



Motuihe Bird Surveys



Species are self introducing...



05-15-2024 11:28:20

Counting birds...



What is a 5 minute bird count?



Kereru flying overhead at Motuihe (photo by Edin Whitehead)

40 monitoring stations



The Amazing 2024 Bird Survey Team!



Previous bird survey was performed in 2007



- Targeted 4 species (over 3 months) and found:
 - No Tui
 - Very few kereru (n=3)
 - Saddleback (n=13)
- Total 58 individuals
- (0.5 birds per 5-minutes)

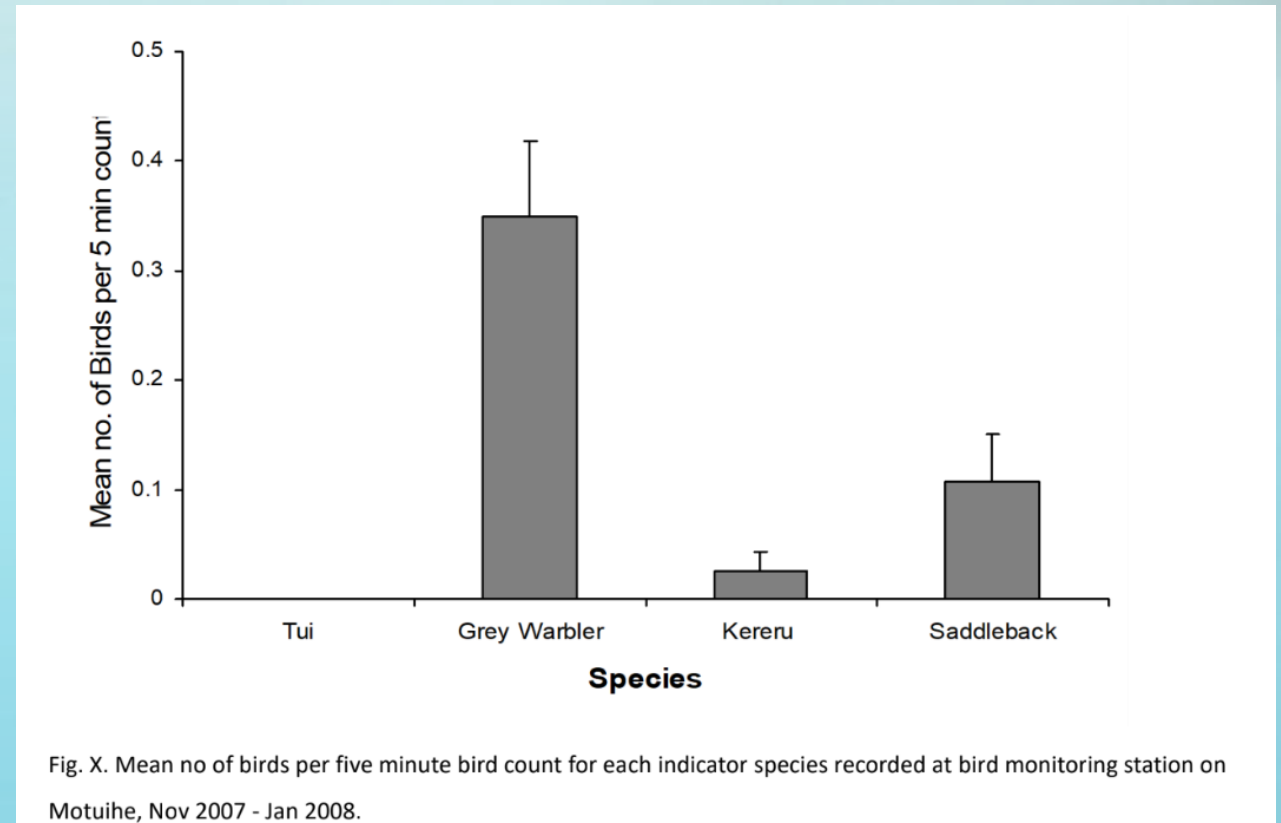


Fig. X. Mean no of birds per five minute bird count for each indicator species recorded at bird monitoring station on Motuihe, Nov 2007 - Jan 2008.

