

# TŌREA PANGO



## NELSON BRANCH BIRDS NZ. NEWSLETTER ISSUE 6. Feb/March 2023

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hope you are all well and have had an enjoyable summer with a chance to get out and bird in different parts of the country /world. Would love to share your experiences /photos etc. in forthcoming newsletters -so don't be shy-send them in. Similarly, if you present anything, however small, at a meeting it would be great if you could send me the relevant photos and information for inclusion here. Apart from the obvious interest to members unable to attend meetings, this newsletter, although local, is archived and able to be read Nationally. We have become a very active region so let's showcase it.

Personally, I'm in a bit of a birding frenzy at the moment with trips planned up to 4 years ago being cancelled due to Covid and then postponement dates compressing into just a few months. So, I went to Cape York just before Christmas for Papuan migrants and endemics, As I write this, I should theoretically be in Cambodia looking for the few vultures that haven't been killed by diclofenac. However, Gabrielle put a stop to that. And then in March to Ghana looking for, amongst many, the white necked rock fowl (Picathartes). Very fortunate -but a tad exhausting.

Many thanks to **David** and **Vicky Melville** for again hosting the December "meeting" A fantastic venue, great food and a chance to get to know people normally just glimpsed across the library meeting room.

Also, our best wishes go out to any members and in fact anyone in cyclone affected regions.

And finally -Sorry-this has gone out early despite me saying in the last newsletter that the deadline was March 12<sup>th</sup>. It was just getting very full! So deadline for next newsletter will be April 12<sup>th</sup>

**Paul Bennett** [thebraveryofbeingoutofrange@gmail.com](mailto:thebraveryofbeingoutofrange@gmail.com)

### SUMMARY OF LAST MEETING -Monday February 7<sup>th</sup> An Historic start to the year!

20 people turned up at the Richmond Library to the very positive first meeting of 2023 to see history being made in the form of our first virtual talk (on Zoom) presented by **Pat Crowe**. Hey, us birders know how to use technology! It worked really well and could set a precedent for some very diverse and interesting presentations from speakers all around the country and indeed the world. Items on the Agenda included;

- **Pat Crowe**, our main speaker, gave a very interesting and informative talk about the many birding opportunities in Marlborough. (See below)
- Report of a trip to Lake Matiri in search of Great Crested Grebe (see below)
- Pied stilt chick release on the Boulder Bank on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>
- Maude island Trip Report **Jane Meiforth**
- V.O.C Update **David Melville**
- **Alison Ballance** reported on recent banding of oystercatchers and Caspian terns
- Tapawera Motueka Catchment Collective **Kate Radloff** (see below)

## **ERRATA AND THE DANGERS OF COMMON NAMES**

In a previous Tōrea Pango I somehow called our long-tailed cuckoo a Pacific koel, having hybridised the common names of two species, (both of which I am very familiar with!) The Pacific koel is split by some authorities from the Asian koel which is the bird that wakes you up at two in the morning in many Asian cities! A quick look at the common names may explain, but not excuse, my misnomer and serve as a warning regarding the casual use of such names.

**Australian koel**, (*Eudynamis cyanocephalus*)

Eastern koel, Pacific koel

**Long Tailed Cuckoo** (*Urodynamis taitensis*),

koekoea, kohoperoa, long-tailed koel, long-tailed cuckoo, Pacific long-tailed cuckoo.

## **NOTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 2022 WADER CENSUS**

It seems a long time ago now! - **Christine Pollock** writes these notes following the 2022 November wader census

'The increasingly high tides, the recent storms and heavy rainfall have noticeably changed the profile of the Waimea and Moutere estuaries.

First the bad news – on 27 November two people were standing on the eastern end of No Man's Island, a Nature reserve, fishing. There are usually two or three pairs of VOC's in this area but of course there were none this time.

The island may need a notice or two advising people they cannot land on it.

Next was a good find, actually excellent.

At the end of Kina peninsula is a shingly sandy basin providing great nesting habitat. In the past, pairs of VOC and banded dotterel have used it and at times flocks of young dotterel. When the vehicles moved in the birds were gone.

Now, the rising tides and storms have littered the beach with so many logs and the beach is shelving more steeply so that it is impassable for vehicles. VOC have moved back in but so far, no dotterel.

