

KUAKA



Newsletter of Te-Tonga-o-Tamaki Branch, Manu-o-Aotearoa
Te Kahui Matai Manu o Aotearoa

Mahuru – 2023

Tena koutou fellow manu lovers,

There are tekau pages of reading pleasure for you this month. We begin with a review of the presentation on observing manu at Mangere, followed by the Atlas Report, a couple of links to You Tube videos, the usual cartoons, and some interesting kahu images, amongst other things.

There are two documents attached to this email. The first is the New Zealand Penguin Initiative newsletter for July 2023. The second is the Aotearoa list of reportable rare/unusual manu for you to look over.

This newsletter was produced during Te-wiki-o-Te-Reo-Māori. Apologies for any mis-spellings or incorrect use of the Te Reo.

KAIKORERO MATUA (guest speaker): Tonight, we had Stuart Laurenson talk to us about birding at Mangere. The talk focused on wha areas at Watercare and Ambury Farm:

- Pond two roost
- Traffic lights Bay
- Radio mast peninsula
- Shell islands (big, small, and linear)



“Pond Two Roost” is adjacent to the tongan (southern) side of the Puketutu canal. This roost was completed in 2015 and topped up with eroded sand and shell more recently. Stuart noted the roost needs re-landscaping to provide better shelter from the tahu-makaha (westerly) winds. Ebird has 47 species recorded for the roost and wha species have bred there – kuihi (Canada goose), kakianau (black swan), torea pango (VOC), poaka (p. stilt).

“Traffic lights Bay” at the beginning of the Puketutu causeway is a popular roosting spot for waders on neap-tides and is a valuable foraging spot for waders. Ebird records 81 species at this site. It is a favourite spot for tuturiwhatu/banded dotterel, and ngutuparore (wrybill). This is also a good spot to dump rubbish (apparently!) and the manawa (mangroves) are expanding rapidly to cover the open mud flat in this location.

“Radio mast” is on Ambury Park and the radio mast was removed several years ago. This is a high-tide roost and 75 species are recorded on ebird including both tuturiwhatu species (Stuart is the “Top eBirder” for this site with 57 species). The management issues at this location include weed control (currently spraying is undertaken once the weeds are well grown) and the closeness to a service road which is a popular route for cyclists who regularly put the roosting manu to flight as they zip by.

The “shell islands” have 78 species recorded on ebird and they are popular with tuturiwhatu/dotterel, torea pango (voc), karoro (black-backed gulls), tarapuka (black billed gulls), poaka (stilts), tara (white fronted terns) and taranui (caspians). On Tuesday Stuart noted 1000+ kuaka on the islands – they looked weary and weather beaten so it is assumed they had very recently completed their migration back to Aotearoa. Last year tarapuka bred on big shell

island but most of the tamariki were killed by a parasite (nematode?) perhaps the parasites thrived due to the wet weather last raumati.

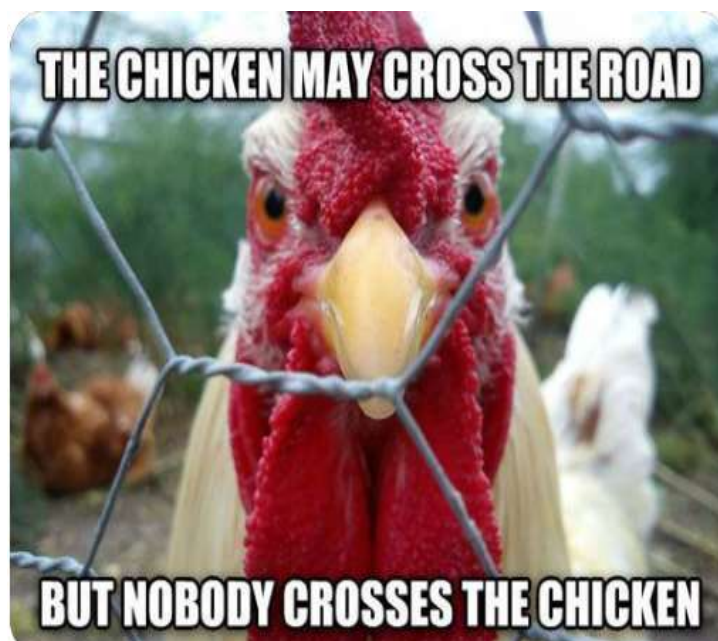
Stuart then updated us on the situation with the tuturiwhatu breeding at the disused section adjacent to Mitre 10 in Onehunga. First noticed in 2016, tuturiwhatu, poaka and spur-winged plover have been known to breed successfully here. Last year was particularly successful, with the tuturiwhatu fledging two tamariki. Presumably due to the wet raumati an abundance of kai was available. Stuart noted a pair of tuturiwhatu/NZ dots on site last Ratu, together with pairs of putangitangi (parries), poaka (stilts) and sw plovers.

