

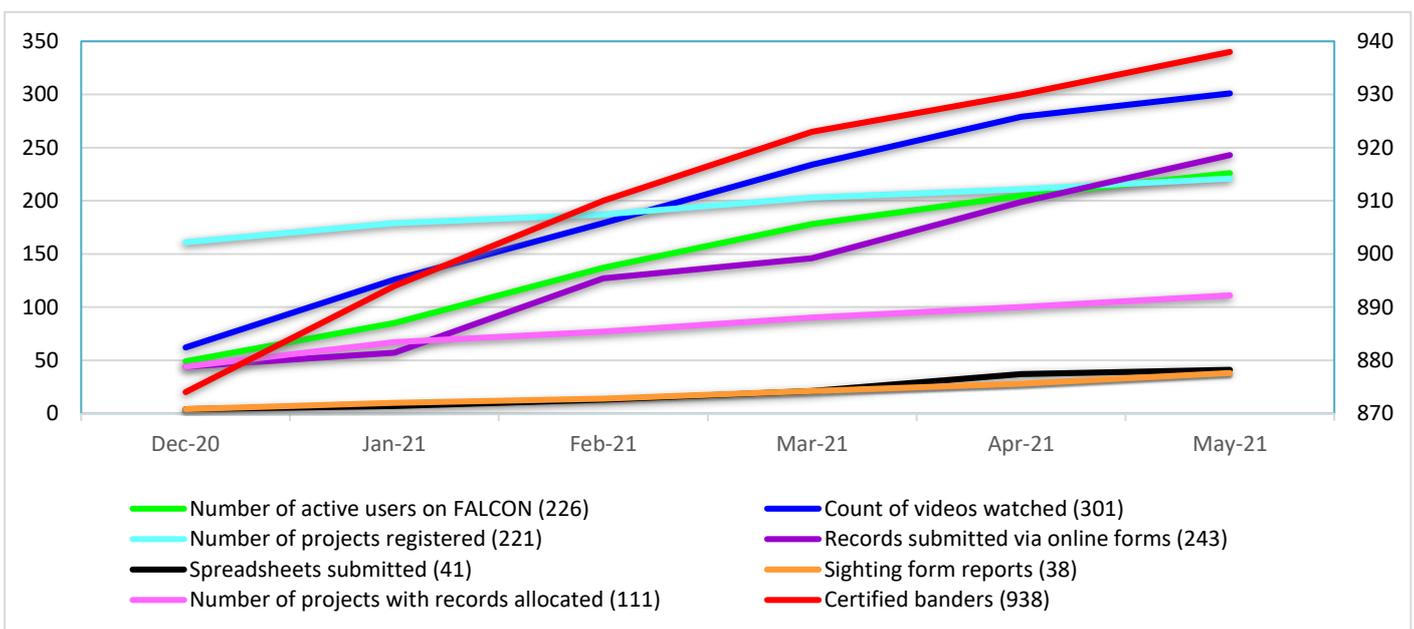


Update on the FALCON Bird Banding System..... 1
 Farewell from Imogen Foote..... 2
 A New Face from Behind the Banding Office Keyboard - Annemieke Hendriks..... 2
 Help! I've Seen a Banded Bird!..... 3
 The Hardships of Banding on a Nature Reserve – John Stewart..... 4
 How Far We've/ They've Come..... 4
 Fun FALCON Facts..... 4
 Inspired by Birds..... 5
 The Wondrous Adventures of PAP (Part 2)..... 5
 Native Bird Whakatauki..... 5
 About the Kuaotuna Bird Rescue Trust – Annemieke Kregting..... 6
 One for the Record Books..... 6
 Banding in New Zealand - Ririka Sumioka..... 7
 Project Shout-out: Error-free Data Submitted..... 7
 The Faces of the Banding Office..... 8
 NZNBBS Bird Bander's Manual Revision..... 8
 Puzzled: Bird Words..... 9
 Puzzled: Answers to September's Quiz..... 10
 Bird Comic..... 11

Update on the FALCON Bird Banding System

This graph shows the cumulative numbers for various metrics of the FALCON System that we will be tracking over time. Numbers in brackets show the totals at the end of May 2021.

