# THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc)



# **OSNZ—Birds New Zealand**

# December 2022

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

Tēnā koutou,

I hope you are all doing well and are planning to close this year with a bang! I would like to take a brief moment here and look back on the passing year. 2022 was the first full year for me as your RR and it feels like we have done an

amazing variety of things. I would like to take a moment to highlight them here:

Our region has once again hosted a very successful series of monthly meetings in a hybrid setting. During these meetings we had talks from a diverse range of speakers covering varied topics such as: various local updates during a great members' night (Feb), the threats of sedimentation (Mar), the New Zealand banding scheme (Apr), several short talks on the NZ Bird Atlas scheme and a Rakiura tramping trip (May), Weka taxonomy (Jul), the 2021 Big Year attempt (Aug), conservation decisions for Whenua Hou Diving Petrels (Sep), Urban sugar-water feeding (Oct), Counting albatrosses on the Chathams (Nov), and saving Asia's vultures (Dec). Most of these talks were presented by local members, highlighting what a fantastic membership our region has and how many of you are keen to contribute! I couldn't thank the speakers enough! A big thanks goes also to Alan, Colin, and the other folks from Te Papa for always hosting us, and to Graeme, Stephen, and Geoff for keep the meetings running while I am in the field.

Next to the regular meetings, our region has also started and continued some fantastic monitoring schemes (aside from the current ongoing NZ Bird Atlas scheme). We started to count birds for the fifth decade in a row during monthly Pauatahanui Inlet bird surveys this year! In addition, we set everything up to start a Matiu/Somes survey next year! Furthermore, in a less scientific setting, we also organized two pelagics, one of which went ahead and was highly successful in getting close looks at a wide variety of seabird species. Another big thanks goes to all those people organising these great opportunities to get out in the field and observe some birds! Thanks heaps Ian, Shane, and Michael!

All things taken together, I think that we are closing another fantastic year in the books of BirdsNZ Wellington. I couldn't be prouder to be your RR. Thank you all for your contributions and support. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and very Happy New Year. Looking forward to catching up with you all in 2023!

Nāku noa, nā, Johannes Fischer (BirdsNZ Wellington Representative)

### Greetings

Just a short note to wish you all the very best for 2023 and a reminder that members are most welcome, in fact encouraged to provide copy for the Wellington Birds New Zealand Newsletter. Copy should have an avian connection and photographs are most welcome.

Geoff de Lisle

# **Wellington Birds New Zealand Monthly Meetings**

Note: There will not be a meeting in January.

February Meeting, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Member's night. Note, the 6<sup>th</sup> is Waitangi Day and the Wellington Birds New Zealand meeting will be held the following week. This will be a Zoom only meeting as the Te Papa-Tory Street room is not available. The meeting will be made up of short talks provided by members. Members who would like to present should contact Johannes Fischer (RR, <a href="mailto:birds.wellington@birdsnz.org.nz">birds.wellington@birdsnz.org.nz</a>). Talks should be no longer than 10 minutes and have an ornithological theme.

Note, the weblink to the February Zoom meeting will be provided later in a subsequent email.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2022, Daria Erastova, Effects of urban sugar water feeding on native New Zealand birds.

Daria's post-graduate research was devoted to various aspects of feeding urban birds including the use of sugar water. Her study revealed that the type of feeder used, season, and sugar concentration were key factors impacting bird behaviour and health. Daria has produced safe bird feeding guidelines for households. Details of her research can be found in the following papers.

