

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc)

OSNZ—Birds New Zealand



March 2023

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

Greetings

The change in daylight saving this weekend is a reminder that we are heading into winter. A feature of the March 23 newsletter is the stories behind members' sighting banded birds and reporting them to the DOC Banding Office. The reporting of banded birds provides valuable information to groups carrying out the banding. Another feature of these stories is the valuable role photographs play in recording banded birds. Band details can often be read from photographs which would not be discernible using binoculars. Members are reminded that photographs can be saved with eBird checklists.

Good birding, Geoff de Lisle

Wellington Birds New Zealand Monthly Meetings

We are continuing our hybrid meeting setup, thus, you can join the meeting on the first Monday of the month.

1. In person at the Te Papa Collections Building, 169 Tory Street.
2. Online via the Zoom Meeting via the following link:

Monday 13th February – Member's Night. This was a Zoom only meeting and featured a variety of short talks by members.

Ian Armitage gave a summary of the current Pauatahanui Bird Survey which is part of a series that dates back to 1982. While total numbers of birds appear to be decreasing some individual species such as Royal Spoonbill have increased. A detailed analysis of the results will be published at the end of this survey.

Etienne Ossana de Mendez introduced his PhD project on the conservation of titi (sooty shearwater) on Kapiti Island. Breeding success of titi on Kapiti is very low principally due to the predation of chicks by weka. In contrast, breeding success on Mana Island is much greater in the absence nest predators, especially weka. Etienne's studies will investigate strategies to improve the breeding success of titi on Kapiti. A video of Etienne's project can be found at the following website, <https://wildark.org/journals/saving-titi-colony-from-extinction/>

Angus Fordham summarised his weekly observation of two pairs of Variable oystercatchers nesting on the beach at Karaka Bay, on Miramar Peninsula. Both nests produced chicks and at least one of them fledged. This is a good result given the location of the nests close to a public footpath.

Dallas Bishop summarised the 2022/23 breeding history of Kahukura and Waterlow, takahe on Mana Island. They first nested in September 2022 and produced two eggs. This nest was originally thought to have failed. Another nest was produced in late December which produced a chick. A trail camera was set up on the feeder on the 24 December. Much to our surprise the trail camera pictures revealed a large chick indicating that it was the offspring of the first nest. In late January trail camera footage revealed a family of four with a big chick from the first nest and a little chick from the second nest (screen grab from video pictured above). This is only the second time takahe have known to produce chicks from two nests in the same breeding season.



Stop Press. Sadly, in March the big chick was missing and is presumed to have died.

Shane Cotter - Fluttering Shearwater Update

The following summary was first published in Mātiu Somes Panui #1. Shane reports that all the chicks have now fledged.

Last season 37 eggs were laid, 33 hatched and 30 chicks fledged from the colony. This season, we have had a similar result with 37 eggs laid, 34 hatched and so far, 26 chicks have fledged. The remaining 8 chicks are all still alive and progressing well.

The season got off to a bad start. In July / August 2022, people walking along the beaches around the lower North Island (Kāpiti coast to Hawkes Bay) reported large numbers (many hundreds) of dead fluttering shearwaters as well as other dead seabirds. This is the pre-breeding period when pairs meet up, clean out burrows and put on weight to begin breeding with the first eggs expected in the first week in September. Two breeding birds from last season never returned this season and seven other breeding adults swapped burrows and paired up with a new partner. Rather than the first eggs being laid in early September, no eggs were laid until the first week in October. In a normal year, 90% of eggs are laid by this time. With eggs being laid later, chicks also hatched later. Most chicks struggled to grow and put on weight. I expected a number of chicks to die due to starvation however each time I visit they are still hanging in there. In previous years all chicks have fledged by 15 February however this season, only 21 of the 34 chicks had fledged by that date. There are four chicks that are still going to be around for about three weeks more weeks. So in summary, though it has been struggle for them, at present they have all survived!!



Also using the artificial shearwater burrows.

