



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

## **October 2019 Amokura 126**

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

**MEETINGS** of the Northland Branch of Birds New Zealand are held each month on the second Thursday, for the period FEBRUARY to DECEMBER. TIME: 7-30p.m.

**VENUE:** Founders Room, Alzheimer's 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".

Or you can pay an Annual fee of \$30.00 to the Northland Branch bank account **12-3099-0614160-00**.

Payment Due after the AGM

**Be sure to include your Surname and the word Sub in the details.**

### **ALL WELCOME PROGRAMME TO FEBRUARY 2020**

#### **OCTOBER**

**10** MEETING – 7-30p.m.

WEST COAST BEACH PATROL – Contact Prue Cozens Ph. 09 4377760

**15** EAST COAST BEACH PATROL (Meet at the Kensington Carpark 12:30pm)

#### **NOVEMBER**

**14** MEETING – 7-30p.m.

WEST COAST BEACH PATROL – Contact Prue Cozens Ph. 09 4377760

**12** EAST COAST BEACH PATROL (Meet at the Kensington Carpark 12:30pm)

**16** NGUNGURU SHOREBIRD COUNT – Meet at Te Maika Rd, Ngunguru 10:30am

#### **DECEMBER**

**12** MEETING – 7-30p.m.

**WEST COAST BEACH PATROL – Contact Prue Cozens Ph. 09 4377760**

**17** EAST COAST BEACH PATROL (Meet at the Kensington Carpark 12:30pm)

#### **JANUARY**

**9** NO MEETING

WEST COAST BEACH PATROL – Contact Prue Cozens Ph. 09 4377760

**14** EAST COAST BEACH PATROL (Meet at the Kensington Carpark 12:30pm)

#### **FEBRUARY**

**13** MEETING – 7-30p.m.

WEST COAST BEACH PATROL – Contact Prue Cozens Ph. 09 4377760

**18** EAST COAST BEACH PATROL (Meet at the Kensington Carpark 12:30pm)

#### **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

#### **SECRETARY**

#### **TREASURER**

#### **REGIONAL RECORDER**

#### **REGIONAL REPORTER**

#### **AMOKURA EDITOR**

**Anne McCracken**

**438-1145**

**Heather O'Brian**

**437-0085**

**Kevin Hayes**

**437-6470**

**Tony Beauchamp**

**436-2224**

**Vacant**

**Hilton Ward**

**946-0074**

## **JULY -**

At the July meeting Tony Beauchamp introduced the Birds New Zealand Atlas to the group with videos and an explanation on how to upload sightings. It is expected that all members start and continue recording for the Atlas. There is much information to be found here on how you can be involved.

Click on the picture below.



## **AUGUST –**

Dai Morgan presented a slideshow about the Tiakina Whangarei Urban Conservation Programme.

The programme encourages backyard trapping throughout the urban area. For more information and the Tiakina's goals visit the web page at <https://tiakinawhangarei.co.nz/>



Northland Regional Council and Northtech are using Tiakina to introduce trapping and conservation into the local schools.

## **Remembering Logan**

Logan Forrester, a Northland OSNZ Supporter, passed away on August 29<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Logan was a knowledgeable supporter of the Northland Branch as it was known then. He lived at Pouto on the Southern end of the Pouto Peninsular and had intimate knowledge of the Pouto area, the local lakes and the accessibility.

Years ago Logan and David Crocket, another OSNZ Northland member from Whangarei, would organise an annual bird count on the Pouto Lakes. A group from the Northland would descend on Pouto late on a Friday night and set up camp in the disused Pouto School. All organised by Logan.

He would have done a reconnoiter of the lakes to be counted and gained permission for access from the local land owners all ready for an early start the following day.

One year after returning late from a bird count, Logan's wife provided scones and cream in the garden. What a treat. Then back to camp dinner was soon underway where much discussion followed regarding the variety and numbers of birds seen and on which lakes.

I remember one time driving along a farm road with rather deep wheel ruts when Logan's trusted jeep type vehicle struck a particularly deep rut and the vehicle tipped to a very precarious angle and Logan, the driver, being used to tracks like this just laughed with his wicked grin as Clair and I held on for dear life. "Oh that's nothing" he said. The fun and games of birding activities, but always enjoyable if not a bit scary at times.

There was a break from counting on the Pouto lakes for some years but Logan and others began again about three or four years ago and it is now a regular event on the birding calendar around late February each year. Logan was responsible for the printout of the data after the counts which always proved most interesting.

Those of us of similar vintage always enjoyed our time at Pouto.

Thank you Logan for your knowledgeable input of birding data over the years, especially in the Pouto area.  
Article by Jane Snell.

## SEPTEMBER

### **Bream Head Conservation Trust Event** (Replacing our regular monthly meeting)

12<sup>th</sup> September - Thank you Bream Head Conservation Trust for inviting Northland Branch members to your Conservation Week event where the following speakers presented:

**Chris Gaskin** – Northern New Zealand Seabird Trust (NNZST)

“Bream Head’s proximity to several very significant nature reserve islands, all predator free and brimming with seabird life, and its huge potential as a magnet for seabird species.”

