

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc)

Wellington Region Newsletter

OSNZ—Birds New Zealand

June 2016

<http://osnz.org.nz/> and <http://notornis.osnz.org.nz/>

Greetings

In May the Wellington Branch had a very successful pelagic birding trip to Cook Strait. A wonderful selection of birds as well the opportunity to catch a tasty meal. More pelagic trips will occur and it is highly likely that this will become an annual event on the Wellington OSNZ (Birds New Zealand) calendar. In June, a number of Wellington members made the pilgrimage to Napier to attend the annual Birds New Zealand conference.

Speakers for the monthly Wellington meeting for the remainder of the year are listed in this newsletter. I welcome suggestions for speakers and topics for 2017. The only restriction is that the talks must have an avian theme.

Geoff de Lisle

Regional Representative, OSNZ (Birds New Zealand), Wellington

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

WHERE and WHEN

July Monday 4th. Nikki McArthur (Wildlife Management International Ltd)

Our Natural Capital: Monitoring changes in Wellington City's bird community between 2011 and 2015.

August Monday 1st. Johannes Fischer, Birds of Borneo.

September Monday 5th. Ralph Powlesland, Weka – how come the population of this flightless species is thriving in the Marlborough Sounds?

October Monday 3rd. Colin Miskelly, Te

Papa, 21 years of bird counts in Zealandia/Karori Sanctuary: from unfenced water reservoir to fully-fledged eco-sanctuary
Ben Bell, Temporal changes in birds and bird song detected in Zealandia sanctuary, Wellington, New Zealand, over 2011-2015

November Monday 7th. Ian Armitage "In the wake of Scott and Shackleton – a short adventure in the Antarctic".

December Monday 5th. Duncan Watson & a supporting cast. A pictorial review of birds of southern Africa.

Meetings are held at Te Papa's collections building, 169 Tory Street. Go up the steps/ramp and across the carpark.

First Monday of the month, 7.45pm.

Report of Monthly Meetings

April Meeting: *Understanding animal intelligence: should 'bird-brain' be a compliment?* Rachael Shaw, School of Biological Sciences, Victoria University. In this talk Rachael summarised her research on the investigation of cognition in robins at Zealandia. A feature of her studies is that they were carried out on wild birds rather than captive birds which have been used by others in studies of bird cognition. Rachael used a battery of 6 tests to probe

the “intelligence” of robins. The tests included a motor task, colour and shape discrimination, reversal learning, spatial memory and inhibitory control. For example, motor skills were tested by examining their ability to open lids to gain access to meal worms. Her results suggest that a general cognitive factor, analogous to human *g*, underpins cognitive performance in wild North Island robins.

Her research has been documented in two recent publications;

Wild psychometrics: evidence for ‘general’ cognitive performance in wild New Zealand robins, *Petroica longipes* Rachael C. Shaw, Neeltje J. Boogert, C, Nicola S. Clayton, Kevin C. Burns, *Animal Behaviour*, Volume 109, November 2015, Pages 101–111

Testing cognition in the wild: factors affecting performance and individual consistency in two measures of avian cognition. Rachael C. Shaw, *Behavioural Processes*, Available online 8 June 2016
http://ac.els-cdn.com/S0376635716301279/1-s2.0-S0376635716301279-main.pdf?_tid=2b473416-3be8-11e6-ac54-00000aacb35e&acdnat=1466978082_e6313907627adfedfac6d02b8d6833da

Rachael provided the following two books that will be of interest to those wanting to read more on cognition in birds.

“A few of my colleagues have mentioned the recently published book ‘The Genius of Birds’ as a really good overview for a non-specialist reader, that still does justice to the research. Here is an interview with the writer: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-brilliance-of-the-birds/>

A lovely autobiography about the experience of living with clever crows (that touches on some of the research as well) is ‘Corvus: My life with birds’ (<http://www.amazon.com/Corvus-Life-Birds-Esther-Woolfson/dp/1582435839>)”

May Meeting: *An Indian [Ocean] summer. Conservation and research on Reunion, Crozet and Kerguelen Islands, and Mauritius* - Colin Miskelly, Curator, Terrestrial Vertebrates, Te Papa.

