





Friendly FALCON functionality 1
 Do you know any 'banders of old'? 1
 East Coast haukāinga re-establishing tītī colonies (May 2021 report) — Ngā Whenua Rāhui 2
 Fun FALCON fact:..... 2
 Gilbert Kerr: a professional penguin serenader 3
 2021 Birds NZ annual conference 3
 Annual Kiwi Hui — Te Teko 4
 Caravan mystery: why reporting bands (not on birds) is important too! 4
 Banders Without Borders 5
 Project shout-out: most records uploaded in a month 5
 'Bandie': a colour band ambassador 6
 Weldable bands almost in production!..... 6
 More egg-citing titipounamu news..... 7
 Bigger than Lotto! The reinvigorated search for the South Island's "Grey Ghost" 8
 Native bird whakatauki 8
 "Talking shop": updated Price List and Order Form 8
 Banding a Special Bird — Andrew Glaser 9
 Black-backed gull stuck in lamppost — Peter McGlashan 10
 From the ACTUAL archives 11
 NZNBBS Bird Bander's Manual revision 12
 Resource to help get friends and family involved with spotting banded birds! 12
 "He aha tēnei?" Real life puzzles from behind the scenes: internal serials 12
 Puzzled: Put your best foot forward 13
 Puzzled: Answers to Bird Words: 14
 Bird comic — Jeff Bell..... 14

Friendly FALCON functionality

As part of the most recent update on the [FALCON Bird Banding app](#), you can now add a friendly name for the marked birds you monitor.

For example: Kea V-0174 is known as "Eric the Viking"; have a look on the [Kea database](#) for his photo and profile.

BIRD ID	FRIENDLY NAME 
V-0174	Eric the Viking 

Do you know any 'banders of old'?

There are over 2,600 people whose names have been recorded as banding operators in the Bird Banding database. Of these, 952 are currently registered as active operators in the Certification System, although the contact details of 84 of these are no longer up to date. Furthermore, many 'banders of old' (active before the Certification System was initiated in 2013) still hold stock and banding data, and we are very keen to get in touch to update and verify our records.

If you know any 'banders of old', please ask them to contact us at bandingoffice@doc.govt.nz

East Coast haukāinga re-establishing tītī colonies (May 2021 report) — Ngā Whenua Rāhui

The project sits in its second year of monitoring. This breeding year started well at one of the sites. Haukāinga prepared for a banding operation anticipating around 20 tītī to come in. That expectation was well in excess of 40 tītī touching down. It was a tremendous evening banding adult tītī as they came in checking out the burrows in preparation for courting and mating rituals. The numbers were more than the pillowcases available, leaving many to be left alone for a time.

Helen Jonas was on hand to support the whānau with banding. Everyone got a chance to get some banding practice in under her supervision, with 51 tītī being banded.

The lightest bird weighed 440 g, the heaviest bird 600 g and the average weight overall was 525 g. Haukāinga are looking forward to the season ahead. Plans are for more predator control and community education. A key focus will be educating on the impact domestic animals (cats and small dogs) have on breeding birds.

Continued support from whānau and hapū will ensure the success of this project with up to five years anticipating the return of pīpī as adults. Our long-term commitment to the project will hopefully bring a steady and noticeable increase in tītī numbers. As with all conservation work, funds are needed to help with the mahi. Whānau, hapū and Iwi projects, and the greater coastal project, align well to available funding opportunities.

What is particularly special about this kaupapa, is how tangata whenua, their kura and tamariki are committed to learning and being involved in the mahi. The taiao is a natural classroom helping future generations become part of conserving their back yard. Participation of whānau and tamariki from kura and wharekura safeguards the traditional knowledge practices ‘mō āpōpō’.



Tekiato Hutching observing and assisting his mother and father banding.



Tītī displaying its shiny new band.

Fun FALCON fact:

Chatham Island snipe

There are 226 records of banded Chatham Island snipe in the FALCON Bird Banding Database. These banding events range from 5th November 1970 to the most recent record which is 14th February 2018.

Did you know that the term, “a snipe hunt” refers to a practical joke involving the attempt to capture an imaginary creature?



@mieke_masterpieces

Gilbert Kerr: a professional penguin serenader

During lockdowns instead of being able to play instruments with others, folks have been resigned to indoor, or garden sessions with their instruments. Have you watched how the birds respond to your playing? Interestingly in 1902 that is exactly what a group of Scottish explorers set out to do in Antarctica. Gilbert Kerr (the official piper of the *Scotia* crew) was tasked with boosting team morale by playing his bagpipes. He was also instrumental in undertaking serious scientific study of the impact of music on birds. According to the 1906 report of the voyage (by the expedition leader, William S. Bruce) they found that “there was no excitement, no sign of appreciation or disapproval, only sleepy indifference”. For this experiment the penguins were “tethered to a large cooking-pot packed full of snow”. While this would certainly not be acceptable by today’s standards, it sounds as though the penguins got their own back: “it was just all that one man could do to lead one up to the ship: with their beaks they bit fairly hard, and with their long flipper-like wings could hit decidedly hard”.



