



Birds NZ Waikato Branch October 2023 Newsletter



October 18th hybrid/Zoom Meeting "Exploring threats to seabirds from their sensory perspective"

October Meeting

Join us to hear Ariel Hesswel discuss her research on seabird senses. Many seabirds are affected by climate change, invasive animals, bycatch, plastics and light pollution. but little is known about how seabird's perceive these threats. Ariel has been studying seabird sensory ecology to understand why these threats are a risk to seabirds.

The meeting is on Wednesday 18th October 7.30 pm at 5 Northway Street, Te Rapa at the DOC building. If you wish to join via Zoom use the information below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81894782590?pwd=dVRqNkZrUjJhRllrWFYlWFJDVElZz09>

Meeting ID: 818 9478 2590

Passcode: 501667

New Regional Representative (chair)

Jeanette Brooker has been appointed the new Branch Regional Representative (Chair) to replace Bruce Postill who has been Branch Regional Representative for a number of years. The Branch would like to thank Bruce for his leadership and support of the Branch during his time in the Waikato.

Bruce's last meeting will be October. We are asking members to send goodbye messages and reminiscences by Friday 13th October to birdsnzwaikato@gmail.com so these can be shared with Bruce at the meeting.

September Meeting Recap

- Members were given a wonderful presentation by Dan Burgin who demonstrated the value of eBird and the Atlas.

He encouraged us to keep adding bird observations regularly to the eBird Atlas portal.

- Waikato has 98% coverage of atlasing squares so well done to those of you who have helped contribute to this, however there are plenty of areas in the Bay of Plenty and East Cape that need lists submitted. You can see what areas don't have data by checking on the Atlas. If you are travelling in these areas try and make time to submit some birding lists.

Consider using these tools in the New Zealand Bird Atlas <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/explore>

- Species map – search for a species and see where the species has been recorded
- Explore atlas regions – click on an area to see what species have been recorded there
- Download your own checklists to Excel
- Upload your bird photos particularly if you want ID help. You can also download your bird photos
- Upload bird audio.
- When atlasing you want to record as many species as possible so look online at the targeted square and identify the different ecosystems in it eg stream/exotic/bush/lake and try to submit a separate list for each location within that square.
- you are better to submit a checklist for each ecosystem than one checklist for a larger area. as this makes the lists more valuable.
- If using the e-bird app, go to your app and look at three dots at the top of your screen, choose settings and account. Check the portal you are using is NZbird atlas not nzebird. After Atlasing finishes in June 2024 you will need to change the portal back to nzebird
<https://ebird.org/atlasnz/about/how-to-atlas>
- You are better to make an estimate than put in nothing to the checklists
- Unsure what type of shag/passeriine/duck you saw? Use the sp option in the check list eg choose duck sp for ducks you aren't sure what species they are.
- For very similar species choose the option x/y e.g. tui/bellbird
- Historic bird data can be uploaded

Useful links:

- [eBird and Atlas Webinars](#)
- [Atlas Essentials](#)
- [eBird Essentials course](#)
- [eBird quizzes](#)

If members would like support or advice on using these valuable tools contact Dan at dan@wmil.co.nz



Collaboration with South Auckland Branch

Waikato Branch and South Auckland Branch have agreed to share trips and zoom meetings. Their trips will be advertised along with Waikato Branch trips.

Hamilton Lake census

Barry welcomes people to join him on the monthly census counts. Contact birdsanzwaikato@gmail.com for more details

Other non Birds NZ events of interest coming up

- The Petrel Station Project based in Northland run pelagic tours and is an opportunity for you to see albatrosses, petrels and many other species. Scott Brooks an ONZ member in Northland runs these boat tours and recommends spring as being the ideal time to take a tour. <https://www.thepetrelstation.nz/>
- At the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre
 - Spring Migration Day Sunday 22nd October Claire Fearnley, the former New Zealand Ambassador to China and Korea will be speaking at 10am. High tide is at 1.30pm so bring your lunch and head out for some bird watching at the hides in the afternoon.
 - Firth of Thames Wader Census Sunday 19th November email Tony Habraken aahabraken@gmail.com



What's coming up - Meetings

Pop these dates in your diary so you won't miss these informative meetings.

- November 15th Carolyn (Kim) King What did it cost to save Pureora forest from logging in 1978 and was it worth it?
- December - no evening meeting but on December 3rd join us for afternoon tea at the Hamilton Gardens
- January - no meeting
- February 21st the making of natural history films - a documentary
- March 20th Graham Saunders - Birdwatching on the Northumberland Coast

Trips & events coming up

Members in a recent survey said they wanted more trips and events planned, so we've listened and organised the following trips for you. Please support them. For planning purposes please RSVP if you intend to come.

- October 8th, Sunday Pirongia Kokako walk, RSVP to Katherine 021 267 2773
- November 18 Harbour census RSVP birdsnzwaikato@gmail.com
- December 3 Christmas social event - afternoon tea in the Hamilton Gardens 3pm RSVP to Jeanette 0212032982
- January - no event
- February 24th Field trip to Maungatautari - an opportunity to see how our native birds thrive in a predator-free bush environment.