



TŌREA PANGO

NELSON BRANCH BIRDS NZ. NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 17. March/ April 2025.

Firstly, my sincere thanks for the support of all members through the last few months. The terminal diagnosis for my wife, Marina, following several months of chemotherapy in Wellington has been devastating. While I hope to continue in the role of newsletter editor, the dice are still rolling. However, I'm here for now.

I hope you've all had a great Summer's birding. Mine has been confined to watching kaka flying around Mt Victoria, an experience unimaginable just a few years back. There have been some interesting sightings in our area and lots of things happening within our group. So read on and enjoy. Oh yes almost forgot- Great job on the last newsletter Alison. I think you might have upstaged me!

LAST MEETINGS

March 3rd

Twenty-seven people, including 2 visitors from the UK, (whose names have embarrassingly escaped from my notes) attended the March meeting, which included our AGM.

- Welcome and obligatory H&S from Kathryn Richards
- David Melville gave the Regional Report for the year
- Paul Fisher (treasurer) was absent but presented the financial report which was read by David M
- Appointment of officers and committee
- David Melville gave a fascinating talk on Gull billed terns/Australian gull billed terns/Australian terns -now a confirmed breeding species in our area!!
- Rob Schuckard updated us on the Australasian gannet bird flu project
- Members presented an outstanding array of photos, reflecting the growing involvement knowledge and interest in our region.

April 7th

I was unable to attend this meeting. Apparently, I missed out on some great chocolate chip cookies, hand crafted by Peter Gaze. Many thanks to those who have sent through items for inclusion in this newsletter.

Agenda items included:

- Presentation by Peter Gaze - The breeding biology of birds.
- Rob Schuckard updated us on the recent visit to the Farewell Spit Australasian Gannet colony
- Rebecca Bowater showed some photos of a White-winged Black Tern that has been seen at the Nelson Boulder Bank
- Young birders magazine -David Melville
- Pearl Creek harrier roost - David Melville

AGM (from March meeting)

1) Ornithological Society of New Zealand Tasman-Nelson region Annual Report 2024-2025

(Kathryn Richards -presented by David Melville)

The Branch has had a very eventful year, the highlight being the very successful Annual Conference, held over King's Birthday weekend at the start of June. Over 230 people participated – the largest Conference ever. Local members were vital to the success of this event and a huge debt of gratitude is owed to all those taking part – in particular I would mention Michelle Bradshaw who was responsible for the highly efficient running of the registration programme. All Conference attendees received a copy of Peter Field's Birds of the Nelson/Tasman Region, thanks to the support of the Society's Project Assistance Fund and a grant from Forest & Bird.

In February, the Branch organised an on-line Moulting Workshop which included the participation of Dr Santiago Guallar made possible with the support of the Birds New Zealand Research Fund. Santi also gave a public lecture at our February meeting – in conjunction with Forest & Bird and the Nelson Science Society. Thank you, Paul Fisher and David Melville for organising this.

Our field activities have included participation in the national spoonbill census as well as continued wader counts in July, November and February. Rob Schuckard and David Melville organised a new project at the Farwell Spit Australasian Gannet colony with particular reference to avian influenza – we await the results with great interest. Fernbirds at Wakapuaka seem to have suffered a population decline, possibly associated with floods the previous year, but Paul Fisher and his team have continued colour banding Fernbirds at a number of sites around Tasman Bay (and further afield). The population of Australian Wood Ducks continues to grow with 39 birds counted in June – several clutches were laid in nestboxes carefully guarded by Rob Jones, Sharen Graham and the team, but none hatched – raising questions as to whether there are problems resulting from limited genetic variation. On a happier note, a pair of Australian Gull-billed Terns successfully fledged 2 young at the Bell Island Shell-bank. Sharen Graham organised a very successful visit to our neighbours in Marlborough, and a return visit to our patch.

Paul Bennett has continued to produce a highly informative newsletter Tōrea Pango. Mark Ayre ran a successful Youth Camp in Golden Bay in October. Submissions were made on Tasman District Council's revised Dog Control Bylaw and the joint TDC/Nelson City Council Regional Pest Control Strategy, the Department of Conservation's consultation on future management of Motueka Sandspit, and the resource consent application for the Mapua boat ramp (that is likely to adversely impact Variable Oystercatchers). I would like to thank all our members who have supported our work during the year whether by participating in our field programmes, attending meetings or just enjoying our local birds through a window in the garden. There is much to keep us busy in the coming year and we look forward to welcoming you to our activities.