REMINDERS

- If you spot a manu (dead or alive) with a band or flag, please do your utmost to read the numbers/letters on the band and take note of the arrangement and colours of bands and flags on which leg(s). Let Tony H and/or Adrian know and report your observations to the banding office at bandingoffice@doc.govt.nz
- Avian influenza is still to be identified in Aotearoa but the migrants from the Northern Hemisphere are now returning to our shores (refer to last months Kuaka for an extended report on the H5N1 virus).
If you find a manu, dead or alive, that causes you concern contact Biosecurity NZ on 0800 80996

DISCUSSION

We got into a discussion on spur wing plovers and Gwen pointed out that, despite their aggression when supervising their tamariki, spur wings are excellent at keeping avian predators away - if one of the matua is sitting on hua manu, its partner will patrol in the area keeping predators away, but other nesting species, such as tuturiwhatu, will be tolerated. Everything changes when the plover tamariki leave the kohanga – the matua then drive all other manu away. If the plover hua manu do not hatch (because they have tampered with!) the matua will remain in brooding mode for an extended time, allowing the tuturiwhatu to successfully hatch their own hua manu under the protection from avian predators provided by the plovers.



SIGHTINGS AROUND OUR ROHE

- A pair of tuturiwhatu/NZ dots have toru tamariki at the Hynds plant in Pokeno.
- We have received several reports of pipiwharaua calling.
- There is a pair of tuturiwhatu/banded dots at the Port – no sign of nesting yet.
- Tuturiwhatu/NZ dots are nesting at Orua and Wattle Bays, up Awhitu way.
- A kaka flew over Davids's place near Bombay
- An unusual coloured kotuku ngutu papa (royal spoonbill) has been spotted on the Manukau. There is a photo below.



Note the colour of the manu at the rear and also note the size difference between these two individuals (seen at Port Waikato and Awhitu Pen.)



Great photo taken at Orua Bay

PROGRAMME FOR 2023

Monthly Meetings: held on the second Tuesday of each month, at the Papakura Croquet Club, 1 Chapel Street Papakura. Meetings start at 7:30. Visitors welcome. \$3.00 donation to cover costs please

Sept 30	Field trip looking for cryptics	Mangatawhiri Wetlands. Meet 4pm at Deans Wetland, McIntyre Rr, Mercer
Oct 3	Zoom meeting	Birds Auckland are hosting a presentation by Ilse Corkery of the NZ Fairy Tern Recovery project. We will email you the link when we receive it.
Oct 10	Kamolphet Atsawawaranunt	Using genomic tools to understand the introduction and expansion of the myna in Aotearoa
Nov 14	Daniel Thomas	Seabird fossils in Taranaki (recommended by the Kuaka editor)
Nov 11	Boat trip to Coromandel Hbr	2 places available – contact Sue if you are interested
Nov 18	Coromandel Wader Census	We intend to count on both coasts. Contact Sue if you can help
Nov 19	Firth of Thames Wader Census – high tide 12.43pm	
Nov 26	Manukau Wader Census – high tide 10.32am	
Dec 2	Christmas BBQ	Ian & Anna are kindly hosting us this year - details TBA



Photo taken near Thames by Tony H earlier this month.

Check out the colour of the bill and eye ring on the *torea pango* (voc) closest to the camera.

ATLAS REPORT Sept 2023

We are into the first month of the koanga season, which is the last koanga for this atlas project. I have attached two maps this month:

The first shows the number of checklists for each square (total for last wha koanga). Please note:

- The yellow squares have had 1-30 checklists, so need the most attention. These are mostly concentrated on the Hauraki Plains and Coromandel Peninsula
- The green squares have had 31-50 checklists
- The blue squares have had 51 or more checklists



The second map shows the number of species for each square for the koanga season (total for last wha koanga). Please note:

- The yellow squares have had 1-30 species recorded. These are generally squares with small areas of land, or with limited access
- The orange squares have had 31-40 species recorded
- The red squares have had 41 or more species recorded. As you can see, most of these are situated around the coast and in more populated areas



Several people have heard pipiwharauoa (shining cuckoo) in the last week, so if you see or hear a pipiwharauoa or any other interesting manu, awatea or maruapo, try to take at least rima minutes and record all of the other species that you recognise. Enter the details into the atlas or send me the following details - Exact location of sighting, Date, Start Time, duration of count, Species, Number of manu seen.

