

# ***Birds New Zealand Conference***



***Waitangi 2018***

***Copthorne Hotel and Resort Bay of Islands***

***2-3 June 2018***

# Welcome to the Bay of Islands

On behalf of the Far North Branch of Birds New Zealand I would like to welcome everybody to the Bay of Islands and the 78th annual Birds New Zealand Conference.

Attendees have travelled from Stewart Island, Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland and many places in between, and we look forward to sharing with you all the efforts of so many people dedicated to researching our rich avian fauna, our unique cultural heritage, and our beautiful beaches and forests.

The annual conference offers everybody a wonderful opportunity to come together, catch up with old friends, share information, enhance our knowledge, and learn about the many interesting projects that have taken place throughout New Zealand and further afield, and of course have some fun.

I am extremely grateful to everybody who has contributed to bring this conference together. Thank you to all who have submitted papers and posters, and to those of you who have given up your time to prepare workshops and lead field trips. I am especially grateful to Lois Wagener, Isabella Godbert, Anne McCracken, Wendy Ambury and Tansy Bliss for working tirelessly to make this conference a success. Thanks also to our retiring President, David Lawrie, for his support and encouragement.

The Society is very grateful to the continuing sponsorship of Fruzio in supporting Birds New Zealand's mission to foster the study, knowledge and enjoyment of birds.

We hope you enjoy your Queen's Birthday Weekend in the beautiful Bay of Islands, and make the most of our Northland.

Les Feasey  
Regional Representative  
Far Nort



# **Conference Programme**

## **Friday 1 June 2018**

1800-1900 Registration

## **Saturday 2 June 2018**

0800 Registration  
0900 Welcome from Birds New Zealand  
President and Far North Regional Representative  
0915 Scientific Day Presentations - Session 1  
Bird communities of time and space  
1045 Morning Tea Break  
1115 Scientific Day Presentations - Session 2  
Northern Seabirds  
1230 Presentation to David Crockett  
1245 Lunch  
1345 Scientific Day Presentations - Session 3  
Physiology and endocrinology  
1515 Afternoon Tea Break  
1545 Scientific Day Presentations - Session 4  
Conservation management  
1700 General Notices  
1715 Birds New Zealand Annual General Meeting  
1930 Informal Dinner

## **Sunday 3 June 2018**

0730 Workshops (start and end times vary)  
1015 Scientific Day Presentations - Session 5  
Southern seabirds  
1045 Morning Tea Break  
1115 Scientific Day Presentations - Session 6  
Southern seabirds  
1245 Lunch  
1345 Scientific Day Presentations - Session 7  
Urban birds  
1515 Afternoon Tea Break  
1545 Scientific Day Presentations - Session 8  
Genetics & conservation  
1700 General Notices  
1715-1815 Poster Session and Banding Advisory Committee Meeting  
1930 Formal Conference Dinner

## **Monday 4 June 2018**

0730 Field trips (start and end times vary)

## **Tuesday 5 June 2018**

0730 Mist Netting and Ninety Mile Beach

# Scientific Day Presentations

Saturday, 3 June 2018

## Session 1 - Bird Communities, Society Rebranding - Chair: Bruce McKinlay

0915 **Walker & Monks**

Multi-decade national-level changes in native bird occupancy revealed by OSNZ Atlases

0945 **Miskelly**

Changes in urban forest bird community in response to pest eradications and endemic bird reintroductions

1000 **Morgan**, Ball, Arcus, Gash, Cook, Gillanders

Changes in species composition across an urban forest gradient.

1015 **Lee & H. Taylor**

Birds New Zealand rebranding.

1030 **Lee & H. Taylor**

Birds New Zealand rebranding.

## Session 2 - Northern Seabirds - Chair: Keith Woodley

1115 **Lovegrove**, Hill, Nelson, Bindon & Southey

The spotted shag - a threatened species in the Hauraki Gulf?

1130 **Rayner**

Genetic isolation and dietary change in Hauraki Gulf spotted shags over 130 years

1145 **Gaskin**, Zaeschmar, Adams, Ross, Whitehead, G.Taylor

Seabird feeding associations - fish schools and crustaceans

1200 **Galbraith**, Rayner, Bury, Jones and Fraser

The black-backed gull in northern New Zealand: evidence of changing diet from stable isotope analysis of bones and feathers

1215 **Frost & G. Taylor**

How much do we really know about long-term population trends of some surface-feeding seabirds in northern New Zealand

### **Session 3 - Physiology & reproduction - Chair: Mel Gailbraith**

1345 **Vieco Galvez**, Castro, Morel & Chua

The Eggshell adaptations of four species of Kiwi to a burrow nesting strategy

1400 **H. Taylor** & Gemmell

Are translocated males firing blanks? Sperm biology, genetics and translocation management in threatened birds

