

## Linking habitat use and foraging behaviour of brown skua (*Catharacta lonnbergi*) in the Chatham Islands

GPS-telemetry has become a powerful tool to study bird movements. To date, most tracking studies focus on the breeding proportion of a population, while ecologically important non-breeding floaters remain largely unstudied. Floaters represent an important buffer against population decline and their habitat use is expected to vary greatly from breeders. Consequently, knowledge on 'floater' movements in addition to those of breeders will be of high value for species management and conservation.

The Chatham Island brown skua population, recently in decline, consists of both territorial breeding birds and non-territorial floaters. During the 2015 season, we aim to use GPS-technology to investigate fine-scale movements of brown skua breeders and 'floaters' during the breeding season. The Birds New Zealand Research Fund (BNZRF) will enable us to link skua habitat use with foraging via analysis of stable carbon and nitrogen isotopes from blood and tissue samples. Moreover, the BNZRF kindly covers costs of transportation to Rangatira Island (South East Island) in the Chatham archipelago, a major brown skua breeding site in New Zealand.



**Figure 1** Brown skua with GPS device attached to its dorsal feathers. Photo: Rebecca Hohnhold.