



# NZ Falcon Distribution Survey Newsletter Seven 1 May 2010

*Hi there*

The NZ Falcon Survey continues to progress well, with an additional 575 observations records received to date, since the completion of the 'formal' survey on 30 May 2009. With Otago (at 130) and Canterbury (at 109) records, again taking the lead. This has taken our all up total to well over 6,000 records, which is extremely pleasing and has resulted in some valuable data.

## Article – New Zealand Falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) Distribution Survey 2006-09

The formal peer reviewed article on the completed 2006-09 distribution survey has now been published in Notornis, the Journal of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand. A copy of this article can be download from the Distribution of NZ Falcon page of the [www.nzfalcon.org.nz](http://www.nzfalcon.org.nz) website.

For those without access to the Internet a copy of the article is enclosed with your copy of this Newsletter.

## First Three Months of 2010

During the first three months of 2010 a total of 124 observation records have been received.

An interesting factor about these sightings is how regularly observations were made. Out of the 90 days of January, February and March, a falcon observation was made on 66 of these days (or 73%) see the chart.

But of course this regularity of sightings is unlikely to continue as we approach the winter months and the traditionally lower number of records.

The colour coding indicates the number of observation records for each day. From a high of 30 days when one observation record was made to a relatively lesser five days when four records were obtained.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31							
February		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28						
March		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			

Key:	30 x 1 record for the day
	23 x 2 records for the day
	8 x 3 records for the day
	5 x 4 records for the day

## Wellington

The capital city ended up as falcon breeding central this last season, with one pair nesting in the Karori Sanctuary and successfully raising four juveniles, whilst over on the eastern side of the harbour two further pairs nested (one on the ground and the other in a tree). Both of which raised two juveniles each, even though one of the males disappeared (died) the female continued on alone. There was also numerous other single falcon reports from around the region, which can only bode well for the local population – perhaps not for the prey birds though!

## Website ([www.nzfalcon.org.nz](http://www.nzfalcon.org.nz))

There have been some recent additions to our website, that include:

- a. **Photo Gallery** – new photographs have been added. One great photo by Mandy Hague of an adult falcon at Whakatane, a great sequence of photos of an aerial food pass from Turitea, near Palmerston North from Paul Vandenberg. Whilst closer to home Terry Baldwin took a spectacular photo of a pair of adult falcon by the Kokowai Track, Egmont NP.
- b. **NZ Documentary** - a link as been provided (on the Resources on NZ Falcon page) to a short film, Wildlife of the Mountains, part of the NZ On Screen, Nature Inspired Collection. This documentary examines the alpine flora and birdlife in the Upper Waitaki area of the South Island and there is some great footage of NZ falcon.

## Observation Reports

We are still very keen to receive NZ falcon observation reports, as there are still some gaps in areas around the country from where we don't yet have reports. Plus it is still of great value to receive repeat sightings as this confirms that the falcon are still present in known locations.

## Many Thanks

Again many thanks to you for taking the time and energy to participate in the NZ Falcon Survey, some might not be aware they have, the information collected is adding/has added to our knowledge of the NZ falcon, a truly spectacular native bird of ours.

### ***Dave Bell***

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