Can you see a line that you can contribute to?



Farewell from Imogen Foote

By the time this newsletter is published, my time as Technical Administrator in the Banding Office will have come to an end. I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on my time in the Banding Office and the things I have learnt.

Working in the Banding Office for the past two years has been thoroughly enjoyable, and I have learnt so much about the art of bird banding. I could now tell you anything about the certification application process, what permits are required under which scenarios, the differences between various band sizes and types, how to submit banding data in the correct format, the process for closing large stainless-steel bands to remove springiness, and the list goes on! While I have not yet had the chance to apply some of this information in a practical sense (I am yet to band a live bird!) I truly value this knowledge (especially those titbits which have been passed on to me from our expert L3 banders) and I will file it away in the hope that it will be of use one day soon! It has been a privilege to be a small part of the incredible improvements that have occurred in the Banding Scheme over the past few years, led by Michelle Bradshaw (Banding Officer). Even better has been to see the way in which you all recognise the value of the Scheme and have engaged with the processes to contribute to the continual improvement of the Scheme.

My time in the world of birding is not coming to an end, as I am off to pursue further study in this area. I sincerely hope to cross paths with many of you in the future – and possibly put some faces to names I have previously only known via email! Ka kite 😊 Imogen.



Imogen and Sandy at Te Papa

A New Face from Behind the Banding Office Keyboard - Annemieke Hendriks



Sooty Shearwater banding on Mana Island. Photo by Dale Shirtliff

Tēnā koutou katoa! I have been lucky to join the Banding Office team, as Imogen Foote has left to start her journey to become Dr. Foote (PhD pending), we wish her all the very best and hope that it goes successfully!

So, who am I? My name is Annemieke Hendriks, I was born and raised in Whangārei, but came to Wellington to undertake a BSc, followed by a Master of Science degree. I have enjoyed being involved with several conservation projects around Aotearoa, including Sooty Shearwater banding, Gecko monitoring, the Kākāpō recovery project on Whenua Hou, Black Robin monitoring on both Rangatira and Mangere islands in the Chathams, Archey's frog monitoring, working with the Kākāriki Karaka in South Branch Hurunui and creating some of last year's Critter of the Week content for Nicola Toki and Jesse Mulligan.

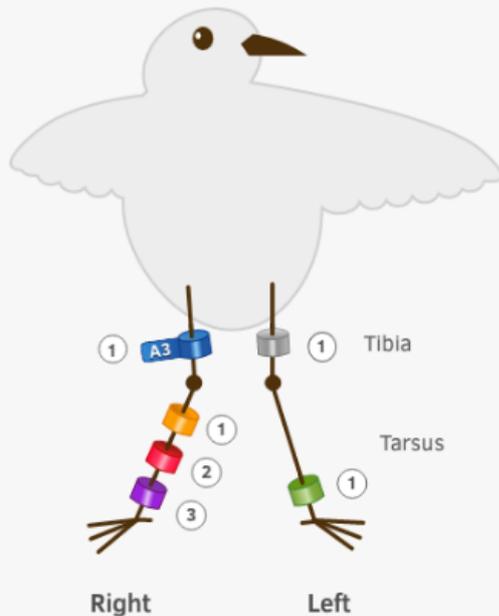
My focus within the Banding Office will be around supporting you, the banding community. This will be achieved through processing of bander certifications, sales of banding equipment, facilitating bander training and loan materials, assisting with FALCON requests, advising on Wildlife Act Authority applications, processing of Radio Transmitter

Licence Applications and compiling *BirDBanD* newsletters (please continue to send any content to the Banding Office email that you think would be worth sharing!).

I am looking forward to meeting or interacting with you in the coming months, and hopefully we will meet at some point during the Birds NZ Conference in Thames, please come by the Banding Office table and say hi!

Help! I've Seen a Banded Bird!

Example of a bird with bands. Numbers refer to band placement (configuration)



Please encourage your friends and family to report any banded bird sighted (whether alive, injured or dead – including gamebirds) to the Banding Office. For all you know it may be a longevity record (see “[One for the record books](#)”), or the first time that this bird has been reported, or it may have been marked to enable monitoring after rehabilitation or translocation – valuable data for researchers and conservationists. Someone went to the effort to capture, mark and release that bird, and unless its subsequent sightings (or eventual death) are reported, the bird could be wearing those bands for nothing.

