Carpark)

22 Kaipara Wader Census - High Tide 11:16am 4.1m

29 Whangarei Wader Census – High Tide 1:46pm 2.7m

#### **SEPTEMBER**

5 WEST COAST BEACH PATROL

10 MEETING – 7-30p.m. Speaker – Bernie Buhler – Limestone Is Ranger.

15 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL (Meet at the Kensington Carpark)

22 Caspian Tern nesting survey

#### **OCTOBER**

8 MEETING – 7-30p.m. Speaker – Vivian Lepper – DoC Employee, Fairy Terns and Pateke.

10 WEST COAST BEACH PATROL

13 EAST COAST BEACH PATROL (Meet at the Kensington Carpark)

#### **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Janet Snell

438-5737

#### **SECRETARY**

Ruth Crockett

435-0954

#### **TREASURER**

Kevin Hayes

437-6470

#### **REGIONAL RECORDER**

Tony Beauchamp

436-2224

#### **REGIONAL REPORTER**

Vacant

#### **AMOKURA EDITOR**

Hilton Ward

946-0074

## **FEBRUARY**

### **LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

A healthy number of 15 attended the February OSNZ Branch meeting. As usual there was lively talk about interesting sightings. It was a pleasure to welcome a new member, Bev Chitty to the group. Living at McLeods Bay we look forward to interesting sightings from Bev.

It was also great to hear that we have new members from North Tech. Laurence Sullivan, Hayley Sharp, Jenny Gillanders, Ben Lovell, Darren Gash and Nathan Arcus. Welcome all.

## **MARCH**

### **LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

Our Branch held its Annual General Meeting on March 12th. The position of Regional Reporter still stands vacant. As a result our news is not getting into the Birds New Zealand magazine. After doing a sterling job since 2012 Janet Snell is soon to be Standing Down as Regional Representative. That position too will be vacant. Please contact Janet those who think they may be able to help here. If you aren't sure what the work might entail for either of the positions, contact Janet.

Hilton Ward did a slide presentation about their wetland at Old Mill Ln, Ngunguru and now completed boardwalk over it. With access to the wetland greatly improved and with the addition of a movement sensing camera they are discovering bird life not previously seen at Old Mill Ln such as Spotless Crake, Pateke and Grey Duck. They have also captured the Banded rail and Fernbird on camera.

## **APRIL**

### **LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

Some comment from our meeting on the 9th April :

- Colin Miskelly, the Project Manager and Editor of New Zealand Birds Online (Follow the link <http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/about-the-project>) in a communication commented on the popularity of this OSNZ excellent web site. There are thousands of photos on the site but please send your best. There is room for more.
- Red Billed Gull Survey – The Northland Region of OSNZ does not have the resources to survey these sites. Especially the outer Islands.

The meeting was followed by the showing of two Wild South videos: Award-winning, international filmmaker NHNZ has enthralled millions of viewers for more than three decades with their documentaries.

**SNARES - GIFT OF THE SEA (1984)** The little-visited Snares Islands offer sanctuary to millions of birds, making it a remarkable wildlife treasury and an idyllic home for its residents.

**THE MANGROVES (1984)** Take a journey through the mangrove swamps. Maligned as a pest weed by some, but to others a diverse and splendidly organised ecosystem, the mangroves feed and offer shelter to many fascinating marine species.

## **MAY**

### **LOCAL HAPPENINGS**

Firstly our condolences go to Allison Howell. Sad to hear that husband Laurie recently passed away.

At the meeting on 14th May Pat Miller spoke about his kayaking much of Northlands East coast with interest in birds and in particular Red Billed Gull colonies. In the presentation he used a large map displaying colonies that he has found and other noted colonies with bird numbers in them. Of interest was the number of smaller colonies that had no birds and others that are new demonstrating the difficulty in attempting to get a reliable count of Red Billed Gulls. One of the larger colonies he visited is at Peach Cove on Whangarei Heads. Thank you Pat. Your talk certainly generated interesting discussion.