Colin’s talk was a summary of his participation in seabird research programmes on the French subantarctic island groups of Crozet and Kerguelen was at the invitation of Dr Charley Bost of the CEBC laboratory (Chizé) of CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), France. He was supported by the Institut Polar Français Paul Emile Victor (IPEV) and Te Papa. Highlights of Colin’s trip are summarised in a series of blogs on the Te Papa blog <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/author/colinmiskelly/> .

Regional Representative: Geoff de Lisle (04) 527 0929 or osnzwelly@gmail.com

Regional Recorder: Nikki McArthur nikki.mcarthur.101@gmail.com

Birds New Zealand Regional Roundup: Geoff de Lisle & Dallas Bishop (04) 527 0929 osnzwelly@gmail.com

Shag Survey - Geoff de Lisle

Mist netting – new arrangements to be announced.

The 2016 New Zealand Birds Conference and AGM in Napier

A most successful conference - well organised, good venue, tasty food, excellent programme and great weather. Wellington members were well represented on the programme with papers presented by Colin Miskelly (2), Alan Tennyson, Johannes Fischer, Murray Williams, Jana Wold and Julia Loepelt. Graeme Taylor was a co-author on at least four talks. The Abstracts for the conference are available on the OSNZ (Birds New Zealand) website, <http://osnz.org.nz/sites/osnz.org.nz/files/publications/2016%20Abstracts.pdf>

The Wellington Region continues to be well represented on Council, with Delia Small being Council Secretary, and Sharon Alderson, Ian Armitage and Colin Miskelly, council members.

One of my highlights of the Conference was the workshop on Guthrie Smith (1862-1940) who farmed at Tutira and is renowned as an author and a keen observer of birds and nature. Gretchen Absolom, a grand daughter-in-law of Guthrie Smith presented an overview of his life and the ongoing legacy of the Guthrie Smith Tutira arboretum and education centre. Included in the presentation were some of Guthrie Smith's glass photographic plates and his binoculars. Guthrie Smith's books were illustrated with his photographs. The binoculars are currently on loan to Te Papa and had been temporarily released especially for this workshop.



Gretchen Absolom (above centre) is a member of the Guthrie Smith Trust which was established in 1942. Her mother-in-law, Barbara Absolom, the only daughter of Guthrie Smith donated 800 hectares to the Trust to administer for education and recreational purposes. The Trust currently owns 90 hectares and is continuing Herbert Guthrie-Smith's vision by transforming the land into an ecologically-important haven for a wide section of native birds and a repository of rare and endangered trees, plants, and other flora.

On the Monday of Queen's Birthday weekend there were field trips to Boundary Stream, Clive Wetlands, Ahuriri Estuary and a pelagic trip. Fine weather and a good selection of forest birds made for a highly successful trip to Boundary Stream. Birds seen included tui, bellbird, kereru, whitehead, rifleman, tomtit, robin, kaka and not forgetting kokako. The highlight was a treeful of kokako - five were seen together and more appeared to be present. Lunch was held at the PanPac Kiwi Crèche at Lake Opuahi. This is a 40ha fenced reserve for raising brown kiwi chicks from the Kaweka ranges until they reach a size capable of resisting predation by stoats. The programme is principally run by volunteers in conjunction with DOC.



Regional Representatives Meeting – Napier, June, 2016.

