

# LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI CALL COUNTS

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR MOTUIHE ISLAND

1. Familiarise yourself with the calls of male and female little spotted kiwi, and other birds like morepork /ruru and pukeko which can be confused with kiwi. Useful links to bird calls are;

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/little-spotted-kiwi#bird-sounds>

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/pukeko#bird-sounds>

<http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/morepork#bird-sounds>

<https://www.whatbird.co.nz/>

Download the Phone App '**Birds of NZ**'

2. Select your listening station(s) from the map (on reverse). Ideally, it is best to listen from all the stations on the same night. However, if there are not enough people in your group then listening from even one station is still valuable.
3. Prepare your equipment for the night (see gear list).
4. Synchronise your watch with people listening from other stations.
5. Practise your compass skills before you go out (see instructions on using a compass) or check your Smart Phone compass.
6. Familiarise yourself with the listening station before dark so that you know where you will sit to listen and also to take note of the surrounding landscape/terrain.
7. Ensure you have told someone else your planned location and expected time to return to base.
8. Begin listening at least 45 minutes after dark falls. Take note of the time and listen for two consecutive hours. Ensure the two hours of listening occur within the first four hours of darkness.
9. When you hear a kiwi record the exact time and direction (using a compass or Smart Phone) from where the call came from and a best estimate of distance.
10. Record your results on the Kiwi Call Sheet.
11. When you are finished give your completed Kiwi Call Sheet to the team coordinator.
12. Ideally there needs to be four nights of listening from each station annually.

## What you will need

- Several layers of warm clothes (wind and rain protection)
- Food, water or flask of warm drink
- Notebook and pen/pencil
- Watch
- Something to sit on (closed foam or travel mat)
- Laminated map of the listening stations
- Kiwi Call Sheet (to record calls heard and site/weather information)
- Compass
- Torch and spare batteries
- Cell phone or communication device (e.g. hand held radio)

## How to record a bearing using a compass

- Hold the compass flat in your hand so that the needle is able to turn freely.
- The red arrow will settle towards North.
- Point the compass base arrow in the direction of the call.
- Rotate the compass housing until the red needle is aligned with N, north.
- Read off the number that corresponds with the direction of the base arrow – this is the bearing that the kiwi is calling from (e.g.  $160^{\circ}$ ).
- Alternatively, many smart phones now have an inbuilt compass which can provide a more accurate reading.

### Kiwi call direction



## Motuihe Island Little Spotted Kiwi Call Count Stations



### Station Coordinates

1.  $36^{\circ}48.142'S$   
 $174^{\circ}56.077'E$
2.  $36^{\circ}48.424'S$   
 $174^{\circ}56.541'E$
3. Pa Point  
 $36^{\circ}48.449'S$   
 $174^{\circ}57.014'E$   
  
Water Troughs  
 $36^{\circ}48.516'S$   
 $174^{\circ}56.844'E$
4.  $36^{\circ}48.736'S$   
 $174^{\circ}57.166'E$
5.  $36^{\circ}48.839'S$   
 $174^{\circ}56.780'E$
6.  $36^{\circ}49.110'S$   
 $174^{\circ}56.691'E$
7.  $36^{\circ}49.218'S$   
 $174^{\circ}56.443'E$
8. von Luckner's  
 $36^{\circ}48.820'S$   
 $174^{\circ}56.975'E$

