

Maketu Spit Monitoring 2014/15

Summary of Observations.

Date	NZD	VOC	CT	RBG	BBIG	WFT	BBKG	SWP	PS	LPS	BTG	SIPO	WRY	OBSV
07 Sep	6	10						4						MB
14 Sep	28	33		300			10	2		2	40			JF
27 Sep	38 (prob 30)	33 (30)		100	50	3		4		3				JF
27 Sep	14.nst.3egg	22		500+	50+	3								MB
11 Oct	18 + 1 chick	20		400	10	6	4		3					MB (inc)
14 Oct	1 chick	1 chick		4-500 pr	45									JF(inc)
20 Oct	48 (35)	29 + 1chick		500 prs	50	14								JF
31 Oct	18 poss 4 juv.	14		250	10	2								MB
02 Nov	35	31 + 2 chick		500 prs	38 nest	190 3 nst	4	3						JF
08 Nov	35 (30)	32+2juv,3ch	2	500 prs		175.133nst	8+1nst	30	4		250			JF
17 Nov	24 + 1juv	20		460	6	200	2 nests							MB
04 Dec	24	28+ 5 chicks	1	Lots	16, 4nst	154 nests	2 nests				4			JF
17 Dec	17	24		40+		6	4					2		MB
31 Dec	19	34+2juv,2ck		100's	A few	40 nest ++	9	40	10					JF
17 Jan	20	40+ 4 imm	1	50 (10+35imm	3	12						JF
24 Jan	19 (?3juv?)	27		20	3	25	4							MB
15 Feb	20	32 +1.im1ck		2			4	13	10		1			JF
Av	29	29												

Notes: Surveys carried out by Julian Fitter (JF) and Maureen Burgess (MB) with assistance from Peggy Moncur. Figures in brackets indicate more likely total – dam birds won't stay still!

Conclusions

Another good season with small increases in NZD and VOC numbers. The RNBGs returned again with a slightly smaller colony of Black-billed Gulls but a significantly larger colony of WFT. It would be nice to think that the colonies of gulls and terns keep returning thanks to the work we do!

New Zealand Dotterel,

Average number up to 30, though this reduces to 28, just one ahead of last year when the highest and lowest counts are excluded. Only one chick was spotted on October 1st and a nest with 3 eggs was seen on September 7th.

Variable Oystercatcher Up to 14 young were fledged with adult numbers similar to last year. One chick was spotted on October 4th and the last one observed on February 5th.

Red-billed Gulls Had another good season with a similar sized colony to last year. Nesting started in early October, possibly slightly earlier than 2013/14.

Black-billed Gull: the colony was slightly larger than last year with 38 nests. They were first noted on September 7th and mostly left by mid-December.

White-fronted Tern. The colony was significantly larger than in 2013/14 with 154 nests counted on December 4th

Abbreviations:

NZD = Dotterel. **VOC** = Variable Oystercatcher; **BD** Banded dotterel; **RBG** = Red-billed Gull, **BBIG** Black-billed Gull; **WFT** = White-fronted Tern, **BBKG** = Black-backed Gull, **SWP** = Spur-winged Plover, **PS** = Pied Shag, **LPS** = Little Pied Shag, **SIPO** = SI Pied Oystercatcher, **BTG** = Bar-tailed Godwit, **SBIL** = Royal Spoonbill; **ED** = eggs destroyed