

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc)

Wellington Region Newsletter

OSNZ—Birds New Zealand

September 2017

<http://osnz.org.nz/> and <http://notornis.osnz.org.nz/>

Greetings

Spring is a very busy time in the avian calendar. While Dallas and I still have not heard our first shining cuckoo of the season at home, they have been recorded on the Kapiti coast and in Zealandia. Spring marks the start of the peak nesting season for most bird species. Nesting is well underway with the banded dotterels at Pencarrow and Eastbourne. MIRO is continuing its study of the birds and Birds New Zealand members are helping with the survey and banding. Our members are also surveying the fernbirds at Pauatahanui for Forest and Bird. The birds have set up territories and there is some preliminary evidence that breeding has begun.

Birds New Zealand is continuing to modernize in order to make the organization more appealing to a new generation of ornithologists and bird watchers. In this regard Birds New Zealand has taken to Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Birdsnewzealand/> and twitter <https://twitter.com/osnzbirdsnz?lang=en>. While social media is a foreign world to many of us, it is increasingly being used as an effective and important form of communication. Check it out – you may be surprised.

Regards

Geoff de Lisle, Wellington Regional Representative, Birds New Zealand (OSNZ)

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

WHERE and WHEN

Meetings are held at Te Papa's collections building, 169 Tory Street. Go up the steps/ramp and across the carpark.

First Monday of the month, 7.45pm.

Monday 2nd October, Michelle Bradshaw, DOC, *Birds of Middleton Island, Alaska*

Monday 6th November, Nikki McArthur, Wildlife Management Limited, *An update on the riverbed-nesting shorebirds of the Wairarapa*

Monday 4th December, Ian Flux will talk on kokako on Kapiti Island

Regional Representative: Geoff de Lisle (04) 527 0929 or osnzwelly@gmail.com

Regional Recorder: Nikki McArthur nikki.mcarthur.101@gmail.com

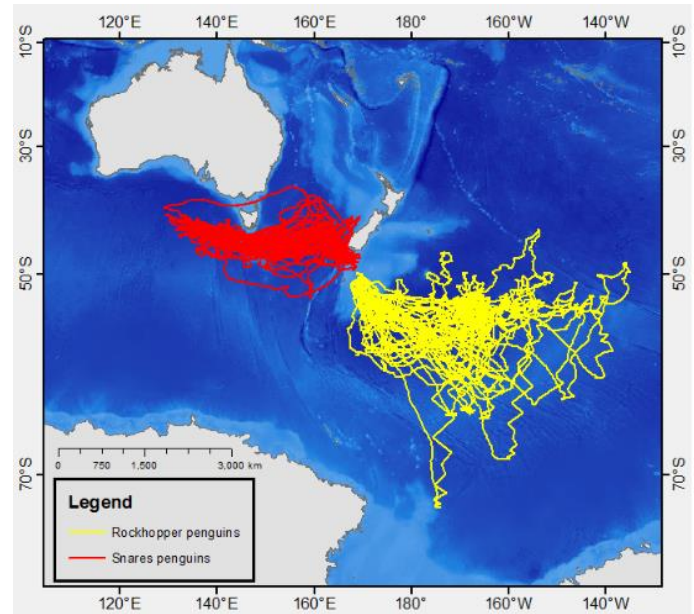
Birds New Zealand Regional Roundup: Geoff de Lisle & Dallas Bishop (04) 527 0929
osnzwelly@gmail.com

Shag Survey - Geoff de Lisle

Mist netting – Matu Booth, manager@ngamanu.co.nz

July Meeting: ‘Tracking penguins through the winter’ Dr David Thompson, Sea Bird Ecologist, NIWA

Rockhopper penguins on Campbell Island have shown a 94% decline between 1942 and 1984. Currently there are only ~33,000 pairs nesting of Rockhopper penguins on the island. In contrast, the population of Snares crested penguins is relatively stable with approximately 30,000 pairs. As part of study of these differences David and his colleagues attached tracking tags to the legs of Campbell Island rockhopper penguins and Snares crested penguins. The results of this tracking study are summarised in the accompanying map (Red – Snares, Yellow – Rockhoppers). This clear separation of areas where the penguins foraged provided for the first time information on where the penguins foraged and a possible explanation for why one of the species has undergone a major decline in numbers. It is conceivable that the food availability for the Rockhoppers but not the Snares penguins has undergone a major decline. Further investigations are planned including the tagging of crested penguins on the Antipodes Islands. <https://www.niwa.co.nz/news/penguins-reveal-unknown-swimming-talents>



