THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc)

OSNZ—Birds New Zealand

September 2020

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

Conservation of birds in New Zealand has relied heavily on the translocation of vulnerable species to predator-free locations. Some translocations fail which occurred with the release this year of the Nationally Critical shore plover to Mana Island. Failure was due to the combined effects of rapid dispersal from the island and predation by a falcon, a natural predator. Even though the translocation failed a well-developed translocation plan coupled with detailed monitoring on Mana Island and the mainland provided valuable information for identifying new, safe locations for releasing shore plover. In contrast to the shore plover translocation, there are promising signs at Zealandia for a successful breeding season for the recently introduced rifleman and the fernbirds on both Pauatahanui and Mana Island appear to be well established. Post translocation monitoring, including members' observations is an important component of the establishment of new bird populations. Members are encouraged to record band / flag combinations of birds observed during their birding and Atlasing.

Geoff de Lisle

Monthly Meetings

Wellington Birds New Zealand (OSNZ) will continue to hold monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month. The meetings are now being managed by a group of experienced professional ornithologists, led by Rod Hitchmough. Members are urged to contact osnzwelly@gmail.com with suggestions for speakers. Meetings will continue the hybrid combination of Zoom and face to face meetings at the Te Papa Collections Building, 169 Tory Street. The Zoom technology provides the opportunity to have speakers from throughout New Zealand.

Flesh-footed shearwater research: findings from two northern NZ islands. Patrick Crowe, Wildlife Management International. 6th July

The study of flesh-footed shearwaters was undertaken over concerns that the population was in decline due to fishing. Observers on commercial fishing boats in New Zealand and Australian waters showed that flesh-footed shearwaters were one of the most commonly killed seabirds by long-line fishing boats and trawlers. Patrick described his studies on Lady Alice island (part of Hen and Chickens) and Ohinau island off Coromandel. These studies included large scale banding, assessment of breeding success, and assessment of feeding areas using tracking devices. These studies have shown birds from the two islands visited different areas for feeding and the locations where they are likely to interact with fishing vessels.

https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/reports/pop2015-02-flesh-footed-shearwater-presentation.pdf

Antipodean Wandering albatrosses and other birds on Antipodes Island.
Graeme Elliott, Scientist, Department of Conservation. 3rd August.

Graeme Elliot and Kath Walker have a long history of researching seabirds on New Zealand's subantartic islands. Graeme summarised their studies on the antipodean albatross where the number of birds in the study area on the Antipodes is now 40% of that in 2004. Recent studies have used sophisticated GPS trackers to determine the

birds are feeding and where they may be inter-acting with fishing boats. The final part of Graeme's talk was a summary of birds on the Antipodes Island. A major change has occurred on the Antipodes with the eradication of mice in 2016. Mice had the detrimental effects of eating invertebrates, preying on chicks and eggs and eating plant material, including seeds.
https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2020-media-releases/researchers-arrive-in-antipodes-island-to-track-albatross/
https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/eradicating-mice-from-antipodes-island/

Beyond the path well trodden, Seabird research in remote Fiordland. Colin Miskelly, Curator Vertebrates, Te Papa. 7th September.

Colin's talk was a summary of the joint Te Papa / Department of Conservation venture of three recent expeditions to Fiordland with the first occurring in 2016.. The principal goal of these trips was to survey for seabirds on the large number (666) of islands in this region. DOC has for many years being carrying out a large predator control programme in this region. Mammalian predators have been eradicated from a number of Fiordland islands starting with the pioneering project in 1986 to eradicate rats from the 9 hectare Hawera island and in 1988 from the 170 hectare, Breaksea Island. Many of the results from these expeditions have been published as blogs and scientific articles. Some examples include:
Miskelly et al., (2020) Breeding petrels of Breaksea and Dusky Sounds, Fiordland: responses to three decades of predator control. Notornis 67:543-557.
https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2020/05/18/little-bird-big-country-searching-for-nesting-storm-petrels-in-fiordland/
https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2020/01/07/fiordlands-breaksea-sound-30-years-after-the-rats/
https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2017/12/05/seabird-discoveries-in-remote-southern-fiordland/

October Meeting, Monday 5th at 7.30pm, talk will start at 7.45.

The re-introduction of kaka to Abel Tasman National Park, Ron Moorhouse

Ron's talk will summarise the work carried out as part of Project Janszoon to return kaka to the Abel Tasman National Park. A very extensive predator control programme in the park has provided the conditions for the establishment of a viable, breeding population of kaka. Ron has a wealth of experience studying kaka which date back to the 1990s when he carried out his PhD project on Kapiti Island.

