

Bird Count Walkthrough

February 27, 2023

Helen reports...

I finally made it into the farm before the end of the month! A very green and verdant place to be, with a great array of herbs at the entrance!

I saw 15 species and counted 65 birds. I also had a surprise encounter with the Editor in Chief, Scott, a few thousand kms away from his home base.

Apart from that, the best thing was seeing 4 kereru and the first dunnock I have seen for ages.

[Dunnock](#)'s (follow the link for more information on the Dunnock) are very sweet little birds, very underestimated and have a lovely trilling song. Because their other name is hedge sparrow they don't get much attention.



Dunnock. Adult. Castle Hill, Canterbury, April 2018. Image © Oscar Thomas by Oscar Thomas



Cicadas were certainly making their presence heard (and felt, when they blustered into you) everywhere.

It was sad to see the wonderful old ngaio tree having tumbled down in the Dell.

To be expected I guess, but a sorry sight nevertheless.



The other pic I have is of a fine Mamaku by the stream near the old pathway (now closed) at the entrance. Worth a photo, I thought.

No chaffinches or paradise shelducks today.

Until next time,

Helen

Whareroa Guardians Community Trust

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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 (44 walkthrough visits up to and including 27.2.23)

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 February 27, 2023: 15 species & 65 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 64% (28 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 (343), Chaffinch (318), Fantail (274), Silvereyes (309), Tui (343)
- Least sighted in this series of reports (in alphabetical order, how often sighted, total number): Dunnock (4, 5), 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		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		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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