

BEACH PATROL SCHEME 2016
PRELIMINARY REPORT – Lloyd Esler 20.6.17

This report is based on 303 cards for 2016 received as at 14.8.17 (231 in 2015. Other numbers are: 231 in 2014, 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 pleasing increase after several years of steady decline in the number of beach patrols carried out.

In 2016 1,305 kilometres were patrolled (1,065 in 2015, 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 2016: 1,892. (1,377 in 2015, 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 but there were several unusual records. The second beach patrol record of a New Zealand storm petrel was from Ruakaka on 7.1.16; a peacock was found on Waihi Beach and a Channel-billed cuckoo from Spirits Bay on 2.8.16 .

The average recovery rate for the whole country is 1.4 birds per kilometre compared with the 2015 average of 1.29. The highest average was in 2011 with 31 birds per kilometre as the result of a huge prion wreck. In 2016 Southland had the record for the greatest number of patrols with 60 and there were no patrols done in Fiordland, Wairarapa and East Coast North Island.

During 2016 only one banded bird was noted on the cards. This was a Black-fronted tern, banded on the Upper Clarence River on 19.12.15 and recovered at Kaikoura on 31.10.16 by our champion band recoverer – Bev Elliott.

Cause of death was noted for a gannet snagged by a fishhook, two Canada geese that were shot and ten Canada Geese found dead at Kawhia on 16.3.16, possibly from botulism.

The value in Beach patrol specimens was apparent during the year, visit from Lauren Roman. Thanks to BP'ers who collected and froze specimens for her to dissect as part of her study into plastic ingestion by seabirds.

Transcription of scanned BP records onto the online database continues with most of the data entry now completed.

Birds recovered in 2016 (brackets indicate the 2015 to 2009 figures in that order):

Royal albatross 1 (1, 0, 2, 1, 1, 2, 5)
Wandering albatross 1 (3, 1, 5, 3, 3, 5, 6)
Shy/White-capped mollymawk 15 (9, 17, 18, 17, 25, 29, 40)
Salvin's mollymawk 0 (0, 1, 3, 1, 2, 2, 4)
Black-browed/Campbell mollymawk 0 (2, 1, 10, 1, 3, 1, 5)
Grey-headed mollymawk 1 (0, 4, 0, 1, 4, 8, 8)
Buller's mollymawk 7 (6, 23, 6, 14, 74, 27, 16)
Sooty albatross 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0)
Light-mantled Sooty albatross 4 (3, 7, 0, 4, 1, 3, 2)
Yellow-nosed mollymawk 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
Chatham Island mollymawk 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0)
Mollymawk/Albatross sp. 7 (3, 2, 11, 9, 7, 16, 10)
Northern Giant petrel 3 (3, 1, 1, 2, 6, 7, 6)
Southern Giant petrel 4 (2, 1 (3, 3, 0, 17, 8)
Giant petrel sp. 0 (1, 7, 0, 7, 6, 7, 6)
Buller's shearwater 43 (21, 42, 65, 43, 282, 107, 456)
Sooty shearwater 59 (603, 160, 2102, 253, 650, 1983, 417)
Short-tailed shearwater 15 (14, 84, 944, 50, 8, 157, 116)
Wedge-tailed shearwater 1 (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1)
Flesh-footed shearwater 7 (7, 1, 8, 25, 119, 22, 24)
Fluttering shearwater 219 (73, 76, 184, 169, 471, 250, 402)
Hutton's shearwater 27 (9, 17, 35, 61, 63, 59, 127)
Fluttering/Hutton's shearwater 1 (7, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)

