

# THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc)

## OSNZ—Birds New Zealand

June 2020

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



The last three months have been transformational for New Zealand with the changes associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. We have joined a team of 5 million and become “instant experts” in epidemiology, virology and public health. The lockdown seriously affected the activities of Birds New Zealand with the cancellation of monthly meetings and most field activities. As we merge into a less restrictive environment some of the changes adopted during levels 3 and 4 lockdown are being continued. In particular, Zoom video meetings will be continued. They offer increased opportunities to have “out of town” speakers as well as enabling people who normally cannot get to the meetings to attend. However, in-person meetings at our normal meeting place at the Te Papa Collections building will continue. A major benefit of the “in person” meetings is the informal discussions one has with members.

On a sad note, Enfys Graham a long-standing member of Wellington OSNZ died in May. A tribute to Enfys is included in this newsletter.

Geoff de Lisle

## Monthly Meetings

No meetings were held in April or May due to the lockdown associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of June the Wellington Branch of Birds New Zealand held a video meeting using Zoom.

### **Conservation physiology of New Zealand seabirds: what can it offer the protection of threatened species? Brendon Dunphy, The University of Auckland.**

New Zealand is a wonderful place to explore the physiology of our enigmatic seabird taxa, many of which are under threat due to a variety of factors including fishing and climate change. In his talk Brendon described how his studies on the physiology of seabirds is focused on understanding how birds are responding to shifts in environmental conditions. He used examples from studies on petrels, shearwaters and penguins to demonstrate how changes in the birds physiology reflect changes occurring in the ocean and climate.



Dunphy, B. J., Vickers, S., Zhang, J., Sagar, R. L., Landers, J., Bury, S. J., ... Rayner, M. J. (2020). Seabirds as environmental indicators: foraging behaviour and ecophysiology of common diving petrels (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*) reflect local-scale differences in prey availability. *Marine Biology*, 167 (4) [10.1007/s00227-020-3672-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-020-3672-4)

Dunphy, Brendon & Taylor, Graeme & Landers, Todd & Sagar, Rachael & Chilvers, Barbara & Ranjard, Louis & Rayner, Matt. (2015). Comparative seabird diving physiology: First measures of haematological parameters and oxygen stores in three New Zealand Procellariiformes. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. 523. 10.3354/meps11195.

[Matt J. Rayner](#), [Graeme A. Taylor](#), [Chris P. Gaskin](#) & [Brendon J. Dunphy](#) (2017) Seasonal activity and unpredicted polar front migration of northern New Zealand Common Diving Petrels (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*) Emu 117: Pages 290-298

**July Meeting, Monday July 6<sup>th</sup>.** Flesh-footed shearwater research: findings from two northern NZ islands, Patrick Crowe from Wildlife Management International. Note: this will be a Zoom meeting with the option of attending it at the Te Papa collections building. Details will be provided in a separate email.

Regional Representative: **This position is currently vacant.** [osnzwelly@gmail.com](mailto:osnzwelly@gmail.com)

Regional Recorder: Peter Hodge [peter.hodge@gmail.com](mailto:peter.hodge@gmail.com)

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Wellington Harbour Survey: Geoff de Lisle, Stuart Nicholson

Mist netting – Matu Both, [manager@ngamanu.co.nz](mailto:manager@ngamanu.co.nz) Nga Manu, Waikanae

Ross Pickard [ross.pickard@hexagonsi.com](mailto:ross.pickard@hexagonsi.com) Wellington

## Uptake and Engagement of Activities to Promote Native Species in Private Gardens

Yolanda van Heezik, Claire Freeman, Katherine Davidson, Blake Lewis

*Environmental Management* **66**, 42–55 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-020-01294-5>

### Abstract

Activities undertaken by householders in their gardens have huge potential to enhance city-wide biodiversity, but programs aimed at activating householders require an understanding of the factors encouraging or acting as barriers to the uptake of different kinds of activities. We provided 42 householders with two species-enhancing activities, selected from six possibilities, free-of-charge (to remove the barrier of initial cost). We collected socio-demographic data as well as information on knowledge of common urban species, pro-environmental behaviors and nature connectedness. We monitored ongoing engagement at two time points: 1 and 6 months. Characteristics of householders opting for different activities varied in terms of their degree of environmental engagement, their knowledge about common species, and the size of their gardens; e.g., bird feeders and bee planters were popular with people who did not know the names of common species and were not particularly engaged in pro-environmental activities respectively, whereas lizard habitat creation was attractive to people who were already engaged in wildlife gardening activities. Cost to continue with activities was a significant barrier for some people, but most householders were willing to practice relatively inexpensive activities in small spaces. Esthetics was an important factor to be considered when enhancing invertebrate habitat (e.g., bug hotels are more attractive than log piles, and planters for bees contain colorful flowers). A commonly cited barrier was lack of information about wildlife-friendly activities, despite much being available online. Most participants (85%) talked about their activities with others, potentially acting as influencers and shifting social norms.