1415 **Smiley** & Adkins-Regan

Hormonal regulation of parental care in diparental songbird

1430 **Sweeney** & Cain

Cognition, Social learning and The Role of Testosterone in Pūkeko

1445 **Whitehead**, Hickey, Russell, O'Reilly & Dunphy

Physiological indicators of sub-lethal stress in Grey-faced petrels

1500 **Loh** & Saunderson

The temperature characteristics of occupied Fairy prion nests in summer heat

### **Session 4 - Conservation management - Chair: Helen Taylor**

1545 **Parker**, Cormick, de Lisle & Tate

The translocation of māātātā/North Island fernbirds from Rotokare Scenic Reserve to Pauatahanui

1600 **Strang**, Castro, Potter & Cave

Rats, kiwi, and native birds: What's really in a feral cat's diet

1615 **Hobbs**, Browne, Castro & Edwards

Sight or smell: What makes 'sense' for dogs in kiwi aversion training?

1630 **Castro**, Marsland, Priyadarshani & Ngati Kuta/Patukeha Hapu

Effect of landscape in the reception of bird sound by humans and autonomous recorders

1645 **Williams**

Is this a grey duck I see before me?

# Scientific Day Presentations

Sunday, 4 June 2018

## Session 5 - Southern Seabirds- Chair: Colin Miskelly

1015 **Fischer**, G. Taylor, Cole, Debski & Wittmer

Absent population response of small seabird species to multiple invasive predator eradications

1030 **Tidey** and Webster

Characterisations of ethnic foraging habitat for hoiho

## Session 6 - Southern Seabirds- Chair: Colin Miskelly

1115 **French**, Muller, Chilvers & Battley

Human disturbance on subantarctic yellow-eyed penguin - what is the impact and how do we reduce it

1130 **Muller**, Chilvers, Barker, Barnsdale, Battley, French, McCullough & Samandari

The Drone Ranger - a VHF-equipped drone to improve Yellow-eyed penguin nest-finding

1145 **Mattern**, Seed, Ellenburg, van Heezik & Seddon

Penguin cams- gaining a whole new perspective the foraging ecology and marine habitat of Yellow-eyed penguins

1200 **Bell**, Frost & G. Taylor

Population size and trends in the Giant Petrel and albatross species breeding in the Chatham Islands

1215 **Parker**, Walker, Elliot, Baker, Debski, Jenz, Sagar, Thompson & Rexer-Huber

Trial of three methods to obtain population estimates of light-mantled sooty albatross at Campbell and Auckland Islands

1230 **Rexer-Huber**, Parker, Veale & Robertson Connectivity for conservation of Southern Ocean seabirds: the case of White-chinned petrels

## **Session 7 - Urban Birds - Chair: Ian Armitage**

1345 **Heggie-Grace**, Krull & Stanley

Urban Bird Composition at Different Spatial Scales

1400 **Galbraith**, Jones, Beggs, Parry & Stanley

Patterns of feeder use by urban birds - not all are equal

1415 **Beauchamp**

Roost sites and density of common mynas in the region surrounding upper Whangarei, Northland

1430 **Roper**, Harmer & Brunton

Long term changes in the breeding biology of bellbirds on Tiritiri Matangi Island

1445 **Cockrem** & Fitter

Recognition of the significance of birds at the Port of Tauranga: an example of the value of OSNZ bird surveys

1500 **Wilson** & Mattern

Identifying conservation actions required to protect Little Penguins in New Zealand

## **Session 8 - Genetics and conservation- Chair: David Lawrie**

1545 **Forsdick**, Maloney, Steeves & Knapp

Wading into genomics for threatened species recovery

1600 **Undin**, Hills, Lockhart, Armstrong & Castro

What do we really know about kiwi genetics

1615 **Martini**, Gemmell, Robertson & Knapp

A peek into the past and future of the New Zealand kaka

1630 **Davies**

BirdSearch, encouraging birding in New Zealand

1645 **Bradshaw**

Banding website update

# Conference Posters

## **Troy Makan**

Is your community group interested in translocating species?

## **Megan R. Friesen**

Quantifying the population and breeding success of Buller's shearwater

## **Cora F. McCauley**

South Georgia diving petrels influence habitat selection of two skink species on Codfish Island (Whenua Hou)



# Conference Workshops

Sunday 3 June 2018

## **NZ Birds Online - making a better website for everyone interested in New Zealand birds (Colin Miskelly, Cafe)**

This wonderful resource for birders was launched 5 years ago. Workshop participants will have a chance to discuss ways to make it even better. This is your chance to contribute ideas, plus learn how you can contribute to the website - including how to submit images (and which images are likely to be selected for publication).

