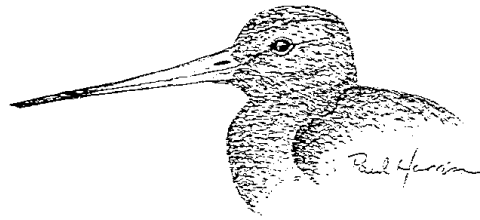


KUAKA

Newsletter of
South Auckland Branch
Birds New Zealand
Te Kahui Matai Manu o Aotearoa

October 2020

Regional Representative Ian Southey
iansouthey@yahoo.co.nz 092982500
www.birdsnz.org.nz
Facebook @birdsnzsa



Kia ora everyone, here is our newsletter for October.

MONTHLY MEETING: There were only eight people present at this month's meeting and if you were unable to join us here is a synopsis of what you missed: After a delayed start due to confusion over keys the meeting finally got underway. The speaker was from bird rescue and spoke about her work with oiled birds overseas. There were lots of questions and the meeting ended quite late at 11pm.

SIGHTINGS since the last meeting included:

- ✚ Redpolls seen by Phil among flocks of finches feeding on sports fields around Auckland
- ✚ Little black shags nesting in trees at the pied shag colony on the Port Waikato road – seen by Tony, David & Sue
- ✚ Tony H has been monitoring the arrival of migrating birds at Miranda and besides the many godwits, has seen at least 15 Pacific Golden Plovers
- ✚ Bruce reports that a 1-legged magpie is nesting for the 5th consecutive year at his Aka Aka property
- ✚ Sue saw 3 kaka chewing on the branches of a deciduous tree by the Botanic Gardens last week – making lots of noise

BEACH PATROL

There was no beach patrol in September ***What is a beach patrol?***

Once a month we travel to Otua and access the coast across farmland, then walk 6km along the beach to the Karioitahi Surf Club. On the way we walk at the hightide mark keeping a lookout for 'wrecked' birds.

At the end of the walk we identify the birds, or bits of birds, we have collected,



The whole process generally takes about three hours (excluding travel time to Waiuku) and in good weather can be very enjoyable.

A reasonable level of fitness for walking in soft sand in all weather is needed.

If anyone is interested in joining the Beach Patrol team please contact us

FACEBOOK. Some of the posts since our last newsletter are shown on the attached. Go to the Facebook page, @birdsnzsa, to find the links to follow for any particular posting that interests you.

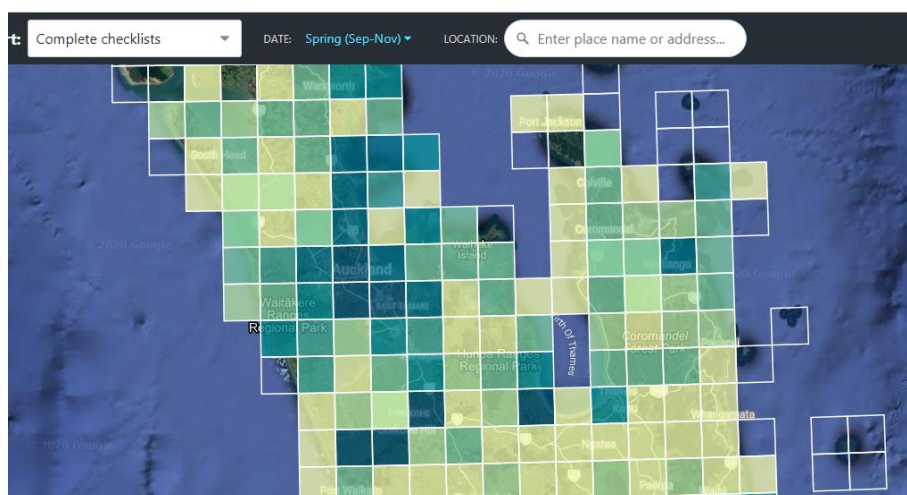
If you have some good photos, information, or links that you think would be suitable for our site send Wendy or David an email with the photo or link.

