

TŌREA PANGO



NELSON BRANCH BIRDS NZ. NEWSLETTER ISSUE 9. August/Sept 2023

Another very full newsletter with of all sorts of good birdy stuff. So much in fact that I've had to expand the page margins and also compress the file size as it was way too big to send as an email in its original form. Hopefully this won't make it difficult to open. I do try to report on the content of talks from our meetings, but really, it's impossible here to give more than a bare bones summary of what could be an hour-long presentation. However, if you speak at a meeting, please feel free to send me any photos and a summary of your talk to be included in the newsletter. It is gazetted nationally and so any information you present is exposed to a wider audience outside of our group. As always, a big thanks to all contributors.

SUMMARY OF LAST MEETINGS

August 7th

27 members attended the August meeting.

- Winifred Long gave an excellent presentation on the Remutaka kiwi translocation project. (see below)
- David Melville gave us an entertaining but very insightful talk on the recent Rook sighting in Tasman and the reaction to it. "A Rook, fake news and alternative facts" (see below)
- Rebecca showed us recent photos of BF terns and banded dotterels
- Robin Toy ran a wee "Spot the Bird" competition and showed us just how good a job a phone camera can do on friendly keas. (See below)

September 4th

Wow! 36 people attended the September meeting. While it seems unlikely, Paul G is convinced that the recent surge in attendance to what is surely an all-time record is largely due to his rugged good looks and vivacious personality. Yep. Anyway, something is drawing in the crowds and our meetings have really started to take on a lively and thriving atmosphere. Certainly, having quality speakers and presentations is a big draw and thanks are due not just to the speakers but also to those who have sourced and organised them.

- Ruth Bollongino spoke on 'Bioacoustic monitoring of forest birds in the Abel Tasman National Park'.
- Rob Jones gave an update on the Australian wood duck project.
- Alison Ballance reported on a recent trip to Norfolk Island.
- David Melville gave an Atlas update on behalf of Robin Toy (who couldn't be there because he was atlasing on the west Coast!)

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to the following people in our area who have joined Birds NZ.

Jenny Edwards, Jennie Warr, Scott Burnett' Hammond Lakisa, Robin Jones, Petra Meinsma, Cid Wilkie, Timothy Lole, Graham Usshe.

AN APOLOGY

You can't (well at least I don't seem to be able to) put together a copy of Tōrea Pango without having to apologise to someone in the next one. It just wouldn't feel right. So, my apologies to Robert Schadewinkel from the Brook Sanctuary, who gave the excellent talk at the July meeting, for the incorrect

information I gave in my summary. Clearly this is a sensitive topic and it is important that the correct information is disseminated. Hopefully the email from Robert (below) clarifies the use of 1080.

Hi Paul

Thanks for the kind review of our talk during the last meeting!

A small but important correction please. You have written:

“The terrain makes it almost impossible for volunteers to climb the almost vertical slopes to set traps and, so far, the only means of pest control is 1080 which remains unpopular with some sectors of the public. However, it has proved effective and the Brook represents the only Southern beech forest in the world which has only mice as pests.”

This is not correct; I was talking about the halo around the Sanctuary. We, the BWS, do not use any toxins. We are pest free and do not need to. Any incursion response, following a fence breach for example, is with traps and poisons are only used to target any trap shy individual. And we would never use 1080 (which requires a controlled substance license and public notification)!

The backcountry conservation estate around the sanctuary does not receive any small mammal pest control and in order to achieve an effective halo landscape scale small mammal pest control (using aerially applied bait laced with sodium fluoroacetate aka 1080) appears to be the only option.

Many thanks,

Robert

SOME STUNNING PICS FOR STARTERS

Rebecca Bowater is a very unassuming person, belying her talent as an extraordinarily skilled and patient photographer. Every now and then I hassle Rebecca for some photos for the newsletter. As someone who would struggle to get an in-focus picture of a barn door set in concrete on a still day, I’m always amazed by the quality of what she sends through. Many thanks for your continued contributions.



Robin, taken in the (1080 free!) Brook Sanctuary. Stunning. OK I’ve recently visited Specsavers but you can almost see every barbule on every barb!



Some lovely studies of black fronted tern taken at the Boulder Bank, each showing aspects of plumage and behaviour.



And also on the Boulder bank these black billed gulls, with clearly identifiable rings. Rebecca sent the details to the NZ National Bird Banding Scheme and received this information.