The Zoom host will be Graeme Taylor

(a) Face to Face meeting. This will be held at the Te Papa Collections building, 169 Tory Street with the doors opening ¬7.30pm. The Zoom presentation will be shown on the "big screen".
(b) Zoom Meeting. You can join this meeting by clicking on the following link.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88361532860 Meeting ID 883 6153 2860

Regional Representative: **This position is currently vacant**. osnzwelly@gmail.com

Regional Recorder: Peter Hodge peter.hodge@gmail.com

Birds New Zealand Regional Roundup: Geoff de Lisle & Dallas Bishop (04) 527 0929 osnzwelly@gmail.com

Wellington Harbour Survey: Geoff de Lisle, Stuart Nicholson

Mist netting – Matu Booth, manager@ngamanu.co.nz Nga Manu, Waikanae

Ross Pickard ross.pickard@hexagonsi.com Wellington

Bird Snippets

White morph Southern Giant Petrel off south Wellington coast

Michael Szabo » Sun Jun 28, 2020
Jonathan Delich of Cook Strait Charters reports seeing a white morph Southern Giant Petrel off the south Wellington coast on Friday.

Link to photo: https://scontent.fpmr1-1.fna.fbcdn.net/ ... e=5F1EC6BF
'Birds New Zealand' Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/Birdsnewzea
BirdingNZ.net

Hoodlum tui kills another in Petone street gang fight.

Ken George » Fri Jul 31, 2020
I've seen some pretty ferocious fights between hormonal tui over the years, especially each spring in my own backyard in Golden Bay. I've seen the occasional fight get so heated that the two antagonists fall out of the tree and roll around on the ground, scratching, hissing and pecking at each other. Every time things have got this far, one of the tui will break off the fight and flee, usually with the victor in pursuit. What myself and two friends witnessed in a Petone suburban backstreet the other day was next level. We had just finished lunch at a Jackson Street cafe and were returning to our cars in a side street. The street had a few trees on each side and I noticed half a dozen tui in the trees. Just as we got to our cars we saw what we thought was one tui lying in the middle of the road, flapping it's wings and making a lot of noise. I initially thought it had been hit by a car and was badly injured, so I went over to it to the point where I was standing directly over it. I realised it was not one tui, but two, and locked closely together with one of the tui having it's beak firmly clamped around the other's neck. Even with me standing directly over the two combatants, with them practically rolling around at my feet, they kept on scrapping and ignored me. I finally got one to release the other by clapping my hands and nudging them with my foot. One bird flew up into a tree, but the other just lay in the middle of the road, eyes shut. Not wanting it to be hit by a car, I picked it up and realised it was dead, with it's head flopping around loosely right at the point where the first tui had had it's neck in it's beak. Clearly, the one tui had broken the other tui's neck with it's beak clamp. Meanwhile the killer tui sat in the tree, puffing himself up and vocalising loudly to the other tui who had watched all this from their branches. I placed the dead tui on a flat branch but the angry one still hadn't finished and flew at the dead one for round two. I had to chase it off again, that was one angry bird! After more feather puffing and shoulder hunching, with loud continuous vocals, he calmed down. So, don't let the generic honeyeater name fool you, these guys have the equivalent avian jaw clamp power of a bulldog and can snap each other's necks if pushed to it. Anybody else witnessed fights to the death? BirdingNZ.net
fi

Ken George » Sat Aug 01, 2020
We didn't see how they both got to be lying in the middle of the street but when we got to them they were breastbone to breastbone, both flapping and the one bird with it's beak firmly chomped down on the other's neck, right behind the head. It was also kicking like crazy (both birds lying on their sides facing each other.) We watched for a while and it was only when I realised they were in imminent danger of being squashed by traffic that I moved over to intervene. By that time the fight had come to it's conclusion. I did find it interesting that the alpha bird had the other one around the neck, not by a wing or a foot or by the tail. I guess if you want to deal your opponent out of the game permanently you go for a critically vulnerable part of the anatomy. That kind of instinctive brain stem knowledge goes way way way long way back down the evolutionary tree.....I might be reading too much into the situation, or then again, maybe not. BirdingNZ.net

Wellington City biodiversity

Colin Miskelly » Tue Aug 18, 2020
There was a pair of falcons using the top of the carillon (Pukeahu War Memorial Park) as a hunting perch on my walk to work this morning. They are still visible from my office window now, and Kate can see them from home with binoculars (a bit dodgy, but we already have them on our garden list this month).
Tue Aug 18, 2020 12:10 pm.
At least one of the falcons has been based on the very top of the carillon all morning - still present now (12:10). BirdingNZ.net

Shore Plover / Tuturuatu 2020 translocation to Mana Island.

