

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc)

OSNZ — Birds New Zealand

birdsNZ.org.nz and birdsNZ.org.nz/society-publications/notornis/

December 2024



Kia ora koutou,

We have had several exciting bird reports for the region recently, including red-tailed tropic bird, whio and banded rail. A reminder that over summer in the past we have also had an interesting assortment of terns ‘turn’ up, so make sure to keep an eye out for birds of interest. You can post or read about interesting bird sightings and alerts at: [Bird Sightings and Alerts - BirdingNZ.net](https://BirdSightingsandAlerts-BirdingNZ.net).

The next Wellington BirdsNZ meeting will be held on 3 February 2025. The February meeting is our annual “Member’s night”. It is a casual opportunity for members to share interesting bird sightings, or preliminary findings in a safe and supportive space. It can be especially good for students who want a practice at presenting without doing a full 40 minute presentation. Hopefully, we all see many interesting things over summer and have lots of keen presentations ready to go. Presentations are not bound to the Wellington region, so if you have something of interest from another region (or international) you are welcome to bring this along too. Presentations can be as short as 1-2 minutes, with a maximum cap at presentation length will be 8 minutes. Please reach out if you are wanting to give a presentation. For the February meeting I also encourage people to attend in-person. If you have a presentation and it is likely to be in excess of 10 minutes, I encourage you to consider offering it for a general meeting presentation, we still have several gaps in the calendar for 2025, and I would appreciate any suggestions.

The start of December concluded our Wellington Region meetings for the year. It was great to have presentations by local university students Maria and Max regarding seabird and robin behaviour and monitoring. Maria and Max were previously selected

and supported as students to represent the Wellington Region at a BirdsNZ Conference, and it was great for members to hear more about their individual areas of research. On the topic of the BirdsNZ Conference, online registration has opened along with early bird pricing now available! In 2025 the conference will be in Auckland, and like always, it will certainly be well worth attending: <https://www.birdsNZ.org.nz/news/nz-bird-conference/>. There is financial support offered for students to attend, so if you are a student thinking of going, and interested to have some support, please reach out in the next couple of months.

Regarding the Spoonbill census I have been in contact with Kāpiti Island residents and DOC, and it is looking like we will be able to have the Spoonbill nests censused via drone imagery. I am hugely appreciative of their support. This is also very exciting, as it means that we will have a physical record of the nests (to compare to subsequent monitoring), and it reduces the requirements (and costs) of BirdsNZ members to undertake the count manually on the ground. It should also minimise disruption to the Spoonbills, and neighbouring gull colonies too! I look forward to sharing the results with you after the break. If you have an interest in helping to count and discuss and interpret the drone images of the Spoonbill nests, please be in touch.

Finally, wishing you and your families a safe and prosperous holiday period. I hope that you are able to relax and recharge in ways which are meaningful for you, and I look forward to hearing about your birding adventures in February!

Keep up the awesome birding and thank-you all for an amazing year.

Nāku noa, nā

Annemieke Hamilton, Regional Representative

Wellington Birds New Zealand Monthly Meetings

1. In person at the Te Papa Collections Building, 169 Tory Street.
2. Online via the Zoom Meeting via a link to be supplied..

The meeting will start at 7.45pm.

There will be no meeting in January. The next meeting will be on **Monday 3rd of February, Member's Night**. If you would like to present at this meeting please contact Annemieke, the Regional Representative, birds.wellington@birdsnz.org.nz

Recent Meetings

Monday the 7th October, Adrian Riegen "Engraved Leg Flags on Wader and what they tell us". At least 2,500 white engraved flags have been put on godwits, knots and turnstones in NZ since 2005 with the intention of trying to understand more about movements of these birds within NZ at a local and national level and identify staging sites during migration. Engraved flags should also help understand more about wader longevity. Information of sightings of engraved flags both in New Zealand and overseas is complemented from studies using smaller numbers of geolocators and satellite tags. Wellington members are urged to record observations of flagged birds and send the results to Adrian / Banding Office.