Common name: Black-billed Gull, Tarāpuka

Scientific name: Chroicocephalus bulleri

Metal band number: E-224320

Other markings: Alphanumeric band – White band black text J20

Date banded: 15/12/2012

Age/Sex at first marking: Chick / Unknown

Banding location: Upper Wairau River, Marlborough

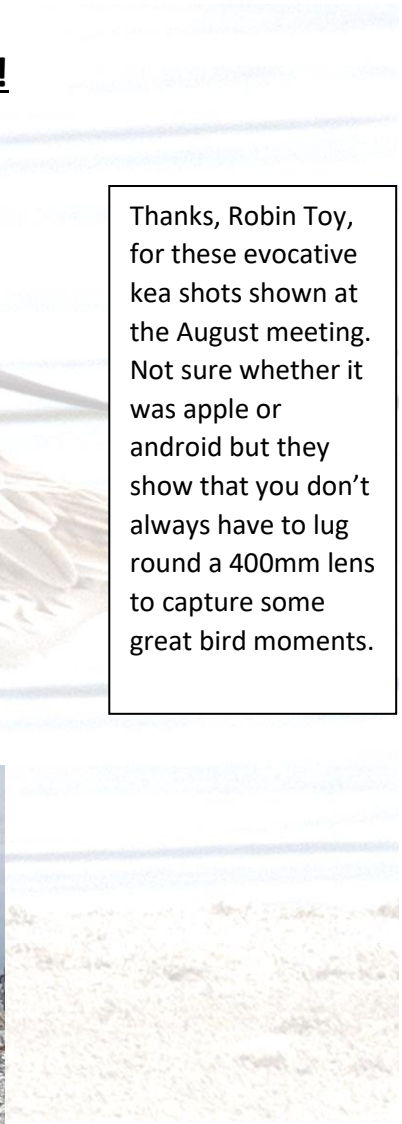
These birds are part of a long term project run by Mike Bell that studies and monitors the survival and longevity of the endangered Black-billed gull. The study began in 2009 and is ongoing.

These are excellent re-sightings and we are very pleased to have received them. They will be added to our database. Thank you for contributing to the NZ National Bird Banding Scheme – it is much appreciated.'

BUT LOOK WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH A PHONE CAMERA!



Thanks, Robin Toy, for these evocative kea shots shown at the August meeting. Not sure whether it was apple or android but they show that you don't always have to lug round a 400mm lens to capture some great bird moments.



