

BEACH PATROL SCHEME 2015 - PRELIMINARY REPORT

This report is based on 231 cards for 2015 received as at 31.8.16 (There were also 231 in 2014. Other numbers are: 262 in 2013, 324 in 2012, 352 in 2011, 315 in 2010, 385 in 2009, 381 in 2008 and 403 in 2007). This shows a steadying of the decline in the number of beach patrols carried out.

In 2015 1,065 kilometres were patrolled (1,069 in 2014, 1,388km in 2013, 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 2015: 1377 (1,388 in 2014, 4,851 in 2013, 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 no significant wrecks during the year and no especially unusual records apart from the first beach patrol record of a New Zealand storm petrel. The largest wreck of a single species was of 500 juvenile Sooty shearwaters on Mason Bay in May.

The average recovery rate for the whole country is around 1.29 birds per kilometre compared with the 2014 average of 1.33. The highest average was in 2011 with 31 birds per kilometre as the result of a huge prion wreck.

Birds recovered in 2015 (brackets indicate the 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 figures):

Royal albatross 1 (0, 2, 1, 1, 2, 5)
Wandering albatross 3 (1, 5, 3, 3, 5, 6)
Shy/White-capped mollymawk 9 (17, 18, 17, 25, 29, 40)
Salvin's mollymawk 0 (1, 3, 1, 2, 2, 4)
Black-browed/Campbell mollymawk 2 (1, 10, 1, 3, 1, 5)
Grey-headed mollymawk 0 (4, 0, 1, 4, 8, 8)
Buller's mollymawk 6 (23, 6, 14, 74, 27, 16)
Sooty albatross 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0)
Light-mantled Sooty albatross 3 (7, 0, 4, 1, 3, 2)
Yellow-nosed mollymawk 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
Chatham Island mollymawk 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0)
Mollymawk/Albatross sp. 3 (2, 11, 9, 7, 16, 10)
Northern Giant petrel 3 (1, 1, 2, 6, 7, 6)
Southern Giant petrel 2 (1, 3, 3, 0, 17, 8)
Giant petrel sp. 1 (7, 0, 7, 6, 7, 6)
Buller's shearwater 21 (42, 65, 43, 282, 107, 456)
Sooty shearwater 603 (160, 2102, 253, 650, 1983, 417)
Short-tailed shearwater 14 (84, 944, 50, 8, 157, 116)
Wedge-tailed shearwater 0 (0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1)
Flesh-footed shearwater 7 (1, 8, 25, 119, 22, 24)
Fluttering shearwater 73 (76, 184, 169, 471, 250, 402)
Hutton's shearwater 9 (17, 35, 61, 63, 59, 127)
Fluttering/Hutton's shearwater 7 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Little shearwater 7 (10, 7, 1, 35, 14, 12)
Diving petrel 36 (158, 86, 57, 1146, 86, 111)
White-chinned petrel 0 (5, 2, 3, 5, 6, 2)
Westland black petrel 1 (0, 3, 1, 2, 0, 1)
Black petrel 1 (3, 1, 3, 3, 1, 2)
Grey petrel 0 (3, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0)
Antarctic fulmar 5 (5, 0, 6, 1, 59, 3)
Cape pigeon 17 (3, 2, 13, 25, 41, 36)
Blue petrel 2 (4, 1, 1, 28, 9, 6)

Fairy prion 89 (51, 117, 113, 2304, 192, 226)
 Fulmar prion 0 (0, 0, 1, 55, 2, 0)
 Broad-billed prion 4 (17, 36, 224, 34630, 47, 43)
 Thin-billed prion 13 (6, 4, 4, 1153, 14, 22)
 Salvin's prion 2 (1, 3, 8, 2257, 3, 3)
 Antarctic prion 2 (3, 1, 8, 1265, 4, 7)
 Prion sp. 58 (87, 47, 123, 12169, 166, 109)
 Cook's petrel 5 (8, 5, 2, 9, 19, 11)
 White-naped petrel 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
 Mottled petrel 17 (106, 16, 46, 40, 27, 44)
 Black-winged petrel 1 (1, 0, 0, 0, 2, 2)
 Pycroft's petrel 0 (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1)
 Soft-plumaged petrel 0 (4, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Gould's petrel 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0)
 Kerguelen petrel 1 (3, 1, 2, 2, 0, 0)
 White-headed petrel 3 (18, 8, 11, 9, 33, 7)
 Grey-faced petrel 11 (13, 3, 7, 15, 17, 13)
 White-faced Storm petrel 4 (4, 11, 5, 86, 6, 19)
 Grey-backed storm petrel 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
 Black-bellied storm petrel 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
 New Zealand storm petrel 1 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Storm petrel sp. 1 (1, 1, 0, 5, 1, 0)
 Unidentified seabird 15 (32, 23, 2, 5, 21, 25)
 Yellow-eyed penguin 2 (2, 2, 2, 5, 5, 4)
 Blue penguin 49 (64, 104, 61, 365, 420, 410)
 White-flippered penguin 1 (13, 5, 19, 18, 5, 19)
 Fiordland crested penguin 3 (3, 2, 4, 3, 1, 4)
 Erect crested penguin 0 (1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0)
 Penguin sp 1 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Red-tailed Tropic bird 0 (0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0)
 Tropic bird sp. 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
 Gannet 50 (66, 63, 116, 115, 429, 213)
 Black shag 0 (0, 2, 1, 3, 6, 4)
 Pied shag 8 (15, 11, 10, 33, 32, 25)
 Little Black shag 0 (1, 0, 0, 5, 1, 1)
 Little shag 1 (2, 0, 1, 6, 3, 1)
 Spotted shag 27 (46, 74, 146, 83, 47, 70)
 Stewart Island shag 1 (22, 1, 9, 7, 9, 5)
 Auckland Island shag 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
 Pitt Island shag 0 (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Shag sp. 3 (1, 1, 0, 6, 0, 0)
 White-faced heron 1 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 2)
 Spoonbill 1 (1, 1, 0, 4, 2, 1)
 Black swan 18 (12, 26, 15, 8, 12, 8)
 Feral goose 0 (1, 0, 3, 2, 4, 7)
 Canada goose 5 (4, 6, 6, 1, 0, 7)
 Paradise duck 2 (3, 5, 13, 17, 4, 9)
 Mallard 4 (1, 7, 4, 3, 8, 34)
 Domestic duck 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
 Grey duck 0 (0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1)
 Grey teal 0 (1, 0, 3, 3, 0, 0)
 Shovellor 0 (0, 0, 2, 1, 0, 0)
 Scaup 0 (0, 0, 2, 1, 0, 0)