At this meeting **Dallas Bishop** provided some examples of information obtained from the use of unique flags on Banded dotterels in the East Harbour as part of the MIRO project.

Monday the 4th November, Imogen Foote "Can genomics help to resolve albatross taxonomy?" The Antipodean and Gibson's wandering albatrosses are highly threatened, yet their unresolved taxonomy complicates conservation efforts. We used whole-genome sequencing to examine genetic differentiation between the taxa to explore whether these taxa may warrant reclassification from subspecies to species.

Regional Representative, Annemieke Hamilton,

Regional Recorder: Peter Hodge peter.hodge@gmail.com

Matiu / Somes Island survey, Shane Cotter, heather.shane@xtra.co.nz

Newsletter, Geoff de Lisle, osnzwelly@gmail.com

Birds Snippets

New Zealand Dabchick - Zealandia

Michael Szabo Wed Oct 02, 2024

I found this lone NZ Dabchick on the upper dam lake at the Zealandia Ecosanctuary last Saturday 28th September. BirdingNZ.net

Eastern rosella – Mana Island

Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle, 13/14 Oct, 2024. First observed by the Go Mana Guide at the woolshed.

Rosella are rare vagrants on Mana. One other eBird record from the 13th of September 2019

Reef Heron – Waikanae spit-tip

Alfie Benlow, 26th Oct, 2024. Recorded on eBird with accompanying photograph.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S200259455> Note, reef herons are rarely recorded at Waikanae.

Bellbirds – Wellington City

Colin Miskelly » Sat Nov 23, 2024

We have been hearing a bellbird around home and in Prince of Wales Park (Mt Cook, Wellington) most days

for the past week. This is a roughly annual occurrence.

About 20 min ago while walking past the old Dominion Museum building (about 0.5 km from home) I was surprised to hear then see two unbanded male bellbirds. They were about 50 m apart, singing identical songs and answering each other.

It was the same song we have been hearing from home and the nearby park.

I don't recall having two bellbirds simultaneously in this part of the city before. BirdingNZ.net

Falcon – Lower Hutt

CMKM Stephens » Mon Nov 25, 2024

Not quite Wellington city, but there's a pair of kārearea nesting in Lower Hutt, that people (including myself) are finding out about via screaming and pointy divebombing. Got some nice photos hiding in a bush.

Banded Rail -Pauatahanui

Michael Szabo » Sun Dec 01, 2024

A Banded Rail was seen and photographed on Friday at the Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve near the Thorpe Hide, reported via Facebook by Helen Duncan and Vandy Pollard.



Michael Szabo » Wed Dec 04, 2024 5:25 pm

Great sighting - I saw the Banded Rail from the hide there yesterday afternoon but no crakes there.

Spotless crane – Pauatahanui

bsd1 » Wed Dec 04, 2024

While looking for the banded rail from Thorpe Hide in the Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve at lunchtime today we saw a spotless crane and 2 chicks in between the hide and the water. First time I've seen spotless crane from the hide. BirdingNZ.net

South Polar Skua off Pukerua Bay

Thu 5 Dec 2024 12:20 PM

Michael Szabo » Fri Dec 06, 2024 8:58 am

Oskar Ehrhardt reports via eBird seeing a South Polar Skua while seawatching from coastal Pukerua Bay on Thursday 5 December - photo in link with nearby Arctic Skua for comparison:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S204490435?wJekzrsd0w> ...

Possible red-tailed tropicbird seen at Paraparaumu

philbattley » Fri Dec 06, 2024

I just heard a report of a possible Amokura seen flying over urban Paraparaumu on Tuesday this week (3 December). It was seen by the mum of one of my students. She is keen on birds and heard something she didn't recognise, and looked up to see a slender white bird with a long red tail flying overhead. It was extremely windy this week along the lower North island so any vagrant bird might have had little say on where it was going, or where it might be now. The red tail certainly would make tropicbird a possibility. BirdingNZ.net

Variable oystercatchers – Lowry Bay

SomesBirder » Wed Dec 11, 2024

A pair of variable oystercatchers has bred at Lowry Bay, Eastbourne, again this year. They have three chicks that are now more than half way to adult size. Signage for the nesting oystercatchers was used to alert the public to the birds' presence this year. BirdingNZ.net

Note, These birds were highlighted as part of the planning for the East Harbour walkway/cycleway project.

