

MATUKU

WAIKATO REGION NEWSLETTER

Ornithological Society of New Zealand

July, 2009



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Programme

- 15 July – Evening meeting. Graham Saunders, University of Waikato (ex Queens University, Belfast). ‘Birds of Ireland (and differences in the avifauna between Ireland and Britain)’.
- 26 July – Maungatautari. Easy day with Maungatautari expert Chris Smuts Kennedy (0274 172 267).
- 19 August – Evening meeting. Matt Cook, Waikato DoC Area Manager. ‘NZ bird management from a Wildlife Service & DOC management perspective’. Matt has been working with protective species management for over 30yrs in a variety of interesting NZ locations.
- 23 August – Hamilton Gardens. Picnic lunch at Rose Garden section and a wander looking at garden birds.
- 16 September – Evening meeting. David Lawrie, ‘North Korean Waders’.
- 19/20 September - Overnight Pureora Forest. Staying in DOC cabins. One of the best sites in NZ to visit beautiful native forest with Kaka, Kokako, Robins, etc. \$15 a person, bookings required to Bruce Postill 850 8368 (work) or 855 1187 (home).
- 11 October – Miranda ‘Welcome to the Birds’. 10am. One of the highlight events at Miranda with guest speaker.
- 21 October – Evening meeting. TBA
- 18 November – Evening meeting. Keith Woodley from Miranda Naturalists Trust.

Tawharanui – a conference highlight

One of the field trips during the OSNZ AGM in Orewa was to Tawharanui Regional Park. This park is owned by the Auckland Regional Council and is a long peninsula on the east coast, just north of Kawau Is. A pest-proof fence has been built across the peninsula and most pests controlled or eliminated.

Two long-time volunteers gave us a short history of the park, while we enjoyed morning tea. Tim Lovegrove, our trip leader, then took us down to a stony beach to look for NZ Dotterel. We also found a good selection of water birds on a nearby lake – formed from an old quarry.

Following this we drove further into the park and after looking at several pairs of NZ Dotterel on a sweeping

sandy beach, we walked into a regenerating area of coastal forest. Here we saw several pairs of Brown Teal on the stream, and one group swimming in close formation, apparently newly introduced to the park, and not yet dispersed. Among the 27 species I recorded, Bellbird and Tui were plentiful. Also seen were NZ Pigeon, Robin and Fantail. Although Kaka and Red-crowned Parakeet occur in the Park I did not see or hear any that day. Tim told us how, after the breeding season following the elimination of Kiore on nearby Little Barrier, there was a sudden influx of up to 100 Bellbird at Tawharanui!

We returned to Orewa after a wonderful sunny day in the park, just as the first raindrops began to fall.

Betty Seddon

OSNZ Waikato - Lake Census, Te Ko Utu (Cambridge Lake), 20 June 2009

Time: 11.00 – 11.45am

Weather: Fine, cold.

Lake species recorded

Coot	24
Grey Teal	19
Mallard/Mallard cross	1339
Shoveler	9
Duck (domestic breeds)	4
Pukeko	5
Shag, Black	8
Shag, Little	5
Shag, Little Black	3
Swallow, Welcome	1

Other species seen/heard

Blackbird	S
Fantail	S
Goldfinch	S
Eastern Rosella	H
Silvereye	S
Sparrow, House	S
Tui	H

Growth of aquatic vegetation (mostly raupo and rushes) at the northern end of the lake provides a lot of cover. While at first glance there appeared to be relatively few ducks present on the lake a careful search while circling the lake revealed the number shown above, and no doubt there were more that were not seen.

Hugh and Zoë Clifford

Recent Bird Sightings

Black-fronted Dotterel: 2 at Haworth Wetland, Te Aroha, on 23 May. Recorded for the first time (Bev Woolley and OSNZ group).

Black Fantail: 1 at Hamilton Gardens main carpark on 10 April (Mark Hornby). Also at adjoining cemetery on July 2 (Neil Fitzgerald). A black fantail has been at this site for more than three years.

Bittern: At least 1 at Haworth Wetland, Te Aroha, on 23 May (Bev Woolley). 1 at Matarangi beside drain in marshy paddock on 11 May (David Riddell and Annette Taylor). 1 at Te Kowhai, Bedford Rd, on 25 June (Graham McBride).