So how can you help?

If you have seen a bird that has been marked, do not catch the bird just to read the metal band number!

Please report your sighting online via: <https://app.birdbanding.doc.govt.nz/sightings>. If possible, try to photograph the bands of the bird, especially if it is wearing any colour bands. You do not need a fancy camera; your mobile phone can be used, and even if the photo is out of focus or not worthy of social media, you can still send it through to us at falcon@doc.govt.nz.

Citizen Science challenge!

A collaborative study between the Department of Conservation, Manaaki Whenua/Landcare Research, and the Ornithological Society of New Zealand is focusing on the movements of South Island Pied Oystercatchers (SIPO) to identify nationwide flyways and stopover sites. We would like to put out a call for any sightings of SIPO (or other oystercatchers) wearing flags of various colours that have letters and numbers engraved on them.

They have been colour-coded by the region where they were caught, and we are particularly interested in any birds that have moved between regions.

Colour codes for engraved flags on SIPO:

- RED flag: North Island
- BLUE flag: South Island
- GREEN flag: Rakaia
- ORANGE flag: Rangitata
- YELLOW flag: Nelson / Golden Bay

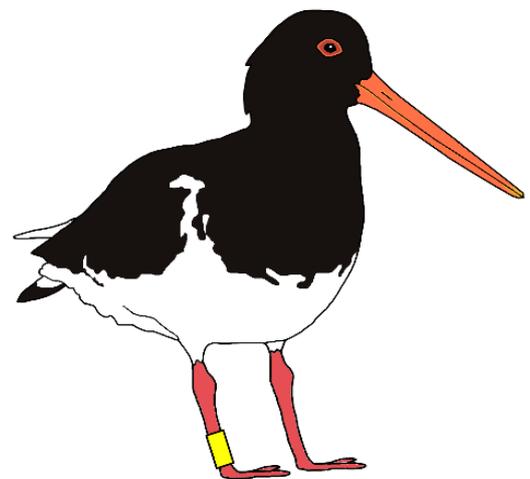
If the flag only has two letters or numbers, the bird was marked as a chick, and if there are three letters/numbers, then it was marked as an adult.

Have you seen the ‘Yellow Bandit’?

A South Island Pied Oystercatcher has been spotted sporting only a Yellow band (not flag):

"I sighted at Miranda on 2 May 2021 a SIPO with a bright yellow colour band, wraparound style, deep in profile and looking worn on right tarsus, no metal band on either left or right tibia or tarsus."

Please help us to find this bird! All sightings will be appreciated, especially if you can also provide a photograph.



Artist's impression of the ‘Yellow Bandit’ by @mieke_masterpieces

The Hardships of Banding on a Nature Reserve – John Stewart

John Stewart went to the Chatham Islands recently to band Black Robins and he had this to say about his stay on Rangatira:

“The seabirds were stunning and the cause of quite a bit of insomnia! On my first night I was wakened by a loud thump and sat straight up in my bunk asking, 'is everyone OK'? I thought someone had fallen out of their bunk. No-one replied. It turned out to have been a broad-billed prion crashing into the outside of the bedroom wall and this was the first of many more over the month. The prions and penguins kept up a more or less continuous night-long racket (or melodious calling depending on your point of view and desire for sleep) right outside and underneath the hut.”

How Far We've/ They've Come

Have you ever stopped to wonder when it was that someone discovered that birds migrate? There is the curious story of how early European naturalists came to learn where White Stork (*Ciconia Ciconia*) migrated to. To early Europeans, before the theory (and proof) of migration, these storks were present for part of the year, and then without explanation vanished. During this apparent “vanishing period” it was thought that the birds turned into other species of bird, or mice, or perhaps they hibernated under water or even that they flew to the moon. Some of these theories were perpetuated by zoologists who received reports of fishermen catching swallows under the water along with fish during winter. But all this changed with the sighting of a *Pfeilstorch*.