Adelie Penguin – Petone Beach

An Adelie Penguin was found on the morning of the 12th of October on Petone beach in an off-leash dog-walking area. While the bird appeared to be in good health it was removed to the Nest, Wellington Zoo because it was at risk from “curious or excitable pets”. **DOC Facebook**

November 12th, DOC Facebook. “The penguin arrived on the shores of Petone Beach last month, and has been recuperating at Te Kohanga/The Nest since. While she wasn’t keen on the first attempt to release her at the end of last month, this time she got a premium water taxi service from **New Zealand Police** into the Cook Strait, hopefully giving a boost to her southward journey home.”

New Zealand Records. The first New Zealand record was an adult corpse found north of the Flaxbourne River mouth, Marlborough in December, 1962. There are 8 records of Adelie penguins in the Birds New Zealand Records Appraisal Committee’s database. A live bird was found at Kaikoura in January, 1993. The next record was in 2021 when a live bird came ashore at Birdlings Flat, Canterbury on the 11th of November and on the 12th of November an adult Adelie penguin was photographed north of the Rangatikei mouth Manawatu (Miskelly et al., 2022). In 2024 there have been 3 UBRs for Adelie penguins – Monkey Island, Southland; St Clair’s beach, Dunedin; and Petone beach.

Miskelly CM, Purdie A, Spenser A, Szabo MJ. (2022) Adelie penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) in New Zealand. *Notornis* Vol. 69: 264-266 [Miskelly et al. 2022](#)

NZ BirdsOnline – Adelie Penguin, <https://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/adelie-penguin>



Te Papa Blogs

Colin Miskelly – a fine Fellow

On: 2 Dec 2024

We are dedicating this blog post to acknowledge two honours recently bestowed on one of our own, Curator Vertebrates Dr Colin Miskelly. He has been made a Fellow of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand and received the New Zealand Association of Scientists Cranwell Medal. A huge congratulations on these achievements, Colin!

Te Papa blog; the full blog can be found at <https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2024/12/02/colin-miskelly-a-fine-fellow/>.

Cranwell Medal, The Cranwell Medal is awarded to a practising scientist for excellence in communicating science to the general public in any area of science or technology. In 2017 this medal was renamed from the Science Communicator Medal to honour the botanist Dr Lucy Cranwell, a remarkable communicator of science – in a time when this was essentially unheard of.

Previous Wellington members of Birds New Zealand to receive this award are Dallas Bishop with her two colleagues in 1999 and Jean Flemming in 2016.

Sniffing out seabirds on Mana Island

By: [Colin Miskelly](#), On: 13 Dec 2024

Te Papa vertebrates curator Colin Miskelly recently spent 3 days on Mana Island following a conservation dog searching for well-concealed petrels in the lush vegetation. He kindly agreed to share a 'blog with a dog' with us.

Miro is a 4-year-old German short-haired pointer cross. He is one of the few conservation dogs in the country that has been certified to search for protected seabirds. With his handler Joanna Sim, he spends much of his work time searching for kororā | little penguins as part of construction mitigation works, including along Te Ara Tupua (Nga Ūranga to Pito-One pathway) here in Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

He (MIRO) eventually found four pakaha (diving petrel) chicks well way from where we knew them to be breeding. However, the only titi wainui (fluttering shearwater) that were found were nests that we already knew about.

<https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2024/12/13/sniffing-out-seabirds-on-mana-island/>

Birds of the Hump Ridge Track

By: [Colin Miskelly](#), On: 22 Nov 2024

The Hump Ridge Track was officially opened as Aotearoa New Zealand's eleventh Great Walk in late October 2024. Te Papa natural history curator Dr Colin Miskelly walked the track a few weeks later and compared its birdaciousness with the ten other Great Walks.