## Enfys Graham



Enfys (right) with Jean Luke and Ralph Powlesland.



Enfys Graham, 1959, sketch by Toss Woollaston, Suter Gallery, Nelson.

Enfys Graham, a long-standing member of OSNZ (Birds New Zealand) died on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May aged 94. She had a long interest in birds and was a member of Wellington OSNZ (Birds New Zealand) since the early 1990s. Prior to coming to Wellington Enfys was a member of the Canterbury branch of OSNZ. Enfys trained as a nurse. In 1951 she married David Graham who had completed a BA at Victoria University and attended Teachers training college in Christchurch. One of the first teaching assignments after their marriage was a sole charge school on D'Urville Island. Among the teaching postings David had were at Kumara and Kumara Station on the West Coast. These postings were notable as it was there that David resumed painting and it was during their stay on the West Coast the Grahams developed a lasting friendship with the painter Toss Woollaston. The Grahams spent three years at Kumara and four years at Kumara junction. By this time there were five children and in 1961 they moved to Christchurch. While in Christchurch Enfys was an active member of the Canterbury branch of OSNZ and was their Regional Representative in 1985/86. She encouraged her children to share her enjoyment and knowledge of birds. In 1972 her husband David died and Enfys raised her family of now 7 children single-handedly.

When Enfys was in her early 60s she went to Europe for a late-onset OE (overseas experience). In the United Kingdom she had a number of positions as nurse/carers, including caring for the actor Lawrence Olivier. These positions enabled Enfys to travel widely throughout the summers birding. When Enfys came to live in the Wellington region she became an active member of the local branch of OSNZ. One of the first activities she participated in was the 5 minute bird counts on Kapiti Island. Enfys was the Regional Representative for the Wellington branch in 1997/98. In addition to birds, Enfys had a broad range of interests. She contributed many hours of much appreciated work in the plant nursery at Otari Wilton Bush, travelling first from Eastbourne then from Paraparaumu to spend the morning with plants. One of Enfys's birding projects was in 2014 she, Rosemary Heather and Brian Harding carried out monthly counts of birds on the Otaki sewage ponds and the ponds at Pharazyn Reserve.

*"Enfys was a truly remarkable woman, filled with knowledge, curiosity, and wisdom, as well as great company, a sharp wit and a lovely person."*

Enfys, as she wanted, had a natural burial surrounded by her children and grandchildren. A celebration of her life for her wider family and friends will be held and details of which will be forwarded to members who much loved and admired her.

These notes were compiled from talking to her family and friends. The following link is the notes from a retrospective exhibition of David Graham and includes a history of Enfys and David's life.

[https://christchurchartgallery.org.nz/media/uploads/2010\\_08/DavidGraham.pdf](https://christchurchartgallery.org.nz/media/uploads/2010_08/DavidGraham.pdf)



## Te Papa blogs

### A new bird for New Zealand – rose-crowned fruit-dove

[Colin Miskelly](#) , 8 Apr 2020

In August last year a small green pigeon flew across the Tasman Sea – and into the history books. It became the first vagrant bird species to be intercepted at the New Zealand border and put down as a potential biosecurity risk. Te Papa bird expert Colin Miskelly tells the unfortunate story of New Zealand's first [rose-crowned fruit-dove](#).

The full story can be found at the following link.