ATLAS REPORT October 2020

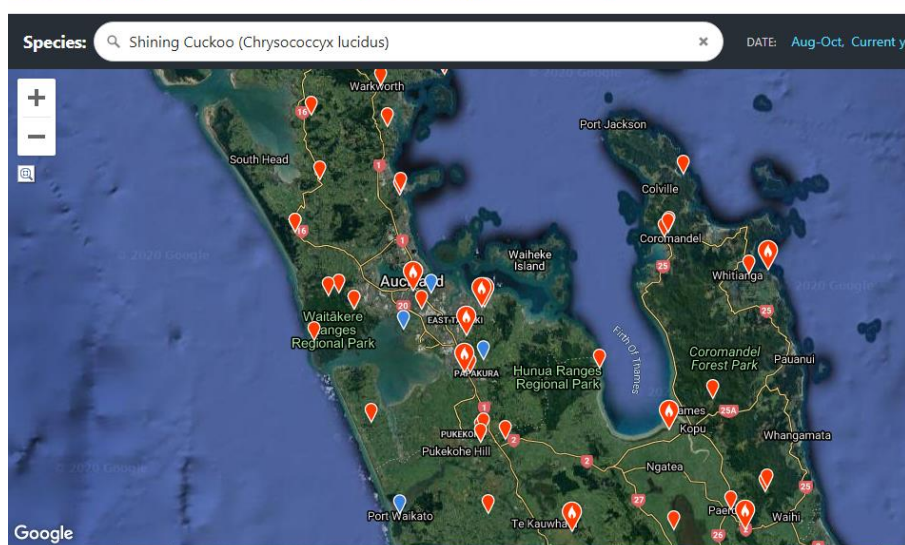
With the days getting longer and the weather gradually improving, it's a good time to get out and look for birds! Attached is the atlas map for spring – this time it is just a quick screenshot without the checklist numbers.

Please note:

- the figures now include 2019 and 2020 checklists
- The blank squares and yellow squares are the ones that need more counts done
- A few of the blank squares shown last month have had counts done, particularly in the Coromandel
- We still have gaps at the top of the Coromandel, as well as the offshore islands
- AG78 square is a small corner of the southern headland at Mataora Bay, which appears to have no public access
- I will visit AE65 on Awhitu peninsula this month



New Zealand eBird Submit Explore My eBird Science About News Help



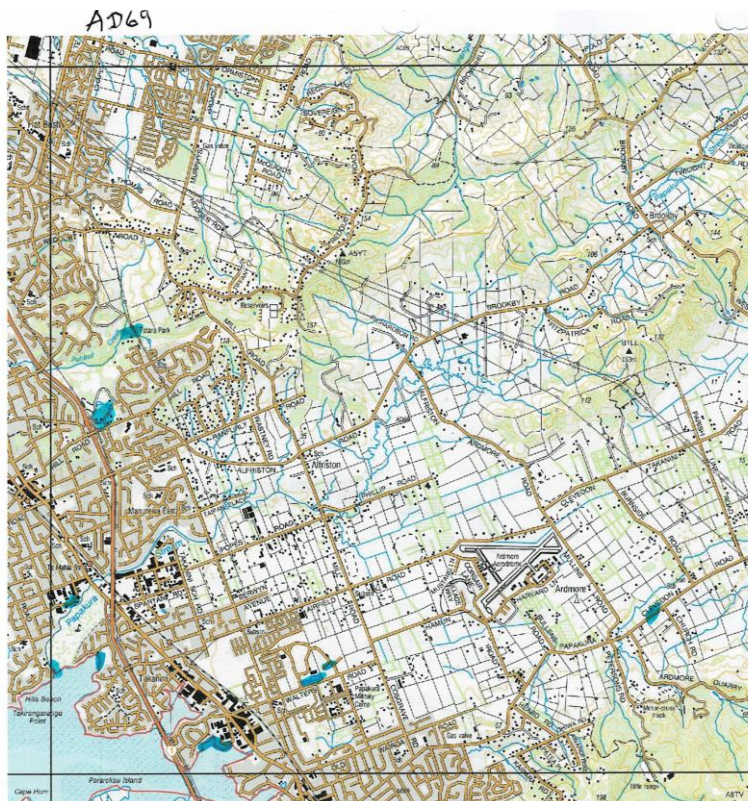
Thanks to those of you who shared your interesting bird sightings with the rest of us over the last month, by email or at the meeting.

There was some discussion about the arrival of shining cuckoo and there have been a number of sightings (or hearings!) reported, the earliest being on 3rd September, from Tony Woodroffe at Ardmore, and a contact of Wendy's at Port Waikato. See map left.

I wanted to give some feedback on a webinar run by the Atlas team last month, for the regional atlas coordinators. They reminded us that the simple aim of each atlas is: **To detect/observe all of the possible species within each grid square, across all 4 seasons**

Now that we are into the second year of the atlas, we need to be more targeted with our efforts. So of course we still need to do counts in the squares that have had no or few checklists submitted. But even for the squares that have had more counts done, we need to look at whether all habitats have been covered and whether all possible species recorded in the past have been found for the current season. There are some useful tips here <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/about/major-habitat-types>

A lot of you are obviously very experienced birders and would have a good knowledge of habitats and locations where certain species might be found. But as a relative newcomer to birding, I am following the suggestion made by the Atlas team and using existing Ebird data to plan future visits, which some of you may also find useful.

