



# BIRDS

NEW ZEALAND

*Te Kāhui Mātai Manu o Aotearoa*

## MANAWATŪ

Newsletter July 2024

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## From the Regional Representative

When I took over the role as Regional Representative for Manawatū I thought about what I would like from my local branch of Birds New Zealand. I thought of three things: 1. Meetings with talks about birds and which gave the opportunity to meet other bird lovers; 2. Field trips where I could see interesting birds and learn about their behaviours; 3. A newsletter that gave me short information about local bird events and other interesting things. I have now managed to restart our local Birds NZ meetings. It is nice that members are standing up and helping with these meetings when I am away. Thanks to Megan Jolly and Phil Battley for standing in and running the meetings in July, August and September. I haven't yet started other field trips, other than trips related to the national winter wader and Royal Spoonbill census. I have now started a newsletter for the Manawatū branch. This is the first issue. I am not an expert in newsletters, so ideas for design and content are welcome. If you would like to be the editor of the newsletter, just put your hand up. Enjoy the newsletter.

## Talk at the June 2024 meeting

Kara Macdermid talked about the Turitea toutouwai | North Island Robin translocation outcomes. 40 pairs of North Island Robin were translocated to Turitea reserve in 2021. Robins and rats were monitored. The first year was not very successful. Only 9 out of 19 nests were successful. There were 11 fledglings. The cause of low success was thought to be predation by rats. The monitoring team suggested more extensive pest control. Palmerston North City Council and Rangitane decided to increase pest control in a limited area of the reserve where the Robins tended to hang around. This resulted in higher adult survival. 8 out of 11 nests were successful in the second year. In the third year they lost 2 out of 12 birds over the season. 8 out of 12 nests were successful and 12 fledglings survived. At present the population consist of five original birds, one born in the first season, three birds born in the second breeding season and seven juveniles from the third breeding season have been resighted. The conclusion was that to maintain the population the present level of pest control needs to be maintained or increased.



## Regional bird sightings since May 2024

Neill Haggarty has provided information below:

Kōtuku | White heron, Tūturiwatu | New Zealand dotterel and 15 Wrybills | Ngautu pare had been seen at Ohau Estuary. Three New Zealand dabchicks | Weweia and an Australasian Shoveler | Kuruwhengi were seen on Manawatu River near Buick Crescent. Antarctic Fulmars and Antarctic Prion were beach wrecked at Foxton beach. One fulmar was successfully saved and released back to the Ocean. The Little Egret is still present at Manawatu Estuary, Foxton. Up to 7 Cattle Egrets have been sighted on Whangaheu Beach Road (a usual winter visitation to this location). Spotless Crake | Pūweto has been spotted on Waikawa Beach Pond. The exact location is not known. Five Black-fronted dotterels were present at Tutaenui Reservoir Reserve, Marton. More than 40 Tuis were recently cavorting in winter flowering Red Gums in the Esplanade Croquet carpark.



Cattle Egret. Image: New Zealand Birds Online by Roger Smith



## Upcoming meetings

Birds NZ Manawatū meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month, **7:15pm in Val Kenward Room at the Palmerston North Community Leisure Centre, 569 Ferguson Street.**

### Wednesday 10 July 2024

**Speaker:** Ecologist Caitlin Lavery from the Te Ahu a Turanga Highway Project

**Talk: Protecting the Pīhoihoi (New Zealand pipit) on the Te Ahu a Turanga Highway project.**

Caitlin Lavery has been a site ecologist on the Te Ahu a Turanga Highway Project for the last two and a half years. She works alongside kaitiaki to help protect the numerous flora and fauna species across the project scope. The charismatic NZ pipit quickly became a favorite of hers as she spent hours with them, trying to better understand their behaviors. This presentation is a record of two years of observations and discoveries on the NZ pipit and how future projects can continue to protect them from decline. In order to comply with environmental consent conditions, ecologists on the 11.5km Te Ahu a Turanga Highway project were tasked with protecting the Pīhoihoi (NZ pipit). This was achieved by; regular surveys of the entire project route to identify NZ pipit habitat, nesting surveys every three days before grass stripping and protecting active nests from construction.



Photo provided by Caitlin Lavery

## Upcoming meetings (continued)

**Wednesday 14 August 2024**

**Talk: Local migration of Tui**

Speaker: Cleland Wallace, School of Food Technology and Natural Sciences, Massey University



Photo by Jodi Webber

**Wednesday 11 September 2024**

**Talk: Red Knots reluctantly reveal their secrets**

Speaker: Associate Professor Phil Battley, Zoology & Ecology Group, Massey University



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### National Royal Spoonbill census.