August Meeting: ‘Dusky Sound – rich in history and wildlife’ Colin Miskelly, Curator Vertebrates, Te Papa

In November 2016 Te Papa in conjunction with DOC carried out a seabird survey of Dusky Sound, Fiordland. In his talk Colin described some of the history of this remote area, including the description of the broad-billed prion in 1777 by Georg Forster who was on Cook’s second expedition. This was the first species in New Zealand to be given a scientific name - *Procellaria vittata*. Over two hundred years later, the Te Papa/DOC seabird survey revealed broad-billed prions were breeding on two islets on the Seal Islands. The 6 chicks the Te Papa staff handled was the first evidence of broad-billed prions breeding in Dusky Sound as the Forsters never saw chicks in 1773. Other nesting seabirds found during the survey included ~21,000 pairs of sooty shearwaters on 35 islands and ~5500 pairs of mottled petrels on 12 islands. The eBird findings for sooty shearwater observations are shown below. Interestingly, these seabirds have been able to survive in the presence of stoats. Extensive predator control by DOC in Dusky Sound is resulting in some interesting changes in other birds. For example, South Island robins which were translocated to Anchor and Pigeon Islands were found on 35 islands, most of which have stoat traps on them. Mohua have spread to Resolution Island and Tieke have spread 100 metres to a neighboring island. Important messages to emerge from Colin’s talk were the importance of DOC’s extensive predator control programme and the need for further surveys to evaluate the effects of these trapping programmes on birds in this area. Further details of the Dusky Sound survey can be found in the Te Papa blogs listed below.

[The petrels of Dusky Sound](#)

[Dusky Sound – rich in history and wildlife](#)

<http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/page/12/> Whale tales from Dusky Sound: Nice smile, pity about the breath!

Jean-Claude Stahl



E-Bird locations of sooty shearwaters

September Meeting: ‘Return of the Chatham Petrel – a successful recovery programme’ Graeme Taylor, Science and Policy Unit, Department of Conservation

The Chatham petrel (*Pterodroma axillaris*) is one of New Zealand’s most threatened endemic birds with a current population estimate of greater than 1400 individuals. In 1990 the population of Chatham petrels was estimated to be only 200-400, with a single breeding location on Rangatira/South East Island (hereafter Rangatira), Chatham Islands. Graeme described the programme to identify the cause of the decline and the steps taken that have led to the recovery of the species. The major cause of the decline of the Chatham petrel was interference of their burrows by the large number of broad-billed prions which also nest on Rangatira. The following steps are being taken to ensure the recovery of the species:

- (1) Locating Chatham petrel burrows amongst other abundant seabird burrows;
- (2) Development of artificial chambers and tunnels to facilitate Chatham petrel burrow management;
- (3) Protecting Chatham petrel burrows and breeding attempts from interference by broad-billed prions;
- (4) Creating artificial clusters of Chatham petrel burrows on Rangatira to facilitate burrow management;
- (5) Translocation of Chatham petrel chicks to other islands to establish new populations.

These steps have resulted in a slow by steady increase in the population of Chatham petrels. A detailed summary of the conservation of the Chatham Island petrel can be found in the following review.

[Helen Gummer^a](#)[Graeme Taylor^a](#)[Kerry-Jayne Wilson^{b1}](#)[Matt J. Rayner^c](#) (2015) Recovery of the endangered Chatham petrel (*Pterodroma axillaris*): A review of conservation management techniques from 1990 to 2010. [Global Ecology and Conservation, Volume 3](#), January 2015, Pages 310-323.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2351989414000936>

Birds New Zealand Annual Conference – Wellington 2019

The annual Birds New Zealand Conference will be held over Queens Birthday weekend in 2019. The Brentwood Hotel in Miramar has been selected as the venue for the conference.

Birds of Cook Strait

Undoubtedly one of the best birding sites in the Wellington Region is Cook Strait. Options for seeing the Cook Strait birds include the Inter Islander and Blue Bridge Ferries, watching from the shore at strategic locations and more recently chartered fishing boats.

