

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc)

Wellington Region Newsletter

OSNZ—Birds New Zealand

December 2016

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

Greetings

2017 is just around the corner and I need to get this newsletter completed before Christmas. I am actively looking for speakers for next year – any suggestions will be most gratefully accepted. These can include “out of town” speakers since each year I aim to have one speaker from outside the Wellington region. Furthermore, I am still looking for more speakers for the February meeting which traditionally is made up of short talks given by members.

My thanks to all those who have provided content for the newsletter. Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome as are suggestions for content.

Have a wonderful birding 2017.

Geoff de Lisle

Wellington Regional Representative, OSNZ (Birds New Zealand)

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

Please note, there will not be a meeting on the first Monday of January. The February meeting will be held on Monday 6th of February, Waitangi Day.....

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.

February Meeting

Member’s Talks. This will be a traditional February evening with short talks given by members. Details of the talks will be sent by email in January.

The schedule of talks for 2017 is being finalised and will be forwarded to members in the New Year.

Report of Monthly Meetings

October Monday 3rd. Colin Miskelly, Te Papa, “21 years of bird counts in Zealandia/Karori Sanctuary: from unfenced water reservoir to fully-fledged eco-sanctuary”.

Colin reviewed the series of 5 minute bird counts, conducted by OSNZ (Birds New Zealand) which covered 21 years of Zealandia. The initial counts were conducted prior to the construction of the

fence and the elimination of predators. These were in marked contrast to the counts that concluded in January 2016 when all predators had been eliminated and a number of bird species introduced and established. Notable changes have occurred during the 21 years, with a dramatic increase in tui numbers but also declines in some of the other original species, such as silvereye.

Ben Bell, “Temporal changes in birds and bird song detected in Zealandia sanctuary, Wellington, New Zealand, over 2011-2015”. Ben presented a summary of his monthly survey of birds of Zealandia using the slow-walk transect procedure where all birds seen and/or heard were recorded on a 6.3km circuit of the sanctuary. An interesting finding from his survey was that the seasonal effect on song output was clearly greater for 6 introduced passerines. There was an increase in song detection associated with the breeding season. There was a difference in song output patterns between native and introduced patterns.

Bell, B. D. (2015). Temporal changes in birds and bird song detected in Zealandia sanctuary, Wellington, New Zealand, over 2011-2015. *Notornis*, 62(4), 173-183.

November Monday 7th. Ian Armitage “In the wake of Scott and Shackleton – a short adventure in the Antarctic”.

Ian presented a review of his month-long, trip of a life time to Antarctica with Heritage Expeditions. The expedition of 50 passengers voyaged in the Spirit of Enderby, a fully ice-strengthened vessel. Highlights of the trip not only included the chance to see some wonderful wildlife but also the opportunity to view a number of historic sites of Antarctic explorers. Ian was particularly complimentary on all aspects of this trip and Heritage Expeditions who were great hosts. They have recently become a sponsor of Birds New Zealand.

<http://www.heritage-expeditions.com/trip/ross-sea-feb-2017-antarctic-cruise/>

December Monday 5th. Duncan Watson & a supporting cast. A pictorial review of birds of southern Africa.

Southern Africa has a wonderful variety of bird species – a joy for anybody interested in birds. Duncan and Dianne spent a month on organised tours, becoming acquainted with South African’s birds and photographing many of them. His selection of the best of his many thousands of photographs formed the basis of a fascinating talk. Geoff de Lisle and Dallas Bishop had a shorter exposure to southern African birds in October 2015, including a pelagic tour out of Simon’s Town. A significant swell was a test of one’s sea legs but this was more than compensated for by large numbers of birds, including some species rarely seen in New Zealand waters, such as Atlantic yellow-nose and Great shearwater. Geoff and Dallas highly recommend Birding Africa for anybody considering an organised bird trip in South Africa.

<http://www.birdingafrica.com/>

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

Bird Snippets

Unusual gull at Paraparaumu beach, **Colin Miskelly** » Thu Oct 06, 2016

I have just received images via Ben Bell, taken by Chris Paulin this morning. Ben commented "I wondered about some oiling on an immature red-billed, but Chris says definitely not, so I'm looking at alternatives at present."
BirdingNZ.net

Note; oiling in birds can result in an odd appearance and the possibility of incorrect identifications. Pictures -
<http://www.birdingnz.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=6124>

White-winged Black Tern at Otaki, **sav** » Thu Nov 17, 2016

I've just had a call from Phil Hammond who now is watching a White-winged Black Tern hawking over the Otaki Sewage Ponds.