2) Financial Report *Paul Fisher*

The 00 Nelson account 2024 accounts

The opening balance of the 2024 calendar year was \$1,425.10 and the closing balance on 31 Dec 2024 was \$4,710.50.

- The main income from the year was
- \$2,998 profit from the conference (this was 50% of the profits, split with the national OSNZ account to support future conferences)
- \$2,300 OSNZ PAF Grant for the printing of the Peter Field Guide to NelsonBirds
- \$460 sales of the Peter Field guide (thank you Pete Gaze for coordinating this
- with book shops)
- We received \$66.89 income from interest

The major expenses included:

- \$2,300 toward the printing of the Peter Field guide
- \$229 for the zoom account (expires in March 2025)
- \$129 on room hire for monthly meetings (this may not include all expenses
- and there is a cash koha of ~\$176 to be banked)

2. The Youth camp accounts were operated from the Nelson 01 conference account

The Youth camp received a total income of \$8,980 from:

- \$2,000 OSNZ grant to support the camp activities
- \$6,980

Total expenses paid from the 01 account was \$7,949

- The balance of \$1,035 was paid back to the OSNZ national account so the 01 conference account is effectively closed with \$13.05.
- Food and other cash donated for the camp has not been itemised. A surplus of \$1,300 has been held by Rachel Hufton/Mark Ayre, along with radios purchased, which have yet to be accounted for.

As of the 2 March 202, the 00 Nelson account is in credit with \$2,888.66. The society recently purchased a web cam for use at future monthly meetings; the camera was used for the online OSNZ Moulting workshop held in February. Future discussion for the committee to purchase a (\$600-\$800) laptop for the Nelson branch and use with the free 'Teams Meeting' software for NGOs/charity groups.

3) Appointment of Officers and Committee

The following were approved as your committee and officers for 2025. Thanks to all those who have undertaken these duties and particularly to Kathryn for undertaking the role of Regional Representative.

- Kathryn Richards---Regional Rep kathrynjeanrichards@gmail.com
- Annette Cunningham---Treasurer cunningham.annette@gmail.com
- Jenny Edwards---email support and Birds Nelson FB site nbhctenor@gmail.com
- Paul Bennett---Newsletter Editor thebraveryofbeingoutofrange@gmail.com
- Alison Ballance ali.ballance@gmail.com
- Paul Fisher wildlands.nelson@gmail.com
- David Melville david.melville@xtra.co.nz
- Rob Schuckard rschckrd@xtra.co.nz
- Peter Gaze peterdgaze@gmail.com

RECENT SIGHTINGS

--Might as well start with a bit of optimism-The Galapagos rail has been rediscovered on the island of Floreana after 190 years!! Thought to be extinct on Floreana, it has been seen on the island for the first time since Charles Darwin observed it in 1835. So, shouldn't be too hard to come up with a pair of huia or a South Island kokako- eh?

<https://galapagosconservation.org.uk/galapagos-rail-rediscovered-floreana/>

--Orange Kaka



A bright orange Kaka (Kaka kura) has been reported and photographed on Great Barrier Island by Finn Davey (reported Wed Apr 02, 2025 6:10 pm). Clearly this spectacular mutation has existed in the population for some time as 'A history of the birds of NZ Vol 1' has this plate of a kaka together with its orange variant (photo courtesy Te Papa)

--Black Kite, Miranda Road

Mon Mar 10, 2025 10:14 am that Yoav Golan has posted via eBird an unverified report (no photo) of a Black Kite at 2086 Miranda Rd, Mangatāwhiri, at -37.20065, 175.20053:

Michael Szabo reported on

-More Locally -we have our white winged black tern, sharp tailed sandpiper and Australian terns all subjects of photos / articles in this newsletter. But just to give you a taste of what's still about, here's a report by Steve Wood from the Mot sandspit that he posted on Birding NZ on 31 March.

'Motueka Spit highlights today. Most of the Godwits have departed but still several hundred mint condition Knot still present. Good numbers of Banded Dott 326 - (4 with trackers) Turnstone 260+ Sharpie is still here, always with the Turnstone and looking very smart. Australian Tern. 3 adults and 1 juvenile have returned after a long absence. Recently just 1 adult that has been regularly seen at high tide. Wrybill. 16.'

MOTUEKA BIRD PHOTOS FOR NEW DISPLAY BOARD *David Melville*

David has sent this information through and with all the keen photographers in the group, it looks like a great opportunity for fame and fortune:

'DOC are looking at replacing the existing bird notice at the north end of Motueka Spit [Staple Street] with a new information board.