Cook Strait birds 11 & 16 August, Colin Miskelly

I crossed Cook Strait twice in the last week, seeing similar birds each time. There were large numbers of fairy prions in the open section, though not in large flocks (600 on 11 Aug, 1200 on 16 Aug). Also a large gathering of mollymawks on 11 Aug (75 white-capped, 4 Salvin's, 8 black-browed). One northern giant petrel and one Cape petrel on each crossing, and a southern royal albatross yesterday. The most notable bird was an early short-tailed shearwater yesterday (or maybe it never migrated). Full lists follow;

11 Aug Wellington south coast: <http://ebird.org/ebird/newzealand/view/checklist/S38682103>

11 Aug Cook Strait: <http://ebird.org/ebird/newzealand/view/checklist/S38682117>

16 Aug Cook Strait: <http://ebird.org/ebird/newzealand/view/checklist/S38682134>

16 Aug Wellington south coast: <http://ebird.org/ebird/newzealand/view/checklist/S38682140>

BirdingNZ.net Thu Aug 17, 2017

Great seawatching at Cape Palliser, Igor Debski, June 5

I took advantage of the good southerly blow to head down to Cape Palliser for a seawatch. The day started well with a BROWN SKUA flying along the road/coast west of Ngawi. The bird alternated between landward and coastward side of the road, and I think it may have been patrolling for roadkill. I drove with the bird for 2-3 kms, being able to drive ahead, park up, and have the bird fly and circle close overhead. Quite an experience for being on North Island!

I could not reach the lighthouse at Cape Palliser due to raging floodwater over the ford, but went to the headland between Ngawi and Mangatoetoe, which I think was probably the best spot anyway. Seawatching was amazing, with 17 tubenose species, the majority of them being seen close in to shore with great views:

2 LIGHT-MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS

2 WHITE-HEADED PETREL

6+ SOFT-PLUMAGED PETERL (there were multiple additional small gadfly petrels further offshore that I presume were also soft-plumaged)

Gibson's albatross

Southern royal albatross, Northern royal albatross, White-capped albatross, Buller's albatross, Black-browed albatross, Campbell albatross

Grey-faced petrel, Northern giant petrel

Cape petrel

Fluttering shearwater, Short-tailed shearwater (single bird)

Fairy prion

Common diving petrel

Notable by their absence were any Procellaria petrels, but can't really complain. In addition, a pair of NZ falcon put on quite a show, with one bird killing a feral pigeon about 10m in front of me, and its partner landing about 5m behind me giving binocular filling views! Quite a day's birding. BirdingNZ.net

Cook Strait Fishing Charters - Jonathan (Jono) Delich

While Cook Strait Fishing Charters' main business is running fishing trips, in recent years it has also been running pelagic bird watching tours in Cook Strait. In May 2016 Wellington Birds New Zealand for the first time ran a pelagic bird watching trip in Cook Strait. This was a very popular trip and demand was such that in 2017 two trips were run. Trips have also been run by Phil Battley for his Massey students and Tony Fluerty, a local photographer. An ample supply of fish scraps attracts a rich variety of birds, especially albatrosses and mollymawks. <http://www.cookstraitfishingcharters.co.nz/>

The following table is a summary of eBird records of birds seen on 5 different pelagic trips. The birds listed are those observed outside the Wellington Heads. Some birds are seen in the inner harbour as well as in Cook Strait.

	15/5/2016	9/04/2017	18/06/2017	30/07/2017	5/08/2017
Organised by	BNZ	Massey	BNZ	Tony Fluerty	BNZ
Royal albatross - Southern	x	x	x	x	x
Royal albatross - Northern	x	x	x	x	x
Wandering albatross (Gibson's)	x	x	x		x
White-capped mollymawk	x	x	x	x	x
Salvin's mollymawk	x		x	x	x
Tasmanian mollymawk	x				
Black-browed mollymawk	x	x	x		x
Buller's mollymawk	x	x	x		
Giant petrel - Northern		x	x	x	X
Westland petrel	x	x	x	x	
Cape petrel	x	x	x	x	x
Sooty shearwater	x	x			
Buller's shearwater	x	x			
Fluttering shearwater*		x			
Short-tailed shearwater		x			
Diving petrel	x	x			
Fairy prion	x			x	x
White-fronted tern*	x			x	x
Black-fronted tern	x	x	x		x
Black-backed gull*	x	x	x	x	x
Red-billed gull*		x	x	x	x
Little penguin*		x			

* Common in the inner harbour

September 15, 2017 – Jono Delich, Cook Strait Fishing Charters Ltd

Photos taken yesterday (15th September) afternoon on our charter boat while we were out fishing.