Erastova DA, Stanely MC. (2020) Observations of New Zealand kingfisher (*Todiramphus sanctus*) foraging on insects associated with artificial sugar-water feeders Notornis, 2020, Vol. 67: 475-478

Erastova DA, Galbraith JA, Cain KE, van Heezik Y, Filion A, Stanley MC. (2021) Sugar water feeding practices are associated with bird species composition in urban Journal of Urban Ecology, 2021, 1-9 <a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/jue/juab018">https://doi.org/10.1093/jue/juab018</a>

Erastova DA, Galbraith JA, Stanley MC (2022) Effects of urban sugar water feeding on bird body condition and avian diseases Avian Biology Research <a href="https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/17581559221110107">https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/17581559221110107</a>

Erastova D, Cain KE, Galbraith JA, can Heezik Y. (2022) Season and sugar concentration affect bird behaviour at urban sugar-water feeders. <u>Emu</u> DOI:<u>10.1080/01584197.2022.2132961</u>

Anna Aichele, Philip Seddon and Yolanda van Heezik (2021) Intake of sugar water by kākā in Orokonui Eco-sanctuary. New Zealand Journal of Ecology <a href="https://newzealandecology.org/system/files/articles/AICHELE\_FINAL.pdf">https://newzealandecology.org/system/files/articles/AICHELE\_FINAL.pdf</a>

7<sup>th</sup> November, 2022, There were two talks at the November Meeting.

**Maxi Hernandez, Argentinian seabird bycatch risk assessment.** Maxi is in Wellington on an ACAP (Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels) secondment and gave an overview of the assessment of the Argentinian seabird bycatch.

**Peter Frost, What's in a number? Counting albatrosses and pondering the results.** Peter's talk was a summary of the work to estimate the number of Northern Royal Albatross which was commissioned by the Department of Conservation (DOC). An aerial photographic survey of Northern Royal Albatross | Toroa *Diomedea sanfordi* nesting on two groups of privately-owned islands, Rangitautahi and Te Awanui (both islands in the Rangitatahi/Sisters group) and Motuhara, was carried out on 1 February 2022. Together, these colonies hold >99 % of the global populations of this species. The resulting photographs were analysed to estimate bird numbers.

The report can be seen in the following site, <a href="https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/reports/202122-annual-plan/northern-royal-albatross-nesting-on-the-chatham-islands-february-2022-final-report.pdf">https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/marine-and-coastal/marine-conservation-services/reports/202122-annual-plan/northern-royal-albatross-nesting-on-the-chatham-islands-february-2022-final-report.pdf</a>

### 5th December, 2022, Claire Stringer, The race to save Asia's vultures – has it been won?

Claire's talk summarised the dramatic decline of Asian vultures and the steps taken to save them from extinction. She worked on this problem while employed at the RSPB (UK). Fifteen to twenty years ago there were millions of Asian vultures, now they have almost completely disappeared. The cause of the decline is vultures dying from eating cattle carcases which had been treated with the medicine diclofenac, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. Diclofenac is sold under multi brand names, including Voltaren. A multi-government / agency plan has established a multi-faceted programme to save Asian vultures. Critical components of this programme include steps taken to ban diclofenac, the introduction of substitute medicines for diclofenac, vulture safe zones, captive breeding and complementary research. Further details on the efforts to save Asian vultures can be found at <a href="https://save-vultures.org/">https://save-vultures.org/</a>.

# The return of white-faced storm petrels to Mana Island



# Friends of Mana Island NFWS

None of the white-faced storm petrels translocated in

2019–21 had been reported back at Mana Island before the visit to Mana by Colin Miskelly and Annemieke Hendriks

in October. The great news is that on the night of the 21 October Colin located a white-faced storm petrel call to one of the artificial burrows (WFSP 03) and found C-100857, one of the birds from the 2020 translocation of chicks. The news gets even better. Burrow WFSP 03 was next checked on 22 October, during the day. The toothpick fence which was installed had been disturbed, and two birds were present: C-100857 and C-100033 (2019 translocation) (Photo). On the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> white-faced storm petrel (C-100033) was captured on the surface. Annemieke caught a third bird at about 0045h on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. This bird, C-100044, was translocated as a chick in 2019.

They reported, "the capture of three white-faced storm petrels was a great result, but it is still too soon to call the translocation a success. There is no evidence of other birds returning yet (e.g. the only bird seen flying overhead at night was likely one of the three birds we (Colin & Annemieke) caught on the ground".