DOC are inviting local photographers to provide photos for use in the new display - unfortunately they will not be able to pay for the use of images, but all photographers will be credited.

Their highest priorities for photos are:

- Banded Dotterel
- Variable Oystercatcher
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Red Knot

If available, they would also be interested in:

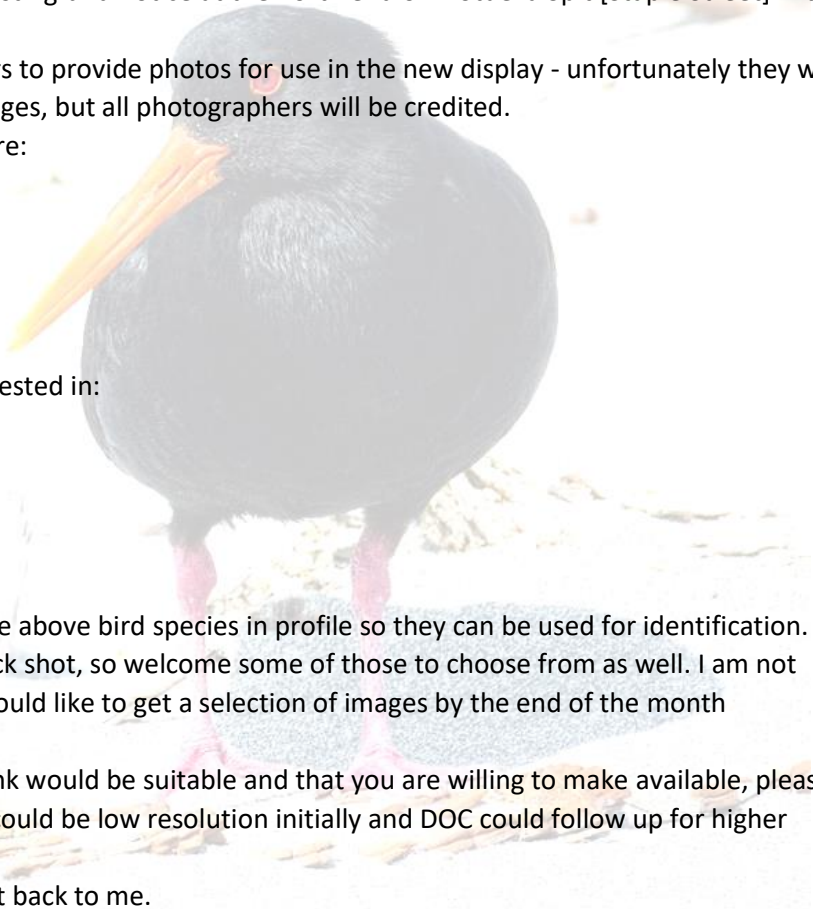
- SIPO
- Pied Stilt
- White-fronted Tern
- Caspian Tern
- Black-fronted Tern

They would like full body shots of the above bird species in profile so they can be used for identification. They would also like to include a flock shot, so welcome some of those to choose from as well. I am not sure of timing (I am checking) but would like to get a selection of images by the end of the month (preferably sooner).

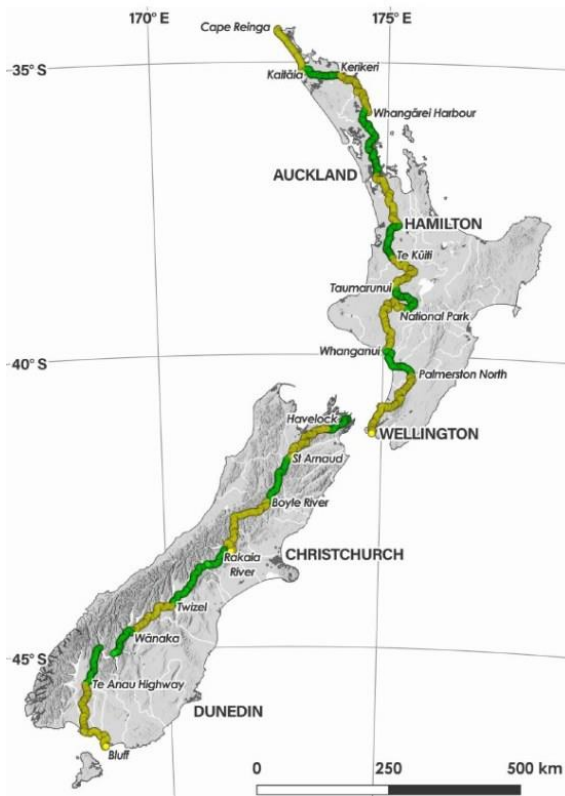
If you have any images that you think would be suitable and that you are willing to make available, please could you send them to me - these could be low resolution initially and DOC could follow up for higher resolution for those selected.

