

# Bird Count Walkthrough

## August 29, 2023

August is fast vanishing, so it was now or never today to do the monthly count. A chilly start so I waited for the temp to get to 8deg!



Great to see DOC busy cutting the grass and as a result everything was looking much tidier. The day was a mix of cloud and sun and, by the time I finished, it was a beautiful Spring day.

There was plenty of activity.

The [kereru](#) I saw were all near the entrance which I thought was a bit different.

[Chaffinches \(Pahirini\)](#) and [fantails](#) were the birds of the day. Many chaffinches heard with their territorial calls.



The fantails simply accompany you all the way around the farm.

I saw 2 [bellbirds](#) in the Dell - one was possibly a female (hoping) but they move so quickly and she was trying to hide, so I can't be certain. A small white 'tear drop' by her eye is the clue.

Now it is time to start hearing the [shining cuckoo](#) who should arrive back here in NZ in September. One was heard in Hamilton about a week ago so keep your ears open!!

Today's photos: I spotted a beautiful russet trunk of an akeake, brilliant carex in the Dell, and fallen gums by the milk tree plantings. Spring has certainly sprung with kowhai in flower and plenty of lambs about.

Until next time, Helen



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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](mailto: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](http://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 (49 walkthrough visits up to and including 29.8.23)

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 August 29, 2023: 17 species & 69 birds recorded (seen or heard).
- 3 species have been recorded during every walk-through: Blackbird, Tui & Fantail (Grey Warblers have not been recorded twice during separate visits, otherwise they would be in this exclusive group too)
- 14 species were sighted/heard during at least 60% (30 or more) of visits: Bellbird, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Eastern Rosella, Fantail, Grey Warbler, Magpie, Paradise Shelduck, Pukeko, Silvereye, 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 (5, 9), 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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