We have a couple of **field trips** coming up as follows:

Mangatawhiri Wetlands on 30 Sept – we will go late afternoon to look and listen for cryptic species at dusk in a few areas along McIntyre Rd, Mercer. Please email me suefro@xtra.co.nz if you plan to attend and provide your phone number so I can contact you if anything changes.

Coromandel Harbour boat trip on 11 November – we still have 2 places left so let me know if you are interested.

Happy birding, Sue

Here is a YouTube video that you might be interested in watching:

“THE BIRDING TODAY PODCAST S5 E2 | Recording bird sounds | RAMIT SINGAL”

Ramit is a birder from India

<https://youtu.be/E9vz5G-Ajwl?si=fwTWPrZTWd7tSisp>



This little song, the Maori idea of the duet of a pair of tui, was recited by Mere Ngamai o Te Wharepouri, the venerable lady of Ngati-Awa, who gave me (Sir Maui Pomare), much other poetic lore of her people.

The two manu are sitting on a bough of a tree, the tane and the wahine, and this is their musical dialogue. The tane says to his wife:

*Te tu e hu,
Te tu e hu,
Te to karekare
Te memeke tetere ma-maku
Riri hengihengi.*

(These words describe the gentle, soothing sound of the manu as they flit on softly winnowing wings to and fro, and their movements in shaking their plumage free of moisture in the foliage.)

The tane nods his head repeatedly and shakes his white throat-tassel as he utters those words.

The wahine says:

*Ko wai, ko wai tenei?
Ko au, ko au;
Tui pai, huruhuru maeneene.
Ko terepu, terewai.
Horohoro-horo!*

(Who, who is this? 'Tis I, the pretty tui, with soft, smooth plumage.' The words in the last two lines are onomatopoeic, descriptive of the musical call and the deep-throated gurgling sound often uttered by the tui.)

The pair flap their wings and they rise and fly away to the fork of a tree nearby, where the keikei grows in great bunches, with ripe tirori fruit (patangatanga), usually called the *tawhara*, which is the name of the flower.

The wahine utters these words:

*E toro
E toro
Ki te pakihaka tirori
Ma taua.*

(Reach out, stretch out and break off the sweet fruit of the keikei for us two.)

The manu feast on the tirori fruit, and then the tane utters this in a flute-like note, prolonged to a whistle:

Hu-hu-e! whio-o, whio-o!

Source: New Zealand Birds Limited. Greytown www.nzbirds.com/birds



Great tattoo! www.tattoo-ideas.com

Who knew!

TUI Group is a German leisure, travel & tourism company. TUI is an acronym for *Touristik Union International* ("Tourism Union International").



BANDING KAHU

New Zealand Bird Banding and Banders have an interesting blog site, wgtnnzbanders.blogspot.com, and are currently featuring the efforts they are putting into banding kahu around Otautahi. They are trapping the manu to band and also banding those in rehab at the South Island Wildlife Hospital. The manu are banded with a standard Banding Office band on the right leg. On the left leg is a colour band – red with white numbers: the colour combination for a kahu banded in Canterbury.



I was unable to find anything on line that suggested how long this team have been banding the manu or if there are any research results from their work. They did however, have some good images.



An older female probably in its second year.



The pale-yellow eye of the old chap.



A first year female with a dark brown eye.



Phil holding the old male.



Another You Tube that might be of interest:

“THE BIRDING TODAY PODCAST S3 E5 | Birding in New Zealand | FRASER GURNEY

https://youtu.be/2jIhB8EL_UO?si=ot7pRVtzoYa2FodI

Fraser is an ecologist at Wildland Consultants in Christchurch and a guide for Wrybill Tours.



Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne Ecosanctuary

Aug 10 · 🌐

Small bird with a big appetite! 📷

The Toutouwai/North Island rob... See more





Melissa Boardman

Aug 7 · 🌐

Meet Ceecee and her hubby Pooh!

This titipounamu pair have been... See more



Pūkaha National Wildlif... · Follow ...

Suggested for you · Sep 3 · 🌐

The first pāteke ducklings of the season are here!

... See more



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