Pfeilstorch is German for “arrow stork”. In 1822, along with the annual arrival of the white storks in Europe, it was noticed that one individual had a 76cm Central African spear lodged in its neck! This proved that storks and other “disappearing” species did not transform or hibernate under water, but rather migrated large distances to wintering grounds. Fast forward to today where we now know and accept that some migratory birds travel extensive distances (such as our own Godwits), and we have technologies that can track the paths that they take on their migration routes. Fortunately for the birds, these bands and tracking devices are significantly less cumbersome than a 76cm spear! We also now know that any conservation of migratory birds relies on large scale approaches with many different stakeholders.



The Rostock Pfeilstorch
CC-BY SA 3

But what happened to that 1822 individual? Unfortunately, the spear which signalled its survival in Africa, signalled its demise in Europe. It was taxidermied and is still on display at the University of Rostock and is known as the Rostock Pfeilstorch. To date there are apparently 25 documented Pfeilstörche but it is unclear when the last Pfeilstorch was sighted.

We would be interested if there is any evidence of similar stories from New Zealand. If you know of one, please get in touch!

Fun FALCON Facts

First banding record in database

Northern Royal Albatross, Tora, banded **RIC-0001** as an adult at Taiaroa head on 1 Feb 1936. The bird was resighted again a few days later and then in September or November each year for the next eight years. It was last recorded on 23 Nov 1944.

Inspired by Birds

Not many people can lay claim to traveling to New Zealand's sub-Antarctic. Yet artist Bill Hammond did just that in 1989 and was in awe of the bird life of the Auckland Islands. He frequently described this landscape as the part of the world which birds still owned. Following this trip, the iconography of birds became a constant theme of his work, with these silent guardians watching over his landscapes. His most prominent painting was "The Fall of Icarus". Bill Hammond died in Lyttelton in January 2021, aged 74, but Bill's birds live on. If you want to see one in person, "Traffic Cop Bay" is currently on display in Te Papa Museum (Wellington).



Image of 'Traffic Cop Bay' by Bill Hammond, photographed by Annemieke Hendriks

The Wondrous Adventures of PAP (Part 2)



PAP on OE, photographed by Liliane Guisgant

You may recall in the [September 2020 BirDBanD](#) newsletter we reported on a Banded Dotterel with the leg flag 'PAP'. In this article we reminisced on how nice it is to be a bird who can just fly away to a tropical island amid a global pandemic and no airline flights. It was unusual for a known NZ Banded Dotterel to be sighted in New Caledonia. Many ornithologists were surprised.

Well. PAP has done it again. It seems that the bird has a fondness for New Caledonia as it returned to the island in April this year. Who can blame it, with the coldness of winter really starting to set in here, tropical New Caledonia does seem like a great place to be!

Nikki McArthur sums up what PAP's reappearance in New Caledonia means:

"It confirms that PAP wasn't just a vagrant to New Caledonia last year (i.e., had got a bit lost), but instead regularly migrates to this wintering site. A real surprise result given that the accepted wisdom is that coastal-breeding banded dotterels tend not to migrate very far, if at all, from their breeding sites."

It will be interesting to see if PAP decides to go on this voyage again next year!

Native Bird Whakatauki

"He Kotuku Rerenga Tahī"

The direct translation of this Te Reo whakatauki means "a White Heron's flight is seen but once". It emphasises that seeing a kotuku in flight is a rare occurrence. This whakatauki is often used to compliment a "rare", distinguished guest. The Kotuku is the only bird on New Zealand currency that is not unique to Aotearoa, they can also be found in Australia and Asia.

About the Kuaotuna Bird Rescue Trust – Annemieke Kregting

Kuaotunu Bird Rescue Trust (KBRT), on the central east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula, started up in 2005. As a retired Vet nurse having experience in Wild bird veterinary care, I was still new to the rehabilitation side of it. Out facility, a registered wildlife care operation, has grown in those years. A separate building on our property has an intake treatment room, an isolation area for natives, and a kitchen and storeroom. Outside we have several aviaries. It is the only bird rehabilitation site on the peninsula licenced by DOC and deals with an estimated 350-400 birds each year.