The newest Great Walk

The [Hump Ridge Track](#), in the extreme south-east corner of Fiordland National Park, originally opened in 2001. Rising from the shoreline of Te Waewae Bay to 960 m above sea level, the 3-day walk provides spectacular views over western Foveaux Strait and Fiordland before looping back to the start (about 10 km of Te Waewae Bay is walked on both the way in and out).

Endemic birds seen or heard on the Hump Ridge Track

- Score 4 Kākā, Rifleman | Tititipounamu, Brown Creeper | Pīpipi
- Score 3 Kererū | New Zealand Pigeon, Bellbird | Korimako, Tūī
- Score 2 Paradise Shelduck | Pūtangitangi, Long-tailed Cuckoo | Koekoeā, Variable Oystercatcher | Tōrea Pango, South Island Pied Oystercatcher | Tōrea, White-fronted Tern | Tara, Foveaux Shag | Mapo, Spotted Shag | Kawau Tikitiki, Yellow-crowned Parakeet | Kākāriki, Grey Warbler | Riroriro, New Zealand Fantail | Pīwakawaka, Tomtit | Ngirungiru, South Island Robin | Kakaruai, Fernbird | Mātātā
- Score 1 Red-billed Gull | Tarāpunga, Little Shag | Kawaupaka, Pied Shag | Kāruhiruhi
- Endemic bird score = 50 points
- Ranking = 5th out of 11
- Additional possible endemic birds (not seen or heard by me): Shining Cuckoo | Pīpīwharauoa, Kea, Ruru | Morepork, New Zealand Kingfisher | Kōtare, New Zealand Falcon | Kārearea, New Zealand Pipit | Pīhoihoi

<https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2024/11/22/birds-of-the-hump-ridge-track/>

Banded Racing Pigeon

Today (18 Dec 2024), on our way to monitor Banded Dotterels at the Pencarrow Lakes we sighted a banded racing pigeon at approx. 2pm near Lake Kohangapiripiri, on the Pencarrow Coast Road. It was overcast with a strong southeast wind blowing. The bird was feeding on the edge of the gravel road before flying off as we drove past. Dallas Bishop & Geoff de Lisle

Reply from Geoff Stowell, Admin Manager, Pigeon Racing New Zealand Inc.
"There will be a club code, the year 2022 and the number which would identify the club and owner. Hopefully the bird will eventually head for home."



Deceased (probable) streaked shearwater, Cook Strait Alan Tennyson

Mon Oct 28, 2024

"I picked up an unusual shearwater wing at Moa Point (Wellington south coast) yesterday. The underwing coverts are almost entirely white, the primaries are entirely dark & it's wing length is 332 mm. The primary colour & length rule out the most obvious candidate: Buller's shearwater. A comparison at Te Papa today, showed that it was a good match for streaked shearwater, so I went back to the beach today to see if I could find more of it. I was amazed to find another wing, both legs, a lot of vertebrae & ribs + a few other bits. The legs & feet are entirely pale & the right size for streaked: tarsus 52.1 mm & mid toe + claw 67.1 mm (too big for Buller's & wrong colour). The bird is too small for Cory's & great and too big for wedge-tailed. Pink-footed has similar measurements & has pale feet but I compared some of the bones and pink-footed seems to have more robust bones than streaked & the Moa Point remains. The Moa Point bird has worn primaries and I'd estimate that it's been on the beach for some months (so probably washed up last 'summer'?). The amount of scattered bits that I found suggests that it was largely intact when it washed up, so I'll have another look for things like the skull on another day." BirdingNZ.net

Streaked shearwaters breed on islands off the southern Russian Far East, and Japan, east China, Korea and Taiwan. In the non-breeding season they migrate to waters off New Guinea and northern Australia and the South China Sea. The global population of streaked shearwaters is estimated to be about 3,000,000 birds. NZBirdsOnline



There are 2 accepted records of Streaked shearwaters, in the Birds New Zealand Records Appraisal Committee's database – a dead bird found in February, 2006 on Kawhia Beach, Waikato coast and a live bird in 2023 observed at the Petrel Station, east of the Poor Knights Islands.