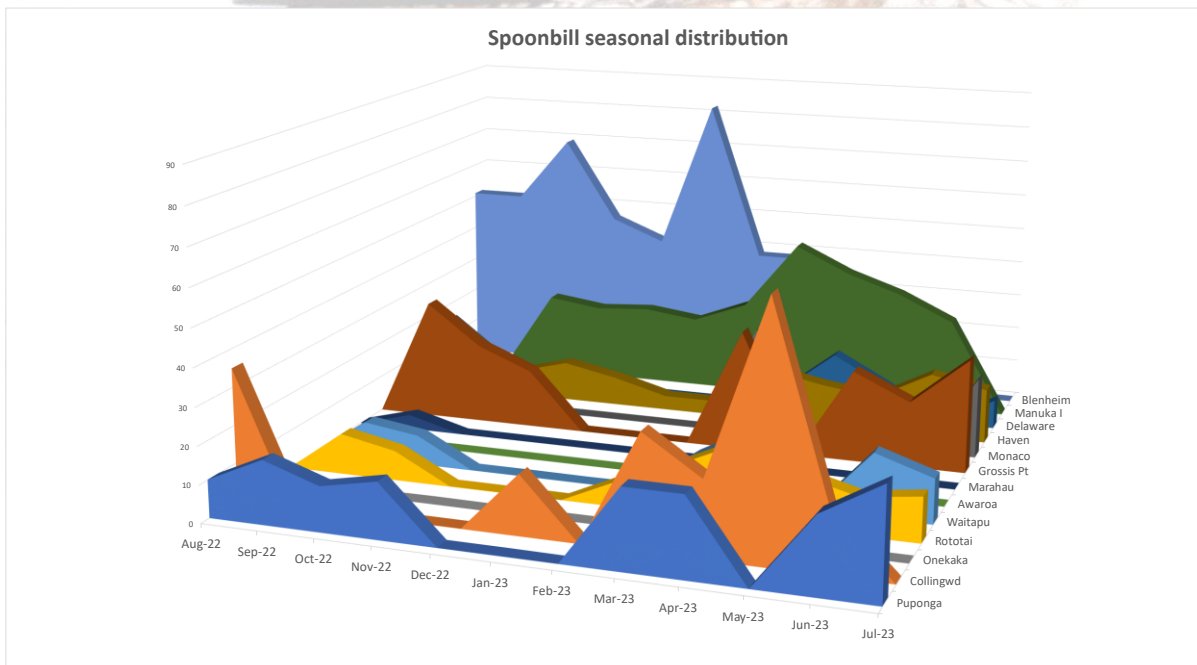
AND SPOT THE BIRD

Robin gave us a wee 'spot the bird' competition at the September meeting (photo left) And if you enjoyed that, photo right is a picture of a bird I took in Morocco a few years back.



ROYAL SPOONBILLS IN TASMAN/GOLDEN BAY Peter Gaze

For the last year a group of 12 or so members have been counting spoonbills at their high tide roosts. While we have tried to be consistent in where and when we count, the birds have been somewhat fickle in where they choose to roost. Nevertheless, we now have a record of seasonal changes that could possibly describe a gradual migration to and from their breeding grounds in the Wairau estuary. You may want to draw your own conclusions from the data presented in this 3D graph produced by Jane.



The counts we did, were restricted to designated high tide roosts and therefore gave an underestimate of the total number of birds present. An attempt at a total census was done on 19 August and -The third stage of this little project will hopefully come next year as our Marlborough colleagues begin banding some of the birds at the breeding colony. If all goes well, we may even be able to have repeated sightings of individual birds as they move across the range.

WHAT -NO THRUSH NESTS?????

Shame on y'all. Not a thrush nest in sight? David is just going to have to eat those chocolate fish all himself which I'm sure is not good for his health.



FROM AROUND THE WORLD



This photo has apparently gone "viral" (apologies to whoever's intellectual property it is but I can't find a source to attribute it to) I'm embarrassed to say that despite seeing numerous griffons of several different species I had no idea that their name was due to this extraordinary threat/ defence display. You need a hundred lifetimes with birds and then you'd only scrape the surface.


A ROOK, FAKE NEWS AND ALTERNATIVE FACTS David Melville

David's presentation at the August meeting was not only highly entertaining, but also highlighted the hysteria and scaremongering that increasingly seems to develop when people move away from evidence based scientific thinking. It all starts with the apparent sighting of a rook in the Tasman district. Rooks, despite determined efforts to extirpate, are still present in Hawkes Bay and Canterbury.

The screenshot shows two Facebook posts. The top post is from Tasman District Council, dated July 19 at 3:18 PM. It contains text about a sighting of a rook in the Stoke area and includes a link to a video. The bottom post is from Nelson City Council, dated 20 July 2023. It contains text about a rook sighting in the Stoke area and includes a link to a video. Both posts include a photo of a rook perched on a branch.

An alleged sighting of a rook in the Tasman district elicited this, at best misinformed, publicity from our Councils


Rooks
Corvus frugilegus



A large black bird with a violet-blue glossy sheen. Large flocks cause serious damage to horticultural crops. It is an intermittent visitor from rookeries in the lower North Island and reported sightings in the past have generated a rapid response. Effective control in adjoining regions has prevented further arrivals in recent years.

Production pest
Unwanted organism
TDC

Rooks



Rooks are a noticeably large glossy black crow-like bird that grows up to 450mm in length. They have a distinctive grey bill with a pale area at the base of the beak. Rook populations are controlled in New Zealand and tend to avoid humans. However, they prey on introduced and native species, including small and ground nesting birds, lizards and invertebrates and eat birds' eggs.

Pests - seek and destroy
Hunting Tasman's most unwanted pests

A little research by David found this information in the TDC pest management plan-Again with dubious claims about diet.



New Zealand Birds Online
The digital encyclopaedia of New Zealand birds

Porter, R.E.R. 2013 [updated 2017]. Rook. In Miskelly, C.M. (ed.) New Zealand Birds Online. www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz

Food

The main foods of rooks are invertebrates, especially fly larvae and adult beetles and larvae (grass grub) during warmer months. Walnuts and acorns are taken in autumn and winter. When these foods are scarce, cereals are taken mainly from stubble. Other important foods are carrion, earthworms, peas, grass and clover. Foods fed to young rooks are similar to those eaten by adults except that the young are fed more striped dung fly larvae and a few blowfly larvae.




Compare the above to the information available from NZBO!

