

Beach Patrol Scheme 2017

Report from co-ordinator Lloyd Esler on 7 April 2018

The 2016 results have been collated and will be published in Southern Bird. This is the preliminary report for 2017.

In 2008 the online Beach Patrol form was introduced and most of the returns are now emailed although some people prefer to post in cards.

The process of digitising the data is well on the way with the 27,678 forms and cards having been entered in the system in duplicate and 14,000 of the double entries now reconciled. The entire project will be complete in a few months.

2017 produced no remarkable recoveries and no significant wrecks, the largest one being 400 juvenile Sooty shearwaters on Mason Bay in the predictable seasonal mortality.

Four banded birds were noted on cards, all of them being Red-billed gulls at Kaikoura found by Bev Elliott.

The returns compared to the previous year show a decrease in cards, birds found and kilometres covered – a reflection of the aging cohort of observers.

The figures as at 7 April 2018 are:

Cards or forms returned:

230 (253 in 2016, 210 in 2015, 231 in 2014, 262 in 2013, 324 in 2012 and 352 in 2011)

Birds:

1,315 (1,483 in 2016, 1,325 in 2015, 1,388 in 2014, 4,851 in 2013, 1,924 in 2012 and 57,920 in 2011)

Kilometres:

885.3 (1,189 in 2016, 1,014 in 2015, 1,069 in 2014, 1,388 in 2013, 1,625 in 2012 and 1,846 in 2011)

Lloyd Esler
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