



NELSON REGION NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2017

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I **lost** an old camphor tree in the recent storm which unfortunately brought down several other trees and shrubs with it, but it didn't touch a tall and unwieldy taupata which is now feeding starling, sparrow, blackbird, thrush and silvereye with the first of the ripening berries, - I took the first of my wild and rambling blackberries.

Our campsites and carparks are hosting visitors from around the globe with one site taking over a local roosting site for VOC, but luckily the birds have opted for the vacant side of the fence. Other visitors, avian types, have shown up around our coastal areas: **Asiatic dowitcher** on Motueka Sandspit, with a **gull billed tern** also spotted there, and **golden plover** near Hunter Brown Reserve. From the Heaphy track an unconfirmed report of a glimpse of our own **Grey Ghost - the SI Kokako**, has been submitted. Keep an eye on the OSNZ website for results of Unusual Bird Reports.

Also, keep a look out for small flocks of post breeding **banded dotterels**, especially around the Nelson Haven. I've spotted dotterels on several occasions.

Thank you to those members who have renewed their sub, (which reminds mewhoops!). I don't want journal gaps in my bookcase, and most activities through the organization are cheaper for members, and anyway, the camaraderie, the opportunities to join field trips up and down NZ, and learning and amassing knowledge on birds are well worth the price of the sub.

Unfortunate Weather Ternout.

The **Caspian**s of Bells Island and the **white fronted terns** with them have had a lot to contend with weather wise. Only a few Caspian chicks got away intermittently throughout the season so the usual one off banding event didn't go ahead, (WC) and the white fronted terns abandoned ship completey, as did the **black fronted terns** on the Waimea R. (The white fronted terns with the Caspian was a new feature of the shell banks this year.) (c70 banded Caspian chicks last year).

And

Willie and Don report a very poor breeding season of **VOC** around Rabbit Island.

PROGRAMME 2016

We meet **usually** on the 1st Monday of the month, at 7.15 pm in the "Solander Fisheries Building", Cross Quay, off Akersten Street, Port Nelson (opposite the red Cruising Club building). All birders are welcome! Contact: Don Cooper 03-544 8109 or Gail 03-5450456.

TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY Indoor meeting

Two of our college students, Amber and Sophie talk about their birding, and David Melville will give a short talk on Pectoral sandpiper.

TOP OF THE SOUTH WADER CENSUS

Next Census will be between 10 – 14 February. Please contact Rob - rschckrd@xtra.co.nz

Monday 6 March Indoor Meeting

Samantha Gale gives a short talk before heading back to the UK. (to be confirmed).

Monday 3 April Indoor Meeting.

Thank you to this month's contributors.
Contributions for next newsletter by 2 March please, email, snail mail or phone, Gail 035450456, stagefrightmusic@xtra.co.nz.