



## Treetop Tales June 2021

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Welcome to our first edition of Treetop Tales, a monthly roundup to keep you and fellow bird lovers up-to-date with the latest happenings at BirdCare Aotearoa and the wild birds of Aotearoa.

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### What's new?

We have rebranded to BirdCare Aotearoa to better reflect what we do!

We don't actually rescue birds and our old name was often a cause of confusion within the community. Members of the public actually rescue the birds and bring them into us for medical care and attention at our hospital in Green Bay, Auckland.

AND, we have a brand [new website](#) thanks to Jon Adams, ([Websites by Jon](#)), a fellow bird rescuer who generously gave his time and energy to make this happen at no cost.

[Home](#)[How you can help](#) ▾[Advice](#) ▾[Learn](#)[About](#) ▾[Contact](#) ▾[\(09\) 816 9219](#)[GIVE NOW](#)

Image: BirdCare Aotearoa website home page

Our new and modern website is bright and engaging and better reflects our vision of becoming a National Centre of Excellence in wildlife rehabilitation.

A truly wonderful gift and a massive improvement on our previous website which was over 10 years old! Thank you Jon. x

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## Our work...

We received 148 Cooks Petrels through our centre from mid-March to April - the bulk of which arrived over one week!

No sooner had we released them, a new batch arrived, so we were certainly kept on our toes.

Poor weather and low cloud levels kept fledging petrels flying lower than usual over Auckland.

Attracted by the bright city lights they became grounded on roads, beaches or backyards. Once grounded, they are unable to become airborne unless from a great height.

Cooks Petrels breed on Little Barrier and Great Barrier Islands, off north-eastern North Island, and Codfish Island, near Stewart Island. The Barrier populations fledge and head west, over the Auckland region and out to the Tasman Sea where they then head northwards.

Some of the petrels lost their waterproofing as a result of coming into contact with diesel and petrol on the roads, or from human handling which damages their feathers.

(Always use cloth, gloves or a towel to pick them up. Avoid using bare hands).

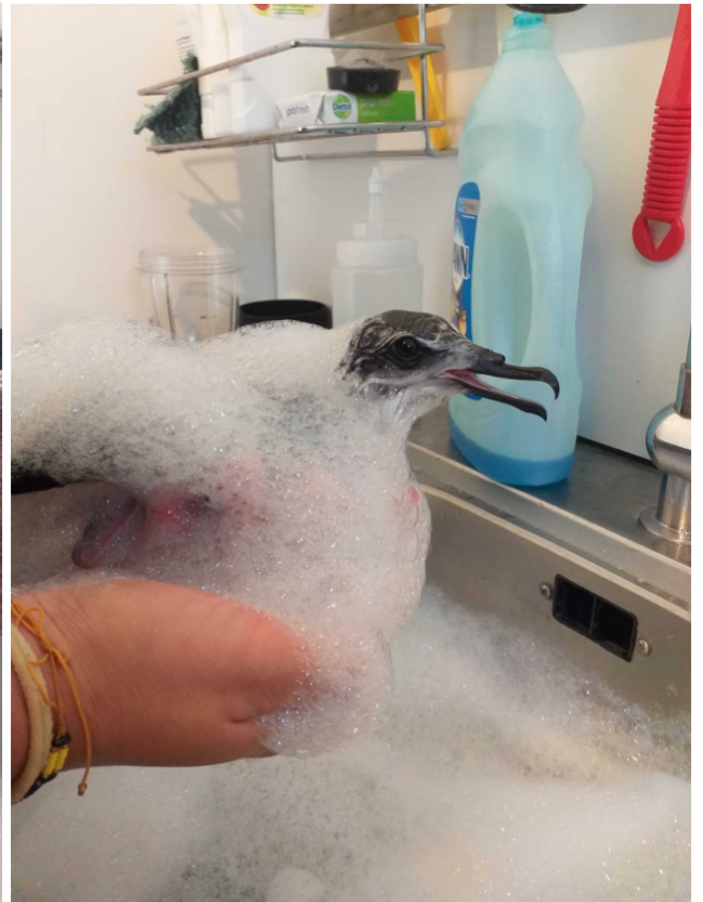


Image: A Cook's Petrel before and during a waterproofing bath.

Their waterproofing was restored by bathing them with Dawn, a deep cleansing soap that removes harmful substances from their feathers.



Image: Locals at Bethells Beach releasing petrels at dusk

A dedicated team of local bird lovers at Bethells Beach helped to release boxes of petrels with only a few hours notice on Ihumoana Island (a private bird sanctuary), navigating high tides, stormy weather, steep cliffs, often in darkness.



Certainly a team effort and we are so deeply grateful for their commitment and efforts!

## What to do when...

...you find a bird caught in a parapara tree?



Image: A Ruru - before and after being caught in a Parapara Tree

It's the season for the Parapara Berry Tree, also known as the Birdcatcher Tree (sc. *Pisonia brunoniana*) - a threatened native tree whose seed pods are encased in a sticky coating which after flowering in autumn and winter, can glue to the feathers of passing birds.



Image: Parapara Tree's sticky pods

Small birds can get stuck to the tree, whilst larger birds will fall to the ground disabled and get "lost" in the ground litter.

The seed pods also fall to the ground where blackbirds and thrushes become entangled in the.



Any bird caught up in the leaves needs immediate attention, especially fantails or grey warblers as they can't go long periods without food.

If you find birds caught up in the tree, do not cut any feathers. Cut off the branch/twig and bring the bird into us (no need to ring first), or to your [nearest bird rescue centre](#) or vet after hours.

The tree does not need to be cut down or destroyed. Just cut the sticky pods off, collect them off the ground, and place them in a bag. Alternatively, remove the pods from the tree after flowering, or cover the whole tree in bird netting during flowering.

Garden centres sell these trees as ornamental garden/house plants, but they often don't have display warnings about the possible dangers to wildlife. But this may help to make an informed decision as to an appropriate place to plant the tree.

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## Thanks to YOU..!

In March this year, hundreds of bird lovers like yourself gave generously to our matched giving campaign.

Thanks to YOU, we raised over \$13,800 to build a dedicated, predator-free waterbird enclosure for our little blue penguins, to give them the best chance of survival in a stress free environment.