Friends of Mana Island (FOMI) from 2019 to 2021 managed the transfer of white-faced storm petrels / rōrō, takahikare-moana chicks from Rekohu / Chathams to Mana Island. The goal of this project is to establish a self-sustaining population of white-faced storm petrels / rōrō, takahikare-moana on Mana Island – to help restore the cycle of nutrients from sea to land, and improve the habitat for other animals and plants. Details of the transfer of white-faced storm petrels can be found on the FOMI website, <a href="https://manaisland.org.nz/white-faced-storm-petrel-translocation-project-2019-2021/">https://manaisland.org.nz/white-faced-storm-petrel-translocation-project-2019-2021/</a>. This transfer was based on the methods developed to successfully transfer fluttering shearwaters, diving petrels and fairy prions to Mana Island. An important aspect of the seabird transfers has been the important role of FOMI volunteers in providing valuable help in the feeding of birds prior to their fledging on Mana Island.

Acknowledgements. Many thanks to FOMI for permission to include these preliminary results in the Newsletter and to Colin Miskelly and Annemieke Hendriks for providing the details of their recovery of translocated birds and the photograph.



# Then there were eight: Te Papa research reveals yet another species of prion

Lara Shepherd, Colin Miskelly and Alan Tennyson, : 28 Sep 2022

New DNA research by Science Researcher Lara Shepherd and Vertebrate Curators Colin Miskelly and Alan Tennyson has revealed parallel evolution in the small seabirds called prions. This unexpected result requires recognition of an eighth species of prion. Their research also revealed that all the birds formerly known as 'fulmar prions' are endemic to Aotearoa New Zealand. This means that we have gained two additional endemic bird species, and Australia has lost a breeding

species.

The reasons for these changes to fairy prion and fulmar prion names are explained in full in our paper: <u>Genomic analyses of fairy and fulmar prions (Procellariidae: Pachyptila spp.)</u> reveals parallel evolution of bill morphology, and multiple species.

https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2022/09/28/then-there-were-eight-te-papa-research-reveals-yet-another-species-of-prion

# More prion confusion

#### Colin Miskelly » Wed Sep 28, 2022

For more than 70 years, most ornithologists and birders have recognised six species of prion, with four breeding in the New Zealand region, and the two others (thin-billed prion and Salvin's prion) regularly found beach-wrecked here in winter. Late last year, a genetic study revealed that MacGillivray's prion (which breeds on Gough Island in the South Atlantic Ocean, and St Paul Island in the southern Indian Ocean) must be regarded as a full species, rather than as a subspecies of either broad-billed prion or Salvin's prion:

### Independent evolution of intermediate bill widths in a seabird clade

https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00438-021-01845-3

This paper showed that MacGillivray's prion was most closely related to broad-billed prion. As they both breed on the same island (Gough Island) without interbreeding, they must be full species. That made seven prion species, though still only six in New Zealand

A subsequent paper published last week revealed that four of seven MacGillivray's prions that were GLS-tracked from St Paul Island spent the 2018 winter in the Tasman Sea:

At-sea behavioural ecology of the endangered MacGillivray's prion from Saint Paul Island: combining tracking and stable isotopes <a href="https://doi.org/10.3354/meps14136">https://doi.org/10.3354/meps14136</a>

Although the St Paul Island population is tiny (it got down to a few hundred pairs before ship rats were eradicated from St Paul Island), there is a high likelihood that MacGillivray's prions have reached New Zealand, where they are likely to have been misidentified as Salvin's prions if found on our beaches.

To further complicate matters, a paper published today has revealed that there are two species of 'fulmar prions' that are not each other's closest relatives:

### Then there were eight: Te Papa research reveals yet another species of prion

https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2022/09/28/then-there-were-eight-te-papa-research-reveals-yet-another-species-of-prion/?mc cid=0613ac53bb&mc eid=1be474ed85

This research showed that the chunky 'fulmar' shaped bill form has evolved twice among prions, and recommended that the Pyramid prion be recognised as a full species (confined as a breeding species to The Pyramid and the Fortyfours in the Chatham Islands). The paper also concluded that the 'fulmar' prions that breed on Heard Island (Australian territory) in the southern Indian Ocean are actually fairy prions. This means that New Zealand has gained two endemic species (fulmar prion – breeding on Snares, Bounty and Auckland Islands – and Pyramid prion), and Australia has lost a breeding species.

