

# THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc)

## Wellington Region Newsletter

### OSNZ—Birds New Zealand

December 2014

<http://osnz.org.nz/> and <http://notornis.osnz.org.nz/>

#### Greetings

2014 is fast coming to a close and my thoughts are focusing on organising a list of speakers for our monthly meetings in 2015. I have already had some suggestions for presentations but would welcome more ideas for speakers you would like to hear. The first monthly meeting will be held on the first Monday of February and will be the traditional format of short presentations given by local members. Please let me know if you would like to present at this meeting.

Regards and very best wishes for 2015.

Geoff de Lisle

Regional Representative, Wellington OSNZ

#### Upcoming Monthly Meetings

##### WHERE and WHEN

Meetings are held at Te Papa's collections building, 169 Tory Street. Go up the steps and across the carpark.

First Monday of the month, 7.30pm.

**There will not be a meeting in January.**

#### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2015

##### Members' Evening

There will be a series of short talks given by local members. Details will be forwarded at a later date.

#### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2015

Dr Heidi Kikillus, Victoria University

#### Report of Monthly Meetings

**October Meeting. Little Penguins – a multi-year study on Matiu Somes Island. Ros Batcheler & Mike Rumble.** This talk was based on the one that Ros and Mike presented at the recent Penguin Conference held in Oamaru. 2014 marks the end of the second part of a multi-year study of little penguins on Matiu / Somes Island. The first study investigated the possible effects of web tags, flipper bands and transponders for

The secret life of Wellington cats, studies on the behavior of suburban cats, including the use of kitty cams.

Hutt News 17/12/2013

*"During summer two Victoria University researchers plan to shed more light on feline activities in Wellington.*

*Biologists Dr Heidi Kikillus and masters student Mya Gaby will scan video footage from 10 cats roaming in the suburbs surrounding Karori's 225 hectare Zealandia wildlife sanctuary.*

*For the study, pet cats who live in the area and are used to collars will carry the 32 gram camera twice a week for several hours to record their activities."*

marking penguins. This study was carried out because there was a concern that the commonly used flipper bands may affect the ability of little penguins to forage. Fortunately there was no significant difference in the life expectancy of penguins marked with flipper bands versus other forms of marking. The second study which will be completed this year, looked at the size of the penguin population on Matiu / Somes, egg production and



numbers of chicks fledged. As part of the study additional nest boxes were installed and is likely to be a significant factor in what appears to be a growing population of birds on the island. There are currently approximately 300 pairs of little penguins on the island and is the major concentration of birds in Wellington Harbour.

Right, Glenys Robertson and Ros Batcheler weighing a penguin; Left, two penguin chicks with a significant amount of white on their flippers. Photo, Dallas Bishop.

**November Meeting. The history of shags in Wellington and Wairarapa. Geoff de Lisle.** This talk was based on my background studies for the current shag survey and was a summary of my investigation of the rich history of shags in New Zealand. Shags, especially black shags, have been in conflict with humans since the formation of Acclimatisation Societies from 1860 onwards. The Acclimatisation Societies were responsible for the establishment of trout fisheries and they carried out a systematic culling of shags which is extensively documented in newspaper articles. For example, the following is an extract from the Evening Post, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1907. Rod and Game, by Gamebag. *"There has been a shag doing mischief to the fish in the Karori Reservoir for some days past. Will anyone with a gun please oblige."* 9<sup>th</sup> December. *"Someone had blunderbussed", The pirate will do no more damage.* For many years there were conflicts between the Acclimatisation Societies and 'ornithologists' as to what effects shags had on trout fisheries. There was ample evidence that shags fed on trout but little information as to whether or not they significantly degraded trout fisheries. Black shags were not protected until 1986 when they received partial protection. It was not until 2010 that black shags were moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> schedule of the Wildlife Act and received the same protection as little shags and pied shags.