In the last Moutere Inlet embayment, beyond Wharf Road, there has always been a large shoal which was a roost area for many species and birds, sometimes up to 25 spoonbills. This year, during high tides the shoal has gone.

The Moutere inlet still has other islands but once they are all submerged there is little other habitat on the periphery for birdlife to retreat to.

The Waimea inlet is better off in places because of the river and streams which flow into it. The mouths of all these combined provide considerable roosting and nesting areas provided they are dog free.

## **SIGHTINGS**

I was just writing that it seems to have been pretty quiet over the summer with the usual uncommon waders, terns etc. reported from various locations around the country, when WHAM!

- A LONG-TOED STINT, is reported from Lake Ellesmere.
- And can you believe it -a BLACK TAILED NATIVE HEN is seen casually wandering around the Kiwi Park Motels and Holiday Park in Murchison!





Long-toed stint. Adult in breeding plumage. Tolderol Game Reserve, South Australia, April 2019. Image © David Newell 2019 birdlifephotography.org.au by David Newell. Courtesy Birds N.Z.



Black-tailed native-hen. Adult. Northern Victoria, Australia, August 2005. Image © Sonja Ross by Sonja Ross. Courtesy Birds N.Z.

- **Sharen Graham** reports a LITTLE OWL at Cable Bay  
 “I know they’ve been recorded near Cable Bay before but I saw a LITTLE OWL at the property that Google Maps brought up as 44 Cable Bay Road today. (Sat Dec 24, 2022 9:37 am) Very close to the road on that property there is what looks like a small rundown pump shed and it was on its roof. When I returned an hour later it flew from there into 20m Pinus. It might be breeding in the shed but I couldn’t confirm it. I’ll go back again and try and get more intel’.
- **Paul Fisher**, in what turned out to be a foreboding of doom (see **beach wrecks** below) reported a FAIRY PRION at the Boulder Bank  
 “This afternoon around 2pm (Feb 2) I was at the Boulder Bank car park at the Glen and saw a fairy prion skipping along the top of the waves about 50m from shore. Interesting to see one so close in”. *Michelle Bradshaw* comments “Wow, special sighting! Out of a total of 47,618 first marking records and 3,750 re-sighting records for the species on the falcon System, there is a single re-sighting of a banded fairy prion from Boulderbank area in 1975 (banded on Stephens Island 1970)  
**Other sightings reported include:**
  - FRIGATEBIRD (greater or lesser?) Central New Plymouth Feb 5th
  - LITTLE WHIMBREL (LITTLE CURLEW) New River Estuary Invercargill Feb 12th. (I was SO tempted to twitch this one)
  - RED-TAILED TROPICBIRD seen at the Bluff 90-mile beach Feb 15<sup>th</sup>
  - ORIENTAL PLOVER Feb 22 Waituna
  - ERECT CRESTED PENGUIN seen at Kaikoura Feb 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **LAKE MATIRI 11 DEC. - IN SEARCH OF THE GREAT CRESTED GREBE!**

A group of 12 members visited lake Matiri on 11<sup>th</sup> December in search of Great Crested Grebe. It appears that this species is moving Northward, with many birds reported in Marlborough. G. C. Grebe have also been reported from lake Matiri recently, but on this occasion the group failed to find any. However, an enjoyable time was had by all, with several species seen including 100’s of Canada Geese as well as robins etc. Thank you to **Jane Meiforth** for these photos.





## **SPLITS AND LUMPS**

Of course, the taxonomy of all species is in a state of constant flux. However, this latest lump proposal reportedly being considered by the I.O.C. is likely to 'unextinct' two species of relevance to our part of the world.

- The extinct LORD HOWE PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus subflavescens*) is a proposed lump with the (barely surviving) NORFOLK ISLAND PARAKEET (*C. cooki*)
- The extinct MACQUARIE PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus erythrotis*) is a proposed lump with the RED CROWNED PARAKEET (*C. novaezelandiae*)

A split (that I actually thought I'd reported on in a previous newsletter but can't find) and which could possibly affect our dedicated wader watchers is:

- The TIBETAN SAND PLOVER *Charadrius atrifrons* (including *pamirensis* and *schaeferi*) is split from LESSER SAND PLOVER *C. mongolus* (re-named Siberian Sand Plover) based on phenotypic differences and phylogenetic analysis.