In summary, the Te Papa team suggest that eight species and two subspecies of prions be recognised, and that all are known or likely to occur in New Zealand:

Broad-billed prion Pachyptila vittate
MacGillivray's prion Pachyptila macgillivrayi
Salvin's prion Pachyptila salvini
Antarctic prion Pachyptila desolata
Thin-billed prion Pachyptila belcheri

Pyramid prion Pachyptila pyramidalis (Chatham Islands only)

Fairy prion Pachyptila turtur turtur

Subantarctic fairy prion Pachyptila turtur eatoni (Antipodes, Heard, Kerguelen, and Falklands islands)

Fulmar prion Pachyptila crassirostris crassirostris (Bounty and Snares Islands)

Lesser fulmar prion Pachyptila crassirostris flemingi (Auckland Islands only)

The full paper can be accessed here:

Genomic analyses of fairy and fulmar prions (Procellariidae: *Pachyptila* spp.) reveals parallel evolution of bill morphology, and multiple species

https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0275102

Recognising ten prion taxa (and eight species) as valid taxonomic entities is one thing - recognising them in the hand or in the field (other than by genetic comparisons) is the next challenge! This article was first published on BirdingNZ.net.

**The Pyramid / Tarakoikoia** (pictured) is a small, privately owned island south of Pitt Island in the Chatham Islands group. The site is a very important seabird island and is the only breeding site of the Chatham Island mollymawk. The Pyramid prion nests on The Pyramid and the Forty Fours.



Regional Representative: Johannes Fischer <u>birds.wellington@birdsnz.org.nz</u>

Regional Recorder: Peter Hodge <a href="mailto:peter.hodge@gmail.com">peter.hodge@gmail.com</a>

Pauatahanui Survey: Ian Armitage <a href="mailto:ian.armitage@xtra.co.nz">ian.armitage@xtra.co.nz</a>

Newsletter, Geoff de Lisle, osnzwelly@gmail.com

# Rare hybrid red-crowned parakeet, Mana Island, Annemieke Hendriks

In October Annemieke Hendriks saw and photographed (picture) a red-crowned parakeet on Mana Island which is home to a large population of yellow-crowned parakeets. Annemieke pointed out that it is actually a hybrid and not just a red-crowned parakeet as "there is a teeny yellow margin at the top of the red-crown".

In 2004 twenty six yellow-crowned parakeets / kakariki (eleven female and fifteen male birds), were relocated from Te Kakaho Island in the Chetwode group, Marlborough Sounds to Mana Island. This project was initiated by the Friends of Mana Island (FOMI) who obtained sponsorship from a range of businesses and individuals. The translocation was highly successful and yellow-crowned parakeets are now common throughout Mana. The largest population of red-crowned parakeets in the Wellington



region is on Kapiti Island and is a likely source of the bird Annemieke photographed. Yellow-crowned parakeets were recorded on Kapiti by Stan and Amy Wilkinson who were caretakers on the island from 1924 to 1942. While they were less common than red-crowned parakeets, yellow-crowns were also recorded by RHD Stidolph on multiple occasions during this period (eBird NZ). Yellow-crowned parakeets, as opposed to hybrids have not been verified (photographed) on Kapiti Island for many years.

Wilkinson AS & Wilkinson A. (1952) Kapiti Bird Sanctuary. The Masterton Printing Company Ltd.

# Cats & Wildlife

A new website has been developed which is devoted to the problems and challenges associated with the interaction of cats and wildlife. <a href="https://cat-lovers-gicnz.hub.arcgis.com/">https://cat-lovers-gicnz.hub.arcgis.com/</a>

An example of the information on the website is a video summarising the ongoing predation of banded dotterel nests on the Eastbourne beach. The video contains night-time footage from a trail camera of a domestic cat eating banded dotterel eggs https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EZww62HtNA.