Niki Trigg
What a horrible cry, I listened to the clip. Eewww horrible bird.
Like Reply 2w



Paul Barrett
Dennis Goodman Do you have a sound knowledge of the species and its habits. Because the information provided above about it is highly suspect.subjective and emotionally driven.

Charlie Johnson
What happens to it if you catch it?
Like Reply 2w

Thoryn Stephens
Charlie Johnson One can only hope they kill it.
Like Reply 2w

Vanessa Beetson
Charlie Johnson hopefully they don't catch it but shoot it.
Like Reply 2w

Vanessa Beetson
People need to watch one take the eyes and tongue from a calf while being born before thinking killing these things is a bad idea.

The council's misinformation of course amplified public response! Praise be to Paul Barrett, whoever he may be, for an interlude of sanity.

So where have the Councils obtained their "Rookist" information? Clearly not from the obvious experts- Birds NZ. So maybe from this 1918 gem? -- Or possibly as David's lovely slide below suggests from Alfred Hitchcock?

Vol. XVIII] Emu 1918 *Siray Feathers.* 75

"Rooks Killing Sheep.—Damage in Hawke's Bay.—Farmers in Hawke's Bay are complaining of depredations of Rooks among their flocks. The Rooks have acquired the habit of attacking not only lambs, but full-grown sheep, and the losses in some parts of the district are becoming serious. The birds attack the flocks not only in the daytime, but also during moonlight nights, and one farmer near Farndon has lost scores nightly. The Rooks attack the throats of the sheep, and numbers can be seen in the paddocks with open wounds. One was seen with its head completely severed with the exception of the spinal column. The birds also eat the flesh right down the middle of the back, rendering the skin quite useless. As the Rooks are protected, the position is serious in some parts of the district. Representations are being made to the Government on the subject." The above paragraph cutting is from the *Auckland Weekly News*, and may be of some interest as showing some of the troubles of an Acclimatization Society. —Communicated by Dr. F. J. ICKHEWINS. Manaia, Taranaki, N.Z., 9/6/18.

At one time rooks were accused of attacking and killing lambs— but this was never substantiated.

<https://teara.govt.nz/en/introduced-land-birds/page-7>



THE REMUTAKA KIWI TRANSLOCATION PROJECT Winifred Long

Winifred Long gave a great talk at the August meeting on the Remutaka Kiwi Translocation Project. Although 'retired', she still works with 10 different conservation groups on reporting and data management. The kiwi translocation project is the biggest part of the Remutaka conservation trust's work.

Remutaka Conservation Trust

Our Mission:
To protect and restore the natural vegetation and wildlife of the Remutaka Forest Park and to foster community understanding and appreciation of the Park.

Our Vision:
A thriving forest ecosystem, rich in indigenous species, which can be enjoyed by the wider community.

Remutaka Conservation Trust

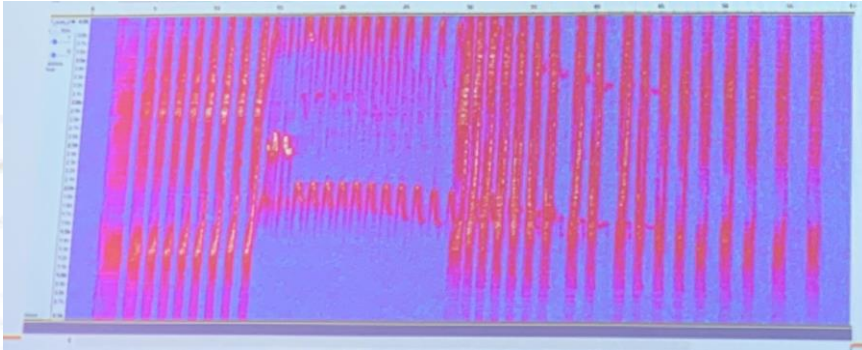
There have been 20 years trapping and predator control in the release area, totally run by volunteers who are split into 26 Trapping groups! Winifred said that the project has not been without conflict, with the Wainuiomata Water Conservation group wanting to make a fenced park around their land which would have cut across the current Remutaka area and prevented kiwi movement.

Winifred gave us some background on the Remutaka trust and the history of kiwi release into the area. The trust has a number of ongoing projects including;

- The kiwi programme predator control and monitoring
- Lizard Monitoring
- Restoring the dawn chorus!