**December Meeting. A DVD, the Ghost Bird, was shown.** This DVD documented the rediscovery in 2004 of the ivory-billed woodpecker in the United States of America which had not been seen for over half a century. The "rediscovery" has become a case study on what evidence is required to conclusively prove the discovery of a bird. The claim for the rediscovery of the ivory-billed woodpecker was based on eye-witness accounts and a small amount of video evidence. Since 2004 a large amount of time and money was spent to provide further evidence for the rediscovery of this bird. No such evidence has been found and critical assessment of the evidence for the rediscovery of the ivory-billed woodpecker strongly indicates that the birds seen in 2004 were pileated woodpeckers and not the ivory-billed woodpeckers.

If members would like to borrow this DVD please contact G.W. de Lisle.

## Field Activities

1. *Mist netting and passerine banding* – Peter Reese reports.

The next session at the zoo is not likely to be until late February or March 2015. There will however be sessions at other sites over the summer so if you are interested in coming along let me know and I will contact you when one is going to be held.

A bit more info and some photos can be found on our blog - <http://wgtnnzbanders.blogspot.co.nz/>

2. *Zealandia / Karori Sanctuary five minute bird counts*

## Bird Snippets – Wellington

### Brown kiwi, Blue Mountains Road, Whiteman's Valley

Melody McLaughlin, Rimutaka Forest Park Trust, Thu Oct 16, 2014

Kiwi found dead in owner's driveway, killed by a dog. Unbanded, but almost certainly a disperser from the re-introduced population in the southern portion of Rimutaka Forest. BirdingNZ

### Shore Plovers back at Plimmerton

ledzep » Sat Oct 25, 2014

The good news is that the 1 remaining bird (a female) has been captured on Mana Island and taken to join the others for breeding (Mt Bruce?); good for the lone bird. The bad news is we won't see any Shore Plovers at Plimmerton or Mana Island again for a while. BirdingNZ

These counts are being carried out every 3 months. This is a great opportunity to learn the five minute bird-counting technique. Please contact Colin Miskelly for details.

[Hakawai@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Hakawai@xtra.co.nz)

### 3. Shag Survey

As reported in a previous email and in my opening, the shag survey is underway. A number of people have contacted me expressing a wish to participate in the survey. For anybody else who is interested in participating in this survey please contact Geoff de Lisle.

## Rimutaka Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Gareth Rapley » Tue Oct 28, 2014

I wandered into the Orongorongo Valley this morning and on the way back saw a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo about 1.5km from the Catchpool car park. BirdingNZ

## Inner city biodiversity

ledzep » Thu Oct 30, 2014

A lone Fluttering Shearwater feeding beside Hikitea and in front of Te Papa, right beside the wharf area, at lunchtime. Great views of it swimming underwater. BirdingNZ

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## Wrybill, Petone Beach

Nikki McArthur » Thu Oct 30, 2014

Ewan Kelsall has reported spotting a lone wrybill on Petone Beach yesterday morning. The bird was foraging along the water's edge just east of the Petone Settler's Museum. BirdingNZ

### California Quail, Blue Mountains Road, Upper Hutt

Dallas Bishop and Geoff de Lisle, 3 Nov, 2014

Photographed on the deck of our house investigating the sugar-water feeder. The bird did not feed on sugar water. A pair of California Quail have been regularly seen on our lawn this year.



### Wrybill, Petone Beach

Nikki McArthur » Wed Nov 05, 2014

I've just received a further report from Sue Freitag of 5 wrybills she encountered on Petone Beach on Monday evening.  
BirdingNZ

### Saddlebacks - Aro Valley, Wellington

Davestonenz » Sat Nov 08, 2014

Mountain biking today in Aro Valley Wellington at 3.35pm. Heard first then watched 2 x Saddleback halfway along the Highbury Fling Track from the Roller Coaster track. They were both foraging on the forest floor - 3-5m off the track. A third saddleback heard at the same time some distance away, about 20-30m. The place where these stunning birds were sighted

was close to Zealandia Wildlife Sanctuary, about 200m from the boundary fence.

