

# KUAKA



## Welcome to the newsletter of the South Auckland Branch of Birds NZ

Te Kahui Matai Manu o Aotearoa

Issue 62 – **OCTOBER 2024**

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The photo on the right was taken by Kate up Awhitu way. Perhaps we will have matuku tamariki this season!

Don't forget the next **Great Matuku Muster** date is October 19 - this is the key date for this project so if you only have one day available, please try and make it then.

**Our next meeting will be on Tuesday  
Nov 12 at 7.30pm**

Would you like to contribute to our newsletter a drawing or photo, detail of a sighting, or maybe an article or two – just drop an email to the editor.

We would love to hear from you.

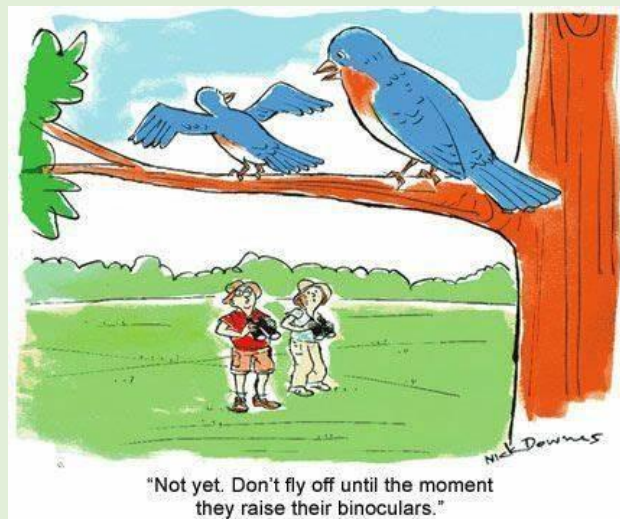
Editor: Wendy Goad  
Regional Representative: Sue Frostick.  
09 2672495 [suefro@xtra.co.nz](mailto:suefro@xtra.co.nz)



## PROGRAMME FOR 2024

**Monthly Meetings:** held on the second Tuesday of each month, at the Papakura Croquet Club, 1 Chapel Street Papakura. Meetings start at 7:30. Visitors welcome. \$3.00 donation to cover costs please

<b>Nov 3</b>	Wader & Spoonbill Census	Firth of Thames
<b>Nov 12</b>	Monthly Meeting	Kristal Cain will tell us about her studies on rifleman calls
<b>Nov 16</b>	Great Matuku muster	check out <a href="http://www.lovebittern.com">www.lovebittern.com</a>
<b>Nov 17</b>	Wader & Spoonbill Census	Manukau
<b>Dec</b>	TBA	End of year BBQ



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## MATUKU MUSTER UPDATE

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We have had reports from two groups who undertook counts on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The counts were undertaken for one hour from sunset. Anna reported that the Awhitu counters drew a blank with matuku calls but heard plenty of putangitangi/paradise duck, poaka/pied stilts, spur wings and kakianau/black swans. Another group up the peninsula had plenty of ruru conversations.

A group at Otawa were also unsuccessful in hearing any calling, although a couple of manu have been seen during the day.

Let's hope there is more success on the October 19 count.

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## SPEAKER FOR OCT 2024

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There was no speaker this month.

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## SIGHTINGS

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- A cattle egret was seen near Pararekau Island
- A little egret and 11 kuaka near Keywella Drive
- Kuihi/Canada geese have been seen for the first time recently at Wattle Downs ponds. Currently between two and five individuals: let's hope they don't get established like the feral geese, who currently number about 40.
- A karearea/falcon was seen at Ardmore recently
- A matuku-moana/reef heron has been seen at Kawakawa Bay
- The karoro/black-backed gulls which were missing from their colony on the west coast of Awhitu last month are now back at Douglas Gap
- A dead Kerguelen petrel was found at Orua Bay



- There are two tuturiwhatu/NZ dotterel nests at Big Bay, one with three eggs and another with one, plus a scrape at each of Binnies Bay and Colbeck Spit
  - A recent visit to Kidds found 3500 kuaka/godwit (including 40 juveniles), 2500 huahou/red knot, 23 Pacific golden plover, 8 red-necked stint and a tuturiwhatu/NZ dotterel nest with three eggs
- Pipiharauroa/shining cuckoo have been heard calling more frequently. If you find one dead, please contact Natalie Forsdick [president@birdsnz.org.nz](mailto:president@birdsnz.org.nz) as she has a colleague who would be interested in examining it.