Piper Gilbert Kerr playing bagpipes to an emperor penguin, note how impressed it looks. Image by William S. Bruce, from public domain.

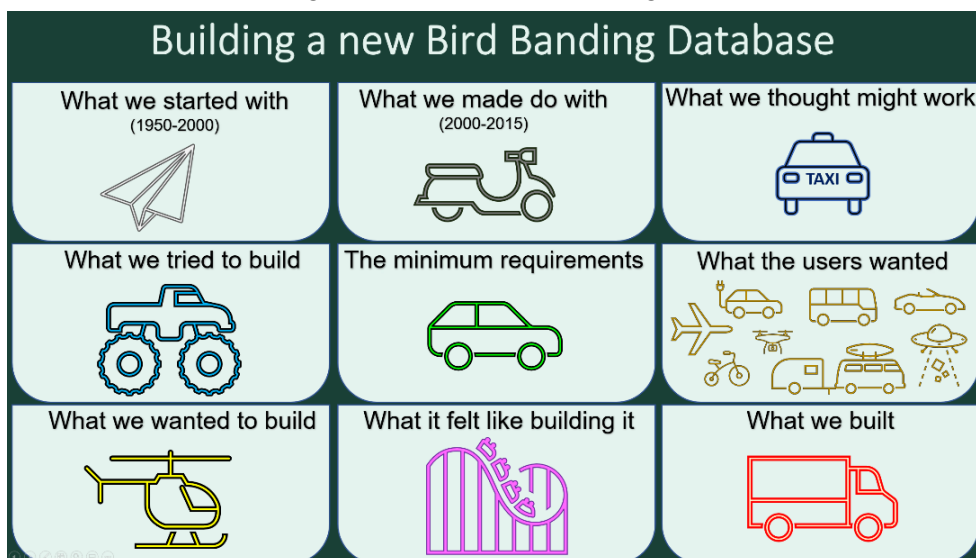
Editor’s note: while the Banding Officer (Michelle) has played bagpipes and monitored penguins this has not occurred at the same time!

2021 Birds NZ annual conference

About 220 people attended the Birds NZ conference this year at Thames from 5-7 June 2021. This is the highest attendance ever for the conference and demonstrates a genuine interest in ornithological research and conservation projects in New Zealand.

Some of the presentations specifically used statistics which they gleaned from permanently marked birds. Taylor Davies-Colley (Kei hea ngā kākā) mentioned that kākā L-46875 seemed to “like” being recorded and had been sighted 18 times by 8 people during their research period. Emma Feenstra (Monitoring Rakiura Kiwi) stated that one of their kiwi was 37 years old! Ian Armitage (over 50 years of Beach Patrol) stated that at least 64 banded birds had been recovered over the entirety of the project.

Michelle gave a presentation entitled, “Are we nearly there yet?”, outlining the journey over the past five years to get the FALCON Bird Banding Database up and running.



Having not been to a Birds NZ conference before, and as a new member of the Banding Office it was great to meet and interact with many of our prominent active banders in Aotearoa. I continue to look forward to meeting and engaging with you all as I continue in this role - Annemieke

Annual Kiwi Hui — Te Teko

About 150 people attended the National Kiwi Hui this year 14-16 July 2021 graciously hosted by the Tūteao and Uiraroa marae. There was a great flurry of sign-ups, resulting in the maximum capacity being met several days out from the hui.

Again, just like the Bird NZ conference there were many impressive presentations, and it was great to hear about all the Kaupapa from around the country. It was also terrific to get a chance to meet kiwi practitioners and learn more about their projects individually and aspirations for the Kiwi Accredited Handlers system.

For anyone wanting to see some of the presentations from the hui, you can go to this site:

<https://vimeo.com/nakedidv/kiwis-for-kiwi-te-teko-2021>

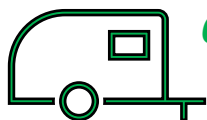
The Kiwi Hui was also the first public appearance of one of our training birds. The legs have been 3D printed, and will be suitable for banders wishing to practice attaching kiwi bands, before actually attempting it on a live kiwi. We will provide an update when the training kiwi have arrived at the Banding Office. They will be made available for loan for training purposes, similar to the other 3-D printed legs.