Also, at least 10 Kaka calling and flying around in the same area. Kaka were seen right down to Aro Road too. Wonderful.  
BirdingNZ

### Golden pheasant Blue Mountains Road, Upper Hutt

Dallas Bishop, Geoff de Lisle, 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

Photographed in our garden after hearing an unrecognisable bird call. The latest Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand, lists Golden Pheasants under the category of Failed Introductions. They are sold by Woodfield Gamebirds for \$40.25 / bird.



### NZ dabchick at Zealandia

Alfie Kaka, 15 Nov, 2014

<https://www.facebook.com/alfiethekaka/photos/a.228051843898247.47433.222540784449353/793156880721071/?type=1&theater>

And the rumours are true, a young dabchick has found its way to Zealandia Ecosanctuary. Photographer Hayley May has the evidence. I love it's delicate features. Look for it from the hides on the edge of the upper lake.

Michael Szabo » Thu Nov 20, 2014

Saw NZ dabchick on the upper dam at the Zealandia wildlife sanctuary in Karori, Wellington, this morning along with 8 NZ scaup and a pair of paradise shelduck.  
BirdingNZ

## Cirl buntings around Wellington

ledzep » Sun Nov 16, 2014

I went hunting for Cirl Buntings today at the end of the Wainui coast road near Wellington (where we have seen them before, see a few messages above). This seems to be a reliable location for them. Initially hard to locate, I had several good views of a pair at different times, but probably all sightings were of the same pair. The birds were very quiet, and didn't respond to tape calls. The male only sang once from the top of a bush on the ridge of the small ravine. A couple of photos below, including one which I believe is the female - very similar to female Yellowhammer, but it was associating with the male Cirl Bunting. BirdingNZ



Photo, Duncan Watson

## Australian Coots Whitby Lakes

Owen Hughes, November, 2014

A pair of coots have nested and hatched chicks. Time will tell if they can manage to fledge them in this environment.

## NZ dotterels, Wainuiomata River mouth

Nikki McArthur » Mon Nov 24, 2014

Have just had a report from Joanna McVeagh of two New Zealand dotterels present at the Wainuiomata River mouth (Baring Head) this morning. This is a new southern-most record for the North Island! BirdingNZ

## Reef Heron Oriental Parade

ledzep » Wed Nov 26, 2014

I saw the Reef Heron again 1.10 pm today, flying lazily low over the water and come in to land UNDER the wharf about halfway between Queens Wharf and Port of Wellington. It is clearly able to live a happy life roosting underneath the wharf right in the middle of the city. It may be able to feed from the beams under the wharf, but I can't see what it is doing once BirdingNZ

## Congratulations – Ian Armitage

*“Ian Armitage won the environment category of the Wellingtonian of the Year awards for his leadership of the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust in re-establishing a brown kiwi population on the capital's doorstep. “ Dom Post 29 Nov.*

## Ebird Training

On the 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2014. Nikki McArthur, our Regional Recorder conducted a training session for OSNZ members on the use of Ebird. There is an increasing number of Wellington OSNZers using Ebird and their observations are contributing to a growing database of bird observations for our region. The list of checklists submitted for November includes major contributions from Nikki and his Wellington Regional Council colleagues. The Wellington list also includes checklists from the Wairarapa. If you have any questions concerning the use of eBird please contact Nikki.

## Most Checklists Submitted for November (to 27<sup>th</sup>)

- [Wellington -- 630](#)
- [Canterbury -- 115](#)
- [Auckland -- 106](#)
- [Otago -- 71](#)
- [Tasman -- 69](#)
- [Northland -- 25](#)
- [Bay of Plenty -- 25](#)
- [Manawatu-Wanganui -- 25](#)
- [West Coast -- 22](#)
- [Waikato -- 22](#)
- [Southland -- 19](#)
- [Hawke's Bay -- 9](#)
- [Marlborough -- 8](#)
- [Taranaki -- 8](#)
- [Gisborne -- 2](#)



## MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA

The following recent blogs involve Te Papa staff who are also OSNZ members.