The 2022 breeding season for banded dotterels on Eastbourne beach has been extremely disappointing with no fledged chicks being reared. Domestic cats continue to be the major cause of nest / chick failures.



# Wellington Region\* Summary (To 18th December, 2022)

Total squares 105

Total Checklists 40183 Average checklists / square 382.7

Atlasers 386

Species observed 148

For news on the New Zealand Atlas project visit their facebook page, <a href="https://www.facebook.com/NZBirdAtlas/">https://www.facebook.com/NZBirdAtlas/</a>
The most surveyed areas in the Wellington District

Square	No. Checklists	Hours	<b>Nocturnal Hours</b>	No. Species	
BZ66	6162	1900	81.76	104	Wellington South
BU68	5172	886.6	20.94	101	Kapiti & Coast
BZ67	3670	706.1	10.54	91	Wellington Harbour South
BU69	2711	886.6	7.2	89	Waikanae
BY67	2479	603.1	7.94	78	Northern Wellington Harbour
BY66	2155	661.4	16.37	74	Wellington City
BX68	15 71	362.6	5.02	50	Hutt Valley
BW67	1383	304.2	43.8	89	Mana Island & Mainland coast
BY68	1118	339.81	10.54	79	Wellington Harbour East

Check the Atlas effort map for those squares with low numbers of Checklists <a href="https://ebird.org/atlasnz/effortmap">https://ebird.org/atlasnz/effortmap</a>

# **Bird Snippets**

# Cirl bunting, Ouriati Reserve, Miramar Peninsula

September, 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Simon Lamb reports a cirl bunting was recorded on a trail camera at Ouriati Reserve, Miramar Peninsula. This was reported by Michael Szabo on BirdingNZ.net.

# Nesting falcon, Eastern walkway

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Ben Wilde, reported "a pair of nesting falcons doing family things on the walkway". The location of the birds is marked in red. Predator Free Miramar Facebook.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, Ben Wilde, "Just a friendly reminder to be vigilant, and quite possibly stay away from the walkways around the top of Beacon Hill for the next few weeks".

<sup>\*</sup>Includes the Wairarapa and Wellington regions.

"The karearea pair who nest there are getting territorial and have developed an airborne tag-team technique as good as any duo from the WWF!

Two of our trappers were shoulder-tapped at high speed this morning, and we don't want to add further stress to these majestic birds while they're protecting their nest". Predator Free Miramar Facebook



# Tokoeka / Southern brown kiwi, Kapiti Island.

Alan Tennyson & Johannes Fischer Friday, 21 Oct, 2022. Observations made while survey titi/sooty shearwaters on the back ridge of Kapiti Island. eBird checklist. 5.00am, 1 hour 35 minutes, 0.2km. BU68. Southern brown kiwi (tokoeka), One seen with metal band.

Long-tailed cuckoo (Heard by Johannes)

Sooty shearwater, 10 caught including 1 previously banded.

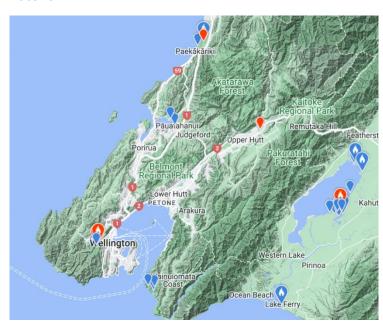
Kaka, 3, Bellbird, 4, grey warbler 1, whitehead 1, North Island kokako 2, North Island saddleback 1, North Island robin 1, blackbird 1. eBird, NZ.

### Dabchick, Zealandia

Little spotted kiwi, 1

October – December, 2022. There are multiple reports on eBird of a single dabchick being recorded at Zealandia. There have been previous reports of a single dabchick occurring in Zealandia but I (GdL) have not found any reports of them breeding at this site. The map above is the locations of dabchicks reported in 2022 in eBird. A notable sighting is a pair of dabchick occurring at Te Haukaretu Park duck pond at Maoribank, Upper Hutt. These birds successfully bred and raised at least one chick during the last breeding season.

