



Report on the Shorebird Ranger role and Northern New Zealand Dotterel/ Tūturiwhatu 2025-26 breeding season

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Picture 1: Mount Maunganui Main Beach NNZD family. Image © Vicki Woodcraft.

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Executive Summary

The 2025/26 northern New Zealand dotterel (NNZD) breeding season has been a success with three new breeding sites added to the data set and new NNZD community groups emerging.

Six main locations (Waihī Beach, Ōmokoroa, Mount Maunganui Main Beach, Papamoa, Maketū and Pukehina) were monitored in the Western Bay of Plenty (WBoP), with variable success with nesting attempts at some sites producing fledglings while others experienced complete failure.

The NNZD breeding season was slightly later and shorter than the previous year, spanning approximately seven months from the first eggs laid at Mount Maunganui Main Beach in September 2025 through to the last chicks fledging in early March 2026.

The weather was less settled than last breeding season, with more rainfall, storms, and high swells resulting in four nest moves across three sites. Two nests were washed out despite these efforts. Human interference and predation were once again factors in egg and chick losses, with the Waihī Beach area being affected the worst. Similar to previous seasons, off leash dogs caused problems at most sites. The number of failed nesting attempts through eggs and chick loss over the season remains a concern.

The 2025-26 breeding season is the fourth consecutive season for this role.

Activities

Over the course of the season the shorebird ranger (Anna Wentsch) worked 208 hours and travelled 1500 Kms.

The ranger role was partnered with support from the Department of Conservation (DoC), Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BoPRC), and Bay Conservation Alliance (BCA). Personnel from Tauranga City Council (TCC) and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBoPDC) were also involved and regularly consulted in discussions regarding relevant sites.

Notable activities included covering Mount Maunganui Main Beach duties while John Heaphy was on leave and continuation of these duties to the end of breeding season thereafter. Regular visits were made to known nesting sites, meeting and supporting groups across the WBoP and expanding the volunteer capacity by forming a new group in Papamoa East and starting conversations with another group at Ōtamarākau for upcoming seasons.

Shorebird ranger activities included:

- Regular site visits and communications with NNZD community groups.
- Stakeholder meetings and site visits with DoC, Tauranga City Council (TCC), and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBoPDC), with particular focus on improving NNZD signage.

- Developing, printing, and distributing a NNZD brochure.
- Developing and organising a NNZD dotterel social media awareness campaign.
- Implementing NNZD signage strategy.
- Organising and co-hosting an end-of-season volunteer celebration event.
- Supporting dotterel decoy trail in Waihi Beach by providing fencing equipment.
- GPS-ing predator control devices to Kete Taiao for better record keeping.
- Weekly Main Beach monitoring and stakeholder updates from mid-December to mid-March.
- Main Beach event liaison and site visits with event organisers from mid-December to mid-March.

Results

The 2025-26 breeding season had the greatest hatch rate since the start of the shorebird ranger role, with 49% of the recorded eggs hatching, but produced less fledged chicks (14% fledgling rate) than the past two breeding seasons (Table 1, Figure 1). Human vandalism, nest abandonment, and predation events were the main cause leading to the reduction in fledgling rate (Table 2). Increased rainfall and storm events may have also influenced the outcome, leading to a higher likelihood of chicks being doused and dying of subsequent hypothermia.

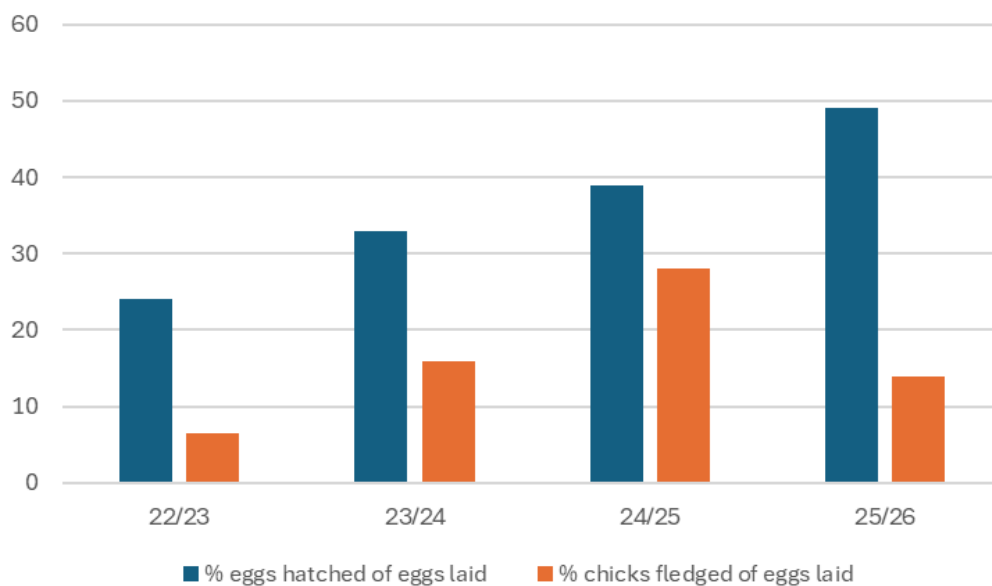


Figure 1: Proportion of eggs hatched and chicks fledged each season. This includes three extra sites in addition to previous years (Tay St, Sunbrae Grove, and Pacific Coast Village).