**Expedition Snares Islands: Journey into Wild New Zealand** In late 2013 the islands saw the arrival of four lucky Te Papa scientists to carry out a range of seabird and plant research projects. <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2014/11/21/expedition-snares-islands-journey-into-wild-new-zealand/>

How do you count a million seabirds. Four Te Papa scientists had the daunting task of counting over a million sooty shearwaters on the islands to determine the trends in their population. Watch the video to see how they did it. <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2014/11/28/how-do-you-count-a-million-seabirds/>

**A penguin's day at sea – The Wellington edition** Susan Waugh reports, Every year, Te Papa hosts a number of research interns, and this year we've very lucky to have Caroline Bost working with us in the Natural History research group. She's a young researcher from France who's working on penguin biology. <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2014/10/09/a-penguins-day-at-sea-the-wellington-edition/>

**Little penguins – the Motuara Island edition** <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2014/11/09/little-penguins-the-motuara-island-edition/>

**Motuara Little Penguin research – edition 2** <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2014/11/24/motuara-little-penguin-research-edition-2/>

**Little penguins foraging during chick-rearing in Wellington** <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2014/11/27/little-penguins-foraging-during-chick-rearing-in-wellington/>

## Henderson Island appeal

In 2011 the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, with headquarters in the UK mounted a major operation to restore Henderson Island. Its aim was to eradicate the rats that were decimating the birds and other wildlife found on this beautiful island. Species affected by rats on Henderson Island include Henderson petrel, herald petrel, Murphy's petrel, Kermadec petrel, Henderson fruit-dove, Henderson lorikeet, Henderson rail, Henderson reed-warbler, fairy tern, masked booby, red-footed booby, great frigatebird, red-tailed tropicbird, brown noddy, black noddy, bristle-thighed curlew, wandering tattler. Unfortunately this effort was not successful, but from the first day they learned that a few rats had survived, the RSPB were determined that they would not give up.

They are now planning a research expedition to the island to run between May to November 2015. It is a major undertaking that will involve two teams of eight people. Primarily they will be finding out if a second attempt to eradicate the island's rats will be successful, before they try again.

There is a need to raise £230,000 before this expedition can proceed. This will pay for the boat required to install the teams, the food and supplies that they will have to bring with them, equipment, research staff and all other costs associated with mounting an expedition on one of the world's most remote and isolated islands.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/applications/Donations/single/index.aspx?dt=MDNITH0013>

**Andy Maloney** a veterinary surgeon by profession from Wellington, actively campaigned to raise money for the 2011 rat eradication programme and is currently working hard to raise money for the research planned for 2015. Further information can be obtained from his Facebook site,

<https://www.facebook.com/killtherats2014/posts/500419023393754>

## Mana Island Field Camp for teens – 7-11 April 2015 – Sharon Alderson

*I will be talking to BlrdsNZ council on 6 December to get final approval for this proposal.*

The purpose of the field camp is to attract younger members and develop their skills and interest in bird ecology. We are aiming a teens in the 16-18 range, as there doesn't seem to be much currently available for this age group. Hopefully after the field camp, those attending will be motivated to start/support birding projects locally. Up to ten teens can be accommodated at the camp. This is a PILOT programme, which – if successful – could be repeated annually, to build a longer term research programme for Mana. Hopefully other regions could follow the model as well, or build on it.

**This five day Programme will include:**

- bird identification & observation,
- data collection,
- real research on seabirds (under supervision of Graeme Taylor),
- introduction to mist-netting & banding etc (under eagle eye of Peter Reese).

