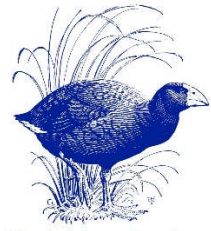




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National Black-billed Gull Census – How You Can Help

The breeding season for the black-billed gulls is rapidly approaching, and has already started in Southland! Thanks to Fruzio, I am coordinating a full national census this summer, and need your help.

All braided sections of every river in the South Island will be flown by plane to locate and photograph colonies. I need to time the flights as close to mid-incubation as possible because that is when most birds that will breed this season have laid eggs. But since I can only be in one place at a time, I need people like you on the ground. If you see a black-billed gull colony, please take note of where it is, what stage the birds are at (hanging out, nest building, incubating eggs, etc), and take lots of photographs. This will allow me to get a sense of timing.

I will also be flying sections of the North Island, but it would be great to have people checking the usual spots where birds have bred before. I'd be keen for the same information as listed above, mainly location, stage of breeding, and photographs.

If anyone would like more information, don't hesitate to contact me. Also, if you'd like to get involved in the flights, let me know.

Let's get out there and do this much-needed census!

Claudia Mischler - claudiamischler@gmail.com