It was out at the Nicholson Canyon area around midday then the incoming tide brought it right in close to the harbour entrance around 5pm that evening.

There were heaps on giant petrels all over it and one white morph amongst them as well.



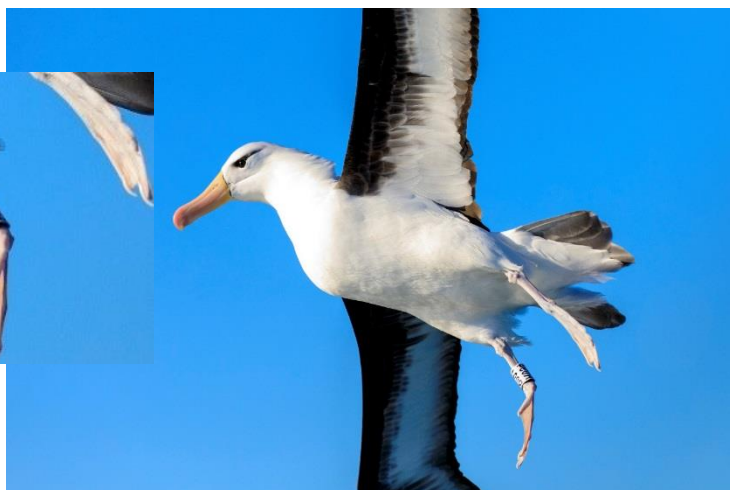
Note; this whale was also seen from the Cook Strait ferry by Tim Poupart. Colin Miskelly lodged the sighting on BirdingNZ.net. A dead whale, almost certainly the same whale, was also sighted off d'Urville Island / Stephens Island and reported in the **Nelson Mail and the New Zealand Herald**.

Final resting place - A 21 metre long blue whale washed ashore at Flat Point on the eastern Wairarapa coast on 20 Sep, after being seen floating offshore the day before.

<http://www.birdingnz.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=7075>

Banded black-browed Mollymawk

The picture (left) was taken by Tamzin Henderson on the 30th July, 2017 on a Cook Strait Charters Ltd trip organised by Tony Fluerty. The black-browed mollymawk, alias R094, has an interesting history. It was banded on Diego Ramirez, Chile during the 2010-11 season by Cristian G. Suazo. Diego Ramirez is a group of small islands 105 km south west of Cape Horn. The islands are an important nesting site for a number of southern seabirds, including the black-browed mollymawk, white-capped mollymawk, grey-headed mollymawk, rockhopper penguin and southern giant petrel. Interestingly, this bird was seen by Kyle Morrison in Cook Strait in August 2014 and his photograph can be seen on NZBirdsOnline. Cristian reported he saw this bird again on Diego Ramirez with its egg in September, 2014. He is still using this type of band (white or blue marked with R for Ramirez) and metal bands on black-browed mollymawks and grey-headed mollymawks.



Acknowledgements: Colin Miskelly for tracking down the location where this bird was banded. Tamzin Henderson for her picture. Tamzin is an excellent bird photographer and some of her pictures can be seen on her blog, The Photographic Wanderings of Tamzin S. Henderson, <https://www.tamzinnz.com/>



Te Papa Blog

Another extinct bird: Northland's unique shag

Posted 14 August 2017 by [Alan Tennyson](#) The list of extinctions continues to grow at an alarming rate as research, led by an Otago University team reveals that New Zealand lost yet another bird in recent times – this time a shag, related to the King shag. New Zealand is the centre of global diversity for seabirds and we have more shags (also known as cormorants) than anywhere else (13 species). The king shag is our rarest shag species. It is restricted to the Marlborough Sounds and classified as Nationally Endangered, with a global population of only a few hundred birds. <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2017/08/14/another-extinct-bird-northlands-unique-shag/>