Birds NZ Manawatū have coordinated with Wellington Whanganui and Wairarapa and are conducting the winter spoonbill census on the 6 July 2024. Manawatū will survey the following sites: Rangitikei Estuary, Manawatu Estuary and up river, Lake Omanu, Lake Horowhenua, Hokio Estuary, Ohau River Estuary, Waikawa Beach, Voss' lagoon, lagoons near Opiki, Pohangina and Raumai Wetlands. Kirsten Olsen is coordinating the effort in Manawatū. If you are interested in helping contact Kirsten via email: [Kirsten.b.Olsen@gmail.com](mailto:Kirsten.b.Olsen@gmail.com)



Image © Craig McKenzie by Craig McKenzie

**The Garden bird survey** is coming up. If you are interested in participating, click the link for more information <https://gardenbirdsurvey.nz/>



New Zealand

**GARDEN BIRD  
SURVEY**

Run by Manaaki Whenua

**29 June - 7 July**

**Save the  
date!**





## Links to newsletters from other regions:

Waikato May- August 2024:

[birdsanz.org.nz/news/waikato-newsletter/](https://birdsanz.org.nz/news/waikato-newsletter/)

Canterbury May 2024:

[birdsanz.org.nz/news/canterbury-newsletter-wrybill/](https://birdsanz.org.nz/news/canterbury-newsletter-wrybill/)

Otago May 2024:

[birdsanz.org.nz/news/otago-newsletter/](https://birdsanz.org.nz/news/otago-newsletter/)

South Auckland June 2024:

[birdsanz.org.nz/news/south-auckland-newsletter/](https://birdsanz.org.nz/news/south-auckland-newsletter/)

## Links to other news items

2024 Oceania Seabird Symposium:

[birdsanz.org.nz/news/2024-oceania-seabird-symposium/](https://birdsanz.org.nz/news/2024-oceania-seabird-symposium/)

Free Book for New Members:

[birdsanz.org.nz/news/free-book-for-new-members/](https://birdsanz.org.nz/news/free-book-for-new-members/)

10% Discount Potton & Burton books:

[birdsanz.org.nz/news/special-discount-offer/](https://birdsanz.org.nz/news/special-discount-offer/)

Highlights from 2024 NZ Bird Conference:

[birdsanz.org.nz/news/new-zealand-bird-conference/](https://birdsanz.org.nz/news/new-zealand-bird-conference/)

Birds NZ Atlas data submission deadline: End of July 2024

<https://ebird.org/atlasnz/news/data-submission-deadline-end-of-july-2024>

New Zealand Bird Atlas finishes on a high

<https://ebird.org/atlasnz/news/new-zealand-bird-atlas-finishes-on-a-high>

The Next steps after Birds NZ Atlas project

<https://ebird.org/atlasnz/news/the-next-steps>

## Birds NZ council news

New President – Natalie Forsdick:

[birdsanz.org.nz/news/new-president-natalie-forsdick/](https://birdsanz.org.nz/news/new-president-natalie-forsdick/)

New Vice President – Ian Armitage:

[birdsanz.org.nz/news/new-vice-president-ian-armitage/](https://birdsanz.org.nz/news/new-vice-president-ian-armitage/)

New Council member – Mark Ayre:

[birdsanz.org.nz/news/new-council-member-mark-ayre/](https://birdsanz.org.nz/news/new-council-member-mark-ayre/)

New Council member – Martine Darrou:

[birdsanz.org.nz/news/new-council-member-martine-darrou/](https://birdsanz.org.nz/news/new-council-member-martine-darrou/)

## Contribution to future Birds NZ Manawatu newsletters

I thought it would be nice to have a brief newsletter once a month. I don't know whether I will be able to achieve it, but it is better with a little news often than a lot of news, including old news, less often. So I will attempt to provide a newsletter once a month.

To be able to do that I need your help. Please send me photos and text that would be appropriate for this newsletter. If you want to be the future editor or help with format and design please email me (Kirsten Olsen).

### Deadline for the August 2024 issue is 25 July 2024

Please send your contributions to:

[kirsten.b.olsen@gmail.com](mailto:kirsten.b.olsen@gmail.com)

### Contacts in Birds New Zealand Manawatū Branch:

Regional representative: Kirsten Olsen

email: [birds.manawatu@birdsnz.org.nz](mailto:birds.manawatu@birdsnz.org.nz)

## SO MANY WAYS TO HELP OUR BIRDS



Rock Wren  
(Image: Ben Ackerley)



Rifleman  
(Image: Michael Szabo)



NZ Tomtit  
(Image: Michael Szabo)

The Birds New Zealand Research Fund is funding new research on our endemic wrens and tomtits to help inform evidence-based conservation management.

[www.birdsnz.org.nz/membership/join-now/](http://www.birdsnz.org.nz/membership/join-now/)

**JOIN US NOW**