Shore plover / tuturuatu (*Thinoris novaeseelandiae*) were once widespread in New Zealand. By the 1870s they had virtually disappeared from mainland New Zealand due to predation by introduced animals, most notably Norway rats and feral cats. They became confined to the areas of the Chatham Islands that were free from introduced predators. The main population of shore plover (approximately 130) is on Rangatira (South East Island) with a small number on Mangare. In 1999 a population of up to 21 birds was found on Western Reef but this population subsequently declined. The last remaining bird from the Western Reef was captured and incorporated in the Mount Bruce captive rearing programme.

Shore plover are classified as Nationally Critical which reflects their very low numbers and the reliance of the population on Rangatira, Chatham Islands. The first recovery plan was written in 1987 (Davis A) followed by a second plan in 2001. The major components of the shore plover recovery include;

(1) Protection of the Chatham Island populations
(2) Captive Breeding
(3) Establishing new populations
(4) Research

Since the 1990s shore plover have been reared in captivity at Pukaha, the National Wildlife Centre at Mount Bruce and the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust in Christchurch. More recently captive rearing of shore plover has been established at Cape Sanctuary in the Hawkes Bay. Captive reared shore plover have been the major source of birds for attempts to establish new populations. They have been released on predator-free islands including Motuora, Waikawa, Rarotoka, Mana and Motutapu. The establishment of new breeding populations has been difficult as translocated birds often disperse from release sites as well as being most vulnerable to mammalian and avian predators. Following the release of shore plover on Motuora there was loss of birds due to dispersal but there was also evidence of predation by moreporks. Successful breeding of shore plover occurred following the first transfers to Waikawa (Portland Island). The population increased to approximately 100 before predation by a rat dramatically reduced numbers to just 4 pairs. A successful predator control programme and release of further captive bred birds (in 2014-2018) has provided the conditions for the shore plover population to recover. In June 2020 there were 24 pairs on the island and approaching the number of 32 pairs reached prior to the rat incursion.

Rocket Lab – Rocket Lab's launch site is located at the end of Mahia Peninsular in sight of Waikawa. They are raising money for shore plover through the sale of a Special Edition patch. The patch design was submitted by Dr Stephanie Galla from Boise, Idaho, as part of a global competition to design a unique Rocket Lab mission patch. Stephanie recently completed her PhD studies at the University of Canterbury, 2015-2019. Her studies included the use of modern genomics to estimate relatedness and for making pairing recommendations in conservation breeding programmes. The investigations used the critically-endangered kakī/black stilt (*Himantopus novaezelandiae*) and kākāriki karaka (*Cyanoramphus malherbi*) as Proof-of-Concept. Further information on the Waikawa shore plover can be found at the DOC blog https://blog.doc.govt.nz/2020/09/17/interview-with-a-critically-threatened-space-suit-model/

The first of multiple transfers of shore plover to Motutapu in the Hauraki Gulf occurred in 2012. They have successfully bred on the island but this is currently insufficient for the population to be self-sustaining. A recent complication on Motutapu is the recent discovery of a stoat which has remained elusive to capture for over 8 weeks.

There were a series of releases of shore plover on Mana Island from 2007 to 2013 with successful breeding. The population reached 35 (10 pairs) before being decimated by predation by a rat. The remaining birds were taken back into captivity. Since this time no further incursions of mammalian predators have been discovered on Mana Island. There is an ongoing intensive predator monitoring programme including a network of traps, use of use of tracking tunnels and regular monitoring of the island with detector dogs. The conditions now appeared favourable to attempt to re-establish shore plover on Mana Island. This translocation project was undertaken knowing the difficulties of establishing new populations given their tendency to disperse from the release sites and their susceptibility to predators, both mammalian and avian.

For the 2020 translocation of shore plover to Mana Island captive reared birds were sourced from Pukaha National Wildlife Centre and the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust. Due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions there were four different transfer groups of birds to Mana with the first in February and the last not until July. On arrival at Mana each group was housed in an aviary for a variable time until being released. A notable feature of the 2020 transfers was the immediate dispersal of shore plover off the island, especially when compared to the transfers to Mana in 2007. Another feature of the 2020 transfers was that only one released bird (YO-RB see below) returned to Mana after visiting the mainland. In retrospect this behaviour may have been due to escaping avian predators on the island.

The fourth group of three birds were released from the aviary occurred on the morning of the 25th of July. Within half an hour of leaving the aviary a female falcon had killed one of the released birds. This bird was wearing a transmitter which enabled it to be tracked after being predated. An important component of the 2020 transfer was the regular surveys on Mana Island for avian predators. A single female falcon was observed between April and August. A morepork was heard on three occasions during the transfer period. The failure of the 2020 transfer of shore plover to Mana Island was most disappointing, especially since Mana Island had previously been shown that in the absence of mammalian predators it was a suitable site for this critically endangered bird. However, valuable information came from the failed transfer including the finding threats posed by falcons. Morepork are absent on the Chatham Islands and falcon became extinct there c1890. Consequently, the combination of captive bred shore plover with no recent history of falcon or morepork make them particularly susceptible to predation by these species.