If you have any questions, please get back to me.

Thank you very much. David'



BIRDS OF TE ARAROA TRAIL



Natural history curator Dr Colin Miskelly completed the Te Araroa Trail a year ago on 10th March. Peter Gaze has forwarded this link to his blog site which details the 19 trail sections of his journey and the birds he encountered en route. Great read which I'm sure many of you will enjoy. https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2025/03/10/birds-of-te-araroa-trail-every-last-word/?mc_cid=1ff4e00e96&mc_eid=1be474ed85

OF KAWAU AND KĀKĀRIKI – A BIRDING TRIP IN QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND / TŌTARANUI *By Alison Ballance*

(Inés Coca, Christine Grove, Alison Ballance, Charlotte Crottaz, Irati Zúñiga, Sharen Graham, Kathryn Richards. Nelson branch birding trip to Queen Charlotte Sound)

Did you know that the Marlborough Sounds has the greatest shag diversity in the world? No, neither did we, until Blenheim-based Birds NZ member Mike Bell took us on a bespoke boat trip in Queen Charlotte Sound / Tōtaranui. 'We' were seven Nelson birders, enjoying the second Branch trip that Sharen Graham has organised over to our neighbours in Marlborough. We met Mike at 7am in Picton on a fine day with the wind forecast to drop away, and our first visit was to a roosting site for Kawau Pāteketeke King Shags, at the south end of Oruawairua / Blumine Island. King Shags are flighty, so we didn't get too close, but we got good views of 2 brown juveniles as well as 13 black and white adults, and Mike read the bands visible on two of the adults. Mike has done various studies on this nationally endangered Marlborough Sounds endemic which he says currently numbers just 654 birds. From 2021-2023 the King Shags had three terrible breeding seasons, due to La Nina flooding and storm surges washing out nests. Lots of sediment in the water also meant poor visibility, which made it hard for the shags to find bottom-dwelling fishes and flatfishes. Fortunately the 2024 winter breeding season was a [good one](#) with nearly 200 chicks fledged, although Mike says that chick survival to adulthood is usually only about 30%. He is hoping that this winter will be another good breeding season.

After that shag intro, the team went ashore on predator-free Blumine to spot some terrestrial birds. We were particularly looking out for Kākāriki Karaka Orange-fronted Parakeets which thrive on the island. We heard more than we saw but eventually got some great views. There were a few curious Ngrunguru South Island Tomtits, but Tieke South Island Saddleback were elusive (we didn't go high enough to find them).

While we ate our lunches at the DOC campsite we were entertained by the local Weka, which were so busy posturing and fighting each other that they failed to be much of a threat to our sandwiches. Some lucky longdrop users got to meet the gecko living on the toilet roll, until it got fed up with being unrolled and escaped outside.

Our route down the Sound took us past Long Island, which Mike said was meaningful to him as it was the first island his dad, the late well-known ornithologist Brian Bell, ever visited. There is a colony of about 10,000 Pakahā Fluttering Shearwaters on Long Island, and Mike and others maintain a banded study population there. It has been an important source population for many successful translocations including to Mana Island, Matiu Somes Island and Wharariki Ecosanctuary at Cape Farewell.

Next, we went ashore on little Motuara Island, almost out in Cook Strait. Like Blumine, it has had all introduced predators removed and it has revegetated naturally. We checked a couple of empty penguin nest boxes just in case a juvenile Rowi or Okarito Kiwi was in residence (the island is a creche for young Rowi until they reach stoat-proof size) but no luck. We could tell from the piles of shed feathers outside that several other boxes were hiding moulting penguins, so we didn't disturb them. There is only one water source on the island, situated just up from the wharf and complete with a small viewing grandstand. We spent quite a lot of time there watching numerous Korimako Bellbirds drinking, along with Kakarua South Island Robins and Kākāriki Yellow-crowned Parakeets. Mike pointed out that it was rare to be able to see two species of parakeet in a single day, so we enjoyed the opportunity. One Tīeke turned up, which was a treat. The short walk to the summit and climb up the viewing platform gave us a panoramic view of outer Queen Charlotte Sound and of a young dark Kārearea New Zealand Falcon patrolling the tree tops.