Following was the usual sightings chat and an interesting discussion on Phooks. A Phook is a cross between a Pheasant and a domestic hen – Chook. A little research discovered the following from Wikipedia follows:

**Gamebird hybrids** are the result of crossing species of game birds, including ducks, with each other and with domestic poultry. These hybrid species may occur both naturally or through the intervention of man.

Charles Darwin described hybrids of game birds and domestic fowl in *The Variation of Animals And Plants Under Domestication*:

Mr. Hewitt, who has had great experience in crossing tame cock-pheasants with fowls belonging to five breeds, gives as the character of all 'extraordinary wildness' (13/42. 'The Poultry Book' by Tegetmeier 1866 pages 165, 167.); but I have myself seen one exception to this rule. Mr. S. J. Salter (13/43. 'Natural History Review' 1863 April page 277.) who raised a large number of hybrids from a bantam-hen by Gallus sonneratii, states that 'all were exceedingly wild.' [...] utterly sterile male hybrids from the pheasant and the fowl act in the same manner, "their delight being to watch when the hens leave their nests, and to take on themselves the office of a sitter." (13/57. 'Cottage Gardener' 1860 page 379.) [...] Mr. Hewitt gives it as a general rule with fowls, that crossing the breed increases their size. He makes this remark after stating that hybrids from the pheasant and fowl are considerably larger than either progenitor: so again, hybrids from the male golden pheasant and female common pheasant "are of far larger size than either parent-bird." (17/39. *Ibid* 1866 page 167; and 'Poultry Chronicle' volume 3 1855 page 15.)"

Now all can believe.

## JUNE

### LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Following are notes from our June meeting:

**Beach Patrol Scheme** Notes from Lloyd Ester, Southland. He receives counts from the Beach Patrol Scheme. The 2013 results have been collated and submitted to Southern Bird for publication. 2014 produced no significant wrecks,. The largest count being 50 juvenile Mottled Petrels on Mason Bay in the predictable seasonal mortality. Sooty Shearwaters had a relatively successful breeding season and there was only a handful of casualties recorded from southern beaches.

The figures as at 12th April 2015:

- Cards or forms returned. – 193. Much less than previous years.
- Birds - 1,291. Less than previous years.
- Kilometres – 789. Much less than previous years.

Figures will increase as more records are sent in.

### **National Wader Census 2014**

**Winter Census** - A total of 122,822 waders of 24 species were recorded during the June / July wader census. Up from 107,439 in June 2013. There was good national coverage. Numbers of Red Knot and bar-Tailed Godwit were considerably lower than 2013 and about 17,000 more South Island Pied Oystercatchers were counted.

Rarities included 2 Eastern Curlew, 2 Great Knot, 1 Sanderling, 1 Marsh Sandpiper and 1 Terek Sandpiper.

**Summer Census** – National coverage was good with a total of 130,964 waders of 28 species counted in November / December 2014. Numbers were down from 141,761 in 2013. Rarities in this census included 1 Great Knot, 2 Wandering Tattler, 2 Marsh Sandpiper and 1 Grey Plover.

### **Nest Recording Scheme 2014**

Only lightly used over the past season with 6 records received from David Melville from the Nelson Region.

They are: Song Thrush - 2, Blackbird - 1, Pukeko - 1, Goldfinch - 1, Chaffinch 1

Perhaps Northland Region members could count nests in Spring.

**A new Field Guide** of New Zealand Birds published by Heather and Robertson. Available at Whitcouls and other bookstores nationwide.

**Public Liability Insurance** The OSNZ has a Public Liability Insurance Policy. It covers activities undertaken by members providing it is announced in a Regional Newsletter beforehand. Janet Snell has a copy of the Schedule if anyone would like to read it.

**Speakers** From Mangawhai, Jane Vaughan, “The Fairy Tern” and Heather Rogan representing the Fairy Tern Trust spoke at the June meeting. Most of the Fairy Terns go to the Kaipara Harbour during winter then return to their East coast nesting sites in early spring. These sites are:

- The Southern end of the Kaipara Harbour called the Papakanui Spit
- Pakiri
- Mangawhai Spit
- Waipu Spit
- Te Arai Stream

Two eggs are usually laid in October / November with both adults sharing the nest duties and feeding the chicks. They like to nest in the same place each time; one with either shell or sand with a 360° clear view. They feed on live fish.

