

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

HAWKE'S BAY NEWSLETTER – April 2007

Regional Representative: Helen Andrews.
Phone: 874 9426. Email: helenandrews@xtra.co.nz

Regional Recorder: Margaret Twyde.
Phone: 835 6563. Email: waynemarg@xtra.co.nz

Recently Murray announced his resignation as RR for personal reasons. Helen Andrews has agreed to take over, mainly as a contact point for OSNZ. Thank you Helen. Murray was thanked at a recent meeting, and Helen has now confirmed that in writing. Margaret is continuing as Regional Recorder, and will also organise and collate the winter and summer censuses. Members have agreed to share the organisation of field trips. Wayne will once again edit the newsletter. Kath Todd will continue to organise the Ringers.

Upcoming Field Trips and Meetings

Sunday 20 May: Lake Tutira. Meet at the lake for lunch at 12.30pm.

Queen's Birthday Weekend: Porangahau census. If you are able to help with this please contact Christine and Jim for details.

Saturday 9 June: Ahuriri and Clive census. 9am start. It was decided to try counting on an incoming tide rather than the usual low tide.

Saturday 21 July: Lake Hurimoana – afternoon trip.

Sunday 19 August: A visit to Mount Bruce (to be confirmed).

Saturday 22 September: Local river for breeding dotterels. Venue to be advised.

Sunday 28 October: Yeoman's Track.

Saturday 10 November: Ahuriri and Clive census.

Sunday 11 November: Porangahau census.

A ringer will contact you during the week prior to the field trip or meeting to confirm the details. Any change to the above programme will be advised as soon as possible.

In addition, Brent Stephenson has been approached with a view to his giving an illustrated talk with his bird photos. When a date is known, members will be advised.

Recent Sightings

The Grey-tailed Tattler was seen at Ahuriri on 7 April along with a few godwit. Most of the waders have now left. Look out for the tattler over winter as it may stay around.

The Royal Spoonbill numbers are building up. In early April there were 28 at Ahuriri including a colour-banded bird, on 22 April there were between 80 and 90 birds. The banded bird was seen here last April also, and was banded as a chick at the Wairau Lagoon in Marlborough in 2005.

On April 25 Margaret and Wayne saw two bittern in the wetland opposite Waitangi. This new area is well worth a visit. A recent newspaper report about the wetland restoration project said four bittern were there. Five dabchick were also seen by us.

Between April 21 and 29 there was a national Black-fronted Tern survey co-ordinated by Andrew Crossland and Scott Butcher. While the big numbers will be in the South Island still, we have checked out the likely locations in Hawke's Bay. Waitangi and the Tukituki Estuary had just one bird each, and at Waimarama Beach there were three. All were adults. They will be arriving here in the next month or so though so keep an eye out for them. It is interesting sorting out the first and second year birds, and some are colour- banded too.

Wayne