

Water-bird Biodiversity in a Restored Urban Wetland

Is it providing a refuge for native wildlife?

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The Waiatarua Reserve, a restored wetland on the fringes of central Auckland is the award-winning result of an Auckland Council project that took 16 years to develop, negotiate and complete at a cost of \$5.9 m. This was opened to the public in 2004.

One of the objectives of the restoration was to provide a refuge for native wildlife. How successful has this been? This presentation will focus on the use of the reserve by water birds. Regular monitoring from 2009 until present has provided data on the species present and changes in the total numbers of birds and has been presented elsewhere. During this period there have been changes in the amount of open water, in both seasonal rainfall and in the species and growth of plants within the wetland and surrounding it. These changes have also impacted on the visibility into some areas previously easily observed. Of the 19 species of birds that utilize the wetland areas of the reserve a substantial number are present in small numbers and are seen at varying times of the year. This presentation will utilize the data on monthly and annual variations in the numbers of each species of water bird to compare the biodiversity indices for water birds in the reserve from 2009 to 2016.