Kiwi Accredited Handlers workshop where all manner of concerns are discussed and possible resolutions considered. Image credit: Annemieke Hendriks



Training kiwi public debut. Coming soon to the Banding Office



Caravan mystery: why reporting bands (not on birds) is important too!

We received a report in August of a bird band “found hidden in a worker’s caravan we had just bought” in Franz Josef. Upon cleaning the caravan, the band was found hidden in a cupboard.

This band (**L-25774**) was originally put onto a Westland petrel ([Procellaria westlandica](#)) as a baby bird on 16 November 1987, in Punakaiki. Unfortunately, the FALCON bird banding database does not have a record of the bird being found dead, the band being detached from the bird or the band being found on its own – aside from the above submission. It is clearly not attached to a bird anymore, even though the database seems to think that it is. It is possible that this band was only recently (in the last couple of years) removed from the bird, as this species has a maximum known longevity of 37+ years.

However, as it is currently still a mystery as to how (or when) the band ended up in the cupboard hidden in the caravan if you, or someone you know, may have further information on this band, please get in touch!

Banders Without Borders

The New Zealand Banding Office and Banding Advisory Committee participated in the inaugural virtual meeting of a webinar series entitled “Banders Without Borders”, an initiative led by Antonio Celis-Murillo who is chief of the American [Bird Banding Laboratory](#) (BBL). The initiative aims to host individual webinars with as many banding schemes around the world as they can with plans to hold a mass conference of world banding schemes in the future.

Each banding scheme gave a presentation, followed by almost 90 minutes of questions and discussions. It was interesting to see that our respective schemes have similar challenges and great to learn from one another's approaches. In particular, our approach of using 3-D printed legs for bander training fascinated them, and it seems our FALCON Bird Banding Database has some functionality they are still striving for.



Project shout-out: most records uploaded in a month

For [spreadsheet submissions](#) using the [Bander's Data BOX](#):

- In the first place we have [Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony – monitoring programme](#) with 1114 records!
- Second place with a neat 1000 records goes to [OSNZ/BirdsNZ National Shorebird Banding Project - South Island Oystercatcher](#)
- And in third place we would like to commend the immense effort of [Wellington Harbour Little Penguin Study - Stage One](#) with 947 records uploaded

For submitting records via the [single-record form](#):

- [Bander Training Christchurch](#) takes the cake (or virtual chocolate fish) for uploading over a hundred records per month since May (and a whopping 251 in July)

Think you can out-do this?

If you have a dataset of banded or microchipped birds, no matter how large or how old, we'd love to help you add it to the FALCON Bird Banding Database! Please contact us if you have any questions or require further information.

'Bandie': a colour band ambassador

At the Banding Office we regularly review banding materials and equipment.

Here are two side-by-side photos of 'Bandie', a blackbird banded by James Russell for testing AvianID polypropylene bands and their suitability for the New Zealand environment. The first photograph was taken in 2017 a few days after he was banded. You can tell he is a juvenile going into adult plumage. The second photograph was taken three and a half years later.



16 December 2017

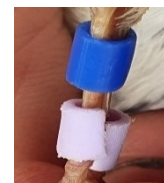


2 July 2021

Bandie: 16 December 2017, James Russell

Bandie: 2 July 2021, James Russell

Thanks to this trial we have decided not to roll out these bands for wider use – it turns out that these bands do not hold their colour nor their shape – and this is part of the reason we have developed our own weldable range of colour bands (see below).



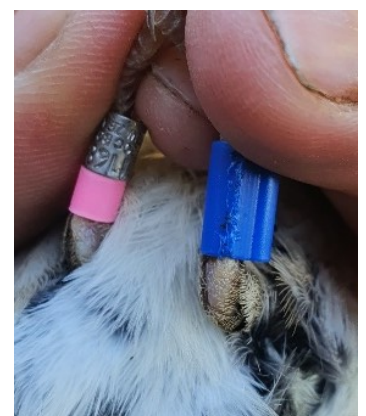
One of these trial polypropylene bands has become disfigured after only a few months of wear. Image credit: James Russell

Weldable bands almost in production!

In consultation and testing with the Hihi and Black Robin Recovery Groups, the DOC electronics workshop, and external providers, we have developed weldable bands with an internal diameter of 3.1 mm and 3.75 mm. The bands come in 12 different colours (see table to the right). Some of these have been designed specifically to hold a transponder (PIT tag).

Colour
Black
White
Yellow
Orange
Red
Pink
Purple
Blue
Teal
Green
Lime/light green
Grey

The bands are injection-molded and have extra material along the split that is melted to form a join using a small battery-operated [soldering iron](#).



Weldable bands in use
Image credit: Jemma Welch (L), James Russell (R)

Once we have these in production, the weldable bands will be made available for sale for use on birds that take B or C size bands. Stay tuned for an update to the Price List!