Table 1: Observed Outcomes by Location

Location	Adult Pairs	Nesting attempts	Eggs Laid	Eggs Hatched (% hatched of eggs laid)	Fledged (% fledged of eggs laid)
Waihi Beach	4	10	18	6 (33%)	1 (17%)
Omokoroa	3	1	3	2 (67%)	2 (67%)
Main Beach	8	11	23**	17** (74%)	5 (29%)
Tay Street*	1	1	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Papamoa*	3	4	10	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total 2025/26	19	26	57	28 (49%)	8 (14%)
Total 2024/25	15	N/A	61	24(39%)	17 (28%)
Total 2023/24	16	N/A	57	19 (33%)	9 (16%)
Total 2022/23	16	N/A	46	11(24%)	3 (6.5%)

*Three new monitoring sites in 25/26 season - Tay St and two additional locations incorporated into Papamoa.

**Excluding Main Beach Nest #11, as we do not know the egg numbers and eggs hatched from this nest. This was a surprise chick as a result of an unnoticed dune nesting.

Table 2: Total Observed Outcomes for Nests and Eggs

Season	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Nesting attempts	N/A	N/A	N/A	27
Number of Eggs Laid	46	57	61	57
Nest Washout	8	7	1	2
Nest Abandoned or destroyed	14	16	23	7
Eggs/Chicks Predated	13	11	13	15
Eggs Hatched	13	19	24	28
Chicks fledged	3	9	17	8

Detailed overview by location

Mount Maunganui Main Beach

Outstanding collaboration efforts between DoC, the shorebird ranger, and Western Bay Wildlife Trust (WBWT) shorebird minder group resulted in consistent monitoring throughout the breeding season, with a lot of conversations with interested members of the public.

There were 11 NNZD nests and three VOC nests laid over the season, resulting in five fledged NNZD chicks and three fledged VOC chicks. For the first time since starting this role, dune nesting was observed at this site, resulting in surprise chicks near Moturiki where the beach is narrower and busier with people.



Picture 2 & 3: Main Beach dune nesting resulted in a surprise NNZD chick. Images © Anna Wentsch.

The beach was very busy with summer visitors, especially over the Christmas/New Years periods as per previous years. However, no incidents causing shorebird losses occurred over the Christmas/New Years time period, as particular care was taken in planning the installation of NY's light towers at a safe distance away from all the core areas with nests and chicks.

Visitor numbers' reduced at the end of January and beginning of February, as a rāhui was placed on parts of the beach after the Mauao landslides on the 22nd January 2026. Throughout this time outstanding collaboration between the shorebird ranger and TCC was in place, ensuring the shorebirds were being monitored still (first from the footpath, then on the beach with special permission from local iwi and hapu) and kept safe during the permanent fence installation at the Mauao end of the beach.

A total of 19 registered events occurred on the Main Beach between September 2025 and March 2026, which included two surf lifesaving events, 13 volleyball events, one rugby event, and one triathlon. Excellent communication between the TCC events team, DoC, and the shorebird ranger ensured that event organisers were informed about shorebird protection mitigation needed and most event organisers upheld these high standards during their event. The event tally does not include regular social beach volleyball and regular Mt Ultimate Frisbee League events, nor cancelled events due to the Mauao landslides.

This site is a no dog area, under TCC by-laws. Sadly an increased number of dog breaches were observed this summer by DoC, the shorebird ranger, and WBWT volunteers.

John Heaphy, DoC Ranger / Project Lead Biodiversity, and Anna Wentsch, WBWT kororā ranger and BCA shorebird ranger presented at a TCC full council meeting to include Shark Alley beach and its back dune for an all-year dog ban extension, as part of their bylaw reviews. TCC councillors agreed to a draft all-year dog ban extension for this area which will be going out for public consultation in June/July 2026.

A detailed summary of the Main Beach breeding season is provided in Appendix 2.

Mount Maunganui Tay Street

This was the first season that NNZD nesting and chicks were confirmed and recorded at this site. There was a single NNZD pair and their nest was discovered and reported by Scott Sambell from Ethos Environmental. The nest was fenced off, including signage, the same morning.

The nest hatched successfully, however the chicks disappeared due to unknown reasons within the first week. No replacement nesting attempts were recorded.

Dogs were a major problem at this site and unleashed dogs were observed each visit by the shorebird ranger and by Western Bay Wildlife Trust volunteers, who included this site with their existing shorebird minder group. There are no dog restrictions under the current TCC bylaw.

Papamoa - Maranui Street Boardwalk area

Forest & Bird Tauranga and Te Puke branches monitored the Maranui Boardwalk breeding area as per previous seasons. Pre-emptive fencing and signage was installed after a pair of NNZD was spotted early in the season, however no pair settled at the known historical nesting site.

Instead two NNZD pairs were found nesting near-by: one pair nested a few hundred meters along the beach near Sunbrae Grove, and one pair nested on the grassy reserve in front of the Pacific Coast Village.

Sunbrae Grove nest area

The nest near Sunbrae Grove was discovered by the shorebird ranger and Forest & Bird lead Richard, and was fenced the following day. The nest was laid at the front of the dunes within the first bits of vegetation and moved once due to high swells.