In photos: Giant eggs, tiny eggs, and the eggceptionally rare

Posted 8 August 2017 by [Colin Miskelly](#) Bird expert Colin Miskelly highlights some of the treasures in our egg collection, including those thought to be held only by Te Papa – as well as giant moa eggs, tiny rifleman eggs, and eggs that were acquired during dramatic events in New Zealand's conservation history. Natural environment photographer Jean-Claude Stahl has recently completed a major project to photograph at least one example of every New Zealand bird species for which we hold eggs. His spectacular images are now published on [Collections Online](#), and (with additional data) on [New Zealand Birds Online](#). <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2017/08/08/in-photos-giant-eggs-tiny-eggs-and-the-eggceptionally-rare/>

Another extinct bird: New Zealand's prehistoric swan

Posted 26 July 2017 by [Alan Tennyson](#)

Ancient DNA and morphometric analysis reveal extinction and replacement of New Zealand's unique black swans by Nicolas J. Rawlence, Afroditi Kardamaki, Luke J. Easton, Alan J. D. Tennyson, R. Paul Scofield, Jonathan M. Waters <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2017/07/26/another-extinct-bird-new-zealands-prehistoric-swan/>

Cracking the Mystery of Egg Shape - The influence of flying

Although birds' eggs are generally ovoid in shape, there is considerable variation in the degree to which they are symmetrical, round, or bottom-heavy. Many hypotheses have been put forward to explain what has driven this variation, with many accepting life history or nesting explanations. Stoddard *et al.* looked at nearly 50,000 eggs from more than 1400 species from morphological, biophysical, and evolutionary perspectives and found little support for previous hypotheses such as clutch size, calcium conservation and roll factor. Instead, their results suggest that selection for flight adaptations is most likely to be responsible for the variation.

The relationship between flying ability and egg shape does have exceptions, though. For example, whereas ostrich eggs tend to be spherical, kiwi eggs are elliptical – even though both species don't fly. Flightless penguins also lay asymmetrical eggs, which researchers pin on their streamlined body plans, designed for powerful underwater swimming.

<http://vis.sciencemag.org/eggs/> This is a link to a simplified, pictorial summary of the findings – well worth reading!

[Avian egg shape: Form, function, and evolution.](#)

Stoddard MC, Yong EH, Akkaynak D, Sheard C, Tobias JA, Mahadevan L. Science. 2017 Jun 23;356(6344):1249-1254

Bird Snippets

SIPO and Banded Dotterel Pauatahanui

ledzep » Sun Jul 02, 2017

A good flock of about 50 SIPO and 31 Banded Dotterel in paddocks next to Grays Road between Motukaraka Point and Ration Point. That is the largest flock of SIPO I've seen in the area for some time. BirdingNZ.net



Photo – Duncan Watson

Wellington City biodiversity

bsd1 » Fri Jul 07, 2017

Yes I saw the goose on Wednesday when walking at lunchtime. It was floating past Portofino towards Wagamama. I also spotted a reef heron perched underneath the wharf where the police boats dock. BirdingNZ.net

Wellington City biodiversity

Colin Miskelly & Kate » Sat Jul 08, 2017

A pair of falcons heard then eventually seen soaring high over our property at Mt Cook (Wellington) in a clear sky 30 min ago. Watched through binoculars as they soared away towards Zealandia.

This is about 1 km from where I saw one 2 days ago. BirdingNZ.net

Wellington City biodiversity

ledzep » Tue Jul 18, 2017 1:05 pm

Flock of 25 - 30 Goldfinches feeding on the ground near the little wetland area between Te Papa and Chaffers Dock. BirdingNZ.net

Wellington City biodiversity

ledzep » Sun Jul 23, 2017

A Red-Crowned Parakeet at the carpark entrance to Otari-Wilton bush, north entrance off Churchill Drive. Quite settled in the trees right beside the carpark. BirdingNZ.net

Wellington City biodiversity

Colin Miskelly » Mon Jul 24, 2017 7:48 am

Tui alarm-calling alerted me to a falcon flying low over our house (Mt Cook, Wellington) at 7:20 am.

