

TŌREA PANGO



NELSON BRANCH BIRDS NZ. NEWSLETTER ISSUE 12. March/April 2024.

Since I've retired, time seems to have become less to do with calendars and more to do with the behaviour of birds. As I'm writing this, in the second week of April, goldfinch are flocking in our paddocks to feed on the last of the teasel, grey warblers are singing that nostalgic autumn descent, white eyes gorge on the remaining apples, spoonbills are back, and the godwits have left. And how good was that rain!

LAST MEETINGS

March 4th

25 people attended. This was a meeting of two halves, starting with the AGM.

- Paul G read the report of regional annual report (see below)
- Paul Fisher gave the financial report.
- Appointment of regional representative, treasurer, newsletter editor and committee.

After the AGM:

- Rob Schuckard spoke about Godwit movement between Mot Sandspit and Waimea East. (see below)
- Paul Bennett showed a short clip of a chaffinch 'anting' and raised some questions. (see below)

April 8th

18 people attended the April meeting.

- Harry Allard spoke on "Nelson Haven -long term habitat changes and future management." (see below)
- Paul Bennett reported on the current history of and prospects for vulture species in S.E. Asia. (see below)

COMMITTEE

This is a list of new committee members and contact emails:

Regional Representative

Mark Ayre bullersalbatross@gmail.com

Treasurer

Paul Fisher wildlands.nelson@gmail.com

Committee

David Melville david.melville@xtra.co.nz

Sharen Graham grahamsharen@gmail.com

Alison Ballance ali.ballance@gmail.com

Kathryn Richards kathrynjeanrichards@gmail.com

Newsletter editor

Paul Bennett thebraveryofbeingoutofrange@gmail.com

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - ANNUAL REPORT - FOR 2023

This is Paul G's swansong report presented to the March meeting and sent to BirdsNZ. Again, many thanks Paul for the great job you have done in your role over the past few years.

REGION: Nelson /Tasman

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Paul Griffiths

REGIONAL RECORDER: (None at present)

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: Numbers have fluctuated between 85 and 96.

NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD: 9

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 24. All meetings held at Richmond Library. No meetings in January, June (National Conference) and October. (General Election) December Xmas barbecue meeting held at home of David Melville.

NUMBER OF FIELD TRIPS: 7

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 10

ACCIDENTS OR NEAR MISSES THAT OCCURRED DURING ACTIVITIES: None

FIELD TRIPS:

- Wader counts at Golden and Tasman Bays and Waimea Estuaries 3 times a year.
- VOC and SIPO catching and banding at Rabbit Island and Motueka Spit.
- Caspian Tern catching and banding in Dec 2023 led by Willie Cook and David Melville.
- Trips to Wakapuaka Sandflats reserve in Atawhai, Nelson to net and band fernbirds.
- Numerous visits to Boulder Bank to count bar-tailed godwits, white-fronted terns, black fronted terns, banded dotterels, red-billed gulls, oystercatchers, black back gulls.
- Visits to Tapawera /Motueka braided river to observe nesting black-fronted terns and black-billed gulls.

REGIONAL PROJECTS:

1. Oystercatcher cannon netting trips to Rabbit Island and McKee Reserve in Mapua. Trips led by experienced level 3 banders, David Melville, Rob Schuckard and Willie Cook. There were several level 1 bird banders in training in attendance. There were also other volunteers and observers from DOC in attendance and local volunteers from Nelson membership. Numbers of volunteers varied at each catch.
2. Yearly catch of Caspian Tern chicks on the shell bank off Bell's Island in late November/ early December 2023. Chicks were banded then released.
3. Fernbird project. In cooperation with Nelson Council BirdsNZ have started a programme at Wakapuaka Sandflats Reserve to net and band the fernbird population in this small, restricted area. Since Dec 31st, 2022, some 35 birds have been caught and banded. Up to ten banded birds have been retrapped giving valuable data on moult status and age. Volunteers also visit the sandflats reserve to obtain resighting and photos of banded and unbanded birds. This productive relationship with Nelson Council and Birds New Zealand continuing into 2023 and beyond. The areas of interest have widened to include fernbirds at Glenduan and Marahau near Kaiteriteri.

4. Royal spoonbill census in Atawhai, Monaco and Golden Bay.
5. Regular trips to Motueka Spit for counts of bar-tailed godwits, red knots, turnstones, oystercatchers, whimbrel, black fronted terns, and black-billed gulls.
6. Banded rail monitoring at Cable Bay, Glenduan in cooperation with Forest and Bird members.

The Nelson Region AGM is planned for March 2024.