Cattle Egret: 9 at Tangirau, beside Ngaruawahia Rd, 29 June - 1 July (Noel Smith).

Tui: 1 at Cotter Place, Hamilton East on 28 May, and heard at Hamilton Gardens two weeks previously (Graham Saunders).

Shining Cuckoo: 1 seen (didn't call) at Whangamarino on 8 April (Graham Saunders).

Kaka: 2 at Karamu, near Te Pahu Rd-Grove Rd corner, regularly through winter. Kaka have been here the previous two winters (David Leggatt).

Falcon: 1 at Karamu in late May, flying through the canopy of small patch of bush (mostly kanuka) and scaring out birds, then swooping back above the trees trying to catch them. A few days later another falcon (or quite possibly the same bird) seen at close range perching in a tree beside the northern end of Limeworks Loop Rd (David Leggatt).

OSNZ Waikato, Harbour Census, Raglan, 8 June 2009

Personnel: Hugh Clifford, Anne Ringer, Bill Ringer(OSNZ), Chris Annandale, Michelle Lewis (DOC)

Boat: DOC – 4.6m aluminium pontoon, “Vigilant”, skipper Chris Annandale.

Time of observations: 9.20am-12.10pm

High tide: 10.21am, 3.1m (Note: tide time and height taken from NZ Nautical Almanac, which uses New Plymouth as the Standard Port with adjustments provided for Raglan as a Secondary Port. Time and height may be different if using Auckland or Onehunga [NZ Herald etc] as the Standard Port).

Weather: Broken cloud, cold, with brisk breeze from the easterly quarter.

Species	Airfield and Estuary	Harbour mouth and heads	Wharf and Bridal Creek	Okete	Narrows, and out to Hauraki Point	Hauraki Point to Te Teko Rock and to Waiwhara Bay	Ponganui Estuary, F & B Reserve	Birds Bay	Total
Gannet				1					1
Black Shag					2				2
Pied Shag		23	7		1	36	6	1	74
Little Black Shag			15		14	5	5		39
Little Shag	1		2	1	9		2		15
W.F. Heron			1		7				8
Reef Heron					1				1
Royal Spoonbill						70			70
Black Swan						2			2
Canada Goose				370	1	130			501
Feral Goose						60			60
Mallard	6		101	6	3	96	31		243
Shoveler						124			124
Harrier			1						1
SIPO	263		23	335					621
VOC	4			3					7
Pied Stilt				160		320			480
SW Plover	3			5					8
Godwit				20					20
BB Gull	38	3	23				2		66
RB Gull	87	5	21				1		114
Caspian Tern		1				13	1		15

Comments

One person (Michelle) was put ashore at the north head of the harbour and remained there throughout, checking the whole ocean beach up to Mussel Point. No NZ Dotterels were present. Two people (Anne and Bill) were ashore at Raglan and counted the Airfield and Estuary at high tide. Chris and Hugh did the usual circuit in the boat.

Royal Spoonbill: The birds were ashore on the mainland west of Te Teko Island, in a very compact bunch. As the water was very shallow for a long way out from shore, we were unable to get close enough for a really accurate count.

Canada Goose: a conservative approach was taken to this count. Flocks were moving around the harbour as we proceeded and it was difficult to know what had already been counted – the total given is probably a minimum.

Shoveler: it was a surprise to see Shoveler, which are not usually recorded in our harbour surveys, and which probably most of us would regard as a bird of fresh-water sites. However HANZAB states in Vol. 1, p.1341 “...seldom on saline waters, although occasionally recorded from estuaries, and move onto open sea during shooting season”.

Godwit: reasonably close views were obtained of the small flock of Godwit, but no flags or bands were seen.

Hugh Clifford

OSNZ Waikato Harbour Census, Aotea, 7 June 2009

Personnel: Hugh Clifford (OSNZ), Chris Annandale, Michelle Lewis (DOC)

Boat: DOC – 4.6m aluminium pontoon, “Vigilant”, skipper Chris Annandale.