Being a member of WrenNZ (Wildlife Rehabilitation Network of NZ) I was introduced to banding during a conference years ago. It seemed like a logical thing to do. I am interested in record keeping and often wondered where the released birds end up and if they make it.

We release birds all over the Coromandel and only occasionally have had a bird found that was banded here. I hope to get my level of banding increased soon so I can band on my own. Currently still having to ask Rob Chappell for supervision and assistance. Some birds return to our property and it nice to be able to recognise the released Kereru with bands on and know they are doing well.

For more information visit: www.kuaotunubirdrescue.org.nz



Juvenile Flesh footed shearwater

One for the Record Books



Photo by Jamie Quirk

Sadly, a magnificent seabird died on a North Island east coast beach, but fortunately it was banded, and lucky for us (and the Australians), Jamie Quirk, a superb DOC Ranger, reported it.

A Northern Giant Petrel was found at Waikanae Beach, Gisborne on the 5th February 2021 having already been seen on a log vessel in Gisborne a few days earlier. It was taken to a vet and x-rayed but there were no injuries or hidden fishhooks. It was cleared for take-off and released at a remote beach (a release at sea was not possible) but was found dead at Te Tapuwae O Rongokako Marine Reserve (approximately 16 kilometres north of Gisborne) on 7th February.

The story of this bird may have ended there but, because it was wearing a metal band and Jamie thought to let others know about it, there is more to tell.

As it was an Australian band, the Banding Office contacted our Aussie counterparts, The Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS). Their records showed that this Northern Giant Petrel, wearing band number 131 40970, had been banded as a chick 40 years ago on 23/01/1981 at Mawson Point, Macquarie Island by the Australian Antarctic Division.

This bird is now in the record books as being the oldest Australian-banded Northern Giant Petrel, and one of the oldest birds ever recovered by the ABBBS, a banding scheme which began in 1953 and has a database of over four million banded bats and birds.

So, this remarkable bird continues to contribute to conservation science because it was marked as a chick, its banding details were recorded, it managed to avoid numerous marine hazards to die of old age on a beach and was found by someone who reported the band.

Next time you are hesitant to report a banded bird, keep in mind that each band “tells a story”, and the one you found is most certainly unique and might just be a record-holder.

Banding in New Zealand - Ririka Sumioka

The Banding Office recently received a report from Ririka Sumioka, a high-school exchange student from Japan. In this report there was a detailed description of what banding in New Zealand is like. We enjoyed the report immensely, see below:

Routine before going to banding:

Whenever my host mother sends me to the banding, she always gives me warm hot chocolate (without marshmallows) from the cafe.

About the equipment:

The only netting items are prefabricated poles and ropes, a simpler style than I've seen in Japan. They use nets made in China. The ring is marked with the country and number.

The Recording paper (Fig.1) is separated by ring size. The ring numbers are already listed in order on the recording paper. The date, bird initials, age, sex and bander initials are recorded here. There is only one type of recapture paper (Fig.2), in addition to the one described above, where it is necessary to record the ring size and ring number of the captured bird.



Fig.1 Recording paper



Fig.2 Recapture paper

What I felt when I visited the banding in NZ:

After all, when I saw it up close, I realized again that the bird species are completely different from those in Japan. And to my surprise, they wrote the bird's initials on the recording paper. I see! I thought. Certainly, it is quite difficult to write a long species name in that small frame.

Besides the above, I learned a lot, though I cannot put it into words.

At the end:

I am currently attending a high school in New Zealand (NZ). In Japan, under the guidance of Mr. Iso, who also belongs to the Society, I was engaged in research activities on seabird bones and salt glands.

I want to improve my English! I want to see foreign creatures! For the above reasons, I started studying abroad in NZ and have been here since October 2018.

Captured birds



Silver eye



Black bird



House sparrow



Dunnock



European greenfinch



Song thrush

I never thought I would be able to see overseas banding. In addition, we received a very happy invitation from the Society to request a manuscript, and everyone had a valuable experience.

Thank you to NZ banders who kindly approved the study from observation, the members of the Society who requested the manuscript, Mr. Iso (Asahikawa Kita High School) and Ms. Scarf (Ellesmere College) who provided guidance in creating this article. I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude.