DoC received a complaint by a member of the public, reporting the NNZD pair being chased by teenagers with sticks; the nest was found abandoned the day after. Egg numbers reduced from three eggs when the nest was discovered to one egg when found abandoned. It is suspected they may have been destroyed by the teenagers chasing the birds, as only human footprints were found within the fence when this observation was made.

Dogs were a major problem at this site and unleashed dogs were observed each visit by the shorebird ranger. There are no dog restrictions under the current TCC bylaw.

Pacific Coast Village nesting area

The nest on the grassy reserve in front of Pacific Coast Village (PVC) was reported by a Forest & Bird volunteer. Only two eggs were laid in both observed nesting attempts, suggesting these may have been replacement attempts following an earlier failed nesting attempt. Both nests failed: Spur-wing plover predation was observed for the first nesting attempt and is suspected to be the cause of failure for the second nesting attempt.

This was the first time this site was monitored by the Forest & Bird group, however the PCV team has reported the pair being regular visitors for a few years.

No dogs were observed at this breeding site during nest visits.

Papamoa - Dune Wilderness Area between Papamoa Domain and Taylors Road

Another NNZD pair, monitored by a newly set-up group Papamoa East, nested at the front of the dunes further along on Papamoa beach, opposite Grant Place.

The group fenced the NNZD nest once laid, including signage, and then monitored the pair. The nest was successfully moved further up the beach by the shorebird ranger once due to forecasted high swells, but it failed close to its hatch date due to wash over of non-forecasted high swells.

No replacement nesting attempts were recorded. This is the second year of recorded NNZD breeding activity in this area.

Dogs were a major problem at this site and unleashed dogs were observed each visit by the ranger. This area is part of the Papamoa Dune Wilderness Area between Papamoa Domain and Taylors Road and dogs should be on-leash at all times as per TCC bylaw.

Waihī Beach

At Waihī Beach, nesting activity this season was even more sporadic than last year, with DotWatch volunteers reporting the presence of only four NNZD breeding pairs across monitored sites. This represents a continued decline in local breeding density.

It is suspected that some pairs which nested in the Waihī Beach area in previous seasons may have shifted to breed on Matakana Island.

Nesting attempts were significantly impacted by multiple predation events involving hedgehogs, cats, southern black-backed gulls, and red-billed gulls. However, human-related pressures were equally concerning. From the four recorded pairs, only one chick successfully fledged.

The 2025-26 breeding season marks the fourth consecutive season in which vandalism has occurred at Waihī Beach nesting sites. At Brighton Reserve, two territorial male birds were killed during the season:

- One male appeared to have been crushed due to human interference within a protected nesting area.
- A second male was killed by an uncontrolled dog (a stray black Labrador).

Losing adult breeding birds is far more significant than the loss of nests or chicks, as it reduces future breeding potential within the population.

DotWatch ran a NNZD decoy trial to try and attract NNZD breeding pairs into safer areas at the start of the 2025-26 breeding season. No interactions between life NNZD and decoys

were recorded at the site. However, trail camera footage showed human interference and dog activity instead, making this site unsuitable to continue the trial in the future.



Picture 4: NNZD decoy with aversion or dummy egg. Image © Pippa Coombes.

Dogs were a major problem at Brighton Reserve again. Despite clear signage, temporary fencing, and community education efforts, dogs were regularly observed within restricted nesting zones. This included unaccompanied or roaming dogs entering fenced protection zones and dog owners ignoring requests from volunteers to leash dogs.

Ōmokoroa

Ōmokoroa Bird group monitored the Peach Beach and Cooney Reserve breeding sites, as per previous seasons.

Peach Beach

Peach Beach was occupied by one NNZD pair which laid one nest and successfully fledged two chicks.

This site has a dogs on leash restriction in place along the beach and coastline where most of the shorebirds are. Sadly, breaches of this restriction are regularly observed by Ōmokoroa Bird group. One of these breaches led to the killing of two banded rail juveniles this breeding season.

Cooney Reserve

There were two pairs of NNZD at Cooney Reserve. Whilst territorial behaviour and practice nesting was observed, no successful breeding attempts were recorded at this site.

Dogs are prohibited at the bird hide and the breeding beach at this reserve. Sadly, breaches of this restriction are regularly observed by Ōmokoroa Bird group.

Maketū Spit and Dotterel Point Reserve, Pukehina

Maketū Wetlands monitored two NNZD sites at Maketū Spit and Dotterel Point Reserve, Pukehina via bird counts of all species present.

NNZD are breeding within extensive dune vegetation at both sites, making monitoring efforts significantly more challenging than at all other sites.

Intensive searching for nests, including determining egg numbers, was therefore not done at these sites. This not only reduces the risk of shorebird nests being destroyed through trampling, it also minimizes disturbance to the shorebirds while incubating, including exposure of NNZD eggs to the elements and predators with NNZD naturally getting off their nest to perform distraction displays when being approached.

Overall, the bird counts showed that it was a reasonably strong season for NNZD across both sites. Nesting activity began in early October, with peak nesting through late October to mid-November. Chick numbers peaked in late November and early December, which aligned with field observations during Maketū Wetlands community event at Maketū Spit in November where a noticeable number of chicks had hatched. By January, nesting activity had largely stopped and chick numbers declined as birds began dispersing.

Maketū Wetlands are looking at drone surveying for both sites in the upcoming breeding season to gather more detailed nesting data without increasing disturbance on foot.