Little shearwater 6 (7, 10, 7, 1, 35, 14, 12)
Diving petrel 124 (36, 158, 86, 57, 1146, 86, 111)
White-chinned petrel 0 (0, 5, 2, 3, 5, 6, 2)
Westland black petrel 0 (1, 0, 3, 1, 2, 0, 1)
Black petrel 3 (1, 3, 1, 3, 3, 1, 2)
Grey petrel 0 (0, 3, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0)
Antarctic fulmar 3 (5, 5, 0, 6, 1, 59, 3)
Cape pigeon 3 (17, 3, 2, 13, 25, 41, 36)
Blue petrel 1 (2, 4, 1, 1, 28, 9, 6)
Fairy prion 382 (89, 51, 117, 113, 2304, 192, 226)
Fulmar prion 1 (0, 0, 0, 1, 55, 2, 0)
Broad-billed prion 30 (4, 17, 36, 224, 34630, 47, 43)
Thin-billed prion 202 (13, 6, 4, 4, 1153, 14, 22)
Salvin's prion 61 (2, 1, 3, 8, 2257, 3, 3)
Antarctic prion 16 (2, 3, 1, 8, 1265, 4, 7)
Prion sp. 136 (58, 87, 47, 123, 12169, 166, 109)
Cook's petrel 32 (5, 8, 5, 2, 9, 19, 11)
White-naped petrel 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
Mottled petrel 36 (17, 106, 16, 46, 40, 27, 44)
Black-winged petrel 0 (1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 2, 2)
Pycroft's petrel 1 (0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1)
Soft-plumaged petrel 0 (0, 4, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Gould's petrel 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0)
Kerguelen petrel 5 (1, 3, 1, 2, 2, 0, 0)
White-headed petrel 11 (3, 18, 8, 11, 9, 33, 7)
Grey-faced petrel 17 (11, 13, 3, 7, 15, 17, 13)
White-faced Storm petrel 9 (4, 4, 11, 5, 86, 6, 19)
Grey-backed storm petrel 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
Black-bellied storm petrel 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
New Zealand storm petrel 1 (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Storm petrel sp. 0 (1, 1, 1, 0, 5, 1, 0)
Unidentified seabird 14 (15, 32, 23, 2, 5, 21, 25)
Yellow-eyed penguin 2 (2, 2, 2, 2, 5, 5, 4)
Blue penguin 160 (49, 64, 104, 61, 365, 420, 410)
White-flipped penguin 4 (1, 13, 5, 19, 18, 5, 19)
Fiordland crested penguin 2 (3, 3, 2, 4, 3, 1, 4)
Erect crested penguin 0 (0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0)
Penguin sp 0 (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Red-tailed Tropic bird 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0)
Tropic bird sp. 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
Gannet 54 (50, 66, 63, 116, 115, 429, 213)
Black shag 3 (0, 0, 2, 1, 3, 6, 4)
Pied shag 14 (8, 15, 11, 10, 33, 32, 25)
Little black shag 0 (0, 1, 0, 0, 5, 1, 1)
Little shag 1 (1, 2, 0, 1, 6, 3, 1)
Spotted shag 31 (27, 46, 74, 146, 83, 47, 70)
Stewart Island shag 8 (1, 22, 1, 9, 7, 9, 5)
Auckland Island shag 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
Pitt Island shag 0 (0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Chatham Island shag 1 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
Shag sp. 0 (3, 1, 1, 0, 6, 0, 0)
White-faced heron 0 (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 2)
Spoonbill 1 (1, 1, 1, 0, 4, 2, 1)
Black swan 25 (18, 12, 26, 15, 8, 12, 8)
Feral goose 3 (0, 1, 0, 3, 2, 4, 7)

