



## Treetop Tales

### Ngahuru (Autumn) 2022

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Kia ora Bianka,

Welcome to Treetop Tales, a roundup of news, advice, events and the latest happenings at BirdCare Aotearoa – especially for our wonderful supporters.

We've had an extremely busy start to the year, with **over 2,700 admissions** so far. As the baby bird season draws to an end, most baby birds have fledged. However, this season not only started earlier but is also ending later than usual, so we still have a few juveniles in care.

We've admitted over **600 birds with botulism** since January and are continuing to see botulism cases as we enter Autumn. And to top it off, we've just passed the peak of **tītī (Cook's petrel)** admissions!



One of 153 tītī (Cook's petrels) admitted to BirdCare Aotearoa this year.

Image credit: Dani Najera

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### A record baby season

The 2021-22 baby bird season has been our busiest yet. Our **native nursery** saw the likes of tūī, tauhou (silvereye), kōtare (kingfisher), ruru (morepork), moho pererū (banded rail), warou (welcome swallow), pūkeko,

masked lapwing/spur-winged plover, matuku moana (white-faced heron), and poaka (pied stilt). Our **non-native nursery** cared for blackbirds, song thrush, starlings, finches, sparrows, quails, pheasants, doves, pigeons and ducklings, among others.

While the species we admit vary slightly from year to year, the main reasons for admission remain the same: **cat interaction** (over 1,650 in 2021 and over 350 in the first 2.5 months of 2022) and **well-intentioned bird-napping**.

[Read the full nursery review here](#)

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## Upcoming moho pererū release

Thanks to your support, we've raised **three hatchling moho pererū (banded rails)**, two of whom arrived in very unstable condition and are now growing stronger each day. We've partnered with [Matuku Link](#) to secure a safe release site.



Two of the moho pererū (banded rails), soon to be released!

Image credit: Timothy Yang

Thanks to incredible sculptural embroidery artist [Cathy Jane Designs](#), we'll be holding a banded rail related fundraiser auction soon! Keep an eye on our [website](#) and [social media](#) for the latest news.

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## You helped over 600 birds with botulism

With your support, we've cared for hundreds of botulism birds since late 2021. Species affected have included **mallards**, **pūtangitangi** (paradise

duck), **tētē** (grey teal), **coot**, **tōrea** (oystercatcher), **matuku moana** (heron), **poaka** (pied stilt), and more.

These birds receive veterinary care, medication (antibiotics, pain relief, and eye drops as needed), fluid therapy, and time to recover before they're returned to the wild.

Our general manager, Dr Lynn Miller, recently released this [lecture on avian botulism](#).

Watch the release of one of our botulism herons [here!](#)



Two tētē (grey teal) in care with botulism.

Image credit: Dani Najera

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## Thank you for helping grounded tītī take flight

A huge thank you to everyone who looked out for, rescued, transported, and helped release **tītī (Cook's petrels)** this year. **Special thanks** to our Bethells Beach and Mercer Bay release teams.

Cook's petrels fly over Auckland from their breeding ground on Te Hauturu-o-Toi (Little Barrier Island) on their way to the Tasman Sea, and many become disorientated by **light pollution**. They need specific conditions to take flight, so once they are grounded in the city, they will only survive if collected, checked, and relocated.

**We admitted over 150** of these beautiful little seabirds **between February and May**. At BirdCare Aotearoa, the Cook's petrels receive a full veterinary check-up and medications if needed (all receive daily vitamins and sporanox, and some also need painkillers, antibiotics, and eye drops). They receive

fluid therapy, their feather condition is assessed, and they are given a waterproofing bath if needed. They are assist fed a specialised diet until they are a suitable weight for release. Finally, they are released at a suitable location by our dedicated volunteer team.

**It costs hundreds of dollars every day** to care for these precious endemic birds. We couldn't do it without your support!