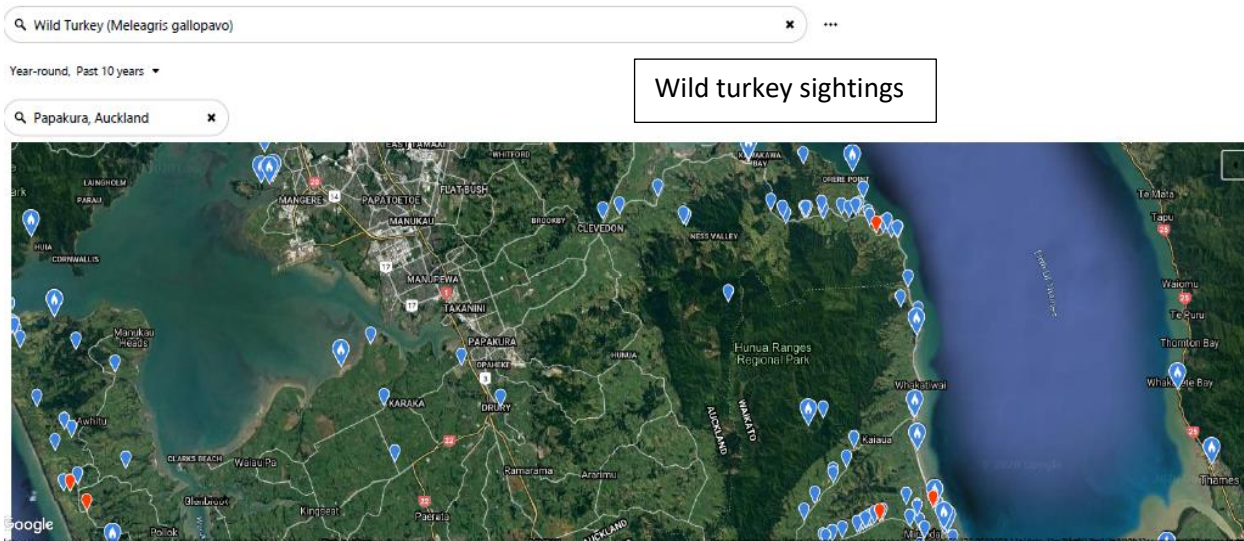


Using one of the Papakura squares, AD69, I printed a topo map (left) and also viewed the Google satellite map to identify habitats within that square.

I also went into the NZ EBird portal and downloaded a checklist of all birds recorded in the Papakura district over several years (below)

I have then gone back to the Atlas portal and looked at the spring species list for the square, then marked off on the checklist all birds that have been counted in spring. This then leaves me with a list of birds to keep looking for. Now I'm going back to the species map in EBird to look for places in the square where those species has been reported in the past.