The Field camp will be staffed by Birds New Zealand members and DOC staff (some of course, are both!) . The current crew is: Sharon Alderson, Lynn Adams, Graeme Taylor, Paul Cuming, Peter Reese, Craig Steed & Ian Southey. There is limited space on the island, so I can't take any more staff volunteers for the week, but it may be possible to arrange for a day trip on one of the weekend dates if people are interested.

If you know any bird crazy teens 16-18 years old, with no other plans for the April school holidays next year – have them get in touch with me!

Email: [salderson@doc.govt.nz](mailto:salderson@doc.govt.nz) or Phone (evenings preferably) 027 244 3936

## How godwits get to where they are going

The following is an extract of an article was published in the Nelson Mail and Kapiti News. The following link is to the entire article.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/63115906/How-godwits-get-where-they-re-going>

*An international team of scientists is working to study a bird that flies virtually from pole to pole each year. Bar-tailed godwits make an epic 11,000 km journey each year from their breeding grounds in Alaska to a handful of sites in New Zealand, including the Manawatu Estuary at Foxton. The Nelson-based Cawthron Institute's Andrew Fidler and PhD student Angela Parody-Merino are working together to study how godwits know when to migrate. The project may provide insights into how climate change could affect the birds' migration patterns. Parody-Merino is from Spain and is studying through Massey University. The project she is working on at the Cawthron institute will take her two more years, and involves looking at data on godwit behaviour and studying their DNA. To gain the blood samples used for DNA testing, she said she netted birds in locations at the Catlins and Foxton. She analysed the samples at Cawthron and sent the results to Massey. Asked why she chose to study godwits, Parody-Merino said her PhD supervisor Phil Batley had been collecting accurate and detailed data on their behaviour for many years. He had been tracking birds almost every day. .... "*

Note; Phil Batley presented the findings of his studies on godwits at our April, 2014 meeting.



The second eagle has recently returned to Wellington Airport after it was injured in January 2014, during a 6.2 earthquake centred close to Castlepoint.



## North Peru Tours

The following is an extract from a report of the birding tours of North Peru led by Detlef and Carol Davies. If you would like to read the full report (5 pages) please contact Geoff de Lisle.

Next year's departure dates for tours are:

6 June - 3 week tour  
26 June - 3 day extension  
29 June - 2 week tour  
13 Oct - 3 week tour  
2 Nov - 3 day extension  
5 Nov - 2 week tour

Further details available from Detlef and Carol Davies, current prices held until end of January  
North Peru Tours  
180 Landing Road  
Kerekeri 0230  
09 407 3874  
0211464237

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### NORTH PERU BIRD TOUR – 21 OCT to 13 NOV 2014 (& pre-tour 27 Sept to 20 Oct)

Our 7 week visit to Peru this year began with a 3 week 'pre-tour' in which Detlef and Carol travelled from Chiclayo to Tarapoto. We spent some time ensuring that we could find our way around the coastal region of Puerto Eten which was to form part of the impending tour for the first time. Likewise we spent a morning in Bosque de Pomac to locate the area where the dry forest specialities were to be found. The tour was also to stay overnight at Waqanki Reserve for the first time; this is a well-known hummingbird place and we spent 2 nights there on this pre-tour, giving us time to take the trail into the forest at Mishquiyacu. With the excellent assistance of resident guide, Carlos, we found some unexpected species not recorded before on our tours, such as Fiery-throated Fruiteater (on the nest), Ornate Antwren, Wing-barred Piprites and Ivory-billed Aracari. The tour would be in for a treat here!



We visited 2 other sites with a view to including them in future tour itineraries in 2015. Both were within a reasonable distance of the main east-west highway. The first was a boat trip along the Rio Romero at Santa Elena which we had read about in a trip report. As we were 'paddled' quietly along the slow-moving river in the early morning stillness, the first of c.5 Green & Rufous Kingfishers confirmed that we were in the right place for some new specialities. In the 4 hour canoe-ride we went on to find Rufous-headed and Cream-coloured Woodpeckers, Band-tailed Antbird, Elegant Woodcreeper and Sungrebe, also a Neotropical River Otter eating a fish. The other site was a similar canoe-ride along the Rio Avisado at Tingana which would undoubtedly have produced a similar

array of species on a drier day and from an earlier start.