YO-RB a survivor

- 25th March came as a group of 9 juveniles from PNWC to Mana Island aviary.
- 3rd April released from aviary on Mana Island.
- Stayed on Mana Island for approximately 1 month.
- Took up residence at Plimmerton.
- Recaptured in July and taken to the aviary on Mana Island.
- Fitted with a transmitter 8th August.
- 10th August released from aviary. Stayed on island for 1 day and then flew to mainland.
- Took up residence at the Plimmerton boat club (lower picture).
- 28th August returned to Mana Island, caught and returned to PNWC.

Photographs; Top, In aviary on Mana Island without transmitter fitted. Bottom Taken at the Plimmerton boat club after the bird had been fitted with a transmitter.

Mainland Observations

Birders, including Wellington Birds New Zealand members provided valuable sightings of shore plover on the mainland. The first bird seen on the mainland was a sighting in Miramar Peninsular just two days after they were released on Mana Island. Shore plover were seen at the mouth of the Hutt River, Pauatahanui inlet, the Plimmerton fire station, Plimmerton boat club, and the Waikanae estuary.

Aikman H., Miskelly C. (2004) Birds of the Chatham Islands, Department of Conservation.

Anon (2001) New Zealand shore plover recovery plan, 2001-2011.
https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/tsrp44.pdf

Davis A (1987) The New Zealand shore plover recovery plan. Unpublished report.

Acknowledgements:

The shore plover transfer to Mana Island is a DOC project managed by the shore plover recovery group. The project included inputs from a number of different parties, including Pukaha National Wildlife Centre; Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust; DOC staff Rose Collen, Nick Fisentzidis, Gen Spargo, Denise Fastier, Troy Makan; Wildbase Massey University and boat operators. Dallas Bishop, Geoff de Lisle and Sarah West were volunteers assisting on Mana Island.

New Zealand Bird Atlas – Closing the Gaps

Wellington and Wairarapa members continue making valuable contributions to the New Zealand Bird Atlas project. The Wellington Atlas region includes the Wellington and Wairarapa Birds New Zealand regions. The Atlas started in June 2019 and will run for 5 years. Wellington and Wairarapa members are urged to continue their wonderful efforts in surveying the region which will help ensure the success of the project. The first year of the survey is being reviewed to determine what gaps need specific attention.

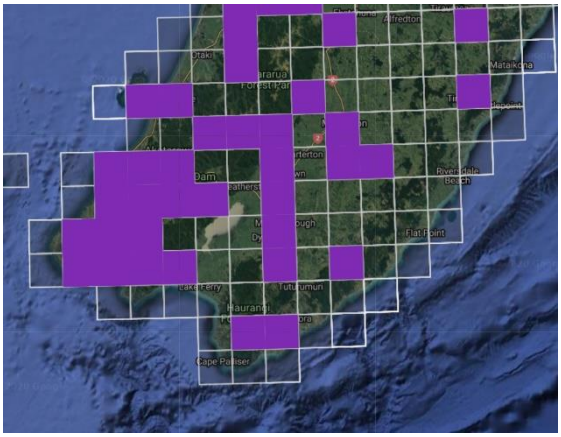
21st September, 2020	Total Checklists	9541	No. of squares in Atlas region	105
	Average of 90 checklists/square		Total no. species	128
	Number of Atlasers	199		

Aim of the Atlas

To survey the major habitats during the 4 seasons of the 10 km squares. The goal is to record the bird species within each square, during each of the four seasons. To do this surveyors should aim to survey as many of the different vegetation or habitat types within each grid square as possible, and to submit a minimum of one complete checklist for each location surveyed.

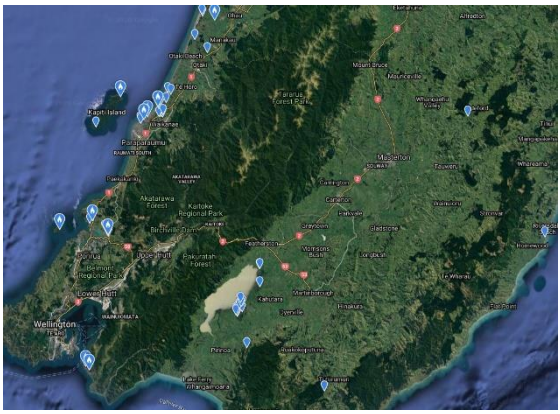
The Atlas team have encouraged the regions to review the progress in their area and to identify gaps. They include:

(1) Remote areas away from public roads. The majority of these areas in the Wellington Atlas region are those for which the Department of Conservation (DOC) is responsible. The Atlas team are in discussion with DOC to determine how the DOC Tier 1 survey results can be incorporated into the Atlas. When this exercise has been completed it will then be clear what additional effort is required by members to fill in the gaps in these remote locations.