Due to the difference in monitoring methodology, the results of Maketū Spit and Dotterel Point are not included in the overall tally of this report. A detailed summary of NNZD survey numbers is provided in Appendix 2.

Both Maketū Spit and Dotterel Point Reserve are also breeding grounds for other shorebirds such as Variable Oystercatchers, Red-billed Gulls, Black-billed Gulls, Southern Black-back Gulls, and White-fronted Terns.

The full dataset and species list for the 2025–26 breeding season are available from Maketū Wetlands.

Ōtamarākau

Ōtamarākau Sandpit Camp reached out to BCA to seek help on the beach adjacent to their camp where NNZD are present during the breeding season. There is currently no management or signage in place.

Initial meetings and one site visit took place in January and March 2026 respectively. The group was provided with the BCA NNZD brochures as a starting point as no birds were nesting at the time of the meetings. Trapping recommendations and other info was sent to the group to start creating a safer space for next NNZD breeding season.

The group is interested in learning how to safely identify nests to fence them off and also have signage in place.

There is an opportunity to collaborate with the local Marae further along the beach and improve protection for NNZD and shorebirds in future years.

Key findings and threats

Weather

The weather during the 2025-26 breeding season was less settled than last season, with higher rainfall and storm events causing high swells throughout the season. A single high swell event resulted in wash outs of two nests, and the increase in rainfall and storm events may have resulted in higher chick mortality due to dousing and subsequent hypothermia.

Temperatures increased over several weeks toward the end of the season. Nesting birds were observed panting on several occasions and both adult birds and chicks were observed seeking shade.

Group and Stakeholder communications

Initial meetings were held with all community groups at the beginning of the breeding season with support from BCA project manager Emma Cronin to ensure smooth handover of the role.

Regular communication through site visits, emails, and phone calls was maintained by the shorebird ranger throughout the season to strengthen relationships, support groups, and provide advice and training where needed.

Communications with stakeholders, including those involved at Main Beach, were consistent throughout the breeding season, including over the holiday period. 30 Friday weekly email updates were sent to stakeholders for Mount Maunani Main Beach throughout the breeding season and monthly overarching updates were circulated to stakeholders and volunteer group leaders to ensure everyone was informed about the progress of the WBoP NNZD breeding season.

An end of season event was organised on the evening of 3rd March 2026 at Ōmokoroa to visit the Ōmokoroa bird observatory at Cooney Reserve, share the outcomes from the season and celebrate and thank volunteers for their monitoring efforts. Dianne Paton and Anna Wentsch presented the outcomes of the season to 21 attendees.

Advocacy and Education

The planned roadside signage from 2024-25 season did not go ahead due to consenting legislation and the costs associated. However, it was identified that car park signage could be installed at Dotterel Point Reserve Pukehina and Maketū Spit instead to increase year-round messaging at these sites, being both breeding and winter flocking areas with only one or a few key entry/exit points (Figure 2).

New NNZD beach signage using student art from local schools was provided to groups at the beginning of the breeding season in collaboration with BoPRC and DoC, and generously funded by Genera Biosecurity. All signs have a QR to learn more which links to the 3-fold NNZD brochure.



Figure 2: Examples of car park signage (left image) and beach signage (right image).

To further increase awareness and public education, a [3-fold NNZD brochure](#) was developed. It includes key info on NNZD, their threats, and highlights the conservation mahi being done in the WBoP as well as contact information for local groups for people who want to help. The brochure was distributed to NNZD groups, stakeholders, key beach locations such as beach camp grounds, surfclubs, libraries, etc. It is also available online.

BCA also launched a NNZD awareness campaign on social media over the summer school holiday period. Key info and facts of the NNZD brochure were repurposed as part of the messaging of this campaign. More of the student art was being utilized in the post series, alongside NNZD pictures from the local groups.

Pest control and predation

Pest control is being undertaken at most of the areas where NNZD are present, including by Predator Free Waihi Beach, Pest Free Ōmokoroa, Western Bay Wildlife Trust, Forest & Bird Tauranga and Te Puke branches, and Maketū Wetlands.

Trail camera work was utilised again by DotWatch Waihi Beach and found that cats, hedgehogs, and southern black-backed gulls were a problem in their area.

Spur-winged plovers were an issue for the NNZD pair on the Pacific Village grounds at Papamoa. They were also present at other sites but weren't directly observed to be a problem (which isn't to say they didn't predate any of the nests).

Lots of cat and dog prints were seen in the dunes at all Papamoa sites, especially at the known historical breeding site at the Maranui Street Boardwalk which may have contributed to the NNZD pair not settling there this season.

Human interference

Dogs were once again an issue at most sites, with off-lead dogs observed and owners asked to put dogs on their leads or leave the beach, depending on the by-laws in place. Of all dog observations the easternmost nest site at Papamoa and the new Tay Street nesting site were the most active areas for off-leash dogs. There was one confirmed predation event on NNZD with a dog killing one adult breeding male at Brighton Reserve, Waihi Beach.

For the fourth consecutive season, Waihi Beach experienced vandalism to nests, resulting in the death of one adult breeding bird at Brighton Reserve this season. The Papamoa Sunbrae Grove nest also experienced vandalism, resulting in nest abandonment.

