

# ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

## HAWKE'S BAY NEWSLETTER – August 2006

**Regional Representative:** Murray Jeffries. 2A Cobden Road, Napier. Phone: 834 3865  
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**Regional Recorder:** Margaret Twydle. 124 Nelson Crescent, Napier. Phone: 835 6563  
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Minutes of meeting held at Marewa, Napier at 1600hrs on 29 July 2006.

Present: Jim Hamilton; Christine McRae; Margaret & Wayne Twydle; John Winters; Bob Syrett; Murray Jeffries.

Apologies: Phil Simmonds; Brent Stephenson; Mary Craven; Kathleen Todd; Barbara Taylor; Ian and Norma Smith;

Minutes of meeting on 21 January 2006 confirmed.

<u>Finance:</u> Balance of account held at Westpac, Hastings as per bank statement dated the 30.06.06.....	\$973.85c
Petty cash	\$ 19.90c
Total credit balance..	<u>\$993.75c</u>

### Accounts for Payment:

1. Murray – Re-imbusement of expenses to attend AGM and Conference at Wellington from 1 June to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006 (Registration, accommodation and meals) - approved for payment \$378.50c
2. Brent – Re-imbusement of cost of replacement of eyepiece for OSNZ owned telescope (This eyepiece was lost on Porangahau Beach when Murray Jeffries was carrying out a wader census – enquiries with Mark Nee, OSNZ Treasurer indicated no insurance policy is held for OSNZ owned telescopes. -approved for payment from Hawkes Bay account with the account being forwarded to National Treasurer for re-imbusement. \$384.00 (Wayne requested the record show that he believed Hawkes Bay Branch of OSNZ should not pay this account as the telescope was owned by OSNZ)

### General Business

1. Murray provided a summary of the AGM, Scientific Days and Conference. The main points of interest to members being

- **Change of name for OSNZ:**

The results of the referendum regarding a change of “brand name” to BIRDS NZ have indicated that 226 votes were received from members. 207 votes in support of a name change and 19 votes against. There was considerable discussion at the AGM. Executive members suggesting that the referendum was not a complete survey as Corporate and Overseas membership were not canvassed. The executive will treat the subject with some urgency with the “name change issue” being resolved at or before the next AGM.

- **Site maps/Guides**

Although many local regions have publications where birds can be found there was discussion

regarding the publication of a laminated pamphlet for each region. Each map to provide birding sites which are accessible to the public without crossing private land. The maps to include directions of travel and likely species at the site. Brent Stephenson is co-ordinating the North island draft pamphlets.

- **National, Regional and local "back yard" Surveys.**

With the completion of the five year Atlassing Scheme many members were suggesting a method of national bird census (similar to Garden Birdwatch in the UK or Great Backyard Bird Count in the U.S. and Canada; or Backyard Bird Survey in Australia) in which all members could participate. Schools could be encouraged to carry out surveys of the school grounds or near by parks at regular intervals during the year as a way of developing an interest in ornithology and gaining new membership.

The scientific committee considered the suggestion impractical with a problem finding a suitable person to co-ordinate and report on the project. There was a follow up presentation on the Scientific day by Eric Spurr of Landcare Research who discussed a website programme being developed accessible to anyone who wished to enter/obtain information on bird species at any site in NZ. For more information go to Eric Spurr's email address is [spurre@landcareresearch.co.nz](mailto:spurre@landcareresearch.co.nz) He will provide further information to interested persons.

- **National Projects**

The discussion at the R.R's meeting re the above surveys continued to include the analysis of data submitted regarding Moulting Studies; Beach Patrol Reports, Breeding Records and Wader-banding projects.

Again the problem was finding a person suitable to co-ordinate and write up the project reports. It was agreed the projects were important and should continue.