Do you have a specific band size that you would like to have as a weldable colour band?

Contact the Banding Office to discuss the cost and logistics.

More egg-citing titipounamu news

In the [December 2019](#) edition of the BirDBanD newsletter we shared some egg-citing news that the translocated titipounamu had bred in Zealandia. While titipounamu have been spotted outside Zealandia's predator-proof fence (at Polhill Reserve) since 2019, they have now been spotted further afield building a nest! We'll be watching closely to see if they successfully rear a clutch!

Media release Wellington City Council, 13 August 2021

Titipounamu were introduced to Wellington ecosanctuary, Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne, from Wainuiomata Mainland Island in 2019. "It's really rewarding to see the progeny of titipounamu, transferred to Zealandia from our Wainuiomata Mainland Island, are spreading their wings across a Wellington environment that's increasingly receptive to native birds because of the commitment of Zealandia, Predator Free Wellington and hundreds of back-yard predator trappers. It's a real win from a collective effort" says Greater Wellington's Dr Philippa Crisp, Team Leader, Land, Ecology and Climate.

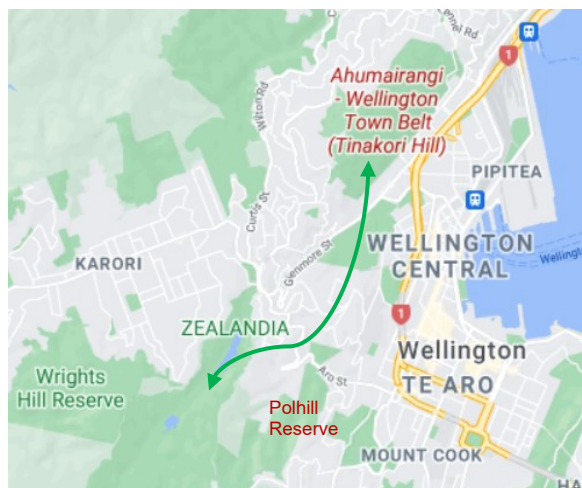
Zealandia's Kari Beaven also noted that this sighting is an incredibly exciting step for a city which is bucking the trend, with the bird community improving rather than declining. "Sightings just beyond the fence in Wright's Hill in July were somewhat expected, but a pair being spotted kilometres away from the sanctuary at Te Ahūmairangi Hill this week is extraordinary. It is a testament to the care that Wellingtonians are taking of these precious places"

While common around some areas of the country, the last time titipounamu would have likely been found in Wellington City would have been over 100 years ago. One of two surviving species endemic to the New Zealand wren family, these birds weigh only 6.5 grams, and their high-pitched calls are often inaudible to humans.

Brony Shephard, Zealandia volunteer and Te Ahūmairangi Hill Ecological Restoration coordinator, spotted the titipounamu. She has been involved since the initial translocation and is familiar with the titipounamu call and initially didn't believe what she heard. "I thought I heard them at around 9 am in the morning but disregarded it. But at 12:30 pm when I was walking back up, I stopped and saw the pair." Shephard says "I first visited Te Ahūmairangi Hill tracking kākāriki for Zealandia research and was surprised to find this hill as an early dispersal site. I remember way back one of the first kākā nests were also found here. It seems the birds are attracted to the uninterrupted forest, and possibly even the height of the hill."

Daniela Biaggio, Urban Ecology Manager at Wellington City Council says "For all of us who are working to restore and protect our reserves there is no better sign of approval than our native birds choosing them for their home. We have an incredible network of people in Wellington weaving their efforts to build a capital teeming with wildlife. I know Wellingtonians care about this taonga and will support it to thrive in its new home."

While the sightings are an incredible sign, Zealandia's Dr Danielle Shanahan noted that it is important for Wellingtonians to continue looking after these precious birds. "Alongside trapping pests and planting native trees, one of the best things you can do for birds in Wellington is to care for your pets in a way that minimises the chance they will encounter native wildlife. This is especially important through the breeding season, which is just around the corner."



One of the titipounamu pair (the male) is banded. Image credit to Melissa Boardman.

This bird, (AE-0926) was banded as a baby in Zealandia on 26 Dec 2020. This little guy is still less than 1 year old! Without marking, we would have no certainty of where they came from or their age! Every banded bird sighting is IMPORTANT!

Bigger than Lotto! The reinvigorated search for the South Island's "Grey Ghost"

Looking to "hit it big" in NZ? Nothing could be a bigger flex than proving that a species is not extinct! Also, don't forget about the \$10k reward for proof that the South Island Kōkako still exists.