## **BEACH WRECKS**

Further to Paul Fisher's fairy prion sighting above we have sadly had reports of beach wrecked prions: **Mark Ayre** reports:

'Just had walk on Kina beach and saw 43 dead fairy prions over 2 km of beach. Might be more on other beaches.

One picture shows a couple of birds, with one in good condition. The other shot shows the highest concentration of 5 birds.'





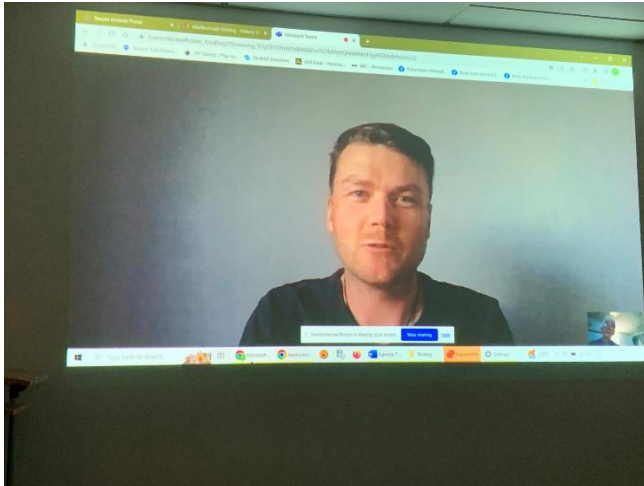
The pictures are not pretty viewing and this report could well be the tip of the iceberg. High levels of mortality in fairy prion populations are not an uncommon event and a number of explanations have been put forward including high sea temperatures reducing food availability. Birds New Zealand has a beach patrol scheme and explains the importance of monitoring and reporting dead birds found washed up on beaches. Not the most romantic aspect of being a birder, but very important. Here is the link to the page where you can read more about beach patrolling and how to report birds that you find. <https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/schemes/beachpatrolscheme/> And in case you are feeling depressed after that, here is a photo of a living fairy prion. A stunning wee bird!



Fairy prion | Titi wainui. Adult in flight. At sea off Antipodes Island, November 2016. Image © Edin Whitehead by Edin Whitehead [www.edinz.com](http://www.edinz.com)  
Courtesy Birds N.Z.

## **SO WHERE SHALL WE GO BIRDING IN MARLBOROUGH?**

As stated in the summary of the Feb 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, **Pat Crowe** gave a really interesting talk about the many excellent birding locations in Marlborough. So here he is, zoomed right into the Richmond library!



Pat focused on birding locations with good access and offering a wide range of (or particularly interesting) species. These included the Wairau lagoon, Beacon Road reserve, Grovetown lagoon, Lake Grassmere, Lake Elterwater and Motuara /Blumine Islands. He concluded with recommendations for a trip to the area, summarised below. We may wish to consider these and possibly organise a club excursion. Recommendation for possible trips from Pat are;

#### Day Trip

- Wairau lagoon (nesting colonies)
- Lake Grassmere Kapara Te Hau
- Lake Elterwater Te Ruakanakana.

#### Overnight Trip

- As above but with a trip out to Motuara the next day before returning to Nelson

#### Alternative Overnight Trip

- Replace trip to Motuara with the Kaikoura pelagic.

## **DAVID DRONES ON AND DRIVES HIMSELF DOTTY!**

The background to this story was in the last Tōrea Pango. Despite my silly header this is really cutting-edge stuff and clearly has great implications for monitoring bird numbers, particularly of colonial nesters and flocking species. **David Melville** writes;

'A damp day has finally allowed me to try to count the gulls on Chris' drone images of the Boulder Bank.

"DotDotGoose" [[DotDotGoose \(amnh.org\)](http://DotDotGoose.amnh.org)] \* makes for very easy counting (having finally plucked up the courage to try it).

The stitched photos made counting much easier as I only had to mark one boundary (blue line on attached images) to avoid double-counting and if we use a drone for future work it would be very good to get mages stitched.

