

Mangere's extensive birdlife

Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit (Kuaka)



South Island Pied Oystercatcher (Torea)



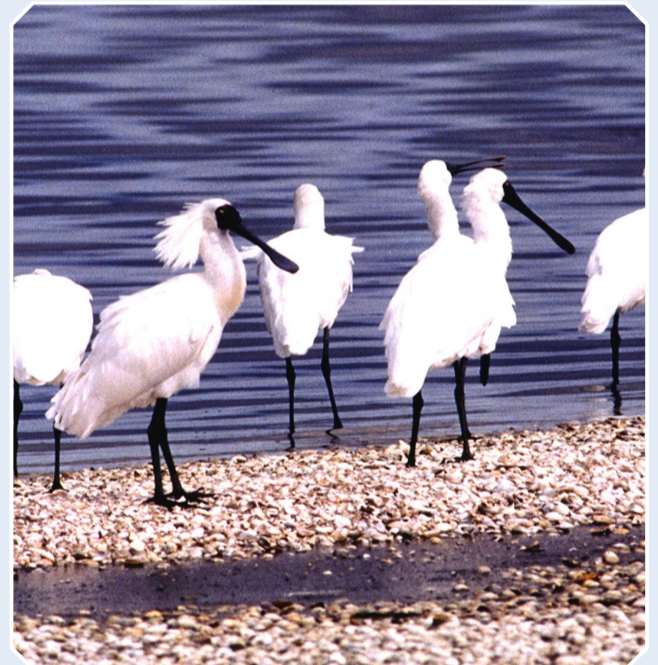
Pied Stilt (Poaka)



Lesser Knot (Huahou)
from Siberia and Alaska



Wrybill (Ngutuparore)
from the South Island



Royal Spoonbill (Kotuku Ngutupapa)
and a permanent home for thousands of others

Bird roosts located on Watercare's Coastal Walkway are used by migrating godwits and knots from Siberia and Alaska every summer, by wrybills and oystercatchers from the South Island over the winter and by local wading birds throughout the year.

In addition to three existing bird roosts located in or adjacent to the former oxidation ponds (which have been strengthened to protect them against the sea), four new bird roosts have been constructed along the new shoreline. The roosts are used by the birds (most of which breed in the Northern Hemisphere or the South Island) for resting when the tide covers their feeding ground.

The Mangere roosts are also important because they discourage wading birds from flocking near the airport and endangering aviation.

The bird roost building activity underscores Watercare's commitment to restoring the area's ecological values. Watercare sees enhancing the habitat of Mangere's internationally important wading birds as a key part of the extensive coastal restoration programme.

Birdlife facts

- About 12,000 eastern bar-tailed godwits and 9,000 lesser knots travel 12,000 kilometres every year from breeding grounds in Siberia and Alaska to spend the summer in the Manukau Harbour
- Over 28,000 South Island pied oystercatchers and around 2,500 wrybills migrate north to the Manukau Harbour during winter
- 25 species of wading birds use the Mangere feeding grounds
- Mangere's bird population peaks in March when the South Island birds arrive before the departure of the Siberian birds
- The Manukau Harbour supports more than 20 per cent of New Zealand's total wading bird population
- 60 per cent of New Zealand's wading birds use the harbour temporarily at some stage during the year
- 28 per cent of waders in the Manukau Harbour have been recorded in the vicinity of the Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant