

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc)

OSNZ — Birds New Zealand



June 2023

birdsanz.org.nz and birdsanz.org.nz/society-publications/notornis/

Greetings

On the 1st of June the eBird Atlas Project entered its fifth and final year. The project was launched on the 1st of June 2019 at the Birds New Zealand (OSNZ) Conference held in Wellington. While nearly 350,000 checklists covering 3094 squares (95.7%) have so far been submitted there is still some work to be done to complete the project. In the Wellington Region which includes the Wairarapa, under reported squares have been identified and a strategy developed to fill in these gaps.

Geoff de Lisle

Wellington Birds New Zealand Monthly Meetings

Our next meeting will be on Monday the 3rd of July. This time, we have two speakers! Our first speaker is **Enzo Reyes** (DOC) who recently moved to Wellington and will share some insights in person on the PhD he just completed at Auckland Uni on the Galapagos endemic, the **Floreana Mockingbird!** In addition, our main speaker, **Ariel-Micaiah Heswall** (University of Auckland), will give a talk online titled "Exploring threats to seabirds from their own sensory perspective". Seabirds are one of the most at-risk animal groups having a plethora of threats impacting them including fishing vessels, plastic and light pollution. Her aim is to research these threats from a sensory ecology approach where she explores how the seabird views the threat to understand why it is a threat. As usual, this will be a hybrid meeting. Thus, you can join the meeting on **Monday 3rd of July from 7.30pm** in two ways:

1. In person at the Te Papa Collections Building, 169 Tory Street.
2. Online via the Zoom Meeting via the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83448810783?pwd=bUdVL25iclFYejc4d1dzTThYQnhpZz09>.

The meeting will start at 7.45pm.

Monday, 1st of May. Graeme Taylor, Trends in Birds New Zealand funded research – what are people studying and what are the priorities for the future? This talk was first given at the 2022 Birds New Zealand Conference in Christchurch. Graeme is the Birds New Zealand Scientific Committee Convenor. Birds New Zealand, in partnership with their sponsors, fund a significant amount of research on New Zealand birds through small grants handed out annually, mainly to student projects. These include the Birds New Zealand Research fund, as well as the David Medway Scholarship and the Projects Assistance Fund. These science projects are assessed and vetted by the Birds New Zealand Scientific Committee before being approved for funding by the Birds New Zealand Council. The research projects have largely been driven by the interests of the applicants and their supervisors, with some guidance from Birds New Zealand about preferred projects. <https://www.birdsanz.org.nz/research/#funding>

Monday 3rd of April. Alex Verry, Manaaki Whenua/Landcare Research, Zoomed from Ōtautahi/Christchurch. **Dr. Alex Verry** (Manaaki Whenua/Landcare Research) presented his work on ancient DNA of Takahē which was carried out as part of his PhD studies at the University of Otago. *Analysis of ancient DNA from takahē subfossils provides direct evidence of a genetic bottleneck associated with human arrival. Additionally, no phylogeographic structure was observed between takahē populations throughout the South Island, although some temporal structure was observed. This temporal structure may be related to a loss of genetic diversity or genetic turnover through the Pleistocene-Holocene transition. Finally, phylogenetic analyses suggest that the takahē and moho are sister-taxa, resulting from a single invasion of New Zealand by a common Porphyrio ancestor, contrary to previous molecular studies.* Further details of Alex's studies can be found in his thesis [file:///C:/Users/delisle/Downloads/Revised thesis Verry%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/delisle/Downloads/Revised%20thesis%20Verry%20(1).pdf)

New Zealand Bird Atlas

Wellington Region* Summary (to 22 June, 2023)

Total squares	105		
Total Checklists	46611	Average checklists / square	443.9
Atlasers	483		
Species observed	151		

*Includes the Wairarapa and Wellington regions.

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

Supporting atlasing efforts in the Wellington and Wairarapa region:

This is the final atlas year and there are certainly some squares left that could use increased attention in the Wairarapa and Wellington region across all four seasons (see attached the winter effort map and <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/effortmap>). Therefore, Birds Wellington has made the decision to open up a **small project support fund** for the next year (i.e., until 31 May 2024) for those who wish to go out there and fill those atlas squares. You can apply for this fund by submitting an expression of interest to me.

Expressions of interest should contain an action plan detailing:

1. the atlas squares targeted,
2. during what season,
3. at what level of effort,
4. at what costs.

Together with a small committee (participation in which I am also seeking interested volunteers), I will allocate funds to different applications in order to maximise the atlas output for our two regions. I have been in contact with the Wairarapa RR (Oliver Druce) and once expressions of interests have been assessed, plans will be communicated with Oliver as well to improve the collaboration between our regions. Oliver has been so kind to provide me with some suggested areas to target:

- Ngawi and Cape Palliser: Certainly, needs more effort including anyone who could tramp into the Aorangi mountains parts of which have extensive bush.

- White Rock and Tora: We will be making a dent on these next month, but more effort is needed.
- Hinakura and Pahaoa River: The road may still be closed, so the only access a long trip over Admiral Hill, so perhaps left till later in the year.
- Te Wharau to Flat point, Glendhu and Honeycomb rock: Great opportunity for a trip picking up squares on the way in combination with a walk to Honeycomb rock.
- Riversdale Castlepoint and Mataikona: Lots of possibilities especially on the way.
- Through Pongaroa to Akitio and Herbertville: Almost no effort in most of this huge area.

In summary, there are still considerable areas that would benefit from increased atlas effort, so we are keen to support you filling those blank spots on the map. Please consider applying for support from us and getting out there. Looking forward to receiving your expressions of interest and if you would like to volunteer to help coordinate these efforts, please do let me know as well!

Johannes Fischer, Regional Representative birds.wellington@birdsnz.org.nz

Hutt City Council moves to control domestic cats

On Monday (8th May, 2023) the Hutt City Council policy committee voted to support the introduction of a bylaw that would require cats to be microchipped and desexed.

There is no doubt that the changes brought by Hutt City are the result of publicity of the predation by domestic cats of banded dotterel nests on the Eastbourne beach.

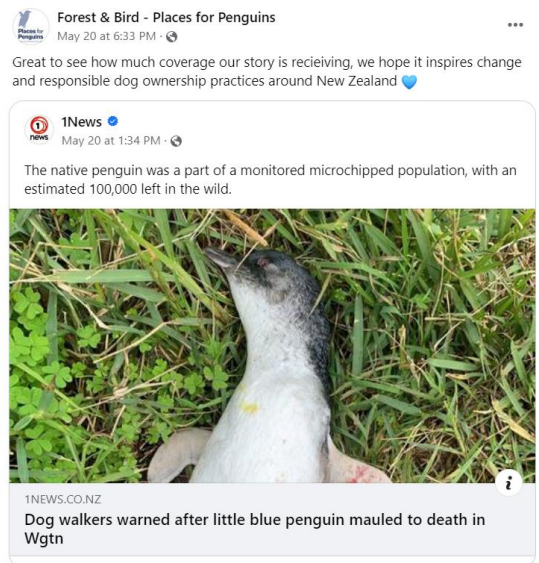
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/wellington/131930398/hutt-city-council-moves-to-control-killer-cats-with-microchipping-desexing>



Forest & Bird - Places for Penguins

May 20th. Micro-chipped little penguin / Korora from the Places for Penguins project victim of dog attack. <https://www.facebook.com/PlacesforPenguins/>

Places for Penguins is devastated to share that yesterday a member of the public found a dead kororā on the south coast. The necropsy performed at the Wellington Zoo tragically revealed that this adult breeding female was mauled to death by a dog, breaking its spine in two places. Our monitoring records show that she successfully bred two chicks last season and the loss of this kororā is a devastating blow to the at-risk penguin population in Wellington. Keeping dogs on leads is of paramount importance for the continued survival of kororā. Speak up if you see irresponsible dog owners and help us make sure this sad fate doesn't occur to any more of our beloved penguins.



Matiu / Somes Island June Survey

Shane Cotter reports that the comments for the June survey are the same as those for the March survey. Compared to the numbers recorded in the previous survey (2002-2005) spotted shag numbers down by two thirds, with little and little black shag numbers down by half. Big increase in numbers of fantails, kakariki and kingfisher.

- 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 back 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.

After two surveys, it is too early to make any definitive comparisons yet but it will be interesting to see if these trends continue.

Angus posted this special Piwakawaka interaction from the weekend on his instagram page. See this Instagram video by @gusf64:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/CtXOZZohQOh/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet&igshid=ZGUzMzM3NWJiOQ== . This flock contained 30 individuals.

Two diving petrels were located in a known diving petrel breeding burrow on the shearwater colony on Saturday night. Both were banded, “204599” is the known breeder from this burrow and raised a chick during the last season with “204597” however it was with “204600” on Saturday night. This was the first recapture of this bird and is the first returned locally bred chick. It fledged from another diving petrel burrow on Matiu during the 2020/21 season. There have only been six locally bred diving petrel chicks. The first fledged in the 2019/20 breeding season, two in 2020/21 and 2021/22 season and one last season. This is an exciting development.



15,000 images on New Zealand Birds Online – the magic of the kōkako

By: [Colin Miskelly](#) On: 12 Jun 2023

The 15,000th image loaded on [New Zealand Birds Online](#) was of an adult male [North Island kokako | Kōkako](#) on Tiritiri Matangi Island, taken by Oscar Thomas. Oscar is a university student and author of the 2020 book [A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of New Zealand](#). Here, he answers a few questions about how he got involved in wildlife photography, and why he started contributing images to New Zealand Birds Online

Birds of the Great Walks of Aotearoa New Zealand

By: [Colin Miskelly](#) On: 16 Jun 2023

Aotearoa New Zealand has many great walks. However, as of 2023, only ten of them qualify as capital-letter Great Walks. Te Papa natural history curator Dr Colin Miskelly has walked (or paddled) them all and kept records of the birds that he encountered along the way. In this initial blog in a series that will cover them all, he describes what Great Walks are, and the system that he developed to compare and rank their birdyness. More to follow.

Birds New Zealand Conference 2023

The annual conference / AGM was held in the Devon Hotel, New Plymouth on King's Birthday weekend. Approximately 180 members attended a well organised conference with two days of interesting talks followed with field trips on Monday the 5th. A feature of the Conference was a series of talks on the ornithology of the Taranaki Region. Alan Tennyson, from Te Papa Museum talked on the important recent finds of fossil seabirds from South Taranaki while Graeme Taylor, Wellington DOC, summarised the current status and threats of seabirds in the Taranaki region. Two representatives of Fish and Game, Allen Stancliff and Matthew McDougall summarised their population studies, including game birds in Taranaki.



Orbell, Birds New Zealand Mascot

Colin Miskelly's talk on the search for the location of the Fiordland breeding site of the grey-backed storm petrel received national coverage due to a major clue for solving this riddle coming from the National Programme broadcasting bird calls.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/491412/how-rnz-s-morning-report-solved-the-mystery-of-the-grey-backed-storm-petrel> .

Other speakers from the Wellington region included Imogen Foote who presented work on a whole genome approach to resolve the genetic structure of Antipodean and Gibson's albatross populations and Johannes Fischer talked on, 'Assessing offshore threats and management tools for Kuaka (Whenua Hou Diving Petrels) in the face of future change'. A further highlight of the Conference was the high participation of students from throughout New Zealand. Many of these students had received financial support from the Birds New Zealand project Assistant Fund.

<https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/nz-bird-conference/conference-programme/>

There is an increasing use of modern technology to aid ornithological studies and there were some examples on display at the conference.

Chris Gaskin's net gun which has been used to catch 8 different seabirds, especially the recently re-discovered New Zealand storm petrel. Chris Muller, from Altitude Conservation, presented a new Multi-Track receiver technology which can monitor 500 frequencies simultaneously (instead of requiring sequential scanning), and it automatically determines positions without the need for triangulation. A feature of the Multi Track receiver it can be used for aerial tracking with drones.

