

KERERU NEWS No. 24 (24 January 2001)

Meagre snippets about kereru/kuku/kukupu/parea

1. Kereru and a kowhai diet - Jason Roxburgh

A pair of kereru visit my garden (on eastern side of the Firth of Thames) every year (the same pair I think) when the kowhai leaves bud out. Recently one crash landed on my lawn (looks like it ate too much too fast, was not able to fly, and crash landed). It managed to get about 1 m off the ground into another tree, and sat until it had digested and pooped out enough to fly off again (about 20 minutes). My dog found it, and was very proud of himself. The bird was not too concerned about me or the dog, maybe it had serious indigestion?

2. Rehabilitating kereru - Nikki Egerton

I seem to be having a busy time at the moment - currently I have 5 kereru in care, 1 adult and 4 juveniles. Three of which suffered impacts with windows and the other two suffered cat attacks. Do you know if it has been a particularly bad season or is it just down here perhaps?

3. Kereru at Whirinaki - Ralph Powlesland

We haven't found any nests as yet, but have seen a few display flights, plus other displays, and some contact/attraction coos so perhaps they will start nesting soon. There is a little ripe fruit around, in particular some mature tawa fruit from last year, plus half-sized tawa fruit of this year's crop that is ripening sort of and usually contains a malformed embryo. Before long there should be ripe fruit of wineberry, mahoe, narrow-leaved mahoe and tawa so hopefully that will encourage the kereru in Whirinaki to start nesting. A couple of birds have shifted from the spring portions of their home ranges (where there was no tawa) and settled in predominately tawa forest, in one case a movement of about 7 kms.

Our last kereru died in October. As in previous years, we have found none or few predated kereru during summer - long may it continue!

4. Urban kereru - Hokimate Harwood

I am continuing my study of the phenology of kereru foods and their relationship to the presence of kereru in the Birkenhead/Northcote area of Auckland city. While conducting my regular studies late last month (October) 13 kukupa were counted, 3 doing display flights in different areas at different times, and 4 at the same time within c. 200 m of each other.

Cheers
Ralph