#### Dabchick



# Common tern, Waikanae sandspit

Michael Szabo Mon Nov 7, 2022. Elizabeth Taylor has posted to Facebook 2 photos of a tern she saw at Waikanae sandspit today with a flock of WFTs. Oscar Thomas has identified it as an immature Common Tern because of its receded brownish cap, faint eye ring, and strong dark carpal bar and dark wingtips. BirdingNZ.net

### Little Tern, Waikanae

Michael Szabo » Thu Dec 01, 2022 5:46 pm Elizabeth Taylor reports via Facebook seeing a Little Tern with White-fronted Terns today on the Waikanae Sandspit today plus photos. BirdingNZ.net

### **Banded dotterel, Moa Point / Wellington Airport**

Michael Szabo, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. Three banded dotterels found, including a bird with a flag. While Michael was unable to record the details of the flag this bird's flag is known to be PHH. This bird was banded as a juvenile on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021 on the Eastbourne beach.

https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S123892469

# Cook Strait Pelagic trip – November 6<sup>th</sup>

The Seafarer II skippered by Jono Delich left the Seaview Marina at 7.00am with a full complement of 20 bird-watching passengers. The weather was great for viewing sea birds, with a moderate to light wind and a not-too-challenging swell. The sea conditions were such that most could enjoy Jono's roasted chickens for lunch. Unlike previous pelagic trips this one went out to the Cook Canyon. A plentiful supply of chum (fish scraps) attracted a good number of birds most notably lots of Salvin's mollymawks. The boat returned to the Marina at 3.30pm after a most enjoyable day birding. Special thanks to Michael Szabo and Johannes Fischer for organising the trip and to Jono the skipper (Cook Strait Fishing Charter). The following is the list of birds recorded by Michael Szabo.

Little Penguin 6
Antipodean Albatross (gibsoni) 3
Southern Royal Albatross 5
Northern Royal Albatross 5
White-capped Albatross 10
Salvin's Albatross 120
Northern Giant Petrel 8
White-chinned Petrel 10
Westland Petrel 100
Grey-faced Petrel 3
Cape Petrel 20
Common Diving Petrel 1
Buller's Shearwater 20
Sooty Shearwater 10
Flesh-footed Shearwater 2



Fluttering Shearwater 25
Hutton's Shearwater 5
Fairy Prion 25
Australasian Gannet 8
Spotted Shag 8
Pied Shag 7
Little Pied Shag 2
Canada Goose 1
Black Swan 4
Southern Black-backed Gull 60
Red-billed Gull 40
White-fronted Tern 15
Variable Oystercatcher 4
Common Dolphins 10

The branch runs several of these trips each year which are advertised to Birds New Zealand members in the Wellington region via email. You can join Birds New Zealand online here: <a href="http://www.birdsnz.org.nz/membership/join-now/">http://www.birdsnz.org.nz/membership/join-now/</a>



Left, cape petrel; above, northern giant petrel.





# **Capital Kiwi**

A major milestone in the Capital Kiwi project was reached on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, 2022 with the relocation of 11 North Island brown kiwi into to the hills above the rural western Wellington community of Mākara. The birds were sourced from the Ōtorohanga Kiwi House. All the birds were fitted with transmitters.

https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/300743552/capital-kiwi-project-to-

bring-national-icon-back-to-nations-capital-takes-flight

# Capital Kiwi Project The Capital Kiwi Project's mission is to restore a large-scale wild kiwi population to Wellington's backyard.

**The Plan.** Around 4,500 traps have been set across the 23,000 hectares. This includes existing council and community group traps targeting stoats. Approximately one half of the traps are the A24 self-setting stoat trap, produced by Wellington's own Goodnature. These gas-powered traps instantly kill stoats (and rats) and then reset themselves.

**Project Area.** The Capital Kiwi Project spans 23,000 hectares, from Red Rocks in the south, to west of Porirua. The land is a mix of private rural land and public reserve. The southwest core of the project covers 11,000 hectares of farm and scrub, taking in Terawhiti Station, Te Kopahou Reserve, Kinnoull Station, Mākara Farm and Meridian West Wind.

