

March 2025



Kia ora koutou,

Firstly, I must start with a special thank-you to Manaaki Barrett and Miles Davitt for their drone footage which enabled the Spoonbill nest counts to happen. It is great that we have willing participation in our wider community to assist with avian projects, such as the Spoonbill monitoring which occurred this year. I'm pleased to say that we have recorded a small increase on the previous survey. I suspect that this could be at least partially attributed to a different monitoring technique (drone) being used. Use of a drone has meant that we have images that can be used as a baseline for future monitoring of the site, and have a higher level of confidence in nests being sighted. Any differences between nests numbers will be more meaningful, given that the Lagoon area at the North end of Kāpiti is very dense bush and otherwise difficult to navigate by foot. It will be interesting to see how spoonbill nesting went as a whole for New Zealand this season, and if there was a general increase overall since the last survey.

With the warmer months drawing to a close, this is an opportunity for us all to dig through our notebooks and ensure that any data we have collected has been duly reported to places like the BirdsNZ Beach Patrol Scheme, BirdsNZ Nest monitoring Scheme, BirdsNZ Moulting scheme, ebird, NZ Bird Banding database etc. These upcoming months are also a good chance to consider what avian opportunities you want to be involved in during next season. The New Zealand birding community is small, but welcoming and there are always opportunities to be discovered!

Keep up the awesome birding.

Nāku noa, nā

Annemieke Hamilton

Wellington Birds New Zealand Monthly Meetings

1. In person at the Te Papa Collections Building, 169 Tory Street.
2. Online via the Zoom Meeting via a link to be supplied.

The meeting will start at 7.45pm.

Next Meeting Monday 7th April, Susan Ellis, Remutaka Conservation Trust, Monitoring the spread of North Island brown kiwi through the Remutaka Ranges from 2006 to 2024". This will be an In Person and Online meeting. Note the earlier start time of 7:00pm as there will be an AGM prior to the speaker's talk. Online via the Zoom Meeting via the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86364235955?pwd=btzmqwDpyO7VRS36CIFCzUwiWbklAs.1>

Recent Meetings

Monday 3rd of February, Member's Night.

Ian Armitage – Wellington beach patrol findings
Alfie Benbow & Saul Ward - Summer Young Birders camp, Nelson / Tasman
Duncan Watson & Dianne Parker - Birds of Costa Rica
Alejandro Riccheri - Call for educating youth on the wonders of birds

Dallas Bishop - Lord Howe Island
Richard Littauer – Wellington BOTSOC summer camp and eBird projects
Annemieke Hamilton – Zealandia bird observations
Colin Miskelly – Falcon & kereru sightings at Mount Cook, Wellington

Monday, 03 March - Peter Moore, Monitoring Albatross on Campbell Island. Peter's first visit to Campbell Island was in 1987 and he has had a total of 13 trips to the island. Over the years he has observed major changes on Campbell Island, the most dramatic resulting from the eradication of rats in 2001. For the last two summers he has helped with a new DOC project seeking to shed light on the status of several albatross species, including the Southern Royal albatross and the Chatham Island albatross.

Abundance and population trends of mollymawks on Campbell Island PJ Moore – 2004

<https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/document?repid=rep1&type=pdf&doi=d5ca07fdec6cd11627a7d99c20ede9fe5b98bdb8>

Population estimates of Yellow-eyed Penguins, *Megadyptes antipodes*, on Campbell Island, 1987-98 PJ Moore, D Fletcher, J Amey - Emu, 2001

<https://www.publish.csiro.au/mu/mu00037>

Band recoveries of southern royal albatrosses (*Diomedea epomophora*) from Campbell Island, 1943-2003 *Notornis*, 52 (4), 195-205 P.J. Moore; S.M. Bettany (2005) https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Notornis_52_4_195.pdf

Provenance and sex ratio of Black-browed Albatross, *Thalassarche melanophrys*, breeding on Campbell Island, New Zealand PJ Moore, TM Burg, GA Taylor... - Emu-Austral Ornithology, 2001 -

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1071/MU00074>

Southern royal albatross on Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku PJ Moore, EJ Larsen, M Charteris - DOC Research and 2012 - doc.govt.nz

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/documents/science-and-technical/drds333entire.pdf>

Upcoming monthly speakers:

May – Neil Fitzgerald

June – no meeting as many members will be attending the BirdsNZ conference in Auckland

