

Matuku: Birds NZ

Waikato Region Newsletter

November/December 2025



Image by Imogen Warren

Upcoming meetings:

NOVEMBER Wednesday 19th November 7.30pm

Topic: Educational opportunities for birders

Come along and find out about the various opportunities to increase your birding knowledge, both locally and overseas. Members will share resources and experiences.

FEBRUARY Wednesday 18th February 7.30pm

Topic: Birdwatching bonanza: spotting stories & bird quiz

Join us for an evening where we share holiday bird sightings and enjoy a bird quiz.

Both meetings at 5 Northway Street, Te Rapa at the DOC building. Press the buzzer to get entry or as a last resort ring 021 2032982. Non-members welcome.

Upcoming Events

Next meetings

- **November 18th**
Educational opportunities
- **February 18th**
Quiz and sharing bird sightings

Regional newsletters

Interested to know what is happening in other parts of the country? Read the other regional newsletters [here](#)

Published articles

- [Fluttering shearwater](#)
- [Bittern DNA](#)
- [Chatham Is petrel](#)
- [Bittern decline](#)
- [Gannets & avian flu](#)
- [Spoonbill census](#)
- [Long tailed cuckoo](#)

October meeting recap - John Inness

We were lucky to have John Inness for our October meeting. Members enjoyed hearing about John's extensive experience with predators and what are the best solutions to support our birds.

November Harbour census report

We were lucky to have good weather for the Aotea, Kawhia and Raglan harbour census of shorebirds on 8-9 of November. These censuses have been taking place for over 40 years and the valuable data that we collect is fed into international databases to help monitor the populations of migratory shorebirds. The godwits are back in large numbers. Also recorded were 3 red knots and 1 little tern plus many other species. Some of our counters were lucky enough to see quite a few black backed gulls sitting on nests and a dotterel nest was also spotted. Many thanks to our skippers and volunteers. The next harbour census will be in winter.

Vote for Bird of the Year competition

Forest and Bird winner of the 2025 Bird of the Year competition is the Kārearea | New Zealand falcon with 14,317 votes. Want to find out about the history of this competition? Then read this [book](#)

Hamilton Lake Monthly Survey Results

Barry reports:

October: It was a treat to see two Domestic Greylag goslings – yes they have bred! Everyone passing were intrigued but the parents were not happy if we got too close to the off-springs. Several Pukeko and Coot were also nesting.

November: A great count with many species present – more non-lake birds than water birds. A resident at the lake summed up the lack of Mallard ducklings “Usually at this time of year, there are lots more ducklings but there are hardly any this year”. We counted 11 ducklings, 6 small and 5 older ones. It may have been too hot for the Pukeko as there were fewer near the water and more on Innes Common. The Shags were quite plentiful but this time there were more Little Shags than Little Black. There were 3 Pied ones and only one Large Black Carbo. The Dabchick was ducking and diving as usual near a reedy area. Starlings were plentiful as were the Blackbirds.

All welcome to assist Barry on his monthly walks every second Sunday of the month . Next walks Sunday 7th December Contact eurobaz@xtra.co.nz



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