

Matuku: Birds NZ Waikato Region Newsletter August 2024

Upcoming Events

Oceania Seabird Symposium will now be held from 13-16 May 2025. Noumea, Registration [here](#)

Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalist trust.

-Saturday 12 October is the annual welcome to the migratory birds open day with guest speaker Clare Fearnley former NZ ambassador to China and Korea. It will also be holding a second hand book sale of natural history books. If you would like to donate contact Wendy Hare on 021 02772517 wendynigelaxxi@gmail.com

Wader ID course

The Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalist trust is holding a wader ID course 15-17 November. Their courses are always reasonable priced and full of hands on learning and will increase your confidence in identifying waders. Contact Chelsea admin@shorebirdslorg.nz for more information.

Young birders Nelson/Tasman Bird Camp 28th September – 4th October 2024. Email Tasman.NelsonRR@gmail.com

Planned studies

Yellow eyed penguin chick mortality – more details [here](#)

Habitat loss, nutritional stress, and the decline of the Australasian bittern in Aotearoa – more details [here](#)

21st August meeting

Bird Brother: A Falconer's Journey and the Healing Power of Wildlife

Join us this month to watch a movie of pursuing dreams against all odds, and one man's redemption through falcons. Rodney shares his story as a black child facing dangerous threats to transforming his life through the healing power of nature. Rodney reminds us that no matter how much heartbreak we have endured, we still have the capacity to give back to our communities and follow our wildest dreams.

Wednesday 21st August 7.30 pm at 5 Northway Street, Te Rapa at the DOC building. Press the buzzer to get entry.

August Trip Fancy a bit of bittern?

Our bittern are in serious trouble. A recent study of a young female bittern showed that bittern travel extensively, often at night and disturbingly they fly at the height within the rotor strike height of wind turbine blades. They are also at risk of vehicle collisions, often flying across or landing on roads. This month our organized trip will be for a bit of bittern spotting on Saturday August 24th. We hope that we get to see the elusive bittern. Spaces are limited so get in fast by replying to birdsnzwaikato@gmail.com

And it's a wrap for the atlas project

After running for five years the atlas project recording where our bird species are has now finished. Thanks to all who participated. To find out how successful the project was read the press release [here](#). You are encouraged to still submit bird lists when you are out and about however you will need to change your ebird portal from 'atlas' and turn it off now the atlas is finished to ensure your data goes to the correct place.

The New Zealand Garden Bird Survey

The survey hit new heights with 7933 surveys submitted the most ever received. . The survey allows our scientists to see how bird populations are changing significantly, it's an alert that something is either working, for instance predator control, or something might be going wrong. The number crunching now starts and watch this space for the results of the survey.

Specials

Free Book for New Members that sign up – see [here](#) for details

Member discount on Potton & Burton books – get a 10% discount and free delivery, Offer ends 31 August 2024!
[Details](#)

Bird sighting news

Phillip Connolly reports that a black fantail was seen on the edge of the Mangakotukituki gully in Hamilton

Branch Newsletters

All the latest branch newsletters can be read online [here](#)

New office holders

At the Nelson conference there were a number of new appointees to position – read their bios below

[New president](#) Natalie Fosdick

[New Vice President](#) Ian Armitage

New Council members – [Mark Ayre](#) and [Martine Darrou](#)

Hamilton Lake survey results

Barry reports now that the shooting season is over the figures for the Canada Geese and Mallards are well down. Highlights seen recently were the two Dabchicks and six chaffinches spotted. Barry welcomes people to join him on the monthly count.

Contact eurobaz@xtra.co.nz

September meeting

Our next meeting we will be hearing a report on the Nelson conference and discussing opportunities for bittern monitoring training and observing in the Waikato

Bird Flu

Bird flu is spreading globally and while it has not yet been detected in Aotearoa the message at the Nelson conference was **it is not a matter of if it comes but when**. Mortality rates are extremely high for birds that congregate on water ways and scavengers. If you see three or more birds, marine mammals, or other wildlife displaying the following symptoms, or three or more dead animals together, please report it to the **Biosecurity New Zealand Exotic Pest and Disease hotline: 0800 80 99 66**. Do not touch suspected infected animals. While it is difficult for humans to be infected by the virus, once infected the human mortality can be up to 50%.

- Signs of bird flu vary but symptoms in infected animals include:
- Tremors
- Twisting/arching neck
- Weakness
- Paralysis
- Difficulty breathing
- Diarrhoea

More information can be found on the [DOC website](#).

Shining cuckoo diet, migration and breeding

The Auckland region recently had an outstanding talk about the breeding, migration and diet of the shining cuckoo. They have kindly made the recording of the meeting available for you to watch [here](#) for a limited time.

News items from OSNZ:

Membership new sub rates: Due to spiralling costs the Society has been forced to increase subs – see [here](#) for more details

A new Constitution for the OSNZ was finalised recently. Read more [here](#)

2024 OSNZ Conference Highlights and Photos can be found [here](#)

Code of Conduct for Bird Photography: There is a new Code of Conduct for the Photography of Birds. This acts as a best practice guide when taking images of birds. The primary aim is to ensure respect for the security and welfare of birds. We encourage members to read this Code of Conduct [here](#) and behave accordingly.

Checklists of New Zealand birds: Amongst the earliest publications of the Ornithological Society were checklists of New Zealand birds. To make these better known and be easily accessible to members, the four earlier versions of the checklist of New Zealand birds may now be read and downloaded from the [Historical Publications](#) webpage

Aims

- (a) To increase awareness of potential negative impacts that photography (the capture of images via still or moving camera, mobile device, drone, trail camera, or other) may have on birds.
- (b) To ensure respect for the security and welfare of birds and to minimise interference to birds and to the surrounding environment during photography.

1. The security and welfare of birds takes precedence



2. Minimise stress to birds



3. Attractants are discouraged



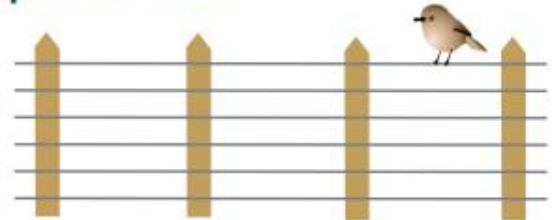
4. Be mindful when posting to social media



5. Drone use for photography is not recommended



6. Secure appropriate access permissions



7. Be respectful of others



We encourage you to familiarise yourself with the full Code of Conduct, along with other Birds NZ guidelines at: www.birdsnz.org.nz/about-us/manual/guidelines/.



SCAN ME