(2) Nocturnal Counts. The map top right summarises the squares where morepork have been recorded. This distribution mirrors that of where Nocturnal counts have been conducted. There are many areas which do not have any nocturnal counts. While there is no set protocol for carrying out nocturnal counts they preferably should be one hour. Importantly, negative counts for morepork provide valuable information and should be recorded.

(3) Targeting cryptic species such as marsh crake, spotless crake and bittern. In the Wellington Atlas region no marsh crake have been observed, spotless crake have been identified in 2 squares and bittern in 4. Almost certainly this does not accurately reflect the distribution of these cryptic species in our Atlas region.

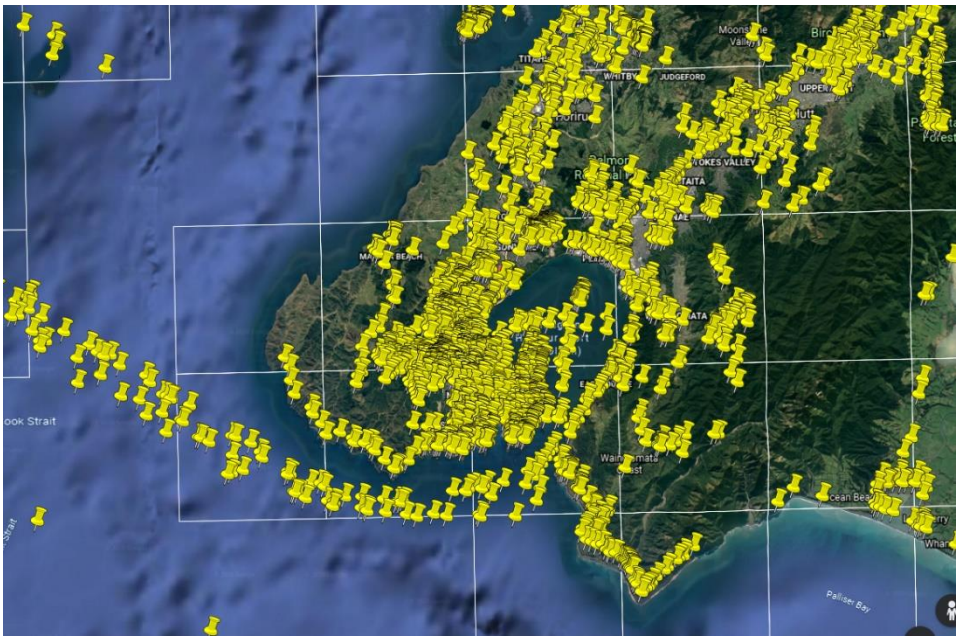


These species need to be actively targeted by surveying habitat where they are likely to occur and have previously been recorded in ebird (map left, eBird spotless crakes). Spotless crakes respond to play back calls but the response of marsh crakes is reported to be less useful. Bitterns cryptic nature is well deserved, especially their cryptic "freeze" posture. Surveying for bitterns is made easier in the

breeding season (August to December) when males advertise their territories by booming. Fernbirds are more often heard than seen.

(4) Habitats that need to be surveyed. The Atlas team have provided KML files of the location of all the checklists for the first year of the Atlas scheme. There are also individual files for the locations of checklists for the four seasons.

The two maps are examples of the locations of checklists for the first year of the Atlas. The top map highlights the areas on the west coast which have not been surveyed. These areas are mostly private land and will require permission for access to survey them.



The bottom map shows large areas and habitats which have not been surveyed.