- A plant nursery and wetland

As a data manager Winifred had to answer the big questions **“Are we protecting Kiwi?”** and – **“Are they self-sustaining or better still expanding?”** Obviously to do this quality information was needed on Kiwi numbers and locations. The birds originally released were banded with transmitters and tracked with antennae. However, in 2020 the decision was made to remove transmitters from all kiwis present, to reduce stress on both kiwis and volunteers and as an alternative method was needed, placing greater reliance on acoustic recorders. From the start DOC AR4 acoustic monitors have been used.



This recording is of a male /female 'duet'

Obviously, it is important that recorders are sited and moved to ensure the entire area is covered. Calls are easy to record but hard to analyse! Recorders are put out for two weeks at 55 sites and recordings made for 30 minutes between 7.00 -7.30 am. for 14 days. This totals to a huge number of hours over a two-week period and a small sample is taken from each recording to make it manageable. 'Audacity' software is now being trialled and utilised to analyse recordings and will hopefully make this easier. An A.I. program is also being trialled to monitor video footage from camera traps.

So, we all wanted to know what all this data tells us about the success of the release project. Well as the slide shows-it looks like very good news. In fact, not only are numbers increasing but the range is expanding with kiwi popping up all over the place!

NORFOLK ISLAND BIRDING Alison Ballance

At the September meeting, Alison reported on a recent visit to Norfolk Island. I don't know if it was specifically a birding trip, but well to be honest, isn't every trip?? I have extracted some of the slides from the excellent power point she presented. Hopefully they are largely self-explanatory.



Number of species:
185 / 186

Norfolk Island has 185/6 species of birds recorded with 4 relatively recent extinctions: Norfolk ground dove *Alopecoenas norfolkensi*, New Zealand pigeon *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*. Norfolk Island kaka *Nestor productus*. White-chested white-eye *Zosterops albogularis*



Norfolk Island green parrot

- Fewer than 50 individuals remained by 1970s
- “In 2013, a population of between 46 and 92 individual birds with only 10 adult females (Ortiz-Catedral 2013)” ...
- “An intensive recovery program was implemented throughout the national park which resulted in 58 chicks successfully fledging in the 2014 calendar year, of which 27 were female”
- <http://www.environment.gov.au>
- Predator-proof nest sites, restoring habitat and controlling rats, cats and rosellas
- Plan to translocate to Phillip Island



Norfolk Island morepork

- 1986 - single female bird, named Miami
- Rarest bird in the world
- Two male moreporks from the New Zealand subspecies *Ninox novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae* were introduced
- One male, Tintola, produced four offspring with Miami
- Population today est. 20-25 moreporks

“There is a strong argument that the taxon should be categorized as Critically Endangered because, on average, approximately half the nuclear genome of the original taxon and all the mitochondrial DNA is conserved in all living owls on the island”

Garnett, S., Olsen, P., Butchart, S., & Hoffmann, A. (2011). Did hybridization save the Norfolk Island boobook owl *Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata*? *Oryx*, 45(4), 500-504. doi:10.1017/S0030605311000871

Photo Norfolk morepork from Norfolk Moreporks Facebook page

from Norfolk Moreporks Facebook page



Wedgetail shearwaters breed on the island and are known locally as ghost birds because of their eerie wailing call. Recent studies into the diet of local tiger sharks (of which Norfolk boasts the largest population on the planet) has shown that wedge-tailed shearwaters, sourced at Norfolk Island, make up the majority of their menu.



Thanks Allison!

JULY SHOREBIRD CENSUS Rob Schuckard

Rob Schuckard writes:

'Hi all, the OSNZ shorebird census took place between 6 and 10 July. While weather was, apart from Sat 8th July. 'favourable', the Farewell Spit team experienced the worse weather conditions on record on the 8th. Driving rain with easterly winds made this count of marginal relevance to be incorporated for long term trends. Only about 50% of birds expected were counted at this site.

Just over 11,000 shorebirds were counted in Top of South Island, 81% endemic. Golden Bay had about 2,700 shorebirds, Tasman Bay 5,100 and Farewell Spit 3,500. In total 9 species were recorded.

At Farewell Spit, in particular the number of SIPO was the lowest ever recorded. In other areas, SIPO was also feeding in paddocks and numbers may have been affected by birds moving land inwards and it is likely that birds have been missing as a result. As said before, we may have to reconsider if July is the right time for counting SIPO. Arrival of SIPO in Canterbury is known to be around mid-July and tagged birds are moving southwards from North Island around that time as well.