Beach Patrolling

How you can help collect information for the Beach Patrol Scheme

The Birds New Zealand Beach Patrol Scheme commenced in 1951 and for more than 70 years has aimed to systematically document the identity, location and numbers of seabirds found dead on New Zealand beaches.

Beach patrol observations provide a unique long-term record having considerable scientific value and the data collected has helped to establish the occurrence and to some extent the distribution and numbers of more than 115 seabird species in New Zealand coastal waters.

You can help by making records of dead birds found on the coastline when ever you take a walk on a beach or on any part of the coastline.

Specific objectives of the Beach Patrol Scheme are:

- To provide information on the species, location and numbers of all birds found dead on the New Zealand coastline, including islands.
- To record, where possible the reasons, for seabird mortality.
- To increase the collection of birds for museums, especially of rarely found species.
- To provide specimens for scientific study.
- To increase the chances of recovering banded birds.
- To provide opportunities for members to identify seabirds.

Records of species occurring infrequently, or have never been found in New Zealand, are valuable and contribute to our knowledge of bird occurrence and distribution. Several rarities have been found, some only once, and include Bridled tern, Manx shearwater, Bulwer's petrel, Cory's shearwater, Streaked shearwater, Newell's shearwater and Matsudaira's storm petrel.

Numerous specimens of rare birds have been added to museum collections. Occasionally banded birds have been recovered during beach patrols.

If you are interested in beach patrol work, please read background information and procedures shown on the Birds New Zealand website < <https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/schemes/beachpatrolscheme/> >

Work on your own if you have to, or prefer to, and if necessary, arrange to have your identifications checked before making a submission.

The reporting procedure for beach patrol records enables observers to make submissions using their own computer at home through the Birds NZ website. This digital approach builds upon the wider use of computer technology applied to other topics on the Birds New Zealand website.

So, if you and your family and friends are planning a beach walk this summer please also make it a Beach Patrol and enter your records of dead birds found (including NIL counts) into the Beach Patrol Scheme.

Ian Armitage, Convenor, Beach Patrol Scheme

Expert help with the identification of birds found when Beach Patrolling

For assistance with bird identification beach patrollers can send Colin Miskelly and Alan Tennyson from Te Papa photographs of the whole bird, head, underwing, and foot. They will let you know if they need to see the remains to confirm ID, or whether the specimen might be of interest to Te Papa. They are always interested in banded birds (regardless of state of decay) as they are likely to be of known age and provenance (breeding site). Colin Miskelly, colin.miskelly@tepapa.govt.nz and Alan Tennyson, alant@tepapa.govt.nz

Beach Patrol Records

After submission of Beach Patrol records the data are reviewed to ensure they are realistic and accurate concerning bird identity, locality, numbers, distances patrolled and in respect of any comments made, measurements provided and the quality of photographs. Annual summaries of beach patrol data can be found on the Birds New Zealand website, <https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/schemes/beachpatrolscheme/what-happens-to-observations-after-submission/> and in articles in Notornis. Specific requests for information from the Beach Patrol database should be forwarded to Ian Armitage, Convenor, Beach Patrol Scheme, beach.patrol@birdsnz.org.nz

Wild Wellington Nga Taonga Taiao

A guide to the wildlife and wild places of Te Upoko-o-te-Ika

Michael Szabo

Published by Te Papa Press,

RRP \$45

Te Upoko-o-te-Ika Wellington has an amazing variety of landscapes and seascapes that are home to an impressive range of wildlife. This handy informative guide highlights over 30 of the best wild and urban places to discover and explore the region's natural diversity, from the south coast to Kapiti.