Recently, the South Island Kōkako Charitable Trust received a promising audio recording (taken on 12 August 2021):

"We're excited by this recording made by Bruce Reid on the Heaphy Track on Thursday morning - have a listen - what do you think? We've asked for analysis and will report back.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=JnO6bwaQLYk>

Rhys Buckingham says, "this is the kōkako call we call the 'bong'. When delivered in a long series and you are close to the bird you will be transfixed for life. Absolutely mesmerizing call, the most fabulous you can hear in NZ bush...if you are lucky. There are many interesting anecdotes in early literature about this call, which strangely, is seldom heard from North Island kōkako these days. But you still need photographic proof as I have heard kākā make almost identical calls, presumably because they had heard SI kōkako first.

Spring seems to be the best time to hear kōkako calls so please keep listening, especially on the Heaphy Track, and use camera or phone to record unusual calls and, who knows, perhaps get that elusive photograph. Thank you!"



"LB8554" in Auckland War Memorial Museum, credit: CCBY

Native bird whakatauki

"I hea koe i te tangihanga o te Riroriro"

The direct translation of this Te Reo whakatauki means "Where were you at the singing of the grey warbler". It is a whakatauki used to say, "that's your own fault, you reap what you sow". In spring the call of riroriro indicated that crops should be planted. Some people were lazy and did not undertake this mahi (work), and in winter these individuals would grumble because they were hungry. Those who had put in the hard work would respond with the whakatauki: "Where were you when the grey warbler was singing?"

"Talking shop": updated Price List and Order Form

In addition to numbered metal bird and bat bands, the Banding Office sources and stocks banding equipment from various overseas suppliers. This ensures the availability of high-quality equipment at reasonable prices – we can purchase in bulk and thereby save on courier and administrative fees. With the last price increase a year ago, we have had to revise the Price List to reflect changes introduced by the suppliers and fluctuating exchange rates; however, we have kept prices the same wherever possible. Please have a look at the updated [Price List](#) and [Order Form](#).

We would also like to remind you to order stock and equipment well in advance of anticipated requirements, since we have experienced significant impacts of the epidemic on the international supply chain. You may need to wait three months or more if you order something that we do not hold in stock.

When ordering bands or mist-nets, a Level 3-certified operator (for the species to be banded and capture method) needs to accept [responsibility](#) for the order. The Banding Office coordinates colour banding – you may be restricted from using certain colour combinations if these have been used by another project on the same species within a given timeframe or region that may overlap with your proposed colour combinations.

I take [responsibility](#) for *bands/mist-nets* as a Level 3 operator [_NZNBBS xxxx](#) for the species and capture methods

I **attach** a letter from a Level 3 operator [NZNBBS xxxx](#) accepting [responsibility](#) for *bands/mist-nets*

Attach project's colour banding schema (# colours per leg, cohort colours, used & proposed combinations)

Banding a Special Bird — Andrew Glaser

As every bander knows, we use banding as a means of permanently identifying some of the very special birds here in Aotearoa. We are really privileged to be banders and I have personally been one for most of my career in DOC so take bird banding responsibility seriously. I have been very blessed to have been involved with some very unique birds but none so special as one I banded on the 9th of August. I have had the amazing opportunity to work with this bird for the past eight years, undertaking a close order monitoring programme of sorts and really getting to know what makes this bird so special.

However, after eight years of observation, I knew she was a keeper. It was time to put on a permanent band as I embarked on a new project. So, I approached our Banding Office seeking their approval to obtain a suitable R band for this very Special Bird. Well, it didn't take too much encouragement for the Banding Office to help out. They easily sorted out the paperwork to document this band as "other" for their records. As with any bird banding, the timing needs to be perfect, and approach is everything. So, I hatched a plan to climb up to the Onekawa Pa overlooking the seabird colony we manage. As the sun descended, I waited for the bird to settle with some wine and cheese and then using Best Practice bird handling techniques managed to quickly capture her unsuspectingly. With her fingers in my hand, band and banding pliers poised, I asked her to marry me. As she said yes, I closed the band in three quick moves and sealed the deal 😊.



Mithuna and Andrew



The band!

Band report:

Date of Event – 09/08/2021

Event type – First marking in hand

Common Name/Species Code - Mithuna Sothieson

Bander/Reporter - Andrew Glaser.

Black-backed gull stuck in lamppost — Peter McGlashan

This was one of the more unusual sightings we have had reported to the Banding Office.

I came home from work and as I came up the street saw the gull hanging upside down from the lamppost which seemed odd. I dropped my stuff inside and came back out to take a photo to send to Auckland Transport to see if they could get a truck there urgently to help it out, as it's their lamppost.