Thanks again for all your input, this ongoing commitment is very much appreciated!! Thanks to Department of Conservation their continuous support to provide car and accommodation for Farewell Spit.

Kind Regards Rob'

Please note Numbers at this stage are provisional.

Spring	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Oystercatcher	603	2185	2674	1692	1018	1433	458	1463	1436	1062	1263	1099	1865	1150	1784	1105	1298	1436	1803	1948	1215	1651	1402	1223	1172	1151	1719			
Banded Dotterel	38	53	8	61	24	42	7	28	19	30	18	10	68	29	30	26	11	19	20	10	14	19	22	40	13	21	14			
Bar-tailed Godwit	7627	11360	7993	11541	15238	9622	3183	9927	10460	8171	6190	9326	13813	6950	14543	8340	11733	9161	9815	10536	7955	9537	8676	9545	9667	9444	11600			
Ruddy Turnstone	486	515	529	725	423	671	393	578	387	195	305	188	1029	399	339	233	169	367	431	280	294	246	143	552	515	158	415			
Red Knot	5332	8308	7763	6749	9373	6732	728	7788	9942	8691	3489	3471	12416	8207	10360	6997	7764	11669	8207	7955	7033	8247	8122	7862	6751	8165				
Summer	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
SI	8381	8426	6377	8608	8429	4934	9622	5116	8004	6773	7860	7950	7223	4458	6782	5057	5375	8378	11025	8044	8326	7773	5319							
Banded Dotterel	532	1132	517	691	993	496	604	564	479	1066	1413	764	986	271	864	402	570	518	1029	1085	985	737	614							
Bar-tailed Godwit	15015	14029	18338	13511	12536	10246	13150	8805	8881	11046	13004	15723	13664	10228	11046	9620	10272	14860	12748	11616	9303	10435	10766							
Ruddy Turnstone	108	649	921	845	734	505	692	993	385	710	751	469	920	463	540	451	320	371	622	405	395	368	433							
Red Knot	6780	6663	6795	6258	5229	7762	6532	9026	8662	10290	9812	9450	6777	10058	9773	7067	8172	12615	6697	12171	6570	6467	10331							

Most numerous waders of Golden Bay Red foot - poor count; Red cel - minimum since 1996; Green cel - maximum since 1996.

Winter	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Oystercatcher	1201	1227	1808	1708	1971	1582	1098	2552	1538	2807	6657	8326	7983	1968	2194	3129	4058	4114	5659	3320	5227	5493	5762	4406	3380	2938	2076			
Banded Dotterel	86	300	103	102	31	321	112	235	320	355	445	426	230	627	388	230	252	47	97	156	41	151	51	27	199	80				
Bar-tailed Godwit	136	80	69	376	78	81	100	251	153	199	178	823	227	133	284	173	26	162	98	200	86	197	197	107	100	69				
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Red Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Spring <th>1996</th> <th>1997</th> <th>1998</th> <th>1999</th> <th>2000</th> <th>2001</th> <th>2002</th> <th>2003</th> <th>2004</th> <th>2005</th> <th>2006</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>2023</th> <th>2024</th> <th>2025</th>	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
SI	458	659	1247	1020	1385	1673	1049	2542	2039	3535	1769	1877	1799	1255	1167	1560	1183	1643	2574	2272	1180	1797	1509	1547	912					
Banded Dotterel	13	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Bar-tailed Godwit	820	515	2285	1117	2174	1509	2825	2691	2486	2568	1418	2937	2446	2930	2560	1716	1757	2174	2116	1134	2549	1820	1820	1203	1497					
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Red Knot	39	220	0	0	0	0	0	147	204	46	145	17	39	110	192	100	0	3	5	37	109	41	20	30						
Summer <th>1997</th> <th>1998</th> <th>1999</th> <th>2000</th> <th>2001</th> <th>2002</th> <th>2003</th> <th>2004</th> <th>2005</th> <th>2006</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>2023</th> <th>2024</th> <th>2025</th>	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
SI	458	5549	5509	5523	4684	6968	5062	10198	7345	7863	7266	7427	5179	4551	6339	7705	5823	6022	7295	8194	6150	7284								
Banded Dotterel	1	67	34	9	51	488	367	107	131	131	347	244	209	3	73	232	75	250	23	201	201	170								
Bar-tailed Godwit	224	1683	1027	1361	996	1576	2621	2434	1821	2356	2876	3696	3526	2856	1650	1395	2582	3461	2618	2320	2006	1991	1725	2513						
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Red Knot	5	66	70	0	0	320	300	300	201	190	200	200	200	200	404	110	120	80	37	53	183	50	210	3						

Most numerous waders of Tasman Bay Red foot - poor count; Red cel - minimum since 1996; Green cel - maximum since 1996.

