

KERERU NEWS No. 62 (11 February 2008)

Information about and observations of kereru / kuku / kukupa / kokopa / New Zealand pigeon / parea / Chatham Islands pigeon

1. Wanted – flight speeds of kereru – Ralph Powlesland

I'm always after snippets of information about kereru where there is a gap in our knowledge. With regard to flight speed there is now a management need for this information. Given the kereru's propensity to fly into various man-made objects (windows, moving vehicles), there is a concern that wind turbines might be another hazard for the species to cope with. To estimate the impact of collisions with wind turbines on bird populations people carry out collision risk modelling, and among several other bits of information that are needed is the flight speed of the species being modelled. So if you just happen to be driving along and a kereru flies along beside you briefly please let me know its estimated flight speed. And of course the flight speeds of other bird species would be of interest for the same reason.

2. Wanted – kereru eggs for study of egg characteristics and chemical composition – Ralph Powlesland

As you may be aware from the previous Kereru News, there is no information that I'm aware of documenting egg characteristics (yolk weight, albumen weight, egg shell weight) and chemical composition (water, protein, lipid, carbohydrate) of kereru eggs. Since kereru occasionally lay an infertile egg, abandon an egg early in incubation, or an egg falls through a poorly constructed nest or gets rolled off the nest in windy weather and ends up on the ground unbroken (yes, a rare occurrence), I'm keen to receive kereru eggs for a study of characteristics and chemical composition to provide baseline information and to document any differences between eggs from captive and wild birds. They can be recently laid but unincubated, abandoned after early incubation (less than a week), or even infertile and have received full incubation. So if you happen to obtain or know of such an egg and have no use for it please get in touch.

3. Kereru – continuation of where various topics of information about kereru are available, and where the gaps in our knowledge about kereru are (full listing available to DOC staff at docdm-117328) – Ralph Powlesland

Incubation – duration, gender roles, addition of nest material, unattended egg

- Clout, M.N. 1990. The kereru and its forests. *Birds International* 2: 10-19.
- Clout, M.N., Gaze, P.D., and Hay, J.R. 1988. Clutch overlap by a New Zealand pigeon. *Notornis* 35: 59-62.
- Clout, M.N., Gaze, P.D., Hay, J.R., and Karl, B.J. 1986. Habitat use and spring movements of New Zealand pigeons at Lake Rotoroa, Nelson Lakes National Park. *Notornis* 33: 37-44.
- Dunn, P.; Morris, R.B. 1985. New Zealand pigeon. Pp 238-239 *In*: Robertson, C.J.R. (Ed.), *Reader's Digest complete book of New Zealand birds*. Reader's Digest Services Pty Ltd, Sydney.
- Flux, I.A., Powlesland, R.G., Dilks, P.J., Grant, A.D. 2001. Breeding, survival and recruitment of Chatham Island pigeon (*Hemiphaga chathamensis*). *Notornis* 48: 197-206.
- Guthrie-Smith, H. 1927. *Birds of the water, wood and waste*. Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd, Wellington. Egg unattended for 4 hours and yet chick hatched fine.

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- Higgins, P.J. and Davies, S.J.J.F. 1996. New Zealand pigeon. Pp. 1016-1025 in Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Vol. 3, Snipe to Pigeons. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.
- James, R.E. 1995. Breeding ecology of the New Zealand pigeon at Wenderholm Regional Park. Unpubl. MSc thesis. University of Auckland, Auckland.
- Moon, G.J.H. 1967. New Zealand pigeon *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*. Refocus on New Zealand birds, p 87-89. A.H. & A.W. Reed, Wellington.
- Morrison, P. 1959. Nesting of New Zealand pigeon. Notornis 8: 87-88.
- Oliver, W.R.B. 1955. New Zealand pigeon (kereru) and Chatham Island pigeon (kuku). Pages 440-444 in New Zealand birds, 2nd edition. A.H. & A.W. Reed, Wellington.
- Thorsen, M.; Innes, J.; Nugent, G.; Prime, K. 2004. Parental care and growth rates of New Zealand pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) nestlings. Notornis 51: 136-140.
- Wilkinson, A.S.; Wilkinson, A. 1952. Kapiti bird sanctuary: a natural history of the island. Masterton Printing Co., Masterton.
- Kereru News No. 29.
- Kereru News No. 53.
- Some information on incubation activities and attentiveness of kereru available on video tapes and data sheets from time-lapse video monitoring at Whirinaki, New Plymouth and Invercargill (RGP).

Nestling rearing – duration, gender roles, brooding, nestling growth, weight increase, plumage development, foods of nestlings, pigeon milk, nest-leaving process, nest structure during process

- Clout, M.N. 1990. The kereru and its forests. Birds International 2: 10-19.
- Clout, M.N., Gaze, P.D., and Hay, J.R. 1988. Clutch overlap by a New Zealand pigeon. Notornis 35: 59-62.
- Department of Conservation. 2002. Kukupa, native wood pigeon, survival guide. Northland Conservancy, Department of Conservation.
- Flux, I.A., Powlesland, R.G., Dilks, P.J., Grant, A.D. 2001. Breeding, survival and recruitment of Chatham Island pigeon (*Hemiphaga chathamensis*). Notornis 48: 197-206.
- Genet, R., Guest, R. 1976. Winter nesting of New Zealand pigeon. Notornis 23: 319.
- Guthrie-Smith, H. 1927. *Birds of the water, wood and waste*. Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd, Wellington.
- Henderson, K. 1991. Investigation into the composition of the crop milk of the New Zealand pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*). Unpubl. report. Food Technology Department, Massey University, Palmerston North.
- Higgins, P.J. and Davies, S.J.J.F. 1996. New Zealand pigeon. Pp. 1016-1025 in Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Vol. 3, Snipe to Pigeons. Oxford University Press, Melbourne. (Long précis of kereru ecology and more)
- James, R.E. 1995. Breeding ecology of the New Zealand pigeon at Wenderholm Regional Park. Unpubl. MSc thesis. University of Auckland, Auckland.
- Moon, G.J.H. 1967. New Zealand pigeon *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*. Refocus on New Zealand birds, p 87-89. A.H. & A.W. Reed, Wellington.

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- Morrison, P. 1959. Nesting of New Zealand pigeon. *Notornis* 8: 87-88.
- Oliver, W.R.B. 1955. New Zealand pigeon (kereru) and Chatham Island pigeon (kuku). Pages 440-444 in *New Zealand birds*, 2nd edition. A.H. & A.W. Reed, Wellington.
- Thorsen, M.; Innes, J.; Nugent, G.; Prime, K. 2004. Parental care and growth rates of New Zealand pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) nestlings. *Notornis* 51: 136-140.
- Wilkinson, A.S.; Wilkinson, A. 1952. Kapiti bird sanctuary: a natural history of the island. Masterton Printing Co., Masterton.
- Kereru News No. 53.
- Some information on nestling-rearing activities and brooding attentiveness of kereru available on video tapes and data sheets from time-lapse video monitoring at Whirinaki, New Plymouth and Invercargill (RGP).

Fledgling rearing – duration, roles of parents

- Clout, M.N. 1990. The kereru and its forests. *Birds International* 2: 10-19.
- Flux, I.A., Powlesland, R.G., Dilks, P.J., Grant, A.D. 2001. Breeding, survival and recruitment of Chatham Island pigeon (*Hemiphaga chathamensis*). *Notornis* 48: 197-206.
- Very little information on parent-fledgling relationship, and development of flight, feeding competence and movements of fledgling and juvenile kereru.