Canada goose 21 (5, 4, 6, 6, 1, 0, 7)
 Paradise duck 2 (2, 3, 5, 13, 17, 4, 9)
 Mallard 7 (4, 1, 7, 4, 3, 8, 34)
 Domestic duck 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
 Grey duck 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1)
 Grey teal 1 (0, 1, 0, 3, 3, 0, 0)
 Shovellor 0 (0, 0, 0, 2, 1, 0, 0)
 Scaup 0 (0, 0, 0, 2, 1, 0, 0)
 Harrier 2 (1, 1, 1, 3, 3, 4, 4)
 Turkey 1 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 4, 0)
 Peafowl 1 (0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Chicken 2 (1, 0, 2, 0, 2, 1, 3)
 Pheasant 0 (0, 0, 3, 0, 0, 0, 1)
 Red-legged partridge 0 (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Weka 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0)
 Banded rail 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
 Pukeko 1 (0, 3, 1, 0, 1, 2, 5)
 Pied oystercatcher 3 (1, 4, 4, 6, 2, 1, 5)
 Variable oystercatcher 1 (0, 4, 0, 2, 1, 5, 2)
 Oystercatcher sp. 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0)
 Pied stilt 0 (0, 2, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Spur-winged plover 0 (1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 1)
 Banded dotterel 1 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0)
 Godwit 0 (0, 0, 0, 2, 1, 0, 1)
 Black-backed gull 58 (63, 74, 68, 108, 90, 185, 114)
 Red-billed gull 23 (23, 17, 31, 28, 33, 21)
 Black-billed gull 3 (4, 4, 6, 7, 10, 8, 8)
 Gull sp. 0 (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
 Brown skua 1 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 4)
 Arctic skua 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0)
 Caspian tern 2 (3, 1, 2, 1, 3, 8, 1)
 White-fronted tern 3 (5, 14, 9, 15, 24, 34, 20)
 Black-fronted tern 1 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Arctic tern 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
 Sooty tern 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
 Tern sp. 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0)
 Native pigeon 0 (3, 3, 2, 3, 3, 2, 0)
 Domestic/feral pigeon 9 (2, 1, 3, 5, 3, 5, 2)
 Spotted dove 0 (0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Kaka 0 (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
 Red-crowned parakeet 0 (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Shining cuckoo 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
 Long-tailed cuckoo 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0)
 Channel-billed cuckoo 1 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Kingfisher 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0)
 Blackbird 4 (3, 0, 4, 0, 0, 4, 1)
 Thrush 3 (0, 0, 0, 1, 4, 0, 4)
 Tui 1 (1, 2, 1, 0, 3, 1, 1)
 Starling 2 (1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1)
 Myna 1 (0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0)
 Yellowhammer 0 (2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
 Goldfinch 1 (0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 2)
 House sparrow 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
 Silvereve 0 (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)
 Fantail 0 (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)

Magpie 11 (8, 5, 5, 16, 14, 0, 9)
 Pipit 0 (0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0)
 Stewart Island kiwi 0 (0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Morepork 2 (2, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Spine-tailed swift 0 (0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)
 Bird sp. 0 (1, 0, 0, 3, 2, 3, 3)

Section of Coast	No. of Cards	No. of Birds	km covered
Auckland East AE	26	91	79
Auckland West AW	64	672	329
Bay of Plenty BP	33	110	88
Canterbury North CN	15	72	98
Canterbury South CS	1	1	1
East Coast NI EC	0	0	0
Fiordland FD	0	0	0
North Coast SI NC	2	5	6
Northland East NE	16	257	101
Northland West NW	7	128	153
Outlying Islands OI (Chatham)	2	7	22
Otago OT	7	9	17
Southland SD	60	198	234
Taranaki TA	2	6	8
Wairarapa WA	0	0	0
Westland WD	11	6	33
Wellington South WS	12	4	8
Wellington West WW	45	326	128
Totals	303	1,892	1,305

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.

Beach Patrol Scheme

Report from co-ordinator Lloyd Esler on 1 April 2017

The 2015 results have been collated and published in the March 2017 edition of Southern Bird. This is the preliminary report for 2016.

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 has begun with 18,000 of the 27,500 cards having been entered in the system in duplicate and most of the remaining ones entered once.

2016 produced no significant wrecks, the largest one being 500 juvenile Sooty shearwaters on Mason Bay in the predictable seasonal mortality.

The returns compared to the previous year show an increase in cards, birds found and kilometres covered

The figures as at 1 April 2017 are:

Cards or forms returned: 253 (210 in 2015, 231 in 2014, 262 in 2013, 324 in 2012 and 352 in 2011)

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

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

Lloyd Esler

Beach Patrol Scheme Convener