I'm on the Local Board for Auckland Council so knew their social media team were pretty responsive. I'd also been asked by a constituent for help removing red-billed gulls nesting on their boat so had some experience talking to DOC about what can and can't be done to protected birds and the consequences of interacting with them. Neighbours were gathering to look at the poor bird, as you could tell it was distressed but there was no way we could get to it with a standard ladder.

Then I noticed a truck from McKay Electrical (<https://www.mckay.co.nz/who-we-are/>) just down the road with an Aerial Lift on the back, so I set about finding the owner and talking them into letting us use it to get to the bird. He was on a nearby building site and wasn't too happy getting involved (as he didn't like birds and you could see it was pretty agitated) but he was willing to take someone else up to get the bird... so we had a way to reach it! As he moved into position, I shot off to get some gloves and eye protection. My gardening gloves didn't look like much protection from a large beak on a traumatised bird, so I grabbed some of my old wicketkeeping gloves from my cricket playing days and a pair of goggles. It didn't take long to get up to the bird, it was understandably upset but calmed down once I put the big wicketkeeping gloves round its body and it had latched onto them with its beak.

I gently had to ease the leg up out of the slot in the light that its foot was stuck in but soon it slipped out and the bird was free. On the way down I saw the band round its leg so got my neighbours to take some photos, as I wasn't sure how long it would let me hold it for. It became clear though once on the ground that it was happy being held so then we decided to find a box to put it in and to make some phone calls to find out what to do next. I registered the band on your website with what our photo showed but suspect we may have missed a digit or two.

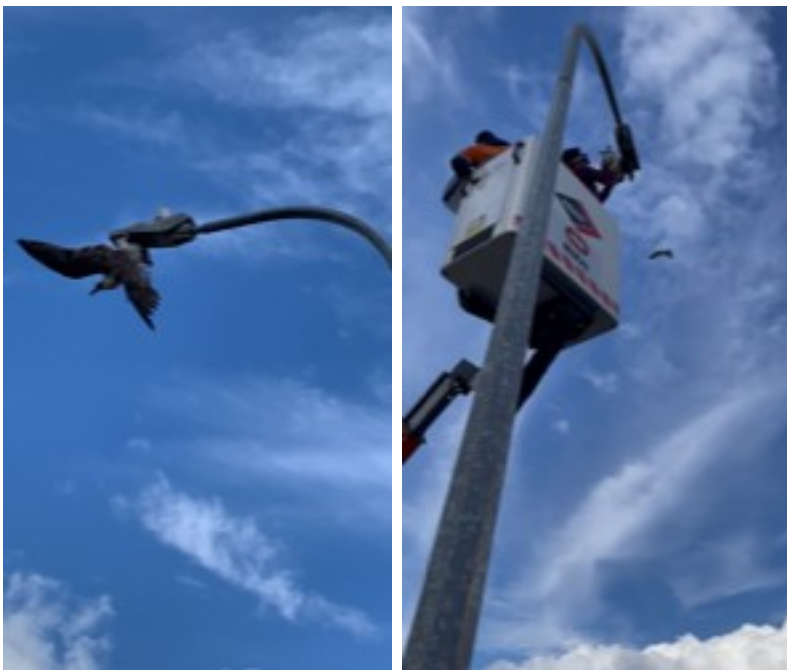
We called DOC but because it wasn't a protected bird they said the best option was Bird Rescue. When I rang them they would be closed by the time I got there so they said to head to the nearest vet and they'd contact SPCA and get the bird to them the next day. So we headed up to Kohi Vet Clinic, just up the road

and took the bird in and explained what happened. They said the leg looked broken, but they'd try and feed it and give it some water and make a further assessment.

Pleased to be able to help but realistic about its chances with a broken leg. Have seen seagulls in the wild with a damaged leg but I realise a vet may not feel comfortable leaving it in pain or bird rescue may not be able to nurse it back to health.

Seeing the band though showed me someone had cared for it enough at some stage to tag it so therefore someone probably had an interest in knowing what had happened to it and its accident.

Sadly, the bird died before it could be fully assessed by a vet.



From the ACTUAL archives

At a recent Wellington ornithological meeting Alan Tennyson handed to the Banding Office a bag of miscellaneous bird banding stuff which had been donated to him at Te Papa by Elliot Dawson. It contained a 1953 permit to “ring” in NZ and the colour band combinations to be used in different regions of the country (as of the 1970’s). There was also a handwritten music sheet of “God save the Queen” (British national anthem) – not quite sure how that counted as a ‘bird banding item’. Going through these bands it was exciting to see how old they were. Only two had a letter prefix, meaning that almost all the bands were from pre-1970! Some bands were hand-made bands with stamps for Massey University, or people’s own contact details with home-stamped designs. There were also several British Ornithological bands there too, although these looked unused.

