



Matuku: Birds NZ

Waikato Region Newsletter

May- August 2024

May 15th Meeting

From Beaks to Bytes: Decoding Bird Census Data We Collect on Our Harbours

March Meeting From Beaks to Bytes: Decoding Bird Census Data with Adrian Riegen

A number of members over the years have supported the 3 times a year bird census surveys we hold on the Aotea, Raglan and Kawhia harbours. These are a fantastic opportunity to go to places you wouldn't normally go to and there is always the chance you will spot a rare Arctic water. But have you ever wondered what happens to this data? Adrian Riegen is extremely knowledgeable about waders and has been involved with decoding the wader census data we and other groups have gathered for a number of years and he will take us on a journey through the wader world looking at what the data tells us. Learn about what populations are rising or falling and what uncommon waders visit our shores through the census data that our members have helped collect.

We hope you can join us on line or in person for the meeting . Feel free to bring friends or family.

The May meeting is on Wednesday 15th 7.30 pm at 5 Northway Street, Te Rapa at the DOC building. Press the buzzer to get entry.

Meeting ID 891 2307 7538

Passcode 971777

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89123077538?pwd=9mDq2SaosTbAyV67bi0cUCIT7JeHWQ.1>

February Meeting Report

We enjoyed hearing Abi Quinnell talk about her time volunteering in Canada where she had the opportunity to count and band many different migratory species. Some of the Canadian birds have stunning colourings.

Events coming up

Aotea and Raglan harbour census

Join us as we identify and count birds on the harbours by boat - join for 1 or both days. All levels of birding experience welcome. No cost involved.

- Winter census 8-9 June
 - back up dates 22-23 June
- Spring census 19-2 October
 - back up dates 16-17 November

Contact Russell Cannings for details
russellcannings79@gmail.com

Where are the spoonbills in your area?

The spoonbill census part 1 will be happening over several weekends in June. We are looking for people willing to spot spoonbill in their local area. Spoonbill are easy to identify being a large white bird with black bill and conspicuous.

Part of the spoonbill census takes place 8-9 June and another date later in June TBC.

If you would like to help count spoonbill in your area get in touch with Russell Cannings.
russellcannings79@gmail.com



What's coming up - Meetings

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

Wednesday June 19th Chasing Feathers: Adventures in Birdwatching and Record-Setting

Harry Boorman is an avid birdwatcher who attempted a big year in 2021. During this lockdown troubled year, he still managed to travel the whole country in pursuit of birds recording a staggering 245 species. He will talk us through his journey's ups and downs sharing some of the key highlights from his book that was released in 2023 'New Zealand's Biggest Year'.

Harry hails from the UK and has been birding since the age of five years old. His passion for birds started out as a passive interest as a child which has now turned into an active obsession. Harry is a keen advocate for the NZ Bird Atlas scheme and an avid birder.

Join Harry on zoom from the UK where he will talk about his adventures

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87896191037?pwd=LqZ5bgJfZs5kuGb3WDri6HhC54bxgY.l>

Meeting ID: 878 9619 1037

Passcode: 201386

Wednesday July 17th - Wings Across the Tasman: A Bird Banding Experience”

Bob Rigter will talk about his trip to Broome and Anna plains station in Australia where a group of 25 volunteers from around the world spent three weeks catching various species of shorebirds so they could be banded, flagged and measured to continue the 40 years of research from these sites. Bob documented the procedures of processing the birds and will share these as well as pictures of general birds in the area.

Wednesday August 21st - Bird Brother:

A Falconer's Journey and the Healing Power of Wildlife with Rodney Stotts - a video



Kings Birthday Weekend Conference

1-3 June

The 2024 New Zealand Bird Conference & AGM is taking place in Nelson this year. – Programme Outline now available: birdsNZ.org.nz/news/nz-bird-conference-registration/

Possible little bronze cuckoo found in Auckland

Auckland Region's recent meeting was recorded for your interest. Learn about an unusual find on the beach of a dead bird – a probable little bronze cuckoo, which is likely a new New Zealand record. The speaker was Katie Vanderstock talk regarding Antipredator behaviour in the Eurasian blackbird and song thrush: effects of sex, season, and colouration. Below is a link for you to view the video recording

<https://echo360.net.au/media/412b200b-7ec5-43d3-b820-ab3d189c7162/public>

Hamilton Lake census

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

Contact birdsNZwaikato@gmail.com for more details.

Other Regions Newsletters:

South Auckland Newsletter

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

Otago Newsletter

birdsNZ.org.nz/news/otago-newsletter/

Banding Newsletter:

birdsNZ.org.nz/news/banding-newsletter/

Other News

Birds NZ Research Fund – Call for application

birdsNZ.org.nz/news/bnzrf/

·Using aerial surveying for bird counts

[birdsNZ.org.nz/wp-](https://birdsNZ.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2022-BNZRF-Aerial-imagery-shorebird-counts-Summary-article-2403.pdf)

[content/uploads/2024/04/2022-BNZRF-](https://birdsNZ.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2022-BNZRF-Aerial-imagery-shorebird-counts-Summary-article-2403.pdf)

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Job opportunity

Ventus Energy is developing a wind farm project in the Glen Massey area. As part of the investigation process they wish for skilled ornithologists to carry out bird watches from different parts of the project site. Expenses and payment offered. Please contact, Glenn Starr – glenn@ventusenergy.co.nz



Manaaki Whenua
Landcare Research

We will be holding the

More Birds in the Bush

END OF PROGRAMME WORKSHOP

18th and 19th June 2024

Online

The workshop will

- Share results of our last 5½ years of research to support large-scale restoration of bird populations across New Zealand's native forests (*see back of flyer*)
- Discuss implications, applications, and priorities for future work to inform better management of large forests

Programme and registration to come

Neil Fitzgerald
photography

*For more information email Susan Walker
walkers@landcareresearch.co.nz*

Included topics and talks:

What drives forest food for birds and predators?

Predator responses to food, forest environments, and climate change

Results of large-scale predator management operations and pest reinvasions across different forests

Indigenous bird outcomes of predator management