On the trip back to Picton we watched an Artic Skua fly by, before stopping to observe some Kawau tikitiki Spotted Shags, with their distinctive yellow feet. That's when Mike shared his shag factoid about New Zealand having more shag species than anywhere else in the world, and the Marlborough Sounds taking the cake with five [breeding species](#): Kawaupaka Little Shag, Kāruhiruhi Pied Shag, Kawau Tikitiki Spotted Shag, Kawau Pāteketeke New Zealand King Shag and Māpunga Black Shag. Plus, there are Kawau Tūi Little Black Shags that visit in winter.

Then came the non-avian icing on the birding cake: a large pod of at least nine Tutumairekurai Hector's dolphins. We turned the engine off and drifted with the dolphins for a few minutes, watching Tara White-fronted Terns, Tākapu Australasian Gannets and Pakahā Fluttering Shearwaters diving and feeding around us. Marlborough Sounds magic.



Participants: Mike Bell, Sharen Graham, Alison Ballance, Charlotte Crottaz, Christine Grove, Kathryn Richards, Irati Zúñiga, Inés Coca.



Irati Zúñiga, Christine Grove and Inés Coca spotting Kawau Pāteketeke King Shags on Oruawairua / Blumine Island *photo Alison Ballance*



Above-Look out, it's behind you! Mike Bell and weka friend on Blumine Island *photo Alison Ballance*



Watching birds visiting the waterhole on Motuara Island *photo Kathryn Richards*

GULL BILLED TERNS? AUSTRALIAN TERNS? AUSTRALASIAN GULL BILLED TERNS? *Talk given by David Melville*

David is always an entertaining and informative speaker, and he certainly didn't disappoint with his presentation on Gull billed and Australian terns delivered at the March meeting. Of course, with a pair of Australian terns breeding successfully on the Bell Island Shell bank this season, these birds are a hot topic. This is only the second breeding success of this species recorded in NZ.

Recent changes in taxonomy have resulted in the Australian tern being split from the gull billed tern and David talked us through the history of this and also the identification of these now separate species in NZ.



The photo shows Australian tern (left) and Gull billed tern Asian ssp.(right). Note heavier bill slightly downturned towards the tip, paler upper parts and larger size of Australian tern. Further differences include moult patterns, vocalisations, crown plumage pattern and leg length.



Caspian (red tick), Australian (black tick) and gull-billed tern (purple tick and others)

David stressed that both Australian terns (*Gelochelidon macrotarsa*) and Asiatic gull billed terns (*Gelochelidon nilotica affinis*) are present in Australia with a single record of the latter in NZ. It is therefore important to look carefully at all 'gull billed type' birds seen in order to accurately identify the species. While this is relatively easy when the two are conveniently roosting side by side as in the above photos, identifying actual specimens in the field in NZ is an altogether harder task!

David went on to talk about the nesting of Australian tern in NZ. The species is well established on the NZ bird list with a first sighting of two birds recorded in 1955 at the Invercargill aerodrome. Since then, there are various records with a major influx of around 20 birds in 2011 recorded at various sites around the country. The first breeding attempts were in 2019 at Awarua Bay when 3 eggs were laid but the nest failed and then in 2021 when adults with dependent young were seen at New River estuary. Then—2024 Bell Island Shell Bank! This is the really exciting bit you've all been waiting for.





10thOctober 2024. A pair of Australian terns were seen incubating one egg on the Bell Island Shell Bank. Aaargh! By 15th October this egg had disappeared. Note size difference between Caspian egg (left) and AT (right)



But all was not lost. On the 28th November a pair was photographed (left) apparently brooding chicks



Bradley Shields took this photo (left) of an adult carrying food to the nest sit.

