

# Bird Count Walkthrough

## October 4, 2023

Today was rather chilly and grey but despite that, birdlife in Whareroa was aplenty!

The count was up to 132 but really because of a large flock of [starlings](#). Even so there was lots of activity. The winners today were [tuis](#) and [chaffinches](#).



I walked up the Ramaroo track into the wetlands, then did the 'newish' loop at the top end which was a nice change (see photo).

I heard several [grey warblers](#) and hoped I'd hear [shining cuckoo](#) - but no!.

I also saw a beautifully coloured [kingfisher](#) near the orchard.

The first [kereru](#) I saw was near the kissing gate by the yards where Ann had seen two recently so hopefully they are nesting somewhere nearby.



Until next time, Helen

P.S. I read recently in "Birding NZ" that someone saw a [red crowned parakeet \(kakariki\)](#) in the Waiotauru Track, Akatarawa which is great news and not so very far from Whareroa! (Ed: Due to this reported sighting, the kakariki is now on a latent Whareroa Farm bird watch-list which you can find [here](#))

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## The Search for the Whareroa Weka

Some months ago, and again in October 2023, there have been verbal reports of potential possible weka sightings in Whareroa Farm, but no definitive confirmatory (photographic) proof yet.

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 (50 walkthrough visits up to and including 04.10.23)

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.

In approximately 2 hours, Helen records on average, a total number of around 80 birds per walkthrough (the range is 37 to 132).

- On October 4, 2023: 17 species & 132 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)
- 13 species were sighted/heard during at least 66% (33 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 (plus starling but only as a large flock was spotted on 4.10.23)
- 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	Dunrook	Eastern rosella	Falcon	Fanail	Goldfinch	Greenfinch	Greywarbler	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						3	5	2		3	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			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	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					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								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		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	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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**BIRDS RECORDED at Whareroa Farm, 'Walk Through' – Occasional Report, Part 2**

Date	Begin Time	End Time	Bellbird	Blackbacked Gull	Blackbird	Black Swan	California quail	Canada Goose	Chaffinch	Dunnoek	Eastern rosella	Falcon	Fantail	Goldfinch	Greenfinch	Greywarbler	Harrier	Kereru	Kingfisher	Maggie	Mallard	Paradise shelduck	Pheasant	Pukeko	Redpoll	Rock Pigeon	Shining Cuckoo	Silvereye	Sparrow	Spunwinged 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																46	14	
16-Sep-22	9.25	11.07	3		11				20		3		9			8	1	5	2	1		1	5	8							4	2	2	2						97	17	
27-Oct-22	9.40	11.30	1		6				9		1		3		3	5				1			2	6				4	4												52	15
14-Nov-22	9.20	11.30	1		12		1		14				4			7	2			3		2	2	2			4	8	2		4	5								81	17	
20-Dec-22	11.54	1.47	6		11		6		12		1		5			2		1		1			5					4	2		5		2	17					80	15		
20-Jan-23	9.00	11.05	1		8				10		2		5		1	3	1	2	1	2				10				6	2		3	2	2	11						72	18	
27-Feb-23	9.25	11.27		4	3					2	3		11			1	1	4		2				2				9	6		7	3								65	15	
14-Apr-23	9.32	11.43	1		8				4		7		3	4		2	1			4		2						18	1		2									64	14	
23-May-23	9.36	11.30	2		4				6				15					1		1		2	1	5				19	2	1	1			10						79	15	
16-Jun-23	10.41	13.00	2		12				2		1		15			3	2	1		5		2		7				7			1		2	11						73	15	
18-Jul-23	10.25	12.24	6	1	6				1				12			6		2						7				2		2	67	3	4	9						128	14	
29-Aug-23	10.33	12.30	2	5	4				9				10	4		4		3				2	4	1	4						1	3	2	7						69	17	
04-Oct-23	9.40	11.30	3		8		1		9		4		5			4		2	2	2		2	2	2						72	4	1	9							132	17	

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