Approximate time of observations: 8.30am-11.00am

High tide: 9.11am, 3.1m (Note: tide time and height taken from NZ Nautical Almanac, which uses New Plymouth as the Standard Port with adjustments provided for Aotea as a Secondary Port. Time and height may be different if using Auckland or Onehunga [NZ Herald etc] as the Standard Port).

Weather: Fine, cold, practically calm.

Species	Morrison's Roost	Upper Harbour	Lagoon	Harbour Entrance	Total
Gannet				2	2
Black Shag			2		2
Pied Shag		8	4	4	16
Little Shag	6				6
W.F. Heron		2			2
Royal Spoonbill		11			11
Black Swan	21	6	7		34
Feral Goose		4			4
Paradise Shelduck			2		2
Mallard	7				7
SIPO	500	1,260	179		1,939
VOC			5	4	9
Pied Stilt	32	15	60		107
NZ Dotterel				13	13
Banded Dotterel				150	150
SW Plover		4			4
Godwit	17	150		1	168
BB Gull	2		1	4	7
RB Gull	1		50	2	53
Caspian Tern	23	16	2	1	42

Comments

One person (Michelle) was put ashore at the north head of the harbour and remained there throughout, checking particularly for NZ Dotterels. Chris and Hugh did the usual circuit in the boat.

Hugh Clifford

OSNZ Waikato Harbour Census, Kawhia, 7 June 2009

Personnel: Hugh Clifford, Martin Day, Chris Smuts-Kennedy (OSNZ); Bruce Postill, Andrew Styche (OSNZ/DOC); Dion Patterson(DOC); Sandra Valderrama (Colombian Ph. D. Student).

Boat: DOC – m aluminium pontoon, “Waikaka”, skipper Dion Patterson.

Approximate time of observations: 8.30am-12.00noon

High tide: 9.33am, 3.1m (Note: tide time and height taken from NZ Nautical Almanac, which uses New Plymouth as the Standard Port with adjustments provided for Kawhia as a Secondary Port. Time and height may be different if using Auckland or Onehunga [NZ Herald etc] as the Standard Port).

Weather: Fine, cold, SE breeze.

Species	Lagoon	Te Motu Sandbank	Te Motu Island	Oparau River & Ellis Point	Opeope Rocks and Shoreline	Mid Harbour	Total
Gannet			1				1
Black Shag							
Pied Shag				20	63	18	101
Little Black Shag	5				52		57
Little Shag					5	1	6
W.F. Heron				2	15	2	19
Royal Spoonbill				3	74	17	94
Black Swan			78		22	280	380
Canada Goose					720		720
Paradise Shelduck					4		4
Mallard				4	21		25
SIPO		2,311	100	320	147	20	2,898
VOC	2		2				4
Pied Stilt		24		220			244
Black/Hybrid Stilt		2					2
Banded Dotterel			500				500
SW Plover			6		2		8
Knot			5				5
Asiatic Whimbrel			1				1
Godwit		300					300
Black-backed Gull	1		5	3	5	5	19
Red-billed Gull		2	6		12	9	29
Caspian Tern	5	1		1	4	2	13
Kingfisher				1	2		3

Comments

Two persons (Bruce and Chris) were put ashore on Te Motu Sandbank/Te Motu Island. The remainder of the party did the usual circuit in the boat. Nobody was ashore on the north head of the harbour/harbour entrance.

Godwit: Two birds were seen to be carrying white flags, but no inscription could be identified on the flags.

Red Knot: One bird was colour-banded Yellow/Green on the right leg.

OSNZ Waikato – Grey-faced Petrel Project

2009/10 PROGRESS REPORT No. 1

A brief summary of results from banding at Mauao and Motuotau Island, April/May 2009

a) MAUAO

1. Capture and banding

Date	Banded	Number of birds		Weighed	Weight (g)	
		Recaptured			Avg.	Range
06/04/09	-	7		7	551	500-590
09/04/09	6	24		30	554	500-620
13/04/09	-	7		7	554	500-640
16/04/09	7	34		41	523	450-620
23/04/09	19	35		54	524	410-640
27/04/09	10	46		56	517	440-610
30/04/09	13	37		50	527	450-610
04/05/09	7	19		26	532	460-660
09/05/09	3	3		6	533	500-580
14/05/09	4	17		21	531	480-610
23/05/09	13	18		31	502	430-550
26/05/09	17	31		48	520	450-590
28/05/09	5	6		11	514	460-640
Total	104	284		388	525	410-660

Recaptures were 73% of all captures.

