

BEACH PATROL SCHEME 2013 - PRELIMINARY REPORT

This report is based on 262 cards for 2013 received as at 20.1.2015. (There were 324 in 2012, 352 in 2011, 315 in 2010, 385 in 2009, 381 in 2008 and 403 in 2007). This shows a continuing decline in the number of beach patrols carried out. In 2013 1,388 kilometres were patrolled (1,625km in 2012, 1,846km in 2011, 3,210 in 2010, 4,470km in 2009, 2,524km in 2008 and 2,307 in 2007). Dead seabirds found in 2013 totalled 4,851 (1,924 in 2012, 57,920 in 2011, 3,266 in 2010, 4,763 in 2009, 3,906 in 2008, 3,786 in 2007 and 3,117 in 2006). There were two significant wrecks during the year – a large number of juvenile Sooty shearwaters in Southland, the result of a poor breeding season, and a major wreck of Short-tailed shearwaters in October and November. There were no significant wrecks in 2012 in contrast to 2011 which had two major events – the prion wreck and the oil spill that resulted from the grounding of the *Rena*.

The region with the best birds per kilometre total was Southland with 21 birds per kilometre, Several districts had no patrols done: Wairarapa, East Coast North Island, Fiordland and North Coast South Island.

The average recovery rate for the whole country is around 3.65 birds per kilometre compared with the 2012 average of 1.8 birds per kilometre and the 2011 average of 31 birds per kilometre.

Birds recovered in 2013 (brackets indicate the 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 figures):

Royal albatross 2 (1, 1, 2, 5)
Wandering albatross 5 (3, 3, 5, 6)
Shy/White-capped mollymawk 18 (17, 25, 29, 40)
Salvin's mollymawk 3 (1, 2, 2, 4)
Black-browed/Campbell mollymawk 0 (1, 3, 1, 5)
Grey-headed mollymawk 0 (1, 4, 8, 8)
Buller's mollymawk 6 (14, 74, 27, 16)
Sooty albatross 0 (0, 1, 0, 0)
Light-mantled Sooty albatross 0 (4, 1, 3, 2)
Yellow-nosed mollymawk 0 (0, 0, 0, 1)
Chatham Island mollymawk 0 (0, 1, 0, 0)
Mollymawk/Albatross sp. 11 (9, 7, 16, 10)
Northern Giant petrel 1 (2, 6, 7, 6)
Southern Giant petrel 3 (3, 0, 17, 8)
Giant petrel sp. 0 (7, 6, 7, 6)
Buller's shearwater 65 (43, 282, 107, 456)
Sooty shearwater 2,102 (253, 650, 1,983, 417)
Short-tailed shearwater 944 (50, 8, 157, 116)
Wedge-tailed shearwater 0 (1, 0, 1, 1)
Flesh-footed shearwater 8 (25, 119, 22, 24)
Fluttering shearwater 184 (169, 471, 250, 402)
Hutton's shearwater 35 (61, 63, 59, 127)
Little shearwater 7 (1, 35, 14, 12)
Diving petrel 86 (57, 1,146, 86, 111)
White-chinned petrel 2 (3, 5, 6, 2)

Westland black petrel 3 (1, 2, 0, 1)
Black petrel 1 (3, 3, 1, 2)
Grey petrel 1 (0, 0, 1, 0)
Antarctic fulmar 0 (6, 1, 59, 3)
Cape pigeon 2 (13, 25, 41, 36)
Blue petrel 1 (1, 28, 9, 6)
Fairy prion 117 (113, 2,304, 192, 226)
Fulmar prion 0 (1, 55, 2, 0)
Broad-billed prion 36 (224, 34,630, 47, 43)
Thin-billed prion 4 (4, 1,153, 14, 22)
Salvin's prion 3 (8, 2,257, 3, 3)
Antarctic prion 1 (8, 1,265, 4, 7)
Prion sp. 47 (123, 12,169, 166, 109)
Cook's petrel 5 (2, 9, 19, 11)
White-naped petrel 0 (0, 0, 1, 0)
Mottled petrel 16 (46, 40, 27, 44)
Black-winged petrel 0 (0, 0, 2, 2)
Pycroft's petrel 1 (0, 0, 0, 1)
Gould's petrel 0 (0, 1, 0, 0)
Kerguelen petrel 1 (2, 2, 0, 0)
White-headed petrel 8 (11, 9, 33, 7)
Grey-faced petrel 3 (7, 15, 17, 13)
White-faced Storm petrel 11 (5, 86, 6, 19)
Grey-backed storm petrel 0 (0, 0, 0, 1)
Black-bellied storm petrel 0 (0, 0, 0, 1)
Storm petrel sp. 1 (0, 5, 1, 0)
Unidentified seabird 23 (2, 5, 21, 25)
Yellow-eyed penguin 2 (2, 5, 5, 4)
Blue penguin 104 (61, 365, 420, 410)
White-flippered penguin 5 (19, 18, 5, 19)
Fiordland crested penguin 2 (4, 3, 1, 4)
Erect crested penguin 0 (1, 0, 0, 0)
Red-tailed Tropic bird 0 (1, 1, 0, 0)
Tropic bird sp. 0 (0, 0, 1, 0)
Gannet 63 (116, 115, 429, 213)
Black shag 2 (1, 3, 6, 4)
Pied shag 11 (10, 33, 32, 25)
Little Black shag 0 (0, 5, 1, 1)
Little shag 0 (1, 6, 3, 1)
Spotted shag 74 (146, 83, 47, 70)
Stewart Island shag 1 (9, 7, 9, 5)
Auckland Island shag 0 (0, 0, 1, 0)
Pitt Island shag 1 (0, 0, 0, 0)
Shag sp. 1 (0, 6, 0, 0)
White-faced heron 0 (0, 0, 1, 2)
Spoonbill 1 (0, 4, 2, 1)
Black swan 26 (15, 8, 12, 8)
Feral goose 0 (3, 2, 4, 7)
Canada goose 6 (6, 1, 0, 7)
Paradise duck 5 (13, 17, 4, 9)