REGIONAL NEWSLETTER: The editor is Paul Bennett and the newsletter is entitled Torea Pango. It is issued every 2 or 3 months. This is a wonderful asset for our region.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE HEALTH OF THE REGION

This has been a busy year preparing for the BirdsNZ Nelson National Conference 2024. We have regular Zoom meetings at least monthly and sometimes twice a month. The Richmond Library is still an excellent venue for meetings with reliable internet and audio-visual facilities. Membership has increased steadily and now stands at 96. The audio-visual facilities in Richmond Library are excellent and we used them to good effect with regular speakers in 2023. We had talks from Kevin Parker, the director of the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of Capetown, Alison Balance, Robert Schadewinkel, Winifred Long, Pat Crowe from Marlborough, Ruth Bollongino and Rob Jones.

2023 has been a fruitful year for cooperation between Nelson Council and OSNZ Nelson. The Fernbird Project at Wakapuaka Sandflats Reserve has received a grant of \$2000+ for equipment and running costs and ties in well with local council's Biodiversity aspirations and plans.

We have a regular core of enthusiastic, active long-term members who turnout for meetings and field work. Several Atlasing trips using the EBird app have been organised to Lake Matiri and the Tapawera areas.

We have welcomed by email a substantial number of new members. Some members haven't been active in any local society activities and haven't renewed their sub in December. Bird photographers continue to be interested in joining Nelson OSNZ.

Newsletters/email notices etc, are sent to people with lapsed memberships (for a complimentary 12 months) and to individuals in local body organisations etc.

Monthly evening meetings are mostly very well attended with members keen to share their birding sightings and photography, often from overseas travel, but there has been more interest in NZ birding. Scientific presentations are few and far between.

On average, I receive per month, one or two enquiries, mostly local through email and telephone on birding matters, through OSNZ Birds NZ website information.

Bank accounts have enough funds for project assistance, e.g. banding, and postage, stationery and miscellaneous.

Our current membership: 96 Members. In the past receiving monthly notification of new members was helpful and I encourage the Membership Sec to continue these notifications regularly.

The end of year social barbecue get-together in December 2023 was well attended!

Many thanks to David and Vicky Melville for the invitation to use their home.

Paul Griffiths

MARK AYRE --OUR NEW REGIONAL REP.

We have a new RR- Mark Ayre. Many will have heard him talk at the January meeting but after his election to the role at the AGM I gave him a ring -just to 'get the goss' on him.

Like many of us he has been a birder for much of his life and talking to him I felt an immediate connection, not only with his wide-ranging interest in, and love for birds, but also with his amenable personality and humour.



As a teenager Mark was a volunteer warden at the well-known Titchfield Haven RSPB reserve (now a National Nature Reserve) in the UK. (photo wiki commons)

Mark has now resided in NZ for 44 years, 7 years longer than the average person, so I guess that pretty much makes him a kiwi. Before moving to Motueka just over 3 years ago, he lived in Otago where he was chairman of the local Forest and Bird and active in bird conservation (in particular of the Mohua), managing and maintaining trapping and monitoring programmes in the Haast region and the Makarora Valley. Mark is also involved in bird surveys and bird counts for the Department of Conservation and other private groups.

And as if that isn't birdy enough, he is also a professional bird guide, working for international birding companies such as Nature Quest on their NZ tours. Tours with these companies are often 3 weeks long and not only do they demand the guide to have excellent birding skills and stamina, but also the ability to engage, manage, pacify -whatever it takes to ensure that those on the tours have a great experience. Clearly such attributes well qualify him to deal with a meeting in the Richmond library!

Undoubtedly Mark is an enthusiast and he spoke about his many exciting ideas to take our group forward from its already strong position. In particular he sees the importance of involving and fostering interest among young people. Our nationally important wader sites are perhaps underused from an educational perspective and offer the potential to be utilised further for youth camps, cannon netting courses and the possibility of a permanent banding station. Mark is also aware of the diversity of knowledge, interests, and levels of commitment within our group and the need to ensure that everyone feels included and involved. And while it's not something we like to consider, succession planning to ensure transfer of skills, knowledge and even equipment is important to a group like ours where the demographic isn't exactly youthful. He also talked of the need to promote ourselves in the wider community with the possibility of appointing a publicity and liaison officer.

Mark's favourite birding experience was when a pair of karearea nested in the campground at Albert Town near Wanaka. Being falcons, they of course attacked all the campers who were trespassing on their territory, requiring all to wear soft hats and a section of the camp to be cordoned off. This was a fantastic opportunity for ordinary people to observe falcons and their nesting behaviour. Welcome to the RR role Mark. All the very best and hope you enjoy it immensely.

And if you think Mark might just be a bird nerd, consider the following.