Notornis – Volume 71, Part 3, September 2024

Notornis is now only available online. The latest edition can be found at https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Notornis_Vol-713_September-2024.pdf

Papers Where do some Aotearoa New Zealand seabirds go? Records of Thalassarche albatrosses and Procellaria petrels in Ecuadorian waters. Reyes, E.M.R.; Giovanardi, S.; Suarez-Espin, G.; Haase, B.; Rexer-Huber, K.; Parker, G.; Sagar, P.; Fischer, J.H. 69

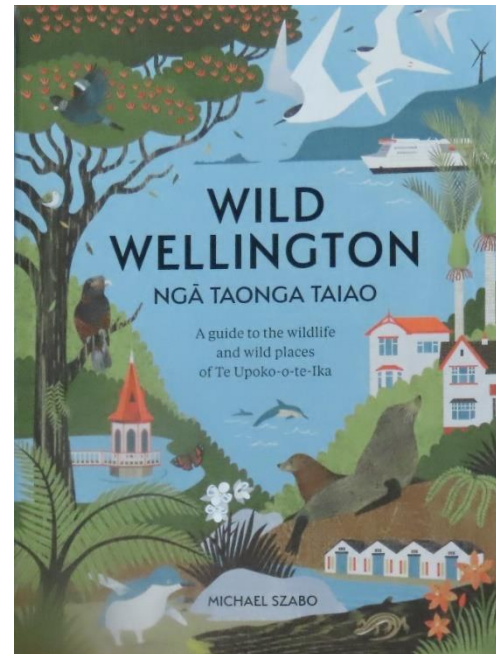
Breeding biology of kawau pāteketeke New Zealand king shags (Leucocarbo carunculatus) Helen Gummer, H.; Taylor, G.A.; Palmer, D.; Bell, M. 77

Amendments to the 5th edition (2022) of the Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand Miskelly, C.M.; Forsdick, N.J.; Palma, R.L.; Rawlence, N.J.; Tennyson, A.J.D. 93

Short notes Sexual dimorphism in plumage, and gender roles in breeding kawau pāteketeke | New Zealand king shags (Leucocarbo carunculatus) Gummer, H. 115

First record of the Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Passer montanus) from Buka, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, and status of the species in Melanesia Schmidt, J-W. 121

Observations of southern New Zealand dotterel | pukunui (Charadrius obscurus obscurus) foraging on tātaraheke | sand coprosma (Coprosma acerosa) at Mason Bay. McKinlay, B.; Cocker, D.; Collen, R.; Sangster, S. 125



Avian Influenza – Update

The following extracts come from the Ministry of Primary Industries's website and includes the latest information of the outbreak of high pathogenic avian influenza on a poultry farm in Otago (<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/exotic-pests-and-diseases-in-new-zealand/active-biosecurity-responses-to-pests-and-diseases/a-strain-of-bird-flu-h7n6-in-otago/>).

2nd November, 2024

Biosecurity New Zealand has placed strict movement controls on a commercial rural Otago egg farm, after testing confirmed a high pathogenic strain of avian influenza in chickens that has likely developed from interactions with local waterfowl and wild birds.

"Tests from the Mainland Poultry managed farm have identified a high pathogenic H7N6 subtype of avian influenza. While it is not the H5N1 type circulating among wildlife around the world that has caused concern, we are taking the find seriously," says Biosecurity New Zealand deputy director-general Stuart Anderson.

9th December

Continued testing and monitoring shows no signs of high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outside of Mainland Poultry's farm at Hillgrove, Otago, where depopulation of layer sheds is expected to be completed today, says Biosecurity New Zealand deputy director-general Stuart Anderson.

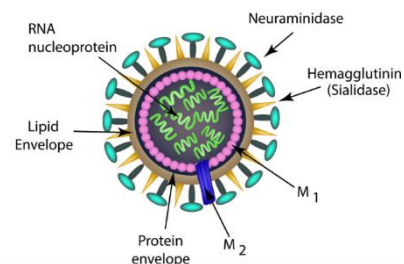
The farm remains under strict biosecurity lockdown.