July – Chris Bell

August – Katie Gray

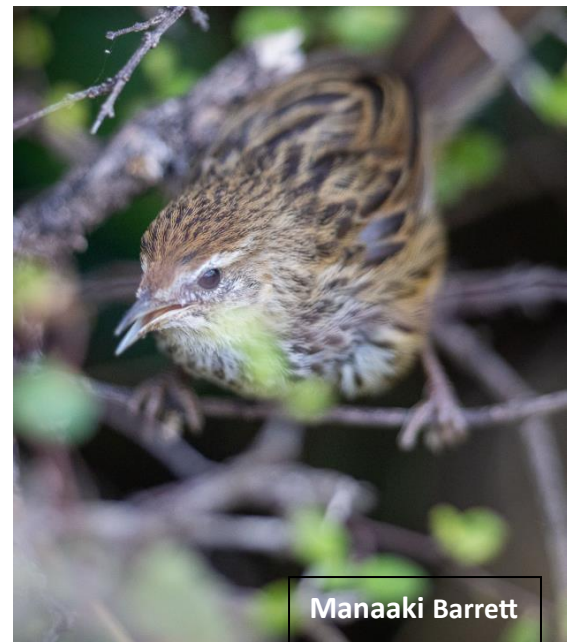
Fernbirds / Mātātā on Kapiti Island

Manaaki Barrett recently observed and photographed two fernbirds/Mātātā at Waiorua at the northern end of Kapiti Island. After the original sighting the birds were seen several days later in the same area. A most exciting finding of what is a recent self-introduction from the mainland.

Fernbirds are cryptic and difficult to see, let alone photograph. Furthermore, they are considered to be poor flyers. The closest fernbirds to Kapiti island are a small population on the Waikanae Reserve. In recent years fernbirds have been translocated to Pauatahanui and Mana Island. These translocations have been highly successful and birds have spread out from their release sites.

Manaaki is a talented photographer and has spent over the last 10 years of his life immersed in the life of Kapiti Island.

<https://manaaki.pictures/about> . He is the eldest son of John Barrett who with his sister Amo Clark set up Kapiti Nature Tours (<https://www.kapitiisland.com>) .



Manaaki Barrett

Mana Island Kakapo

Steve Sutton, 2024

This plaque is to honour one kakapo and also the kakapo recovery programme. Rhys was one of two kakapo liberated on Mana Island, at the top of Cook Strait, in 1992. They were both non-breeding males, and the liberation was both to provide the birds with a new home, and to see how kakapo would fare on a smallish flat-topped island, 120m at its highest, with limited forest, predator free and close to Wellington. Phil Todd was the island manager and Tina (Teenz) his wife, also working for DOC and lived there. There was also one other staff member living on the island, and I was there for the first half of 1993.



The first night after the birds were released one of them dropped its transmitter, and no further sign was found of this bird. Rhys was able to be tracked and lived for a year or so, ranging across the island, and using the transmitter tracking, often found holed up for the day in the established forest at the north-east of the island. There was little other mature native cover at the time, although 15 years of revegetation was establishing scrub cover across a number of gullies and onto some of the eastern ridges. There was a supplementary feeding programme at a station at the top of the forest areas, and Rys was an enthusiastic eater of nuts and kumara. Rhys' nighttime wanderings occasionally brought him into contact with island staff, and I recall one evening walking along the track between the house I stayed in and Phil and Tina's house, and meeting Rhys walking the other way. We looked at each other, I stepped to the left, he moved to the right, and walked on past. Later in my stint on Mana Rhys began breeding behaviour. He found a spot in the main valley where the houses were located, and began nightly booming. This carried on for weeks, and a low resonating boom could be heard as you lay in bed late at night. Despite some searching, we could not locate the exact site of what must have been his "booming bowl".

After I left Mana I heard the sad news from Phil and Tina that Rhys was found dead in August 1993. A post-mortem apparent revealed nothing conclusive, although there were elevated levels of organophosphate pesticide in his tissues. The plaque was commenced by Phil on a round of macrocarpa from trees cleared on Mana Island. I received it in 1997 after Phil and Tina left Mana, and asked if I wanted to complete the work. From a pencil outline I carved the outline of the bird, completed the rest of the message, and painted the plaque. I hope it can be used to celebrate and share the memory of these remarkable birds.

The plaque will be housed in the historic woolshed on Mana which contains display boards summarising the island's rich history.

Kapiti Island Kakapo

The following is an extract of the book, Kapiti Bird Sanctuary by A.S. & A. Wilkinson, Masterton Printing Company Ltd., 1952. The Wilkinsons were rangers on Kapiti Island.