He also reports a Little Tern from the Manawatu Estuary.

Sav Saville, Wrybill Birding Tours, NZ
Great Birds, Real Birders, BirdingNZ.net



Royal spoonbills, Mana Island, David Cornick, Oct 15, 2016.

22 spoonbills roosting in the macrocarpa with the nesting pied shags. The spoonbills were only temporary visitors to the island. Photo, David Cornick.

Tomtit, Mt Kaukau, Wellington, **Nikki McArthur** » Sun Nov 20, 2016

Ian Flux has reported coming across a male tomtit while carrying out five-minute bird counts on Mt Kaukau on Friday. Tomtits are

fairly few and far between in Wellington City & surrounds. R.H.D Stidolph records that they were present in Otari-Wilton Bush and Khandallah Park in the early 1920s. There are also several published records in the early 2000's from Zealandia, Polhill Reserve and Otari-Wilton Bush (Miskelly et al, 2005), and Peter Hodge encountered one on Tinakori Hill on 16th January, 2015.

Sulphur-crested cockatoo Upper Hutt, **boneywhitefoot** » Wed Nov 23, 2016

Photographed a pair Sulphur-crested cockatoo flying past down the Hutt river last night. was a bit slow on the trigger and they nearly got away. BirdingNZ.net

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/46846480@...ed-public/>

Note; In recent times the closest known population of sulphur-crested cockatoo is at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.

Cook Strait prions, **David Riddell**. Fri Nov 25, 2016

Heading home from an earthquake-disrupted but very enjoyable mostly non-birding trip to the South Island our ferry was accompanied for the first half of the journey across Cook Strait by large numbers of prions (and not much else). I tried to get some photos, but distance above the water and high wind (and hence bird) speed made this tricky. One of the shots (heavily cropped, below) had me a bit puzzled. The white edges to the tail (and what appears to be a broad white eye-stripe, though maybe that's over-exposure) had me wondering if it could be

a thin-billed prion, but the extent of black on the centre of the tail seems more extensive than I'm used to seeing on beach-wrecked birds. I'd be interested in any opinions as to whether this is indeed a thin-billed, or a fairy prion.

BirdingNZ.net Pictures;

Comment by **Russ Cannings** » Fri Nov 25, 2016

Yes I think the tail pattern would eliminate thin-billed. Looks fine for Fairy Prion to me in the face too. When looking at hundreds of Fairys on a crossing like that you will have noticed a good deal of variability in some plumage characteristics. Is still have yet to pick out something different in these groups but one day I hope! BirdingNZ.net

Magpie, Rangatira, Kapiti Island, Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle, Nov 21, 2016.

Rare vagrant on Kapiti Island. This bird was still present on 7/12/2016.

Bartailed godwits at Pauatahanui Inlet, **Olwen** » Sat Nov 26, 2016

I was delighted to see 8 godwits at the inlet today. I haven't seen any there for a few years. I don't get round there very often and they could have been just passing through, of course.

George Hobson » Sat Nov 26, 2016

Interesting you saw them - I found 13 late October and there seem to have been a stream of reports recently. BirdingNZ.net

Rosemary Heather, Nov 1, 2016

On usual roost 11 Royal Spoonbills. In ponds of wildlife refuge, Pauatahanui, 12 godwits.

Red and Yellow Crowned Kakariki, **imogen** » Mon Nov 28, 2016

I was at Spicers Botanical Park in Porirua today and saw a couple of red-crowned parakeets. When I looked at my images I realised one is a yellow-crowned. Is it usual for them to be together and how often are the yellow-crowned seen in the Wellington area? BirdingNZ.net

Wellington City biodiversity, **Charlotte**, Dec 06, 2016

Down on the waterfront last night outside Shed 6 just after 8pm doing a timelapse and a little blue penguin comes swimming in under the wharf. It's incredible to see how fast those little guys fly underwater, especially when he sees a couple of humans looking down on him. We'd hoped to see a few more coming in, but just the one. BirdingNZ.net

Reef Heron, Rangatira, Kapiti Island, Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle, Dec 9, 2016.

