

## **Agreement between Birds New Zealand and Landcare Research Access to historic Bird Atlas data**

In 2015, an electronic copy of bird distribution data collected and curated by the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Birds NZ) from 1969 to 1979 and from 1999 to 2004 ('the two Bird Atlases') was provided to Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research (MWLR) for the purpose of undertaking research on the data.

As a result a new dataset was created by MWLR which fitted occupancy models to data for 64 native bird species in each of the two Bird Atlases. MWLR has offered to retain the original electronic datasets provided to them by Birds NZ, and to supply access to these and the fitted estimates of local occupancy to researchers who apply to use the data.

The Society wishes this to work collaboratively with MWLR into the future to make the data available for research and to recognise the contribution that MWLR has made to augmenting the datasets. MWLR and Birds NZ wish to record the basis of this relationship.

The Society and MWLR agree as follows:

- MWLR will curate and prepare the data for online access.
- The Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Birds NZ) retains ownership of the original electronic datasets described above.
- Landcare Research will provide free access to researchers requesting the original electronic datasets and the fitted occupancy estimates derived from them.
- All digitised materials will be made available through the MWLR datastore website, which will be linked to Birds NZ as per below procedure.

Procedure for Birds NZ members to access the raw atlas data:

1. Ask for permission to access the Atlas data by emailing [eo@birdsnz.org.nz](mailto:eo@birdsnz.org.nz).
2. Go to <https://datastore.landcareresearch.co.nz/> and register as a user.
3. Once registered, send the permission form to Susan Walker ([walkers@landcareresearch.co.nz](mailto:walkers@landcareresearch.co.nz)) or Gretchen Brownstein ([brownsteing@landcareresearch.co.nz](mailto:brownsteing@landcareresearch.co.nz)) and ask to be made a member of the Birds NZ collection.
4. MWLR will send Birds NZ a link to the collection, which will allow access to all historic atlas data.



*Bruce McKinlay (President Birds New Zealand)*

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