Three kakapo were liberated on Kapiti by Mr Phillips Turner on October 12, 1912. So far as we know nothing more was seen or heard of this bird until October 1, 1927, when one was caught by an opossum trapper. He was engaged that year in shooting wild sheep. In the bush at Kaiwharawhara he fired at one of these animals and got the surprise of his life when a kakapo fell out of tree alongside him. Not knowing what it was he brought it to us for identification. The bird was in excellent condition, but appeared to be blind. Probably it was one of the original three. In the following year it was again seen in almost the same place, so we went to the spot to see if we could get a photograph, and after considerable difficulty we succeeded in this task.

On January 4, 1930 the trapper's dog startled another kakapo out of a hole under an old rata tree in the centre of the Rangatira bush. This place is nearly two miles north of where the other bird had been captured. The trapper said that it was a young bird, much too lively for him to catch. In July 1933, another was seen sitting on a leaning lancewood. It immediately scrambled down and disappeared in the undergrowth.

Our last experience with this bird was some three years later. By this time a new trapper had been appointed. On May 26, 1936 he brought along the old blind kakapo, which had come to his hut. Like the former trapper, he did not know what kind of bird it was. The bird was very thin and looked sick, so we put it in a shed and gave apples, swedes, potatoes and carrots. Next morning it had sampled everything and appeared much better. It continued to improve until June 2nd, when, after photographing it, we let it go. We were sorry afterwards that we did not keep it in captivity, judging by its condition when caught, it had found it difficult to get its food. Assuming that this bird was one of the first of those liberated in 1912, and judging by its condition when first captured, kakapo can at least obtain good living on Kapiti. The fact that the one seen by the trapper on January 4, 1930, proved so elusive that he was unable to catch it, leads us to believe that it was not one of the original trio but a later generation.

Note, the question has arisen as to whether all three of the kakapo transferred to Kapiti in 1912 were all male.

Puketahā: Kākāpō could find home within planned ecosanctuary

4 April 2022 , [Radio New Zealand](#) [Hamish Cardwell](#), [@HamishCardwell](#)
[@HamishCardwell](#) hamish.cardwell@rnz.co.nz

“Plans to set up 3000-hectare ecosanctuary in Wainuiomata Lower Hutt have taken a step forward, with a feasibility study from Zealandia's founder. The project would see 29km of predator fencing around native bush which would then be restocked with kākāpō and other endangered birds. The study, by Jim Lynch, said it could cost about \$42 million over a decade in consents; to build the fence and other infrastructure; and to eradicate pests. Greater Wellington Regional Council owns the land, but the government would have to pay for the setup cost. Council environment committee chair Penny Gaylor said the ecosanctuary could add \$160m to the local economy over 10 years, and create 16 permanent and nearly 50 short-term jobs.” The council would help maintain and manage the sanctuary, called Puketahā, once it was up and running

Banded dotterel – Dog Attack

Shane Cotter was out catching and banding and witnessed a dog attacking a fledgling banded dotterel with the flag ZMC on the Eastbourne beach. The dog had the bird in its mouth and the owner did not stop the attack. The incident was reported to DOC which then went to Hutt City Council dog control. Fortunately, the fledgling ZMC survived and was one of the three fledglings on Eastbourne beach identified.

This is the second time a dog has caused an issue for the banded dotterels on Eastbourne beach. Around six years ago, two nest cameras showed the same dog coming towards both nests and chasing the adults off. The dog and its owner were identified and a discussion was had emphasising the need for supervising the dog in the nesting area.

Shane Cotter and Parker Jones from MIRO met with Hutt City Animal Control Officers to discuss what can be done to try and avoid another incident of a dog interfering with the banded dotterels. They are looking at some new signage which will warn dog owners that the penalty is a fine of up to \$20,000 and possible jail time for dogs interfering with the dotterels. The dogs have to be under control at all times, off or on lead. This message will also be in Parker's annual end of season dotterel article in the Eastbourne Herald.

Banded dotterels on the move

The banded dotterel 2024/25 breeding season has finished as has the intensive monitoring by the MIRO team at Eastbourne beach, the Parangarahu (Pencarrow) Lakes, Baring Head and Wellington airport. Immediately after the breeding season many of the birds from these breeding areas congregate at the beach at Lake Kohangatera. In February 64 banded dotterels were present at Lake Kohangatera but by late March there were only 3.