Discussion and Recommendations

The 2025–26 breeding season highlighted both positive developments and ongoing challenges for NNZD populations in the WBoP. The establishment of additional community groups and the identification of new NNZD breeding sites demonstrate growing local engagement and awareness. However, breeding success varied considerably between sites, and the number of eggs/chicks that disappear with no apparent cause remains a concern as per previous seasons.

Weather conditions, including increased rainfall and storm events compared to last season, likely contributed to lower fledgling success. Human disturbance, dogs, and predation also continue to place pressure on NNZD populations across the region.

The shorebird ranger and community groups reported regular interactions with members of the public, most of whom were supportive and engaged. However, breaches of dog bylaws and vandalism at some sites, particularly at Waihi Beach, resulted in nest failure and the loss of adult breeding birds.

Continued efforts in public awareness and enforcement of dog regulations will be important to improve breeding success and support the long-term recovery of NNZD populations in the region. Feedback from members of the public frequently highlights the lack of signage at beach or reserve entrance points alerting to the presence of breeding NNZD and other shorebirds, as well as the need for additional educational signage about shorebirds in general.

General Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on observations from the 2025–26 monitoring season:

- Undertake volunteer training to supercharge the efforts of the volunteer groups, with particular focus on new groups and/or new volunteers.
- Provide support to the group in Ōtamarākau in their first season monitoring as well as continuing to support existing groups.

- Continue supplying shorebird beach signage for nests to groups, as signage often fades or is vandalised over time.
- Continue discussions around placing shorebird signage at beach accesses or car parks, depending on the layout of the site, to alert people of shorebird presence and as a reminder to dog owners:
 - This gives beach and reserve users a chance to look out for the birds, do the right thing, and learn more via the QR codes (if using BCA format).
 - This gives dog owners a chance to do the right thing before they get close to the nesting sites where most of the signage is placed at this stage.
 - It also gives the community groups something to reference back to when having conversations with members of the public and/or dog owners.
- Revisit locations that received 3-fold NNZD brochures during the 2025–26 breeding season and replenish supplies to maintain community awareness.
- Run another NNZD awareness campaign on social media during the summer school holiday period and consider reels as a new format to increase engagement.
- Continue running a volunteer celebration event at the end of the breeding season to acknowledge the mahi being done by the community and unite all groups.
- Continue the shorebird ranger role to:
 - Ensure consistency in management across the region.
 - Uphold reporting of overarching results to stakeholders.
 - Support, help train, and connect existing community groups.
 - Confirm new NNZD nest locations based on reported sightings and expand dotterel conservation community efforts in these areas.
 - Liaise with other agencies to improve signage and bylaws and advocacy for shorebirds.

Site-specific Recommendations

Main Beach

The following recommendations relate to the Main Beach site:

- Continue pre-emptive fencing as per norm, including using wooden nest elevation boxes, with VOC choosing to nest on them throughout this season.
- Recommend Papamoa Domain or Papamoa Beach as alternative locations for events wishing to operate drones.

- Ensure that NY lights are well away from nesting areas, with lights shining away from fences, to minimise disturbance and damage as per 2025-26 breeding season.

Waihi Beach

The following recommendations are from DotWatch and supported by the BCA shorebird ranger:

- Continue the NNZD decoy trail in a more suitable location, with less human activity and interference potential.
- Trial if long grass will displace NNZD of Brighton Reserve and encourage them to nest in a safer location instead.

Maketū and Pukehina

The following recommendations are from Maketū Wetlands and supported by the BCA shorebird ranger:

- Southern black-backed gull control, in the form of egg addling, at Maketū Spit to prevent increases in numbers and predation risk to other nesting shorebird species.
- Collaborate on a community event at Pukehina to raise awareness of the birdlife at Dotterel Point Reserve, similar to Breakfast with the Gulls at Maketū Spit.
- BCA shorebird ranger to support Maketū Wetlands with drone bird surveys.