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## Future Guest Speakers

We have some interesting Speakers for our meetings arranged through to October. They are:

**July** - Dai Morgan, an Applied and Environmental Sciences tutor from Northtec.

From the Northtec Web Dai states that *working as a tutor in the Conservation and Environmental Management group is my dream job as I am very passionate about both education and conservation – my position allows me to work in both of these areas. My main research interests revolve around behavioural ecology, wildlife management, and ornithology. Therefore, just about everything that has legs, wings or fins is okay in my book!*

**August** – Peter and Helen Todd will be talking about their trip to Africa.

**September** – Bernie Buhler, the Ranger from Limestone (Matakohe) Island will talk about his special interests on the Island.

**October** – Vivienne Lepper, Pateke Ranger for the Department of Conservation will talk about Fairy Terns and Pateke.

**We are now calling for applications for this year's "Birds NZ Research Fund".** Visit

<http://osnz.org.nz/news/call-applications-birds-nz-research-fund>

The application form and details are available on <http://osnz.org.nz/studies-and-schemes/birds-nz-research-fund>

Please let people in your region know and mention this in your newsletters and local meetings!

Phil and Steph - can you please spread the word around the universities!

Ingrid Hutzler, Executive Officer for Birds New Zealand

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## Stories - Adventures – Yarns - Sightings

Various sightings by Janet Snell:

31st January 2015 – At Taupiri Bay I observed an adult Kingfisher sitting on a branch near the entrance to a nest on a cliff face. It flew to and landed at the entrance with food in its beak then turned and took off back to the branch with the food still in its beak. It then flew back to the nest a second time with the food and very quickly flew back to the branch with nothing in its beak. Fast Food Delivery as we know it has nothing on a kingfisher.

14th February 2015 - Observed a flock of 21 sparrows pecking at seed heads on a single paspalum plant in the Collingwood St parking area at 8:30am. After five minutes they then flew off together into a shrub in the nearby gardens to sun themselves.

31st February 2015 - Janet observed a White Faced Heron and some Pukeko having an argument regarding ownership and feeding rights to a patch of swamp in the campground at Puriri bay. Brother Allan, wife Sheila, Julie, Janet and Beryl also watched a pipit feeding off insects around the toilet block as it flicked its tail and jumped for spiders in webs around the walls.

Californian Quail - 29th January 2015 – Over three days there were two parent Californian Quail with one chubby half grown chick at the DOC Camping Ground at Puriri Bay, Whangaruru.

1st February 2015 – Have noticed a lot of Californian Quail adults with chicks late this summer. One with about 12 chicks about to cross Bland Bay Rd. We stopped the car and Julie herded them off the road into the scrub.

27th February – Observed a hen Californian Quail at Urutiti DOC camp ground with four very young chicks.  
28th February 2015 – On Papich Rd, One Tree Point by the car park two parent Californian Quail were observed with about eight young chicks.

These sightings appear fairly late with such young chicks. Do they have more than one clutch each season or do they usually have late clutches? I read in the Otago Region February Newsletter an article suggesting that it has been a bonus year for Californian Quail. Has it been the same up in Northland? I have not been able to find any data on their nesting habits.

*Editors Note – Wikipedia Quote - The female usually lays approximately twelve eggs. Once hatched, the young associate with both adults. Often, families group together, into multifamily "communal broods" which include at least two females, multiple males and many offspring. Males associated with families are not always the genetic fathers. In good years, females will lay more than one clutch, leaving the hatched young with the associated male and laying a new clutch, often with a different associated male.*

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## Of Note

- We are now calling for applications for this year's "Birds NZ Research Fund".  
<http://osnz.org.nz/news/call-applications-birds-nz-research-fund>

The application form and details are available on <http://osnz.org.nz/studies-and-schemes/birds-nz-research-fund>.