The Red-billed Gulls show up well - in part because they are mostly set against a dark background of flotsam, and also their size helps. Nest/birds generally seemed to be quite evenly spaced and I have marked (in yellow) all birds that appeared to be potentially on nests. In some cases, there were two birds very close to each other and these I have taken as being a pair and only counted once. There were a few birds that did not look as white/grey as adults which possibly were (near) full-grown juveniles - I have tried to avoid counting these. Adult birds on open stone areas were considered to not be on nests and were not counted.



So, bearing in mind all of the caveats (!) the total number of "nests" is [ABOUT!] 2188. This compares with the 2015 survey by Pete and Ingrid Hutzler who recorded 761 "active nests". However, this is somewhat an apples and oranges comparison - especially as there were "289 chicks out of nest". Nonetheless, it does suggest a likely increase in the number of breeding birds.

I would be very happy to send copies of the stitched images to anyone else who would like to try counting (you only have to click on the target - DotDotGoose does the count for you!). It would be interesting to get a number of counts for comparison.

Unfortunately, the White-fronted Terns proved to be too much of a challenge. In some, the black cap shows, but many look like elongated white/grey bodies against white/grey stones...!

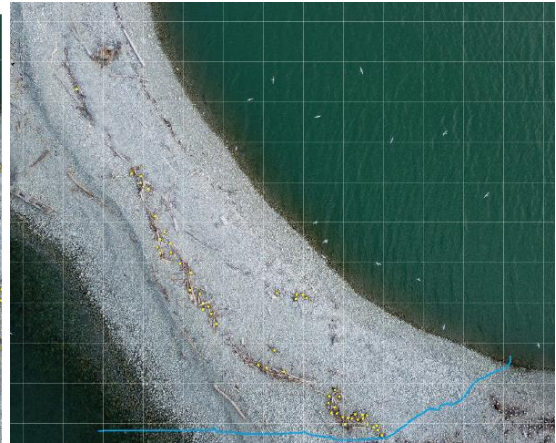
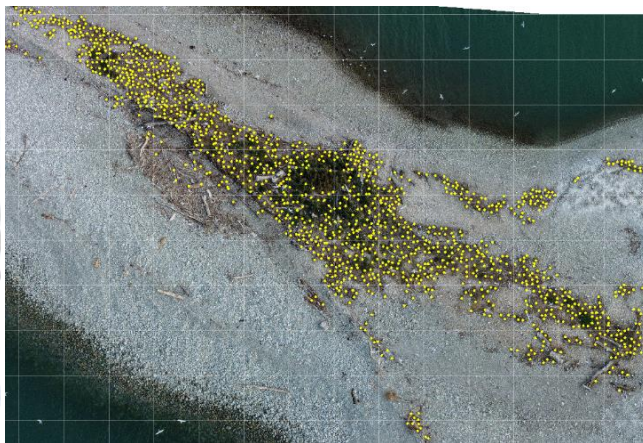
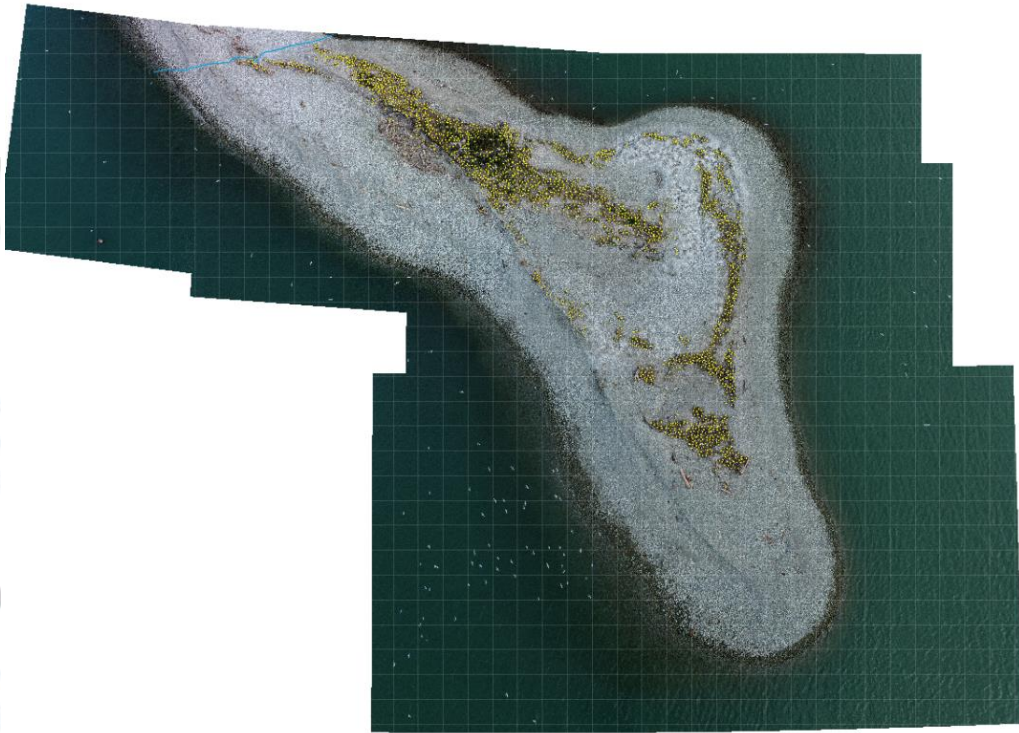
I think that this has been a very useful exercise and has demonstrated the value of use of a drone for a disturbance-free survey of breeding gulls. I do not know whether some modification of imagery might allow better identification of the terns in future?

