

Otago Atlas Toi Toi Wines Expedition

October 2022



We wanted to feature some Atlas trips that have occurred recently and share their stories. Below is a featured article written by [Richard Schofield](#) who works tirelessly as the [BirdsNZ Otago Regional Recorder](#) and is a leading Atlaser across the country. This trip was undertaken with funding from [Toi Toi wines](#) to help absorb some of the costs of the trip, as part of [wider funding](#) for Atlas expeditions into under-surveyed areas.

If you have undertaken an Atlasing trip and wish for it be featured, please do [get in touch](#) as we would love to share more of the Atlas community's stories.

Originally featured [online here](#).



Otago Atlasers in Naseby, October 2022

11 Otago members headed to Naseby over the Labour Weekend (October 22-24 2022), with the intention of filling in [empty Atlas squares](#), and topping up the under-surveyed ones, in the area. We assembled at the campground on Friday evening, and plotted our course of action for the next 2 or 3 days. The forecast was good for the Saturday, so we aimed high, literally, and went for the upland

parts of the region, splitting into 4 teams and getting into the relevant squares by whatever means possible – along good roads, tracks, walking or wading through matagouri (not a good idea in shorts!). Areas visited included the upper Manuherikia, the Mount Buster track, Danseys Pass and Orangapai. All the desired squares received some coverage, apart from one which was an expedition in itself, and which will be the object of a return visit by one of the participants. Bird life was sparse in some of these areas, as expected, but patience revealed more species than were evident at first sight. On Saturday evening four teams set out at dusk in an effort to find [ruru nohinohi/little owls](#), which have been heard and seen in the general area at other times of the year, but none were detected, despite apparently good conditions.

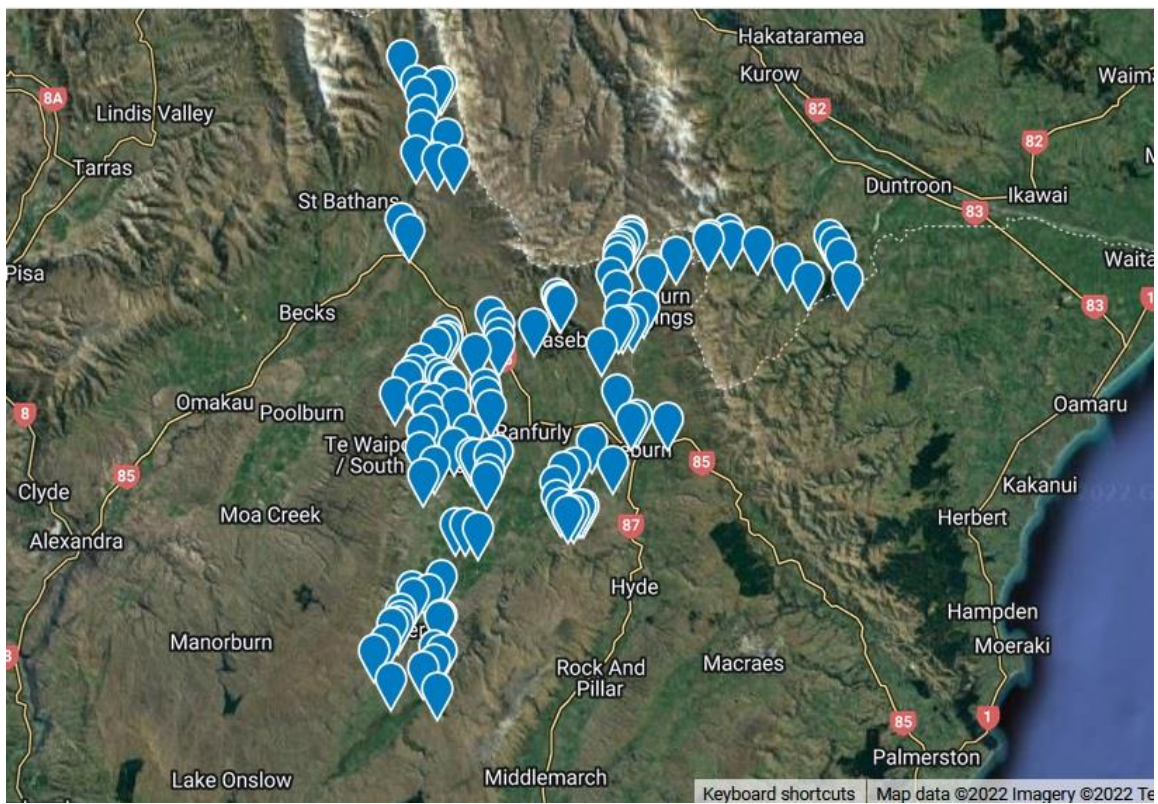


Atlasing in Naseby, October 2022

Significant winds were forecast for Sunday, so we stayed at lower levels, and though most squares had already had some coverage, much of it was from short visits, and some habitats had obviously not been surveyed. So we rectified this with a four pronged attack, with teams heading for the Gimmerburn and Puketoi areas, as well as Kokonga and Paerau. As with the previous day, there were some fantastic landscapes (it was windy, but sunny as well) and everyone appreciated the opportunity to get into little-known areas. I think the visit also whetted people's appetites for the area, and hopefully there will be many further visits in the remaining seasons.



Following 4x4 access tracks Naseby, October 2022



All data points from the trip summarised in the eBird Trip Report, October 2022

A total of 44 species was recorded, with highlights being a single [karearea/NZ Falcon](#), several [pohowera/banded dotterel](#) and [tarapirohe/black-fronted tern](#), two [tarāpuka/black-billed gull colonies](#), and a [kuruwhengi/Australasian Shoveler](#) nest with eggs.

You can read the full eBird Trip Report [here](#).

Many thanks to Toi Toi wines for providing funding to allow us to run these Otago trips, we hope to run further trips using the rest of these funds in the future.

Thanks to Richard for providing the write-up, photos, and for organising this Atlas trip into an under-surveyed area. Thanks to all those involved in this trip for giving up their labour weekend to provide their time and efforts to gather such valuable data. It is hugely appreciated as it helps the Atlas dataset continue to grow from strength to strength. Well done!

Finally, thanks to [Toi Toi wines](#) for providing a grant to help offset some of the costs of these trips scheduled to be run in Otago and other regions to fill in gaps across the Atlas grid.