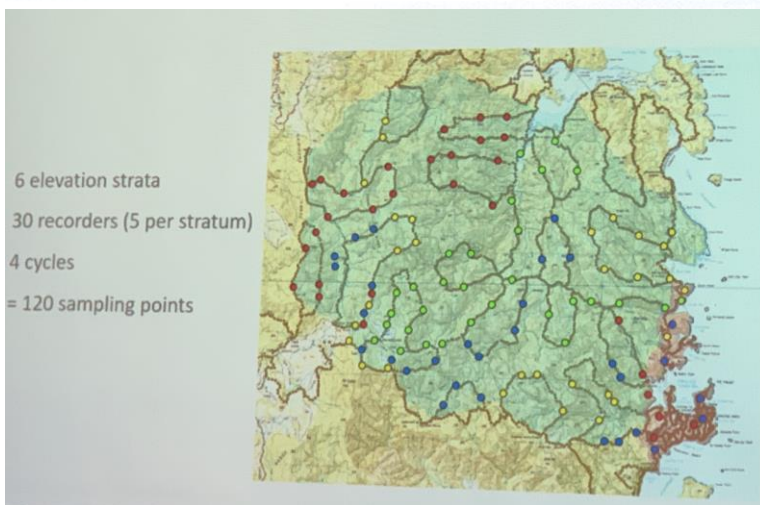
Winter	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Oystercatcher	945	1743	3448	1648	2337	2928	1285	8110	3665	3697	4882	5570	3394	4819	3093	2684	3536	3420	3461	3514	4742	3185	2010	2209	2726					
Banded Dotterel	95	95	16	76	166	156	283	110	133	192	243	120	201	303	94	43	277	162	293	61	317	197	160	141	168	68				
Bar-tailed Godwit	133	422	903	536	33	227	305	442	472	680	819	696	589	370	505	115	182	257	454	180	353	528	435	437						
Ruddy Turnstone	14	1	0	27	3	20	6	1	45	5	3	28	45	3	28	45	3	0	68	5	18	20	6	58	37	18	2	0		
Red Knot	0	0	15	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Spring <th>1996</th> <th>1997</th> <th>1998</th> <th>1999</th> <th>2000</th> <th>2001</th> <th>2002</th> <th>2003</th> <th>2004</th> <th>2005</th> <th>2006</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>2023</th> <th>2024</th> <th>2025</th>	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
SI	678	418	575	879	726	1202	838	1382	1409	1056	1481	819	934	791	856	960	746	619	583	1113	1738	730	1223	1214	981	600				
Banded Dotterel	41	11	1	21	24	27	37	67	16	62	29	15	38	42	28	27	32	31	34	21	31	34	34	9	17	13				
Bar-tailed Godwit	4300	3830	3015	3204	3596	3947	2639	2531	2434	4520	4442	2844	3905	5046	4342	3219	4292	4541	4027	3794	3802	4149	3884	4529	3605	4050				
Ruddy Turnstone	163	13	135	110	115	135	71	100	130	78	178	50	74	167	33	135	84	182	118	127	170	161	196	240	205					
Red Knot	160	310	392	548	235	300	499	430	773	620	840	430	780	700	832	511	135	780	640	810	930	1018	630	855	732	715				
Summer <th>1997</th> <th>1998</th> <th>1999</th> <th>2000</th> <th>2001</th> <th>2002</th> <th>2003</th> <th>2004</th> <th>2005</th> <th>2006</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>2023</th> <th>2024</th> <th>2025</th>	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
SI	1598	3685	3375	5464	4064	4709	3947	8564	7016	6066	6192	5321	7716	6883	7113	6940	4539	4679	6870	7903	7754	6697								
Banded Dotterel	39	133	129	242	157	212	137	76	117	233	166	139	222	210	193	175	273	68	116	98	51	111	76							

'BIOACOUSTIC MONITORING OF FOREST BIRDS IN THE ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK'. Ruth Bollongino