<https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2020/04/08/a-new-bird-for-new-zealand-rose-crowned-fruit-dove/>

*In short, The bird in question was captured on the petroleum processing and storage vessel FPSO Raro that was anchored at the wellhead platform of the Maari oilfield halfway between Taranaki and Farewell spit. Biosecurity New Zealand decided the bird was an unmanageable biosecurity risk and was euthanased.*

### The call of the wild – attracting seabirds to remote Coal Island

By: [Colin Miskelly](#) : 29 Apr 2020

COVID-19 lockdown restrictions mean that much conservation work around New Zealand is on hold. But in a remote part of Fiordland, restoration efforts are continuing every night, regardless of access constraints, social distancing, and weather conditions. Te Papa vertebrates curator Colin Miskelly describes the pioneering efforts being made to attract seabirds back to Coal Island/Te Puka Hereka in Preservation Inlet.

<https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2020/04/29/the-call-of-the-wild-attracting-seabirds-to-remote-coal-island/>

### Little bird, big country: searching for nesting storm petrels in Fiordland

By: [Colin Miskelly](#) On: 18 May 2020 Colin describes a recent (pre-COVID lockdown!) attempt to solve a mystery that he has pursued in several remote parts of Fiordland over the past four years.

The [grey-backed storm petrel](#) is a small seabird that breeds around the Southern Ocean, including known New Zealand breeding sites in the Chatham Islands and the subantarctic Auckland Islands, Antipodes Island, and Campbell Island. Evidence that grey-backed storm petrels also breed in Fiordland has accumulated since the 1960s, and was summarised in [a publication by three Te Papa staff members in 2017](#).

<https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2020/05/18/little-bird-big-country-searching-for-nesting-storm-petrels-in-fiordland/>



## Birding Under Lockdown

Lockdown significantly affected birding activities. Questions also arose as to whether the Lockdown had any effect on birds as well as humans.

["The Luminaries"](#) posts published in BirdingNZ.net

**Nikki McArthur** » Wed May 20, 2020

Something a bit different...I've been indulging in a spot of armchair birding while watching the first couple of episodes of the TVNZ/BBC adaptation of Eleanor Catton's *The Luminaries*, and have been intrigued to note a surprising diversity of NZ bird species that pop up in the background soundscape of many of the outdoor scenes. I've picked up 12 species in this avian cast so far, in order of appearance:

common myna	black-backed gull
bellbird	chaffinch
albatross sp.	fantail
Australian magpie	red-billed gull
whitehead	banded dotterel
Cook's petrel	kaka



There's a few clangers regarding biogeography/chronology - the myna, chaffinch and magpie all make an appearance in Dunedin in 1865, which seems a tad early for at least the first two species, and whitehead are heard calling in the bush at Hokitika. On the other hand, someone's pulled off a stroke of biogeographical genius by adding Cook's petrel calls to a scene shot at night aboard a ship sailing from Dunedin to Hokitika. I have to admit the banded dotterel is a bit of a stretch - it hasn't yet cropped up in the feather, so to speak, but it does get a passing mention during some dialogue that takes place during the same scene in which the Cook's petrels make their cameo.

I don't recall birds featuring particularly prominently in the book itself, but the creation of a relatively diverse (and reasonably accurate) avian soundscape in the TV adaptation is quite a clever addition.

Episode three adds seven more species to The Luminaries bird list: tui, goldfinch, greenfinch, house sparrow, morepork, silvereye and huia. The huia is admittedly a bit of a stretch - it appears in the form of a single feather worn on a character's head.

Episode four, and my list keeps growing - now up to 25 species. Latest additions are saddleback, kingfisher, NI kokako, whimbrel, ring-necked pheasant and pukeko

Episode five. To be honest I'm enjoying this almost as much as going outside and watching the real thing. Episode five and my species-episode curve may now be approaching its asymptote - just one new species added to the list: variable oystercatcher.

Final episode and just one further species added to my list - kereru. This gives me a grand total of 27 species for the series. Those with sharper eyes and ears could possibly get to at least 30. There was a shearwater species (sooty?) that cropped up in a couple of scenes, a kiwi sp. and either yellowhead or brown creeper calling elsewhere, but I wasn't 100% confident on these.

One interesting omission was NI robin. There's an ubiquitous NI robin recording that keeps turning up in many locally-made TV productions, often calling in the most inappropriate settings, but it didn't make an appearance this time around.

**Colin Miskelly** was asked whether the Lockdown had any effects on birds .

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/121407321/birdcrazy-kiwis-in-lockdown-send-native-bird-website-traffic-soaring>

## Wellington birds during COVID-19 lockdown, Post by Colin Miskelly

There is something wonderful occurring during lockdown, with the number of rare and interesting birds being reported within Wellington. However, this has more to do with changes in human behaviour than it has to do with the birds themselves. To use a gardening metaphor, people have been forced to take time to smell the roses.