A BIG thank you to Chris for flying the drone and getting the images!

*\*Editor's note: "DotDotGoose is a free, open-source tool to assist with manually counting objects in images. DotDotGoose was purpose-built since most conservation researchers and practitioners working on counting objects in images were using software such as Adobe Photoshop and ImageJ which are not ideally suited for many conservation applications. The DotDotGoose interface makes it easy to create and edit classes of objects to be counted and you can pan and zoom to accurately place points to identify individual objects."*







The photos David has provided give a great insight into the process. From top left 1) Showing how two birds together are counted as a single nest. 2) Eliminating WF terns 3) Red Billed gull nests in the South section of the Boulder bank. 4) Part of 3 enlarged. 5) North Section.

### **OYSTERCATCHER and CASPIAN TERN BANDING**

At the Feb 7<sup>th</sup> meeting **Alison Ballance** reported on recent banding of oystercatchers and Caspian terns. Alison's words and photos;

'The trip to band Caspian tern chicks, led by David Melville, took place on the shell bank adjacent to Bell Island, on the northern side of Waimea Estuary, at low tide on 8 January 2023. The chicks were still flightless and were caught in hand nets. This is another of David's ongoing projects and he asks that you let him know when and where you sight any flagged birds preferably with ID number.





Tern banding. -From top left.

- 1) **Mark Ayre** with an almost fledged Caspian tern chick.
- 2) Mid-size C.T. chick showing type of band used
- 3) If you have come across these and wondered what they were! -Shell nests of white fronted terns
- 4) **Kathryn Richards** with a very young C.T. chick.

David Melville and Rob Schuckard lead the oystercatcher banding trip, using cannon nets at the southern tip of Rabbit Island, at the entrance to Waimea Estuary, at high tide on 13 January 2023. It is part of an ongoing study by David and Rob, and they ask that if you see any oystercatchers with leg flags that you let them know the colour and code of the flag, and when and where you sighted it. On this particular trip we managed to catch just a handful of birds.'



Photo shows arrangement and disguise of cannons and nets along a suitable area of foreshore. Limited success on this occasion!

## **BANDED BLACK-BILLED GULLS**

**David Melville** sent me this correspondence with **Mike Bell** (Blenheim). Just goes to show the significant information that is obtained from banding and reporting!  
Hi Mike,



We had a visit to Bell Island shell bank, Waimea Inlet yesterday (13 Feb 2023) and recorded Black-billed Gulls:

WHITE 222, 444, Y23

We would be interested in banding details and any subsequent resighting history.

Cheers, David

Morena David,

Thanks heaps for recording these.

White 222, banded as a chick on the Wairau in Nov 2017, but only seen two other times Oct 2018 and May 2019, both at Bell's Island – which suggests this guy didn't return to breed on the Wairau, but is breeding elsewhere.

White 444, another 2017 chick, but only seen once in Nov 2018 at the Clarence River mouth. Again, properly means this guy didn't return to the Wairau!