- He sailed his family from NZ to Tonga!
- He worked at Everest base camp rebuilding and maintaining electronic equipment during the making of the film “Everest” -and if you don’t blink you can even see him in the movie!
- When guiding, unlike many of his clientele, he refuses to wear his binoculars into a restaurant. (If you’ve ever been on a bird tour with a few of our Northern Hemisphere friends you will understand how radical and bold a statement this is!)



GODWIT MOVEMENT BETWEEN MOT SANDSPIT AND WAIMEA EAST Rob Schuckard



At the March meeting, Rob Schuckard talked about wader counts and the movement between the Motueka sandspit and Waimea east high tide roost sites.

OSNZ members count waders to:

- Assess long term population trends
- Assess conservation values of wetlands.
- Measure the success of habitat management of wetlands.



Bar-tailed Godwit (*L. l. baueri*):
Population Australia and New Zealand – 126,000
About 74% is staging in New Zealand during non breeding

Top of South Island hosts 15% of total population of Eastern Bar tailed Godwit.

Legend:
 ■ Farewell Spit ■ Tasman Bay
 ■ Golden Bay ■ Total Population

Photo: Phil Battley

| Site of International and National Importance (SIN) | Bar tailed Godwit |
|--|-------------------|
| SIN - Sites of International Importance, ≥ 1% Flyway Threshold | |
| Golden Bay | |
| Farewell Spit | ✓ |
| Potter's | ✓ |
| Totara Avian Sanctuary | ✓ |
| Contingwood | ✓ |
| Bluff | ✓ |
| Tasman Bay | |
| Motueka Sandspit | ✓ |
| East Waimea Complex (Plebe Island East and Bell Island (Shoals)) | ✓ |
| Nelson Haven | ✓ |

Top of the South hosts 15% of the total Eastern bar tailed godwit population with 3 sites (Farewell Spit, Motueka Sandspit and the East Waimea complex) being of international importance.

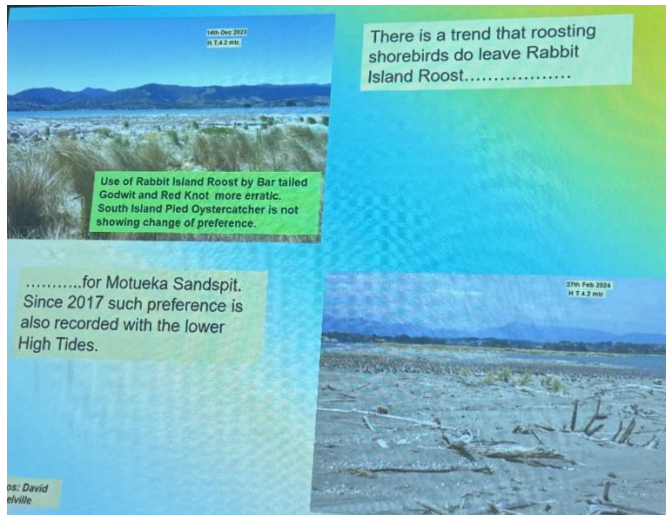
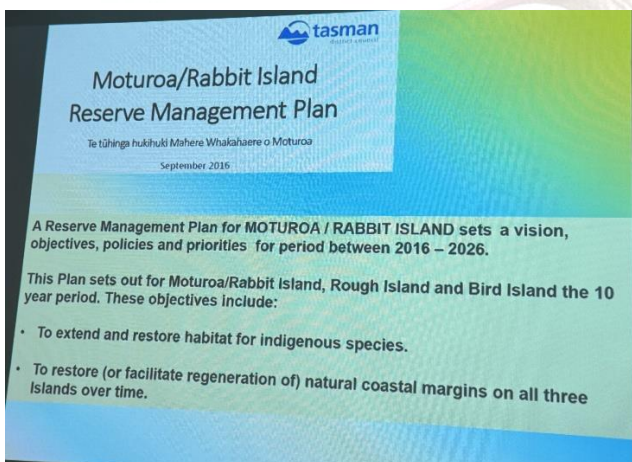


Photo shows the degree of slash on the Waimea roost sites. Climate change, the encroachment of marram grass and forestry slash on the beach are all impacting on the ability of the Waimea sites to function as high tide roosts. Data indicates that many birds particularly godwits and knots which use the Waimea roosts are moving to the Motueka roost at king tides. Increasingly this is happening at lower tides as well.

The implications of this are firstly that wader counts need to be synchronized. If a count is done at the sandspit during a king tide, then many of the birds that normally roost at Waimea will be counted. These same birds could be counted again at Waimea during a normal high tide. So, wader counts in these two areas need to be done at the same time. Secondly the management plan for the East Waimea roost area needs to be fully implemented.



Specific Recommendations from OSNZ are:

- Removal of marram grass.
- Push back the boundary between pine trees and foreshore.
- Keep biosolids away from the eastern end of Rabbit Island.