Faunatech specialist wildlife acoustics company based in Australia demonstrated their sophisticated trail cameras and sound recorders. Details of their products can be found on their website <https://www.faunatech.com.au/> .



Net gun, Chris Gaskin



Drone fitted with Multi Track receiver - Altitude



Faunatec



On King's Birthday Monday the weather was not as bad as some of the forecasts were predicting and most enjoyable field trips included a visit to Rotokare Scenic Reserve and Lake Mangamahoe. Rotokare is a fenced 230 ha pest-free reserve, 14km from Eltham. The mature tawa, rewarewa, and mahoe-dominated forest is home to kiwi, ruru/morepork, kārearea/NZ falcon, tūi, korimako/bellbird, kereru/wood pigeon, riroriro/grey warbler, miromiro/tomtit, tīeke/saddleback, popokatea/whitehead and toutouwai/North Island robin, plus a variety of other bird species. The reserve contains a 17.8 ha lake and surrounding wetlands. Notably Rotokare was the source of the fernbirds translocated to Pauatahanui and Mana Island. Lake Mangamahoe is a man-made dam and lake, created in 1932 which acts as a water catchment area for New Plymouth. The Lake contains a large number of water birds.

The 2024 Birds New Zealand Conference will be held in Nelson over King's Birthday weekend. There will be two photographic competitions, one of banded / flagged / marked birds and the other showing a bird in moult. The moult pictures will need to be accompanied with a completed moult card.



Photo Michael Szabo

Regional Representative: **Johannes Fischer** birds.wellington@birdsnz.org.nz
 Regional Recorder: Peter Hodge peter.hodge@gmail.com
 Pauatahanui Survey: Ian Armitage ian.armitage@xtra.co.nz
 Matiu / Somes Island survey, Shane Cotter, heather.shane@xtra.co.nz
 Newsletter, Geoff de Lisle, osnzwell@gmail.com

Brown teal / Patake

Up to 9/10 adult brown teal were reported in eBird during March to June in the Waikanae River, Waimanu Lagoon and Barrett Drive on the Kapiti Coast. There was no evidence of breeding of brown teal in this area and the source of the birds seen at Waikanae is unknown. Brown teal were translocated to Kapiti Island in 1968, 2000-01, Zealandia 2000-01 and Mana Island 2000-01. These translocations were successful and small populations of breeding brown teal are established on Kapiti Island, Zealandia and Mana Island. The major breeding season for brown teal is July to August but breeding can occur at most times of the year however late breeding occurred in 2023 at all three locations.

Zealandia, April 23. Duckling reported round the wetlands. <https://www.facebook.com/Zealandia/> . The study of brown teal at Zealandia by Katie Sheridan revealed a group of birds mainly associated with the lakes (lake birds) and a group which mostly inhabited the forest (bush birds). Katie Sheridan, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/emr.12432>

Kapiti Island, Rangatira. 25th March. Adult with chick caught on trail camera (picture Dallas Bishop). Brown teal are resident at Rangatira but rarely seen by day-time visitors. Brown teal are generally crepuscular to nocturnal in habit. The Rangatira brown teal fit into the “bush bird” category.



Mana Island. The largest number of brown teal on Mana island is centred on the Waikoko wetland. Birds have been located on a number of other locations throughout the island, generally associated with the old farm ponds / dams (map, brown teal sightings, eBird). In March 2023 three different pairs of brown teal were seen with accompanying chicks in the Waikoko wetland. [Photos: Geoff de Lisle]



MJ Williams <https://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/brown-teal>



Banded dotterel – Wellington Airport

A male banded dotterel with flag (PEC) was found dead at Wellington Airport on the 17th of May, 2023 and was probably hit by an aeroplane. PEC was banded and flagged as an adult on a nest on the Eastbourne beach on the 12th of October 2019. In the 2022 breeding season PEC nested on the Eastbourne beach and produced 3 eggs. Two of its eggs hatched but the chicks did not appear to have fledged. This is the second banded dotterel found dead at Wellington Airport – the first, with a crushed chest on the 15/4/2021.

Note: PHH another Eastbourne banded dotterel was seen again in November 2022 at the end of the south end of the runway. The south end of the runway / Moa Point is a known area favoured by banded dotterel.

Thanks to the DOC Banding Office and Jack Howarth for reporting the death of PEC.

Banded dotterels – Royal New Zealand Air Force base, Ohakea

Jim Cook is the airport environmental Officer in Ōhakea and his duties include looking after a sizeable population of banded dotterels.. *“They find the base a great place to nest. He said he once came across a male dotterel looking out for its mate, which was sitting on four eggs underneath a newly arrived, parked P-8A Poseidon aircraft. Mr Cook said the birds’ camouflage makes them very hard to spot when they’re nesting, and dotterel nests are little more than scrapes in the ground – this one was basically an indent in the tarmac. If the aircraft had started, he said the eggs would have been sucked up. But he was able to successfully move them, with the mother hatching her chicks in the new spot.*

Once I had to hold eggs in a warm clasp for 10 minutes while an NH90 helicopter and VIPs landed and taxied over the nest. The downdraft would have blown the eggs away. They were carefully returned, the mother came back, and all three hatched the following day.”

<https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/news/ohakea-worker-goes-above-and-beyond-to-keep-fearless-dotterels-flying/>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/300873893/airport-environmental-officer-spends-his-days-protecting-wildlife>

<https://avisure.com/integrated-wildlife-hazard-management-program-the-royal-new-zealand-air-force-journey/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mn-MRF3ZhPQ>

Bird Snippets

Little egret and others, Waikanae River Mouth

jacobi » Sun Apr 02, 2023

A pretty great afternoon at Waikanae River mouth. A little egret fishing in their energetic way, as well as 4 pateke, a little tern, the usual NZ and banded dotterels and one godwit. Also, am I correct and this is a black fronted tern leaving breeding plumage? BirdingNZ.net

Welcome swallows migrating across Cook Strait

Colin Miskelly » Mon Apr 17, 2023

There were few seabirds of note between Wellington Harbour and Tory Channel today. The sighting of the day was a flock of nine swallow that arrived from the south, flew over the stern, and continued towards the Wellington south coast. Also a kotuku on the southern shore of Tory Channel was unexpected. BirdingNZ.net

Full checklists in eBird:
Wellington

Harbour <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S134060517>

Off Wellington south coast <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S134060569>

Open section of Cook Strait <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S134060612>

Tory Channel <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S134060714>

Queen Charlotte Sound <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S134060779>

Wellington City biodiversity

Colin Miskelly » Tue May 23, 2023

A fine sunny day in the capital - and a karearea back on the top of the carillon as I walked past on my morning commute. First I have noticed there for many months.

Colin Miskelly » Tue May 23, 2023

There is a pair there now, perched on top of the eternal flame (the very peak of the carillon). BirdingNZ.net

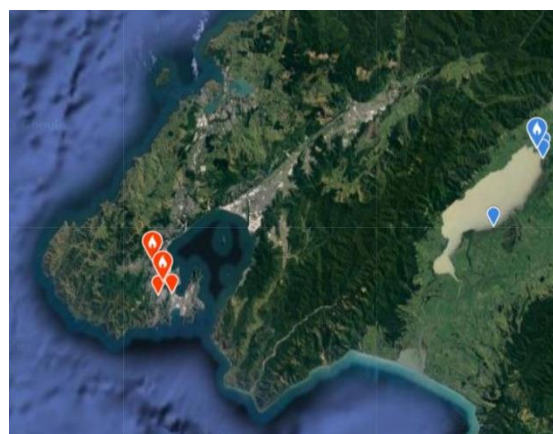
This pair was observed on a number of occasions in June on the Carillon and its environs. The male has been seen targeting starlings and the female feral pigeons. These karearea appear to be well adapted to suburban living.

Wellington City biodiversity Cattle egret

AlfieB77 » Tue May 23, 2023

I saw an egret/heron on a field today in central Wellington. It was small, but compared to the black backed gulls that it was feeding beside, it was too small to be a white heron. I only got a glance, so all I saw was an egret/heron like bird, mostly white with black bill and legs, I think. If anyone might know if it's either a cattle egret or a little egret, that would be very much appreciated. BirdingNZ.net

Subsequent to May 23 there have been multiple posts, including photographs on BirdingNZ.net of a single cattle egret on the playing fields of Wellington College and elsewhere in the city. This is the first cattle egret to be recorded from the Wellington City on eBird (see map).



Fernbird northern wetland, Queen Elizabeth Park

Pene Burton Bell, 2nd June. Two fernbirds observed. Their nearest known fernbirds are at the Waikanae estuary and environs.

<https://ebird.org/newzealand/map/fernbi?neg=true&env.minX=&env.minY=&env.maxX=&env.maxY=&zh=false&gp=false&ev=Z&excludeExX=false&excludeExAll=false&mr=1-12&bmo=1&emo=12&yr=all&byr=1900&eyr=2023>

Rifleman, Botanic Gardens

Michael Szabo » Sat Jun 10, 2023

I saw a male Rifleman climbing along a main branch of the big Black Beech tree in the Botanic Gardens yesterday that's near the pathway up to the 'treehouse' by the threatened plant species garden, my first sightings at that location: <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S14094898>
7 BirdingNZ.net

<https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S142013725>

Bar-tailed godwit Ration Point

Ian Armitage, 19th June, 2023. Juvenile godwit overwintering at Pauatahanui. Also reported during the June Pauatahanui survey.

In 2022 3 juvenile godwit overwintered at the inlet.

<https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S142013725>

The Capital Kiwi Project



The following is a post on the 24th of May from the Capital Kiwi Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/capitalkiwi/>

The remaining 25 kiwi were welcomed at Mākara village hall last Tuesday. Following their journey from Maungatautari, a karanga called the kiwi from the vans, where iwi mana whenua, the kids of Mākara School and the local community welcomed the manu home. Together with the 25 kiwi welcomed at Pipitea Marae on 9 May, these 50 birds are one of the largest kiwi translocations yet undertaken. 50 + the first 13 from Nov = 63 kiwi back on the hills.

There were plenty of challenges en route, from kiwi-catching to kiwi-ferrying – one of our drivers reckoned that there couldn't be too many surer methods of being 'present' than driving a van-load of taonga for seven hours down SH1... It's a tribute to the duty of care delivered by all involved that the release went so smoothly. [#kaimanaakikiwi](https://twitter.com/kaimanaakikiwi)

It might have been the onions in the hot dogs, but a few watery eyes were witnessed when the kiwi were taken on a short walkabout by Pete and Rawiri. After being affixed with transmitters, the kiwi were then released on to Terawhiti in typical Wellington 'good day' conditions.

Australasian Little Grebe Pharazyn Reserve

On the 6th of April Dianne Parker reported a small grebe on the southern pond at the Pharazyn Reserve. This bird was slightly smaller than dabchick which are common on the reserve. After consultation and the sharing of multiple photographs the consensus of opinion was that the bird was an Australasian little grebe in non-breeding plumage. The identification was based on its smaller size compared to dabchick, behaviour and its



colouration. This bird does not have the prominent yellow gape patch seen in Australasian little grebe in breeding plumage. An Unusual Bird Report for the bird has been lodged with the Birds New Zealand Records Appraisal Committee.