9/29/2020 AD69 Spring	Checklist for Papakura District County, Auckland, NZ	9/29/2020	Checklist for Papakura District County, Auckland, NZ	
eBird Field Checklist Papakura District County, Auckland, NZ ebird.org/newzealand/region/NZ-AUK-000 74 species (+7 other taxa) - Year-round, All years Date: _____ Start time: _____ Duration: _____ Distance: _____ Party size: _____ Notes: _____ This checklist is generated with data from eBird (ebird.org), a global database of bird sightings from birders like you. If you enjoy this checklist, please consider contributing your sightings to eBird. It is 100% free to take part, and your observations will help support birders, researchers, and conservationists worldwide. Go to ebird.org to learn more!	Waterfowl Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i> Domestic goose sp. (Domestic type) Anser sp. (Domestic type) Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i> Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i> Black Swan <i>Cygnus atralis</i> Paradise Shelduck <i>Tadorna variegata</i> Muscovy Duck (Domestic type) Cairns mscatcha (Domestic type) Australian Shoveler <i>Spatula rhynchos</i> Grey Duck <i>Anas superciliosa</i> Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> Mallard (Domestic type) <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (Domestic type) Mallard x Grey Duck (Hybrid) <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> x <i>superciliosa</i> Grey Teal <i>Anas gracilis</i> Brown Teal <i>Anas chlorotis</i> Grouse, Quail, and Allies California Quail <i>Callipepla californica</i> Red Junglefowl (Domestic type) <i>Gallus gallus</i> (Domestic type) Ring-necked Pheasant <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> Wild Turkey <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> Grebes New Zealand Dabchick <i>Polioptila rufopectus</i> Pigeons and Doves Rock Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i> African Collared-Dove (Barbary Dove) <i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i> Feral Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i> New Zealand Pigeon <i>Hemaphysalis novaeseelandiae</i> Cuckoos Shy Cuckoo <i>Phrynosoma loricatus</i>	Rails, Gallinules, and Allies Bull-banded Rail <i>Gallinula philippensis</i> Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i> Chase <i>Porphyrio melanotus</i> Spotless Crake <i>Zapornia tabuensis</i> Shorebirds Pied <i>Scolopastrix leucophaea</i> Pied x Black Bill (Hybrid) <i>Scolopastrix leucophaea</i> x <i>melanotos</i> South Island Pied Oystercatcher (SIOC) <i>Haematopus fischeri</i> Variable Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus melanotos</i> New Zealand Dotterel <i>Charadrius obscurus</i> Vireonoid Anarhynchus <i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i> Far Eastern Curlew <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> Black-billed Gull <i>Larus dominicus</i> Pied Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers Black-billed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus melanotos</i> Silver Gull <i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i> Franklin's Gull <i>Leucophaea pipixcan</i> South Black-billed Gull <i>Larus dominicus</i> Australian Fairy Tern <i>Sterna nereis</i> Caspiian Tern <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> White-fronted Tern <i>Sterna striata</i> Comorants and Anhingas Lesser Frigatebird <i>Fregata minor</i> Black Stag <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> Lesser Frigatebird <i>Fregata minor</i> Pied Stag <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Herons, Ibis, and Allies White Heron <i>Ardea alba</i> White-faced Heron <i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i> Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i> Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> Royal Spoonbill <i>Platalea regia</i> Vultures, Hawks, and Allies Australasian Harrier <i>Circus approximans</i> Owls Morepork <i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i> Kingfishers Sacred Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus sanctus</i> Falcons and Caracaras New Zealand Falcon <i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i> New Zealand Parrots New Zealand Kaka <i>Nestor meridionalis</i> Parrots, Parakeets, and Allies Eastern Rosella <i>Platycercus eximius</i> Honeyeaters Tui <i>Prothemadera novaeseelandiae</i> Thornbills and Allies Grey Warbler <i>Gerygone igata</i> Bellmagpies and Allies Australian Magpie <i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i> Fantails New Zealand Fantail <i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i> Larks Sky Lark <i>Alauda arvensis</i> Grassbirds and Allies New Zealand Fernbird <i>Podiceps punctatus</i>	Martins and Swallows Welcome Swallow <i>Hirundo neoxena</i> White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies Silvereye <i>Zosterops lateralis</i> Starlings and Mynas European Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> Common Myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> Thrushes Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i> Eurasian Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i> Accentors Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i> Old World Sparrows House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i> Wagtails and Pipits Australasian Pipit <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i> Finches, Euphonias, and Allies Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> European Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i> European Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> Old World Buntings Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> Others passerine sp. <i>Passeriformes</i> sp.



EBird has the advantage of showing records for a longer time period than the Atlas, but does not show species at a square level, only at district level. But if for example you are counting an inland square in the Franklin district, you can obviously cross out those birds which would only be seen on the coast or at sea, and vice versa.

The Atlas team also mentioned that *only 25% of Birds NZ members are participating in the Atlas*, so it would obviously be good to get more people involved. Not everyone needs to go out birding, **but I'm hoping that some of our members can help with their local knowledge or do some short day or night counts at their homes.**

I would like to ask if each of you could reply to me and let me know the following:

- Where do you live?
- Are there any special habitats near to where you live, e.g. wetland, beach
- What is your 'home' square? (I can work this out if I know your address)
- Are you doing regular bird counts?
- Do you load your bird counts into the Atlas program?
- Which other squares or locations do you count at on a regular basis?

Just a reminder to those of you who are contributing to the Atlas that the October Challenge set by the Atlas team is to submit 31 checklists to the Atlas in October. You don't have to do 1 every day, as long as you submit 31 in total for the month.

**For those who are not Atlasing, MY CHALLENGE TO YOU IS
to spend 15 minutes (or more) in your garden counting all of the birds that you see or hear
Don't forget to record the date and the time you start and finish,
then send the details through to me so I can load them into the Atlas**

For everyone, please also try to do a night count. This is one that starts earlier than 40 minutes before sunrise, or later than 20 minutes after sunset – even if you see or hear nothing, please make a note of this. The aim is to determine if there are nocturnal species such as morepork or kiwi in your neighbourhood, as well as anything else that might be around after dark.

Happy birding, everyone!

Sue



Happy birding!

Wendy and Sue