

Bird Count Walkthrough

October 27, 2022

Helen reports...

Today I took my family guests in to Whareroa on the spur of the moment, and so this "walkthrough" is a result of that - not quite as adventurous as usual, but never-the-less a record for October.

The shining cuckoos were going hammer and tongs - I counted 4, not far from the entrance and further on near the Hub.

Of course, the grey warblers were just as vocal. It was all go! That was definitely the highlight of the day.



The day was overcast, with a light northerly. Maybe this was why things were pretty quiet (apart from cuckoos and warblers).

Strangely, I only saw 2 tuis. I think they will be busy nesting now that kowhai flowering is coming to an end. Soon they will be enjoying the flax and getting their heads covered in yellow pollen. (You can see photos of pollen-headed tuis here... [Tūī](#) | [Tui](#) | [New Zealand Birds Online \(nzbirdsonline.org.nz\)](#))

The caravan was much admired as was all the planting, and many photos were taken (but not by me!). You can find photos, background and more about the caravan at this link... [Whareroa caravan at the hub](#)

15 Species and 52 birds counted

Cheers, Helen

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Ann also reported (this has been posted to our Facebook page on October 26)...

Great seasonal news...last week (on Thurs 21.10), the song of the migratory Shining Cuckoo was reported to be heard in Whareroa for the first time this summer and confirmed again on Monday (24.10).

Find out where they come from, why, what they do and more here...

<https://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/shining-cuckoo>

Whareroa is positively alive with birds at the mo, including first pukeko chick sighted this season (<https://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/pukeko>) ...

and bell birds (<https://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/bellbird>) ...

and kereru (<https://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/new-zealand-pigeon>) adding to the spectacle

In the nzbirdsonline link on the pukeko there is a recording of the call of a pukeko chick (and more!)

Many thanks to Ann for the update!

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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 (40 walkthrough visits up to and including 27.10.22)

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 around 80 birds per walkthrough (the range is 37 to 130).

- On October 27, 2022: 15 species & 52 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% (26 or more) of visits: Bellbird, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Eastern Rosella, Fantail, Grey Warbler, Magpie, Paradise Shelduck, Pukeko, Silvereye, Thrush & Tui
- Most recorded / Top 5 in alphabetical order: Blackbird (312), Chaffinch (282), Fantail (257), Silvereyes (291), Tui (307)
- 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 (5, 11), 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		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			4	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		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							2		4				18		1	1	2			5			58	14	
23. Mai 22	1.11pm-2.53 pm		2		8				3			20	3		3	1								6					23	4			3	12				88	12	

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Date	Begin Time	End Time	Bellbird	Blackbacked Gull	Blackbird	Black Swan	California quail	Canada Goose	Chaffinch	Duncock	Eastern rosella	Falcon	Fantail	Goldfinch	Greenfinch	Greywarbler	Harrier	Kereru	Kingfisher	Maggie	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		
21. Jun 22	9.53	12.00	5		10				2		2		9	16		1				5		7		7															123	15
14. Jul 22	9.30	10.45		1	9						2		5			1				2	2	2		5															37	12
23. Aug 22	2.00	3.30			6				5		3		3			3	1		1	2		2		5													6		46	14
16. Sep 22	9.25	11.07	3		11				20		3		9			8	1	5	2	1		1	5	8															97	17
27. Okt 22	9.40	11.30	1		6				9		1		3		3	5				1			2	6			4	4											52	15

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