"The depopulation to date covers all 4 layer sheds, which held a capacity of 160,000 chickens in total. We've had an animal welfare specialist on site to observe depopulation operations.

"Test results at the weekend confirmed the HPAI H7N6 virus had spread to the final layer shed, which was not unexpected for this virus. We had already planned to depopulate this shed before those results came in as we knew that spread was almost certain," says Mr Anderson.

A separate facility on the farm that is away from the layer sheds, and houses 40,000 rearing chickens, will also be cleared. That depopulation will begin today.

"International experience tells us there is no other way to manage the risk of spread of this virus other than



full farm depopulation, followed by cleaning, and decontamination.

"We've moved quickly in the past week to put in restrictions, investigate, track, and test, and I thank the farmer involved and our industry partners for their help – together we've made strong progress.

"More than 1,200 samples have been received to date, with hundreds being analysed at a time at our enhanced PC3 laboratory at Wallaceville in Wellington.

"Our response team has more than 200 staff across MPI now involved. We continue to put significant resource into eliminating H7N6, and we are confident we are on the right track to stamp it out," says Mr Anderson.

There remains no risk to eggs and chicken supply in New Zealand given the size of the national flock, nor any issues for food safety, and the risk to human health remains low.

What is HPAI H7N6?

Avian influenza is a viral disease of birds found globally. Virus strains are described as low pathogenicity (LPAI) or high pathogenicity (HPAI). The H7N6 strain is closely related to LPAI strains present in wild birds in New Zealand. When a low pathogenicity strain of avian influenza is introduced to chickens, it can mutate into a high pathogenicity strain.

We have strong evidence that this is the cause of the case in Otago and may have happened after free-range laying hens foraging outside were exposed to the low pathogenicity virus from wild waterfowl, which then mutated in the hens to become HPAI. This is the first time such an event in New Zealand has been documented, indicating that it is a very rare event for New Zealand.

There is no evidence that this strain of high pathogenicity H7N6 can spread from chickens back into wild birds.

While this is a high pathogenic strain, it is not the HPAI H5N1 strain that has caused deaths in poultry, wild

birds, and mammals overseas. New Zealand remains free of HPAI H5N1.

Testing also shows that the strain is unrelated to the H7 strain of avian influenza identified in Australia earlier this year.

How did it get here? We believe this case in Otago may have happened by what is known as a "spillover event". This is when free-range laying hens foraging

outside are exposed to the low pathogenicity virus from wild waterfowl, which has then mutated into HPAI.

We have an active surveillance programme for LPAI and test around 2,000 samples from wild birds each year.

Updated Biological Risk Assessment and Recommendations for Highly Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Antarctica Prepared by Meagan Dewar, Antonio Alcamí, Michelle Wille On behalf of the SCAR Antarctic Wildlife Health Network Release date: 16 December 2024.

<https://scar.org/~documents/route%3A/download/6304>

The report lists scenarios for HPAI incursions for the 2024/25 Season for the Antarctic region. **Listed as highly likely** is the reintroduction of HPAI from South America, South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur), Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) with the arrival of birds and mammals given that HPAI has been confirmed (Sept 2024) in Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and suspected cases (November 2024) in South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur).

Listed as unlikely, with the departure of wildlife at the end of the 2023/24 season, HPAI will have disappeared from the environment.

The report predicts a low risk of HPAI for the 24/25 season for Macquarie Island, Auckland Island, Campbell Island, Antipodes and Bounty Islands.

Rowi – Mana Island

Trail camera footage of a rowi from a camera set to monitor a feeding station to determine whether a takahe pair had a chick. Dallas Bishop

Twenty juvenile rowi were first brought to Mana Island in 2012 to breed. Mana Island has proved to be a successful breeding ground for rowi, the world's rarest kiwi species.



**Friends of Mana Island
NEWS**

<https://mailchi.mp/8fac64a23ce7/fomi-newsletter-october-2024>

- Seabird monitoring and burrow maintenance – why we do it
- Records broken for seabird breeding season
- Defibrillator on Mana Island
- Work party reports.