Topics discussed included:

- Rare bird database – this can now be viewed on the Birds New Zealand website. The database includes summaries of new submissions which have been submitted but not yet appraised (Colin Miskelly).
- Youth Camp. A most successful camp was held at Miranda with 11 participants aged 13-16 years. There is strong support to hold Youth Camps annually (Andrew Styche).
- Red-bill gull survey – the success of this survey was ensured by strong leadership and local champions. Details of the survey can be found on the OSNZ (Birds New Zealand) website (Peter Frost).
- Ebird. OSNZ (Birds New Zealand) is strongly supportive of the use of ebird for documenting current and historic bird observations. There is a need for further training on the use of ebird (Nikki McArthur).
- Archiving of historic records. A considerable volume of work has already been done archiving in ebird historic observations. However, there are still large numbers of historic observations to be entered in ebird. In addition, there is some information, such as planning details of surveys, which cannot be easily archived in ebird (Mary Thompson).
- The future of Birds New Zealand (OSNZ). There was a considerable amount of discussion on what changes are required to ensure the sound future of the organisation.

Napier Pelagic 6 June. Russ Cannings reported on BirdingNZ.net

<http://www.birdingnz.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=5823>

Little Penguin- 1
Northern Royal Albatross- 3
White-capped Albatross- 25
Salvin's Albatross- 1 subadult
Buller's Albatross- 10
Black-browed Albatross- 7 adult, 1 immature
Northern Giant Petrel- 5 (2 adult, 3+ juvenile)
Cape Petrel- 22+
SOFT-PLUMAGED PETREL- 1
Prion sp. (Likely Fairy)- 1
Fluttering Shearwater- 150+
SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER- 1
Common Diving-Petrel- 18+ (Mostly singletons but several 2s and 3s)
Australasian Gannet- 15+
Red-billed Gull- 1
Black-backed (Kelp) Gull- 8+

Other animals of note: 1 Mako Shark, 2 Blue Shark, 7 Orca, 6+ S Common Dolphin, 6 NZ Fur seal (basking at port)

Geoff de Lisle, Wellington Regional Representative

Future Birds New Zealand Conferences

2017 - Te Anau; 2018 - Paihia, Bay of Islands

The site for the 2019 meetings has yet to be finalised but Council has indicated that they wish the conference to be held in central New Zealand. Investigation will be undertaken to determine whether a suitable venue in the Wellington Region can be for the 2019 meeting. Ideally, the venue needs to be close to transport, capable of holding 150 plus conference attendees and reasonably priced.

eBird Training

Wellington members who want training in the use of ebird please contact Geoff de Lisle at osnzwelly@gmail.com . If there is sufficient interest a group training session will be organised.

Bird Snippets

[Australasian bittern, Otaihanga, Roger & Mavis, Mon Mar 28, 2016](#)

An Australasian bittern has been seen over the weekend at the southern edge of the Waikanae Wetland area at Otaihanga. The best place to catch a possible sighting was adjacent to the cycleway where it skirts "Private Property" down a small cull-de-sac. BirdingNZ.net

[Black-fronted Tern at Plimmerton fire station, George Osborne, Sat Apr 16, 2016](#)

"Yes, yes, yes! Fiiiinally got my first black-fronted tern behind the Plimmerton fire station with the WF Terns. BirdingNZ.net"



Photo, George Hobson.

[Black-fronted dotterels at Pekapeka Beach, Waikanae, Roger & Mavis, Mon Apr, 2016](#)

During my visit to Pekapeka Beach estuary, just north of Waikanae, I was surprised to see that the resident pair of bf dotterels had been joined by 3 others. In the attached photo, the dotterel is stirring the mud with its right foot to disturb small prey. Not far away from this dotterel, a red-billed gull was observed using the same technique.

Also present at the estuary were several spur-winged plovers, paradise ducks, pied stilts and red-billed gulls. BirdingNZ.net

[Stitchbird in Ngaio/Crofton downs, Asher Cook, Mon May 2, 2016](#)

Just heard a stitchbird in Orleans recreational reserve which is in ngaio/crofton downs (Wellington), heard it call 3 times in quick succession. This is the furthest from the sanctuary I've ever heard/seen them.