Additional issues:

- Prevention removal of forestry slash.
- Erosion due to climate change.
- Invasive fennel.

2024 FERNBIRD SURVEY IN WAIMEA ESTUARY Ingrid Hutzler

In January, a Fernbird Survey was conducted in the Waimea Estuary for the Tasman Environmental Trust. This was a follow-up to an initial 2018 survey, to determine any changes in numbers and distribution of fernbird over the past six years, following intensive trapping and habitat restoration. With the help of volunteers from the community and Birds NZ members, 20 locations with potential fernbird habitat were surveyed, using call playback.

The results show that the fernbird population and distribution at the Waimea Estuary has increased over the past six years, from one individual to a minimum of eight birds. These were sighted at three different locations: five at Manuka Island Embayment, two at Pearl Creek, and one near Best Island. At least two of these were juveniles – this is the first confirmed breeding record for several years!

Fernbird were not the only ones to profit from habitat improvement and predator control in this estuary. Banded rail were sighted at five locations, compared to no sightings and foot prints only in 2018. Black-fronted tern and Royal spoonbills were seen at four locations, compared to one last time. The overall success is also evident in the number of bird species, which increased by seven from 43 to

50. New species not recorded last time include Eurasian coot, Australian wood duck, weka and Canada geese

<http://ebird.org/content/newzealand/>.

A special thanks to Tracey Murray, Paul Fisher, and Ian Price and all the keen volunteers who assisted!
(Ingrid Hutzler)



Fernbird at Pearl Creek Reserve (Ingrid Hutzler)



Pearl Creek outlet to O'Connor Delta (Ingrid Hutzler)



Volunteers during survey, day 1 (Kathryn Brownlee)



Volunteers during survey, day 4 (Ingrid Hutzler)

NEW PHOTOGRAPHER ON THE BLOCK!

Maria Clement showed some of her amazing photos at our January meeting. Here's a sample!



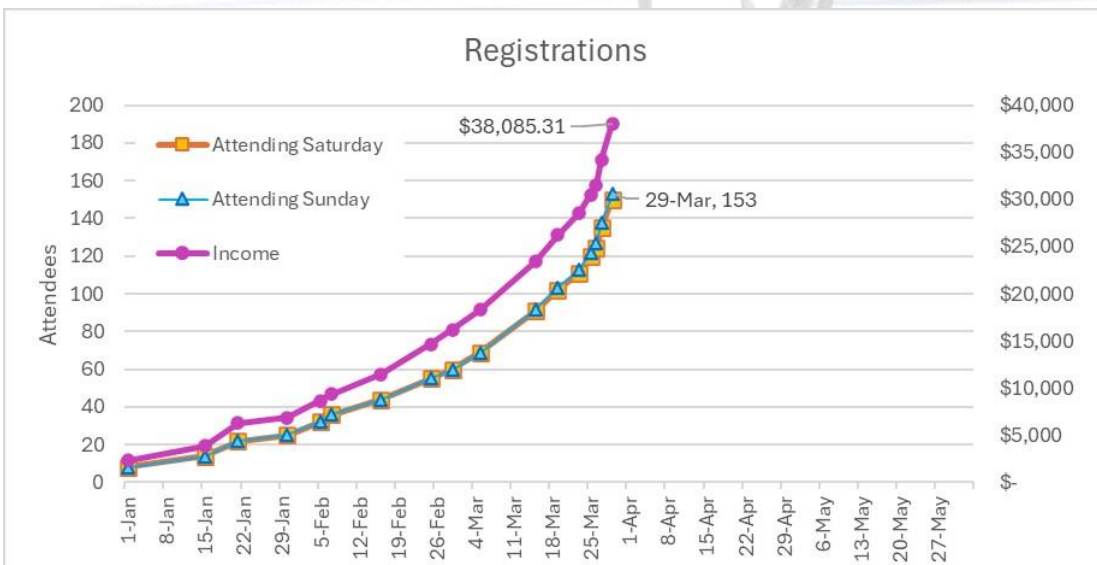
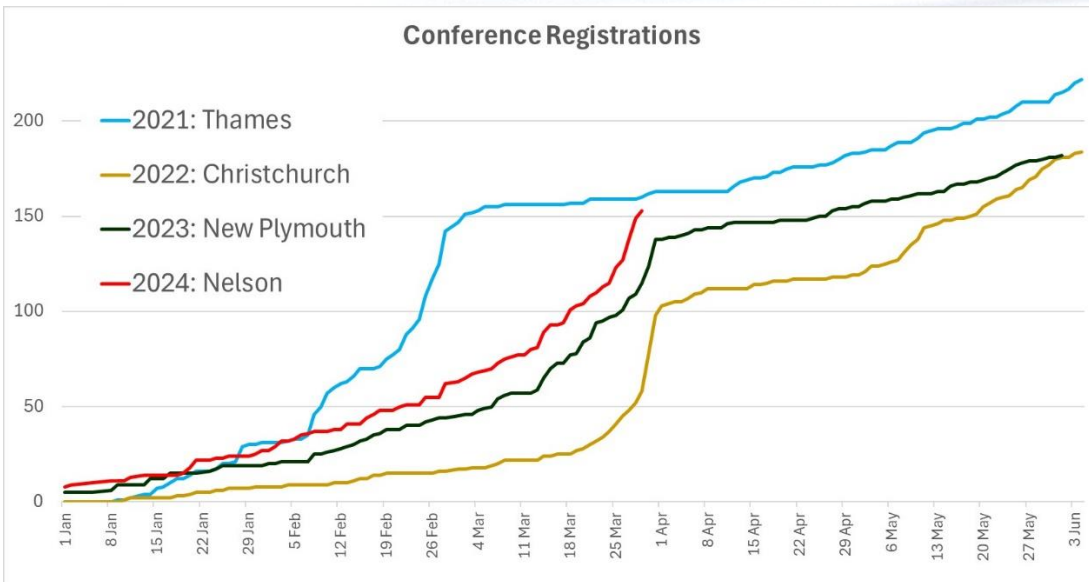