Flew by while we were waiting for a boat on the beach at Rangatira.

Cuckoo Records

A shining cuckoo was heard on the Wilkinson track and on the Rangatira flats on Kapiti Island on the 24th of September, 2016 (DMB, GWdeL). They were not heard on any of the other days during our stay on the island from 21/10 to 26/10/2016. Furthermore, no grey warblers were heard at Rangatira during this time. Nick Fisenzidis, DOC, Kapiti recorded the first long-tailed cuckoo for 2016/17 on the 17th of October.

Kapiti Island - Mrs Wilkinson's diary

Shining Cuckoo

1928	Oct 4	Oct 13, 9 pm
1929	Oct 3	Oct 21, 10 pm
1930	Away from Island	Away
1931	Oct 3	Oct 29, 11 pm
1932	Oct 7	Oct 29
1933	Oct 2	Oct 21, 8pm
1934	Oct 5	Away
1935	Sept 29	Oct 18
1936	Oct 1	Away
1937	Sept 29	Oct 20 8.30 pm
1938	Sept 29	Oct 17
1939	Sept 22	Oct 28 "very late record"
1942	Oct 10	Away

Mean arrival dates; shining cuckoo 2nd October, long-tailed cuckoo 22nd October

Upper Hutt

First records – Shining cuckoo, Blue Mountains Road, Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle

2007	14/10/2007 (away 19/9 – 5/10)
2008	28/9/2008
2009	3/10/2009
2010	2/10/2009
2010	15/10/2010
2011	15/10/2011
2012	4/10/2012
2013	27/9/2013
2014	27/9/2014
2015	27/10/2015 (away 9/10 - 25/10)
2016	17/10/2016

Mean arrival date 4th October (2007 and 2015 years excluded due to absence during potential cuckoo arrival dates).

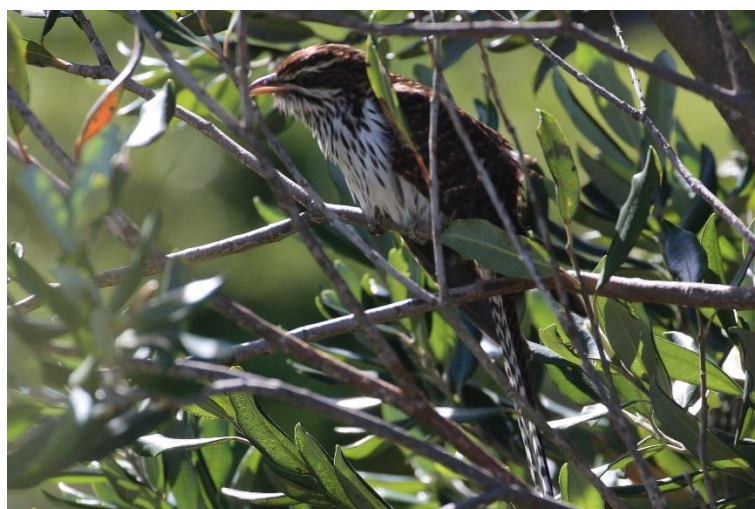
Long-tailed cuckoo were heard / seen in 2007, 2010, 2011 and 2016.

Dallas Bishop, Geoff de Lisle

Amy K. Wilkinson, 1957, Kapiti Diary, Edited by R.H.D. Stidolph, Published for the editor by the Masterton Printing Co. Ltd., Lincoln Road, Masterton.



Shining cuckoo – flew into our sitting room at Blue Mountains Road, Upper Hutt escaping from being harassed by tui. 21/10/2016. (Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle)



Long-tailed cuckoo, in a pohutukawa on beach at Rangatira, Kapiti Island, 18/11/2016

Cuckoos, toxic caterpillars, citizen science, and cinerarias

28 October 2016 by [Colin Miskelly](#) Te Papa Blog,

<http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2016/10/28/cuckoos-toxic-caterpillars-citizen-science-and-cinerarias/>

Cuckoos are well-known for eating spiky and poisonous foods, but did you know they can eat toxic monarch caterpillars?