By the 7th December, 3 chicks were seen with one being considerably smaller (below)



On 22nd December one chick was found dead with a puncture wound as pictured below. Obviously, there is speculation as to how this happened -One possibility being that the wound was inflicted by a Caspian tern

22 December 2024 1 chick found dead



Puncture wound in breast

25 December 2024



The development of the chicks continued to be recorded and photographed

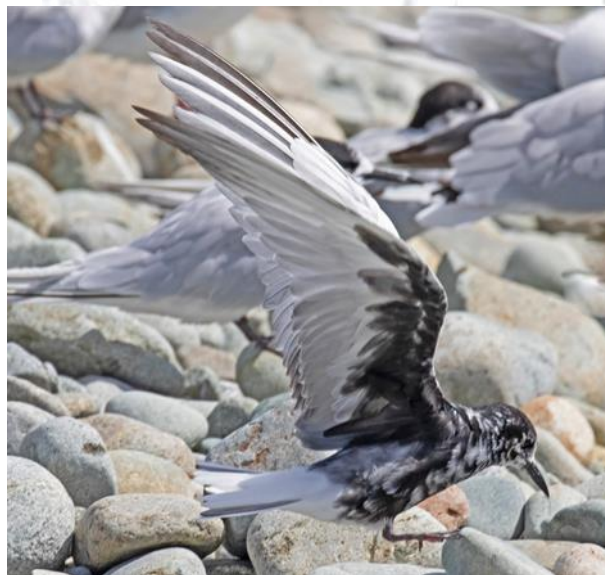


This is obviously a very exciting event for our area and one that will be of great interest to monitor into the future, with breeding hopefully becoming a regular event. Nesting of Australian tern seems to be strongly associated with Caspian tern colonies which should be monitored closely for any AT activity. There are also a number of unanswered questions around age of breeding, patterns of movement, progress of moult, diet etc. all of which we can help answer by careful observation and photographing. Thanks, David, for a great talk. *(Photo credits David Melville or named on individual pictures-many thanks)*

PHOTOS FROM OUR LOCAL BIRDERS



At the March meeting members showed a fantastic selection of recent photos taken locally, starting with this sharp tailed sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) by Christine Grove. And this very topical Australian tern, together with a Caspian tern on the Motueka sandspit



Rebecca Bowater captured these great shots of a white-winged black tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) going into breeding plumage -----taken on the Nelson Boulder Bank. David Melville comments 'The bird was in a 'dalmatian' state with a mixture of black and white underparts, begging the question as to whether it was moulting into or out of breeding plumage! Careful examination of a picture with the wings open clearly shows that the two outer primaries are quite old - appearing dark, whereas the next inner three are new and fresh with a pearly grey bloom - it is the wearing of this that causes older feathers to appear dark. Based on the outer primaries the bird does not appear to be in active wing moult. Moult in this species is complex and apparently becoming more so - anyone

wanting to delve further into this should read: Kiat & Pyle 2025. Recent changes in distribution and plumage phenologies of the White-winged Tern in the Middle East. *Journal of Ornithology* 166: 21-28 [available to download at: [Recent changes in distribution and plumage phenologies of the White-winged Tern \(*Chlidonias leucopterus*\) in the Middle East](#)']



And these delightful shots of titipounamu (riflemen) taken by Rob and Sue Jones on Mt. Arthur

Top left clockwise:

Female with feather doing nest maintenance.

Dad feeding young at nest entrance.

Juvenile popping out into the big wide world.



A QUICK WOOD DUCK UPDATE *Rob Jones*

A check of the Australian wood duck hotspots today revealed only 5 birds at Westdale Road and one pair at Berkette's Dam in Appleby. Hopefully as winter approaches AWD from around the region will form larger groups as they had done by early June last year. Help from the public may be needed to get a more accurate indication of total numbers in the Appleby-Mapua region.

MEMBER PROFILE -KATHRYN RICHARDS *Paul Bennett*



Who better to profile in this edition than our newly appointed Regional Rep, Kathryn Richards? Prior to the AGM Kathryn had already been acting as a de facto R.R. for some time and although initially reticent to step fully into the role, she is undoubtedly an excellent person for the job and is already utilising her organisational and people skills to great effect. Good leaders develop good teams, and Kathryn has brought together a group of people who are committed to supporting, enhancing, and growing our club, getting the best outcomes for members and of course the best possible results for bird life in our area. Sharing the job allows it to be done more efficiently and sustainably.

Kathryn grew up on a farm in Northland and from an early age has been interested in animals and the outdoors. She is a keen tramper and has always enjoyed bush birds on her excursions. However her real involvement started in the early 2000's when she was teaching in Marlborough and became involved in the Kiwi Conservation Club where she met Mike Bell and was

inspired by his knowledge and enthusiasm. She started volunteer work, the highlight of which was periods of time in 2017, 2019 and 2021 spent on the Chatham Islands, where she was involved in trapping, working with taiko and Chatham albatross and also the relocation of sooty shearwater to establish new colonies. A more detailed picture of Kathryn's involvement with the Chathams is given in *Tōrea Pango* Issue 15. Sept/Oct 2024.

