

BIRD MOULT WORKSHOP - 5 February 2025

Why is moult recording important?

When banding operators have birds in hand for banding, they should also be recording the sex and age of the bird as accurately as possible. Aging is crucial to our understanding of age at first breeding, breeding success and recruitment, movement ecology and population demography as well as aspects such as translocation success. Moulting is an important tool to age birds as well as providing information on the vulnerability of birds during various stages of their moult cycle; however, very few New Zealand banding operators have been trained in moult scoring. Building confidence in assessing feather wear, moult sequence and scoring moult as well as ensuring use of standardised methods and data submission will improve banding records and data analyses.

How can I learn more about moult?

[Birds New Zealand / Te Kāhui Mātai Manu o Aotearoa](#) is hosting an online **MOULT WORKSHOP on 5 February 2025**, supported by the [Birds New Zealand Research Fund](#).

We are delighted that **Dr Santiago Guallar** of the *Museum of Natural Sciences of Barcelona and Catalan Ornithological Institute*, will join us as guest presenter. Santi has a long-standing interest in moult both in terms of the role of moult in the annual cycle of birds as well as the practical application of moult in ageing birds; see <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Santi-Guallar-3>. Several New Zealand banders will also be discussing their own work.

The Workshop will include presentations on:

- The annual cycle of moult
- Examples of moult strategies in various bird groups/species
- Recording and analysis of moult - [Moult Recording Scheme of Birds NZ](#) / [FALCON Bird Banding System](#)
- Using moult to age birds
- Other practical applications

Where do I sign up?

Respond to mbradshaw@doc.govt.nz and we'll forward you the meeting invite.

You can join or leave the meeting any time during the day; see draft agenda below.

How do I attend?

Click on the link below to *join the Teams meeting* at any time during the workshop.
Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 499 626 837 82

Passcode: oH3up6Z5

Dial in by phone

[+64 4 889 8104, 918617818#](#) New Zealand, Wellington

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 918 617 818#

DRAFT AGENDA

The moult workshop will comprise a series of illustrated 15–20-minute talks with Q/A sessions.

All presentations will be recorded and available on the Birds NZ website as educational resources.

0900 – 1000

- Introduction (5 minutes)
- Moulting Basics

1000 – 1200

- Species Moulting Case Studies

House sparrow, Silvereye, Fernbird, Gannet, SIPO, Australasian Harrier

Lunch break

1300 – 1500

- Using photographs of wild birds to study moulting
- Applying moulting knowledge to assist bird study using GPS and isotopes
- Recording moulting
- Analysing moulting data

1500 – 1600

- Birds NZ Moulting Scheme
- DOC Falcon Recording Moulting

1600 – 1630

- Moulting resources and future initiatives. Closing comments

Presenters/Contributors: Santi Guallar, David Melville, Rob Schuckard, Paul Fisher, Mike Bell, Graeme Taylor, Bruce McKinlay, Michelle Bradshaw

O.S.N.Z Molt Recording Scheme - reference notes