"When Dick Sibson prepared the shining cuckoo text for the 1966 'A field guide to the birds of New Zealand and outlying islands', he wrote that the cuckoos were 'often killed by cats among the cinerarias'. The passage appealed so much to Barrie Heather's sense of humour that he included it in the 1996 The field guide to the birds of New Zealand, co-authored with Hugh Robertson."

Leucistic tui

Leucistic tui in a cherry tree in Khandallah in October.

Leucism

In leucistic birds, affected plumage lacks melanin pigment due to the cells responsible for melanin production being absent. This results in a white feathers, unless the normal plumage colour also comprises carotenoids (e.g. yellows), which remain unaffected by the condition.



Albinism

Albinism also results in white feathers but true albinos are thought to be rare in the wild. Albinism is caused a genetic mutation causing an absence of tyrosinase in pigment cells. An albino individual is unable to produce melanin pigments. This leads to a good diagnostic feature with which to distinguish leucistic and albino individuals – the colour of the eye.

<https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw/gardens-wildlife/garden-birds/behaviour/plumage/leucism>

Previous sightings of leucistic tui in Wellington - Post by Colin Miskelly on BirdingNZ.net, Apr 25, 2012

Wayne Kelsall sent me photographs of an unusually-coloured tui photographed just north of Johnsonville, Wellington on 22 April 2012. It appears similar to a bird photographed at Manakau, Horowhenua, c.Oct 2009 (see posting by Brent Stephenson "Leucistic Birds - photos and discussion" under General Birding Discussion forum, posted 20 Oct 2009).

I am surprised that the Johnsonville bird still has the yellow gape of a fledgling, but well-developed throat pois.

Further Wellington sightings provided by Peter Reese:

"I have had several reports of leucistic Tui and a couple of unconfirmed white ones in the last few years:

Karori Sanctuary - April 05 & May 06

Chilka St Berhampore - from April to end of May 05 & May to July 06 almost certainly same bird a male and returned to same Banksia tree. Possible same bird as at Karori.

Macalister Park - 17 April 06 a female seen same day as the male at Chilka St.

Chessman St Vogeltown - 9 Jan 08

Mana St Vogeltown – 17 April 08

Kingston - Dec 10

Kingston Pre School Dec 11 (They have a video)"

East harbour banded dotterels – update

MIRO (Mainland Island Restoration Operation) has undertaken to monitor banded dotterels at Pencarrow Lakes over the next four years. Birds New Zealand (OSNZ) members are helping MIRO to monitor and band these birds.

On the 22nd of November Mike Bell and Nikki McArthur from Wildlife International came to East harbour to train volunteers on the catching and banding of banded dotterels. Chicks are captured using hand nets while the adults are caught using a funnel trap (photo, left) placed over nests with eggs.

On the 22nd a banded dotterel chick was captured at the Eastbourne site and an adult at Pencarrow Lakes.

Adults are banded with a flag and metal band on the tibia and a coloured band on the tarsus. Please record any sightings of banded birds and forward them to MIRO.

Further catching / banding training sessions will be conducted with the objective of having local members certified to L3 for shorebirds.



<https://www.facebook.com/mainlandislandrestorationoperation/> <http://www.miro.org.nz/>

David Medway Memorial Scholarship (DMMS)

This scholarship is sponsored by the George Mason Charitable Trust and named in commemoration of David Medway. It is intended to provide financial support to a student studying full-time at post graduate level on a topic relating to ornithology.

One Scholarship may be awarded biennially (every 2 years) with a maximum value of \$5,000

<http://www.osnz.org.nz/David-Medway-Memorial-Scholarship>

Jean Luke – 1921-2016

On November 13th, Jean Luke died peacefully at Charles Fleming retirement village, Waikanae. Jean had a deep interest in the natural world and its conservation and was an active member of Forest and Bird, Nga Manu and the OSNZ (Birds New Zealand). She was known for her expertise and dedication to beach patrolling and was the co-ordinator for beach patrolling in the Wellington region. Her most notable find was on Te Horo beach on the 8th of January, 1998 when she found the first authenticated specimen in New Zealand of Bulwer's petrel which is lodged with Te Papa. There are 27 bird specimens of 16 species in the Te Papa collection attributed to Jean. In addition to the Bulwer's petrel, these include an Arctic tern, a sooty tern, Arctic and southern skuas, and four species of prion. All but one of the specimens were beach-wrecks (the exception being a pukeko from Pauatahanui). In addition to her beach patrolling activities Jean played a major role in the study led by Ralph Powles and of little shags nesting at Lindale. Mary McEwen and Ralph Powles and presented tributes to Jean at her memorial service (10 December) and summarised her extensive contributions to ornithology in New Zealand.