Ingrid Hutzler, Executive Officer for Birds New Zealand

- Sarah Jamieson has prepared a course of lecture notes for adult Speakers to deliver to interested audiences. View Sarah's profile at [Birds NZ](http://Birds NZ)

This course was created upon the request of Bird New Zealand's council. Its primary purpose is to increase people's ornithological knowledge and ideally enable them to become more engaged with them. The course will be freely available to interested parties. The envisioned audience is the general public with basis understanding of biology.

It consists of seven lectures, each running 40-60 minutes. Subjects covered include bird ID, behaviours, physiology, conservation, and morphology. I also provide instructions for many of Birds New Zealand schemes (e.g., moult scheme, nest records, E-bird, 5 min bird counts). For many of the slides, in the notes sections, I have included what I might say while teaching the course. This information is provided to assist someone who was planning on teaching it, they are not meant to be used in lieu of an instructor. Below are the introductory and outline slide for each class (breeding is actually covered in 2 classes).

	
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## Breeding Season I

Prepared by Sarah Jamieson for Birds New Zealand



All photo are from  
nzbirdsonline.org.nz,  
unless otherwise noted

## Breeding Season

### Part 1: Reproduction

- Copulation
- Gonads
- Egg Morphology
- Nests

### Part 2: Behaviour

- Mating Systems
- Parental Care



Neil Fitzgerald

## Feathers & Moul

Prepared by Sarah Jamieson for Birds New Zealand



All photo are from  
nzbirdsonline.org.nz,  
unless otherwise noted

## Feathers & Moul

- Feathers
  - Structure
  - Type
  - Function
- Types of moul and function of moul
- Costs of Moul
  - Energetic- feather production
  - Poor insulation
  - Safety- decreased flight performance
- How to record wing moul



Terry Greene

## Migration

Prepared by Sarah Jamieson for Birds New Zealand



All photo are from  
nzbirdsonline.org.nz,  
unless otherwise noted

## Migration

- What is migration?
  - Types of migration
  - Staging versus Stopover
- Optimal migration
  - Energy
  - Safety
  - Timing
- Other New Zealand migrants



Tony Whitehead



## Conference Notes - Birds NZ Conference in Blenheim - May 2015

Items discussed at the Regional Representatives meeting on May 29th.

**How and where to archive electronic data from surveys.** The idea of a local museum or library was accepted after much discussion.

**Are some officer jobs too big for one person?** E.g. Editor, Birds NZ, Membership Secretary. Should some positions be paid positions? If we use direct debiting would the work load reduce? Council is reluctant to offer paid employment.

**Discussion on the National Red Billed Gull survey.** Graham Taylor and Peter Frost are happy with the response from RR's so far. It was suggested that involvement should be encouraged with DoC, fishing boats and Coast Guard.

**Mana Is Teens Field Camp.** An overview of this course was presented by Sharon Anderson who ran the camp. It was very successful although weather hampered many of the activities. Age range of 15 ~ 18 years seemed a good choice. Should there be a change of venue next year? Do we have people prepared to carry on with a camp each year. There was much discussion and enthusiasm for another camp to encourage young people to join OSNZ.

### Membership and general Discussion:

We need to encourage interested people to become fully paid up members

The analysis of the Birds NZ Subscription / Notornis survey that was sent to members is to be published in Birds NZ and on the website. This analysis highlights the key factors and summarises the most common comments but with no final decision.

### Field Trips:

There were four field trips offered - Two full day trips at Queen Charlotte Sound and an Albatross encounter at

Kaikura and two half day trips at Wairau Lagoon in Blenheim area and Falcon Trust at Bancroft Vineyards at Blenheim. I chose the Falcon Trust trip and thoroughly enjoyed it. The vineyard has a tame Falcon called *Fern* controlled by her "mistress" who talked to her then to us and explained that they hoped *Fern* would encourage other Falcons to the area to deter small bird from damaging the grapes. Bancroft Estate also have a big walk in cage where several young Falcons are being reared to an age old enough to be released. It is hoped that they will stay in the vicinity of the vineyards.