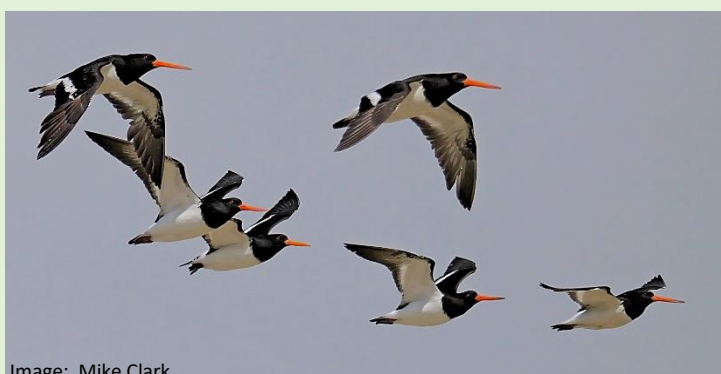


Image: Mike Clark

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## RR REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2024

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Spring is here with the usual fickle weather, but it hasn't deterred the birds from starting new families. A stepladder perched against my house wall has proved to be prime real estate for blackbirds or thrushes to make a nest during many of the last six years, and this one is no exception. Two blackbird chicks left the nest last week and are now trying to make themselves at home in my garden. My cat is on a lead but is showing a lot of interest in them!

At the Wattle Downs ponds, a pair of Black Swans had three cygnets who left the nest recently but have not been seen since. Another pair were seen copulating so there could be more babies to come. I have been filling out nest record cards for these and other species over the last few years, and I urge you to do the same. Take a look at the link below. At the moment the cards have to be completed manually, but there are plans to digitise this scheme.

<https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/schemes/nest-record-scheme/>

We will be running the summer wader censuses at Manukau Harbour, Firth of Thames and Coromandel peninsula during November – see programme for dates. If you are able to assist, please let me know.

Over the summer, Birds NZ will do a national census of kotuku-ngutu-papa/spoonbill breeding colonies. There are some in the Waikato, but we are unaware of any in the South Auckland region or Coromandel.

We are asking people to keep a look out and report any colonies and/or nesting behaviour of kotuku-ngutu-papa, such as carrying twigs for nest building, courtship displays, or congregating together in trees near water. Kotuku-ngutu-papa colonies are invariably located in sites particularly inaccessible to humans so try to survey remoter areas. They are usually surrounded by or above water. They are on islands, small islets, rock stacks off the coast, islands within river estuaries, or deep within wetland areas, including the dense kahikatea. The site of the nest ranges from on the ground to many metres high in trees. The type of nest ranges from simply flattened grasses without much nest material to large loose constructions of interwoven sticks and twigs.

If you do see any such activity either on census day or any other time over summer, please make a note of the location, take some photos if possible and send the information through to me, and we can follow up as required.

We haven't set a date or venue for our annual BBQ yet. Is anyone interested in hosting this, or perhaps we could meet at a good birding spot? Any suggestions would be welcome. As the end of the year is fast approaching, I'm wondering if we look at doing something in January, when the Christmas rush is over and the weather is more reliable!

**Happy birding**  
**Sue Frostick**



# Birds New Zealand Youth Camp

[www.birdsnz.org.nz](http://www.birdsnz.org.nz)

December 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

## Introduction to birding and good birds

- Observation, identification and recording
- Catching and banding
- Simple monitoring

Pukorokoro Shorebird Centre

Ages 13-18

Cost \$400.00

Find out more: [iansouthey@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:iansouthey@yahoo.co.nz)



## INTRODUCTION TO BIRDING

BirdsNZ South Auckland are hosting a youth camp at the Pukorokoro Shorebird Centre

from 15 to 20th December

It is suitable for 13 – 18 year olds

The cost is \$400

To find out more, or make a booking, contact Ian Southey on [iansouthey@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:iansouthey@yahoo.co.nz)

If you are curious about nature and want to learn more about what's around you, birding is a great skill and a fun hobby. When you start to take note of the birds around you, you might find yourself more perceptive of other things. You might notice sounds you previously overlooked, might start to notice small details in your surroundings like individual trees, insects, fruit and flowers. You might find yourself more in tune with the passing of the seasons. Birding can be a gateway to recognising and appreciating a wider world that was there all along.

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## HOPE FOR INCREDIBLY RARE BIRD

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One wonders what the connection is between the geologic age of an island and the survival of an endangered taonga. This guy seems to think there is!

**yahoo/news**

### Hope for incredibly rare bird after 'fantastic' discovery on 178-million-year-old island

The future of the endangered takahē looks a little brighter after five juveniles were raised on a sanctuary island.

