

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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OUR MEETINGS ARE STREAMED VIA ZOOM from 7.30 p.m.

Are you aware we stream our monthly meeting, so if you are unable to make our monthly meeting, please click on the zoom link at the bottom of the meeting notice where you can hear the speaker and ask any questions you might have. You can join the meeting at 7.30 p.m. which is when the speaker is introduced.

Message from F&B Manawātū Chair

Thankyou to all our members who took up the challenge of catching rats in their backyards over the past year. We were very pleased that so many of you took on receiving the free traps and some of you were brave enough to take on the DOC200s. They are hard to set for those of us with a little less upper body strength. Most people have sent us their results diligently and a few members we haven't heard from. Some people have just had no luck at all particularly in inner city locations, surprisingly.

Some prolific success stories have come from Waituna West and from the Summerhill area, with another being from Roberts Line. Some rats have been caught, lots of mice in the yellow traps and even some hedgehogs.

If you have a trap and had no luck, or not want to continue on with it, that is just fine and traps can be left at 40 Milverton Ave.

Any DOC200 traps that are unused can be returned and will be redistributed to the Summerhill trapping group to set up another planned trap line.

Our Committee has agreed to continue with our Rat Trapping Project in to 2026 when it will again be reviewed. We can be proud of ourselves that we are now part of the Predator Free NZ movement.

Our guest speakers this month are Professors Steve Trewick and Mary Morgan-Richards, Massey University, whose talk is "Reasons to Kill Rats" and they are doing a rat population genetic study and they are needing samples for their studies. You will hear more about this at our meeting.

See you there
Margaret, Chairperson

SEPTEMBER 2025 MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 9th September from 7.00 p.m.

PN City Library, ground floor, George Street entrance

**** (PLEASE NOTE: Our meetings have changed back to the Ground Floor) ****

(The talk will be streamed via zoom (@ 7.30pm) – see below for the link)

Talk: Reasons to kill rats"

Speakers: Professor Steve Trewick & Professor Mary Morgan Richards, Massey University



Norway Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)
Photo: DOC



Ships Rat (*Rattus rattus*)
Photo: DOC



Kiore/Polynesian rat (*Rattus exulans*)
Photo: DOC

Three species of rat arrived in Aotearoa with humans and quickly spread to all corners. At the same time as rats expanded, many endemic vertebrate populations went extinct. The invasive rodents compete with native predators, harbour fleas with disease and add to our carbon footprint. We talk about the ecology of rats in New Zealand forests and summarise why we kill them and who benefits from reducing their density. We are also interested in rat dispersal and their ability to tolerate high doses of anticoagulants and will talk about future studies.

The talk will start streaming at 7.30 p.m.

Zoom Link: [https://forestandbird-org-](https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/83818435728?pwd=XfATBzWKX7hPHaB2PoNKXIS46kPmEM.1)

[nz.zoom.us/j/83818435728?pwd=XfATBzWKX7hPHaB2PoNKXIS46kPmEM.1](https://forestandbird-org-nz.zoom.us/j/83818435728?pwd=XfATBzWKX7hPHaB2PoNKXIS46kPmEM.1)

Meeting ID: 838 1843 5728

Passcode: 191717

All welcome. Gold coin donation appreciated

F&B MANAWATŪ TRIP

We will not be holding a Trip in September – our next trip will be in October – watch this space

FOREST & BIRD 2026 CALENDARS AND DIARIES (The same price as last year)



Our F&B 2026 Calendars and Diaries will be on sale at the Sept & Oct meetings until we sell out.

The price is the same as last year.

If you would like to pre-order please email: manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz and let us know what you would like and please give your phone number

Just a note, snail mail is taking a lot longer if you are mailing overseas.

FOREST & BIRD MANAWATŪ NOTE CARDS (sold in a pack of 5)

IMAGES OF THE F&B MANAWATŪ NOTE CARDS



From our August Monthly Meeting we will be selling our own Note Cards.

- These will only be sold in a pack of 5 cards – see below the images on the cards
- The cost for the pack is \$10.00
- It will be cash sales only. We are not offering internet banking on the cards
- If you wish to buy a pack/s between meetings, please contact manawatu.branch@forestandbird.org.nz



We're back this 15 - 28 September with the 20th birthday of Bird of the Year! 🐦

Voting opens: **Monday 15 September**

Voting closes: **Monday 28 September**

Winner announced: **Monday 29 September**

To mark the milestone, Forest & Bird is launching a **new book: *Bird of the Year: Twenty years of ruffled feathers – A celebration of the birds of Aotearoa***, written by award-winning journalist and former campaign lead Ellen Rykers. The book dives deep into the competition's backstory – the scandals, surprises, and the species that stole our hearts – while showcasing incredible illustrations from more than a dozen top wildlife artists.