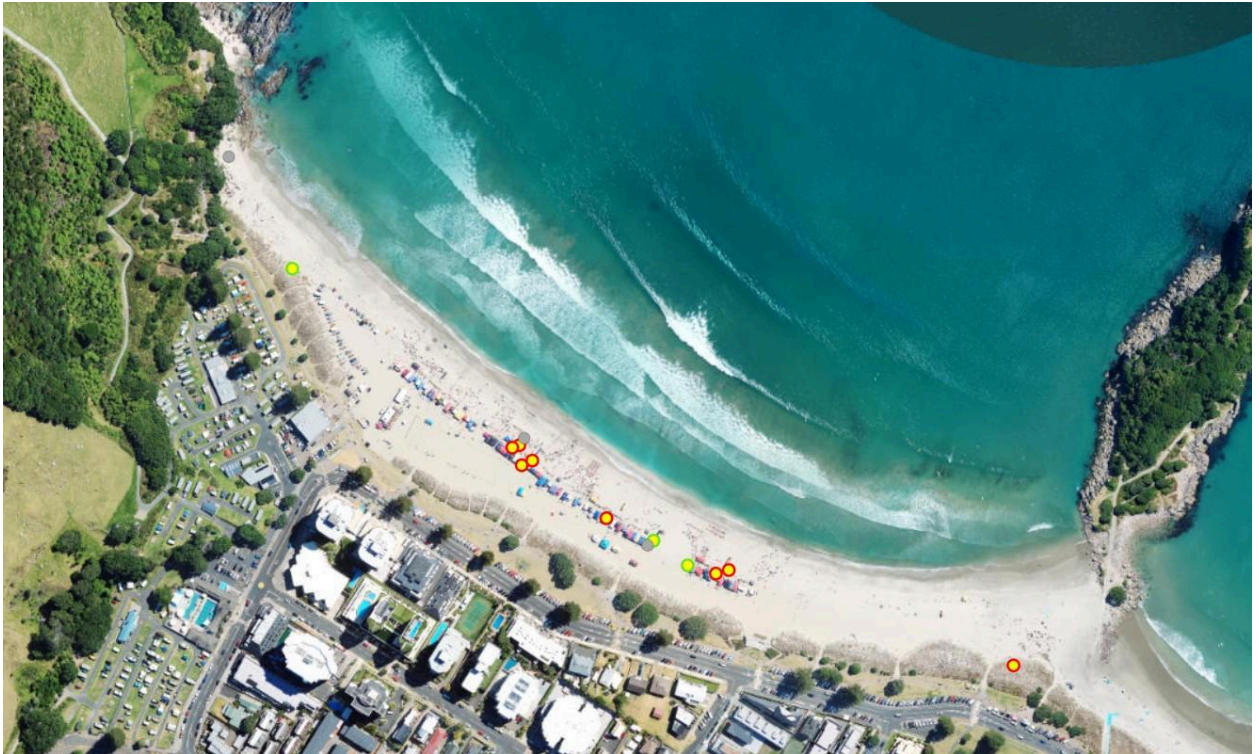
Appendix 1: WBoP NNZD Nest Locations

Breeding locations summarized below per as summarised under *Overview by location/group*

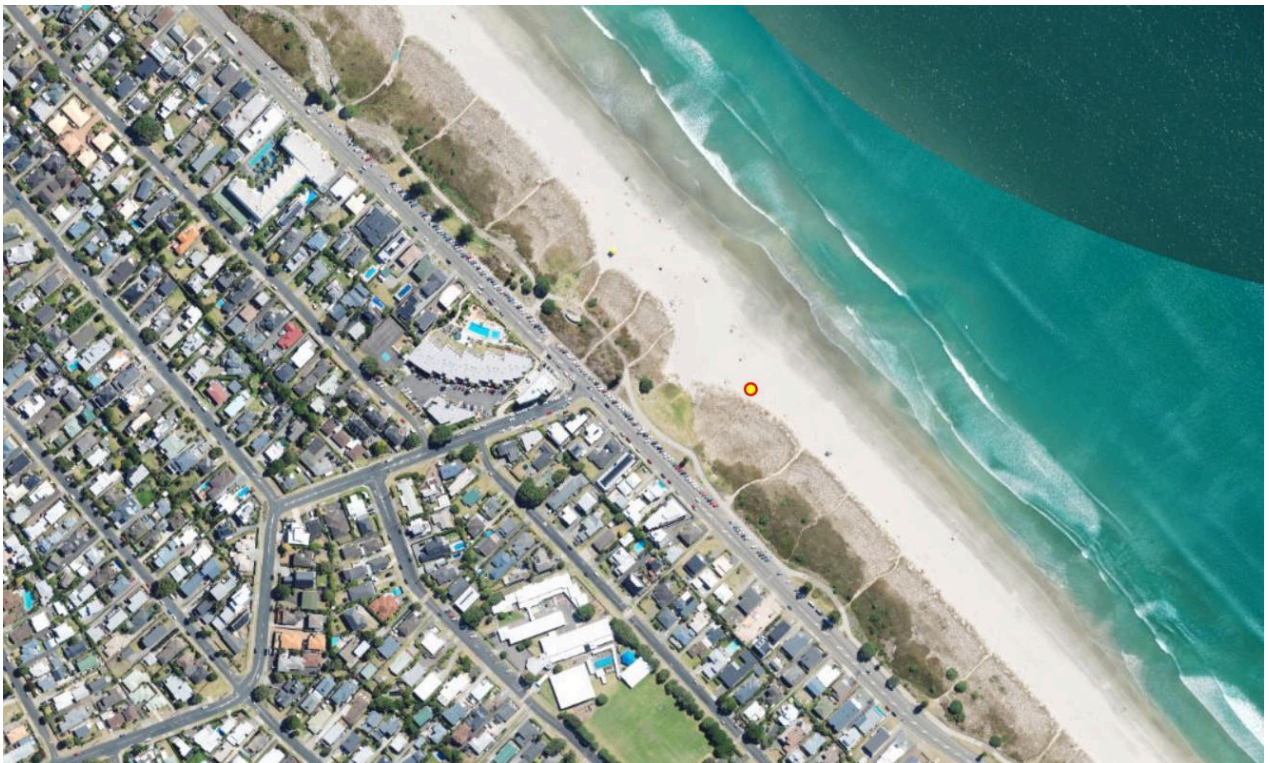
Key :

- Yellow dot with green border = NNZD successful nest.
- Yellow dot with red border = NNZD failed nest.
- Grey dot = Variable Oystercatcher nest.