<https://www.birdingnz.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=12137>

The Australasian little grebe was seen by many birders and was recently reported by Oscar Thomas on the 9th of June at the ponds at Pekapeka, Piango Lane. <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S140955150>

Australasian Little Grebe Pharazyn Reserve 2014

igor » Sat Feb 15, 2014

I adult Aust little grebe today on the northern pond at Pharazyn Reserve, Waikanae, along with about 50 dabchick, 200+ scaup, and a range of other waterfowl. This site seems to be improving! BirdingNZ.net

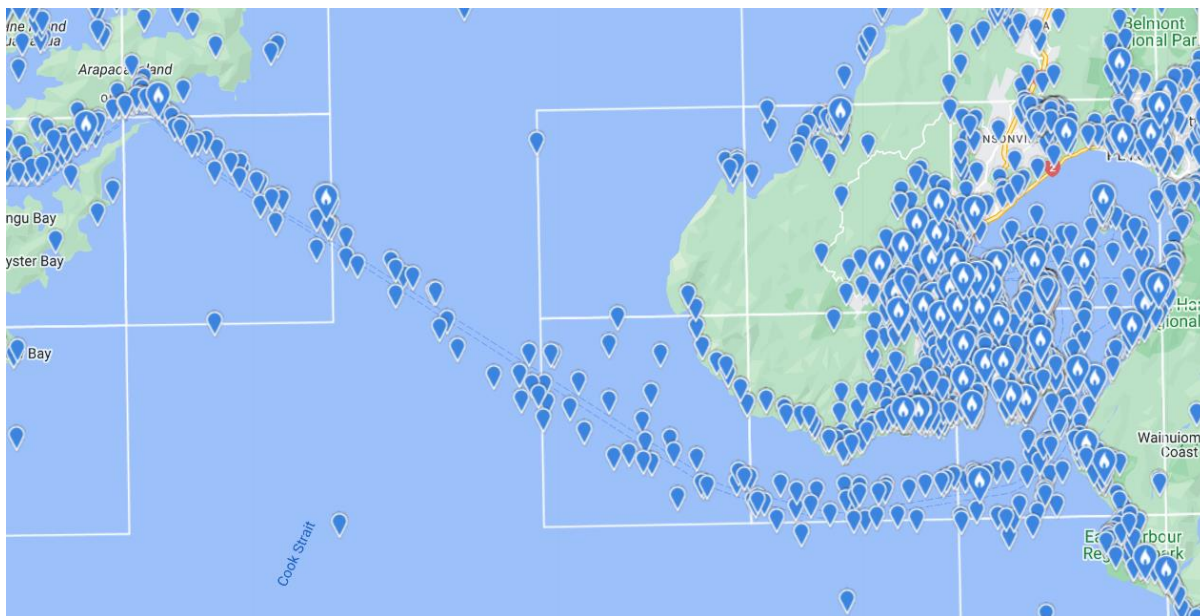
This bird was present on the southern pond of Pharazyn Reserve and last reported on BirdingNZ.net on the 23rd of March, 2014 by Ledzep (Duncan Watson) who took the following photograph.

Acknowledgements. Thanks to Dianne Parker and Duncan Watson for their photographs and observations.



Cook Strait Pelagic Bird Watching

The last planned Cook Strait pelagic organised by Wellington Birds New Zealand was cancelled because of mechanical problems with the charter boat. A dedicated band of birders have been recording birds seen from the inter-island ferries and entering checklists in eBird. The following are the checklists submitted to the Atlas scheme which contain black-backed gulls and highlight the route taken by the ferries. Black-backed gulls were chosen as they are the most common bird recorded during Cook Strait crossings.



The table is a list of the birds recorded in winter checklists recorded between Tory Channel and the Wellington Heads. Identifying birds from the ferry can be challenging making it difficult to accurately distinguish some species such as northern and southern giant petrels.

Black-backed gull (common)	Campbell Island mollymawk (1 record)	Soft-plumaged petrel (1 record)
Red-billed gull (common)	Salvin's mollymawk (6 records)	Northern/southern giant petrel
White-fronted tern	Black-browed mollymawk (5 records)	White-chinned petrel
Black-fronted tern	Gibson's albatross* (1 record)	Fairy prion
Caspian tern	Snowy albatross* (1 record)	Antarctic fulmar (1 record)
Fluttering shearwater	Royal albatross, northern and southern (19 records)	Little shag
Sooty shearwater (small numbers)	Cape petrel (relatively commonly observed)	Black shag
Little shearwater	Diving petrel	Pied shag
White-capped mollymawk (most commonly recognised mollymawk sp)	Westland petrel	Little penguin (1 record)
		Harrier (5 records)