Many members of Birds New Zealand contribute their bird sightings to the citizen science platform [eBird](#). Since June last year, we have also been contributing thousands of records to the [New Zealand Bird Atlas](#). Many of us also contribute observations and thoughts on interesting birds to the discussion forum [BirdingNZ.net](#). Together, these are a rich source of information to address the question of how birds have responded to the lockdown. And the short answer is that (from a bird's perspective) nothing much has changed.

Some observations have attracted considerable attention, including a New Zealand falcon/kārearea photographed in Cuba Street, central Wellington, in early April. This is about 400 metres as the falcon flies from where I work in Tory Street. It is always a thrill to see a falcon, and whenever I see one from my office window or during my 1 km walk to work, I enter the sighting in eBird or the New Zealand Bird Atlas. This occurred 11 times in 2019 (plus another 16 times from our home in Mt Cook). That was only how often I personally noticed a falcon in central Wellington in 2019 – they are clearly a regular presence.

About 10 years ago, I started a thread on BirdingNZ.net called "[Wellington City biodiversity](#)". There have been 209 posts on the thread since then, including 17 during the lockdown. These posts have commented on the opportunity that the lockdown has provided to observe the wonderful birds that can be found in the Wellington town belt (including kākā, tūi, kererū, morepork, New Zealand falcon, bellbird, red-crowned parakeet, whitehead, black fantail, North Island robin and saddleback). However, there is no suggestion within the thread that these birds have changed their behaviour or distribution as a result of the lockdown. The thing that has changed is that members of the Wellington birding community have had more time to explore our local parks and reserves, rather than going to work during the week, or heading out of town at the weekends.

Further evidence of how the lockdown has changed peoples' behaviour comes from [New Zealand Birds Online](#). The website was launched seven years ago, and I have kept a record of usage ever since. April 2020 was the busiest month ever, with 103,174 visits, an increase of 42% per day compared to March (which itself included 6 days of lockdown). The species that people sought information on were mainly native birds that occur in New Zealand cities, with the top three species being fantail, tūi and morepork. I have noticed morepork calling more frequently from my home during the lockdown. They are always in the nearby Prince of Wales Park, and with less traffic noise and sirens, they are easier to hear.

The only clear example of a change in bird behaviour due to the lockdown that I am aware of comes from rural areas in the north of the North Island. The common myna is an introduced species that is a familiar sight along roadsides in the northern North Island. The reason that they are there (and why they run onto the road between vehicles) is that they are foraging for insects killed by passing cars. This is an effective foraging strategy only on roads where vehicles can travel at 100 km an hour, and so this behaviour is less evident within urban areas. With the traffic gone during Level 4 lockdown, an essential worker noted that the mynas had shifted off the rural highways and had moved into adjacent paddocks.

[Not part of the post - but I just dashed outside after hearing bellbird, and was able to confirm that it was an unbanded female (the third time that I have got the binoculars on to it for long enough, always with the same result). It has been visiting a flowering *Callistemon* in a neighbouring property most (probably all) days since 8 April. It arrived a fortnight early this year. An unbanded female visited the same bush almost daily from 22 April to 4 July last year (seen or heard on 48 days).

Or maybe it is part of the same story – a rare bird seen in the central city both before and during the lockdown!]

## Eagle Owl nesting in planter in Europe

Thanks to Duncan Watson for providing this link.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_ik29zMbHaY&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ik29zMbHaY&feature=youtu.be)



### Taking part is easy:

1. Select your garden, park, or school
2. Choose one day from June 27 and July 5
3. Look and listen for birds for **ONE** hour.
4. Record the **HIGHEST number** of a bird species observed at one time.
5. Submit your survey results online.

<https://gardenbirdssurvey.landcareresearch.co.nz/>



## Silvereye

In late June large numbers of silvereye are coming to a variety of food provided for birds including bread, sugar water, fruit and even the odd bone.

Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle

## Peculiar Ducks

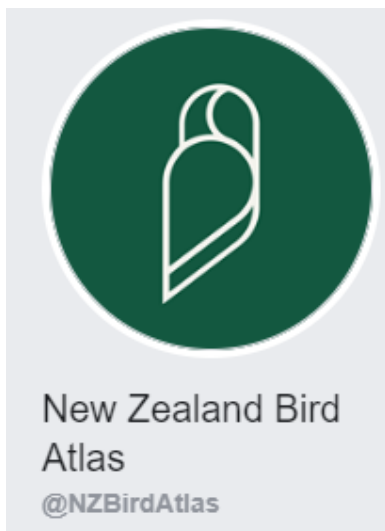
While Atlasing you may come across “peculiar” looking ducks. The picture is an example from the duck pond at Maoribank in Upper Hutt. Identification can be a challenge especially since ducks can hybridise. The two websites provided by Murray Williams are helpful in the identification of “peculiar” ducks.

Pictured duck – Pekin duck?

<https://poultrykeeper.com/duck-breeds/>

<https://domesticanimalbreeds.com/domestic-duck-breeds/>





The New Zealand Bird Atlas scheme has now been going for one year. The following statistics are taken from 26/6/2002. The Wellington area for the Atlas includes the Wairarapa.

#### Wellington

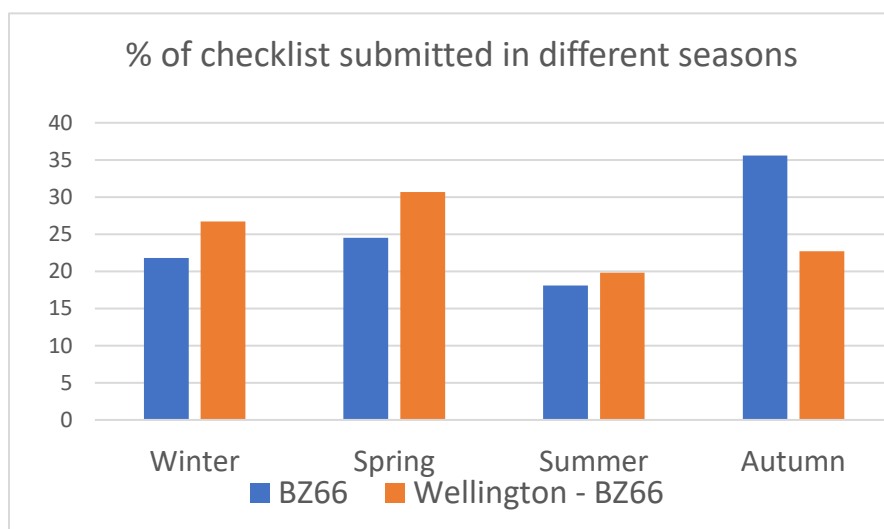
Checklists	7833
Atlasers	182
Squares with data/total squares	100/105
Species observed	127



Square **BZ66** (left), Zealandia south to coast is the most heavily surveyed square in the Wellington region with a total of 1594 checklists. Interesting, the most checklists for a season for BZ66 was Autumn, the period of the Covid-19 lockdown. It appears that the Atlasers who reside in this square were busy during the lockdown doing checklists close to their homes. In contrast, the busiest season in the rest of the Wellington region was spring.

Note, the Atlas team will be running another webinar on July 15. Details can be found on the following link.

: <https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/news/year-one-atlas-webinar-on-15-july/>.





## East Harbour banded dotterels

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020 27 banded dotterels were recorded at Pauatahanui and included two birds which had been flagged (PCA and PCX) at Eastbourne. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 22 birds were observed at Pauatahanui but no bands/flags were seen. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June one of the flagged birds PCA was seen and was seen again on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June in a group of 27 birds. The question arises as to whether this bird which came from Eastbourne has stayed at Pauatahanui since March. Banded dotterels are starting to return to the Eastbourne breeding sites.

*MIRO is pleased to announce that our first banded dotterel, a male in full breeding colours, has been seen on the Eastbourne Foreshore by the same dog walker who first sited our birds arrivals last year, well done Peter! We won't be putting up the temporary fencing and signage until the rest arrive and start haggling over their territory, but please be aware the birds are starting to return. Facebook, 20<sup>th</sup> June.*



## Light- mantled sooty albatross

In June a sick and injured light-mantled sooty albatross was rescued from Jackson Street, Petone and sent to the Nest, the veterinary hospital at Wellington Zoo. Unfortunately, the bird died after surgery. A post mortem examination found that the cause of death was a blockage at the exit of the stomach caused by two pieces of plastic.