- A pair of diving petrels raise a chick. For the last two seasons, two pairs have bred on Mātū and have raised a chick each. Maybe due to the same event which caused shearwaters to die, two diving petrels disappeared. Fortunately, it was a male from one burrow and a female from the other burrow so the remaining birds got together, laid an egg and raised a chick.
- A kakariki pair laid eight eggs and fledged 5 chicks from one burrow.
- Two tuatara are regularly using a number of the artificial burrows to rest in during the day.



Annemieke Hendriks concluded the series of talks with highlights of her recent visit to the West Coast of the South Island. Notable observations were the sighting of rock wren in Otira Gorge and a kea at Okarito.

Monday 6th of March Colin Miskelly, "From farm to forest – 50 years of ecological transformation on Mana Island, New Zealand". Colin gave a talk on the transformation of Mana Island from a farm to an island sanctuary with a developing forest, and a rich avian and lizard fauna. A short version of this talk is contained in the Te Papa blog shown below. A detailed paper on the Mana Island transformation has recently been published in *Tuhinga* 34 2023, 1–46 [file:///C:/Users/delisleg/Downloads/Tuhinga_article_98136_en_1%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/delisleg/Downloads/Tuhinga_article_98136_en_1%20(1).pdf) The paper contains many excellent photographs of the fauna and flora of Mana Island.

Matū / Somes Island Survey

Shane Cotter

Over the weekend, 11-12 March, five Wellington members, conducted the first quarterly bird survey of Matū / Somes Island. This survey is a repeat of bird counts conducted by members during 2002 to 2005 following the same methods and routes. The survey basically involves two teams of two, conducting a continuous count while walking the circuit track in opposite directions, followed by an inland circuit in the late afternoon on Saturday when most visitors have left the island. A circumnavigation of Matū / Somes and Mokapuna Islands by boat occurs once the land-based counts are complete. The land-based counts are repeated on Sunday morning.

In the original survey, 38 different species were identified over the four years the project ran. In March 2023, 24 species were identified including two new species not recorded in the original survey, harrier hawk and NZ falcon.

After one survey, it is too early to make any definitive comparisons yet but some observations compared to previous March counts are;

- Finch numbers are way down (greenfinch, chaffinch, goldfinch, including house sparrow) which is probably not much of a surprise as more of the island is forested now than in 2002-2005.
- Black-backed gull numbers are down by a third from around 300 to around 200.
- Shag numbers are also down, with no black shags noted at all.
- Fantail numbers have tripled.

- Kakariki numbers are also way up, again not a surprise as they have established themselves as a resident population after their translocation to the island in 2003.

Other birds of interest observed during the survey included two skua chasing white fronted terns, three reef herons at the northern end of Matiu / Somes and a single falcon visiting the island targeting kakariki and blackbirds.

Thanks to Rachael, Angus, Stephen and Monika for taking part in the survey weekend and to DOC for supporting the survey by supplying the accommodation and providing the boat with a skipper for the circumnavigation of the island. Thanks also to the Kaitiaki Board of the Wellington Harbour Islands for permission to conduct this survey on your motu.

The Capital Kiwi Project



The following is a post from the Capital Kiwi Facebook page, 19th January 2023.

“Egg-cellent news: on Mon and Tues this week Pete, Jeff, Rawiri and Paul hit the hills to check in on how the kiwi are faring, just over a couple of months since release.

The birds were located using yagi aerials and kiwi dog See. Once pinpointed, a kiwi's legs were clamped to protect the handler from its sharp raking claws, and the bird was pulled from its burrow to assess its weight and general condition.

Our expectation was that the birds would have lost some weight, coming from a captive environment to having to fend for themselves. Around half the kiwi were there or thereabouts. In a pleasing result: four birds have put on weight. Biggest gainer Wairua has put on a whopping 400gm since release (we reckon she's ordering Uber Eats from Karori). It's a good sign that there's plenty of kai available on the hills, from worms, grubs, fruit and wētā, to koura (crayfish) in the creeks.