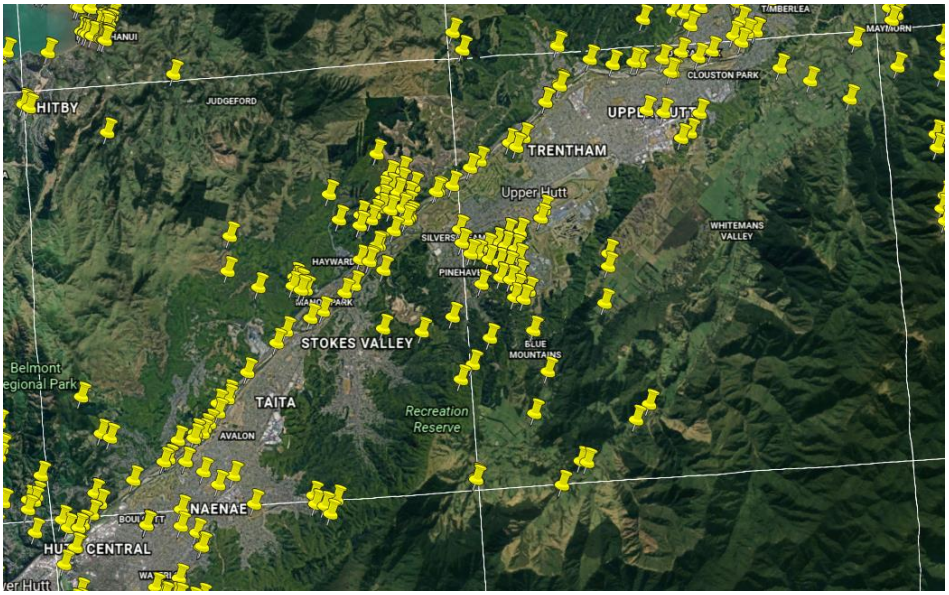
Analysis of the seasonal location data reveals more gaps in the Atlas.

How to Access Atlas Location data

(1) The Explore function in the Atlas website provides an excellent starting point in determining what are the gaps in the Atlas. This function includes the ability to examine what checklists have been done in the four different seasons.

(2) Mapping Files. These can be found on the eBird New Zealand Atlas website.
https://ebird.org/atlasnz/about/handbook-supporting-material

Members wanting help accessing this information should contact osnzwelly@gmail.com .



Takahe on the move

During the last 6 years there has been a marked increase in the number of takahe. In 2013 there were 66 pairs which had increased to 130 pairs by October 2019. Over that time the annual productivity has risen by nearly 300%. The total number of birds in October 2019 was 418. There are currently wild populations in the Murchison Mountains and more recently at Kahurangi National Park, multiple small populations in predator-free islands and sanctuaries and the captive rearing unit at Burwood Bush, Te Anau.

The management of takahe is based on a multi-faceted programme using science-based conservation techniques. The programme includes:

(1) **Managing Wild Populations**: protecting the free range takahe. Extensive mammalian predator control, especially against stoats in the Murchison Mounts and Kahurangi National Park.
(2) **Security Population**: Having multiple small populations of takahe spread throughout New Zealand as an insurance against loss of any one population.
(3) **Breeding Programme**: Monitoring nesting activity, checking egg fertility, fostering chicks, and targeted genetic management, are all techniques used to maximise the breeding output at the Burwood Takahē Centre.
(4) **Population Management**: Managing takahe to ensure good sex ratios and high levels of genetic diversity.
(5) **Research:** There is an ongoing review of the current programme to explore ways in which it can be improved. The importance of research is highlighted in the challenges associated with establishing a new wild population in Kahurangi National Park. Recently DOC reported the death of 3 takahe in the Kahurangi National Park after an aerial 1080 predator control programme. The possibility of poisoning by 1080 is being investigated.

Wellington Takahe

Mana Island is one of the most important and productive mainland island and sanctuary breeding populations of takahe. The island currently supports 8 breeding pairs of takahe. This year there has been some major changes for Mana Island takahe. The first change was the movement of a pair (Raewyn and Rodney) for their retirement to the north end of Kapiti Island at Waiorua. This pair, now 13 and 14 years of age produced 7 chicks on Mana and still have the potential to produce further offspring on Kapiti Island. Next move was on 12th August with 6 of the 7 now well grown chicks from the last breeding season going to the DOC captive breeding unit at Burwood, just out of Te Anau. At Burwood they will learn how to feed on tussock for possible transfer to the wild populations at the Murchison Mountains and Kahurangi National Park. The last birds to move off Mana Island occurred on the 3rd September with two adults going to Wairakei Golf Course Sanctuary and two to Motutapu in the Hauraki Gulf. Replacement adult birds came from multiple locations including Burwood and Tiritiri Matangi. The movement of adult birds was to maintain high levels of genetic diversity in the breeding pairs on Mana Island.

The transfers of takahe off and on Mana Island in 2020 was a significant logistical exercise further complicated by the Covid-19 virus lockdowns. Takahe were attracted to the catching pens with specially formulated pellets. Once caught they are vaccinated against erysipelas, given a health check and weighed. Erysipelas is a bacterial disease which has affected takahe. Takahe transport to and from Mana involved boat, road and air travel.

https://blog.doc.govt.nz/2020/04/20/making-more-takahe-the-work-of-the-takahe-recovery-programme/

Top left, DOC rangers Nick Fisentzidis and Genevieve Spargo vaccinating a takahe, top right Nick weighing a bird. Bottom left boxed juveniles waiting to be transported off the island. Photographs – Dallas Bishop.