**Lists of the conference speakers follows.**



## Birds New Zealand Scientific Conference Programme

Time	Day One: Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2015
0900-0910	Conference information
0910-0915	<b>Session One: From the beginning – the history of Birds New Zealand</b> <b>Chair: Mike Bell</b>
0915-0930	<i>Formal Opening:</i> David Lawrie; President, Birds New Zealand.
0930-1000	<i>Keynote Address:</i> <b>Colin Miskelly</b> - From rugged individuals to digital networking – a brief history of Birds New Zealand.
1000-1030	<i>Keynote Address:</i> <b>Elizabeth (Biz) Bell</b> - Trials and tribulations of field ornithology: looking at 75 years of day trips and longer expeditions to watch birds.
1030-1100	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
1100-1115	<b>Session Two: Thinking big – Birds NZ National Projects.</b> <b>Chair: Phil Battley</b>
1115-1145	<i>Keynote address:</i> <b>Phil Battley</b> - Wandering the tidelines: wader studies and the OSNZ.
1145-1200	<b>Ian Armitage</b> - New developments in the Beach Patrol Scheme for recording and reporting information about seabirds found dead on New Zealand coastlines.
1200-1215	<b>Sharon Alderson</b> - Mana Island Field Camp 2015 – Worth doing again???
1215-1230	<b>Peter Frost</b> and <b>Graeme Taylor</b> - Is the red-billed gull population in New Zealand declining or just shifting around?
1230-1330	<b>LUNCH</b>
1330-1335	<b>Session Three: The glue of Birds New Zealand - Regional Projects.</b> <b>Chair: Peter Frost</b>
1335-1400	<b>Peter Frost</b> and <b>Ingrid Hutzler</b> - A review of current Birds New Zealand regional research activities.
1400-1415	<i>South Auckland:</i> <b>David Lawrie</b> , <b>Gillian Vaughan</b> and <b>Tony Habraken</b> - Wader counts in the Manakau Harbour over 50 years.
1415-1430	<i>Marlborough:</i> <b>Claudia Mischler</b> - Not just another gull...
1430-1445	<i>Auckland:</i> <b>Mel Galbraith</b> , <b>Gwen Pulham</b> , <b>Judy Bendall</b> and <b>Michael Taylor</b> - South Kaipara Lakes (Auckland) – surveys and changes since the 1960's.
1445-1500	<i>Wellington:</i> <b>Geoff de Lisle</b> - Preliminary observations from a survey of shags in the Wellington Region.
1500-1515	<i>Nelson:</i> <b>Willie Cook</b> - Caspian tern studies in Nelson.
1515-1530	<i>National:</i> <b>Duncan Watson</b> - Birding Checklist Smartphone Application
1530-1600	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
1600-1800	<b>Birds New Zealand 75<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting</b>
1800-1900	Happy Hour at the Scenic Hotel Marlborough
19.00 to end	Informal Dinner at the Scenic Hotel Marlborough