Project Shout-out: Error-free Data Submitted

FALCON admin: Dear Linton, thank you for submitting the banding records for the Zealandia Kākā Monitoring and Study Group project – it always makes my day when we receive clean (error-free) datasets!

Response: *You're quite welcome. From my point of view, it was a painless process and I'm very happy to be able to contribute to having all our banding records online. Thank you for all the hard work!* - Linton Miller

The Faces of the Banding Office

When Annemieke started her role as Technical Administrator, Michelle came up from Nelson to help with training. With Sandy and Lance also present on one of these days it provided a unique opportunity to have a Banding Office team photo.

Michelle Bradshaw is the Banding Officer and team lead for the staff that administer the National Bird Banding Scheme. Her focus at this point is on data management and assisting the banding community to use the new [FALCON Bird Banding Database](#) launched last year. Annemieke Hendriks has recently joined the team as Technical Administrator and will be focusing on purchasing and sale of equipment, as well as processing certification applications. Sandy Taylor oversees all correspondence regarding reports received of banded birds that are resighted or recovered. Lance Kevey is a long-term volunteer currently scanning archived paper records of historic resighting and recovery reports.



Left to Right: Michelle, Annemieke, Sandy and Lance. (Ft. Kākāpō and Kereru above.)

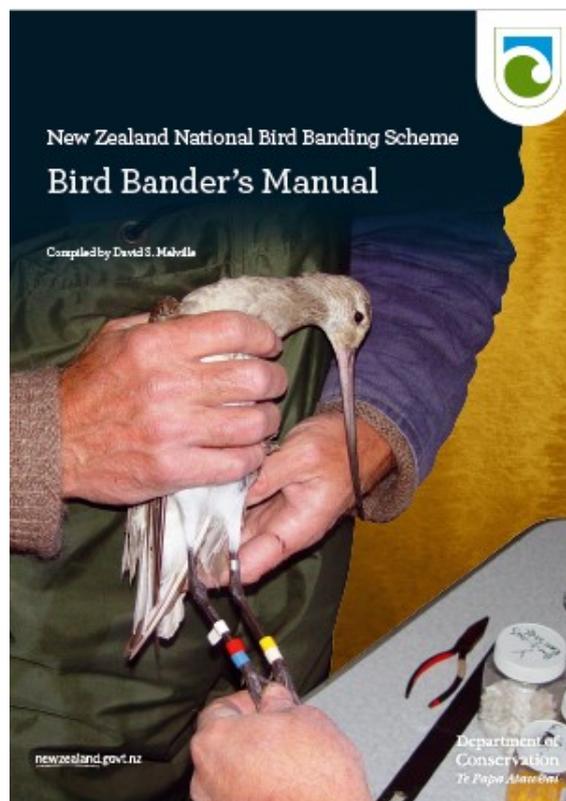
NZNBBS Bird Bander's Manual Revision

The New Zealand National Bird Banding Scheme (NZNBBS) produced the Bird Bander's Manual that sets out the Best Practice Guidelines for all operators to follow. This was compiled by David S. Melville in 2011 and is currently only available in hard-copy format due to copyright constraints.

We are in the process of updating and revising the Bird Bander's Manual. Updated Best Practice techniques for various capture and marking methods need to be included, and processes and forms for permitting, certification and data management incorporated.

The revised Best Practice for bird capture and marking will be made available electronically via the FALCON webpage. The aim is for the document to be user-friendly, up-to-date and consistent with other Best Practice documents.

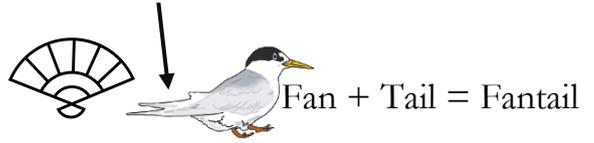
If you have come across any errors or inconsistencies in the existing Manual, or have suggestions for improvements or specific inclusions, please get in touch with the Banding Office at bandingoffice@doc.govt.nz.



Puzzled: Bird Words

For this activity using the representative images, work out what the word (or words) are.