## **Drone Workshop (Murray Dunn, outside the pool)**

Drones have become more accessible and affordable. Ornithologists utilize drones to accurately record bird counts over the ridge, estuary, sandbank, or in difficult to access places. This workshop is a practical, hands-on opportunity to familiarize oneself with this technology. Limited attendance, outdoors.

## **Bird ID Workshop (Oscar Thomas, Treaty room 3)**

Some birds are very distinctive and stand out from 'the crowd'. Others, however are very similar in size, colour and body shape – they blend into the mass. An expert will assist with the tell-tale recognition of similar looking species.

## **eBird Workshop (Nikki McArthur, Bowling Club)**

Part one of the workshop will be a question-and-answer session about the New Zealand eBird database. Nikki will provide an update on a number of new tools and features that have been introduced to eBird over the last 12 months, and will share some ideas on how members can contribute to the eBird database without necessarily going outside and getting their feet dirty. There will also be an opportunity for members to bring along their eBird questions and problems for discussion. Part two of the workshop will provide members with an update on the development of a new National Bird Monitoring Scheme for the Society, and will present an early view of what the survey may look like on the ground. This will be an early opportunity for members to contribute their feedback, and to influence the design and direction of this exciting and ground-breaking new project.

## **Birding Smarter (Russell Cannings, Bowling Club)**

Whether you enjoy spending hours scoping a local estuary or glancing up on your stroll to the dairy, many birds can be easily found. But is it possible to bird 'smarter'? Join Russell and explore the strategies and tools we can all use to target more difficult species such as seabirds, waders, nocturnal birds, and rare vagrants. This can involve the use of weather reports, radar imagery, tide charts, and reporting Apps, but most importantly--a keen understanding of the birds themselves.

## **Moult Workshop (Gillian Vaughan, Treaty room 1)**

This workshop is intended to brief participants on advances in recording moults in New Zealand birds, in particular how to use all those not quite perfect photos. We take a lot of photos these days, and many of them don't come out quite the way we want - but there can be useful information in them anyway. Learn how to record wing moult from photos and contribute to the Birds New Zealand moult scheme. If you've got photos with the bird's wing outstretched bring them along on your device. There will also be printed pictures to work from. What you learn will also be valuable for birds in the hand - so if you are an aspiring bander struggling with moult recording or you do beach patrol and want to get more out of your finds this will be for you.

# Conference Field Trips

**Monday 4 June 2018**

## **Urupukapuka Island**

Urupukapuka Island is the biggest island in the Bay of Islands. It is a predator free island and translocations include Saddleback, North Island Tomtit, and North Island Robin. Australasian Pippit and Banded Rail have also been seen. This will be a good place for family field trips at your own pace. The boat departs Paihia at 9:00am, or (if numbers are sufficient) from the Copthorne wharf. Return trip will be 2:45pm to Paihia or 4:30pm to the Copthorne wharf. Lunch is not included but is available from the Copthorne for \$20pp, or you can self-cater.

## **Puketi Forest Tour**

This field trip will visit the Scudder's Beach, Stanner's Road, Puketi Forest, Lake Waiporohita, Dick Ulrich Road End and Lake Rotokawau to see species usually in these areas. We will leave the Copthorne hotel at 9:15am and return by 4:00pm. Lunch is included.

## **Waitangi Estuary Kayaking**

The coastline around the Waitangi area contains a variety of different habitats and different species of birds. As many as 50 New Zealand Dotterel "flock up", VOC and SIPO frequent the beach and grassland, a Pied Shag colony is located on the coastal forest. Sacred Kingfishers, Pied Stilts, Royal Spoonbill, White-faced Heron and other shorebirds are some of the species encountered during this paddle and walk field trip.

This is a half-day field trip, departing at 9:30am from Coastal Kayaks at the Paihia end of the Waitangi Bridge. A coach will take you to Haruru Falls for a walk back through mangrove and native bush, then on to the Coastal Kayaks base. The walk is 5 km and requires a medium level of fitness. At the end of the walk you will climb into kayaks and a guide will lead the group to the base of the falls. A coach will return you to base. Return time around 1:30pm. Lunch is not included in the price, but available from the Copthorne for \$20pp.

## **4-5 June (Monday+Tuesday) - Two Day Field Trips Ninety Mile Beach, Cape Reinga (Members only)**

This is a two day field trip set by tide times and weather dependent. Meals and accommodation are included in the price. Departure is from the Copthorne Hotel at 8 am sharp, to pick up 3 SUVs at Kerikeri Airport, then visit the largest winter colony of Royal Spoonbills in New Zealand. The target is Cape Reinga, visiting Dune Lakes and shorebird sites on route. The overnight stay is in Kaitaia for barn owl observation. The following morning we leave by 7:40 am to enter 90 Mile Beach at 8 am for a beach patrol. We will travel up the beach slowly, and depending on the situation individuals may be dropped off to walk a 3 km stretch of the beach. Specimens not positively identified will be collected and identified at the end of the Beach Patrol. We exit the beach 2 hours prior to high tide, and envisage being back at Waitangi by 4:30pm.

