



MANAWATŪ

Newsletter September 2024

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Searching for birds in Scotland. Photo by Kirsten Olsen

From the Regional Representative

I am very pleased that the monthly meetings are going well and are attended by an increasing number of people that normally do not come to the meetings. Thank you to Phil Battley for running the meeting in August and the coming meeting Wednesday 11 September while I am in Europe. The next couple of meetings are planned. If you have suggestions for the November meeting please send me an email on

kirsten.b.olsen@gmail.com

Thank you to Elizabeth Tayler and Isabel Castro for sending in photos and material for this newsletter and to Jennifer Wasley for making sure everything is paid for on time.

Please send me photos and notes about your bird adventures and sightings for the newsletter on kirsten.b.olsen@gmail.com.

Talk at the August 2024 meeting

Twenty-five people turned up to the last Birds NZ Manawatu meeting where Cleland Wallace talked about: Daily tui migrations in the Manawatū revealed by Atlas monitoring.

It was a fantastic presentation which created very interesting discussion after the talk.



Photo by Cleland Wallace

Bird sighting early morning and evening at Ohau beach

Photos from Elizabeth Tayler

Photos from an early morning and sunset along the Ohau stretch of beach.

The Sealion was coming out of the water on a frosty morning heading up the beach looking for a sunny spot.



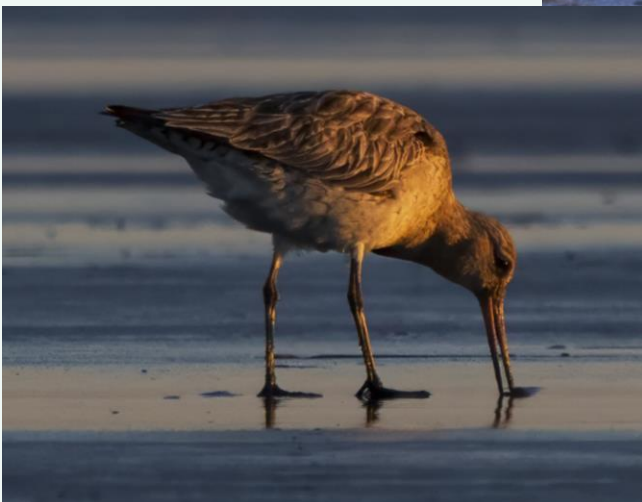
The black-fronted Dotterel walked along the beach, nicely mirrored in the calm water



The New Zealand Dotterel was feeding on a starfish.



The Bar-tailed Godwits were getting a last feed before dark.



Kiwi news from Isabel Castro

My student Rhianne Tarau and I were recently at my study site where we have been working for the last 20 years with North Island brown kiwi. We were monitoring the nests to candle the eggs and see whether they were developing normally. In North Island brown kiwi, the male alone incubates the eggs.

The first photo is a nest with three eggs that are being incubated by one male called Kobi. Two of the eggs were the same age, suggesting that two female kiwi were laying in this nest.

The photos of the embryos in the eggs were taken by Rhianne with a cellphone from above,



the egg was sitting on my hand while I held my torch on the side to observe the developing embryo inside. Both these eggs were healthy. The third egg (Photo below) is abnormal, growing on one side of the middle line of the egg instead of the centre; the egg is not viable.

I think the reason for the abnormal development of this third egg is that the male cannot possibly sit on three eggs as he does not have enough room in his brood patch to do so. The third image below shows an egg from our male Shaun, that is



developing without an air cell. This egg will likely die as well; we do not know why this has occurred. It is not common to see such abnormalities, but issues with incubation behaviour and inbreeding depression (the reduced survival and fertility of offspring of related individuals) are sometimes implicated.

Upcoming meetings

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

Wednesday 11 September 2024

Talk: Red Knots reluctantly reveal their secrets

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

Despite being the second-most numerous Arctic shorebird species to visit Aotearoa, the migrations of red knots / huahou to and from their Russian breeding grounds have been largely mysterious. Early work based on band recoveries and resightings of marked birds provided some information, but these methods are heavily biased towards where people are looking. In 2013, geolocators (small light sensor dataloggers) were used on knots from New Zealand, and while they gave good information on migration timing, they lacked the resolution for pinpointing locations used on migration. There followed several frustrating attempts to track birds with GPS or satellite tags, which repeatedly failed to answer our questions. Is 2024 the year when we will finally track birds from Aotearoa to the breeding grounds? Fingers crossed...



Wednesday 9 October 2024

Topic: Chatham Islands birding

Speaker: Chris Tuffley is a tramper, photographer and mathematician who became a birder too, through contributing to the NZ Bird Atlas.

In January Chris went to the Chatham Islands on a week long eight-person share-cost pelagic birding trip organised with Owenga Charters by Steve Wood. The group had four days on the water, making offshore visits to The Pyramid, The Forty-Fours, Rangatira South-East Island and Mangere Island, as well as spending time in open ocean. The rest of the time was spent on Rēkohu Chatham Island finding and photographing land- and coast-based Chathams endemics.

The group saw a total of 68 bird species, including almost all of the main endemic target species. Come along and see some pictures and hear all about it.



Chatham Island mollymawk | Toroa © Chris Tuffley

Links to other regions' newsletters

South Auckland August: birdsNZ.org.nz/news/south-auckland-newsletter/

Canterbury August: birdsNZ.org.nz/news/canterbury-newsletter-wrybill/

Nelson August: birdsNZ.org.nz/news/nelson-newsletter/

Waikato August: birdsNZ.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Waikato-2408.pdf

Notices

Youth Birding Camp in Nelson/Tasman 28 Sept to 4 Oct 2024

<https://www.birdsNZ.org.nz/news/2024-birds-nz-youth-camp-nelson-tasman/>

Birds NZ webpage updates:

Birding Locations and Maps: birdsNZ.org.nz/resources/birding-maps/

Birds NZ AGM Minutes:

birdsNZ.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024-AGM-Minutes.pdf



Eurasian Jackdaw. Photo by Kirsten Olsen taken at Killin in Scotland. Link to a full list of what Stephen Legg and I saw in Scotland: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/267992>

Wind farm can shut down individual turbines if endangered seabirds fly too close - BBC World Service

This BBC World Service report describes how the Tahkoluoto wind farm in Finland can shut down individual turbines if endangered seabirds fly too close to them:

<https://www.facebook.com/Birdsnewzealand/posts/pfbid033jDh5kJGN6kd1Re5hT6P66TfUi1LX7GTVpPuEcJcWA5Zchgt4V62WsuzcWJeyQPI>



Photo from: <https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/wind-energy-takes-toll-birds-now-there-s-help-ncna866336> an article from 2018 about how they in the USA tried to prevent birds flying into Windmills ('Energy takes a toll on birds, but now there's help')

Contribution to future Birds NZ Manawatu newsletters

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) kirsten.b.olsen@gmail.com.

Deadline for the October 2024 issue is 26 September 2024

Please send your contributions to: kirsten.b.olsen@gmail.com

Contacts in Birds New Zealand Manawatū Branch:

Regional representative: Kirsten Olsen

email: 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/

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