

Walkthrough: 6.05.2021

## Diary Of A Bird Watching Addict And Other Notes From Whareroa Farm Whareroa Guardians Community Trust

Helen reports...

I have just come home after spending time this afternoon in Whareroa, a gorgeous day - sunny, warm and calm.

All was pretty quiet (afternoon siesta?) but I did hear the first song thrush (that I have heard) giving his territorial call.

Thrushes become very quiet and inconspicuous during the moult - from Jan to April, then they start marking their territory and can nest as early as May. (Ed: you can find out more about the life and times of thrushes here... <http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/song-thrush>)

Tuis were the most vocal today and there was plenty of song in the kohekohe forest along with bellbirds.

I was pleased to see three kereru - but I can't compete with Sue's count of nine, not long ago (see below for a link to that posting of March 8 this year).

The fantails are constant companions on these walkabouts, and always enjoyed.

Altogether 15 species recorded and numbers seen or heard, 54.

The mown tracks are magnificent - what a great job. I also appreciated how much work has been done during the recent working bees, especially on the 'toetoe flats' track. (Ed: can't make enough photos of all that hard work - see attached)

A pic of fungi on the track through the gums is also attached - very pretty.

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A bit of data crunching from the attached table (26 walkthrough visits up to and including 06.05.21)

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- On May 6, 2021: 15 species & 54 birds recorded. Usually between 14 and 20 species have been sighted during most walk-throughs. September 12, 2020 was a big day with 23 species (on May 28, 2020 only 12 were sighted - nature can be fickle...)
- 3 species have been seen during every walk-through: Blackbird, Tui & Fantail (Chaffinches and Grey Warblers have been off shopping during separate visits, otherwise they would be in this exclusive group too, Silvereyes have not been seen twice)
- 12 species were sighted during at least 65% (17 or more) of visits: Bellbird, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Fantail, Grey Warbler, Magpie, Paradise Shelduck, Pukeko, Silvereye, Sparrow, Thrush & Tui
- Most sighted / Top 7 in alphabetical order: Blackbird (213), Chaffinch (193), Fantail (160), Goldfinch (119), Silvereyes (218), Sparrow (120), Tui (194)
- Least sighted in this series of reports (in alphabetical order, how often sighted, total number): Dunnock (3, 3), Falcon (2, 3), Mallard (3, 5), Redpoll (3, 7), Shining Cuckoo (2, 3), White Faced Heron (2, 3), Rock Pigeon (0, 0)









Song thrush. Adult. Wanganui, September 2010. Image © Ormond Torr by Ormond Torr

<b>BIRDS RECORDED at Whareroa Farm,</b>																										
<b>'Walk Through' – Occasional Report</b>																										
<b>Date</b>	6 May 2021	6 April 2021	17 Feb 2021	5 Jan 2021	20 Nov 2020	9 Oct 2020	12 Sept 2020	10 Aug 2020	20 Jul 2020	May 28 2020	Apr 30 2020	Feb 28 2020	Jan 17 2020	Dec 6 2019	Nov 15 2019	Sep 20 2019	Aug 15 2019	Jul 22 2019	Jun 10 2019	May 8 2019	Mar 18 2019	Feb 21 2019	Nov 21 2018	Oct 10 2018	Sep 8 2018	Aug 9 2018
<b>Begin Time</b>	1.20	9.40	9.48	9.55	9.56	1.47	1.20	10.04	10.15	11.20	9.40	9.30	9.30	9.30	9.08	10.03	10.05	9.30	10.00	9.45	10.38	9.35	9.30	9.40	9.45	14.00
<b>End Time</b>	3.15	11.45	11.29	11.50	12.40	3.40	3.30	12.08	11.45	1.05	11.30	11.40	11.05	10.50	10.30	11.58	11.45	11.15	11.58	12.50	12.50	11.15	11.00	11.30	12.30	15.50
Bellbird	2	1		5	4	2	2	3	4	1		1	3	2		4	1	3	1	3	3		1		2	1
Blacked Gull			1	13								5									2	3				
Blackbird	5	5	10	14	10	6	11	8	6	9	4	7	12	10	14	19	12	7	6	2	2	7	7	8	2	10
California quail			7	8	6	4	4	4				4	7	4	8				2		1	1				
Chaffinch	3	1	2	10	17	5	6	8	4	7	2	5	9	12	14	8	10	18	3	2		1	8	18	10	10
Dunnock																		1					1		1	
Eastern rosella	1		2		2						3	1	4	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	4			2	4	
Falcon											1										2					
Fantail	7	3	4	3	2	5	6	3	7	16	4	5	8	5	7	12	3	7	10	6	7	6	6	2	4	12
Goldfinch	1	5	7				40		11	2			5	7	6						8	2	7	14		4
Greenfinch				2			6						2	2	3		1						1	6		
Greywarbler	4	5	3	2	9	4	5	5	3	1		8	3	3	5	13	4	3	1	3	4	2	2	1	2	1
Harrier			1			1	1	1								4	3		2			1		2		
Kereru	3		1	4	2	1	1	2	3	2		1	1		1						1	1		2	2	
Kingfisher	1	1			2	1	1			1	1		2	2				1	2		2				1	
Magpie		5	4	2	6	2	1	4	1		7	3	1		1	2	1	1	4	3	4	3	1	2		2
Mallard							3										1						1			
Paradise shelduck	2	2			6	6	6	4	6		4	1			4	4	5		4	4	2		1	4	6	5
Pheasant				1	8	3		2	1	2			1	5	3	4	2		1	3		1	5			
Pukeko	9	3	9	4	1	2	4	4	16		6	8	2	2		3	4	6	3	13	3		2	5	3	3
Redpoll					3		3																			1
Rock Pigeon																										
Shining Cuckoo			1		2																					
Silvereye	5	13	3	5	5	4	2	6	5	40	10	27	10	2	17	12	1	15	3	2	11	10	3		7	
Sparrow	3	6	6		2		5		1			16	4	2	4	4		2	5	1	29	12	6		12	
Spurwinged Plover							4				2			4				2			1					
Starling			2	12	5				7				22	5	1			6	2	2	20	3	5		2	
Swallow		2	6	5			3	1			1	12			3		1		1				4	1	4	3
Thrush	1		1	1	6	1	1		7	4				5	4	5	5	5		3			2		2	5
Tui	7	13	3	17	9	7	11	5	6	9	10	10	2	4	7	8	5	15	9	10	8	4	6	2	5	2
White faced Heron								1			2															
Yellowhammer					6		4					2	1	1				3		1			1			3
<b>Total Birds</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Species Count</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>