Time	Day Two: Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2015
0900-10.30	<b>Workshops</b> WS1: Mist netting [Please note: 0630 departure from MCC carpark] WS2: <i>eBird</i> [Please note: 0830 departure from MCC carpark] WS3: Measurements of birds – Marlborough Room, SHM WS4: OSNZ Projects – Wairau Hall, MCC
1030-1100	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
1100-1105	Conference notices and information
1105-1110	<b>Session Four: Looking ahead: the future of Birds New Zealand</b> Chair: Bruce McKinlay
1110-1125	<i>Keynote Address:</i> <b>Bruce McKinlay</b> , David Lawrie & Ian Armitage - A Strategy for the Society: 2015-2024.
1125-1145	<i>Keynote Address:</i> <b>David Melville</b> - Birds New Zealand: Making a difference.
1145-1200	<b>Stefanie Grosser</b> - The students and the Birds (New Zealand) - A study of a mutually beneficial relationship
1200-1215	<b>Graeme A. Taylor</b> , Colin M. Miskelly, Helen Gummer and Mike Bell - Seabird translocations in New Zealand – achievements and lessons learned from the past
1215-1230	<b>Chris Gaskin</b> - Birds New Zealand and Important Bird Areas.
1230-1330	<b>LUNCH</b>
1330-1340	<b>Session Five: Members contributed papers</b> Chair: Alan Tennyson
1340-14:00	<b>Alan Tennyson</b> and Jamie Wood - Holocene fossils reveal extent of human-caused devastation on the Pitt Island (Chatham Islands) avifauna.
1400-1415	<b>Kyle Morrison</b> , Phil Battley and David Thompson - Native predators are causing the continued decline of an Eastern Rockhopper Penguin colony on Campbell Island.
1415-1430	<b>Kerry-Jayne Wilson</b> and Helen Otley - Research and Management priorities for New Zealand Penguins
1430-1445	<b>Judith Nicholson</b> , N. Adams & M. Galbraith - Water birds at Waatarua Reserve 2009 - 15.
1445-1500	<b>Richard Holdaway</b> , M. Christian, O. Evans, B. Evans, P. Davidson, P. Sagar, D. Thompson, A. Greer, T. Horton & R. Phillips - Migration and breeding season movements of Norfolk Island wedge-tailed shearwaters.
1500-1515	<b>Bruce McKinlay</b> , D. Lawrie & K. Woodley - Migratory bird flyways – priorities for NZ.
1515-1530	<b>Paul Scofield</b> & Vanesa De Pietri - <i>eBird</i> and the Birds New Zealand/OSNZ: Seven Years On
1530-1600	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
1600-1615	<b>Susan Anderson</b> - The Ohau black-fronted terns – a success story?
1615-1630	<b>Nick Ledgard</b> and <b>Bev Alexander</b> - Positive trends in bird numbers on the Ashley/Rakahuri river.
1630-1645	<b>Aalbert Rebergen</b> - Annual productivity and survival in a marked population of banded dotterels.
1645-1700	<b>Catriona MacLeod</b> , G. Fitzgerald, M. Brake, P. Wehi and A. Gormley - Building trustworthy biodiversity indicators
1700-1715	<b>Rob Schuckard</b> - New Zealand King Shag ( <i>Leucocarbo carunculatus</i> ) – An update.
1715-1730	<b>John Cockrem</b> - Corticosterone responses and personality in birds: individual variation and the ability to cope with environmental change
1730-1900	<b>HAPPY HOUR &amp; OPEN FORUM</b>
19.00 to end	<b>Formal Conference Dinner – Marlborough Convention Centre</b> <i>Entertainment: Birding Quiz Night</i>

Compiled by **David Crockett**

Strong NW Winds - 25 knots

### Participants:

M Bellingham	P Cozens	L Forrest	J Hargreaves	J Hudson
K Miller	J Pyke	P Smith	J Snell	P Yardley



15 June 2014		8:50		Tide		2.7 m		fine calm	
Site	North shore	Airport	Portland	Skull creek	Takahiwai	Marsden Bay	Port Whangarei	Waipu Estuary	Ruakaka estuary
Pied Shag								13	1
Little Black Shag	6						1	9	
Little shag				1				8	
White Faced Heron	11								9
White Heron			5						
Reef Heron								2	
Spoonbill	22				94			11	
South Island pied oystercatcher	168			270	260	198	216		20
Variable oystercatcher	26			49	12	102	15	36	81
Pied Stilt	9			46	127	34	1		
New Zealand dotterel		20		2		7		18	9
Banded Dotterel		564						17	
Pacific Golden Plover									
Spur Winged Plover	4	4	2	2					
Turnstone								2	
Red Knot					40				
Bar tailed godwit				192	78	2			12
Black-backed gull	42		54		1	5	15	15	72
Red billed gull	61		316	13		48			20
Caspian tern	1		1	2		3	9	1	7
White Fronted tern	24								27
Black swan					51			8	
mallard	4			4	23				
Paradise Duck				1	6			5	
Crested tern								1	
counters	Margaret Dowdell, Katrina Hansen, Paulene Smith, Kevin Hayes, Janel Snell, Anne McCracken, Marion Robinson, Tony Beauchamp								