Under Pete's watch, Jeff refreshed his kiwi GP skills, and Rawiri logged hours towards his handling certification. While feeling for Whiro's leg in a cavity under a massive fallen macrocarpa, Rawiri made an exciting discovery: an egg.

We've still got to do the maths on due dates for Taina and Whiro's capital love-chick — and we won't count our kiwi until they hatch — but this was an awesome moment for the team. We have to admit to a few goose bumps (kiwi bumps?). Mīharo!

It is the first wild kiwi egg laid on these hills in a very long time.”

<https://www.facebook.com/capitalkiwi/>

Regional Representative: **Johannes Fischer** birds.wellington@birdsanz.org.nz

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

Pauatahanui Survey: Ian Armitage ian.armitage@xtra.co.nz

Newsletter, Geoff de Lisle, osnzwelly@gmail.com

Bird Snippets

[_Godwit Petone Beach](#)

Michael Szabo Jan 08, 2023

Just saw a photo of a juvenile godwit on Petone beach posted to Facebook. BirdingNZ.net

[Black-fronted tern, Waikanae Estuary Sandspit](#)

Michael Szabo Jan 16, 2023

Roger Brent Smith reports via Facebook seeing a juvenile Black-fronted Tern at Waikanae Estuary Sandspit today plus a Little Tern and White-fronted Terns. He has posted photos here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/estuary...546371461/> BirdingNZ.net

[Ruddy Turnstone, Waikanae Sandspit](#)

Michael Szabo Jan 18, 2023

Gavin Klee reports via Facebook a Ruddy Turnstone at Waikanae Sandspit on Sunday. Photos posted here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/estuary...106303305/> BirdingNZ.net

[Spotless crane, Pauatahanui](#)

Johannes Fischer Sat Jan 21 2023

Adult and 2 chicks seen by pond.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S126555841> . Seen by a number of birders and photographers.

[Brown teal at Waimanu Lagoon, Waikanae](#)

Jan Keast Jan 27, 2023

There are three brown teal this morning at the southernmost Waimanu Lagoon. Initially one bird was seen swimming along the edge of the lagoon before moving under overhanging vegetation. It wasn't particularly wary, allowing close looks for at least half an hour. It then moved out onto the lagoon among mallards and paradise ducks, then up to the northern end, then back down the side where it was joined by another two that must have been under vegetation earlier.

Also, slightly unusual for the estuary today was a young spotted shag sitting on the edge of the water on the seaward side of the spit. Perhaps one of the ones that hatched last Spring on Kapiti Island. BirdingNZ.net

Note, the following is one of Jan's eBird checklists of nesting spotted shags on Kapiti Island. <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S98341555>

[Godwit Petone Beach Common tern, Pukerura Bay pull-in](#)

Oskar Jan 27, 2023

From today, around 5-6pm with ~350 WFTs. BirdingNZ.net

[2 Common Terns, 1 Little Tern + 1 BFT, Waikanae Sandspit](#)

Johannes Fischer Jan 21, 2023

Johannes Fischer reports 2 Common Terns and a Little Tern with 1400 WFTs at Waikanae Sandspit at 11.50am today:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S126579519>

Neill Heggarty also reports a juvenile Black-fronted Tern was there with the tern flock at 11.35am today: <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S126577492>

[Common Tern, Plimmerton](#)

Johannes Fischer Jan 21, 2023

Johannes Fischer reports a Common Tern with 1000 WFTs at Plimmerton fire station rocks this morning: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S126564220>

[Common Tern, Plimmerton](#)

Michael Szabo Jan 23, 2023 2:51 pm

1 Common Tern and 1 BFT among 300 WFTs at high tide late this morning at Plimmerton fire station rocks.

[Falcon, Mana Island](#)

Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle, 19th March, 2023

The last time we saw falcon on Mana was in October 2022. They were also recorded in April, May and June 2022. Our observations suggest that falcon are occasionally visitors to Mana rather than permanent residents.



