

Birds New Zealand conference 2024 Nelson – Johannes Chambon

This year I attended the Birds New Zealand conference set over King's Birthday weekend in Nelson to present preliminary results from my PhD on the Chatham Island taiko and Chatham petrel, with the support from Birds New Zealand through the Fledgling Fund Grant. This is the second time I attend a Birds New Zealand conference and this year again I enjoyed a great weekend full of bird chats, presentations, and observations. I highly recommend this event to anyone interested in the study of birds. The quality of presentations and posters is impressive, and the range of topics virtually covers all New Zealand bird groups, from albatrosses on the subantarctic islands and migrating shining cuckoos to kakas in rural landscapes and wood ducks around Nelson. A personal highlight was seeing the results of the New Zealand Bird Atlas, the effort made by New Zealand bird watchers over the 5 years of the project is mind blowing.

This event is the country's number one rendezvous to meet other bird lovers from all over New Zealand (and beyond) and the enthusiasm at the conference is contagious. While the content is of high standard, the atmosphere is very friendly which helps engaging with other attendees. I highly recommend fellow Birds New Zealand student members to present their research at this event. It is a great opportunity to gain experience in public speaking, to meet other students researching birds, and network with other bird enthusiasts and actors of ornithological research.



Johannes Chambon presents preliminary results of his PhD research on the population dynamics of the critically endangered Chatham Island taiko. Photo: Michael Szabo.