Kathryn enjoys local birding spots when she has the time and is particularly fond of places that must be accessed through a good mountain bike ride! Still, her favourite spots are Totara Avenue, between Collingwood and Pakawau in Golden Bay, where waders can be seen in close, and of course like most of us loves birding on the Motueka sandspit. Asked about her favourite birding moment, Kathryn doesn't pause before talking about approaching Pyramid rock off the Chathams with the spectacle of thousands of seabirds of many species wheeling and circling above. She also talks about a wonderful night spent on Rangatira Island in the full noise and spectacle of a seabird colony.

Kathryn feels very grateful to be part of our group and is keenly aware of the wealth of expertise and knowledge held by many of our members. Stepping into the role of R.R. Kathryn sees both the need and opportunity to utilise and preserve this. She is also keen to increase our profile, particularly in terms of making the public aware of who we are and what we do.

It's clear from all her involvements -from one time breeder of NZ geckos to co-running the Marsden Valley trapping group- that Kathryn is passionate not just about birds, but about all aspects of environmental protection and wildlife conservation. We wish you all the best in your RR role- and help is always at hand.

BREEDING STRATEGIES OF BIRDS *Peter Gaze.*

At the April 7th meeting, Peter Gaze provided an informal session on the breeding strategies of birds. In



trying to understand such (often bizarre) activity we were introduced to David Lack's theory of why birds do what they do and how natural selection favours those that are most successful. Examples were given of how breeding partners may have competing strategies on how to get the maximum number of surviving young. The presentation touched on the diverse range of breeding partnerships, helpers at the nest and nest parasitism.

Examples from close to home included a comparison of how fantails and rifleman do it in different ways and why this may have evolved – one opting for quantity, the other for quality.

The audience was encouraged to

delve deeper into all of this in their own time with several reference suggestions. "Bird Love" by Wenfei Tong was highly recommended.



GANNETS AND FLU UPDATE *Rob Schuckard*

At the April 7th meeting Rob Schuckard updated us on the recent visit to the Farewell Spit Australasian Gannet colony. This was the last visit for the current breeding season - most chicks have already fledged. One adult bird with 'black eyes' was captured and banded - this brings the total to three black-eyed birds that have been banded. The project was developed in response to the discovery that Northern Gannets with black eyes had apparently been exposed to highly pathogenic avian influenza - it appears likely that the cause of black-eyed birds in New Zealand is something else. Plans are being developed for a continuation of the project next breeding season. Watch this space.

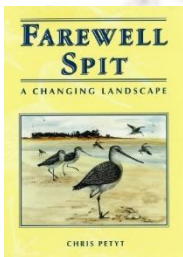
OBITUARIES *David Melville*

CHRIS PETYT



Chris, who passed away on 25 March, is probably best known amongst Birds New Zealand members for his authoritative book, published in 1998 - *Farewell Spit – a changing landscape* which meticulously details the history, flora and fauna of the spit, which is recognised as a wetland of international importance under both the Ramsar wetland Convention and the East Asia-Australasian Flyway Partnership. Chris' interests and activities extended from the coast and deep ocean, where he had worked as an observer on fishing vessels, to the mountain tops where he studied Rock Wrens and

helped found the Friends of the Cobb. *Photo: Josh Petyt*

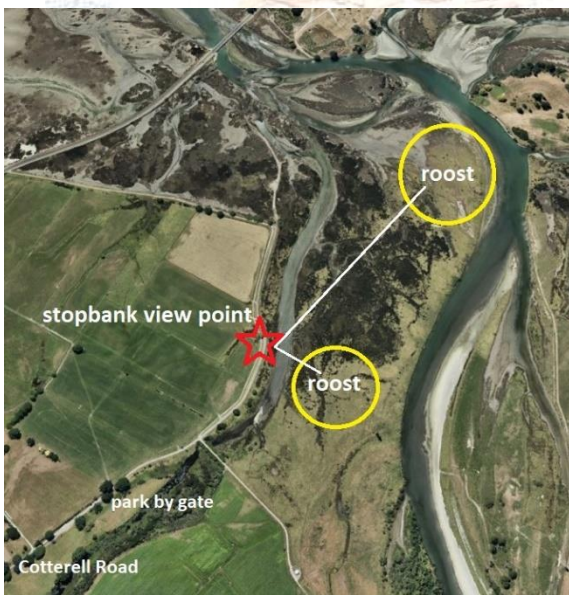


Chris' book, essential reading for anyone wanting to learn about Farewell Spit, is still available from Copy Press, Nelson.