Mallard 7 (4, 3, 8, 34)
Domestic duck 0 (0, 0, 1, 0)
Grey duck 0 (1, 0, 0, 1)
Grey teal 0 (3, 3, 0, 0)
Shovellor 0 (2, 1, 0, 0)
Scaup 0 (2, 1, 0, 0)
Harrier 1 (3, 3, 4, 4)
Turkey 0 (0, 1, 4, 0)
Peafowl 1 (0, 0, 0, 0)
Chicken 2 (0, 2, 1, 3)
Banded rail 0 (0, 0, 1, 0)
Pukeko 1 (0, 1, 2, 5)
Pied oystercatcher 4 (6, 2, 1, 5)
Variable oystercatcher 0 (2, 1, 5, 2)
Oystercatcher sp. 0 (1, 0, 0, 0)
Pied stilt 1 (0, 0, 0, 0)
Spur-winged plover 1 (0, 0, 1, 1)
Banded dotterel 0 (0, 0, 2, 0)
Godwit 0 (2, 1, 0, 1)
Black-backed gull 68 (108, 90, 185, 114)
Red-billed gull 17 (31, 28, 33, 21)
Black-billed gull 6 (7, 10, 8, 8)
Gull sp. 0 (0, 0, 0, 1)
Brown skua 0 (0, 0, 0, 4)
Arctic skua 0 (1, 0, 0, 0)
Caspian tern 2 (1, 3, 8, 1)
White-fronted tern 9 (15, 24, 34, 20)
Arctic tern 0 (0, 0, 1, 0)
Sooty tern 0 (0, 0, 1, 0)
Tern sp. 0 (1, 0, 0, 0)
Native pigeon 2 (3, 3, 2, 0)
Domestic/feral pigeon 3 (5, 3, 5, 2)
Kaka 0 (0, 0, 1, 0)
Shining cuckoo 0 (0, 0, 1, 0)
Long-tailed cuckoo 0 (0, 1, 0, 0)
Kingfisher 0 (0, 0, 1, 0)
Blackbird 4 (0, 0, 4, 1)
Thrush 0 (1, 4, 0, 4)
Tui 1 (0, 3, 1, 1)
Starling 0 (1, 1, 0, 1)
Myna 0 (0, 1, 1, 0)
Pheasant 3 (0, 0, 0, 1)
Yellowhammer 0 (0, 0, 0, 1)
Goldfinch 1 (1, 1, 0, 2)
House sparrow 0 (0, 0, 0, 1)
Silvereye 0 (0, 0, 0, 1)
Magpie 5, (16, 14, 0, 9)
Pipit 0 (1, 1, 0, 0)
Weka 0 (0, 1, 0, 0)
Spotted dove 1 (0, 0, 0, 0)

Stewart Island kiwi 1 (0, 0, 0, 0)

Morepork 1 (0, 0, 0, 0)

Bird sp. 0 (3, 2, 3, 3)

Section of Coast	No. of Cards	No. of Birds	km covered
Auckland East AE	30	50	59
Auckland West AW	57	589	355
Bay of Plenty BP	21	138	102
Canterbury North CN	36	221	307
Canterbury South CS	8	46	57
East Coast NI EC	0	0	0
Fiordland FD	0	0	0
North Coast SI NC	0	0	0
Northland East NE	9	103	70
Northland West NW	10	510	138
Outlying Islands OI (Chatham)	4	4	5
Otago OT	4	9	6
Southland SD	41	2,789	133
Taranaki TA	9	174	61
Wairarapa WA	0	0	0
Westland WD	10	78	42
Wellington South WS	1	0	1
Wellington West WW	22	140	52
Totals	262	4,851	1,388

2013 banded birds

During the year a single banded bird was noted on the cards. This was a Black-backed gull S 82617 banded 11/12/10 at Conders Bend in the Waiiau River, Marlborough, and recovered Kaikoura February 2013.

The cause of death was noted for three birds. One mallard and two Pied oystercatchers had been shot.

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 20.1.15