White Y23 is a chick banded on the Buller River in Dec 2012 (so 11 years old now), it has been recorded breeding in the Maruia River Colony in 2014, 2015 and 2017 (please note I don't get to check this colony every year so properly means it is more often breeding there). Then in Dec 2019 it was seen in the middle of Blenheim. So this is a good wintering record for this guy.

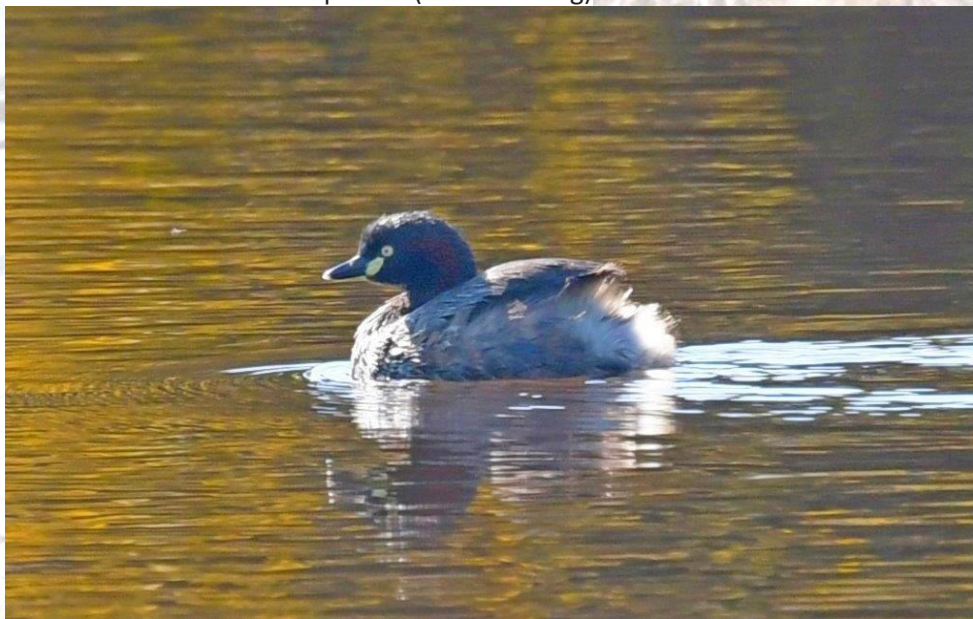
So, some pretty good sightings guys!

Thanks, Mike

## **LITTLE GREBE-- KELLINGS ROAD TASMAN**

*Don Cooper* writes;

'Attached is the image I spoke to you about recently. Willie Cook was quite happy for me to send this onto you. As a totally back lit subject it still shows the bare patch below the eye which is a clear identification of the species. (non-breeding)



Little Grebe at a pond on Kelling's Road. Photo by Willie Cook

Taken earlier this year on a small pond on Kelling's Rd. Upper Moutere. The pond is viewed from a high point on the road and affords limited opportunities to get 'shots' of the bird life.

Ensure you credit Willie to the photo, I was just helping him to assemble a selection of bird images for a calendar, the Grebe was not one of them they were all rejected due to poor light!



## **RISING TIDES AND DRIFTWOOD**

*Gillian Pollock* reports on a changing environment in a well-known local area.



The 4.6m high tide on Wednesday 22nd February, was lapping the road to Kina peninsula in several places. (photo)

The shingly sandy basin at the end of the peninsula is recovering well from having vehicles crossing it for many years. Two pairs of pairs of V.O.C. have moved back in and each have raised a chick, so a population of 6. The banded dotterel have yet to re-colonise the area.



Rising tides and storms have littered the beach with many logs and the beach is shelving more steeply so that it is impassable for vehicles. (photo)

In the last Moutere Inlet embayment, where most high tide shoals have disappeared, the spoonbills have adapted.



This week, 13 were still on the small remaining shoal in the embayment while 16 had retreated to a tree in the main Inlet.



## V.O.C UPDATE

At the Feb 7<sup>th</sup> meeting **David Melville** gave us an update on a couple of our local VOC's

Variable Oystercatcher "CT7" – first trans-Cook Strait movement


- Banded Bell Island 28 May 2022, Age 2
- Re-sighted Saxton Field, Stoke 28 June and 19 July 2022
- Resighted Hutt estuary, Wellington, 12 Jan 2023 145km



VOC snippets –C17 makes a first recorded trans Cook straight movement—and

"Crusty Bum" a chick showing an unusual and unpleasant (not to mention embarrassing) condition has made it through.

