

Tangihua Lions lodge bird monitoring activity



Monitoring the birds is an essential part of the conservation program.

Monitoring is essential to compare the before and after effects of our conservation program.

It will cover many years (decades) and will used

- To see if species are making a come back
- To see how well the pest animals have been controlled for accurate decision making
- To be able to prove we have a suitable habitat to introduce locally extinct species.
- For funding and satisfaction of those working on the project.
- For evaluating future funding decisions and where to invest for the best return.
- As an integral part of the educational opportunity that this venture would provide...i.e learning about forest health

Method

We have set up the stations 200m apart. The first one is at the lodge by the demonstration bait station on the way to the table. Then up behind the lodge along the Whakapona track right onto the Horokaka trail, right onto the nature trail with one on the road opposite the entrance (13) and the last one on the observation platform.

See Map page 2

The class can split into groups and each group can do more than one station. Smaller groups are more effective as less noise and the timing of the count is similar and quicker. Send the groups off 5 minutes apart and have a set time to do the count. Allow 5 minutes wait time (silently) on site to let things settle down.

Appoint

1. A Timer
2. A note taker
3. Observers looking in different directions.
4. Back up observers for when a bird is spotted so not everyone is looking in the same direction.

The observers

The observer stand at the count station for 5 minute to allow things to settle down and then listen and observe for 5 minutes.

They fill in the form and record

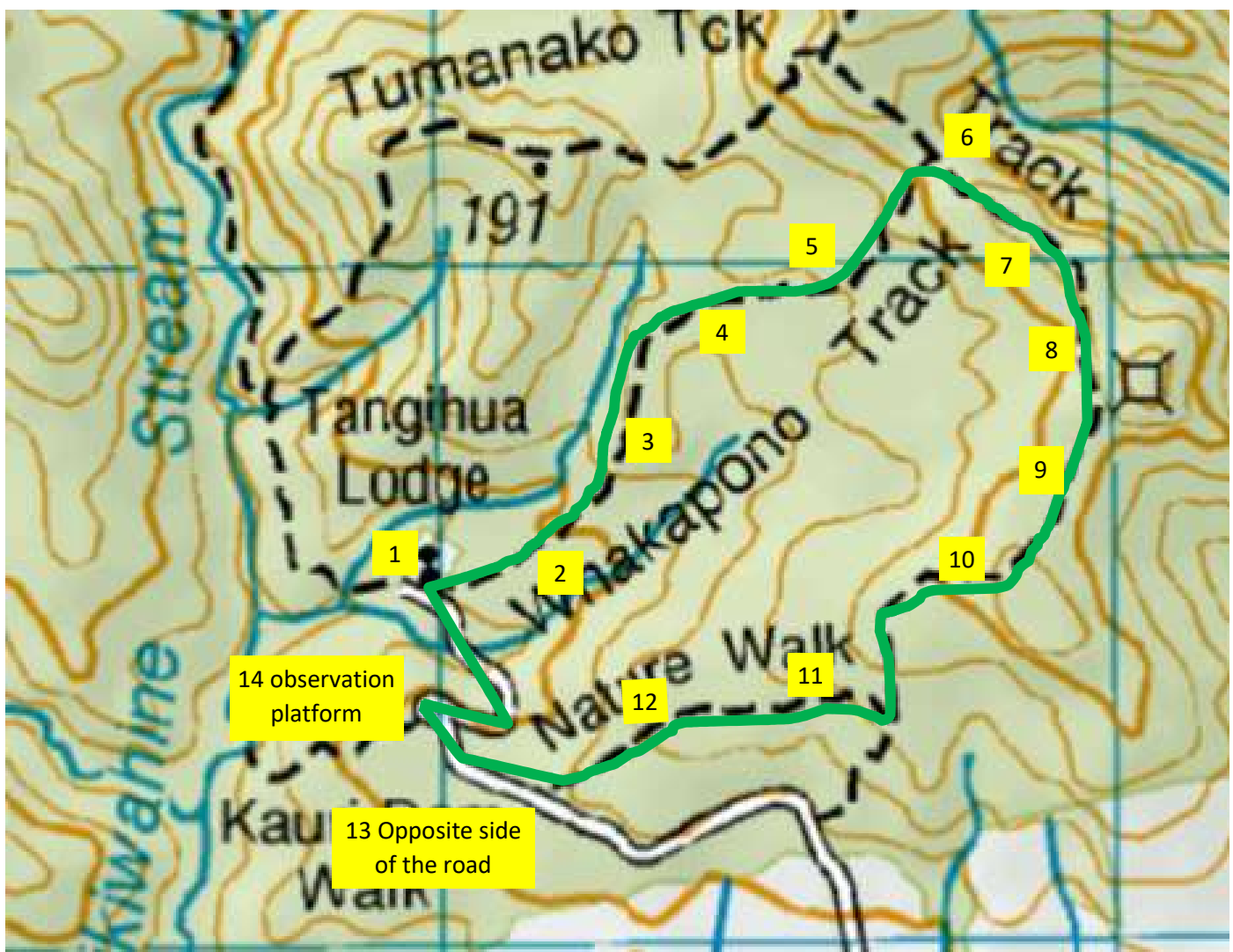
- the number of birds seen and heard of each species
- the location of the station (i.e. station or id number)
- the weather variables; temperature, wind, other noise, sun, precipitation type and precipitation value
- No bird is knowingly counted twice within a five-minute interval.
- If a bird is heard at two separate stations but the observer believes it is the same bird, it should still be recorded at both locations
- There is no cut off distance for hearing or vision.
- Once all the forms are collected the information is filled into form 2

No birds should be assumed to be present unless they are seen or heard e.g. observers should record the number of silvereyes heard calling, not the size of the flock they think this amount of calling represents.

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The markers for the observation points are a pink and yellow diamond shaped markers with a number on it. We have set up the stations 200m apart. The first one is at the lodge by the demonstration bait station on the way to the table. Then up behind the lodge along the Whakapona track right onto the Horokaka trail, right onto the nature trail with one on the road opposite the entrance (13) and the last one on the observation platform.



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Observation sheet

observers		Date																		
		Bell bird	Black Bird	Shining Cuckoo	Fantail	Hawk	Kaka	Kereru	Kiwi	Para-keet	Rosella	Ruru	Tom tit	Tui	Wax eye				Other	Total
Time	Seen																			
	Conditions																			
Station	Heard																			
	Total																			
Time	Seen																			
	Conditions																			
Station	Heard																			
	Total																			
Time	Seen																			
	Conditions																			
Station	Heard																			
	Total																			

Put in a 1 for each bird recorded and once you have 4 strike a line through to make 5