E.g:



NZ Bird species:

<p>1.</p>	<p>2.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>4.</p>	<p>5.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>7.</p>	

Saying

8.

Places in New Zealand

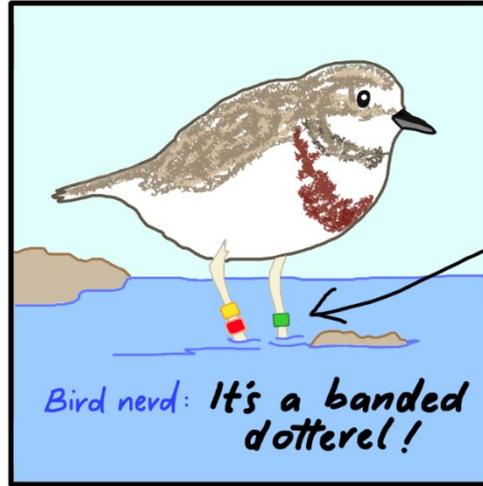
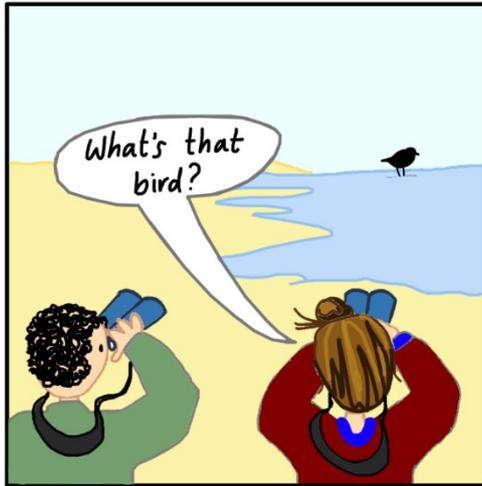
<p>9.</p>	<p>10.</p>
-----------	------------