**Top left
Clockwise**

- 1) Banded rails/ Moho pererū: A breeding adult, Waimea Inlet.
- 2) Foraging, Waimea inlet. Off to find chick food, Waimea inlet.
- 3) Adult male NZ falcon /karearea Rototai.
- 4) Gannet/Tākapu in flight, Farewell Spit.

AND FROM MICHELLE BRADSHAW

--Michelle can knock off a spectacular looking graph or spreadsheet as easily as a Piwakawaka snatching up a fly. Look at these beautiful updates on Conference registrations! (As of 29th March)



AUTUMN AT THE MOT SANDSPIT

Rebecca Bowater sent in these pics of the March 9th Mot Sandspit trip. Pretty much a goodbye to the knots and godwits.

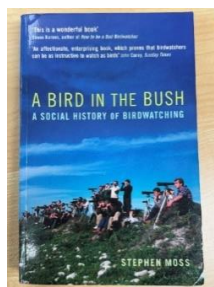


Roosting godwit and knot with many males in full breeding plumage and also a good number of turnstone.



A READING RECOMMENDATION

Maggie Attwood discovered this wee gem and would like to recommend!



ANTING

At the March meeting Paul B (yep -me) showed a short video clip of a chaffinch “anting.” This behaviour involves a bird picking up ants and rubbing them through the plumage. Formic acid produced by the ants as a defense mechanism destroys or removes ectoparasites such as mites, feather lice etc. The problem is that none of the 40 species of ants in NZ belong to the genus *Formica* and so do not produce formic acid. Despite this the bird in question was investing a great deal of energy into the activity. This poses the questions:

Is this a genetically programmed behaviour that has not been extinguished during the time these birds have been in NZ, despite its apparent lack of functionality? Or—
Is there actually some function to this behaviour and if so, what?

NEST RECORD SCHEME

At the April meeting there was some discussion around various Birds NZ schemes that we could be involved with. One that is easy for everyone and great for encouraging encourage kids to be involved is the nest record scheme. Serge Crottaz and Christine Grove have agreed to take on responsibility for promoting this scheme in Nelson. Serge writes:

‘While the main nesting season is a few months away and Autumn being the last of the Atlas season, we need your help to gain more knowledge of a very important aspect of bird behaviour!

The object of the scheme is to provide abundant and comprehensive data on length, time and peak of breeding seasons, clutch size, number of clutches, incubation and fledgling periods, nest sites and materials used in nest building.

Nest observations have been used in many books and papers, including a study comparing introduced species between New Zealand and Great Britain (Evans et al., 2005 *Functional Ecology* 19: 616-624). A study of Welcome Swallows found that birds were now breeding earlier than formerly – this being compatible with a response to global climate change (Evans et al., 2003 *Emu* 103: 215-220).

With the Nest Recording Scheme, you can help to fill the gaps in this knowledge. Are you able to observe birds nesting in your garden or neighbourhood park; or are you already undertaking valuable research on a species that could be reported?

This nest was discovered while trimming the fence in my garden a few metres from the house.

Please check <https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/schemes/nest-record-scheme/> or contact the [Nest Records Scheme Convenor](#). Any contribution would be much appreciated and useful. Also feel free to contact me if you want more information.’



Photo of a female black bird feeding its four nestlings in Serge’s garden.