Light-mantled sooty albatross are strikingly beautiful birds with a circumpolar distribution. The world population of light-mantled sooty albatross is ~20,000 pairs of which ~30% of them nesting on the sub-Antarctic islands, the Snares, Antipodes and Auckland islands. They are very occasionally seen in Cook Strait and small numbers are identified in beach patrols.



<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/121808145/sick-albatross-rescued-from-busy-wellington-intersection-receives-surgery-at-zoo>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/121859027/albatross-rescued-in-wellington-dies-as-its-stomach-was-blocked-by-plastic>

## Mana Island

For 30 years Mana Island has been undergoing a transformation from a pastoral farm with a small area of “bush” to an emerging forest, the result of a major planting programme. As part of the ecological restoration of the emerging forest, robins, bellbird, whitehead, yellow-crowned parakeets and fernbird have established on the island as a result of successful translocation projects. Kereru, falcon and morepork which occur on the mainland were not resident on Mana Island when the ecological transformation started. They were expected to naturally colonise the island as the extensive plantings mature. None of these birds have yet established but have been recorded as visitors / vagrants.

### Ebird Records – Mana Island

Kereru	Falcon	Morepork
10/4/2016	15/7/2010	26/1/2009*
17/6/2018	10/7/2012	19/11/2009*, **
16-20/8/2018	25/10/2014	15/6/2019
28/11/2018	3/6/2016	7/6/2020
24/6/2019	17-24/8/2016	13/6/2020
10/2/2020	15-25/6/2019	*Forest valley roost site
9-10/6/2020	9-24/6/2020	**Last seen more than 10 years ago

*Mana Island MAP – eBird Atlas checklists recording bellbird, submitted between June 2019 and June 2020*

Dallas Bishop and I stayed on Mana Island for 6 nights in early June as volunteers for DOC. During this period we made a number of interesting observations and added to the impressive number of Atlas checklists for Mana Island. The accompanying map of Mana Island are the Atlas checklists recording bellbirds. Bellbirds were translocated to Mana Island from Kapiti Island in 2010 and 2012 and is a notable example of a successful translocation of this species.

A kereru (pictured) was sighted on multiple occasions feeding on kowhai outside House 3. Kereru play an important role in forest restoration as they are the only bird that can eat larger seeds.

A falcon was seen and evidence of successful hunting observed with a large collection of yellow-crowned parakeet feathers.

A morepork was heard on multiple occasions but only with a very truncated call. The presence of falcon and morepork on Mana Island may be a mixed blessing as both are potential predators of shore plover. Predation of shore plover by morepork was recorded on Motuora Island in the Hauraki Gulf following their release there in 1994-1996 (Aikman, 1997).

Aikman, 1997. Science for Conservation, 46.

<https://dcon01mstr0c21wprod.azurewebsites.net/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/sfc046.pdf>

Geoff de Lisle



## Sightings of shore plovers around Wellington

31 juvenile shore plovers were released on Mana Island in three transfers earlier this year - in February, March and April. Many of these young birds dispersed soon afterwards, at a faster rate than we've seen before. There are currently four birds residing at Plimmerton (YO-WB, YO-RB, RO-BY and XW-XX) and one at Waikanae Estuary (RO-RW). There are none left on Mana Island.

We are really keen on any other sightings around the Wellington region, other than the five already known, especially around the Titahi Bay and Green Point areas. Please send any sightings to [manaisland@doc.govt.nz](mailto:manaisland@doc.govt.nz) and [rcollen@doc.govt.nz](mailto:rcollen@doc.govt.nz). If possible please record date, time, location and colour band info for each sighting as best you can. Send pictures only if all colour bands are clear and identifiable and include other useful info i.e. feeding behaviour, other birds close by, any sign of predators etc.

