



Treetop Tales

Summer 2021

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

It's been a challenging year and we are so grateful for your support. We hope summer provides an opportunity for you to re-connect with your loved ones, relax, and enjoy Aotearoa's wonderful birdlife we all love.

Baby season in full swing

Baby season is in full swing and we have a team of staff, volunteers, and interns who spend their days feeding hungry mouths for a minimum of 12 hours per day.

Our non-native nursery is currently caring for young blackbirds, song thrush, starlings, sparrows, finches, and a friendly young magpie who arrived quite underweight.

Our native nursery is raising young tauhou (silveryeye), tūī, matuku moana (herons), warou (welcome swallows), ruru (morepork), pūkeko, tara (tern), and poaka (pied stilt – scroll down to our patient spotlight for pictures!).



This grouchy face is our first baby ruru of the season! For more cute baby bird photos, and to watch this little one grow, follow us on Facebook and Instagram:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

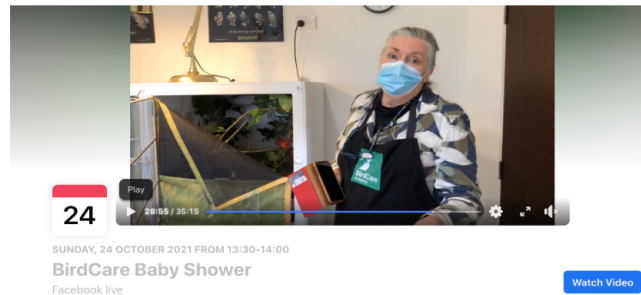
Baby shower and nursery tour

We held our first ever virtual Baby Shower on 24 October and it was a huge success! Thank you so much to everyone who attended. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback and we were delighted to be able to host a fun event at a time when so many people in Tāmaki Makaurau and around Aotearoa have been struggling with lockdowns.

We received many much-needed donations for our nurseries, and are so grateful to everyone who supported the event and donated money or gifts. Thank you!

Missed the live video but still want to learn about how we care for our youngest patients? No problem! Watch the recording:

[Watch the baby shower](#)



Thank you for your generous gifts!

Many thanks to everyone who donated towards our baby shower, and to everyone who donated items from our wishlist in the last newsletter! You are all awesome, and we could not do this without you. You are all life savers for our precious wildlife.

Some of the donations for our baby shower include: heat mats for our birds and emerging mealworm farm, boxes of live mealworms (everyone's favourite snack), a brand new blender, a mop, and a doorbell to allow the triage clinic to signal the nursery staff.

Other donations from our incredible newsletter readers include: multiple spa pools and paddling pools, a pool pump and equipment, linoleum, astroturf fake grass, blenders, microwaves, a water-blaster, eggs and other food for the birds. We simply can't thank you enough!

[Donate here](#)

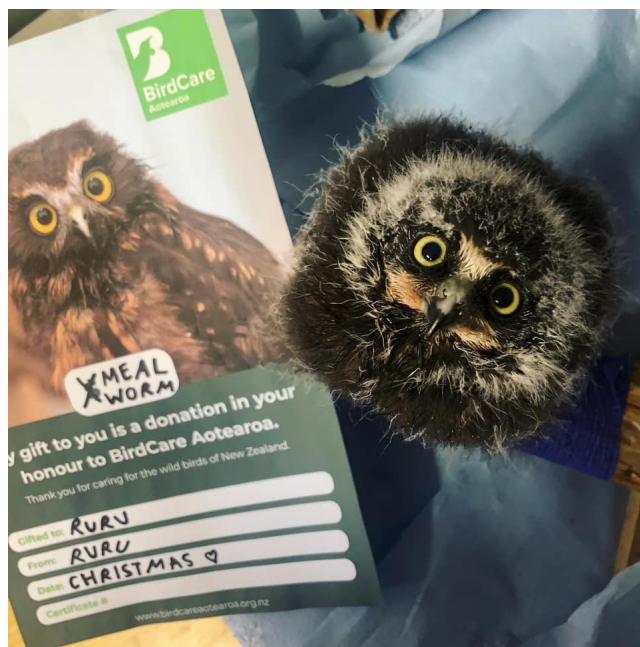


Spread festive joy with a gift certificate

Make someone smile and make a real impact by making a donation in their honour with one of our BirdCare Aotearoa gift certificates.

We have a wide range of gift certificates to choose from, with birds and images to suit all personalities. Every gift certificate purchased contributes directly to our work caring for sick, injured, and orphaned wild birds.

[Purchase a gift certificate](#)



Vote for us at MyGivingCircle

BirdCare Aotearoa is competing to win a share of a \$100,000 December MyGivingCircle grant. We must be in the top 10 New Zealand charities to receive a share of this grant. Voting is free and you can vote weekly.