[Common terns Kapiti Coast](#)

igor Sat Mar 11, 2023

The common terns are still about and I saw four today. One (immature) at Plimmerton and three at Waikanae (another immature but with more pronounced carpel bar and two adults in differing stages of starting to develop breeding plumage). Little tern and a couple of black-fronted also present. BirdingNZ.net

Kokako, Rangatira, Kapiti Island

Geoff de Lisle & Dallas Bishop, 27th March, 2023

A pair of kokako feeding on the lawn by the Red House at Rangatira, Kapiti Island. Kokako nested near the Red House during the last breeding season.



East Harbour Banded Dotterels

The 2022/23 breeding season for the East Harbour banded dotterels has finished and the birds are now in post-breeding mode. During this breeding season birds were monitored on the Eastbourne beach, Lake Kohangapiripiri (Pencarrow Lake closest to the lighthouse) and Baring Head. Breeding data from these areas are being collated but once again predation of nests by domestic cats on Eastbourne beach continues to be a major problem. After the breeding season banded dotterels disperse from their nesting areas. Many birds from the East Harbour congregate after the breeding season in a loose flock at Lake Kohangatera. On the 7th February 2023 the flock numbered 106 but by the 15th March only 4 banded dotterels were found at this site. There are still major gaps in the information of where the East Harbour banded dotterels go after the breeding season.

One of the flagged birds (PAP, pictured) has spent the last three winters in New Caledonia. A small number of flagged birds have in previous years been seen at Pauatahanui. On the 27th February 2023 Raewyn Empson observed 24 banded dotterels at Ration Point, Pauatahanui including a bird with a white flag, PHE. This bird was banded and flagged on the Eastbourne beach on 12/1/2021 as a juvenile. In April and July 2021 PHE was seen at Pauatahanui. During the 2022/23 breeding season PHE attempted breeding at the Pencarrow Lighthouse as well as being seen at Lake Kohangapiripiri.



Te Papa Blog

The first giant petrel fossils



[Alan Tennyson](https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2023/02/01/the-first-giant-petrel-fossils/) and [Rodrigo Salvador](https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2023/02/01/the-first-giant-petrel-fossils/), On: 1 Feb 2023
<https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2023/02/01/the-first-giant-petrel-fossils/> In 2017, Taranaki collector Alastair Johnson found the fossil of a giant petrel. Initially, it was encased in rock but careful preparation revealed something stunning. Not only was it a complete skull but it was the first fossil ever found of an intriguing kind of seabird. Two years later, Alastair found part of a wing bone of a giant petrel too. Both fossils are 3 million years old. Vertebrate Curator Alan Tennyson and Research Fellow Rodrigo Salvador describe the distinctions and fierce habits of giant petrels. The full paper can be read on the following website [A New Giant Petrel \(Macronectes, Aves: Procellariidae\) from the Pliocene of Taranaki, New Zealand](https://doi.org/10.1093/iob/obz001)==

Murmuration of Starlings, Waimanu lagoon, Jean Fleming

On the 8th February at dusk Jean Fleming took on her phone a video and a “fairly bad” photo (pictured) when walking by the Waimanu Lagoons, near the Waikanae Estuary. Jean reports that “they roost in the pied shag roost on the east side of the northern lagoon. This tree took a real battering in the cyclone the coast had before Christmas and the size of the roost is much smaller than it was (see photo, March, 2020). Jean reports that it was the first time she had seen a murmuration which was clearly shown in her video. Her estimate was there were at least 400 starlings.



There was a major starling roost on Tokomapuna (Aeroplane) Island 1km off the coast of Kapiti Island which dated back to 1913 or earlier. A total of 20,000 -30,000 flew at dusk from the mainland to Tokomapuna Island. Brockie reported in Stuff (2016) “about 10 to 12 years ago, the starlings abandoned their (Tokomapuna) island roost and today gather at the railway station instead”.