[Donate here](#)



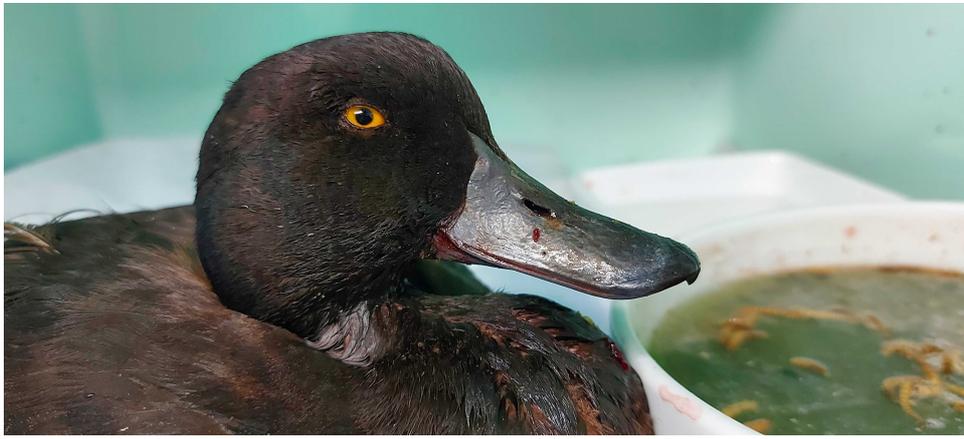
One of many tītī released at Mercer Bay in April 2022.

Image credit: [Bianka Atlas](#)

[Watch a video of the Cook's petrels' bath time](#)

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## **Patient spotlight: pāpango beak reconstruction**



This little pāpango (New Zealand scaup) came in with a fractured beak. His tongue was sticking out and he couldn't feed. Clinical Director, Dani Najera, amputated a small part of the beak and placed a fixer to keep the beak in place while it healed. The scaup completed a course of antibiotics, doubled his weight, and was released after making a full recovery.

Check out Dani's **full photo series** [here](#) (SENSITIVE CONTENT WARNING: blood, stitches, surgery).

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## A feast for a kākā



This gorgeous kākā (brown parrot) was admitted to our hospital after flying into a window. Thankfully, she experienced no major injuries and soon she

was chatting away and snacking on lots of tasty treats (fruits, vegetables, insects, seeds, grains, and leaves).

She was released locally and has since been spotted sitting in the treetops!

If you want to prevent birds from hitting your windows, you can **create a visual barrier using specialised window stickers**. Window strikes are often fatal, but thankfully quite avoidable.

Watch a short video of the kākā

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## Help more birds!

We're currently looking to expand our circle of wonderful regular donors, and **we'd love for you to join this special group**.

Your regular donation will **make a sustainable difference** to BirdCare Aotearoa and is the most effective way to **support our work throughout the year**. By making a regular donation (e.g. weekly or monthly), you help **reduce our administration costs** and **enable us to plan for the future**, ensuring we can continue caring for birds all year round.



One of seven pīwakawaka (fantails) cared for and released by our wonderful nursery team.

Image credit: Maria Robinson

If you'd like to become a regular giver, please set up an automatic payment to our bank account:

**Account name:** New Zealand Bird Rescue Charitable Trust

**Account number:** 12-3029-0421056-50

Please include the details below when you set up your payment and email [maria.gomez@birdcareaotearoa.org.nz](mailto:maria.gomez@birdcareaotearoa.org.nz) so that we can say thank you and send you a receipt (you'll receive one receipt at the end of the financial year).

- Particulars: Surname, First name
- Code: Your contact phone number
- Reference: Frequency of donation (e.g. 'Weekly,' 'Monthly')

Become a regular giver to help more birds

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## Connecting with our neighbours

It's so important to us to have a good relationship with our **neighbours and the local community**. During the past couple of years, we've had very limited opportunities to have visitors at the centre, so it was wonderful to be able to open our doors again to some of our lovely neighbours at Pinesong Retirement Village. They really enjoyed the tour of the centre, learning about the different species in care, seeing first-hand how much time and effort goes into caring for every patient, and they especially loved participating in the release of two kererū.

We were touched to receive a donation from Pinesong as thanks for co-ordinating the relocation of several ducks to greener pastures. The ducks had been breaking into the residents' apartments and leaving 'gifts' all over the carpet!



## Arataki Junior Rangers raise over \$900

The Arataki Junior Rangers is a programme to **inspire young people** to become passionate about our regional parks and enable them to actively make a difference in their local areas. As a group of 8- to 12-year-olds, they focus on all aspects of **local flora and fauna conservation**, including planting days and predator control.

Each year, the Junior Rangers choose one non-profit or volunteer group within the Waitākere Ranges to support. Last year, they chose to support BirdCare Aotearoa by running a raffle over the Christmas/New Year period. They managed to raise **over \$900!** We were delighted to be able to invite them to the centre to hand over their donation.