Marked Birds observed outside the breeding areas being monitored by MIRO

Pauatahanui – Ration Point. Banded dotterels are often present at Ration Point following the breeding season during a mid-high tide. On the 25th of February, 2025 Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle saw 18 banded dotterels at Ration Point, including one colour banded bird and a flagged birds PHE. The orange colour banded bird was banded as a young chick (hence only one colour band) at Kaitorete Spit near Lake Ellesmere. PHE was banded as a chick at Eastbourne in 2021 and has subsequently been seen at Lake Kohangatera, Pencarrow Lighthouse as well as the Eastbourne beach. It was last seen on the 12th December, 2024 at Lake Kohangatera before being recorded at Pauatahanui, PHE has been a regular visitor to Pauatahanui outside the breeding season.

Note: These two marked birds were still present in Pauatahanui on the 30th of March, 2025. They were observed in a group of 30 birds at Ration Point, as the tide was coming in. Eventually the tide forced them to move and they flew off to the paddocks by Grays Road.



Lake Wairarapa. On the 28th February, 2025 as part of a quarterly bird survey, Shane Cotter and Joel Gilbertson walked from Lake Domain to the Oporua Spillway. They saw 155 banded dotterels of which three had white flags. No colour bands were seen. The first one they saw was PHX at the Tauherenikau River delta. This bird was also seen by Joel on the 16th January in the same area. PHX was banded on a nest at the Wainuiomata river mouth in 7/10/2022 and has been seen in this area in both the 2023/24 and 2024/25 breeding seasons. It was last seen at Wainuiomata on the 7th January, 2025.

A further two flagged birds were seen on the 28th February nearer the Oporua spillway but the flags could not be read.

Omaha Beach, north of Auckland. ZEN seen and photographed by Marie-Louise Ward and Susan Cook on the 28th February. Flagged on Eastbourne beach as an adult male 28/9/2024 and last seen on the 16th December, 2024.

Mangawhai, north of Auckland. PHP seen and photographed by Marie-Louise Ward and Susan Cook, 1st March. This bird was banded at Baring Head as an adult on the 15th October, 2021. Last seen at Baring Head 18th December 2024.

New Caledonia. PAP the regular commuter to New Caledonia has not been seen during the 2024/25 breeding season and is presumed dead.

Look for Banded banded dotterels

Please report any banded or flagged banded dotterel to the Department of Conservation <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/bird-banding/finding-a-banded-bird/> This should include marked birds even if you cannot read the flag or are uncertain about the colour band combination.

MIRO birds are marked with a white flag which has a unique 3 letter combination.

The Department of Conservation and the Max Planck Institute are marking banded dotterels at various locations in New Zealand as part of a project investigating migration patterns. Banded dotterels are being marked with either four colour bands or a white flag with a unique two-letter code.

Regional Representative, Annemieke Hamilton,

Regional Recorder: Peter Hodge peter.hodge@gmail.com

Matiu / Somes Island survey, Shane Cotter, heather.shane@xtra.co.nz

Newsletter, Geoff de Lisle, osnzwelly@gmail.com



Te Papa Blogs

A new bird for New Zealand – Horsfield's bronze cuckoo

By: [Colin Miskelly](#) , On: 22 Jan 2025

Aotearoa New Zealand is a long way from anywhere. Despite being 2,000 km from the nearest continent, vagrant land birds regularly find their way across the Tasman Sea – though some don't quite make it. Bird curator Colin Miskelly describes the latest new species to come to grief on our shores.

Measurements and plumage details revealed that the Muriwai cuckoo was a juvenile [Horsfield's bronze-cuckoo](#). A key difference from the similar little bronze-cuckoo was the presence of six white spots on the outer tail feathers (viewed from the underside). Little bronze cuckoos have fewer (and larger) white spots.

<https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2025/01/22/a-new-bird-for-new-zealand-horsfields-bronze-cuckoo/>

Palaeo introductions #1 – Palaeontology at Te Papa

By: [William Parker](#), [Alan Tennyson](#), [Felix Marx](#) and [Hazel Richards](#) , On: 3 Mar 2025

Welcome to a new blog series introducing places, people, methods, and species that are important to palaeontological research at Te Papa and beyond. Curators Felix Marx and Alan Tennyson, along with Researcher William Parker and Collection Manager Hazel Richards, start us off with a summary of what palaeontology is and how it works...