Powles and, R., Luke, J., & Jansen, P.. (2000). **Little shag nest surveillance**. *Southern Bird*, 2(Jun), 3-3

Powles and, R. G., & Luke, I. J.. (2000). **Breeding biology of little shags (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*) at Lindale, Wellington**. *Notornis*, 47(1), 1-5.

Powles and, R. G., Luke, I. J., & Jansen, P.. (2002). **Predation by Australasian harrier (*Circus approximans*) of little shag (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*) clutches**. *Notornis*, 49(4), 266-268



Photo, Alan Tennyson. Jean Luke with a small sample of prions collected during the 2011 wreck. Thanks to Colin Miskelly for the information on the Te Papa holdings of birds submitted by Jean.

Takahē sets out for home

Date: 25 November 2016

The year-old female bird, named 'Mahia' by iwi, was hatched on predator-free Kapiti Island, where her parents Bargie and Ihi are part of a national breeding programme. She will be joining the last of her kind at the remaining wild takahē population in the Murchison Mountains of Fiordland.

Before her release into the wild, Mahia will attend 'tussock eating school' at DOC's Burwood Takahē Centre in Te Anau.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2016/takahe-sets-out-for-home/>

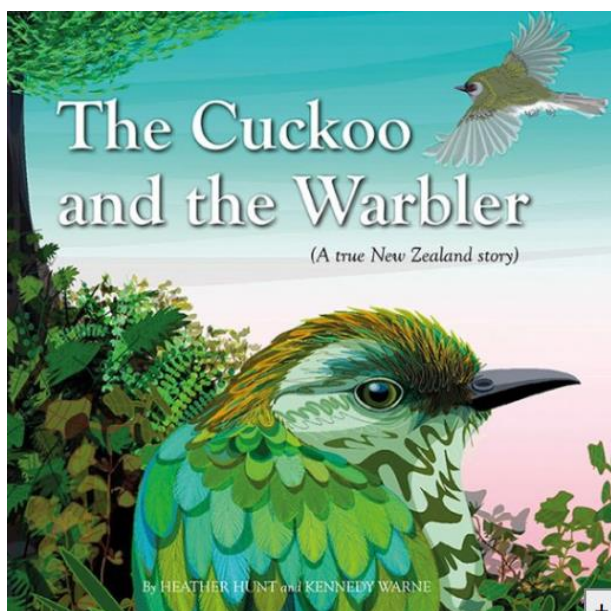
Picture, 15/12/2015. – Mahia as a newly hatched chick with her mother Ihi. Note, the seeds stuck to her feathers.



Kiwi Dispersal – Rimutaka Forest Park to Mount Climie

There is a photograph in the December issue of the Rimu-Talker, a newsletter of the Rimutaka Park Charitable Trust Incorporated of kiwi footprints taken on Mount Climie.

<http://www.rimutakatrust.org.nz/downloads/newsletters/Rimu-talker%20Dec%202016.pdf> . This is further evidence of the dispersal of kiwi from Rimutaka Forest Park. On the 16th of October, 2014 a single kiwi was found freshly dead killed by dog in an owner's driveway, Blue Mountains Road, Whiteman's Valley. The bird was unbanded, but almost certainly a disperser from the re-introduced population in the southern portion of the Rimutaka Forest Park. 16 October, 2014 (eBird, Melody McLaughlin, Rimutaka Forest Park Trust).



