

## BEACH PATROL SCHEME 2009 PRELIMINARY REPORT

This report is based on 385 cards received as at 31st December 2010 (compared with 381 in 2008 and 403 in 2007). In 2009 4,470 km were patrolled (2,524 km in 2008 and 2,307 in 2007). Dead seabirds found in 2009 totalled 4,763 (3,906 in 2008, 3,786 in 2007 and 3,117 in 2006). The reason for the large increase in the number of kilometres covered was the weekly count done from a vehicle travelling to and from a wind farm site on Poutu Beach north of the Kaipara Harbour entrance. The largest beach patrol was on 16th May 2009 when 1,000 dead Sooty Shearwater juveniles were counted on Mason Bay.

The region with the best birds per kilometre total was Southland with 8.8 birds per kilometre, largely the result of the annual mortality of juvenile Sooty Shearwaters. The region with the greatest mileage was Northland West Coast with 2,896 km. Four sections had no patrols done: Canterbury South, Wairarapa, Fiordland and Westland. The average recovery rate for the whole country is around 1.1 birds per kilometre.

### **Birds recovered:**

Southern Royal Albatross 1; Northern Royal Albatross 1; Wandering Albatross 5; White-capped Albatross 29; Salvin's Albatross 2; Black-browed Albatross 1; Grey-headed Albatross 8; Buller's Albatross 27; Light-mantled Sooty Albatross 3; mollymawk sp. 16; Northern Giant Petrel 7; Southern Giant Petrel 17; giant petrel sp. 7; Buller's Shearwater 107; Sooty Shearwater 1,983; Short-tailed Shearwater 157; Wedge-tailed Shearwater 1; Flesh-footed Shearwater 22; Fluttering Shearwater 250; Hutton's Shearwater 59; Little Shearwater 14; Common Diving Petrel 86; White-chinned Petrel 6; Black Petrel 1; Grey Petrel 1; Antarctic Fulmar 59; Cape Pigeon 41; Blue Petrel 9; Fairy Prion 192; Fulmar Prion 2; Broad-billed Prion 47; Thin-billed Prion 14; Salvin's Prion 3; Antarctic Prion 4; prion sp. 166; Cook's Petrel 19; White-naped Petrel 1; Mottled Petrel 27; Black-winged Petrel 2; White-headed Petrel 33; Grey-faced Petrel 17; White-faced Storm Petrel 6; storm petrel sp. 1; shearwater/petrel sp. 21; Yellow-eyed Penguin 5; Little Penguin 420; White-flipped Penguin 5; Fiordland Crested Penguin 1; tropicbird sp. 1; Australasian Gannet 429; Black Shag 6; Pied Shag 32; Little Black Shag 1; Little Shag 3; Spotted Shag 47; Stewart Island Shag 9; Auckland Island Shag 1; White-faced Heron 1; Royal Spoonbill 2; Black Swan 12; Feral Goose 4; Paradise Shelduck 4; Mallard 8; domestic duck 1; Australasian Harrier 4; Feral Turkey 4; domestic chicken 1; Banded Rail 1; Pukeko 2; South Island Pied Oystercatcher 1; Variable Oystercatcher 5; Spur-winged Plover 1; Banded Dotterel 2; Southern Black-backed Gull 185; Red-billed Gull 33; Black-billed Gull 8; Caspian Tern 8; White-fronted Tern 34; Arctic Tern 1; Sooty Tern 1; New Zealand Pigeon 2; domestic/feral pigeon 5; Kaka 1; Shining Cuckoo 1; New Zealand Kingfisher 1; Eurasian Blackbird 4; Tui 1; Common Myna 1; unidentified bird sp. 3.

| Section of Coast | No. of Cards | No. of Birds | km Covered |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Auckland East    | 9            | 27           | 23         |

|                                  |     |       |       |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| AE                               |     |       |       |
| Auckland West<br>AW              | 81  | 718   | 501   |
| Bay of Plenty<br>BP              | 6   | 22    | 9     |
| Canterbury North<br>CN           | 13  | 155   | 144   |
| Canterbury South<br>CS           | -   | -     | -     |
| East Coast NI<br>EC              | 3   | 5     | 7     |
| Fiordland<br>FD                  | -   | -     | -     |
| North Coast SI<br>NC             | 10  | 32    | 29    |
| Northland East<br>NE             | 21  | 279   | 194   |
| Northland West<br>NW             | 62  | 1,044 | 2,896 |
| Outlying Islands<br>OI (Chatham) | 2   | 5     | 2     |
| Otago<br>OT                      | 3   | 15    | 3     |
| Southland<br>SD                  | 58  | 2,030 | 232   |
| Taranaki<br>TA                   | 40  | 175   | 234   |
| Wairarapa<br>WA                  | -   | -     | -     |
| Westland<br>WD                   | -   | -     | -     |
| Wellington South<br>WS           | 38  | 109   | 94    |
| Wellington West<br>WW            | 39  | 147   | 102   |
| Totals                           | 385 | 4,763 | 4,470 |

### **2009 banded birds**

Little Penguin P43718 found at Bluff 23/3/09

Little Penguin P33843 found Pilot Beach Dunedin 29/11/09

Little Penguin P36802 banded at Somes Island 20/9/07, found Petone 28/2/09

Little Penguin P21434 banded at Mokapuna 2/8/05, found Petone 30/4/09

Southern Black-backed Gull S78879 banded at Somes Island 10/1/08, found Petone 28/2/09

Southern Black-backed Gull S64560 banded at Palliser Spit 10/12/99, found Petone 31/1/09

White-fronted Tern D192958 banded at Kaikoura 31/12/08, found Kaikoura February 2009

Red-billed Gull two bands - E171970 and E144552 banded at Kaikoura 27/11/89, found Kaikoura March 2009

The continued success of the Beach Patrol Scheme is due to the dedication of those hardy souls who brave all manner of weather conditions to trudge the weary miles in search of decaying corpses. Please note any banded birds on the forms or cards and please note any obvious cause of death. Keep up the good work!

LLOYD ESLER