



REGIONAL RECORDER

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Introduction

The primary role of a Regional Recorder is to support the Regional Representative and other members of the Society to record observations of birds in the habitats where they naturally occur. The Regional Recorder contributes towards achieving one of the Society's Objectives, namely, "To promote the recording and wide circulation of the results of bird studies and observations". It is recognised that in several regions where there is no Regional Recorder the Regional Representative assumes this role.

Background

The important role of Regional Recorder seems to be undervalued in the Society. It has changed since the Society's acceptance of the eBird¹ system several years ago as the primary means of recording bird occurrence, distribution and relative abundance. The functions of the Regional Recorder are re-described here to raise the visibility and value of this role in the Society.

Ideally, a Regional Recorder should have substantial local knowledge of birds and their habitats in their own region. They should have both the enthusiasm and capability to accurately document observations using the eBird system, including contributing to the New Zealand Bird Atlas². A Regional Recorder should offer to load observations made by members who are unfamiliar with, are unwilling, or are unable to use the eBird system and to ensure the accuracy of those observations.

A Regional Recorder should work with the Regional Representative (in regions where these are separate roles) to periodically summarise observations recorded in their region. The aim is to increase popular knowledge about birds and encourage wider use of the eBird system. This nation-wide citizen-science database is a valuable tool for research, conservation and for personal interest.

Role Description

The functions described below are for guidance only. They are not firm obligations but rather are a set of principles that may be applied in each region according to local personal and regional circumstances.

Suggested functions for a Regional Recorder:

- Take the lead in recording observations of birds into the eBird system and the New Zealand Bird Atlas that are made by Society members during regional field trips, including bird censuses, e.g. wader censuses.

¹ See <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/home>

² See <https://birdatlas.co.nz/>

- Contribute to monitoring of New Zealand Bird Atlas grid squares and habitat types are not surveyed in their respective region, or are under-surveyed, and promote field trips to those grid squares.
- Encourage members to use eBird, in particular, through the New Zealand Bird Atlas, to record observations of birds in the habitats where they naturally occur. Provide training to members, if requested, about the correct use of the eBird system.
- Offer to load observations into eBird and the New Zealand Bird Atlas received from members who cannot use these internet-based systems.
- Use their best endeavours to ensure that all observations loaded into eBird are accurate in respect of species identification, location and numbers counted. Offer to help members identify bird species.
- Work with the Regional Representative (in regions where these are separate roles) to periodically summarise regional observations of species occurrence, distribution and abundance.
- Assist the Regional Representative to complete the Annual Report for the region by summarising key regional observations for that year.

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