If you're able to donate, MyGivingCircle will add an extra vote for every \$1 – and more for regular giving. Please vote once a week until 31 December 2021 (and donate whenever you can) to help BirdCare Aotearoa win a share of this grant.



Our new laundry

Thanks to a Pub Charity Ltd grant, we have finally replaced our old and tired laundry equipment with a brand new Speed Queen washing machine and dryer. We are so delighted to have reliable and efficient laundry equipment, which will go a long way to helping ensure the highest standards of hygiene and comfort for our patients – as well as for our human staff and volunteers!



Pub Charity Ltd

Seabird clinic

Our seabird and waterbird area provides a quiet, well-ventilated space for these birds to recover in peace. It's a space we've been developing for a while. Although we still have lots to do, we're thrilled that the floor has finally been professionally filled with concrete. This will help to keep the area hygienic and easy to clean.



Round the Bays 2022 - walk, run, or fly with us!

For the first time ever, BirdCare Aotearoa is a listed charity in Aotearoa's largest family fun run, the Ports of Auckland Round the Bays. Sign up as an individual, as a family, or as a team of friends or colleagues – and walk, run, or fly to the finish line!

[Sign up here!](#)

Frontline Emergency Training

We held our first ever online Frontline Emergency Training on 28 October. Participants learned how to respond to wildlife emergencies, and developed skills to care for wild birds in need.

Where COVID-19 prevents us from holding these courses in-person, we will offer online participants the opportunity to visit our centre for morning or afternoon tea once it is safe to do so.

While we would prefer to run courses in person for the hands-on training opportunities (and of course to see your lovely faces at our centre!), participants were generally very happy with the online format. To enable more people to attend safely, we aim to offer more online courses in the future. To stay in the loop about these and other events, follow us on Facebook.

[Facebook](#)

Patient spotlight: baby pied stilt

This tiny ball of fluff on legs was found on the road, alone and weak. Her prognosis on arrival was uncertain, but after some warmth and food, she promptly stood up and decided that she wanted to live.

Her favourite snacks include (in order of preference!) live mealworms, frozen bloodworms, live sandhoppers and crawlies delivered in fresh beach sand, chopped frozen marinara (especially mussel bits), crushed dry mealworms, and frozen brine shrimps. She arrived at only 12 grams (that's around the size of a silveryeye!) and has since munched her way to a weight of over 100 grams! Adult pied stilts weigh around 190 grams.

[Read more about pied stilts](#)





Welcome to our new staff

Our team has a number of new faces joining us this summer season! Experienced volunteers **Claire** and **Riana** have joined us as summer receptionists. **Luisa** and **Daniela** (who is a vet student) have joined our nursery team. Former staff member **Brian** has returned to care for our outdoor patients along with **Victoria**, who is an ecology student and the daughter of one of our volunteers.

We've also recruited a new Fundraising & Development Coordinator. **Bianka** was a volunteer at the centre before being roped into joining the team! She is the first New Zealander to graduate with the world's only Masters in Animal Law. Bianka is delighted to have the opportunity to apply her skills for the benefit of Aotearoa's wild birds and to support the wonderful BirdCare Aotearoa team.

Please contact Bianka at support@birdcareaotearoa.org.nz if you have any feedback about the newsletter or fundraising questions/ideas – she'd love to hear from you!



Our Saturday to Monday "bubble." To ensure the health and safety of all our staff, volunteers and patients, we've been operating in two separate bubbles during Alert Level 3.

Current birds in care

337

at BirdCare Aotearoa, Green Bay, Auckland

As we head into summer, our hospital is filling up rapidly! Below is a video and photo of some of the gorgeous tauhou (silveryeye) chicks in our nursery.

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!

Tauhou (silveryeye) chicks video



Birds released - because of you!

445

birds released
in October and November

Native: 1 karoro (southern black-backed gull), 2 kererū, 4 kōtare (sacred kingfisher), 2 masked lapwing/spur-winged plover, 2 pūkeko, 3 tākapu (Australasian gannet), 3 tūī, 1 tōrea pango (variable oystercatcher)

Non-native: 6 barbary doves, 6 black swans, 34 blackbirds, 8 Malay doves, 339 mallards, 1 Muscovy duck, 19 rock pigeons, 10 sparrows, 2 song thrush, 2 starlings

Because of you, these birds got a second chance at life. Thank you for caring!

Thank you!

Thank you so much for your ongoing support and generosity, and for reading our latest updates.

We hope you have a safe and restful festive season, and we look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Happy holidays from the BirdCare Aotearoa whānau!

Our wonderful partners