Baber, M (2008)

Restoration progress on Motuihe



2007

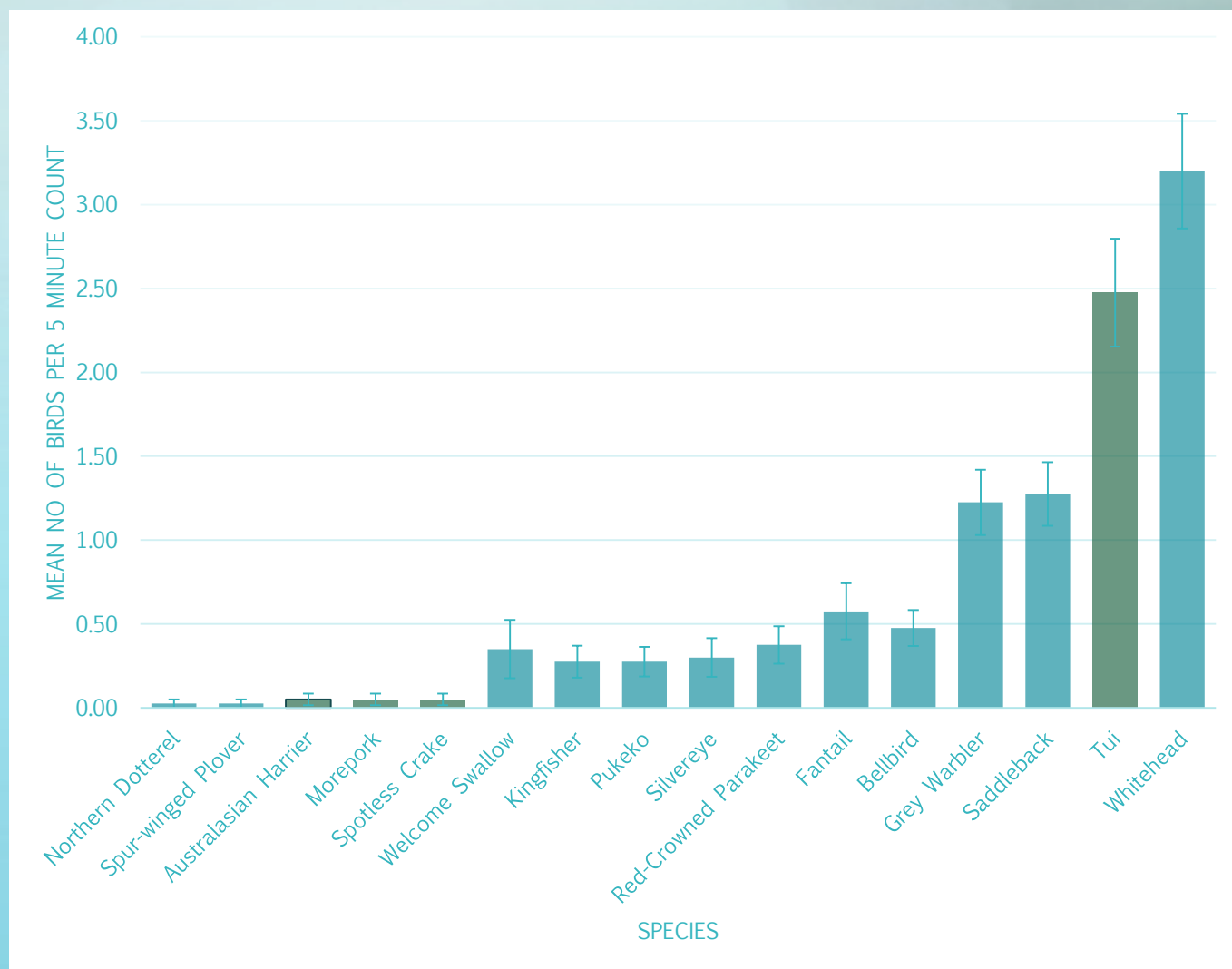


2024



Results from 2024 survey

- Both diversity and abundances of species has increased overall
- 23 species, 70% were native
- 7 threatened species recorded on Motuihe*
 - kakariki, dotterel, bellbird, spotless crane, whitehead, kaka, saddleback
- Spotless Crane have self introduced to the island