https://www.stuff.co.nz/pou-tiaki/122307842/flightless-takah-take-off-to-island-paradise-as-semiretirement-looms

https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2020-media-releases/takahe-deaths-highlight-conservation-challenges/

https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2019/takahe-population-flying-high/#:~:text=Takah%C4%93%20may%20be%20flightless%20but,Conservation%20Eugenie%20Sage%20announced%20today

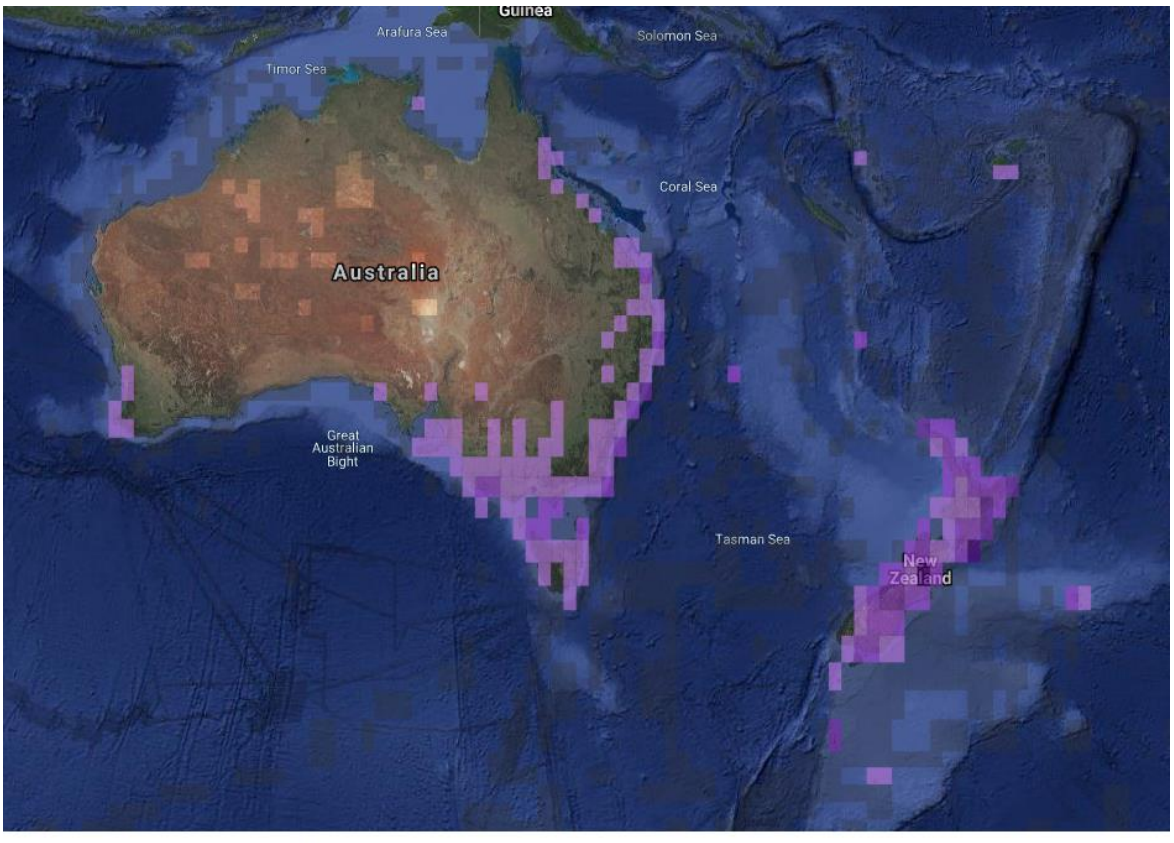
Eastbourne Banded dotterel holiday in New Caledonia

The East Harbour conservation group, MIRO began its study of banded dotterels in the latter half of 2016. This is a joint project that includes members of Wellington Birds New Zealand. There are two major study areas, the beach at Eastbourne and the area round the outlet of Lake Kohangapiripiri, the more north westerly lake at Pencarrow. An essential component of the study is banding and flagging adults and pre-fledged chicks. The training and oversight of the banding was carried out by Mike Bell.

The banding / flagging of banded dotterels has the potential to provide valuable information on:

(a) Adult survival.
(b) Nesting colony fidelity – do birds return in subsequent breeding seasons to the same nesting area?
(c) Pair fidelity – do birds retain the same partners?
(d) Recruitment of fledglings into the breeding population.
(e) Identification of where birds go after the breeding season.