Brockie, R.E. (1983) Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) roosts and flightlines near Wellington. https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Notornis_30_3-1983-pp217-226.pdf
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/opinion/81365960/the-peculiar-roosting-habits-of-starlings>

Flagged South Island Variable Oystercatcher

Ration Point, Pauatahanui Inlet

During the Pauatahanui survey on March 5th Raewyn Empson and Helen Griffiths sighted a flagged South Island Pied oystercatcher (SIPO). Raewyn’s photograph clearly shows an orange flag and if one looks closely, a short aerial on its back.

The Banding Office (Sandy Taylor, DOC) got in touch with Anne Schlesselmann from Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research. She replied,



“This SIPO (T-2028/ Orange-42) fledged in the Rangitata River in November 2022 and then flew north late December. It initially visited Porirua Harbour, but then did a quick round trip to Napier to return to Porirua.”

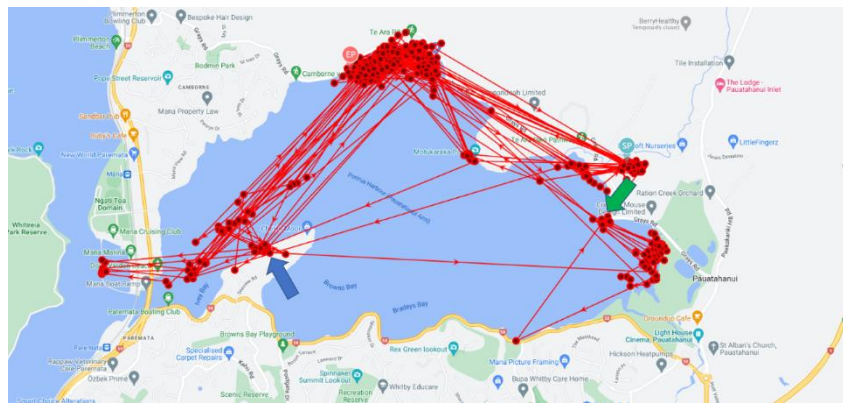
The SIPO in the Rangitata are banded as part of Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research project to better understand the full-annual cycle of our breeding migrants. Some individuals are fitted with a solar-powered GPS tag in addition to orange flags to understand fledgling to subadult survival and adult survival in more detail. For fledglings, the smaller GPS tag has two short aerials to transmit data. Excitingly for the first time, we have been able to map the very first migration a fledgling does and better understand how long-term wintering sites are chosen.

As part of a collaboration with the DOC Mobile Species team, the data on flyways and movements is shared. MWLR are banding SIPO with orange flags in the Rangitata. DOC is banding individuals with blue flags on the South Island coast during winter, apart from the Golden Bay area where BirdsNZ is banding individuals with yellow flags (these can fade to look white or depending on sunlight). Birds are banded with red flags by the Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Trust. Together we want to advance our understanding of such a mobile species.”

In response to a question from Raewyn around local site use, Anne shared the following map of *the activity over the last month. If the solar panel is charged, we get a fix every hour.*

Two arrows have been added by Wellington Birds NZ to the map. The green arrow is Ration Point where Raewyn photographed the flagged bird while the blue arrow is the location of the accompanying photograph of a flock of SIPOs taken by Geoff de Lisle during the 5th February Pauatahanui survey.

During this survey, 56 SIPO were counted between Ivey Bay and Moorehouse Point.



Help wanted

Please keep an eye out for flagged SIPO and report any sightings to the Banding Office.

If the flags are

- Orange, they have been banded in the Rangitata
- Yellow, they have been banded by BirdsNZ in Golden Bay (David Melville/Rob Schuckard)
- Blue, they have been banded by DOC (Emma Williams) around the South Island coast (apart from Golden Bay)
- Red, they have been banded at Miranda by the Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Trust (Adrian Riegen)



Acknowledgements. Special thanks to Sandy Taylor, DOC banding office and Anne Schlesselmann from Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research

Flagged variable oystercatcher – Hutt River Estuary

The attached photograph and commentary were posted by Louise Thomas on her Facebook page, 1st February 2023.