*2024 Tāmaki Makaurau conservation status

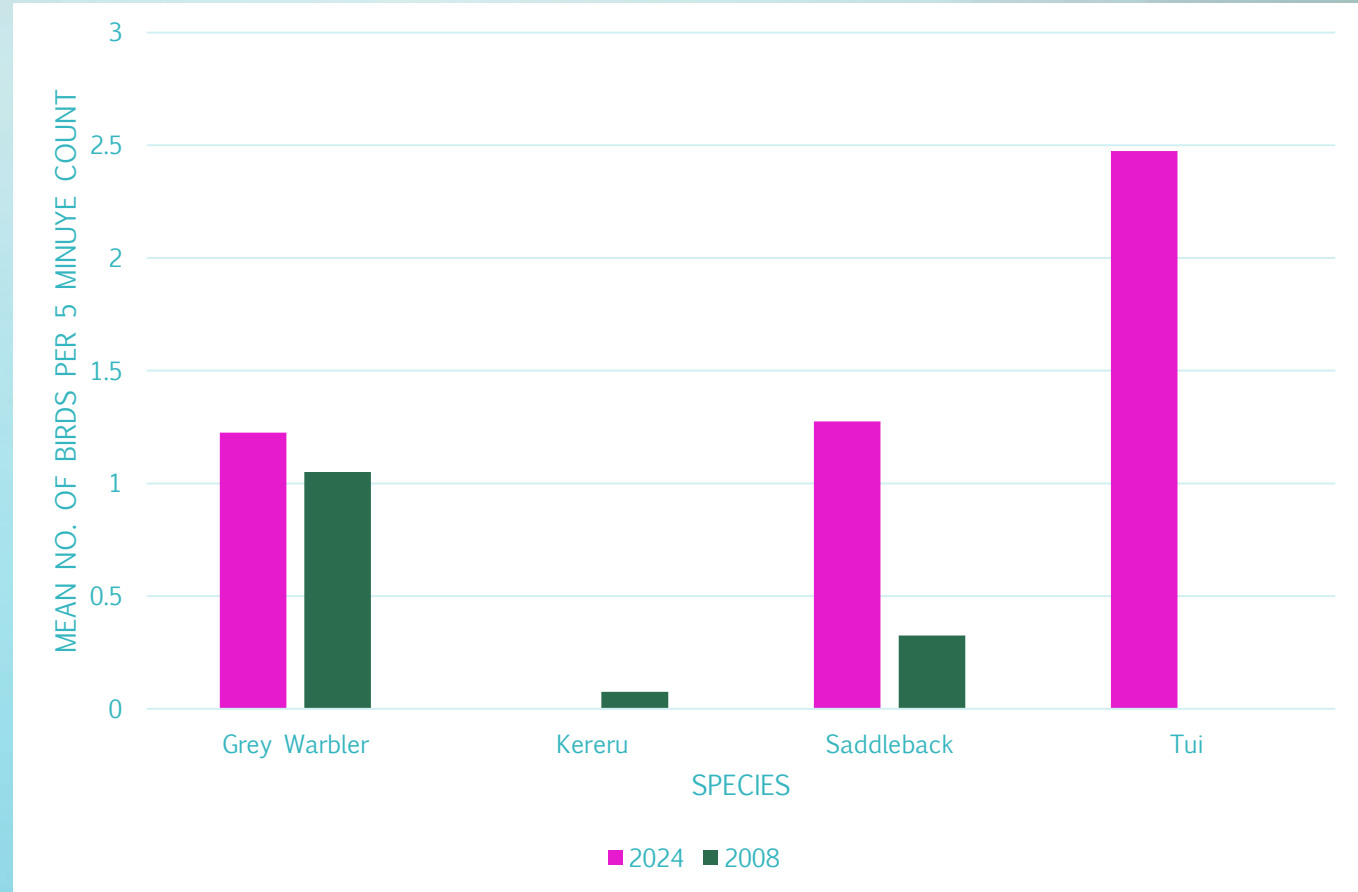
How does this survey compare to the 2007 bird survey?

243% increase in average count
2007 Average 0.5 birds
2024: Average 5 birds

Wide distribution across the island:

- Tūi = 85% of stations
- Saddleback = 75% of stations
- Grey Warbler = 87.5% of stations

Decrease in Kereru from previous survey
-seasonal variation in distribution?



What would we like to do in 2025?

- Repeat the 5 minute bird count survey (to compare to previous surveys and be able to observe trends in populations over time)
 - September
- Quarterly surveys to better understand the distribution and seasonal variability of bird species at Motuihe
 - April
 - July
 - September
 - January
- Targeted species surveys using acoustic play-backs (spotless crane, bellbird)

Kereru

- Its important we know their distribution and presence on Motuihe
- Some of our trees depend almost entirely on kereru for seed dispersal (i.e., Karaka)



- NZ parrots can be threatened by exotic species such as Rosella

- Spread disease
- Displacement
- Competition

Its important monitor regularly to inform the Trust whether anything negative is happening with these species



What volunteers can expect?

- Don't worry – you **don't** need to know your birds
 - Paired with a team leader who is familiar with calls/sight
 - An in-person training session
- You'll have GPS, maps, directions
- Opportunities to be involved with other activities:
 - planting trees
 - weeding
 - targeted species surveying



Cheet te-te-te-te
sounds like...
a car trying to start



Saddleback / Tieke

What we're looking for ...

- Good hearing and sight (at least one of these) 😊
- The ability to be on your feet for 3-4 hours
- Financially able to contribute for the water taxi (~\$30 this is to be confirmed depending on funding)
- Can commit to:
 - 1 overnight stay on Motuihe (survey)
 - 1 weeknight (around 2 hours for training)



Ngā mihi