Variable Oystercatcher "P4" - crusty-bum chick survives



Banded 9 Jan 2023  
Resighted 7 Feb 2023

## **INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY IN THE TAPAWERA AREA – Kate Radloff** **(Collaboration using recreation, education and conservation to support our braided river birds.)**

*(Ed Note. I have included the whole of this plan by **Kate Radloff** which she has developed to protect and at the same time develop an important section of the Motueka river at Tapawera. It's an interesting read and certainly something that we may be able to help and support.)*



We are very lucky in Tapawera. We are situated within less than an hour's drive to two national parks. We have a special piece of remnant forest within walking distance of the village. Many of our farms also have remnant bush with some awesome farmers who work hard to look after it. We have a river (plus tributaries) which is, overall, in reasonably good condition. But we also have an important piece of braided river (again within walking distance of the village) that is providing crucial habitat for nationally endangered birds, and I think that THIS IS SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT!!

### Context

I live on Tapawera-Baton Road and volunteer for the Motueka Catchment Collective (MCC), Tapawera Area School, and Tapawera Native Propagation Group. On Christmas Eve, my family and I got to watch the impressive sight of pied stilts, black-fronted terns, and black-billed gulls either nesting, looking after chicks or showing courtship behaviour; all within walking distance of our property. It was a fantastic experience!

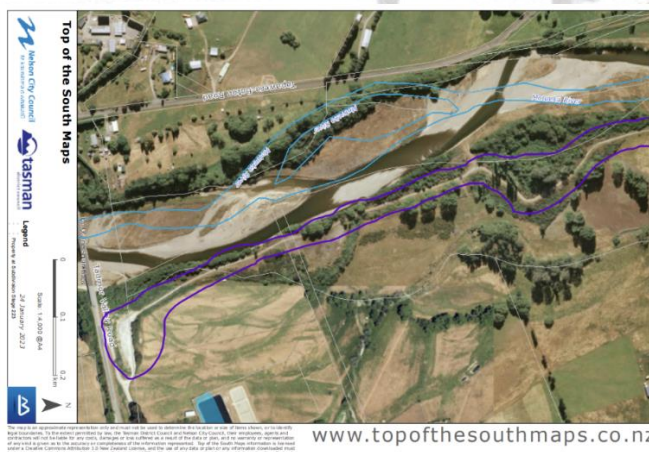
As I was researching the river for my work, I read that as a freshwater wetland site of special wildlife interest, the middle-braided reaches of the Motueka riverbed around Tapawera is considered to be a site of special wildlife interest with moderate-to-high value as it is "used seasonally for breeding by coastal species including the banded dotterel, pied stilt, Paradise shelduck, South Island pied oystercatcher and black-fronted tern." (The Motueka and Riwaka Catchments technical report, appendix 2, compiled by L. R. Basher, 2003)

I realised that many of the birds we had seen were not only endemic but also nationally endangered or declining. Understanding that they were special and at risk (especially from introduced predators and people driving on the riverbed), it became quickly apparent that there was an awesome opportunity for a community project(s) that could promote the importance of our bit of river.

I got in touch with **Paul Griffiths**, the Nelson regional representative for Birds New Zealand, to find out more. Paul kindly passed on my email to Motueka based members who responded quickly. Since then, I have been lucky enough to receive three separate visits, including one from Paul himself and another from **David Melville** (a world-renowned shorebird expert who lives within the catchment – google him if you have not heard of his work). Neither of them had been aware of the site and they both agreed that this piece of river is very special! They were extremely generous with their time, sharing their extensive knowledge and offering support to any future project.

### Proposed Community Project

The general project idea is to promote the braided section of the Motueka river and the birds that inhabit it to the local community, students, and visitors, whilst also enhancing recreation opportunities in the Tapawera area. This could involve clearing and planting up the area/access road north-east of the Tapawera bridge (see map below), adding educational boards whilst making it attractive for public recreation.



