

Birds New Zealand conference 2023 New Plymouth – Ana Menzies

Over King's birthday, I was lucky enough to attend the 2023 Birds New Zealand conference in New Plymouth, with support from the Birds New Zealand Fledgling Fund. It was an inspiring and educational weekend. Talks covered a wide range of disciplines, species, habitats, and conservation issues. A highlight for me was learning about projects happening locally in Taranaki, such as monitoring of kororā/little penguin. The conference was an excellent opportunity to learn about projects from all around the country that I would otherwise not have heard of. I was also inspired by the countless examples of initiatives and individuals working towards protecting threatened native species, both as a career and in their own time.

I enjoyed sharing preliminary results from my Master's thesis at the conference. This was my first time presenting at an academic conference, and I appreciated the enthusiasm and support for my research. I found the conference crowd to be welcoming, knowledgeable, and passionate. Attending the conference was a great way to connect with new people from different organisations and learn about various career paths. I had many great chats and learned something new from everyone I met.

The enthusiasm at the Birds New Zealand conference was contagious, bolstering my own enthusiasm for studying and enjoying birds. Thank you to the organising committee for putting together such a great event. I look forward to attending the next conference in Nelson to learn more and reconnect with old and new friends.



Ana Menzies presents the preliminary results from her Master's research investigating song dialects in miromiro/ngirungiru/tomtit.