

Bird Count Walkthrough

September 16, 2022

Helen reports...

A lovely spring day today so a chance to make the most of it with the September Bird 'Walkthrough'

Chaffinches took the prize for the most bird seen or heard - they were everywhere. Of course, the tuis were a close second, and no wonder with all the kowhais in flower.



Grey warblers in numbers need a mention too, they are no doubt awaiting the intrusion of the shining cuckoo.

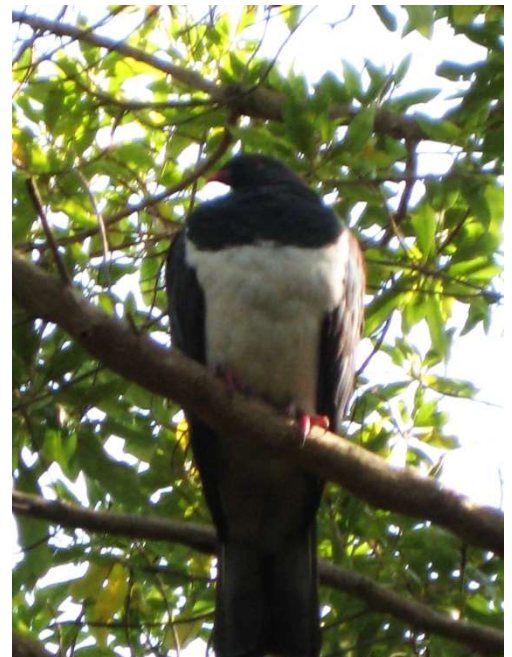
There was a noticeable increase in bird activity along the Ramaroa wetland track - mostly chaffinches and fantails. So good to see. I saw a sheep in there too, which wasn't quite so good!

It was also rather special to see 5 kereru. The first was near the entrance - I haven't seen them here before. The others were seen near the Hub.

The area around the Dell and beyond was looking splendid. I was sad to see the totara fallen (on the slope to the north – see Ann's comment below) and the kowhais that Tony and I planted so long ago looking a bit forlorn.

17 Species and 97 birds counted - so a great day was had!

Cheers, Helen



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Ann also reports...

That totara (see Helen's comment above) blew over a few weeks ago. I have since done some pruning to try and support your kowhai. The best of Tony's kowhai are those below the Hub toilets, creeping thro the flax and down the hill. Some impressive trees coming along.

I was sad to see one of the two swamp maire (Syzygium maire) in the Dell had split. When I investigated, it had a double leader and a whole lot of aerial roots had grown down into the trunk.

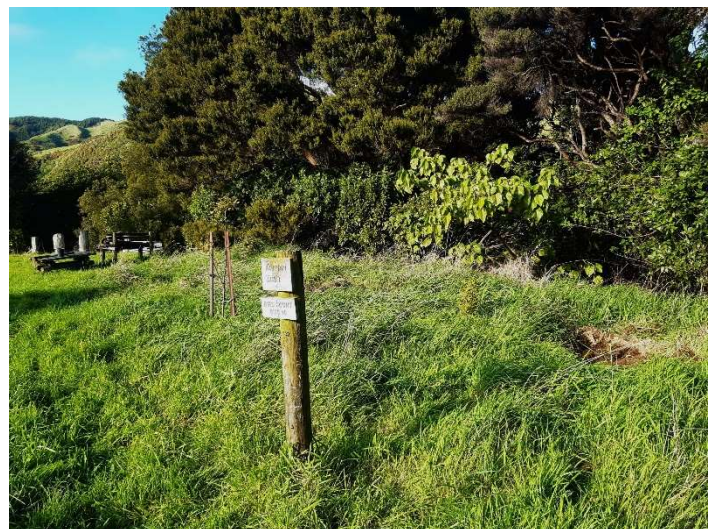


I then looked at the other one and that also has a double leader and the same thing is happening with a split forming.. There were little roots popping out through the bark randomly as well as from roots running along the ground. I will have to plant some more and make sure they do not have double leaders!



I also planted 3 small kamahi trees behind the Kamahi Bush sign so that people can see what they look like in years to come.

Cheers, Ann



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The Search for the Whareroa Weka

Some months ago, there had been some reports of potential possible weka sightings in Whareroa Farm, but no definitive confirmatory proof.

If you see one, do let us know (whareroa.guardians@gmail.com) with as many details as possible (time, place, behaviour) and most ideally with photos and videos.

Background info from the wonderful nzbirdsonline.org.nz here [Weka | New Zealand Birds Online \(nzbirdsonline.org.nz\)](http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz)



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Data Table – some analysis

A bit of data crunching from the attached table (39 walkthrough visits up to and including 16.9.22)

Usually between 12 and 20 species have been sighted during most walk-throughs. September 12, 2020 was a big day with 23 species, on May 28, 2020, May 23, 2022 & July 14, 2022 only 12 were recorded.

Helen records on average, a total number of 80 birds per walkthrough (the range is 37 to 130).