Mount Maunganui - Main Beach



Mount Maunganui - Tay Street



Papamoa - Maranui Street Boardwalk Area, PCV Village, and Dune Wilderness Area between Papamoa Domain and Taylors Road:



Waihi Beach - Brighton Reserve



Waihi Beach - Merv's Farm and Bowentown area:



Ōmokoroa - Peach Beach nesting site:



Appendix 2: Breeding Summary Tables

Mount Maunganui Main Beach 2025-26 Summary table (by John Heaphy & Anna Wentsch)

Northern NZ Dotterel Main Beach Nesting Summary 2025/26

Nest No.	Fence No.	Date Found	No. Eggs	Due Hatch	No. Chicks Hatched	No. Chicks Currently Alive	No. Chicks Fledged	Comment
1	4	28/08/25	± 3	~28/09/2025	3	± 2	2	1 egg 29/8; 3 eggs incub 4/9; 3 eggs incub 11/9; 3 eggs incub 19/9; 3 eggs incub 25/9; 3 eggs incub 30/9; 3 eggs incub 2/10; 3 chicks 5/10; 3 chicks 7/10; 2 chicks 9/10; 2 chicks 16/10; 2 chicks 22/10; 2 chicks 24/10; 2 chicks 29/10; 2 chicks 31/10; 2 chicks 5/11; 2 chicks 7/11; 2 chicks 14/11; 2 fledglings 20/11; 2 fledglings 28/11.
2	4	17/09/25	± 3	~20/10/2025	3	± ± ±	-	1 egg 17/9; 1 egg 19/9; 3 eggs incub 22/9; 3 eggs incub & shifted 25/9; 3 eggs incub 30/9; 3 eggs incub 2/10; 3 eggs incub 9/10; 3 eggs incub 16/10; 3 eggs incub 22/10; 3 chicks 24/10; 3 chicks 29/10; 3 chicks 31/10; 3 chicks 5/11; 3 chicks 7/11; 2 chicks 14/11; 2 chicks 20/11; 1 chick 24/11; 1 chick 5/12; 1 chick 11/12; No chick 19/12.
3	1	24/09/25	1	-	-	-	-	1 egg 24/9; 1 egg outside nest & shifted 25/9; shifted nest again, washed over, & abandoned 27/9. Egg dug out 30/9 & added to nest 4 (same parents).
4	1	30/09/25	2 + 1	~27/10/\25	3	± ± 0	-	2 eggs incub 30/9 & 1 abandoned egg from Nest 3 added; 3 eggs incub 2/10; 3 eggs incub 9/10; 3 eggs incub 16/10; 3 eggs incub 22/10; 3 eggs incub 24/10; 3 eggs hatched 29/10; 3 chicks 31/10; 3 chicks 5/11; 3 chicks 7/11; 3 chicks 14/11; 3 chicks 20/11; 3 chicks 24/11; 2 chicks 28/11; 1 chick dead, other not found 5/12. 19/12 No chicks.
5	1	09/10/25	± 3	~11/11/25	3	± ± ±	-	1 egg 9/10; 3 eggs incub 16/10; 3 eggs incub 22/10; 3 eggs incub 24/10; 3 eggs incub 31/10; 3 eggs incub 7/11; 3 chicks reported 11/11; 2 chicks 14/11; 1 chick 20/11; 1 chick 24/11; no chick 5/12; no chicks 19/12.
6	3	10/10/25	± ± 3	~17/11/25	2	± 1	1	1 egg 10/10; 2 eggs 16/10; 3 eggs 20/10; 3 eggs incub 22/10; 3 eggs incub 24/10; 3 eggs incub 31/10; 3 eggs incub 7/11; 3 eggs incub 14/11; 2 chicks 1 dud egg 20/11; 2 chicks 24/11; 2 chicks 28/11; 2 chicks 5/12; 2 chicks 11/12; 1 chick 19/12, 1 chick 27/12; 30/12 1

								chick; 1 chick 02/01/2026; 1 chick 09/01; 1 fledgling 16/01; 1 fledgling 22/01.
7	2	30/10/25	1	-	-	-	-	Dumped & abandoned. 1 egg 5/11; 1 egg 7/11; gone 13/11.
8	4	15/10/25	1	-	-	-	-	1 egg outside of fence 4 (fence shifted) 15/12; Nest washed over and egg disappeared 19/12.
9	6	19/12/25	± 2 3	~18/01/26	3	± 2	2	1 egg with nest in dunes 19/12/25; 2 eggs 27/12; 3 eggs 02/01/2026; 3 eggs 9/1; 3 eggs 16/1; 3 chicks 22/01; 2 chicks sighted by Josh 30/01; 2 chicks 05/02; 2 chicks 10/02; chicks not seen 13/02 - stormy and rainy weather conditions; 2 chicks 16/02; 2 chicks 20/02; 1 chick 27/02; 2 fledglings 03/03; 2 fledglings 06/03.
10	1	30/12/2025	± 2 ±	-	-	-	-	3 eggs near high tide line, shifted 30/12/25; 3 eggs 02/01/2026; 0 eggs 5/01/26; 0 eggs 9/1.
11	-	-	?	?	?	±	-	1 surprise chick 5/01/26 by Moturiki from dune nesting; 0 chick 9/1; 0 chick 16/1.