### The Perfect Christmas Gift: a 2015 Birds NZ Subscription!

Still looking for that perfect Christmas gift?, Give someone a **2015 Birds NZ subscription** and help foster the study, knowledge and enjoyment of birds!, Just send us an [email](#) and tell us which membership option you would like to gift, and we send you the voucher!

## Shag Survey

The Wellington Shag Survey started in October. My thanks to all those who have participated in the survey. What is very clear from the responses is that for many sites it is difficult to accurately count the number of shags and nests. The survey is concentrating on recording the number of active nests as well as the number of adult birds. Counts of adult shags will likely be an under estimate unless the counts are taken at dawn or dusk when all the birds are present at the colony. There have been a number of interesting observations. Black shags continue to occupy sites that have been used for over 50 years. Little shags have been found nesting with pied shags at Makara and Waikanae. They were also nesting on Matiu / Somes Island in Taupata alongside spotted shags nesting on the rocks. Spotted shags continue to nest on Kapiti with the colony just South of Te Mimi where they were nesting in 2005.



Spotted shags, Matiu Somes Island

Our OSNZ colleagues in the Wairarapa are surveying shags in their region. Recently the shags at Lake Wairarapa were surveyed by kayak. There were large number of nesting black shags, little shags and little black shags at Deep Lagoon (Matthews Lagoon), and black shags at Mangatete Stream (east of J K Donald wetland).

## More Christmas Gifts Suggestions

Craig Potton Publishing just announced a **20% discount off the RRP and free delivery** within New Zealand to Birds NZ members for the following 5 books:

*Land of Birds* (Niels Meyer-Westfeld) - NEW RELEASE!

*Native Birds of New Zealand* (David Hallett) *Birds of New Zealand* (Paul Scofield & Brent Stephenson)

*Moa* (Quinn Berentson)

*Kakapo* (Alison Ballance)

Just visit their [website](#) and enter the coupon code **NZOS14** at the shopping cart to receive the 20% discount! Offer expires 31 May 2015.

## Mana Island – 25/10/2014

A group of 30 OSNZers and friends had a very successful day trip to Mana Island which was made even more enjoyable by choosing the one fine day of the Labour Weekend. We left the Mana Marina 9.05am arrived 18 minutes later.



Bird List. The following is a composite list of what was seen on the island and reported to me. Nobody saw all the birds on the list. Including a numbers column is a guide only. For the more numerous birds the number listed is likely to be an under estimate. How many parakeets are on the island? The list is also of interest as to what was not seen, such as New Zealand pigeon, pipit, and shining cuckoo. A few comments on individual species;

(1) Robins. The number of robins recorded was less than recorded in previous years. They were found in three locations. Importantly, no robins were seen or heard in Bush Gulley, even after trying to attract them using a polystyrene squeaker. This used to be the stronghold of robins.

(2) Takahe. Only three Takahe were seen by OSNZers, the majority of birds are nesting and out of sight. However, Jeff Hall, the DOC ranger, did find a chick and parents on the Tirohanga track. This was the first chick recorded for this breeding season.



(3) Pied shags. They were nesting in two areas. The fallen macrocarpa tree north of the boat shed nests and just south of the sheds by the Lockwood there were two live macrocarpa trees with nests. The following is Dallas and my observations.

**North colony in dead macrocarpa.** – Time 10.43.

Number of nests 6, 5 adults and 1 large chick (non-fledged), 1 dead bird and 1 adult with a fish hook in its mouth - not associated with nest. Four adults on shore. Note, in the afternoon there were more pied shags on the shore.

