

TE MATUKU BAY WETLAND PROJECT BIRD SURVEY - January 16th and 17th, 2016

Participants: Hue Ross, Diana Peña, Mikel Hoyle, Eva Fernandez, Tilde Sorensen (Veronika Evans-Gander and Craig Olsen joined us for the morning of Jan 17th)

Goals:

- To identify spots in Te Matuku Bay for long term wetland bird monitoring
- To test audio equipment and audio files for long term monitoring
- To do the first wetland bird survey using playback calls for spotless crane and fernbird
- To record birds response to the calls to confirm bird identification



January 16th, 2016

Point 1:

GPS Coordinates: -36.83902200, 175.14039200

Sunny, no clouds, light wind, temperature approx 25°C.

Site description: Oioi habitat from estuary mudflats to kanuka forest.

Other: 2 kereru displaying dive flights.

- Spotless crane:
Time: 16:39.
We played 2 x 5 minute-call from Emma and waited 5 minutes for response each time. No response. Volume was very low.
- Fernbird:
Time: 17:00.
We played the 4.30 minute fernbird call from council and waited 3 minutes. No response. Volume was perfect.

Point 2:

GPS Coordinates: -36.83734000, 175.13970100

Sunny, no clouds, light wind, temperature approx 25°C.

Site description: Oioi habitat from estuary mudflats to kanuka forest.

Other: Cicada in the background.

- Spotless crane:
Time: 17:30.
We played 4 minute-call from council and waited 3 minutes for response. No response.
- Fernbird:
Time: 17:45.
We played 4.30 minute fernbird call from council and waited 3 minutes. No response.

Point 3:

GPS Coordinates: -36.83606900, 175.13916100

Sunny, no clouds, light wind, temperature approx 25°C. In the shade, a bit cooler.

Site description: Island of oioi habitat in kanuka forest.

Other: Tui and cicada in the background. Plane flying on top of us while listening for spotless crane. Swallows. Sheep. Rosella flying across forest in front of us. Pheasant in the distance.

- Spotless crane:
Time: 18:10. We played 4 minute-call from council and waited 3 minutes for response. No response.
- Fernbird:
Time: 18:20.
We played the 4.30 minute fernbird call from council and waited 3 minutes. No response. Volume was perfect.

Point 4:

GPS Coordinates: -36.83558500, 175.13742800

Sunny, no clouds, light wind, temperature approx 22°C. Sun going down. Beautiful light in the estuary.

Site description: Raupo wetland to the east, gahnia and bracken transition to the kanuka forest.

Other: Kereru displaying dive flights. Tui in the background.

Accidentally pressed the play button!

- Spotless crane:
Time: 18:46.
We played 4 minute-call from council and waited 3 minutes for response.
Something called from different places. We played again the spotless crane call and heard from 3 different spots and very close to us.
- Fernbird:
Time: 18:55.
We played the 4.30 minute fernbird call from council and waited 3 minutes. No response from fernbirds.

January 17th, 2016

Point 5:

GPS Coordinates: -36.82183000, 175.12963800

Sunny, some clouds, light wind, temperature approx 20°C.

Site description: Raupo wetland by stream, grasses and native kanuka forest on the other side.

Other: Cicada in the background. Pukeko in the area. Weka in the distance. Heard another sound (from frog?) that we also heard yesterday but not sure what it is. Saw doves in the area.

- Spotless crane:
Time: 8:28 am.
We played 2 minute-call from council because we heard a response.
We played 2 x 20 sec call and heard response again each time but the bird has moved around.
- Fernbird:
Time: 8:45 am.
We forgot to play the 4.30 minute fernbird call. Oops!

Point 6:

GPS Coordinates: -36.83051300, 175.12696000

Cloudy, no wind, temperature approx 20°C.

Site description: Pond and raupo wetland by stockyard.

Other: 6 paradise shelduck flying on top of us, pukeko everywhere. Dragonflies mating.

- Spotless crane:
Time: 9:35 am. We played 4 minute-call from council and waited 3 minutes for response. No response. Pukeko calls all the time. Something different in the distance.
We played again 2 x 20 sec call and waited. No response
- Fernbird:
Time: 9:53 am.
We played the 4.30 minute fernbird call from council and waited 3 minutes. No response. Volume was perfect. Skylark on top of us calling. Pukeko.

Point 7:

GPS Coordinates: -36.82270100, 175.13642000

Cloudy, light wind, temperature approx 20°C.

Site description: Raupo wetland and oioi grass, and kanuka forest in the margins. Gully with nikau palms close by.

Other: Cicada in the background. Noise from car, close to road. Tui in the background. Rooster.

Spotless crane: Time: 10:43 am.

We played 3 minute-call from council and waited for 3 minutes. Some response- but far away. Hard to confirm.

We played 2 x 20 sec call and heard response again but very close to us. After a while we hear the bird again.

- Fernbird:
Time: 11:00 am.
We played the 4.30 minute fernbird call from council and waited 3 minutes. No response

Report written by Eva Fernandez