Variable Oystercatcher Main Beach Nesting Summary 2025/26

Nest No.	Fence No.	Date Found	No. Eggs	Due Hatch	No. Chicks Hatched	No. Chicks Currently Alive	No. Chicks Fledged	Comment
1	3	29/10/25	2	~26/11/25	1	1	1	On top of box. 2 eggs incub 29/10; 2 eggs incub 5/11; 2 eggs incub 7/11; 2 eggs incub 14/11; 2 eggs incub 20/11; 1 chick, 1 unhatched egg 24/11; 1 chick 28/11; 1 chick 5/12; 1 chick 11/12; 1 chick 19/12; 1 chick 27/12; 1 chick 02/01/2026; 1 fledgling 9/1; 1 fledgling 16/1; 1 fledgling 22/01; 1 fledgling 30/01; 1 fledgling 05/02.
2	N/A	5/12/25	-	-	-	2	2	Under Mauao, two chicks hatched abt 1/12; 2 chicks 5/12; 2 chicks 11/12; 2 chicks 19/12; 2 chicks 27/12; 2 chicks 02/01/2026; 2 chicks 9/1; 2 chicks 16/01; 2 fledglings 22/01; 2 fledglings 30/01; 2 fledglings 05/02; 2 fledglings 13/02.

3	1	19/12/25	±	~15/01/26	0	-	-	1 egg found "staked" with sticks by public 19/12/25; 1 egg 27/12, 1 egg 02/01/2026; 1 egg 9/1; egg found dead at POH 16/01 (removed from nest).
4	N/A	11/03/26	?	?	?	1	2	Pair bush nesting on Moturiki and found with two juveniles during bird monitoring by WBWT.

NNZD Waihi Beach Nesting Summary 2025/26 (by Pippa Coombes)

Nest Name	Area	Date Laid/Found	No. Eggs	Hatch Date	No. Chicks Hatched	No. Chicks Fledged	Comments
DWN1	Bowentown Park	14/9/25	3	N/A	0	0	Date Failed 28/9/25. Predated by cat (trail camera).
DWN2	Bowentown Beach	16/10/25	1	N/A	0	0	Date Failed 19/10/25 d.t. Black backed gulls predation
DWN3	Bowentown Beach	24/10/25	1	N/A	0	0	Date Failed 9/11/25 d.t. nest abandoned.
DWN4	Bowentown Park	05/11/25	1	N/A	0	0	Date Failed 15/11/25 d.t. human. Interference – traps and nest kicked over.
DWN5	Merv's Farm	24/10/25	1	N/A	0	0	Date Failed 25/10/25 d.t. predation by hedgehog (trail camera).
DWN6	Merv's Farm	30/10/25	2	N/A	0	0	Predated by Kahu and Pukeko (trail camera).
DWN7	Merv's Farm	12/11/25	1	N/A	0	0	Predated Black Back Gulls (trail camera).
BR1	Brighton Reserve	19/10/25	3	28/11/25	3	1	Fledged.
BR2	Brighton Reserve	7/11/25	3	15/12/25	3	0	Predated Red Billed Gulls.
BR3	Brighton Reserve	10/12/25	2	N/A	0	0	Nest abandoned - Male killed by Stray Black Labrador, female abandoned nest.

Maketu Wetlands 2025-26 Summary tables (by Awhina Awhimate)

Site	Date	Observer	NNZD	NNZD Nests (std)	NNZD Chicks (std)
Dotterel Point	27/08/2025	AA	7	0	0
Dotterel Point	11/09/2025	AA	9	0	0
Dotterel Point	25/09/2025	AA	14	0	0
Dotterel Point	09/10/2025	AA	11	1	0
Dotterel Point	21/10/2025	AA	18	1	0
Dotterel Point	11/11/2025	AA	17	2	0
Dotterel Point	25/11/2025	AA	18	3	2

Dotterel Point	17/12/2025	AA	11	1	0
Dotterel Point	13/01/2026	AA	7	0	0
Dotterel Point	28/01/2026	AA	5	0	0
Maketu Spit	26/08/2025		9	0	0
Maketu Spit	09/09/2025		8	1	0
Maketu Spit	23/09/2025		7	2	0
Maketu Spit	07/10/2025		13	3	0
Maketu Spit	13/11/2025		15	4	2
Maketu Spit	27/11/2025		16	3	1
Maketu Spit	17/12/2025		15	1	0
Maketu Spit	13/01/2026		12	0	0
Maketu Spit	27/01/2026		5	0	0

Appendix 3: NNZD Group Key Contacts

Group	Key Contact	Phone	Email
Dot Watch, Waihi Beach	Pippa Coombes	027 3780007	waihibeach.watch@gmail.com
Omokoroa Environmental Managers Inc.	Christina Cleaver	021 0717189	maxchristina13@gmail.com
Western Bay Wildlife Trust	Anna Wentsch Vicki Woodcraft	021 08528563 027 2899385	annawentsch@gmail.com vicki@cosycorner.co.nz
Forest & Bird Tauranga and Te Puke	Carole Long Richard James	027 2747642 021 1610141	carolelong@xtra.co.nz boatnamedpaws@gmail.com
Maketu Wetlands	Awhina Awhimate Janie Stevenson	022 6738482 022 0276897	awhina@maketuwetlands.org.nz janie@maketuwetlands.org.nz
Ōtamarākau Sandpit Camp	Brian & Dawn Lunam	027 2742015	Lili_dawn@yahoo.co.nz