This is the third sighting from our property this year (and second this month). BirdingNZ.net

Wellington City biodiversity

CMKMStephens » Mon Jul 24, 2017

This doesn't seem especially amazing, but it's something new for me: Fantail in the trees on Lambton Quay today (the ones that fill up with Starlings in the evenings. BirdingNZ.net

Wellington City biodiversity

ledzep » Wed Jul 26, 2017 1:12 pm

Finally saw the Greylag Goose that Charlotte and others reported seeing. This was on the little beach by Chaffer's Marina. First time I've seen it, but sounds like it has been around in the area for a while. BirdingNZ.net

Wellington City biodiversity

Charlotte » Sat Jul 29, 2017 Quite often see it at the lagoon outside the Karaka Cafe as well...sounds like it moves around a bit as haven't seen it that far up at Chaffers. BirdingNZ.net

Wellington City biodiversity

ledzep » Tue Aug 08, 2017 8:36 am

Bellbird back in Wellington Botanic Gardens (Lady Norwood gardens area). Seems to be absent in summer. BirdingNZ.net

Wellington City biodiversity

Peter Hodge » Fri Aug 11, 2017

This morning, on the Wellington waterfront (by Frank Kitts Park) - a large mixed flock of Fluttering Shearwaters, White-fronted Terns, Red-billed Gulls, Black-backed Gulls, and a Little Black Shag, attacking fish very close to shore. A nice sight to start the day. BirdingNZ.net

Wellington City biodiversity

ledzep » Fri Aug 11, 2017

Still a good flock of 20-30 Fluttering Shearwaters plus the White-fronted Terns about 100+ metres off from Te Papa. One Fluttering Shearwater right up beside overseas terminal wharf. Also a Spotted, Pied and Little Black Shag in Chaffer's Marina. Greylag goose also still there, and small flock of Goldfinches still on the grass behind Chaffer's Dock apartments.

Wellington City biodiversity

ourspot » Sat Aug 12, 2017

I was at the same place at about the same time as you yesterday outside Te Papa. The shearwaters and terns were having a great time in that area for at least an hour while I was there. Also saw the Greylag, 2 Spotted Shags, Little pied and little black shags. The day before on Petone foreshore I watched a flock of approx 50 little black shags working as one great attack team on whatever was below. Quite a sight. Haven't done much birding in Wellington so was impressed with the range I saw. Also saw a couple of albatross and a giant petrel way out on the horizon from Moa Point. Albatrosses were too far away to confirm species. BirdingNZ.net

Parliamentary Kaka

Christopher Stephens. 29th Aug, 2017. A group of 5 kaka were present in the grounds of Parliament. Ian

Armitage and Peter Hodge have also recently reported them present in the grounds of Parliament.

Male falcon hunting unaware Kereru - Maungaraki, Lower Hutt

Charlotte » Sun Sep 03, 2017

At approximately 3:50pm this afternoon we saw a Kereru flying over our property heading into the Belmont Regional Park with a male (juvenile - it was very dark coloured) in pursuit (lazy afternoon approach note the dart out of nowhere - but suspect that was coming) of Kereru, who appeared seemingly unaware of the possible impending doom that was about to strike it

Second juvenile male we've seen in the area over the last two weeks - likely it's the same one. BirdingNZ.net

Fernbird Survey – Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve

Saturday 2nd of September marked the start of the Wellington Birds New Zealand survey for fernbird at the Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve at Pauatahanui. The survey is being undertaken for Forest and Bird who organised the transfer of 22 fernbirds from Lake Rotokare in Taranaki to Pauatahanui. A big thank you to all those who have been searching for fernbirds. The two maps summarise the findings until the 28th of September. All birds were banded with a Red/metal on their right leg. On the left leg is a unique colour combination.

There are still some birds present in the reserve but their band



combinations are still to be determined. If members wish to look for fernbirds please use digital calls sparingly. The calls should not be used where the pair combination has been determined.



Members wishing to obtain digital fernbird calls please contact Geoff de Lisle (osnzwelly@gmail.com).

Please send your observations to Geoff de Lisle. All observations provide useful information, including those where birds have been seen/heard but the band combinations were not recorded and areas searched where no birds were either seen or heard. Make sure you keep your eye/ear out for other birds species!

