

Annemieke Hendriks

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Perfect Partners: Bird Banding and Rehab

About



Annemieke works at the Department of Conservation as the Technical Administrator for the New Zealand National Banding Scheme and the Kiwi Accredited Handler's Database. She primarily oversees the Banding Office shop and NZNBBS certification process based out of the Wellington office. Growing up watching Steve Irwin and her grandmother hand-raising sick birds, she has always had a strong appreciation for wildlife rehabilitation. As an avid lover of the species and outdoors of Aotearoa, she can often be found "in the wild" on volunteer conservation trips or working on art in her free time.

Presentation Synopsis

This presentation delves into the benefits to both partners of marking wildlife before release and how to become certified in the marking process. When a bird is marked with a unique mark (band or transponder), it becomes a known individual that tells a story. The Bird Banding Scheme manages the data that tells these stories and the competencies of the operators that apply the marks. Wildlife rehabilitation also relies on a bird being uniquely identifiable for its treatment and data management. Now, if only we could follow the story of these birds after being released from rehabilitation.

If a known (marked) bird ends up in rehabilitation, it can give additional context to that individual and can be useful for constructing treatment plans and deciding on suitable release sites. Re-sightings from the wild can also give positive reinforcement of successful treatment plans and let rehabbers know that their patients are thriving following their treatment and release.