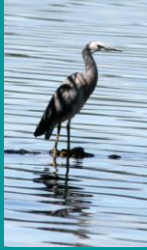


## POSITIONING BIRDS



### ANIMAL GEOGRAPHIES AND THE REGULATION OF SPACE

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#### Introduction

• This paper examines the interactions of birds and humans and the contests that develop in the negotiation of shared space.

• Defining margins and codes to successfully manage such interactions, is a matter which cultures must debate and decide, keeping pace with changing times and technology.

• An animal geography approach enables consideration of animal agency and the ways in which animals influence human behaviour and affect outcomes. This paper explores such an approach and compares it with contemporary legal approaches to wildlife management.

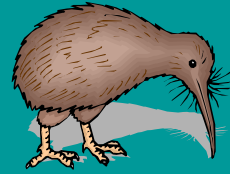


## Interrelationships

- Humans have evolved complex interrelationships with a wide range of bird species.
- These relationships are shaped by notions of value and harm



Kiwi burger?



Roasted kokako?



Emu flavoured chips?



## But yet, the everyday egg...



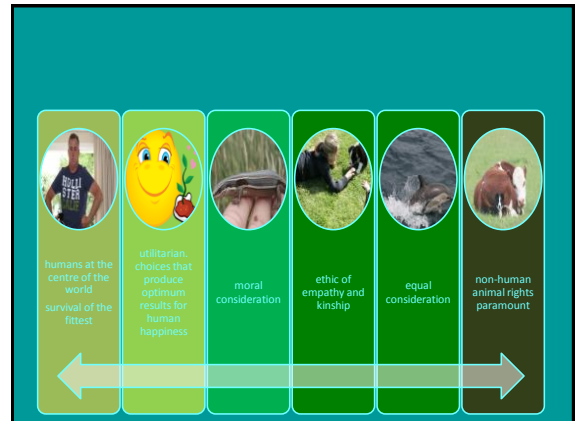
## Value

- Food
- Resources
- For food and resource capture purposes
- Religion
- Art
- Literature
- Folklore/Magic
- Music and dance
- Recreation
- Services
- Intrinsic
- Companion animals
- Ecosystem services
- Environmental indicators



## Managing encounters

- Broad range of possible approaches to managing interrelationships between birds and humans
- An assessment of justifications reveals a largely anthropocentric focus.



## Contemporary legal approaches



## Endangerment

- The main driving force expressed by wildlife conservation efforts is currently the avoidance of extinction/or loss of species. Conservation efforts tend to rely upon the notion of endangerment in terms of setting priorities and actioning work.
- In managing resources and constructing protective mechanisms the Conservation Act 1987, the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 Marine Reserves Act 1971 and Resource Management Act 1991(RMA) incorporate this approach to varying degrees.
- The endangerment approach composes a scientific and objective perspective, which involves assessing factors such population size and related trends and threats to populations. Tools such as the IUCN Redlist and the New Zealand Threatened Species Classifications are employed to categorise levels of endangerment

## Sustainable management of natural and physical resources

- The Resource Management Act 1991, the principal legislation governing the management of natural and physical resources in New Zealand adopts this approach.



## Utilitarian: Capacity to harm humans, human interests or privileged species and provision of resource value.

- The Biosecurity Act 1993
- The Wildlife Act 1953



## Animal welfare

- Although animal rights perspectives which rely upon concepts such as speciesism, the principle of equal consideration and arguments from marginal cases, have gained greater preeminence in society, in general terms, contemporary legal approaches trend towards the utilitarian. Animals are classified as the property of humans and are required to be treated according to regulatory codes aimed at enhancing the welfare of animals



## Animal geography

- Animal geography encourages an examination of interactions between human and other animals with a view to determining the role of animals as agents, active in fashioning the environment and impacting upon social relationships
- This approach moves beyond an assessment of the ecological interactions and benefits such as ecosystem services, provided by animals and examines the impact of animal agency upon the human environment.
- An animal geography focus enables consideration of animals' role in the social construction of culture and individual human subjects
- Animal geography embraces topics such as the human-animal divide and how these lines shift over time and place and how representations and ideas of animals influence personal and collective identity

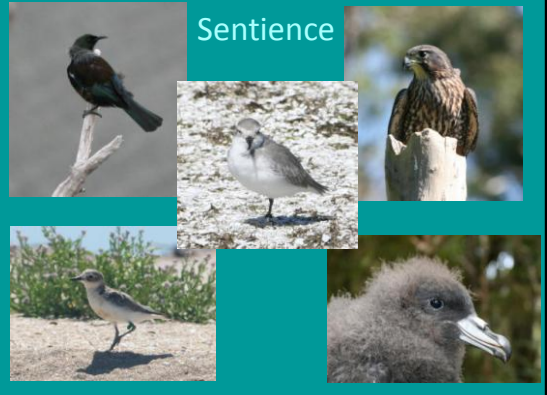


A study of the interactions between humans and birds in a Glasgow park examined the way in which the active agency of the birds impacted upon human activity and influenced human behaviour. In taking such an approach, a degree of objectivity is removed from assessing an animal as a resource or an individual component of the environment and replaced with an examination of an animal as a subject in a shared space .

## Animal geography

- Considering ways in which the activity and presence of avian species can affect outcomes and behaviour, provides an opportunity to explore aspects of associations between species that may be neglected by a more objective perspective.
- These interactions may range from the passive, through the intentional and beyond, to the metaphysical. It can be argued that enabling recognition of agency in non-human objects challenges constructs in which human species must be rigidly separated from others and encourages a perspective where all relative interactions are considered.

## Sentience



## Contemporary Relevance



How well equipped are threatened species to negotiate spaces shared with humans?