<https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2025/03/03/palaeo-introductions-1-palaeontology-at-te-papa/>

The Capital Kiwi Project

February 25th, 2025

[etpSnoosdr2:g5hm6Ft0ag1g t ib1iPua1a3 2u3rlclMy103e5u rg0ahui](#) · [Waikato](#) ·

Where do the 139 kiwi that have been restored to the hills of Pōneke come from? Last week a team of CK wranglers headed to [Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari](#) in the Waikato – the country's largest fenced sanctuary – to go kiwi hunting.



The success of [Save the Kiwi NZ's](#) kōhanga breeding programmes within sanctuaries means that there is a supply source to restore kiwi to their homes in the wild – in areas where sufficient threat control mahi has been done. The export of birds also relieves carrying capacity challenges faced by sanctuaries. The Capital Kiwi Project area represents (by far) the largest new addition of pest-controlled landscape to kiwi conservation. It is a timely matching of supply and demand.

Over 'catching season' the teams work together to locate as many kiwi as possible on the slopes of the maunga. The manu are found using highly-trained kiwi conservation dogs, then bagged and transferred to a smaller section of the sanctuary.

It's not always straightforward plucking te manu huna a Tāne from their ngahere hideouts, as the pics of Pete (upside down) and Jeff (duff-covered) show: "... Got her wriggling down a long dark log!"

Birds are rounded up again shortly ahead of translocation, boxed and driven to Wellington, Tongariro, and Taranaki. There'll be four Wellington releases in March from Maungatautari, (and a fifth from Taranaki Kōhanga Kiwi at Rotokare, in April). A further 75 kiwi in total.

The first fifteen will have a pōwhiri at Waiwhetu Marae next week. 2025 is the third 'kiwi catching season'. It is a large-scale logistics exercise that involves partnerships across the motu between the projects, communities, iwi, and sanctuaries. Collectively they are the largest kiwi translocation undertaken; they and represent guardianship of our national symbol being undertaken at pace and scale. [#gokiwi](#)

New Red billed Gull Colony -Whitireia

The newly established, red-billed gull colony on the western slopes of Whitireia was first reported in October, 2024. Subsequently, there have been reports of the colony by a number of different observers. On the 2nd of January Robyn Smith recorded in eBird <https://ebird.org/checklist/S207758961> photographs included.

1000 red-billed gulls - Large nesting colony of red-billed gulls covering two large stony beaches and rocky spurs between bays. Also on the lower slopes of the escarpment. Large numbers of chicks which are large and will soon fledge.

200 Black backed gulls, Varying ages of chicks, some still small and fluffy, others larger and walking around the nest.
30 white-fronted terns. Mix of adults and chicks, some young, some large.

On the 25th January, 2025 Robyn Smith and Dianne Parker recorded 1043 red-billed gulls including many recently fledged birds. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S209082666> photographs included.

This group of birds is likely to have previously nested on the beach at the northern end of Mana Island. Large numbers of red-billed gulls were seen by DOC ranger Jane Haxton at the Mana Island beach site in 21st September, 2024. No birds were seen at this site by Dallas Bishop and Geoff de Lisle on the 23rd December, 2024. The most likely explanation is that they abandoned this Mana site and moved to Whitireia. On the 7th January 2022 at this site, Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle recorded 776 red billed gulls with a large number of juveniles and 144 white-fronted terns - <https://ebird.org/atlasnz/checklist/S100932219>



Acknowledgements: Rod Hitchmough, Christine & Mike Jacobsen, Dianne Parker, Robyn Smith and Peter Frost.

Cook Strait Pelagic Trip – 29th March, 2025

A highly successful trip made even more enjoyable by some benign sea conditions and a good number of birds. The highlight for me (GW de L) was the sperm whale. A detailed bird report will be presented in the next newsletter.

The next pelagic trip will be in the end of June and a notice will be sent to members about a month before the due date. A special thanks to Michael Szabo for organising the trip and Jono and Tane from Cook Strait Charters.



Birds Snippets

[Common tern at Waikanae](#)

Alan Tennyson » Sun Jan 26, 2025
A common tern was at the Waikanae River mouth this evening. BirdingNZ.net

[Reef heron, Matiu / Somes Island](#)

M. Keey, 1st February, 2025
Pair of reef heron reported in eBird with photograph
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S211436138>

Dallas Bishop, dead reef heron on beach on Matiu / Somes Island. 23rd March, 2025

[Black-fronted Tern, Waikanae Sandspit](#)

Michael Szabo » Fri Feb 07, 2025
Paul Wheatley reports a Black-fronted Tern with the WFT flock at Waikanae Sandspit yesterday - an adult in non-breeding plumage. BirdingNZ.Net

[Kereru, Mana Island](#)

Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle, 9th Feb, 2025.

