



**goodness
KITCHEN**

eBird

Raising the profile of Bird New Zealand's eBird database

Over the past two years, Birds New Zealand has been working to promote the New Zealand eBird database, both to its members and the wider birding community, but also among groups and agencies that can make use of eBird data to improve conservation decision-making. Thanks to financial support from both Goodness Kitchen and the Birds New Zealand Projects Assistance fund, a total of 11 training workshops and seven promotional presentations have been held around the country over the past two years. These presentations and workshops have directly reached a total of 244 people, including Birds New Zealand and Forest & Bird members; community-led conservation groups, and staff from the Department of Conservation and a number of city, district and regional councils.

During this time, eBird use has continued to grow at an ever-increasing rate. Over the past two years, the number of registered 'eBirders' active in New Zealand has grown to 3,342 people, and over 500,000 bird observations have been submitted – equivalent to the number of observations submitted during the first 7.5 years that eBird was available in New Zealand. eBird now holds over 1.2 million bird observations, which is close to the number of observations submitted during the second *Atlas of Bird Distribution in New Zealand*, carried out over five years between 1999 and 2004.

Although this eBird promotion project has now come to an end, we are continuing to respond to requests for additional eBird presentations and workshops, including enquiries from the QEII National Trust and the Department of Conservation. We are also in the process of distributing training material to RRs, for those who would like to continue promoting the use of eBird within their respective regions. An eBird administration committee is also being formed, to improve the administration of the eBird in New Zealand, in response to growing levels of participation and demand. Part of the role of this new committee will be to make a decision on how best to continue to deliver eBird training and support, both to Birds New Zealand members and to our partner organisations.

Over the next five years, eBird will become a key data entry and storage tool for Birds New Zealand's new *National Bird Monitoring scheme*, which is scheduled to be launched in June 2019. With this in mind, it will be crucial to have as many of our members, and the wider birding community, comfortable with using eBird so that we'll all be well-equipped to contribute to this significant new project.

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