### **South colony**

Observations from shore. Tree 1 (Southern tree) macrocarpa. 9 nests - 8 adult birds on nests and 1 large chick (non-fledged)  
2 adults not associated with nests.

Tree 2 (Northern tree)

3 nests - 2 adults on nest.

1 lone bird (immature)

Observations from track on hill Tree 1. 11 nests; Tree 2. 6 nests.



(4) Red-billed gulls. Colin Miskelly on Friday 24th was a bit more adventurous than the Saturday trippers. Colin reports,

*"I guesstimated about 1000 red-billed gulls on 24 October, spread over about 800 m of coast - i.e. approx 400 m each direction from the point below the trig. There may be more out of sight further east on the north coast. There are a few white-fronted terns among them. Some red-billed gulls appeared to be incubating, and others were seen copulating."*

(5) In 2010 bellbirds together with whitehead were transferred from Kapiti Island to Mana Island. A number of people on the trip recorded observations on bellbirds, including their sex and location. These have been plotted on a map from the GPS readings or map locations as provided by observers. This one-day survey showed that good numbers of bellbirds, including females were present spread widely over the island. All the indications are that the transfer of bellbirds to

Mana Island has been successful and a sustainable population has been established. This is a major achievement as there are few examples of successful transfer of bellbirds.

(6) Whitehead. These were widespread throughout the island. One banded bird.

Note from Lynn Adams. This bird was banded by Ros Batcheler /Lynn on 17/7/2010 as part of the translocation from Kapiti. The bird did not gain weight during its period in the aviary during the translocation which makes it even more pleasing that it survived.

(7) Diving petrel – adult and chick. Found by Colin Miskelly in one of the artificial burrows.



Photo – Duncan Watson



Photo Duncan Watson

(8) New Zealand Falcon. Spotted by Michelle and Matu and others, in the macrocarpas in the northern part of the island.

There is much more to Mana Island than birds. For example, the following are a couple of photographs of the effects of the introduced flax weevils.



G.W. de Lisle

### Bellbird Sightings, Mana Island, 25/10/2014



Each pin represents an observation of a bellbird. The observations are colour coded. Each observer has been allocated a separate colour. M = male, F = female, Pr = pair, U = unknown.

**Combined sightings list, Mana Island 25/10/2014**

Species	Max no. seen	Species	Max no. seen
Paradise duck	8	Whitehead	Multiple
Brown teal	6	NZ robin	3
Fluttering shearwater	22	Skylark	3
Diving petrel	2	Silvereye	8
Australasian gannet	1	Blackbird	3
Little black shag	2	Startling	4
Pied shag	24	Yellowhammer	4
Reef heron	1	Chaffinch	5
Australia harrier	1	Goldfinch	12
Pukeko	4	House sparrow	2
Variable oystercatcher	4	Takahe	3
Red-billed gull	1000	Fantail	6
White-fronted tern	2	Dunnock	5
Black backed gull	10	Greenfinch	4
Sacred kingfisher	4	Welcome swallow	4
Yellow-crowned parakeet	23 (lots)	NZ falcon	1
Tui	8	Song thrush	1
Bellbird	See map	Rock pigeon	6
Grey warbler	5		

**Wellington Region Contacts**

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Regional Recorder: Nikki McArthur [nikki.mcarthur@gw.govt.nz](mailto:nikki.mcarthur@gw.govt.nz)

Birds New Zealand Regional Roundup: Geoff de Lisle & Dallas Bishop (04) 527 0929

[osnzwelly@gmail.com](mailto:osnzwelly@gmail.com)

Shag Survey - Geoff de Lisle

Mist netting and passerine banding - Peter Reese (04) 387 7387 or [Ruth.peter@actrix.co.nz](mailto:Ruth.peter@actrix.co.nz)

Zealandia 5 minute counts - Colin Miskelly [Hakawai@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Hakawai@xtra.co.nz)