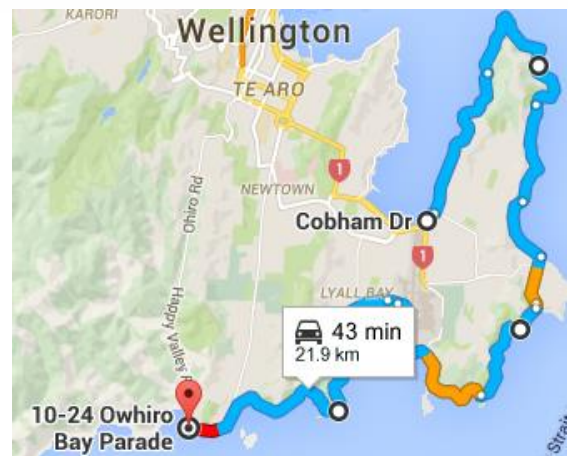
Anyone know how far from the sanctuary they've been recorded? BirdingNZ.net

[Birding around the coast – Wellington, George Hobson, Sun May 08, 2016](#)

Yesterday I went on a drive around a part of the Wellington coast with a decent amount of success, the route is shown below. At the old Navy Barracks on Shelly Bay Rd, I found a large roost of LB Shag - 45 birds including some imms. Full list on eBird [http://ebird.org/ebird/newzealand/view/ ... =S29467576](http://ebird.org/ebird/newzealand/view/...=S29467576)



Photo, George Hobson



[Three Royal Spoonbills Hutt Estuary, Charlotte, Sat May 21, 2016](#)

Seen this afternoon at 1:49pm with two white faced herons close to the bridge on the sea side.

BirdingNZ.net

[Wellington City biodiversity, Ledzep, Mon May 23, 2016](#)

Close encounter with a Falcon this morning. Walking through the botanic gardens on the road between Lady Norwood rose gardens and the playing fields, a Falcon came in flying low about 0.5 metre from the ground along the roadway where the trees and fence obscure the playing field. Went past me about 2

metres away at high speed, then up and over the fence and down again towards the back of the sports field (towards Tinakori hill, western end). There was a flurry of alarm call from Blackbirds and Tui, then silence. I couldn't see if it made a kill, I think it went into the trees at the western end of the field. Is the Botanic gardens the best place to see Falcon's in Wellington area? BirdingNZ.net

Blue petrel, Whareroa Farm Park, Helen Griffiths, Friday 27 May, 2016
Freshly dead blue petrel at Whareroa Farm Park (Kapiti coast), found today.

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Cook Strait, Ric Else & Hazel Watson, Sat May 28, 2016
Seen from the Cook Strait ferry on Friday morning.

Giant Petrel in Pukerua Bay, Gillian Candler, Wed Jun 01, 2016

A giant petrel was rescued from the surf on Pukerua Bay beach on Sunday 29 May 2016, where it was being battered around, it seemed to have problems with its wings. It was picked up by DOC and is at the Nest at the Zoo, who provided the identification. BirdingNZ.net

Redpoll and "black" fantail in Lower Hutt, Somes Birder, Tue Jun 07, 2017

Today, I saw at least one redpoll adjacent to Waiwhetu Stream. I don't think I've seen any other redpolls in Lower Hutt in over three years, and I firmly believe that they're a local rarity. Also, near the Hutt River, not far from the estuary, I saw a black-morph fantail. BirdingNZ.net

White heron still at Hutt Estuary, Shane Cotter, Sat Jun 18, 2016

The White heron is still around and was inside the green boat on the ramp in the boat harbour of the Hutt River estuary this morning. Also present in the estuary were 2 banded black billed gulls (these two have been there for several weeks now) as well as a colour banded red billed gull. BirdingNZ.net

Nikki McArthur reports that "These two birds were banded as chicks at the Tauherenikau Delta (Lake Wairarapa) in Feb 2016.