22 February 2015				Tide			3 m	fine calm	
Site	North shore	Airport	Portland	Skull creek	Takahiwai	Marsden Bay	Port Whangarei	Waipu	Ruakaka
Black shag	2								
Pied Shag			13	10				26	7
Little shag								10	
White Faced Heron	28		16	10	1				
Reef Heron								1	
South Island pied oystercatcher	137			502		59	222		
Variable oystercatcher	37		5	66		277	130	143	35
Pied Stilt	13		101	243		11		6	21
New Zealand dotterel				27				49	17
Banded Dotterel								41	53
Wrybill						2			
Spur Winged Plover	2	15							
Turnstone								3	
Red Knot						290		42	300
Asiatic whimbrel						2			
Bar tailed godwit				1		170		82	2300
Black-backed gull	43		294			2	1	84	145
Red-billed gull	142		480	3		108	20	9	62
Caspian tern	3			18		2	11	3	2
White-fronted tern	2					1		198	180
small terns									
New Zealand fairy tern								1	
Paradise Duck			11	2					
counters									
Margaret Dowdell, Gerard Pilon, Paulene Smith, Prue Cousins, Janel Snell, Julie Hudson, Tony Beauchamp									

**28 November 2014**

28 November 2014				Tide		2.6 m			
Site	North shore	Airport	Portland	Skull creek	Takahiwai	Marsden Bay	Port Whangarei	Waipu Estuary	Ruakaka estuary
Black shag					2	6			
Pied Shag							1	19	16
Little Black Shag								1	
Little shag								1	
White Faced Heron	21			5	27			19	1
South Island pied oystercatcher		32		220	300				
Variable oystercatcher	12		2			120		54	16
Pied Stilt	5			14	3			4	
New Zealand dotterel								17	8
Spur Winged Plover	1	4							
Red Knot				50	1000				
Asiatic whimbrel					5				
Bar tailed godwit			180		2500	5		85	17
Black-backed gull	60		116		23	7	5	26	11
Red billed gull	48		30			1400	53	8	4
Caspian tern	1		1		4			5	3
White Fronted tern	9							72	
Black swan								40	
mallard	10					26			4
Counters									
Margaret Dowdell, Katrina Hansen, Paulene Smith, Kevin Hayes, Janel Snell, Tony Beauchamp									