Harrier 1 (1, 1, 3, 3, 4, 4)
Turkey 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 4, 0)
Peafowl 0 (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Chicken 1 (0, 2, 0, 2, 1, 3)
Pheasant 0 (0, 3, 0, 0, 0, 1)
Red-legged partridge 0 (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Weka 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0)
Banded rail 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
Pukeko 0 (3, 1, 0, 1, 2, 5)
Pied oystercatcher 1 (4, 4, 6, 2, 1, 5)
Variable oystercatcher 0 (4, 0, 2, 1, 5, 2)
Oystercatcher sp. 0 (0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0)
Pied stilt 0 (2, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Spur-winged plover 1 (0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 1)
Banded dotterel 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0)
Godwit 0 (0, 0, 2, 1, 0, 1)
Black-backed gull 63 (74, 68, 108, 90, 185, 114)
Red-billed gull 23 (17, 31, 28, 33, 21)
Black-billed gull 4 (4, 6, 7, 10, 8, 8)
Gull sp. 0 (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
Brown skua 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 4)
Arctic skua 0 (0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0)
Caspian tern 3 (1, 2, 1, 3, 8, 1)
White-fronted tern 5 (14, 9, 15, 24, 34, 20)
Arctic tern 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
Sooty tern 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
Tern sp. 0 (0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0)
Native pigeon 3 (3, 2, 3, 3, 2, 0)
Domestic/feral pigeon 2 (1, 3, 5, 3, 5, 2)
Spotted dove 0 (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Kaka 0 (1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
Red-crowned parakeet 1 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Shining cuckoo 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
Long-tailed cuckoo 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0)
Kingfisher 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
Blackbird 3 (0, 4, 0, 0, 4, 1)
Thrush 0 (0, 0, 1, 4, 0, 4)
Tui 1 (2, 1, 0, 3, 1, 1)
Starling 1 (0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1)
Myna 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0)
Yellowhammer 2 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
Goldfinch 0 (1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 2)
House sparrow 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
Silvereye 0 (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
Fantail 1 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Magpie 8 (5, 5, 16, 14, 0, 9)
Pipit 0 (0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0)
Stewart Island kiwi 0 (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Morepork 2 (1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Spine-tailed swift 0 (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Bird sp. 1 (0, 0, 3, 2, 3, 3)

Section of Coast	No. of Cards	No. of Birds	km covered
Auckland East AE	20	20	38
Auckland West AW	57	262	337
Bay of Plenty BP	26	112	96
Canterbury North CN	13	121	104
Canterbury South CS	0	0	0
East Coast NI EC	0	0	0
Fiordland FD	0	0	0
North Coast SI NC	2	4	7
Northland East NE	8	57	77
Northland West NW	3	30	125
Outlying Islands OI (Chatham)	0	0	0
Otago OT	1	1	1
Southland SD	70	730	202
Taranaki TA	1	8	4
Wairarapa WA	1	1	1
Westland WD	10	7	35
Wellington South WS	2	1	1
Wellington West WW	17	23	37
Totals	231	1,377	1,065

2015 banded birds

During the year only two banded birds were noted on the cards. These were two Hutton's shearwaters both banded on 19 March 2015 as chicks and both recovered by Bev Elliot at South Bay Kaikoura on 1 April 2015.

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. There is a large supply of blank cards for those who prefer to use cards rather than the on-line form.

Lloyd Esler 1.9.16