2. Birds which had been banded as chicks at Mauao, and were recaptured in this period for the first time as adults at Mauao

Year banded	No. recaptured in this banding period	Age at first adult recapture
1998/99	1	10
1999/00	3	9
2000/01	3	8
2001/02	2	7
2004/05	3	4
Total	12	

3. Birds banded as chicks at Mauao, subsequently recaptured as adults (all years)

Year banded	No. banded	Died before fledging	Recaptured as adults during the duration of the project to date	
			No.	% of total banded
1991/92	10	1	3	30
1992/93	3	1	1	33
1993/94	3	1	1	33
1994/95	3	-	2	67
1995/96	21	-	9	43
1996/97	30	-	13	43
1997/98	33	-	14	42
1998/99	36	-	11	31
1999/00	27	-	9	33
2000/01	34	-	10	29
2001/02	36	-	14	39
2002/03	23	-	7	30
2003/04	1	-	-	-
2004/05	8	-	3	37
2005/06	2	1	-	-
2006/07	30	1	-	-
2007/08	20	-	-	-
2008/09	49	-	-	-
Total	369	5	97	

4. Recaptures at Mauao of birds which had been banded at Motuotau Island

Three birds which had been banded as chicks at Motuotau Island were recaptured as adults, for the first time, at Mauao during this period.

Five birds, which had been banded as chicks at Motuotau Island, were recaptured as adults, for the second or subsequent time, at Mauao.

One bird which had been banded as an adult at Motuotau in 1993, and has been captured at Mauao several times previously, was caught at Mauao again.

5. Recaptures at Mauao of birds which had been banded at locations other than Mauao or Motuotau Island

One bird which had been banded as a chick at Moutohora (Whale Island), and one which had been banded as an adult at Ihumoana Island were recaptured as adults at Mauao during this period. Details are shown below.

Band	Date banded	Location	Age at banding	Date this recapture	Age at this recapture	No. previous recaptures at Mauao
180482	16/04/93	Ihumoana Is.	Adult	27/04/09	15+?	0
190769	26/12/94	Whale Is.	Chick	27/04/09	14	1

6. Dead birds Two banded birds were found dead at the colony, one tangled in vines in a tree, the other apparently caught in roots in a burrow. Both had been banded as adults at Mauao and had been recaptured there several times previously.

b) MOTUOTAU ISLAND

1. Capture and banding

One night's banding was carried out at Motuotau Island during this period. This was the first occasion of banding there since August 2000 and so the pool of banded birds had decreased greatly.

Date	Banded	Number of birds		Weight (g)	
		Recaptured	Weighed	Av.	Range
16/05/09	123	27	150	524	440-640

Recaptures were 18% of all captures.

2. Birds which had been banded as chicks at Motuotau, and were recaptured in this period for the first time as adults at Motuotau

Year banded	No. recaptured in this banding period	Age at first recapture
1996/97	2	12
1998/99	1	10
1999/00	1	9
Total	4	

3. Birds which had been banded as chicks at Motuotau, and were recaptured in this period for the second time as adults at Motuotau

Two birds which had been banded as chicks at Motuotau in 1994, and had been recaptured as adults there previously (one in 1998, the other in 1999) were recaptured for the second time.

4. Recaptures at Motuotau Island of birds which had been banded as adults at Mauao

Band Number	Date banded at Mauao	No. of previous recaptures at:	
		Mauao	Motuotau Island
180009	10/8/91	0	5
180761	20/5/93	2	2
186828	24/4/95	2	2
209614	28/7/02	0	0
210762	24/8/05	0	0
212864	29/5/06	1	0

In the cases of the three birds which have had recaptures at Mauao, the recapture(s) at Mauao preceded the recapture(s) at Motuotau Island.

5. Common Diving Petrels

Two banded birds were recaptured, one had been banded as an adult on 24/8/98, the other on 18/5/99.

Hugh Clifford and Paul Cuming
Grey-faced Petrel Project, OSNZ Waikato
 6 June 2009