THE CUCKOO AND THE WARBLER

A TRUE NEW ZEALAND STORY

Heather Hunt & Kennedy Warne

NZ LISTENER TOP 50 CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2016

<http://www.pottonandburton.co.nz/store/>

pb **potton & burton**
new zealand publisher of the year

Te Papa Blogs

The petrels of Dusky Sound

9 December 2016 by Colin Miskelly,
<http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2016/12/09/the-petrels-of-dusky-sound/>

Have you ever wondered which New Zealand bird was the first to be given a published scientific name? The unlikely answer is the broad-billed prion, named as '*Procellaria vittata*' by a 22-year-old Georg Forster in 1777. The second species was the little penguin (as '*Aptenodytes minor*') named by Georg's father, Reinhold Forster, four years later.

Dusky Sound – rich in history and

wildlife,

7 December 2016 by Colin Miskelly ,
<http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2016/12/07/dusky-sound-rich-in-history-and-wildlife/>

A team of Te Papa scientists recently visited Dusky Sound as the first stage in an investigation of changes in biodiversity since Cook's visit in 1773. Cook named the area 'Dusky Bay' when he sailed past on his first voyage in March 1770, and explored the sound and its wildlife more thoroughly during a 6-week stay three years later. The *Resolution* and its crew were in Dusky Sound in March-May 1773, during which the naturalists on board prepared the first scientific descriptions and paintings of many New Zealand birds and fishes.

Pavement mosaics, Rimu Street, Eastbourne



Nancy Barclay & Ellen Gigenbach 11 mosaics, 2015. Paid for by donations and a grant from the Eastbourne-Bays Community Trust.

Possible rainbow lorikeets in Porirua/South Taranaki/Inglewood

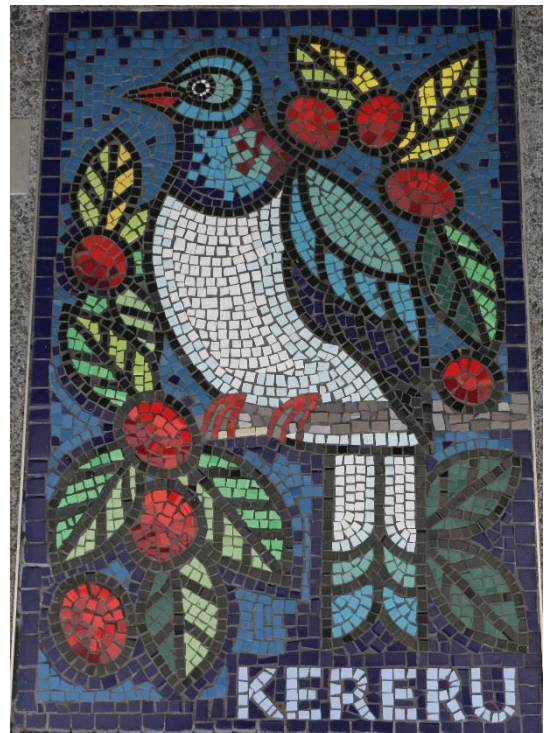
Thu Oct 20, 2016 3:33 pm, BirdingNZ.net. The Ministry for Primary Industries has been notified of sightings of rainbow lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) in the following areas:

- Mungavin Ave, Ranui, Porirua (pair or small flock)
- Whakamara road, South Taranaki (pair or small flock)
- Inglewood (pair)

these are credible reports that we haven't been able to verify to date. As the rainbow lorikeet poses a real threat to our native bird fauna, it was declared an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act. We'd like to ensure that this species does not established in the wild

I hope members in these areas will keep their eyes alert for these birds and will get in touch with me if they can confirm a sighting. I very much appreciate any help.

Many thanks,
Lisa Maria
MPI – Incursion Investigator
BirdingNZ.net



Kapiti Island Teen Camp

On the 14-16th of October a camp was held for 6 OSNZ teenagers and 5 teenagers and young adults from Kapiti Island iwi. The camp was organised by Sharon Alderson and Lynn Adams in conjunction with Genevieve Spargo, the Kapiti Island, DOC ranger.

The weekend was hosted by Gen and Nick Fisentzidis (DOC) with a supporting cast of Denise Fastier, Liz Gibson, Dallas Bishop and Geoff de Lisle.



A structured programme was developed with

sufficient flexibility to cope with the less than perfect weather. A varied range of activities included, a night patrol looking for kiwi, beach patrol, an investigation of rock pools, an introduction to biosecurity on Kapiti Island, identification of birds, their calls and 5 minute bird counts, an overview of the hihi management programme, including their supplementary feeding and banding.