- On Sept 16, 2022: 17 species & 97 birds recorded (seen or heard).
- 3 species have been recorded during every walk-through: Blackbird, Tui & Fantail (Grey Warblers have not been seen once during separate visits, otherwise they would be in this exclusive group too)
- 12 species were sighted/heard during at least 66% (25 or more) of visits: Bellbird, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Eastern Rosella, Fantail, Grey Warbler, Magpie, Paradise Shelduck, Pukeko, Silvereye, Thrush & Tui
- Most recorded / Top 8 in alphabetical order: Blackbird (306), Chaffinch (273), Fantail (257), Goldfinch (172), Pukeko (191), Silvereyes (287), Starling (192), Tui (305)
- Least sighted in this series of reports (in alphabetical order, how often sighted, total number): Dunnock (3, 3), Falcon (2, 3), Mallard (4, 7), Redpoll (3, 7), Rock Pigeon (0, 0), Shining Cuckoo (4, 7), White Faced Heron (2, 3)

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BIRDS RECORDED at Whareroa Farm, 'Walk Through' – Occasional Report, Part 1

Date	Begin Time	End Time	Bellbird	Blackbacked Gull	Blackbird	Black Swan	California quail	Canada Goose	Chaffinch	Dunnock	Eastern rosella	Falcon	Fantail	Goldfinch	Greenfinch	Grey warbler	Harrier	Kereru	Kingfisher	Magpie	Mallard	Paradise shelduck	Pheasant	Pukeko	Redpoll	Rock Pigeon	Shining Cuckoo	Silvereye	Sparrow	Spurwinged Plover	Starling	Swallow	Thrush	Tui	White faced Heron	Yellowhammer	Total Birds	Species Count	
09. Aug 18	14.00	15.50	1		10				10				12	4	1				2			5	3	1													62	14	
08. Sep 18	9.45	12.30	2		2				10	1	4		4		2		2	1				6	3					7	12		2	4	2	5			3	69	17
10. Okt 18	9.40	11.30			8				18		2		2	14	6	1	2		2			4	5										1	2				69	14
21. Nov 18	9.30	11.00	1		7				8	1			6	7	1	2			1	1	1	1	5	2				3	6		5	4	2	6		1	70	20	
21. Feb 19	9.35	11.15		3	7	1			1				6	2		2	1	1	2	3			1					10	12		3			4				59	16
18. Mär 19	10.38	12.50	3	2	2		1				4		7	8		4		1		4		2		3			11	29	1	20				8			110	17	
08. Mai 19	9.45	12.50	3		2				2		3	2	6			3			2	3		4	3	13			2	1		2		3	10		1		65	18	
10. Jun 19	10.00	11.58	1		6				3		2		10			1	2			4		4	1	3			3	5		2	1			9			57	16	
22. Jul 19	9.30	11.15	3		7		2		18	1	2		7			3			2	1				6			15	2	2	6		5	15		3		100	18	
15. Aug 19	10.05	11.45	1		12				10		1		3		1	4	3		1	1	1	5	2	4			1				1	5	5				61	18	
20. Sep 19	10.03	11.58	4		19				8		1		12		13	4			2			4	4	3			12	4				5	8				103	15	
15. Nov 19	9.08	10.30			14		8		14	2		7	6	3	5			1		1		4	3				17	4		1	3	4	7				104	18	
06. Dez 19	9.30	10.50	2		10		4		12	2		5	7	2	3				2				5	2			2	2	4	5		5	4			1	79	19	
17. Jan 20	9.30	11.05	3		12		7		9	4		8	5	2	3			1	2	1			1	2			10	4		22				2		1	99	19	
28. Feb 20	9.30	11.40	1	5	7		4		5	1		5				8		1		3		1		8			27	16			12		10		2		116	17	
30. Apr 20	9.40	11.30			4			2		3	1	4							1	7		4		6			10		2		1	10		2			57	14	
28. Mai 20	11.20	1.05	1		9			7				16	2		1		2	1					2				40					4	9				94	12	
20. Jul 20	10.15	11.45	4		6			4				7	11		3		3	1	1			6	1	16			5	1		7		7	6				89	17	
10. Aug 20	10.04	12.08	3		8		4		8			3			5	1	2		4			4	2	4			6				1		5		1		61	16	
12. Sep 20	1.20	3.30	2		11		4		6			6	40	6	5	1	1	1	1	1	3	6		4	3		2	5	4		3	1	11		4		130	23	
09. Okt 20	1.47	3.40	2		6		4		5			5			4	1	1	1	2			6	3	2			4					1	7				54	16	
20. Nov 20	9.56	12.40	4		10		6		17		2		2		9		2	2	6			6	8	1	3		2	5	2		5		6	9		6		113	21
05. Jan 21	9.55	11.50	5	13	14		8		10			3		2	2			4	2				1	4				5			12	5	1	17				108	17
17. Feb 21	9.48	11.29		1	10		7		2		2	4	7		3	1	1		4					9			1	3	6		2	6	1	3				73	19
06. Apr 21	9.40	11.45	1		5				1			3	5		5				1	5		2	3				13	6			2		13				65	14	
06. Mai 21	1.20	3.15	2		5				3		1	7	1		4		3	1				2	9				5	3					1	7				54	15
11. Jun 21	10.22	12.14	2		4				2		1	13			5	1			3			2	4				3	1		3	3	6	11				64	16	
09. Jul 21	10.25	12.37	4		8				6			6			3		2					6		7			5			5		1	7			1		61	13
20. Sep 21	1.40	3.27	5		3				4		3	4	4		5		2	2				1	4	1			4	4		3	3		4			1		57	18
20. Okt 21	9.20	11.50	3		8		6		16		2	4			6		3	2	2			4	4	3			3		6	24	2		9				107	18	
19. Nov 21	9.16	11.30	1		7				11		1	6	4		6			1	3			14	2	5			1	6			6		2	10		2		88	18
17. Jan 22	9.00	11.20	2	16	6				6		1	8	5		3		6	1	4					7			1			9	2	1	18		2			98	18
10. Mär 22	9.28	11.24		15	6		4				6	3	20		4		5	1	4			3		14			2	4					7					98	15
11. Apr 22	8.43	10.30	1		7				5		2	7	1		2									4			18		1	1	2			5				58	14
23. Mai 22	1.11pm-2.53pm		2		8				3			20	3		3	1								6				23	4			3	12					88	12

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