Photographs - Previous page, Duncan Watson; Left David Cornick



Spotless Crake Survey Pauatahanui Inlet Reserves – Baseline data 2016, Shane Cotter

Over ten weeks from mid-August to mid-October 2016, weekly counts were undertaken at 29 count sites throughout Pauatahanui Wildlife Management Reserve, Duck Creek Scenic Reserve, Horokiwi Wildlife Management Reserve and Kakaho estuary all within Pauatahanui Inlet, the eastern arm of Porirua Harbour, searching for spotless crake (*Porzana tabuensis*). At each count site, a seven minute 40 second recording of spotless crake calls were played. This survey was undertaken to obtain baseline data on the presence of spotless crake in these reserves to determine the impact of increased predator control on their numbers. A new round of intensive trapping within these reserves and the surrounding area was to be carried out from July 2016.

Five spotless crake at four separate count sites were positively identified responding to played calls. Records for each confirmed spotless crake have been entered into www.eBird.org at the specific count site where it was heard. Three other possible spotless crake were also heard. These are not confirmed records and therefore were not entered into www.eBird.org. Other bird species seen within the reserves were also recorded. Checklists for the bird species noted each week have also been entered into www.eBird.org.



The entire report can be found at the following link. <http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/council-publications/Cotter-2017-Spotless-crake-survey-Pauatahanui-Inlet.pdf>

Survey stations listed in order they were visited.

Count stations where positive spotless crane calls heard:

CS 3, CS8, CS12, CS25

Count stations where possible spotless crane calls heard:

CS12, CS13, CS22

Note: Shane Cotter has very recently (23/9/2017) recorded on eBird spotless crane at three different locations at Pharynzyn Reserve.

Wharekohu, Kapiti Island, Kapiti Coast District County, Wellington, NZ

Wed Mar 29, 2017 12:00 AM 🌙 Nocturnal, Hugh Robertson, eBird submission

Travelling;, Party size, 4; Duration 24 hours, Distance 2km, habitat indigenous forest.

24 species total

21 Little Spotted Kiwi *Apteryx owenii* – total caught 27/3 – 31/3, others heard and seen.

1 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

X Little penguin *Eudyptula minor*

1 Fairy prion *Pachyptila turtur* – heard flying at night near the coast

1 Black shag *Phalacrocorax carbo*

1 Australasian harrier *Circus approximans*

X Weka *Gallirallus australis*

1 Spotless crane - *Zapornia tabuensis* – Heard at night in swamp

X Red-billed gull *Chroicocephalus scoplinus*

X South Black backed gull *Larus dominicanus*

X White-fronted tern *Sterna striata* – offshore

X New Zealand pigeon *Hemiphysalis novaeseelandiae*

X Morepork – *Ninox novaeseelandiae*

1 Sacred kingfisher – *Todiramphus sanctus*

2 New Zealand falcon – *Falco novaeseelandiae*, pair seen; remains of five NZ pigeon found that were killed, including one killed today.

X New Zealand kaka – *Nestor meridionalis*

X Red-crowned parakeet – *Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae*

X Tui – *Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*

X Bellbird – *Anthornis melanura*

X Whitehead- *Mohua albicilla*

X North Island saddleback – *Philesturnus rufusater*

2 New Zealand fantail – *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

X New Zealand robin – *Petroica australis*

X Silvereye – *Zosterops lateralis*

Wharekohu is found at the South end of Kapiti Island. This is the only eBird record of spotless crane on Kapiti Island. The falcon(s) are still present on Kapiti with remains of kereru being found recently at Rangatira (centre of island where DOC has its accommodation).

East Harbour Banded Dotterels

Banded dotterels are returning to the Pencarrow and Eastbourne sites. On the 12th of September the first nests of the 2017/18 season were discovered. One nest has three eggs and the other 2 eggs. MIRO is continuing its survey of banded dotterels which includes the banding of birds with alpha numeric flags. The one bird that was banded last year has returned to Pencarrow. By the 28th of September there were nests at both the Pencarrow (4 active) and Eastbourne (3 active) sites. The first chicks have just hatched at Pencarrow Lakes.



Top left, nest with three eggs, Bottom left, same nest with adult (Dallas Bishop).



Top right, spot the bird sitting on nest. Bottom right, hint.