**Nick Fisentzidis and Genevieve Spargo**

Rangers, Biodiversity - Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiara

Department of Conservation - Te Papa Atawhai

Better news from Waikawa (Portland Island) off the Mahia peninsula where shore plover were introduced in 1999. By 2012 there were 37 breeding pairs. However, the population declined to 4 breeding pairs following a rat incursion. Following rat removal the population is now up to 24 pairs and 82 individuals which is 33% of the world population of shore plover.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2020-media-releases/tuturuatu-breeding-pairs-rise-on-waikawa-island/>



**Friends of Mana Island  
NEWS**

## Fluttering shearwater – update

The following information was taken from the 2019/20 Fluttering shearwater report by Helen Gummer which can be found on the Friends of Mana Island (FOMI) website. This FOMI project is one of the most successful sea-bird translocations carried out in New Zealand. Fluttering shearwaters chicks were translocated to Mana Island in 2006-2008. A total of 225 chicks were translocated from Long Island in the Marlborough Sounds to Mana and a maximum of 211 of them fledged. Subsequently, 62 of them have been recognised as adults on Mana Island and 10 on Matiu / Somes Islands. The returning adults have formed the basis of a new breeding population of fluttering shearwaters. An additional 9 unbanded adults have been recruited to the colony. The first successful breeding of returning adults occurred in 2010/11 breeding season with 1 chick fledging. Fast forward to the 2019/20 breeding season when a record number of 36 chicks fledged. Importantly 21 of the Mana Island-raised chicks have returned as adults to the island. One Mana-raised chick has been identified as an adult on Matiu / Somes Island. A total of 182 Mana-raised chicks have now fledged from the island.

<https://mailchi.mp/4d5ac2230add/fomi-newsletter-june-2020>

<https://manaisland.org.nz/2019-20-fluttering-shearwater-annual-report-mana-island/>



Friends of Mana Island run regular trips to Mana Island. The plan is to resume trips to Mana Island in September. Details of the trip can be found on the link on the FOMI website.

<https://manaisland.org.nz/visitors-2/>

## Bird Snippets

### Black-fronted terns off Island Bay, Wellington

**Michael Szabo** » Wed Apr 01, 2020

3 BFTs seen flying east offshore this morning at 11am among an extensive flock of circa 500 White-fronted Terns.

1 pale morph Arctic Skua also seen chasing a tern.

BirdingNZ.net

### Black fantail sightings - Wellington

**Colin Miskelly** » Tue May 05, 2020

Kate & I found a black fantail (among 9 fantails seen) in Prince of Wales Park during our lunchtime 'lockdown' walk, about 400 m from our property. Kate's cell phone image attached.

By coincidence, only this morning Te Papa colleague Jack Fisher reported a black fantail that he photographed (a distant 'record photo') at Grass St, Roseneath, Wellington on 2 May.

A Zealandia bulletin emailed on 1 May referred to a black fantail seen 'recently' within Zealandia by a staff member. BirdiNZ.net

### White-morph southerh giant petrel, Plimmerton

**Colin Miskelly** » Mon May 25, 2020

Martin Cawthorn phoned to report a healthy white morph southern giant petrel sitting on the water, preening, close offshore from Plimmerton (entrance to Porirua Harbour) about 8 am this morning. It then flew north around the coast. BirdingNZ.net

### White heron, Petone

**Iedzep** » Sat May 23, 2020 4:37 pm

The White Heron is back again at the boat sheds, Petone (Hikoikoi reserve). Also being seen up the creek along Shandon golf course. Doesn't seem too worried about people. BirdingNZ.net

This bird has been recorded by a number of Wellington members.



Photo, Duncan Watson.

### Fantails - Beach, Mana Island

Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle, Mon Jun 8, 2020. 13 fantails were recorded feeding on the beach by the boatshed on Mana Island. Fantails seems to have had a very productive 2019/2020 breeding season. <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S70453017>

### Black fantail

**Brandon** » Wed Jun 10, 2020 10:21 pm

Hi all new to site ,we live in Paraparaumu on Kapiti coast,have been predator trapping for a few years, have been rewarded with a resident black fantail. BirdingNZ.net

### Brown Teal, Percy Reserve, Petone

Jack Mace, Sat Jun 13, 2020. Brown teal observed in duck pond at Percy Reserve. No bands recorded.

Note. The origin of this bird could have been Zealandia but brown teal are also present on Mana and Kapiti Islands.

### White morph Southern Giant Petrel off south Wellington coast

**Michael Szabo** » Sun Jun 28, 2020 3:33 pm

Jonathan Delich of Cook Strait Charters reports seeing a white morph Southern Giant Petrel off the south Wellington coast on Friday. BirdingNZ.net

Link to photo: [https://scontent.fpmr1-1.fna.fbcdn.net/ ...e=5F1EC6BF](https://scontent.fpmr1-1.fna.fbcdn.net/...e=5F1EC6BF)