PETER BESIER

Peter passed away on 7 April 2025. He was a long-term member of the Society with a wide interest in birds and the environment, and who had participated in a number of activities including catching and marking of Australasian Gannets and shorebirds, and atlasing.

AUSTRALASIAN HARRIER ROOST – PEARL CREEK *David Melville*



Last winter there was a roost of harriers in the marsh at Pearl Creek (see *Torea Pango* 13 and 14). The site was discovered in early June – we do not know when it was first occupied. Members may like to start keeping a watch for birds using this site from now onwards.

Drive to the end of Cotterell Road and park by the barrier (do not block the road). Walk about 500m along the stopbank to the area just past the large ngaio tree with a maimai at the foot of the stopbank (red star on photo). This gives a good view over both main roosting areas.

A FB post from the HON. DR. NICK SMITH .

Today's announcement that 40 little spotted kiwi are to be reintroduced to the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary in early May is a momentous conservation achievement for Nelson.

The kiwi, despite being our national bird, has been ravaged by introduced predators such as stoats, rats and possums and has not existed in Nelson for about 100 years.

This reintroduction is only possible due to the visionary work started by the late Dave Butler in creating the largest fenced sanctuary in the South Island 20 years ago. We owe thanks to the donors for the millions raised for the predator-proof fence, the thousands of volunteers who have supported the Trust and the ongoing work, led by new Trust Chair Mike Glover.

I have loved being a small part of this project in helping the fundraising, securing Govt grants, backing the Trust through the court battles over the pest poisoning, Council last year leasing the adjacent Brook campground to the Trust and making representations to Minister Potaka to facilitate this kiwi transfer from Kapiti Island.

This reintroduction of kiwi follows the translocation of 56 tuatara in November 2024, powelliphanta (giant land snails) in 2022 and kākāriki karaka (orange-fronted parakeets) in 2021.

I cannot wait to hear the call of the kiwi in our own backyard. It will also be a boost for Nelson's visitor industry to have kiwi so close to the city and in a natural setting.

Congrats to the Trust, DOC, iwi and everyone who has worked towards enabling our kiwi to come home

AND A COUPLE OF PLUGS---

-From young birders--

For this great magazine put together by a group of young NZ birders. Great read. Us old birders who scramble newsletters together might have to up our game.

[Magazines — Young Birders New Zealand](#)

-From OSNZ

Join Now

Birds New Zealand is a voluntary charitable society that depends on the enthusiasm, participation, knowledge and financial support of its members. We promote the study of New Zealand birds by organising and helping to fund bird studies.

Members receive our quarterly magazine and acclaimed scientific journal *Notornis*, occasional special editions of *Notornis* and discounts on books about birds,

opportunities to take part in field trips and surveys and to hear speakers at branch meetings, a free Birds New Zealand branded sticker and lens cloth, early bird discount for our annual NZ Bird Conference (31 May-2 June 2025 in Auckland), and access to our extensive library of books and journals.

You can join online right now for just \$1.75 a week. It costs \$90 a year, and for students it's just \$45 a year:

<https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/membership/join-now/>

Making a difference with a donation

Birds New Zealand is working to ensure a better future for our birds, but we also need your help with donations to fund that work. We are a registered charity (CC 41020) so tax credits are available for donations made in New Zealand. There are two easy ways you can donate:

* Deposit funds into the Birds New Zealand bank account: 02-0290-0164715-00

* or make an online credit card payment into the account:

<https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/membership/donate/make-a-donation/#!form/Donation>

Leaving a gift in your will

All funds gifted to Birds New Zealand go to our Projects Assistance Fund, so you can be confident that your gift will have a real impact for birds. We suggest that you consult your solicitor, Guardian Trust, or Public Trust office for advice on drawing up your will. We offer two options:

* *Specific Legacy*: Leaving a specific amount of money, bonds, shares, items, or a nominated gift to Birds New Zealand, or

* *Residual Legacy*: Leaving a gift of all or part of your net estate (what remains after all taxes, specific gifts to family and friends, and the cost of administering the estate have been paid). This should be expressed as a percentage or share of your estate. If you would like to discuss either option, please contact our Executive Officer Ingrid Hutzler: eo@birdsanz.org.nz

Contributions to next tōrea pango gratefully received. Send to me at;
thebraveryofbeingoutofrange@gmail.com Cheers Paul Bennett