Puzzled: Answers to September's Quiz

- 1. If a numbered bird band is used as a wedding ring, the Banding Office must be invited to the wedding.**
TRUE – or at the very least we need the details of the newly-banded 'bird'! And photos for our newsletter 😊.
- 2. Bird banding in New Zealand has been carried out since at least 1911.**
TRUE, though the [first record in our database](#) is from 1937.
- 3. 90% of all banding records in New Zealand have been loaded onto FALCON.**
FALSE – 90% of records that we migrated were loaded onto FALCON (10% failed error-checking); many banders still hold records that they have not submitted, and records submitted on incorrect templates or with errors were not migrated onto the FALCON database.
- 4. All banders, including trainees, need to be registered as Certified Banders with the NZNBBS.**
TRUE. This way banded birds can be attributed to a bander's ID; it is also a permit condition.
- 5. Orders for bands and banding equipment are only processed and posted on a Tuesday.**
FALSE – currently this is done on Fridays.
- 6. All data in the new FALCON Bird Banding System can be assumed to be correct.**
FALSE. Please let us know if you discover incorrect data – banders can edit their own records to correct errors.
- 7. Transponder insertion has been formally incorporated into the NZNBBS Certification System.**
TRUE. If you are involved in this marking method, please get in touch with us.
- 8. Banders may never transfer bands between one another.**
FALSE – banders may transfer bands to another Level 3 bander provided the Banding Office is informed.
- 9. CP, CX, DP, YP and T-prefix bands are made of incoloy and are manufactured in the UK.**
TRUE. We expect banders to know the difference between incoloy, aluminium and stainless-steel bands.
- 10. A Level 1 bander cannot hold their own Wildlife Act Authority (WAA) for banding birds.**
FALSE. A WAA holder does not require banding certification, as long as a Level 3 bander oversees the authorised activity. All persons catching and marking birds need to be registered with the NZNBBS as certified operators.
- 11. The Banding Office has three full-time staff that are also the Administrators of the FALCON System.**
FALSE. Michelle (Banding Officer) is the only full-time member dedicated solely to the Banding Office.
- 12. A Level 3 operator may supervise/train up to five Level 1 trainees at once during a banding session.**
FALSE. The L3 trainer needs to directly supervise the activities of each trainee – it is recommended that there are no more than three trainees per trainer at any time during a banding session (trainees can rotate).
- 13. The Banding Office can be bribed with chocolate to prioritise urgent equipment orders.**
TRUE. However the processing of orders for bands or equipment will be just as fast as usual.
- 14. The FALCON System can cater for multiple resightings of the same bird on the same day.**
TRUE. If several people report the same bird at the same place and time, then we have higher confidence in that record. Automated logger records of a bird with a transponder entering and leaving a nest box will also be accepted.
- 15. A Level 2 operator may supervise/train Level 1 banders under the direct supervision of a Level 3.**
TRUE. We encourage skilled L2 to do this as competency for training of others when applying for L3 certification.
- 16. All records in FALCON will be openly available for anyone to search, view and download.**
FALSE. A user can only view records for projects where they are a Team Member, and for projects where the Project Manager has indicated that the records may be openly shared. For records held under a Data Sharing Moratorium, a data request can be submitted according to the [Data Management Guidelines](#).
- 17. Level 3 operators may delegate data entry to Level 2 operators under their supervision.**
TRUE, though the responsibility for data submission still lies with the L3 to whom the bands were issued.
- 18. Banders will be informed if the data they are submitting to FALCON are considered "dirty".**
TRUE. FALCON will provide informative error messages and warnings for data that fail validation checks.
- 19. All data submitted via the Record Upload Form must also be submitted via the Data BOX.**
FALSE. Records are uploaded either via the [Record Upload Form](#) or via the [Data BOX](#), not both.
- 20. Band stocktakes will no longer need to be submitted via the Data BOX.**
TRUE. FALCON now manages your stock, though you need to edit the status of individual bands that are lost, used for training, or for another purpose (such as jewellery – see answer to question 1).
- 21. Certification will be granted based on the urgency of the requirement to band birds for a given project.**
FALSE. All L2/3 certification applications are based on evidence of competency. After the required paperwork is collated by the Banding Office and submitted to the Banding Advisory Committee, it could take up to 20 working days to get a response and finalise the certification level allocation.
- 22. Neon/Fluoro/Hot Pink colour bands are no longer available to order.**
TRUE; however, we are investigating alternatives in the form of NZ-made weldable bands – watch this space!
- 23. The Banding Office does not process orders for bands or equipment during June or December.**
TRUE, though we can make exceptions for urgent orders. Please place orders well ahead of when you require anything to ensure that we have it in stock.
- 24. FALCON will only accept data submissions that are linked to a Registered Project.**
TRUE. The only exception are records submitted via the [Sightings Form](#).
- 25. Banders should offer honest and constructive assessment of the work of other banders.**
TRUE. This is stipulated in the [bander's code of conduct](#) as published in the NZNBBS Bird Bander's Manual.

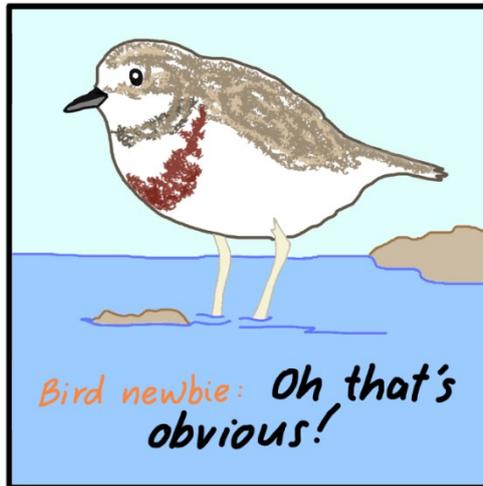


BIRD NERD vs. BIRD NEWBIE*



Please remember to lodge all bird band sightings!

There is a user-friendly form under the 'SIGHTINGS' tab on the FALCON (bird banding) website



@mieke_masterpieces

Have an idea for comic content?

Let us know!

bandingoffice@doc.govt.nz

*'Bird Nerd' as used here is an endearing term which indicates an individual with great avian knowledge and expertise. 'Bird Newbie' has similar positive connotations and reflects a highly enthusiastic individual keen to learn about birds.