

Bird Count Walkthrough

November 14, 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

A beautiful day once more - not even Summer yet, strictly speaking!

Main feature at the farm seemed to me to be LONG grass!

So I picked a nicely mown track through the Toetoe Flats.

The toetoe are looking great just now and there was a lovely scent of the cabbage tree flowers, which are almost over now (I think?).

Much bird activity. [Blackbirds](#), [chaffinches](#) and [grey warblers](#) took the prize for most seen or heard - and of course, several shining cuckoos.



I headed up the Carex Valley where I haven't been for a while.

There is a new picnic area near the gums where a lot of planting has been done.

A very magnificent cock pheasant strode out of the long grass and then disappeared hastily - very well hidden.

I was struck by the lush green growth and the impressive regenerating bush covered hillside.

I ventured up beyond the uphill bike track - not many birds to note - but came to a halt when faced with an awkward (tiny) stream crossing.

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Then to the Dell - always a great spot to stop and enjoy. Here, I was pleased to see that the kowhais that Tony and I planted so long ago have recovered their foliage, thank goodness, and then, even better, was seeing flowers on the little rewarewa out beyond the picnic tables.

Enough for today! 17 species and 81 birds seen or heard :-)

Cheers, Helen



Track in the Carex Valley

Kohekohe Bush



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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 \(nzbirdsonline.org.nz\)](#)



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Data Table – some analysis

A bit of data crunching from the attached table (41 walkthrough visits up to and including 14.11.22)

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 November 14, 2022: 17 species & 81 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 (324), Chaffinch (296), Fantail (264), Silvereyes (299), Tui (315)
- 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 (6, 15), 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				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	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		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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