**Members Observations**

<b>Bird</b>	<b>number</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>date</b>	<b>Name</b>
White Faced Heron	1	Puriri Bay	31-Jan-15	Janet Snell
Pukekos		Puriri Bay	31-Jan-15	Janet Snell
Pipit	1	Puriri Bay	31-Jan-15	Janet Snell
Shining Cuckoo	1	McMillan Ave Kamo	20-Nov-14	Ruth & David Crockett
Shining Cuckoo	1	McMillan Ave Kamo	21-Nov-14	Ruth & David Crockett
Shining Cuckoo	1	McMillan Ave Kamo	22-Nov-14	Ruth & David Crockett
Cock Pheasant	1	Whau Valley Rd	27-Nov-14	Ruth & David Crockett
Californian Quayle - Male	1	McMillan Ave Kamo	6-Dec-14	Ruth & David Crockett
South Is Pied Oystercatcher	169	McLeod Bay	11-Feb-15	Bev Chitty
Banded Rail	1	Old Mill Ln - Road drain	6-Feb-15	Melva & Hilton Ward
Tomtit - Female	1	Waiotai wetland bush	17-Feb-15	Hilton Ward
Australasian Bittern	1	Old Mill Ln - Wetland Drain	25-Feb-15	Melva Ward
Eastern Curlew	1	Albany Rd - Marsden Bay end	25-Jan-15	Marion Robinson
South Is Pied Oystercatcher	93	End of Port Rd on Northport cool store rooftop.	25-Jan-15	Janet & Mickey Snell
South Is Pied Oystercatcher	35	End of Port Rd on Hugh Steel pipes	25-Jan-15	Janet & Mickey Snell
Variable Oystercatchers	22	End of Port Rd on Hugh Steel pipes	25-Jan-15	Janet & Mickey Snell
Pied Shag Colony	12	Taupiri Bay - South end	31-Jan-15	Janet Snell & Julie Hudson
Reef Heron	1	Whananaki North	6-Feb-15	Janet Snell
Pippit	1	Puriri Bay Camp - Whangaruru	31-Jan-15	Janet Snell & Julie Hudson
New Zealand Dotterel	30	In a paddock behind Johnson Pt	1-Mar-15	Janet Snell
Banded Dotterel	25	In a paddock behind Johnson Pt	1-Mar-15	Janet Snell
Little Shags	4	On Rock wall - Johnson Pt	1-Mar-15	Janet Snell
Black Backed Gulls	32	Johnson Pt	1-Mar-15	Janet Snell
Bar Tailed Godwit	10	Johnson Pt	1-Mar-15	Janet Snell
White faced Heron	1	Johnson Pt	1-Mar-15	Janet Snell
Variable Oystercatchers	63	Johnson Pt	1-Mar-15	Janet Snell
Grebe	1	Seminoff's Ponds - Uretiti	28-Feb-15	Janet Snell
Harrier Hawk	2	Seminoff's Ponds - Uretiti	28-Feb-15	Janet Snell
Dabchick	2	Seminoff's Ponds - Uretiti	28-Feb-15	Janet Snell
Ducks - Grey / Mallard cross	41	Seminoff's Ponds - Uretiti	28-Feb-15	Janet Snell
Black Shag	1	Seminoff's Ponds - Uretiti	28-Feb-15	Janet Snell
Kaka	1	McMillan Ave- Kamo	11-Feb-15	Ruth & David Crockett
Little Black Shags	2	Waro Lake	11-Mar-15	Ruth & David Crockett
Pied Shags	4	Waro Lake	11-Mar-15	Ruth & David Crockett

Dabchicks	2	Waro Lake	11-Mar-15	Ruth & David Crockett
Red Billed Gulls	25	Waro Lake	11-Mar-15	Ruth & David Crockett
Paradise Ducks	2	Waro Lake	11-Mar-15	Ruth & David Crockett
Australasian Bittern	1	Old Mill Ln wetland	12-Mar-15	Melva Ward
Pateke	2	Percy's Landing - Ngunguru Rd	12-Mar-15	Hilton & Melva Ward
Australasian Brown Quail	6	Old Mill Ln Ngunguru	8-Apr-15	Melva Ward
Australasian Bittern	1	One Tree Point	17-Mar-15	Jean Hawkin
Fernbird	1	Lake Waro	23-Apr-15	Thalia & Nathan
Spotless Crake	1	Old Mill Ln Wetland	16-May-15	Hilton & Melva Ward
Spotted Shag	1	Immature - Queen Charlotte Sound	1-Jun-15	Ruth Crockett
King Shag	30	Queen Charlotte Sound	1-Jun-15	Ruth Crockett
Fluttering Shearwater	100	Queen Charlotte Sound	1-Jun-15	Ruth Crockett
Red Billed Gulls	100++	Salmon Farm - Queen Charlotte Sound	1-Jun-15	Ruth Crockett
Female Greenfinch	1	McMillan Ave, Kamo	11-Jun-15	Ruth & David Crockett
Feral Pigeons (Assorted Colour)	50	On Lawn - Maunu Rd by Bird Recovery Centre	Several days -June	J Hawken
NZ Scaup	3	Lake Waro	5-Jun-15	Nathan & Thalia
NZ Scaup	2	Lake Waro	6-Jun-15	Nathan & Thalia
NZ Dotterel	1	On Tarmac beside plane - Auckland Airport	3-Jun-15	Janet Snell