



Matuku: Birds NZ

Waikato Region Newsletter

February 2024

February 21st Meeting

The making of natural history films a documentary

February Meeting

Join us to watch a video about the making of natural history films and hear about the experiences of different film makers. We hope you can join us in person for the meeting (there will be no zoom option as we are sorting out some technical glitches).

The meeting is on **Wednesday 21st February** 7.30 pm at 5 Northway Street, Te Rapa at the DOC building. Press the buzzer to get entry.

What's coming up - Meetings

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

- March 20th Graham Saunders talks about Northumberland Coast Birdwatching

What's coming up - Trips

February 24th Field trip to Maungatautari - an opportunity to see how our native birds thrive in a predator-free bush environment. Contact Kaye 07 827 8285 to RSVP.

Saddleback, whitehead and NI Robin are guaranteed sightings. You may even hear or see falcon, rifleman or stitch bird, in addition to many more common birds of the bush.

Meet at the carpark at the end of Tari Road, Pukeatua, and move off at 9.30am. We will take a graveled, all-weather track through the bush up the mountain and move at a leisurely pace. Please note that there is no charge on this route, it is free access.

The first kilometres is a gradual uphill, after that there are a few steep sections. You can turn back at any time, so there is no need to be concerned about levels of fitness, etc. Facilities available: there is a Visitor centre near the carpark, with toilets, and snack & drinks for sale.

What to bring: good footwear (the steeper track sections can be slippery on descent), a rain coat, your lunch, water and snacks. And, of course, binoculars, if you have them! Return to the carpark by 1.30-2.00pm.

Some might want to do some additional independent exploring. You could go higher on the mountain after lunch, or to the Southern Enclosure or the Tautari wetland (please note there are charges) after we return to the carpark and visitor centre.

For those who have not previously visited Maungatautari, the best preparation for this trip is probably to take look at the Maungatautari website to find out more about the bird species you might encounter, and then spend some time on the NZ birds online website listening to their sound recordings. You will hear more than you see, so recognizing more birdsongs will add to your enjoyment of this bush birding trip.



Kings Birthday Weekend Conference 1-3 June - early bird rates close soon

The 2024 New Zealand Bird Conference & AGM is taking place in Nelson this year. Get in early and get cheaper rates. Online registration and details are available at birdsanz.org.nz/nz-bird-conference/conference-details/.

Discounted early registrations and abstract submission end on 31 March!

Looking for funding to attend conferences or do research?

- David Medway Scholarship (DMS) closes 30 March birdsanz.org.nz/news/david-medway-scholarship/
- Marj Davis Scholarship (MDS) - close on 30 March birdsanz.org.nz/news/marj-davis-scholarship/
- Pacific Is Bird Conservation and Research Fund (PIBCRF) closes on 30 March : birdsanz.org.nz/news/pacific-is-bird-conservation-and-research-fund/
- Project Assistance Fund (PAF) closes on 30 March: birdsanz.org.nz/funding/paf/
- The Fledgling Fund, funds Student Members to attend New Zealand Bird Conferences and Birds New Zealand annual meetings. Applications will close on 28 February birdsanz.org.nz/news/fledgling-fund-grant/

Hamilton Lake census

Barry welcomes people to join him on the monthly census counts.

Contact birdsanzwaikato@gmail.com for more details

Other regions newsletters:

South Auckland Newsletter:

birdsanz.org.nz/news/south-auckland-newsletter/

Makarora Youth Camp Report:

birdsanz.org.nz/news/2024-birds-nz-youth-camp/

Reports from funding given:

- Katie Gray: birdsanz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-AOC-Article-Katie-Gray.pdf
- Katie Vanderstok: birdsanz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2023-AOC-Article-Katie-Vanderstok.pdf
- Kamyia Patel: birdsanz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2023-AOC-Article-Kamyia-Patel.pdf