## **Orongo Bay Mist Netting (Members only)**

This is a two day field trip conducted at the Orongo Bay Holiday Park in Russell. The Park has bush and grassland areas with a significant bird population, including small Passerines, Kiwi, Weka, Brown Teal and Bittern. This field trip will give each participant a hands on opportunity to mist net including; service the net, remove birds from the net, band birds, record moult, weight and sex. Certification sometimes is granted. The camp will start at 9:00am on Monday and finish on Tuesday at 12:00 noon (unless notified otherwise). The final cost is subject to change as the catering is still being agreed.

**Auckland**

Kenneth Allen  
 Jane Andrews  
 Karen Baird  
 Emma Chan  
 Gillian Eller  
 Diane Fraser  
 Mel Galbraith  
 Josie Galbraith  
 Chris Gaskin  
 Bethany Gibbs  
 Sam Heggie-Gracie  
 Sharon Kast  
 Shaun Lee  
 Tim Lovegrove  
 Miriam Ludbrook  
 Jim McKinlay  
 Ian McLean  
 Julia Melville  
 Kay Milton  
 Ruby Moore  
 Chelsee Neverman  
 Kevin Parker  
 Suzi Phillips  
 Denise Poyner  
 Matt Rayner  
 Adrian Riegen  
 Heather Rogers  
 Michelle Roper  
 Su Sinclair  
 Trina Smith  
 John Stewart  
 Aileen Sweeney  
 Oscar Thomas  
 Chris Thompson  
 Michael Vaughan  
 Janet Vaughan  
 Marie-Louise Ward  
 Skye Wishart  
 Jacinda Wooly

**Bay of Plenty**

Paul Cuming  
 Patrick Stewart  
 Craig Symes  
 Edin Whitehead  
 Tony Whitehead

**Canterbury**

Penny Carnaby  
 Brian Darlow  
 Eleanor Gunby  
 Peter Howden  
 Christina Troup  
 Sandra Wallace

**Far North**

Detlef Davies  
 Carol Ann Davies  
 Les Feasey  
 Isabella Godbert  
 Anthea Goodwin  
 Leslie Graney  
 Darren Markin  
 Kevin Matthews  
 Lois Wagener  
 Ian Wilson

**Hawkes Bay**

Denise Fastier  
 Bernie Kelly

**Manawatu**

Isabel Castro  
 John Cockrem  
 Lindsay Davies  
 Rebecca French  
 Chris Muller  
 Pamela Slack  
 Kathryn Strang  
 Malin Undin  
 David Vieco  
 Jennifer Wasley

**Marlborough**

Heather Davies  
 Paul Garner-Richards  
 Rob Schuckard  
 Sue Bell

**Nelson**

Mike Bell  
 Amber Calman  
 Ingrid Hutzler  
 Nikki McArthur  
 David Melville

**Northland**

Tony Beauchamp  
 Scott Brooks  
 Ilse Corkery  
 Prue Cozens  
 Dayna Davies  
 Anne McCracken  
 Patrick Miller  
 Dai Morgan  
 Heather O'Brien  
 Janet Snell

**Otago**

Francie Beggs  
 Natalie Forsdick  
 Lala Frazer  
 Lesley Gowans  
 Rachel Hufton  
 Emma Kelman  
 Graeme Loh  
 Denise Martini  
 Thomas Mattern  
 Sue Maturin  
 Bruce McKinlay  
 Sue Odin  
 Graham Parker  
 Kalinka Rexer-Huber  
 Kristina Smiley  
 Helen Taylor  
 Mary Thompson  
 Susan Walker  
 Trudi Webster

**South Auckland**

Mick Clout  
 David Lawrie  
 Ian Southey  
 Gillian Vaughan  
 Keith Woodley

**Waikato**

Russell Cannings  
 Bruce Postill  
 Abi Quinnell  
 Tim Quinnell  
 John Rowe  
 Stella Rowe  
 David Thomas

**Wairarapa**

Oliver Druce  
 Paul Shortis

**Whanganui**

Peter Frost  
 Emma Salmon

**Wellington**

Ian Armitage  
 Dallas Bishop  
 Michelle Bradshaw  
 Geoff De Lisle  
 Raewyn Empson  
 Johannes Fischer  
 Peter Hodge  
 Sara Larcomber  
 Darren Lees  
 Bridget Makan  
 Troy Makan  
 Kate McAlpine  
 Colin Miskelly  
 Philip Palmer  
 Viola Palmer  
 Christopher Stephens  
 Murray Williams

**West Coast**

Kerry-Jane Wilson