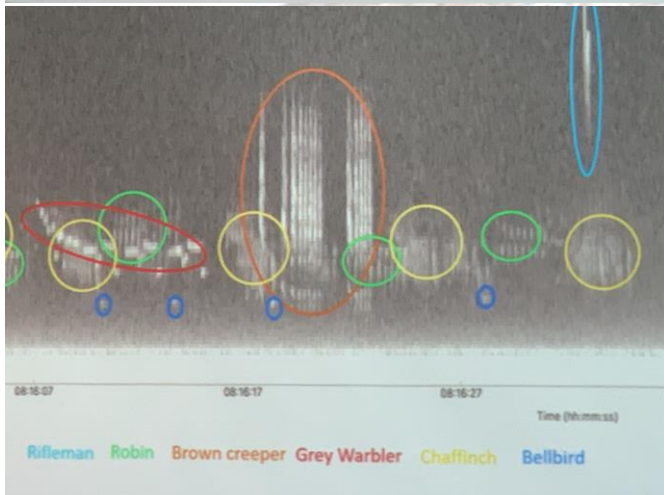
Ruth Bollongino is a science advisor for Project Janszoon. She gave a very detailed talk to our Sept meeting on the techniques and methodology of Bioacoustic monitoring. One thing's for sure- 5-minute bird counts are as passé as a fax machine!

She explained that Bioacoustic monitoring fulfils many functions compared to the traditional 5 min bird counts

- Archives of bird calls can be made and revisited
- Monitoring over a longer period gives more accuracy for rare species or infrequent callers
- Monitoring is more easily 'balanced' over time and space
- Observer bias is reduced
- There is no disturbance to bird behaviour
- Better accuracy and quality control



For those who just walk the coastline the fact that the Abel Tasman rises to 1200m can be something of a surprise. Obviously though both plant and bird life change with altitude so recording is made at six elevation strata with a total of 120 sampling sites



The technicalities of the acoustic recording and analysis are complex. Suffice to say that analysing by listening to samples of the recordings is extremely time consuming. Currently there is the possibility of using software to identify birds through spectrograms of their calls. Slide to the left show typical spectrograms of common bird calls.

Obviously if bird numbers are monitored by recording of calls, then call rates need to reflect the abundance of the species. Ruth talked us through various sampling procedures and the data they generated that suggests this is indeed the case. Obviously, there are things to watch out for -As an example a male robin may sing more frequently after his mate has been killed. So how are birds doing in the Abel Tasman? The data collected from acoustic recording indicates that where predator control has operated effectively, rat-sensitive species such as robin, rifleman, kakariki are increasing. Interestingly non-rat-sensitive species such as tui and bellbird show a decline in these areas, possibly due to increased competition from the developing populations of rat sensitive birds. Sorry a very brief account of a very detailed talk! Many thanks Ruth,

AUSTRALIAN WOOD DUCK PROJECT Rob Jones

Rob Jones gave the September meeting an update on the wood duck project. (See Tōrea Pango 7 for further information) As we know a small group of wood duck have for several years been living in the Mapua area centred around the Playhouse Pond. Although they have bred regularly the population has not expanded significantly. One of the limiting factors to population growth is likely to be the lack of available nest sites.



Wood duck nest in holes in trees, often high up, and the area lacks this resource. So, under the coordination of David Melville, Rob Jones and Ian Price have been busy installing nest boxes around the Hoddy reserve and on private land. And --Look what's happened!!!!

Since August 13th a pair has been seen entering and leaving this box with every sign of wanting to nest. Exciting News. The box is high up and obviously there is a risk of disturbance so an endoscope may be used to monitor further developments.

There are a large number of irrigation ponds and lots of grazing land in the Moutere /Mapua area suitable for wood ducks and the team are keen to hear of any sightings. You can contact/report sightings to Rob on 0210723925 or Ian on 0272879203

SHELLBANK MONITORING DATES David Melville

David assures us that the shell bank is looking fantastic with most things European now dead! Provisional dates for monitoring are:

17 September 1655h 0.7m
 30 September 1712h 0.3m
 14 October 1628h 0.9m
 28 October 1608h 0.5m
 11 November 1521h 1.1m
 25 November 1459h 0.9m
 10 December 1442h 1.3m
 23 December 1339h 1.3m
 13 January 1804h 0.6m
 27 January 1754h 0.9m

For further information see Tōrea pango 7. Anyone interested in assisting with this project please contact; David Melville: david.melville@xtra.co.nz

ITEMS FOR NEXT TOREA PANGO

Please send to Paul Bennett thebraveryofbeingoutofrange@gmail.com 021454520