A huge thank you to Jasmyn, Ewen and Tai (pictured below), the other Junior Rangers who sold tickets and to programme leader, Ranger Gavin Bensemann. Thank you also to all those who purchased tickets, to Auckland Council, Friends of Arataki and Torpedo 7 for helping make this fundraiser possible. We really appreciate your support in **helping protect our amazing taonga**.



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## Bug room progress

Our mealworm farm will soon be moving out of the kitchen area as we've been working on a special bug shed! We hope to expand our mealworm growing capacity (we use thousands of mealworms every week during summer) and we plan to breed other insects such as cockroaches and crickets. Yummy! 🦋 🐛



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**Thank you for walking, running and flying  
with us!**

We were thrilled to be included as a registered charity in **Round the Bays** for the first time ever! We had a small group of [dedicated fundraisers](#) who raised an incredible **\$5000** for our wild birds.

Special mention goes to our youngest duo, Miriama and Isaac, who raised a grand total of **\$769.75!** They walked 11.3 kilometres with their younger brother in Titirangi. Miriama and Isaac also visited the centre for a sneak peek at some of the special patients they have helped with their efforts. Awesome work guys!



Fundraising and walking champions (and budding conservationists), Isaac and Miriama.

Image credit: Jaimee Kirby

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[Vote for us on MyGivingCircle](#)

MyGivingCircle is giving a grant to the top 10 New Zealand charities. We're currently in position #4 but we need your vote to stay there.

**Voting is free and you can [vote every week](#) until 30 June.**

If you're able to donate, MyGivingCircle will add an extra vote for every \$1 you donate – and more for regular giving. [Please vote once a week until 30 June](#) (and donate whenever you can) to help us win a share of this grant.

[Vote here](#)

*News just in from MyGivingCircle:*

**This weekend only** (from Friday 13 to midnight Sunday 15 May), MyGivingCircle is giving **double votes**. If you've been putting off voting or donating via MyGivingCircle, this weekend is your chance to [turbo-boost your support!](#)

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## Patient spotlight: juvenile takapu recovery



This takapu was so proud of his weight gain that he weighed himself!

Image credit: Dani Najera

This juvenile takapu (Australasian gannet) arrived weak and slightly skinny. He was also experiencing some gastrointestinal issues. After a few weeks in care, he was feeling much better! His strength returned, his appetite became quite astonishing, his waterproofing was restored, and he loved pool time.

We were thrilled to watch this young one return to the wild at Muriwai. He

made a beeline for the other juveniles and settled right in.

Fly free beautiful takapu – we hope you have a long and happy life out there!

[Watch the full video here](#)

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## Donate your tax credits to the birds

Support our precious birdlife by paying forward the tax credits of donations you have made in the past.

BirdCare Aotearoa is a registered charity, which means **all donations over \$5 are tax deductible**. To claim your tax rebate, you need to [submit your donation receipts](#) to the IRD. You can then choose to re-gift your donation rebate to us, amplifying the impact of your original donation – at no extra cost to you!

If you don't want to deal with the IRD but you'd like to gift your tax rebate to us, we've made this easier for you...

We've partnered with Kiwi social enterprise, [Supergenerous](#) – a platform automating your donation rebate claims and helping get rebates back to charities like us. Supergenerous is licensed by the IRD and it only takes a few minutes to sign up. (It's free to sign up but Supergenerous takes a fee of 10% + GST, if they secure a donation rebate for you).

Whether you choose to claim your rebate directly from the IRD or through Supergenerous, you can **help give even more birds a second chance at life – without reaching into your pocket!**

[Sign up with Supergenerous](#)

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## Greeting cards that support birds

A very special thank you to the talented Mike Wilson from [Riverhead Photography](#) for supporting our work.

Mike has created a beautiful collection of **eco-friendly bird cards**. They are printed on recycled card, sent with recycled paper envelopes, and plastic free packaging. [Buy a variety pack of cards](#) and Mike will **donate \$1 to BirdCare Aotearoa**.

## Become an OODLER!

Want to **explore** new activities and places, **earn rewards**, and **support local businesses and community groups** at the same time? The [OODLZ](#) app is perfect for you!

OODLZ is full of fun activities for you to enjoy. Each Experience Card has 16 activities to choose from, and each activity you complete earns 10 to 40 points. Complete three or more activities to earn 100 points and receive a reward such as gift cards and vouchers.