While banded dotterel only breed in New Zealand, including the Auckland islands, they do regularly migrate out of the country, especially to Australia. The major study by Pierce (1999) demonstrated that banded dotterels show major variability in their migration movements following the breeding season. Some birds remain in the area they nest, others have major movements within New Zealand and yet others fly to Australia. Migration to Australia was principally observed in birds that nested in the inland areas of the southern half of the South Island. For birds banded in the southern North Island were mostly observed post breeding still in the southern North Island, particularly Lake Wairarapa. The remainder were widely scattered on harbours in the North Island. One bird was recorded in Australia, Altona, Victoria in June 1987. There are reports of banded dotterel occurring in Pacific islands including Fiji, and New Caledonia, but there is no information as to where they came from in New Zealand. The following map is the banded dotterel observations from eBird with the purple squares indicating presence.



The travels of PAP and his sometime partner PAT

The observations by David Ugonlini and colleagues at the Société Calédonienne d'Ornithologie in New Caledonia of a banded dotterel flagged in Eastbourne have been widely reported in the local media. The histories of PAP, and his sometime partner PAT, provides some valuable information on the behaviour of banded dotterels.

- 20 October 2017 PAP (male) banded on nest at Eastbourne. Partner PAT (female) also banded. Three chicks hatched
- October 2018 PAT on nest at Lake Kohangapiripiri. Partner unknown. PAP not observed at Lake Kohangapiripiri.
- 3 September 2019, PAP and PAT nest on Eastbourne beach. Three chicks predated.
- 25 October 2019, PAP and PAT re-nested. Chicks predated.
- 20 and 27 February 2020. PAP observed at Lake Kohangatera.
- 9 July 2020 PAP first seen at the costal former prawn farm park at Nakutakoin, near Noumea, New Caledonia. Seen with 14 other unbanded/unflagged banded dotterels and a single Pacific golden plover.
- 27 August, PAP last seen at Nakutakoin, New Caledonia.
- 1 September, 2020. PAP observed on Eastbourne beach. The photograph of PAP was taken on the 2nd September on the Eastbourne beach.
- 8 September, 2020 PAT nesting at Lake Kohangapiripiri with partner still to be determined (not PAP).
- September 25. PAP is nesting with an unbanded partner on Eastbourne beach.

Some tentative conclusions from banding / flagging in East Harbour;

- Following the breeding season banded dotterel leave the nesting sites at Eastbourne and Lake Kohangapiripiri.
- Many of the birds from the study sites move after nesting to Lake Kohangatera, the second of the Pencarrow lakes. Flocks of 50 plus birds have been recorded post-nesting at Lake Kohangatera. For example, an estimate of 70 birds were observed at Lake Kohangatera was recorded on 21 February 2019 (photograph). The majority of the post-nesting flock at Lake Kohangatera then disperse with less than 10 wintering over at this site.
- The failure to see multiple banded / flagged birds at winter sites beyond the East Harbour would indicate that these birds do not disperse as a single flock.
- Birds which are banded / flagged as adults tend to return to the same nesting area in subsequent breeding seasons. However, PAT is an exception having nested at both the study sites.
- More pairs need to be examined to address the pair fidelity question.

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Pierce R (1999) Regional patterns of migration in the banded dotterel (*Charadrius bicintus bicintus*) Notornis 46: 101-122. https://www.notornis.osnz.org.nz/regional-patterns-migration-banded-dotterel-charadrius-bicinctus-bicinctus

https://www.sco.nc/articles/actualites/l-histoire-de-pap-355096 Link to a summary from New Caledonia to the finding of a flagged banded dotterel.

https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/docum27ents/our-work/bird-banding/banding-newsletter-sept-2020.pdf

Te Papa Blogs

No moa bone sales

Colin Miskelly **2 Jul 2020**

The Minister of Conservation Eugenie Sage visited Te Papa's natural history collection today to make an announcement that will be widely celebrated by the museum sector, as well as by anyone who values and appreciates New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage, as Curator Vertebrates Colin Miskelly explains in the blog. Sage was delighted to announce the release of a Discussion Document which seeks your input on the wording and need for regulations to limit the theft and sale of the remains of moa and other extinct New Zealand wildlife.

https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/consultations/2020/exctinct-species-trade-regulations/extinct-species-trade-regulations-discussion-document.pdf

https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2020/07/02/no-moa-bone-sales/

13,000 images on New Zealand Birds Online – and one funky hairdo

Colin Miskelly **4 Aug 2020**

The 13,000th image loaded on New Zealand Birds Online was of an unusually dramatic looking royal spoonbill. Bird expert Colin Miskelly explains how this image ended up on the website. The New Zealand Birds Online website was launched in June 2013, and even then contained an impressive image archive of 6,592 bird photographs taken by 256 photographers. These numbers have more than doubled seven years later, and this blog celebrates submission of the 13,000th image.

https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2020/08/04/13000-images-on-new-zealand-birds-online-and-one-funky-hairdo/