This bird has subsequently received a lot of attention from birders including Somes Birder, Ledzep, Imogen and George Hobson. Some great pictures on BirdingNZ.net

<http://www.birdingnz.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=5776>

White heron returns to Lower Hutt, Ledzep, Sat Jun 11, 2016

Dianne and I found the White Heron today by the boatsheds. It was being photographed by other locals so is receiving some attention. Whilst we were looking at it one of its feathers blew off and across the water and I was able to pick it up. Perhaps the end of breeding plumage? Up the river a little by Shandon golf course were a couple of Spoonbills in a tree, a few Little Shags, 3 Kingfishers, and a couple of Shovelers amongst the Mallards. BirdingNZ.net, Photo – Duncan Watson



Yellow-eyed penguin, Waikanae Beach, reported by Alan Froggatt, Wed June 15, 2016

A yellow-eyed penguin (in a distressed state) was found at 7.00am, Wednesday 15th June on the Waikanae beach just north of the Waimea stream. This is not far from where the Emperor penguin (alias Happy Feet) landed on Peka beach in 2011.

Although the bird was removed off the beach to a "safe place" the bird died.

Kokako, Kapiti Island, Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle, 19 & 20 Jun, 2016

Four kokako (2 pairs) seen in the same tree on the Wilkinson Track at the boggy corner, about half way between the hihi feeder and the junction. On the following day 3/4 birds seen on the Trig track, relatively low down the track just above OSNZ count station 3.

Subantarctic skua at Waikanae, Alan Tennyson, Mon Jun 20, 2016.

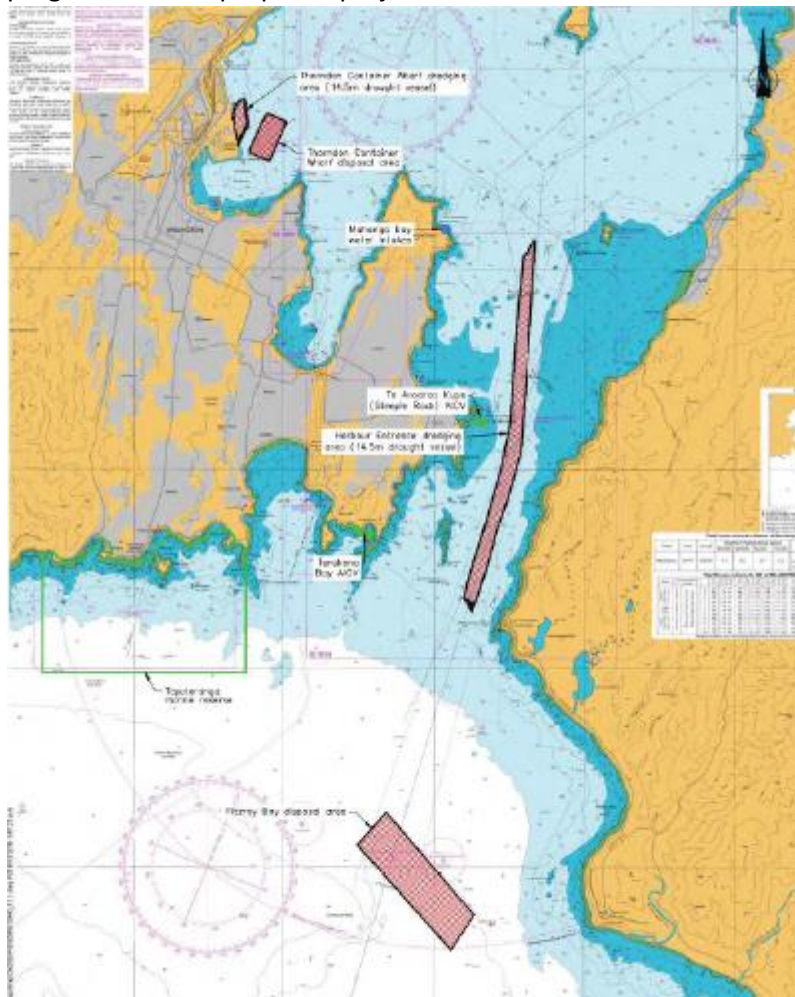
I picked up a dead subantarctic skua on Waikanae beach yesterday. It had been dead about a week. Also an Antarctic fulmar, thin-billed prion, Buller's shearwater, 2 common diving petrels and various other scraps. BirdingNZ.net

Falcon, Petone Beach, Gail Rumble, June 21, 2016

Observed by the children's playground at the eastern end of the beach. The falcon flew in with prey and fed for about 8 minutes.