While participants made a contribution for food other expenses were met by DOC and Wellington Birds New Zealand (OSNZ).

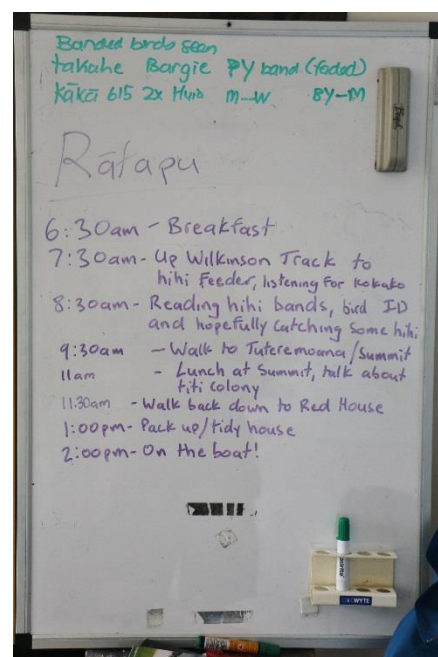
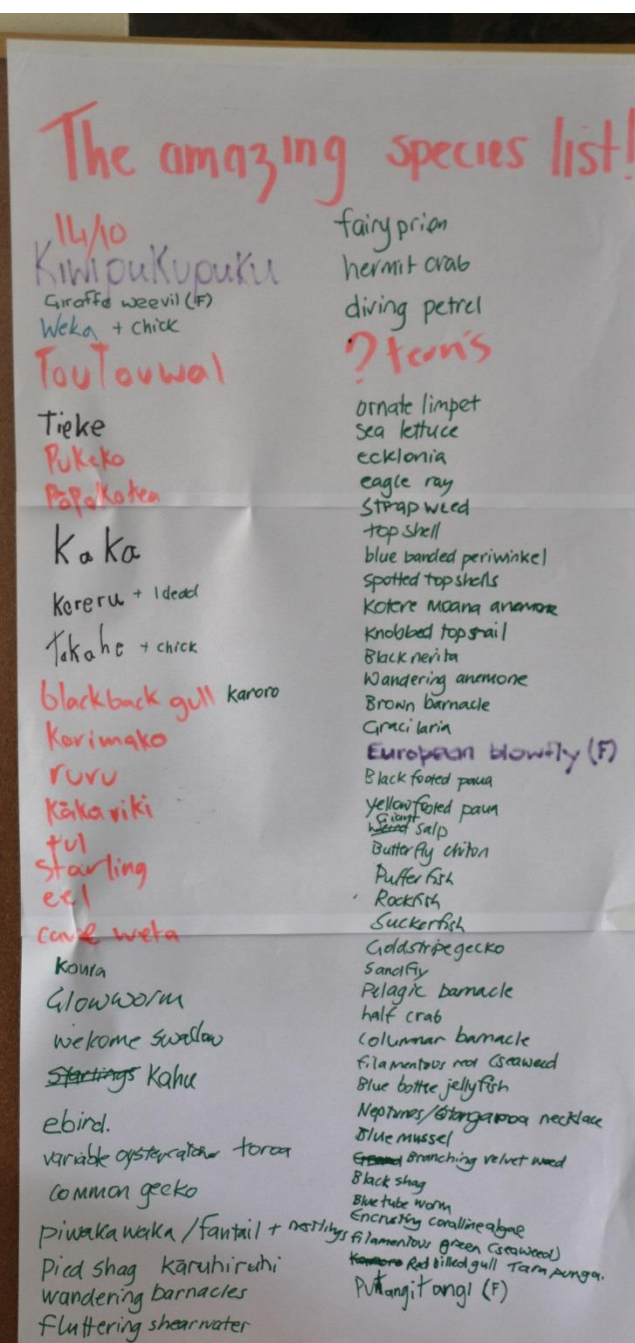
Participant Feedback

"Being in an environment that not many get to visit, being amongst very knowledgeable people who are willing to answer or source answers to your questions promptly, learning so much about conservation, bio-security threats, ways we prevent threats, ways to get more knowledge. Absolutely loved everything about the trip."