The two prefixed bands (S-57040, and E-125682) were attached to a black backed gull on Matiu/Somes on 24 Dec 1971, and a red-billed gull on Kaikoura peninsula on 9 Dec 1977 respectively.

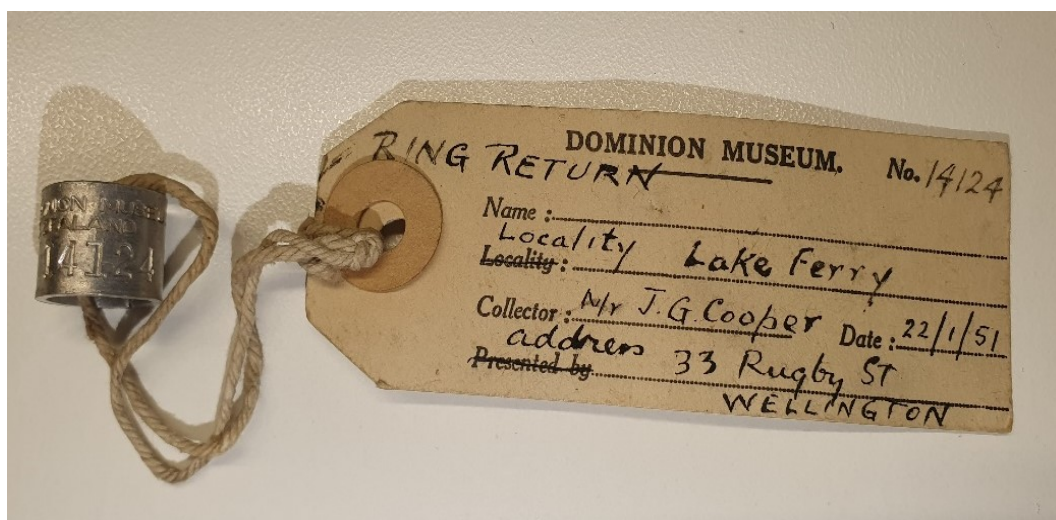
Checking for old bands you have in your cupboards is really important, as FALCON did not have any records to indicate that these two bands had been removed from the bird (the database showed that these bands were still attached to the birds!). If you have old bands lying around, and you haven’t personally checked that they’re in FALCON, please do so!

Searching for no prefix bands will require backtracking to older databases and archives.

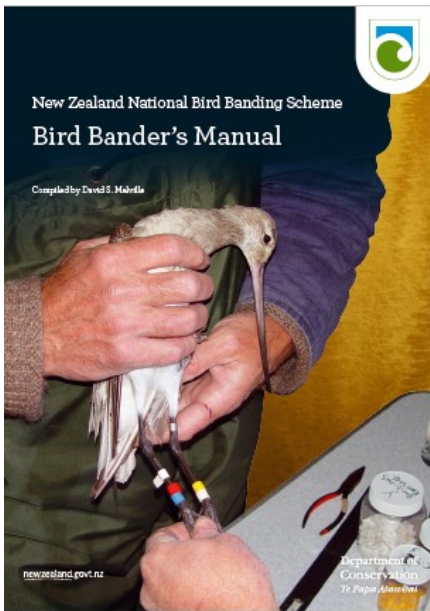


Elliot Dawson’s Bird Banding donation. Photo credit: Annemieke Hendriks

One no-prefix band caught our attention, and we investigated it further: NP (No Prefix) 14124. Apparently attached to a black backed gull on 01 January 1951 at Palliser Spit (when it was a juvenile). According to the nice tag that it came with, it was retrieved only 21 days later at Lake Ferry on 22 Jan 1951.



Band NP-14124 and lovely details tag. Photo credit: Annemieke Hendriks



NZNBBS Bird Bander's Manual revision

The New Zealand National Bird Banding Scheme (NZNBBS) produced the Bird Bander's Manual, compiled by David S. Melville in 2011, that sets out the Best Practice Guidelines for all operators to follow. Until recently the Manual was only available in hard-copy format due to copyright constraints; these have now been renegotiated and we will soon make the 2011 edition available for electronic download via the [FALCON dashboard](#). Banders that would like to refer to a copy in the meantime are encouraged to borrow their Level 3 trainer's copy.

Furthermore, the entire Best Practice Guideline is being revised. Updates will include not only capture methods and banding techniques, but an updated band size list and information pertaining to permitting and certification. Each chapter of the revised version will be made available for download as they are finalised.

Resource to help get friends and family involved with spotting banded birds!

