

A Database of Penguin Colonies in New Zealand.

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I have recently completed a database listing the locations and, where known, the size of all recorded colonies of all six species of penguins breeding in New Zealand. I have searched appropriate publications, unpublished reports, websites, ebird and circulated drafts to researchers and others who are likely to have additional data. The quality of the data available varies from sites with just a location name but no additional information to sites where multiple counts have been made. At present there are 654 records for Little Penguins, 232 for Fiordland Penguins, 510 for Yellow-eyed Penguins 141 for Eastern Rockhopper Penguins, 43 for Snares Penguins and 90 for Erect-crested Penguins.

This database is now available on request to any bone fide researcher or anyone else surveying penguins or working in penguin conservation. To protect the penguins, it will not be open access; we are not here to support Trip Advisor.

This is a living document, it is managed by the New Zealand Penguin Research and Conservation Group who will update the list as new information is obtained and provide users with the latest version of the database on request. We ask that anyone using the database please contributes to it if they have any additional information. If you can use the database request a copy from data@penguin-conservation.nz.

The primary purpose of creating this database is to allow penguin researchers and conservation workers to more effectively target their survey and monitoring efforts. The database identifies those colonies where there is existing data on population size, including those where regular monitoring has been, or is currently undertaken. It identifies those regions where surveys have been carried out and those where surveys are most urgent. There are gaps in our knowledge of penguin distribution and abundance in all Birds NZ regions; RRs may wish to obtain a copy to identify areas where their members might know of other colonies or undertake monitoring projects.

This database began life as a seabird colony database supported by Forest and Bird and Te Papa. Grants from the Birds New Zealand Research Fund and the Phillip Island Penguins Conservation Fund have allowed me to convert existing data into a more user-friendly format, add hundreds of new records and include detail not required in the earlier more general databases covering all seabirds. Thanks to all these organisations for making this possible.