- **Membership Leaflets.**

A new OSNZ leaflet has been designed and printed. This includes a members application form. Samples were handed to Regional Reps. Another print run is being made and Hawkes Bay Region will receive 750 copies which will be left at places accessible by interested members of the public eg. DOC Office, Information Centre, libraries etc. The meeting authorised the printing of stick on labels with my contact details for members interested in joining OSNZ.

- **Regional Recorder/Classified Summarised Notes.**

Refer to page 7 of the latest Southern Bird magazine. Hopefully by the end of this year the OSNZ website will be set up to record the sightings of vagrant, uncommon and threatened species.

- **Falcons**

The raptor association has requested members to report all sightings of Falcons (including past sightings) Future sightings can be reported to Margaret or posted directly to the Raptor Association website [www.ranz.org.nz](http://www.ranz.org.nz)

- **Field Trips**

**13th August 2006** - Yeomans Track, Gwavas Forest (Bush birds). Meet at Jim and Christines home, 1470 Kereru Road, Kereru at 1000am. Their property is 14.7km from the Maraekakaho Monument turnoff. Bring your own lunch. Snow is forecast during the next couple of nights and warm clothing is essential in the ranges.

**23rd September 2006** – Ngaruroro River, Maraekakaho (The Banded Dotterels will be nesting)

**7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> October 2006** –Ahuriri Estuary and Porangahau. National Wader banding spotting weekend – to check the arriving birds for colour bands/flags.

**29<sup>th</sup> October 2006** – Shines Falls. (Boundary Stream) 0900hrs meet at Tutira School. Bring your lunch.

**4<sup>th</sup> November 2006** –. Wader census at Ahuriri, East Clive. Low tide at Napier is 1100a.m. We will meet at the car park opposite the Westshore Hotel at 9a.m. Kath Todd will make arrangements regarding the members counting at East Clive.

**5<sup>th</sup> November 2006** –Wader census at Porangahau. Contact Murray if you are available for this census.

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**December 2006.** Nothing organised at this stage. If anyone is interested in a long weekend at Mahia – similar to the trip 2 years ago – contact Murray so accommodation (in baches) can be Organised.

**21 January 2007** - meeting and B.B.Q at Jim and Christines, 1470 Kereru Road, Kereru.

**You will be contacted by telephone during the week prior to the field trip to confirm arrangements or any changes**

- **Census results.**

Attached are the winter census results for Ahuriri, East Clive and Porangahau. The census at Porangahau had to be delayed a month due to the weather conditions. Some good birds were seen. A Falcon on the Lagoon Farm; 1 Bittern at the top of the Estuary; 172 Black-fronted Dotterels (well up on previous years); 54 Royal Spoonbill; A hybrid Black Stilt and 67 Wrybill at Porangahau. Thank you to all those who helped out.

- **Other Interesting sightings.**

**16 Cattle Egrets** seen by Christine in July on S.H. 50 near the Napier/Hastings turnoffs

Two **White Herons** and the **Little Egret** are still in the Muddy Creek, East Clive area.

**White Heron; Little Egret; Bittern and 2 Mute Swans** seen by Wayne and Margaret about the 29<sup>th</sup> July at Muddy Creet, East Clive.

A **White Heron** fishing for gold fish on a property at Richmond Road, Maraenui – 2 August – reported to and seen by Murray.

2 **Spotted Shags** on the Napier Wharf – adjacent to the Fishing Club boat ramp – Seen by Murray on 8/8/06. Both birds developing breeding plumage.

- **OSNZ Website**

Check out, [www.osnz.org.nz](http://www.osnz.org.nz).

All issues of Notornis and Southern Bird are now available on, [www.notornis.org.nz](http://www.notornis.org.nz)

See page 14 in the latest Southern Bird magazine.

- **New Members.**

I behalf on the Hawkes Bay Region of OSNZ I welcome Ian and Norma Smith of Havelock North and Mark Mitchell of Eskdale, and invite you all to take part in our field trips.

The meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> July finished with Murray showing slides of his Northern Territory birding trip in October 2005.

Good birding every one

Murray Jeffries  
H.B. Regional Rep.