Serge serge.crottaz@gmail.com

Sourced: 08/04/2024 at

https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/schemes/nest-record-scheme/?fbclid=IwAR3Jgmwn_RF5izkTsZzuEI5YwbMluMlxGzOS7H0Fhq-l-PIUbj-OWFLZiM

VULTURES IN S.E. ASIA Paul Bennett

Having recently returned from a visit to Cambodia and the Philippines I gave a short presentation to the April meeting. In summary:

Top (and obligate) Scavengers

- Carcass disposal
- Reduce direct spread of diseases.
- Reduce feral dogs, rats, flies etc.
- Spread nutrients.
- It's estimated that decline in vultures has caused 500,000 extra human deaths.

Diclofenac Disaster

- ⇒ 1980
- 40-50,000,000 Vultures in India /SE Asia across all species
- ⇒ 2000
- 40 -50,000
- i.e. A 99% + decline!
- Primary Cause;
- DICLOFENAC**
- In S.E. Asia down to 100 - 200 birds across all 3 species by 2004.



Vultures have essential roles in many ecosystems. For most of last century despite gradual decline in numbers, they were doing OK. However, diclofenac, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory was used to treat cattle in the 1980's -90's. This drug is highly toxic to vultures causing renal failure and death to birds feeding on diclofenac treated carcasses. Vulture numbers across all the species in SE Asia and India plummeted from around 50 million in 1980 to less than 50 thousand in 2000. Despite a ban on treating cattle with diclofenac, numbers failed to increase. By 2004 only a remnant population of around 100 birds were left in the whole of SE Asia and these were in Cambodia. Various wildlife organizations stepped in and purchased a reserve for vultures near a village called Prek Toal in the northeast of the country. This was set up as a sustainable ecotourist site ensuring that both vultures and villagers benefitted.



To visit the site, you must purchase a cow (non-diclofenac of course) and pay a sum of money which goes to the village and in particular those responsible for policing, feeding, guiding and monitoring both vultures and visitors. By 2012 vulture numbers had increased to over 400.



Three species are present and marked (in very shaky writing) on the photo: 1 Slender billed 2) Red headed 3) White rumped. Probably around 70% of the vultures left in S.E. Asia were feeding on the carcass.

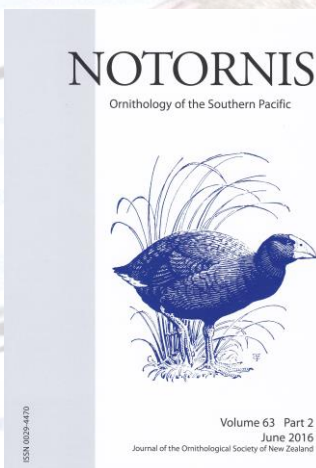
Sadly, despite the initial population increases following the development of the sanctuary, numbers have again dropped down to just over 100 birds. A number of threats continue to endanger vultures including:

- Habitat loss- Obviously for agriculture. Interestingly removal of landmines, which prevented human activity, has resulted in the loss of large areas of de facto wildlife refuge.
- Poisoning by poachers who don't want circling vultures to give away their activities.
- Hunting for ritual consumption of vulture meat.
- Wind turbines.
- Changes in agricultural practices reducing carcass availability.

Specifically to the vultures at Prek Toal, in 2012 a 200,000-ha block adjacent to the reserve was sold to a Chinese company who cleared all the dry deciduous forest, built a huge sugar refinery and planted sugar cane. Apparently none was ever harvested and the land is now useless. My guide assured me that it was a money laundering scheme! Clearly though, the land served as an important adjunct to the actual reserve and was significant in maintaining and increasing the vulture populations. It's very hard to be optimistic for the future of these wonderful creatures.

BIRDS NZ RESEARCH FUND

This is the advert for Birds NZ research fund applications. Anyone keen?



Are You Interested In Birds?

Birds New Zealand is a voluntary charitable society that depends on the enthusiasm, active participation, knowledge and financial support of its members.

We encourage and promote the study of birds by organising projects and activities at national and regional level. We help fund studies and support the wider knowledge and enjoyment of birds. We encourage members to learn more about birds, where to find and how to study them. We publish the quarterly scientific journal *Notornis* and the popular magazine *Birds New Zealand*.