**BirdCare Aotearoa is currently being promoted under the 'Keep AKL Green' Experience Card.** You can find this via the 'Wildlife & Nature' and 'OODLZ of Good' special interest categories, or simply do a keyword search using 'birdcare.'

**We're working behind the scenes with OODLZ** to create more bird-related activities for you to enjoy (and be rewarded for!), so [download the app](#) and watch this space!

## Hout & Co. boutique jewellery

Many thanks to [Hout & Co.](#) for donating \$1 to BirdCare Aotearoa for every piece of jewellery sold in December. Hout & Co. make beautiful, sustainable, boutique jewellery inspired by the Hauraki Gulf. We're so grateful for their contribution towards caring for our wild birds.

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Ruru in care at BirdCare Aotearoa..

Image credit: Timothy Yang

## Birds currently in care

**98**

at BirdCare Aotearoa, Green Bay, Auckland

(patient numbers are finally winding down here!)

**Native:** 1 kākā (brown parrot), 1 kakīānau (black swan), 8 karoro (black-backed gull), 1 kāruhiruhi (pied shag), 8 kererū, 3 kōtare (sacred kingfisher), 3 moho pererū (banded rail), 1 poaka (pied stilt), 3 pūkeko, 1 pūtangitangi (paradise duck), 2 spur-winged plovers/masked lapwing, 2 ruru (morepork), 1 tarāpunga (red-billed gull), 2 tauhou (silveryeye), 5 tītī (Cook's petrel), 1 tōrea pango (variable oystercatcher), 1 tūī, 1 warou (welcome swallow)

**Non-native:** 4 Barbary doves, 2 blackbirds, 5 domestic ducks, 6 Malay spotted doves, 20 mallard ducks, 1 quail, 12 rock pigeons, 1 song thrush, 2 sparrows

**Thank you to everyone who rescued a bird, donated, volunteered, told a friend or neighbour about us, or supported us in any way. We couldn't do this without you!**

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## **Birds released – because of you!**

**1125**

birds released since 1 January 2022

**Native:** 3 coot, 1 huahou (red knot), 1 kahu (harrier hawk), 1 kākā (brown parrot), 13 kakīānau (black swan), 15 karoro (black backed gull), 31 kererū, 53 kōtare (sacred kingfisher), 1 kuaka (common diving petrel), 3 kuruwhengi (shoveler), 8 matuku moana (white-faced heron), 2 ōi (grey-faced petrel), 4 pāpango (New Zealand scaup), 8 pāpera (grey duck), 2 pāteke (brown teal), 7 pīwakawaka (fantail), 2 poaka (pied stilt), 28 pūkeko, 67 pūtangitangi (paradise duck), 1 riroriro (grey warbler), 4 ruru (morepork), 1 tāiko (black petrel), 1 takapu (Australasian gannet), 1 tarāpuka (black-billed gull), 5 tarāpunga (red billed gull), 44 tauhou (silveryeye), 15 tētē (grey teal), 94 tītī (Cook's petrel), 3 tōrea pango (variable oystercatcher), 54 tūī, 1 warou (welcome swallow)

**Non-native:** 4 Barbary doves, 67 blackbirds, 4 chaffinches, 3 domestic chickens, 12 domestic ducks, 6 goldfinches, 5 greenfinches, 1 magpie, 3 Malay spotted doves, 340 mallard ducks, 10 Muscovy ducks, 6 myna, 3 pheasants, 1 quail, 76 rock pigeons, 1 skylark, 26 song thrush, 76 sparrows, 7 starlings

**Because of you, these birds got a second chance at life.**

**Thank you for caring!**



One of two poaka released in April.

Image credit: Brian Nicholas Wijaya

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## We think you're wonderful

Thank you so much for your ongoing support and for reading our latest updates. Our ability to continue looking after the beautiful birds around us depends on the kindness and generosity of wonderful people like you.

If you have any questions or if you'd like to discuss how you can best support us, please give us a call on 027 816 9219 or email [support@birdcareaotearoa.org.nz](mailto:support@birdcareaotearoa.org.nz) and Bianca will be happy to help.

Ngā mihi,

Bianca and the BirdCare Aotearoa team

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## Our wonderful partners

Thank you to our [partners and sponsors](#) for helping give wild birds a second chance at life.



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Everything we do is thanks to the generous support of people like you!

**Please consider signing up as a regular giver.**

Become a regular giver

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