### The Community / Whanau

The Capital Kiwi Project is a partnership between private landowners, community, tangata whenua, Wellington City and regional councils, Predator Free 2050 Limited, the Department of Conservation, the Wellington Community Trust and a range of private philanthropists and donors.

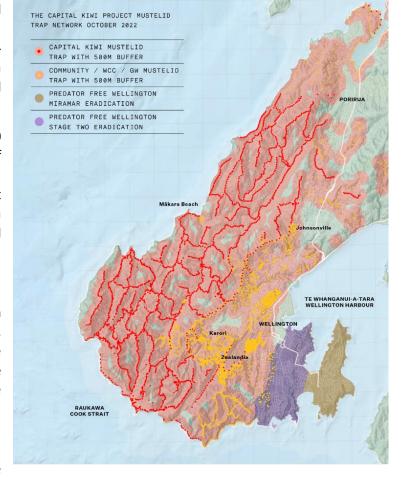
### **Funding**

The Capital Kiwi Project is a registered Charitable

Trust. Out of \$3.4m of start-up funding, support from Predator Free 2050 Limited and an enabling grant from the Wellington Community Trust were foundational.

https://www.capitalkiwi.co.nz/ https://www.facebook.com/capitalkiwi/

**News Update** Both pairs of North Island brown kiwi released on November 19 have parted ways, but all 11 birds are enjoying their new-found freedom roaming in the wild, says Paul Ward, <u>Capital Kiwi Project</u>'s founder and head. <a href="https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/300770402/splitsville-for-kiwi-couples-after-move-to-the-big-city">https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/300770402/splitsville-for-kiwi-couples-after-move-to-the-big-city</a>



# Kiwi in the Wellington region

**Little spotted kiwi / Kiwi pukupuku.** C1200 birds on **Kapiti Island**. All other populations of little spotted kiwi in New Zealand are from birds sourced from Kapiti. **Zealandia** 120 birds. Two introductions took place in 2000 and 2001, when a total of 40 birds were transferred from Kapiti Island. Now Zealandia has the largest population of little spotted kiwi outside Kapiti Island.

Rowi / Okarito brown kiwi. 26 birds, Mana Island (2019). Twenty juvenile rowi were first brought to Mana Island in 2012 to breed. Breeding was first recorded in 2016. The rowi team in 2019 was able to catch 26 birds. Of these, one adult, two sub-adults, and 5 juveniles were taken off Mana and released into the Omoeroa Ranges in South Westland. Two chicks and eight adult pairs remained on Mana. <a href="https://manaisland.org.nz/rowi-kiwi-exported-from-mana-island/">https://manaisland.org.nz/rowi-kiwi-exported-from-mana-island/</a>

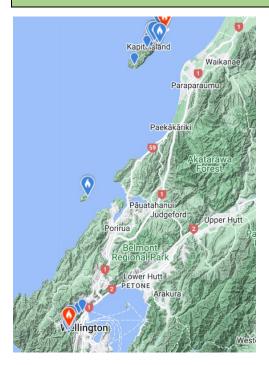
Tokoeka / Southern brown kiwi. Hybrid. C20-30 pairs on Kapiti Island. Tokoeka were introduced to Kapiti Island in 1912 where they hybridised with North Island brown kiwi (either introduced or, possibly, local). The resulting hybrids look and behave like tokoeka (Hugh Robertson pers. comm.).

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Peter-James-

<u>Lange/publication/309789956 Kapiti Island ecological restoration strategy/links/5823919708aeebc4f8987d9</u>
<u>0/Kapiti-Island-ecological-restoration-strategy.pdf</u>

**North Island brown kiwi | Kiwi-nui.** c150 birds, **Remutaka Forest Park**. More than 30 brown kiwi were introduced by the Remutaka Forest Park Trust between 2006 and 2009.

https://www.remutaka.nz/projects/kiwi/kiwi.htm



Little spotted kiwi

Kapit, Island Waik Paraparaumu

Tokoeka



North Island brown kiwi



Rowi

Kiwi eBird Checklists – all years