Proposed Wellington Harbour Dredging

In response to the increasing size of container ships, CentrePort has indicated that it wants to embark on a dredging programme in Wellington Harbour. CentrePort is applying for resource consent to carry out the dredging programme. The proposed project would



involve dredging up to 6 million cubic metres of seabed material from the Wellington Harbour Entrance, and disposing it in Fitzroy Bay. At Thorndon Container Wharf up to 270,000 cubic metres will be dredged, and disposed at a nearby site.

One of the possible adverse effects of the dredging programme relates to sea birds that are present in Wellington Harbour and the area in Fitzroy Bay designated for dumping dredgings. Tonkin Taylor, an environmental and engineering consultancy were contracted to provide a marine ecological assessment on the proposed dredging programme. Included in this report was an assessment on the possible effects on sea birds. This assessment relied on the data generated by the series of OSNZ harbour surveys as well as recent studies on little penguins on Matiu / Somes Island. Furthermore discussions were held with OSNZ members, DOC and Te Papa.

The conclusions of Tonkin & Taylor on the possible effects on sea birds were:

Our assessment indicates that the project has a very low risk of moderate level of effects on:

- ☐ Little blue penguin ('At Risk') through effects on foraging efficiency;

☐ Common diving petrel ('At Risk') and fairy prion ('At Risk') through possible bird strike during night operations; and

☐ The collective seabird assemblage through cumulative effects.

To address the possible adverse effects on sea birds Tonkin & Taylor have recommended:

- (a) Mitigation through the establishment of 200 penguin nest boxes on Matiu / Somes and other areas of Wellington Harbour.
- (b) Contribution to penguin research on foraging behaviour and breeding success of penguins;
- (c) The development of a seabird Management and Monitoring plan.

This project is a good example how OSNZ projects can provide valuable information on infra-structure projects which may affect birds.

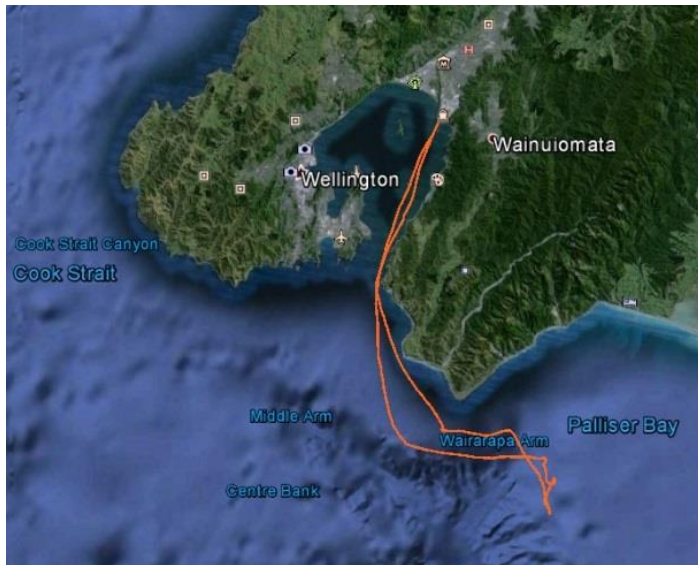
Further information on the proposed harbour dredging programme can be found at the following websites.