“This is not the best photo of a variable oystercatcher - it's not even the best photo I took that day, but it is interesting. I noticed he/she was tagged - meet CT7. I snapped him/her in the Hutt Estuary on 12 January and sent a report off to the Banding Office as you do and got back a very interesting report about the bird.

He/she was banded on Bell Island, Waimea Inlet, Tasman on 28/05/2022 in his/her 2nd year. Sex is unknown. CT7 is a busy chap, since banding this bird has been re-sighted at Saxton Field, Stoke, Nelson on 28/06/2022 and 19/07/2022. This bird is part of a research study on the morphometrics, population trends, longevity and movements of variable oystercatchers in the Golden/Tasman Bays region.



Tasman Bay is the most important site on the planet for Variable Oystercatchers and birds have been marked for over 20 years to get a better understanding of how they use the Bay. In addition to a good breeding population on Motueka Sandspit (and around Waimea Inlet and along the Nelson Boulder Bank), the Bay also serves as a nursery area for young birds from as far away as Kaikoura.

The researcher who banded the bird wrote that the Hutt Estuary sighting is an interesting record - "our first known trans-Cook Strait movement. Please encourage the reporter to keep submitting sightings as it will be very interesting to see what happens to it!"

So, if you see CT7 don't forget to report him/her to the banding office."

<https://www.facebook.com/louisethomaswriter>

Special thanks to the Banding Office for supplying the excellent feedback.

Designation of a neotype for *Eudyptula minor* (Aves: Spheniscidae)

COLIN M. MISKELLY, LARA D. SHEPHERD & ALAN J.D. TENNYSON, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, PO Box 467, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

<https://mapress.com/zt/article/view/zootaxa.5228.1.6/49700>

Holotype and neotype are two kinds of type specimens. Holotype is a specimen designated by the original describer of the form, to be the single physical example of a species. Neotype is a specimen chosen when the available holotypes have been lost or destroyed.

While taxonomy is often thought to be an esoteric art, it is an essential component of ornithology. The setting of conservation priorities relies heavily on well researched taxonomic studies. Advances in DNA technologies, especially DNA sequencing is making an ever-increasing contribution to the classification of birds. The Checklist of the birds of New Zealand. Fifth Edition. 2022 recognises two subspecies of Little penguin, *Eudyptula minor minor* (the New Zealand Little penguin) and *Eudyptula minor novaehollandiae*, (the Australian Little penguin). Both these subspecies occur in New Zealand. The two forms are genetically distinguishable but they are not identifiable in the field. Subspecies *E. m. albosignata*, *chathamensis*, *iredalei* and *variabilis* are no longer recognised, and are treated as synonyms of *E. m. minor*. *Eudyptula. m. albosignata* referred to the white-flipped penguin whose distribution was reportedly restricted to the Canterbury region.

The paper by Miskelly and his Te Papa colleagues describes a neotype for *E. minor* created because the original type description of *Aptenodytes minor* did not identify a type specimen. Forster in his 1781 publication mentioned both Dusky Sound and Queen Charlotte Sound in the type locality. DNA studies have revealed the Australian clade in the south-east coast of New Zealand (Otago) as well as a single bird from Taumaka/Open Bay Islands (West Coast, 275km north of Dusky Sound) and two birds in Westport. The Australian and New Zealand clades both occur in the Otago region (sympatric) and the recent findings indicate the area of sympatry for the two clades may include all of Fiordland. The neotype comes from Queen Charlotte Sound and has been genotyped as being from the New Zealand clade of *Eudyptula minor*. This designation will preserve nomenclatural stability for both New Zealand Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor minor*) and Australian Little Penguin (*E. m. novaehollandiae*).