Three kereru were seen by the Ranger's house. A pair of kereru have regularly been seen at the bottom of House Valley in 2024.



[South of Kapiti Island](#)

Alan Tennyson 14th Feb, 2025
eBird checklist, 5 hours, 20km.
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S213179998>

Red-billed gull, 10
Southern black-backed gull, 8
Black-fronted tern 1, non-breeding plumage
White-fronted tern 10, about 5 were in a kahawai boil up
Little penguin, 8
Northern giant petrel, 1 with a white face
Flesh-footed shearwater, 15, 10 were in a kahawai boil up.
Buller's shearwater, 6, 2 were in a kahawai boil up.
Hutton's shearwater 20, almost all were in a kahawai boil up.
Fluttering shearwater, 60, almost all were in a kahawai boil up.

[Common tern at Plimmerton](#)

Alan Tennyson » Sun Mar 16, 2025 11:45 am



Photo – Alan Tennyson

Michael Szabo » Mon Mar 17, 2025
WFTs seem to have been less numerous in the Plimmerton area so far this year. Thanks for posting more photos in your eBird checklist: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S218784536>
Agreed Michael - there have been fewer wf terns around on our coast this summer and none nesting at Waikanae. This bird had that deep red colour at the base of the lower mandible, as we have seen in a few others recently. BirdingNZ.net

Wellington Zoo Te Nukuao

nosodSrtepbF362a 1l g0uf5fy2722uPrar 9271m1M1t62059h9f1ell g: ·

A few weeks ago, a Kāruhiruhi Pied Shag was admitted to Te Kōhanga The Nest with an alarming six (!) fishing hooks embedded in its feathers and skin. Sadly, despite our best efforts, this Kāruhiruhi's injuries were too severe to save it.

We've seen many cases like this at Te Kōhanga The Nest. To seabirds, shiny fishing hooks and fishing lines look like food, leading to injuries or even death when birds try to handle and eat them 🪝 If you're out on the water this summer, please dispose of fishing hooks and lines responsibly to help protect our wildlife. If you want to donate to help us continue to treat patients at our wildlife hospital, you can head to our website to learn more!

[#piedshag](#) [#TeKōhangaTheNest](#) [#fishresponsibly](#) [#nzbirds](#)

Wellington Zoo Te Nukuao

Snpdosoert6u375hatmr2m7t:1g54aM17h0i35 Pthg0t06a uc91 c68uM ·

Down at Te Kōhanga The Nest, we're currently caring for a Tawaki Nana Hī Erect-Crested Penguin, one of the most endangered penguin species found in Aotearoa. This young female was found at Tongue Point about 2 weeks ago, and was very thin, dehydrated, and heat stressed when she was brought to us. If you see a penguin looking scruffy like this, it's likely that they are simply moulting and should be left alone - but this Tawaki was also showing signs of extreme exhaustion that indicated it was unwell 🐧👉 This is why it's so important to keep dogs on their leads around the coast, so we can help keep penguins out of harm's way while they're at their most vulnerable! Thankfully, this little Tawaki is on the up and up, getting stronger and brighter each day thanks to care from our vets. We're hoping to release her once she's had a chance to fully recover and grow all her feathers in so she is equipped to brave the elements! Facebook

[#TeNukuaoWellingtonZoo](#) [#NZPenguins](#)

There are colonies of erect crested penguins on the Antipodes and Bounty Islands. Vagrant birds, mainly moulting during January-February are regularly recorded on the east coast of the South Island but rarely in the North Island. <https://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/erect-crested-penguin-tawaki-nana-h%C4%AB>

Wellington Spoonbill Survey, Kapiti Island

During the summer spoonbill survey on Kapiti Island on the 3rd of February, 2025 a drone was used to count the birds for the National spoonbill census. The nesting colony is on the north-eastern tip of the island and it is not possible to get an accurate count without the use of a drone. We saw 117 Spoonbills (yellow stars) on the imagery, 22 active nests (purple squares) and 7 nests which were either last seasons, abandoned or inactive (green diamonds), and 5 chicks identified (pink dots), though there may have been more. Many thanks to Miles Davitt and Manaaki Barrett for their drone footage which enabled the nest counts to happen. For the 2013/14 National Spoonbill census the nest count at Kapiti in 2013 was done from the ground and a conservative estimate of 20 nests was made. The colony was first seen 1995 with 3 nests.

Annemieke Hamilton
Wellington Regional Representative

