

Ivan The Terrible

1. Godwit Information
2. Godwit Navigation
3. What Do We Know About 'Text-Shy' Readers

Godwits Information - (From NZ Birds online)

Godwits hold cultural significance for many New Zealanders. For Maori, they were birds of mystery, '*Kua kite te kohanga kuaka? (Who has seen the nest of the kuaka?)*' and were believed to accompany spirits of the departed; but they were also a source of food.

They are the most numerous tundra-breeding shorebird species to occur in New Zealand, with around 75,000 here each year. Virtually all New Zealand birds are from the *baueri* subspecies breeding in western Alaska. They are relatively common at many harbours and estuaries around the country.

Following the breeding season, birds generally begin arriving from early September, usually after a non-stop 8-9 days flight. They begin departing on northern migration from early March, heading for refuelling sites around the Yellow Sea. (Korean Peninsula). They do not breed until their third or fourth year, so each southern winter there are hundreds of non-breeding birds remaining in New Zealand.

Voice: godwits most commonly call in flight, usually *a-wik, a-wik, a-wik*. For most of their time in New Zealand they are usually silent on the ground, but immediately before migration departures there is a notable increase in both frequency and volume of calls from individuals that are about to leave.

Godwits and Navigation: A Brain Teaser or Two

Did the early Maori canoes from Hawaiki to Aotearoa use the stars alone to navigate by? Or did they as Te Pass (1912) suggests get some help from the mightiest of bird navigators, the GODWITS, on their yearly flights to and from Alaska.

"Whilst the fleet of canoes o'er the ocean are paddled, the flocks of godwits are in the heavens flying."

- W. Pass 1912 *The Story of the Kuaka's Flight*

Note:

- Godwits during their migration constantly "shout" to each other as they fly and can be heard day and night from the ground.
- But one question still remains ..How do the Godwits navigate?..... (A research question for some Google Whizzes perhaps

What do we know about “Text Shy” Readers?

- Young ‘Text Shy’ readers **rarely** become **Life-long Readers**.
- Because a 9-year-old ‘Text Shy’ reader can not read **text alone** at a 9-year-old level it **does not** mean they can’t read and understand stories written for 9-year-olds and above if they are supported by pictures (e.g. Picture Books/Chapter Books/Graphic Novels with speech and thought bubbles, Visual Narrative etc.)
- The ***Less effort*** it takes a ‘Text Shy’ to read a book, the ***More room*** there is left for them to read and ***enjoy*** the **story**.
- Text Shy Readers need opportunities to **Read and Re-Read** stories like Ivan the Terrible and Graphic Novels.
The most popular books in Children’s Book Shop currently include:
 - Captain Underpants and Dog Man Series by Dav Pilkey.
 - The ‘104’ Story Tree-house series by Andy Griffiths and Terry Dalton.
 - Timmy the Ticked-Off Pony: The Great Escape Fartist by Magda Szubanski.
 - Funny Kid by Matt Stanton.Each of these books these techniques

A Question to Ponder:

What use is it to make children **expert decoders** of text **IF** in the **process** they lose their **love of reading**?