Checklist of the birds of New Zealand. 5th Edition, 2022, <https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/society-publications/checklist/sphenisciformes-penguins/#Little-Penguin>

White-flipped little penguins? – Matiu / Somes Island

The two photographs of Little penguin chicks were taken on Matiu / Somes island on 9th December, 2014 (left) and 6th of February, 2023 (right).



Te Papa Blog

From farm to forest – the transformation of Mana Island

By: [Colin Miskelly](#) On: 7 Mar 2023

<https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2023/03/07/from-farm-to-forest-the-transformation-of-mana-island/>

Mana Island, near Wellington, is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's conservation success stories. Farmed for more than 150 years, the island is now covered with forest that is overflowing with an abundance of endemic birds, lizards and insects. Using pairs of images taken 50 years apart, natural history curator Dr Colin Miskelly describes how and why the island was transformed from a farm to a thriving sanctuary

New Zealand Garden Bird Survey

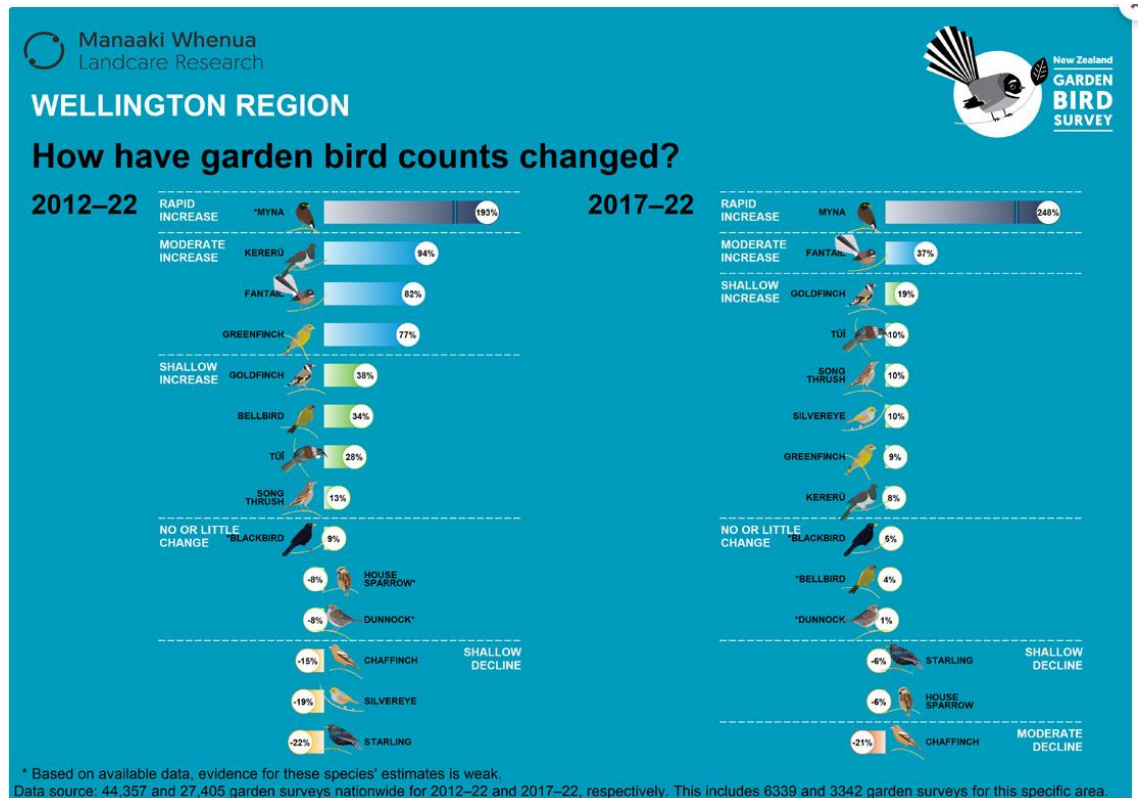
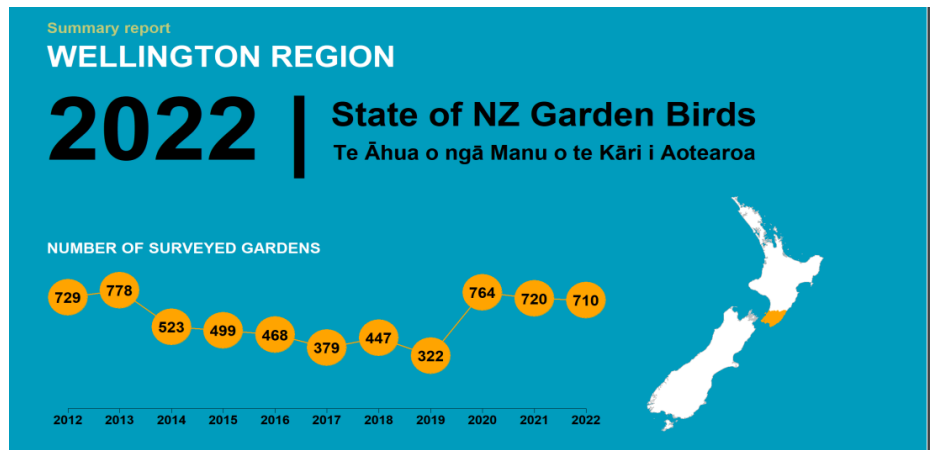
The next New Zealand Garden Bird Survey is on the 24th of June to the 2nd of July, 2023. The instructions for the survey can be found on the following weblink <https://gardenbirdssurvey.nz/>. Members are encouraged to participate.