The book is published by Penguin Random House New Zealand and will be available for purchase from bookstores in late August. Royalties from the sale of each book will go to Forest & Bird to support its mahi.

Birdle NZ' game released for Bird of the Year 20th anniversary celebrations

Birdle NZ is available to play free online from 1 September 2025. A new bird will be released every day.



First there was Wordle. Now there is [Birdle NZ](#) – a new version of the daily guessing game released by Forest & Bird as it celebrates two decades of the Bird of the Year.

Just like Wordle, Birdle NZ challenges players to crack the puzzle in five guesses or fewer – but this time, it's all about the manu of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Each day, players listen to the bird's call and then test their knowledge across five categories: food type, bird size, foot function, habitat and name. Correct answers turn green, and with every guess the bird image becomes clearer until the right answer is revealed.

"Bird of the Year has always been about finding creative ways to connect people with our unique and threatened wildlife," says Forest & Bird chief executive Nicola Toki. "Birdle NZ is a fun way to test your bird smarts or learn something new – and a reminder why protecting these species matters."

"With four in five native land birds in Aotearoa at risk of, or threatened with, extinction, Birdle NZ is more than just a game – it's a daily reminder of the beauty and fragility of the country's feathered taonga," says Nicola Toki.

The Welcome to the Birds this year will be on Saturday 27th September 2025.

TIME: at 12.30pm.

MEETING: at the viewing platform, Dawick street



More info closer to the time. It is not long now until the Kuaka/Godwits return from their breeding grounds in Alaska. This generally occurs towards the middle of September with the main influx around a couple of weeks later. Watch out for birds with

droopy wings - they will have flown around 11000 km non-stop to get here. Some will stop for the summer, but most will move to other areas within Aotearoa New Zealand.



Conservation Week/ Te Wiki o Te Taiao

1st – 7th September, 2025

The week is an annual event organized by the [Department of Conservation](#) (DOC) to raise awareness about

conservation and encourage public participation in conservation efforts. It's a great opportunity to do something good for nature, and show others how they can too. Conservation Week was originally launched in 1969 by the New Zealand Scout Association to promote environmental awareness and encourage practical actions to care for the environment. The Department of Conservation has since taken over the organization of the week, collaborating with various groups, businesses, councils, and agencies.

Nature needs your help - Nature in Aotearoa New Zealand is like nowhere else on Earth. It's also in serious trouble. Over 4,000 native species are now threatened with extinction, or at risk of becoming threatened.

Birds NZ Manawatū meeting

Palmerston North Community Leisure Centre, 569 Ferguson Street.

Date: Wednesday 10th September

Speaker: Liam Urquhart will present his Masters thesis which was on:

Talk: "Kiwi Vocalisation"

The thesis investigated the morphological differences in male and female brown kiwi to uncover possible explanations for the dimorphisms of their calls.

OCTOBER 2025 MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 14TH October from 7.00 p.m. (The talk will be streamed via zoom (@ 7.30pm))

Talk: Project Reef South Taranaki' The joy and challenges from a decade of exploration and the rich life of our offshore reefs.

Speaker: Karen Pratt, Co-project Lead, Project Reef South Taranaki



Photos taken by members of the Project Reef Project.

Species: bigbelly seahorse, anemones, blue cod, scarlett wrasse, butterfly perch and hydroid,

Dive into the fascinating offshore world of South Taranaki and discover the extensive network of sub-tidal rocky reef systems. This talk will showcase stunning footage of the rich and colourful marine life these reefs support, while also reflecting on the challenges of ocean access and scuba diving in this dynamic environment. We'll share insights into our survey work, including innovative technology that has captured day-and-night footage from a rocky reef located 11 km offshore – '*Project Reef*'. Alongside the science.

Finally, we'll explore how the informally named *Project Reef* has surfaced in both past EPA Hearings and the current FastTrack Taranaki VTM Project.

"A world without wildlife is a world without wonder.
Protecting animals isn't just about conservation - it's about preserving the soul of the Earth."

That is all for this month. Hope to see you at our meeting in September 2025

Best wishes

Anthea

Anthea McClelland

Editor, F&B Manawātū Branch

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