It could tick many boxes as it would provide opportunities for the local community and school as well as supporting the nesting birds and other freshwater biodiversity. For example:

- The existing access road (which follows the river) already offers a reasonably enjoyable walking track which is easily accessible for everyone and within walking distance from the village. However, the start is not attractive or welcoming as it is overgrown and used as a gravel holding site and it is likely many people may not know about it or use it. If some areas were cleared and planted, it is more likely to be used by both the community and visitors (especially cyclists as the cycle track runs past it). As walking and cycling are important ways of increasing or maintaining physical and mental health, an engaging popular local track would be beneficial for everyone.



Proposed area by Tapawera bridge. Entrance to access road and gravel piles

- It could provide an attractive and accessible recreation area with river access for swimming, bird watching, fishing, and picnicking as well as walking and cycling. People are likely to use it more and look after it if it is appealing.
- If community groups and the local school were to get onboard, native planting, trapping, and weed control programmes could be created which would be beneficial for all, especially the tarapirohe (black-fronted terns) and tarāpuka (black-billed gulls) who are nationally endangered and declining respectively.
- Providing environmental education for local school students, community members, and even tourists and cyclists is a worthwhile opportunity. For example, learning more about how these birds depend on both coastal and inland braided rivers will help to support a “mountain to sea” holistic view of the catchment and will build on the overall message to keep our river healthy. It could also be an opportunity to increase understanding of Te Mana o te Wai hierarchy of obligations and principles.
- Whilst the Motueka river is already monitored regularly, there is potential for this area to provide a suitable site for community/school monitoring using an educational and collaborative approach. River health directly affects the success of the birds, especially considering their dependence on small fish and macroinvertebrates whilst feeding their young.
- Using education and positive messages to help change negative behaviours around the riverbed is especially important, as a better understanding of our endemic birds and their habitat may encourage people to not use the riverbed during nesting times with their dogs or in their 4wds. It may also lower their tolerance to those who continue to put the birds at risk.
- It could offer a chance to further develop important relationships with tāngata whenua and provide a better understanding of mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori.



- If locally sourced natives are used, the area could eventually contribute to a natural corridor that would work to reconnect the likes of Shedwood Bush (also within walking distance of the village), other local remnant forest, and eco-sourced plantings.

I believe this project has the potential to be great for the area and it might be the perfect time to consider it:

- Both MCC and Tapawera Connect have community support and have received funding that could possibly be linked in.
- TDC is prioritising freshwater in the region and (alongside Taylors Contracting) already plans their gravel work around nesting times which is great to hear.
- There has been work around the country showing where gravel extraction/movement, when done in a considerate way, has had positive impacts for nesting bird populations, due to creation of islands and removal of introduced weeds which provide cover for predators.
- Tapawera Area School became an enviroschool a few years ago and has been working on that and local biodiversity projects.
- Many of the environmental educators in the region already have connections with the school and are working hard to find ways to collaborate as a group.
- Excitingly, David Melville has offered his valuable time to work with Tapawera students if a field trip can be arranged.

As there are multiple nesting sites along the braided strip, I would love to see the project extend to other public river access points between Kohatu bridge to Wangapeka river confluence. For example, whilst the river access on Tapawera-Baton Road is a great place for people to swim, walk their dogs, hang out, and even spot birds(!), a while ago I had to watch a 4wd vehicle drive through both the tern and gull nesting areas, feeling completely helpless. Preventative measures like strong gates that can be locked, when necessary, would prevent this from happening, but these need to work alongside other strategies that encourage better understanding and behaviour change, as education is likely to have a lot more impact in the long term. This could be the opportunity to make that difference.

If you have managed to read this far THANK YOU! I am aware this project is unlikely to be an easy one, will take time, and getting the community on board is not guaranteed. Because of that, it would require significant collaboration with many people/groups, although so far, I have only sent this to those who I already have some form of connection with, either through MCC, Tapawera Area School or the local community. If you think the project has potential and you are aware of other people or groups who might be interested, please let me know.



Black-fronted tern (left) and black-billed gull with chicks (right). Motueka river at Tapawera taken by **Paul Griffiths**, January 2023

**MORE GREBES!**



Further to *Don Cooper's* report above. *Paul Griffiths* has sent these photos of a successful dabchick breeding at a private address in Hope, Richmond.



**REMEMBER! A.G.M. Tuesday March 7th!!!**  
**RICHMOND LIBRARY**