Pictured below is the summary of the number of Wellington and Wairarapa Gardens surveyed from 2012 to 2022. The summary for the 2022 Survey can be found on the following weblink . <https://gardenbirdssurvey.nz/results/report-2022/>

The graphic below shows how the counts have changed over the last 5 years and over the 10 years for which the survey has been running. The biggest species increase in the Wellington region has been the increase in the counts of myna.

“The trend of little or no change in myna (maina) counts nationally continues, as does the trend of shallow increases in their counts in four regions over 10 years. Their counts continue to show a rapid increase in Wellington over both 10- and 5-year periods (193% and 248%, respectively), and now show a rapid increase in Manawātū-Whanganui (49%), a moderate increase in Gisborne (30%), and a shallow increase in Taranaki (12%) over 5 years.”

These figures need to be interpreted with some caution, especially since they are percentages and not actual numbers. The myna numbers for Wellington appear to contrast those found in eBird. The eBird Atlas project will give a good indication of the number and distribution of myna in the Wellington/Wairarapa region.



Total squares	105		
Total Checklists	43645	Average checklists / square	415.7
Atlasers	423		
Species observed	148		

*Includes the Wairarapa and Wellington regions.

For news on the New Zealand Atlas project visit their facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/NZBirdAtlas/>

The Wellington Region which includes the Wairarapa has made a huge contribution to the Atlas Scheme with over 43645 checklists and an average of 415.7 checklists / square. However, there is still much work to be done. On the 1st of March we entered the penultimate Autumn Season. The accompanying map shows the Zero Effort Grid Squares Autumn Season 2019-2023. These include a number in the Wellington Atlas region. While they are in the Wairarapa, Wellington members are most welcome to help populate some of these areas.



Global Big Day - 13 May 2023

By NZ Bird Atlas & eBird Team March 25, 2023

Be a part of birding's biggest team! [Global Big Day](#) is an annual celebration of the birds around you. No matter where you are, join us virtually on 13 May, help celebrate [World Migratory Bird Day](#), and share the birds you find with eBird. Remember, your Atlas checklists can still contribute to the day's effort.

Participating is easy—you can even be part of Global Big Day from home. Remember you do **NOT** need to switch portals to contribute! Submitting as you do to the [NZ Bird Atlas portal](#) contributes towards the big day count. If you can spare 5 or 10 minutes, report your bird observations to eBird online or with our [free eBird Mobile app](#).

<https://ebird.org/atlasnz/news/3497>