"Being surrounded by so many knowledgeable people that were willing to answer questions and provide advice. Amazing wildlife."

Food - "Awesome. Sara Lee rocks. As does the shopper."

Thanks - Special thanks to Gen and Nick from DOC Kapiti Island for being wonderful hosts and inspiring a new generation in the wonders of New Zealand nature and its environment. Sharon Alderson and Lynn Adams are to be congratulated on organising the camp, including coming up with a most acceptable menu as well as purchasing all the food.



THE PROJECT - ZEALANDIA

“We here at ZEALANDIA have always been ambitious, but over the next two years we plan to do something extraordinary with New Zealand’s smallest bush bird, the tītīpounamu, or rifleman. We are using our expertise to help Wellingtonians make the most of becoming predator-free by reintroducing this long-absent species not only inside ZEALANDIA, but outside into an area with high intensity predator control, Otari Wilton’s Bush.”

MAKING WELLINGTON - NATURE RICH

“True to our pioneering nature, this will be the first translocation of a bird into a city neighborhood in New Zealand. This project is part of our efforts to make Wellington a nature rich, as well as predator free, capital city.

There have been only five rifleman transfers in New Zealand so far. There is so much to consider to give this project the best possible shot at success, so the first stage of the project will be a transfer from Wainuiomata Mainland Island to ZEALANDIA in 2017 as a trial run for the 2018 transfer to Otari Wilton’s Bush.

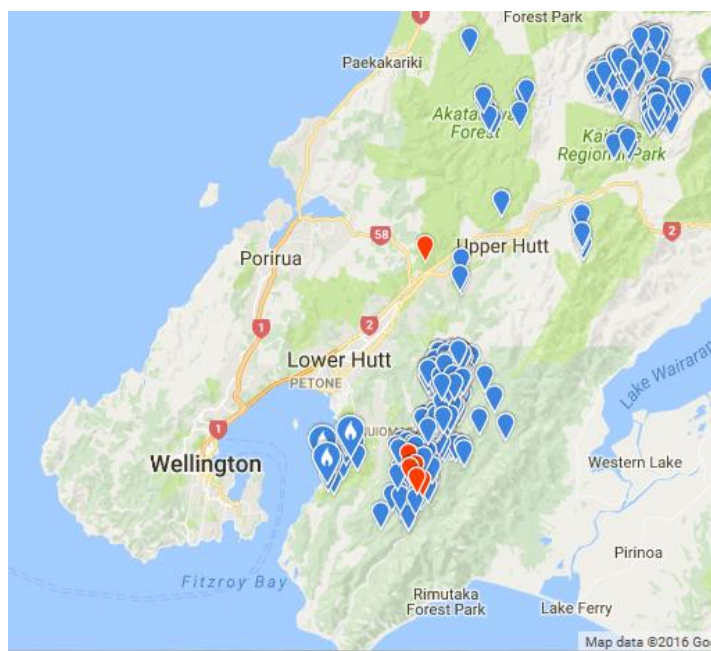
The staff at ZEALANDIA will be working closely with the Wellington City Council to make this project a success.” <https://www.visitzealandia.com/Rifleman>

Rifleman, Keith George Memorial Park, Upper Hutt

Nikki McArthur » Sun Nov 20,

Paid a visit to Keith George Memorial Park in Silverstream today, helping to carry out an annual set of 5 minute bird counts. The highlight of the day was finding a single male rifleman at one of the count stations. This is the first time that we've recorded rifleman in this reserve in the six years we've been carrying out bird counts here. I've only come across one previous record for this site - R.H.D Stidolph encountered riflemen here on the 20th April, 1925. Surely must be some more recent records lurking around somewhere? BirdingNZ.net

Whitehead are very common in Keith George, as are tomtits. The North-western end of the reserve is best for these two species, as it consists of taller, more mature beech forest.



There's a small carpark off SH2 just south of the Silverstream Bridge, and a track that leads into the bush from here. Alternatively, you can access the reserve from the Hutt River trail just upstream of the Silverstream Bridge. There's a walkway that runs through a large culvert under SH2 that connects the Hutt River trail to the reserve, without having to run the gauntlet of crossing the state highway.

Rifleman sightings, eBird 2011-16.