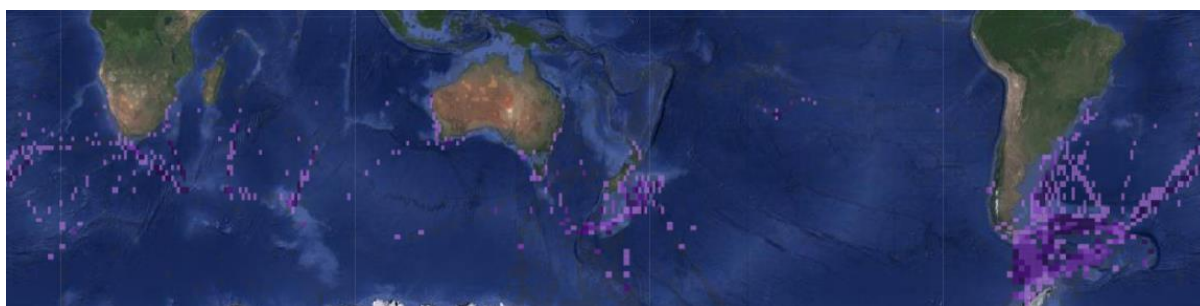
*A group of 20 Gibson's and one Snowy albatross recorded following a fishing boat.

Cook Strait Pelagic Bird Watching – Soft plumaged petrel

Alan Tennyson, 11th May, 2023, duration 30 minute, distance 15km. Birds observed from the ferry.

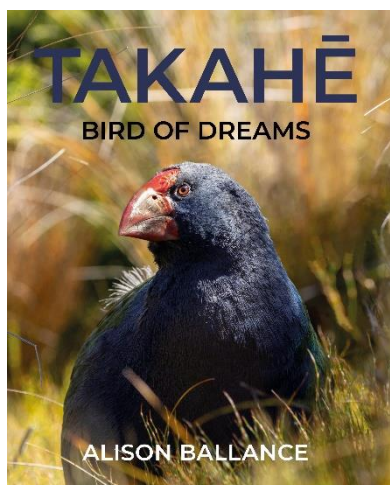
<https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S137184446>

White-capped mollymawk, 5
Northern royal albatross, 1
Northern giant petrel, 1 (fully dark plumage, no primary moult, red-bill tip)
Cape petrel, 2, at least 1 northern subspecies.
Soft-plumaged petrel, photo.
Fairy prion, 11
Prion sp., 60
Westland petrel, 4
Fluttering shearwater 1
Common diving petrel 1



Soft plumaged Petrel *Soft-plumaged petrels breed in small colonies on Antipodes Island and occasionally prospect on the Chatham Islands. Elsewhere they breed on various subantarctic islands in the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and recently have been recorded from several islands south of Australia. They nest in burrows amongst tussocks, ferns or low shrubs on Antipodes Island. The breeding burrows are normally dug on well-drained slopes in dry peaty soils. Soft-plumaged petrels forage over cold water north of 55°S, mainly over deep water beyond the continental shelf. After the breeding season, they migrate to the central South Pacific to complete their annual feather moult. NZBirdsOnline.,*

Soft plumaged petrels are reportable species for birds identified north of Cook Strait. MAP, sightings of soft-plumaged petrels registered in eBird.



Potton & Burton Publishing have a new Special Offer of 10% online discount with free delivery in NZ to *all* Birds New Zealand members that lasts until 31st August 2023 using the code: **NZBIRD23**

The code can be used at the online shopping cart on their website:

<https://www.pottonandburton.co.nz/>

The Special Offer applies to the following six book titles:

Takahe: Bird of Dreams - Alison Ballance

Kakapo - Alison Ballance

New Zealand Bird Paintings - Ray Ching

New Zealand Seabirds - Kerry-Jayne Wilson

Moa - Quinn Berentson

Nicolas Dillon - Drawn to the wild