**Kerry Lukies** – NNZST Seabirds Restoration Community Coordinator

“The Little Blue Penguins of Bream Bay”

**Adam Willetts and Ripley Dean** – BHCT Rangers

“Predator Free 2050”

Our members that attended thoroughly enjoyed the evening’s presentations.

### **Photos and story from the market stall for [Tiakina Whangarei](https://tiakinawhangarei.co.nz/)**

Follow the link to learn more about Tiakina.



*Left to right- Wendy Ambury, Anne McCracken, Dayna Davies*

At the beginning of Conservation Week on 14th September Birds NZer’s Anne, Wendy and Dayna joined Dai Morgan with Bevan and Diane from Tiakina Whangarei at the Whangarei Growers Market. Various trapping methods with their target-predators were on display which drew many interested people and many rat-trap boxes were sold by Tiakina Whangarei. Wendy, Dayna and Anne were kept bust talking to people about the Birds NZ Atlas project, which Wendy was able to explain further using her ipad. It was heartening to see the level of interest and passion for birds and conservation in our community. *Story by Anne McCracken*

## Stories - Adventures – Yarns – Sightings

Thank you Gina Williams for this photo taken in July.

Royal Spoon Bills (21) and Pied Shags (10), Little Black Shag (1). Location - Vicinity of cemetery up river past Tongatu Road.



### Australasian Gannet Recordings

On August 30<sup>th</sup> Malcolm Pullman and I went on his boat to the Pinnacles at The Poor Knights Islands to record Australasian Gannets returning to their nest sights. There was much flying around and interaction with the Gannets. Many were flying about carrying green foliage for a considerable time before taking it to the mate at the nest. I did manage to get about 15 minutes of recording even though there was



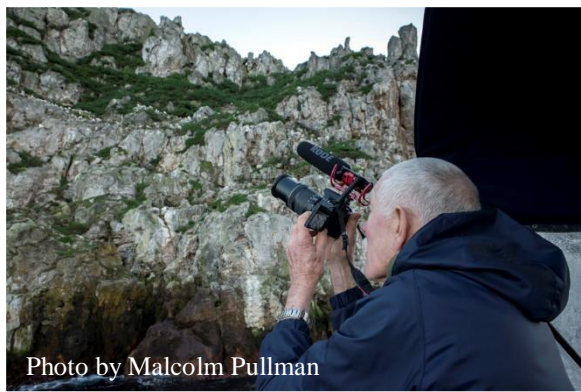
Photo by Hilton Ward



Photo by Hilton Ward

a bit much sea noise to get a good recording. Both of us were having fun attempting the perfect camera shot also.

The edited recording will be used at the startup Gannet Colony at Taurawhata on the Tutukaka Coast attempting to attract gannets to the site.





**Godwits** – Ngunguru report from Scott Brooks -24<sup>th</sup> September at 11:53

Just saw this season's first 2 Godwits on the Ngunguru estuary, returning from their huge arctic migration flight to hang out here in Ngunguru for summer. More will be on their way and they'll be start to trickle back over the next month. We usually end up with about 30 odd Godwits here by summer.

### **Odd Happenings at Taurawhata**

Here we have a Kiwi and a Paradise Shelduck caught on video while they inspect the Grey Faced Petrel burrows. Most of the duck is squeezed into the small burrow.



## Sightings Count Sheet

date	Bird	Place	Number	Name
Mid January	Reef Heron	Upper Ngunguru River	1	Janet Snell
Dec 18~Jan 19	Kaka	Herekino area	1	Hugh Snell
Late January	NZ Wood Pigeon	End of Forest View Rd, Kamo	1	Murry & Jessie Dyer
Early February	Ruru - Male & female	Close by takahe St in early evening	2	Pauline Smith
31-Jan-19	Pipit	Running over hot sand dunes and stopping on cooler sandstone. (Needs Jandals)	1	Pat Miller
12-Mar-19	Kukupu	Takahe Street		Pauline Smith & Kevin Hayes
13-Mar-19	Little Black Shag	Dave Culham Dr near the dog park and mangroves	20 ~ 25	Pat Miller
2-Mar-19	Long Tailed Cuckoo	Heard in evening at the Quarry Gardens	1	Heather O'Brian
9-Apr-19	Kukupu - Feeding on Cabbage Tree berries all week	Tyealmere Grove, Maunu	3	Anne
27-Jul-19	Red Billed Gulls	Marsden Bay	35	Kevin Hayes & Pauline Smith
27-Jul-19	Red Billed Gulls	Marsden Point	110	
27-Jul-19	Caspian Tern	Marsden Point	2	
27-Jul-19	variable Oystercatcher	Marsden Point	19	
July	Royal Spoonbill	Ngunguru River	10 ~ 14	Janet Snell
11-Jul-19	Bar Tailed Godwits	Owhiwa harbour Entrance	2	Melva & Hilton Ward
25-Sep-19	Dunnoek	12 Old Mill Ln	1	Melva & Hilton Ward
16-Sep-19	Kukupu	12 Old Mill Ln	1	Melva & Hilton Ward