<http://www.centreportbigpicture.co.nz/project-overview>

<http://www.centreportbigpicture.co.nz/reports>

Pelagic Birding – Wellington Style

The first attempt in February for a pelagic birding trip to Cook Strait was cancelled due to adverse sea conditions. Fortunately, on the 15th of May the sea conditions were favourable and 18 OSNZ members and associates had a



memorable trip to Cook Strait. The trip left from the Seaview marina at 7.00am and followed the route shown in the map. Once outside the Wellington heads a liberal amount of chumming attracted a good number and variety of seabirds. Birding was also enhanced by a trawler fishing in Palliser Bay. One notable highlight of the trip was the number of different albatross species – Southern and Northern Royal albatrosses, WANDERERS,



Buller's mollymawk, white-capped mollymawk, Salvin's mollymawk, and black-browed mollymawk. The identity of the WANDERERS provoked a considerable amount of discussion and reviewing the vast number of photographs taken on the trip. The picture left is a Gibson's albatross based on the size of its bill. There was a second WANDERER seen which had characteristics of a Snowy albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) based on its size.

The picture to the right contains a group of albatrosses feeding off fish scraps from the boat. The bird on the extreme left of the picture is a black-browed albatross.

The bird with raised wings on the left of the picture is of interest because of its yellow colour on the culmen near the base of the bill. This is a feature of Tasmanian albatrosses (SHY) (*Thalassarche cauta cauta*) which is not present on white-capped albatrosses (*T. cauta steadi*). The six birds on the right of the picture are white-capped albatrosses.



Tasmanian albatrosses have only once been recorded in New Zealand – a dead bird which was banded in

Tasmania. An Unusual Rare Bird report has been submitted and the identity of the bird in the photograph will be



tentative until the UBR has been adjudicated on. Good numbers of Westland petrels were observed in Cape Palliser. Susan Waugh's studies on Westland petrels using geolocators had identified this area as one of the preferred feeding sites for this bird.

One species which was not seen was giant petrel.

Jonathan Delich the skipper of the Seafarer II not only provided food for the birds but also a substantial lunch for the birders. While the trip concentrated on bird watching there was some time for a bit of fishing.

Given the success of this trip further Cook Strait pelagic trips will be held as at least an annual event.

Tony Fluerty has a great summary of the trip, illustrated with some excellent photographs on his website.

<https://boneywhitefoot.wordpress.com/boneys-blog>



Acknowledgement: Thanks to Chris Robertson for identifying the SHY mollymawk

Pelagic Bird List – Michael Szabo

9 albatross species (Wandering (exulans), Gibson's, Northern Royal, Southern Royal, White-capped, Salvin's, Shy, Buller's, Black-browed)

4 shearwater species (Short-tailed, Buller's, Sooty, Fluttering)

3 petrel species (Westland, Cape, Common Diving)

2 tern species (WFT, BFT)

2 gull species (RBG, SBBG)

2 shag species (Spotted, Little Pied)

Little Penguin

Fairy Prion

Australasian Gannet

Arctic Skua

Variable Oystercatcher

Australasian Harrier

Spur-winged Plover

Short-beaked Common Dolphin

The identity of the SHY (Tasmanian) will be reviewed by the OSNZ Records Appraisal Committee.

"Birds New Zealand Research Fund"

OSNZ is now inviting applications for this year's funding.

<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>



25th June - 3rd July.
Details for taking part in this survey can be found at the following website.

<http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/animals/birds/garden-bird-surveys/taking-part>

Two Wild Petrels Returned to the Wild

A Kerguelen petrel from near Waimea Stream at Waikanae and a northern giant petrel in Pukerua Bay were found four days apart. They were both weak and dehydrated and sent to The Nest, Te Kohanga at Wellington Zoo for rehabilitation. After a period of treatment at the Nest and with the help of the Maritime Unit of the Wellington Police, both birds were released at sea to the wild. <https://wellingtonzoo.com/news/two-petrels-return-to-the-wild/>

Arctic tern – Plimmerton

Imogen Warren, May 21, 2016. Reported in BirdingNZ.net. *"After weeks of chasing black-fronted terns in Plimmerton with no success, I found the white-fronted terns gathered at high tide on the jetty of the boat club. This bird was amongst them."*

Imogen took these great photographs which can also be found on NZBirdsOnline. A notable feature of this bird is that it is in breeding plumage with grey under parts and a black cap extending over the nape and crown to the base of the bills, which is red. This bird was only a temporary visitor to Plimmerton – there were no other reports on BirdingNZ.net of this bird being seen.