Birds New Zealand Research Fund

This important national fund is managed by Birds New Zealand on behalf of a New Zealand Charitable Trust. We invite applications from individuals or organisations prepared to make a difference through ornithological research, with outcomes likely to provide for better management of New Zealand birds or their environment. This year's closing date is **15 June 2024**. For details visit www.birdsnz.org.nz/funding/birds-nz-research-fund/

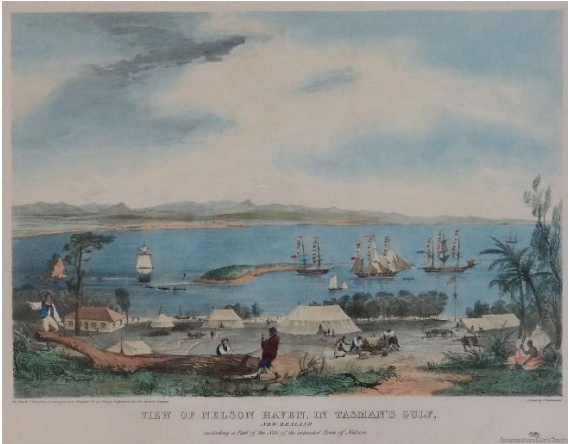
Please Join Us!

Receive *Birds New Zealand* and *Notornis* for FREE!
Participate in bird activities
Membership fees start from \$40
Help make a difference!
Visit us on www.birdsnz.org.nz



NELSON HAVEN -LONG TERM HABITAT CHANGES AND FUTURE MANAGEMENT

Harry Allard spoke at the April meeting, giving us an excellent overview of this important 1250ha of estuary, bounded by the Boulder bank and used by humans since the 14th century.



The haven was known as the landing place of Rākaihautū who was the captain of the Uruaokapuarangi waka and a Polynesian ancestor of various iwi. It has long been used as a harbor for European shipping and trade.

Harry showed some interesting old photos showing physical changes to the Haven over time. Significantly from a habitat perspective, there has been:

- A 70% loss of natural forest cover in the catchment area
- Development of a “hard” boundary (roads, retaining walls etc.) leaving minimal terrestrial-coastal transmission.
- Massive habitat loss due to ‘reclamation’ and draining of wetlands.



However, the Haven is still a great habitat with:

- The highest number of red billed gulls in the South Island.
- Breeding Colonies of red billed gulls and WF tern.
- 3 ‘threatened’ species and 6 ‘at risk’ species using the area.

There is a statutory mandate for the N.C.C. to monitor the estuary’s health. This includes **Broad scale** monitoring with mapping of habitats, estuary substrates as well as land use and changes in the surrounding catchment. **Fine Scale** monitoring assesses sediment quality and macrofauna. **Sediment plate** monitoring measures increase or decrease of sediments at 5 sites and **Targeted investigations** look at the effects of extreme weather events.

Habitat change

Ongoing and future drivers of habitat change:

- SLR and hard engineering blocking habitat migration
- Further development of coastline
- Black swans foraging seagrass
- Extreme weather events
- Increased fine sediment deposition



Harry went on to talk about habitat change. In 1840 it is estimated that there was 280+ ha of tussock/rush habitat, reduced to just 6.7 ha in 2019 with the majority of this decrease prior to 1985. The amount of seagrass (rimurehia) is also a concern with a 50% loss since 1840. However, there is some optimism here as there has been a 13.4% increase since 2009 despite continued pressures.

Seagrass cover in the Haven has a strong positive correlation to the biodiversity of macrofauna present.

Factors impacting seagrass include:

- Fine sediment deposition which can be related to horticultural practices.
- Extreme weather events such as the 2022 flood.
- Grazing by black swans.
- Sea level rise.
- Future development of the Port with possible altered hydrodynamics in the estuary.

As the role of the NCC is to protect this habitat future steps include

- Continued monitoring as described above.
- Additional 2 yearly seagrass mapping.
- Making data more freely available to the public online.
- Using new modelling tools to gain greater insight into possible changes etc.

Many thanks to Harry for a very interesting talk. And as an aside -It's far better to hear the real thing rather than read my very diluted and filtered reporting. So, if you are able, do come along to the meetings. As well as being lively and interesting, you even get a cup of tea and a bikkie these days!

NELSON/TASMAN BIRDS NEW ZEALAND - TIMETABLE OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES -SECOND HALF OF 2024 Mark Ayer

2024

April

| | | | |
|----|----------|-------------------------|--|
| 8 | Monday | BirdsNZ monthly meeting | Richmond Library 19.15h |
| 13 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 1100h Motueka Golf Course leader; contact; Mark Ayre bullersalbatross@gmail.com |
| 27 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 10.00h Motueka Golf Course |

May

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 8 | Wednesday | BirdsNZ monthly meeting | Richmond Library 19.15h |
| 13 | Monday | Joint meeting F & B booklet launch | Tahuna School 19.00h |
| 11 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 10.00h Motueka Golf Course |
| 25 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 09.00h Motueka Golf Course |
| <u>31</u> | <u>Friday</u> | <u>LAST DAY FOR ATLAS FIELD WORK!</u> | |

