

Bird Count Walkthrough

June 16, 2023

Helen reports...

A cold and frosty morning, but stunningly beautiful, which meant a later start than usual.

I headed along the Ramaroa track and ventured a short way into the bush - no bird sightings (in R Bush) but just a great place to be.



It was good to see the Ramaroa stream freed of weed.

Carried on through the R wetland area accompanied by the world's population of [fantails](#).

A coffee break at the far end meant some entertainment from 2 [harriers](#) with their aerial display.

I also found a planting plaque face down on the ground so propped that up again.

Then to Ti Kouka to check on Tony's titoki. Fantails everywhere.



I spent some time in the Kohekohe forest listening to the bird song of [tui](#) (many) and [bellbird](#), then the [kereru](#) turned up to complete the picture.



The forest still has some flowering kohekohe hence the wonderful birdsong.

Interesting that, after last month's remarkable [song thrush](#), I only heard two today. Tuis and fantails took the prize today.

There is a lot of preparation going into the 'run' on Sunday, markers on the tracks and a line-up of portaloos in the carpark. Hope they get a day like this.

Until next time,

Helen

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Mistletoe in Mahoe in The Dell

Bonus contribution (thanks, Ann)

A number of Mistletoe seeds were attached to trees around the Dell about 3-4 years ago. They are very sticky and the seed germinates and grows into the bark of the host tree.

One took and has been watched closely for a couple of years (right hand photo).



Recently, a second (new find, left hand photo) mistletoe enjoying a mahoe host was found not far from the first.

The first one is well established and putting out lots of leaves. More seeds were attached this year.

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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 (47 walkthrough visits up to and including 16.6.23)

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 June 16, 2023: 17 species & 73 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)
- 14 species were sighted/heard during at least 60% (28 or more) of visits: Bellbird, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Eastern Rosella, Fantail, Grey Warbler, Magpie, Paradise Shelduck, Pukeko, Silvereye, Sparrow, Starling, Thrush & Tui
- Most recorded / Top 5 in alphabetical order: Blackbird, Chaffinch, Fantail, Silvereyes, Tui
- 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	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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