This bird is a good example to highlight the changes to the reporting of Rare and Vagrant Birds, details of which can be found on the Birds New Zealand (OSNZ) website <http://www.osnz.org.nz/rarebirds.htm>. Reporting can be done online and summaries of all entries are entered into the new database.

Recently-loaded information in the database must be treated with both caution and respect. Not all UBRs will be of the species claimed, and it is not appropriate for the veracity of submitted records to be debated publicly before the RAC has considered the UBR and notified the submitter of their decision. The information contained within a UBR is confidential to the submitter, the RAC, and the relevant Regional Representative of Birds NZ. The only person authorised to provide information on the precise location of a reported bird (if appropriate) is the local [Regional Representative](#).

Currently there are 26 Accepted records of arctic terns in the database dating back to 1977, a 2016 from Miranda which is pending and the Plimmerton record which is Submitted and yet to be reviewed by the Rare Birds Committee. There is a single Accepted record of an arctic tern from the Wellington region, a dead bird found by Alan Tennyson on 28/1/1984 at the Waimeha Stream, Waikanae. There are 5 records from the Manawatu Estuary and a single record from Lake Horowhenua.

Note, if you have any questions concerning the submission of Unusual Bird Reports or the process of verifying the reports by the Records Appraisal Committee please do not hesitate to contact the Regional Representative, Geoff de Lisle, osnzwelly@gmail.com 04 527 0929.

Kapiti Island Information Panels

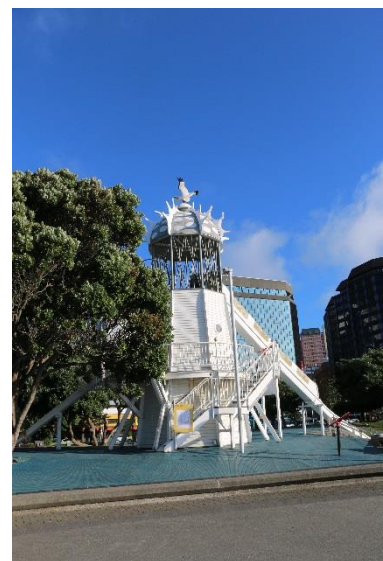
New information panels have recently been installed on Kapiti Island. One of the panels (right) describes the hihi conservation programme, while the other two highlight the whaling and conservation history. The panels were established by the Department of Conservation with the help of the US Embassy who are participating in a year-long celebration of the establishment of United States National Parks Service. Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872 and widely held to be the first national park in the world. However, the National Park Service was not established until 1916.



Lighthouse, Frank Kitts Park



The Lighthouse, Frank Kitts Park was designed by Mark Pennington who also is known for his design of Te Papa's earthquake house. In 2015 Mark was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours.



Te Papa Blogs

W.R.B. Oliver – jack-of-all-trades and master of most
Posted 2 May 2016 by [Colin Miskelly](#) & filed under Biodiversity, Birds, Exhibitions, Fossils, History, Mammals, Museums, Penguins, Plants, Reptiles, Research, Science, Whales, You called me WHAT?!

Robert Falla and the Westland petrel

Posted 6 May 2016 by [Colin Miskelly](#) & filed under behind the scenes, Biodiversity, Birds, Exhibitions, Museums, Research, Science, You called me WHAT?!

Hautere/Solander Island – 1933 and 2016 – In the footsteps of Edgar Stead (Part 12)

Posted 8 June 2016 by [Colin Miskelly](#) & filed under Biodiversity, Birds, Field trips, Research, Science.

Hautere/Solander Island, The Capital of Albatrossness

Posted 10 June 2016 by [Susan Waugh](#) & filed under Biodiversity, Birds, Field trips, Research, Science

Wildlife of Hautere/Solander Island

Posted 14 June 2016 by [Colin Miskelly](#) & filed under Biodiversity, Birds, Field trips, Mammals, Penguins, Research, Science.