June

| | | | |
|----------|----------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>1</u> | Saturday | BirdsNZ Conference Nelson | Trafalgar Centre 08.30h |
| <u>2</u> | Sunday | BirdsNZ Conference Nelson | Trafalgar Centre 08.30h |
| <u>3</u> | Monday | BirdsNZ Conference Nelson | Field trips |

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|---------------------------|--|
| 8 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 09.00h Motueka Golf Course |
| 11 | Tuesday | BirdsNZ monthly meeting | Richmond Library 19.15h |
| 24 | Monday | Farewell spit wader count | Contact Rob: rschkrd@xtra.co.nz |
| 25 | Tuesday | Farewell spit wader count | Contact Rob: rschkrd@xtra.co.nz |
| 29 | Saturday | Field Trip Marlborough | Contact Sharen grahamsharen@gmail.com |
| 30 | Sunday | Field Trip Marlborough | |
| July | | | |
| 1 | Monday | BirdsNZ monthly meeting | Richmond Library 19.15h |
| 12 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 12.00h Motueka Golf Course |
| 28 | Sunday | Spoonbill count | Contact Jane Meiforth: jj.meiforth@posteo.de |
| August | | | |
| 5 | Monday | BirdsNZ monthly meeting | Richmond Library 19.15h |
| 10 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 11.30h Motueka Golf Course |
| 11 | Sunday | Spoonbill count | Back up if the 12 th July doesn't run |
| 24 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 11.30h Motueka Golf Course |
| September | | | |
| 2 | Monday | BirdsNZ monthly meeting | Richmond Library 19.15h |
| 7 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 10.30h Motueka Golf Course |
| 21 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 10.00h Motueka Golf Course |
| 27 | Friday | Youth Camp starting date | Possible -not confirmed |
| October | | | |
| 4 | Friday | Youth Camp ending Date | Expressions of interest needed |
| 5 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 10.30h Motueka Golf Course |
| 7 | Monday | BirdsNZ monthly meeting | Richmond Library 19.15h |
| 19 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 10.00h Motueka Golf Course |
| November | | | |
| 2 | Saturday | Motueka Sandspit trip | Meet 09.30h Motueka Golf Course |
| 4 | Monday | BirdsNZ monthly meeting | Richmond Library 19.15h |

| | | | |
|----|----------|--------------------|---|
| 15 | Friday | Spring Wader Count | Contact Rob: rschkrd@xtra.co.nz |
| 16 | Saturday | Spring Wader Count | Contact Rob: rschkrd@xtra.co.nz |
| 17 | Sunday | Spring Wader count | Contact Rob: rschkrd@xtra.co.nz |
| 18 | Monday | Spring Wader count | Contact Rob: rschkrd@xtra.co.nz |

NOTES

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are held at the Richmond Library, 280 Queen Street starting at 1915h and ending at 2100h. Details of speakers etc. will be circulated in advance. Or if unavailable will be notified

Monthly meetings are usually held on the first Monday of each month. BIRDS NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL

CONFERENCE

The 2024 Annual Conference will be hosted by the Nelson/Tasman Region at the Trafalgar Centre over King's Birthday Weekend. For registration: <https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/nz-bird-conference/>

BIRDING BY BIKE

Sharen Graham is organizing these the trips. She is using WhatsApp her details; grahamsharen@gmail.com

FIELD TRIPS

Regular field trips are being organized to Motueka Sandspit – these are an ideal opportunity to meet likeminded people, hone your birding skills and get some exercise! The trips are scheduled for Saturdays to enable more people to participate, with high tide around midday. Meet at the car park at the north end of Motueka Quay Road, by the golf course. You may get wet feet. All welcome.

WADER COUNT

Wader counts are organized three times a year: June/July, November. circulate more information in – if you would like to participate, please email Rob: rschkrd@xtra.co.nz

ROYAL SPOONBILL CENSUS

If you would like to participate, please email Jane Meiforth: jj.meiforth@posteo.de

WADER CATCHING and BANDING

The branch periodically arranges catching and banding of waders. The schedule includes many possible catch dates, but this is to allow for cancellation due to bad weather, sites being inaccessible etc. If you would like to be included on the circulation list to receive further details of planned catches, please email David Melville: david.melville@xtra.co.nz.

NEST RECORD SCHEME

There has been an incentive offered to help the scheme along.

Christine Grove at cycleasy@yahoo.com and Serge Crottaz serge.crottaz@gmail.com have volunteered to support this.

GODWIT STORY ON RADIO NZ Alison Ballance

Here is the link to the web page and audio for the Motueka Spit godwit story:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ourchangingworld/audio/2018931113/the-mystery-of-how-godwits-sleep-in-flight>

I hope the transmitters are working well! Look forward to finding out what they reveal.