Thanks to Annemieke's love of the job, and passion for involving as many people as possible with band sightings, in her personal time she has created a resource called "*HELP! I've seen a banded bird!*". This zine (short publication) is available for download via the Wellington Zine Fest website (<https://www.wellingtonzinefest.com/downloadablezines>):

<https://tinyurl.com/Bandedbirdszone>

This useful zine outlines how to "read" bands, how to report bands, and a "practice" band sighting page. Perfect for children cooped up at home, or to gently encourage your friend, flatmate, or family member to go out bird watching with you. It may also be particularly useful for volunteers in conservation areas who want to report banded birds but are unsure how to do so. Print it off and share it with as many people as you can!



"He aha tēnei?" Real life puzzles from behind the scenes: internal serials

Since starting her new role in the Banding Office, Annemieke has slowly been investigating some of the cabinets and boxes of materials which the Banding Office holds, and she has come across several items where she has gone "he aha tēnei?" ("What is this?"). She has found the answers to these items particularly fascinating.







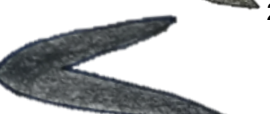


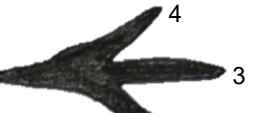











The first item in this series is a set of LN bands which have their serials internally stamped. Why was this done? – have a go, all will be revealed in the next newsletter!



Left: an unusual internal stamped LN band. Right a "normal" stamped LN band. Photo credit: Annemieke Hendriks

Puzzled: Put your best foot forward

1.) Match the footprints and bird to a foot type

Generic foot type "Footprint"	Foot type (toe arrangement)	Bird example
	 <p>Anisodactyl</p>	 <p>Otereti Ostrich</p>
	 <p>Didactyl</p>	 <p>Kakariki karaka Orange-fronted Parakeet</p>
	 <p>Syndactyl</p>	 <p>Chimney Swift</p>
	 <p>Pamprodactyl</p>	 <p>Tōrea South Island pied Oystercatcher</p>
	 <p>Heterodactyl</p>	 <p>Gartered Trogon</p>
	 <p>Tridactyl</p>	 <p>Korimako Bellbird</p>
	 <p>Zygodactyl</p>	 <p>Kotare NZ Sacred Kingfisher</p>

TRUE or FALSE?

- 2.) Welcome swallows have pamprodactyl feet.
- 3.) Parea have the same foot type as kererū.
- 4.) There are native species with heterodactyl feet in Aotearoa.
- 5.) Kiwi have tridactyl feet.
- 6.) Kākāriki have a different foot type to kākāpō.
- 7.) Emus have the same foot type as ostriches.
- 8.) The zygodactyl foot type is the second most common toe arrangement after anisodactyl.
- 9.) In pamprodactyl feet the 1st and 4th toes can move so that they look like they face backwards, giving birds with this foot structure a good ability to grip onto tricky surfaces.
- 10.) Moa had anisodactyl feet, just like kiwi.

BONUS Qs:

- 11.) What foot type does a hoiho have?
- 12.) If Jeff's comic was a scientific illustration of a kākāpō what would be wrong with the anatomy of the feet?

Puzzled: Answers to Bird Words:

Kākā

Car- car

Kākāpō

Car – Car – Night (=Pō)

Kiwi

Key - wee

Spoonbill

A bill with types of spoons on it

Yellow head

A head the colour yellow

Kākāriki

Car – car – Re: - Key

Paradise shell duck

Island Paradise – Shell - Duck

Once bitten twice shy

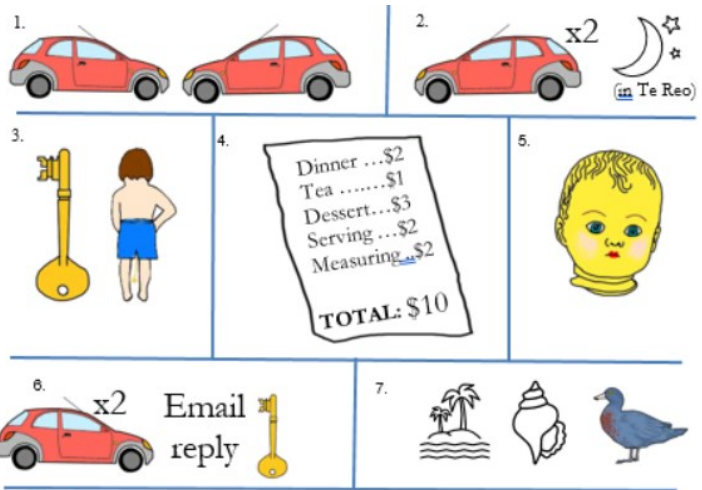
1x Bittern, 2x shy bird

Fiordland

Whio -RD - land

Kaweka

Car – weka



Saying



Places in New Zealand



Bird comic — Jeff Bell