**Michael Dahlstrom**  
Updated Mon, 30 September 2024, 3:42 pm NZDT  
2-min read

Hope is growing for one of the world's rarest birds after it was discovered five new juveniles had been successfully raised on a sanctuary island. [The South Island takahē was thought to be extinct](#) until a small remnant population was rediscovered in the 1940s in [New Zealand](#).

A breeding population has been set up on [Motutapu](#), a 178-million-year-old island that's one of the oldest land masses in the [Hauraki Gulf](#). Located near Auckland, the 1,510 hectare landmass has [no invasive predators](#) and it is the largest of the 17 sanctuary sites and is home to 28 birds.

The hatchlings will be added to the world population on Tuesday, taking it to 500.

The author is a journalist and 'documentarian' at Yahoo News Australia, specialising in wildlife and Environment.

FYI, the island is not 178mya old – it's complicated but effectively, the majority of the rocks of which it is comprised were laid down on the edge of Gondwana around that time, but the actual island itself can be no older than 15mya; prior to that the rocks, and those of the entire Auckland region, were below sea level.



Image: Mike Clark

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## IDENTIFYING INDIVIDUAL MANU

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Tony H had this advice for Kate on how to ID individual matuku moana/reef heron. His tips may help others to ID other manu.

Kates question was: I'm trying to convince myself these attached photos are definitely two different matuku.



Can't go by lighter vs darker feathering as different lights/ time of day, etc. One looks younger, the other maybe more 'worn'. Also, maybe difference in beaks?

Tonys ID hints are as follows:

The beak is where you will best find the differences for two birds or not. In this case, though one looks shorter than the other, that's only angle to the camera/observer. It's the colour marking/ shades in them that clinches it, left bird is generally a brighter dull burnt orange, the right bird has tones of yellow thru middle with darker grey patches near front half and nasal groove/gape.



From accounts it appears bill colours are a highly variable feature between individuals in this species, and these pics show this very well.

A couple of other things worth mentioning:

Moult - is useful if individuals are in active moult (that is later in summer/autumn). Inflight pics will show if they are actively moulting as each birds timing will vary, so a good pointer to look for.

Leg colour - this is likely variable between individuals.

Filo plumes - may also provide some variability and perhaps separate younger/non-breeders from older breeding adults especially in around breeding season. Both these two individuals have some but hard to tell if one has more than the other.



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## BIRD LOGOS YOU WILL KNOW

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Our very own NZ brand, Bluebird dates back to 1953, just a few years after young entrepreneur Les Saussey started selling popcorn and then potato chips at the Western Springs Speedway in Auckland.



Established in 1922, Birds Eye introduced its classic bird logo in 1938, which became iconic and was used for many years. The choice of a bird for their logo was interesting, given that the company was selling seafood!

[www.crowd.com](http://www.crowd.com) describes bird logos as follows: “....for most businesses, a logo becomes a symbol. It becomes the face of a brand ..... and reflects a company’s humble beginnings and the vision that its owner had..... Birds and other animals are easy to identify with and often are easy to recognize. A bird symbolizes peace, freedom, beauty, and spiritual growth. They can also mean happiness, strength, power, and purposefulness. Most bird logo designs are minimalistic where designers use abstract or even pictorial marks or logo symbols....”

Established in 1906 in the UK by William Ramsay whose wife was a New Zealander. Ramsay wanted to honour the NZ connection through his product – Kiwi Shoe Polish.



The Nestlé logo design, dating back to the 1850’s, is made in reference to Henri Nestlé’s family name which means ‘nest’ in German.

Minor changes have been made over time to the logo with it now displaying 3 manu, instead of 4 and placing the Nestlé lettering at the bottom

This manu was selected by the publishing company for its noble yet carefree nature. This logo was designed by Edward Young in 1935 to make the company seem youthful and approachable.



Over the years, the bird has lost weight. Angus Hyland, the mind behind the redesign stated that the bird got 15% slimmer. The logo is well-designed and recognizable enough for you to pick it out from a packed bookshelf.



Twitter was one of the most recognized manu logos there is. This sleek logo symbolized communication and spreading the news. By sending a tweet, you became a part of a social conversation across the world. The logo was intended to highlight the nature of the brand, and its ability to help people chat in short, simple phrases, like the songs of a bird.



Dove's logo was designed by Toronto-based designer, Ian Brignell in 1957. Simple variations of the logo design were made over the years that mainly involved the image of the dove and where it is placed beside the Dove lettering.



