

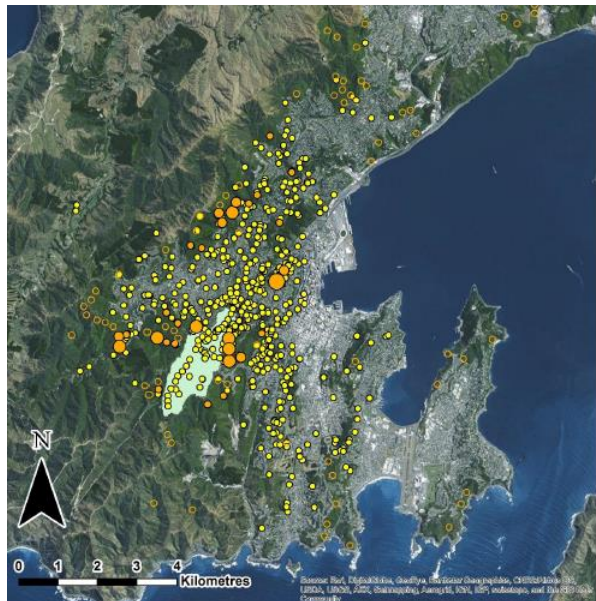


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Birds New Zealand.

eBird

Raising the profile of Bird New Zealand's eBird database

The New Zealand eBird database has been developed by Birds New Zealand as its national bird recording scheme. Since its launch in 2008, 1,900 registered users have submitted over 81,000 checklists containing 750,000 bird records to the eBird database, making it the largest and fastest-growing repository of bird distribution data in New Zealand. Because most bird records in eBird are structured into complete species lists, eBird has huge potential to be used to map bird occupancy at local, regional and national scales by modelling the relationship between the presence of birds at specific locations and the various habitat variables that are likely to be influencing bird distribution. For this reason perhaps more than any other, eBird has enormous potential to be used by Birds NZ to engage with other agencies and organisations tasked with managing birds and bird habitats in New Zealand. In this way, eBird can act as a powerful tool to help the Society meet a number of its constitutional aims, in particular to “effect co-operation and exchange of information with other organisations...” and to “assist with the conservation and management of birds, by providing information from which sound management decisions can be derived”.



Distribution of NI kaka in Wellington City, mapped using data from eBird, Zealandia and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

At present, a shortage of opportunities for Birds NZ members to learn the skills needed to submit high-quality bird data to eBird, combined with the relatively low profile that the eBird database currently has among local and central government agencies tasked with biodiversity management in New Zealand is limiting Birds NZ from using the eBird database to its full potential.

With generous support from Fruzio and Birds New Zealand's Projects Assistance Fund, we aim to help solve this problem by delivering a series of eBird workshops and presentations around the country over the next 18 months, aimed at providing both Birds NZ members and conservation professionals in both local and central government with the knowledge and skills they need to use eBird effectively.

This project will be launched in June 2016 with a presentation at the upcoming Birds New Zealand Conference Napier. The project will be completed by December 2017 with a report submitted to Birds New Zealand summarising the number of courses and presentations delivered, the number of attendees and an analysis of trends in data submissions to eBird.

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