



The impacts of disturbance on yellow-eyed penguins (*Megadyptes antipodes*) in the sub-Antarctic

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There are estimated to be less than 2000 pairs of the endemic yellow-eyed penguin/hoiho, which is classed as endangered in the IUCN red list. The penguin has a restricted range, found in the south of the South Island, Stewart island/Rakiura and the New Zealand sub-Antarctic. Enderby Island in the Auckland Island archipelago is considered a stronghold for yellow-eyed penguins, where there are estimated to be almost 300 breeding pairs. Impacts from disturbance have been implicated in declines on the mainland, but there has been little study of the impacts of disturbance in the sub-Antarctic and how this may be managed into the future.



Rebecca French conducting fieldwork in the sub-Antarctic



Chris Muller with a yellow-eyed penguin

With the generous support of the Birds NZ research fund and the Department of Conservation we aim to investigate the impacts of disturbance on yellow-eyed penguins on Enderby Island in the sub-Antarctic. The funding from Birds NZ will be used to purchase innovative technology that will allow remote monitoring of yellow-eyed penguin transits, foraging trips and nesting success. This research will help to ensure the persistence of this unique species into the future.