Turkish Airlines was founded in 1933. The current logo features a modern looking wild goose - considered to be a high-flying bird

NBC's logo only came to be after visual branding became an important part of their business, which happened in 1943 – the peacock logo was conceptualized as a bid to promote colour TV sets that were sold by the same company that owned the network.



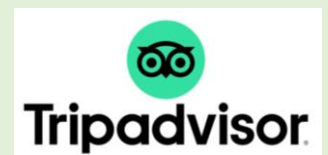
It was only in 1988 that the luxury brand changed its edelweiss logo into a swan. This manu symbolizes grace, beauty, love, and spirituality, among many others.

The American Airlines logo embraces a bird logo with an eagle head. Prior to this modern design (2013), the airline's logo showcased a fierce image of an eagle that was seemingly swooping down.



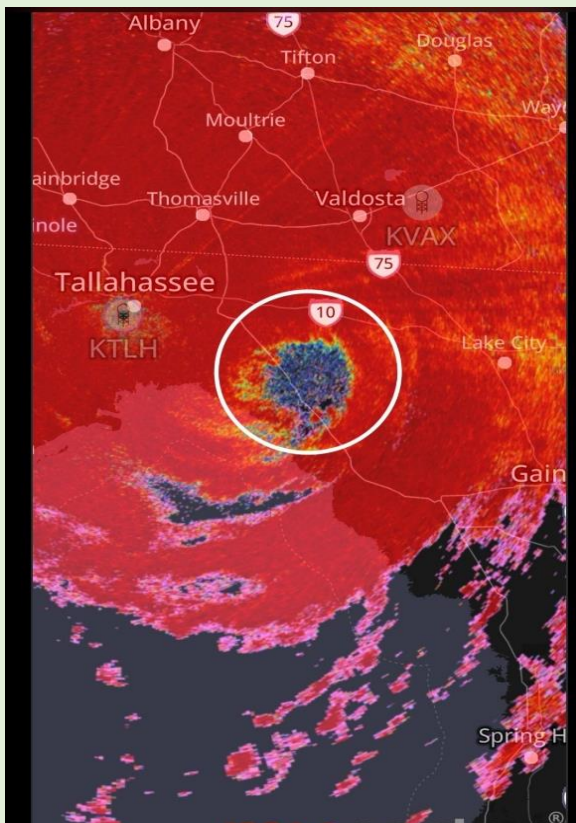
Airlines are one of the most common companies to use manu in their logo, as they are wonderful for reminding us of flight and exploration. Japan Airways uses a crane in its imagery, connecting to concepts of long life and prosperity in Japanese culture.

This logo, featuring an owl, was designed to convey ideas of knowledge, wisdom and enlightenment. The playful nature of the design also makes the overall image and company seem more accessible to a wider group of people.



This is one of the most famous bird logos in the American football league – it even looked familiar to me.

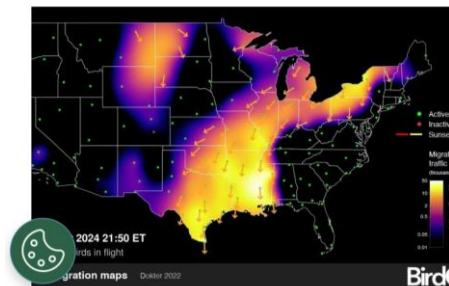
## BIRDS IN A HURRICANE



Hurricane Helene was a massive storm when it travelled across the Gulf of Mexico recently. Seabirds likely fled the storm's extreme winds – up to 140 miles/hr – and ended up in the eye, where it is calm. Once inside, they are essentially trapped, unable to pierce through the fierce gusts of the eye wall. When the storm dies down, the mass of birds will probably dissipate, said Kyle Horton, a researcher at Colorado State University who studies bird migration.

Though remarkable, it's not uncommon for birds and insects to get trapped inside the eye of tropical cyclones. Reports dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> C – many of which come from ships – have documented this phenomenon, noting in some cases that the air was "filled with thousands of birds and insects."

Hurricanes can also substantially impact the fall migration when several billion birds migrate south ahead of winter. A map of migration from the night Helene made landfall, shows that millions of birds were migrating west of the storm in places like Texas and Louisiana, but few if any were moving through Florida.



A bit of Americana

## Thanks for reading Kuaka issue # 62, October 2024

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter - whether you just want to supply a drawing or photo, or maybe even an article or two – just drop an email to the editor.

**Hope you enjoyed the read**

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Facebook page*

