

Intro-

Nesting Shorebirds

Plight of our local Variable Oystercatcher.

History and population-

More sensitive to disturbance than dotterels; Unlikely to return to nest while a perceived predator remains close by.

Banded Dotterel

70-80 Breeding pairs of Banded Dotterel

130-150 likely nesting attempts

Around 30 Banded Dotterel fledged

None hatched or fledged from North of Cape Campbell Airstrip

Issues for Nesting birds:

Vehicles on every part of beach; high potential for eggs and roaming chicks to be run over and directly killed.

- Surveillance findings: Not normal to leave the nest for long. Very dedicated, changeover is very quick, especially in the heat of the day.
- Sustained or frequent interruption of incubation, causing egg deaths in hot or cold conditions.

Difficulty of locating Banded Dotterel nests in areas where they are frequently disturbed by vehicles and people, and therefore difficult to get accurate data.

Highly stressed birds: already on high alert at the slightest sound of a vehicle, or sight at distance of a human. In low disturbance areas they are more relaxed, and may remain on the nest.

Nests known to have failed due to abandonment, caused by human disturbance.

Refer to: Wildlife Act 1953

Migratory birds and their use of the Cape Campbell area

The area from Cape Campbell southwards 3km is an important transit feeding and rest point for some migratory birds.

The area from Cape Campbell southwards 3km is also the **only** summer roost /destination point for some of these migratory birds.

These birds have flown up to 12,000km, and need to rest and recover, and to gain energy for the return trip to arctic breeding areas.

Other New Zealand native and endemic birds that migrate within NZ use the area in a similar way.

The point 3km south of Cape Campbell is the **only** roost site in the area suitable for these and many local birds to use overnight or at high tide.

Almost all of these species are in decline, and need our help rather than our hindrance.

Other special areas and their issues:

Booboo Stream and "Penguin point"

Also a major feeding /roost point for local birds and secondary feeding /rest point for migratory birds.

High Density Banded Dotterel nesting area.

Small point to the north is a roost point for a group of pied shags, little shags, white faced heron and a Variable Oystercatcher pair. Their exact roost spot is where vehicles drive through.

Possible remnant penguin population somewhere nearby.

Long point

Also a major feeding /roost point for local birds and secondary feeding /rest point for migratory birds. Often large flocks. Gathering location for non-nesting Banded dotterel.

High Density Banded Dotterel nesting area, with very restricted room above high tide mark on the Southern side of the point.

Chancet/Ward beach

Red-billed Gull and White fronted tern nesting colonies on rocks. Banded Dotterel, Pied stilt and Variable Oystercatcher nesting on shore. Pied Shag roost on beach.

Possible remnant nesting Penguin population.

Needles

Major seal roost.

High density (and most successful) Banded dotterel nesting site, Variable Oystercatcher nesting. Pied and Little Shag roost. Possible Penguin remnant population to North.

Waima/Ure River.

Lower riverbed and river mouth is a major migratory roost and feeding area for Black-billed gulls (endemic, threatened). Also for Banded dotterel, White fronted tern, Black fronted tern, (endemic, threatened) Some uncommon birds that visit in smaller numbers such as black-fronted dotterel. Many Banded dotterel, oystercatcher and Pied stilt nesting.

Seals.

Relevant Legislation:

Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978

Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992

Not a main focus of my work, but the harassment of seals is too frequent and obvious to ignore.

This is not just a few locals, or a small number of vehicles:

- Groups of people from outside of Marlborough, who travelled here specifically for the purpose of taking paua and crayfish.
- Large numbers over the summer period; consistently around 10 to 20 different motor vehicles per day, on all fine weather days witnessed at Cape Campbell and southwards around 5km, on any day of the week, and up to 21 observed in a 1 hour period.
- 20+ vehicle passes through seal haul outs and nesting areas per day, (more if there are 2 low tides in daylight) not counting those that race around doing donuts etc.
- Even if this only happens on fine weather days, this easily equates to well in excess of 300 vehicle transits each way per month, easily over 500 in December 2021.
- Most are quad bikes; stopping only 4WD utes and SUV's would not significantly change these numbers.
- ATV's and quad bikes do no less damage than 4WD utes and SUV's

Not all ATV and vehicle users are on the beach just for fishing access or having a look.

Even of those who drive on beaches only for fishing access, few show any concern for wildlife or their impact on the habitat.

Vehicle travel along the beach causes far more disturbance along greater stretches of the coast than walkers alone, or those accessing singular beach locations by vehicle on formed roads.

Use of vehicles enables more breaches of the dog control bylaw, and exacerbates effects of uncontrolled dogs on wildlife in remote locations.

Vehicle use enables and aids illegal fishing activities: (Travel further, faster. Vehicle users seen looking for, and have used, alternative exit points possibly to evade fisheries officers stationed at Marfells' beach.)

Vehicle use over long stretches of our coast causes unsustainable disturbance to nesting shorebirds.

Vehicle use causes significant habitat damage and erosion.

Vehicle impact on marine life in intertidal zone is unknown, but may have long term impacts on the habitat and food chain which is still recovering post-quake.

The Proposed Bylaw **Does Not** prevent anyone from carrying out recreational or food gathering activities.

The Proposed Bylaw **Does Not** prevent anyone from carrying out recreational or food gathering activities **in the same manner** that they were already doing it prior to the late 1970s, when quad bikes were first introduced to NZ, or when they became commonly used in the 1990's, or in 2016 when the earthquake created access to more of the coastline.

The act of driving motorised vehicles on the beach in many areas of the Marlborough coastline, particularly during spring and summer, in **most cases** puts many drivers in breach of the **Wildlife Act 1953** at some point.

The act of driving motorised vehicles on the beach at Cape Campbell and the Needles in **almost all cases** puts the drivers in breach of the **Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978** and **Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992**.

The act of driving motorised vehicles on the beach in many other areas also **often** puts the drivers in breach of the **Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978** and **Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992**.