

**BEACH PATROL SCHEME 2011
PRELIMINARY REPORT – Lloyd Esler 31.12.12**

This report is based on 352 cards for 2011 received as at 1.4.13 (315 in 2010, 385 in 2009, 381 in 2008 and 403 in 2007). In 2011 1,846km were patrolled (3,210 in 2010, 4,470km in 2009, 2,524km in 2008 and 2,307 in 2007). Dead seabirds found in 2011 totalled 57,920 (3,266 in 2010, 4,763 in 2009, 3,906 in 2008, 3,786 in 2007 and 3,117 in 2006). The year was marked by two significant events – the prion wreck and the grounding of the *Rena*. In mid-July prolonged westerly winds pushed thousands of prions onto the west coast of the North Island. Unable to fly against the wind for a sustained period, they drowned off the coast or arrived on the beaches in an exhausted condition and died. Many were driven inland as well. The count for Broad-billed prions in 2011 is 33,599, vastly more than in previous years. There were lesser numbers of the smaller species. On some beach visits, patrollers were unable to do more than estimate the totals or didn't identify the species. Other patrollers didn't distinguish Salvins and Antarctic prions or Fulmar prions and Fairy prions, but the results show that clearly Broad-billed prions were the major casualty. Divingpetrels were also affected by this event.

On 5 October 2011 the ship *Renagrounded* on a reef in the Bay of Plenty and the resulting oil spill caused significant bird losses although some birds were rescued, cleaned and returned to the wild. A paper by Coin Miskelly, Shane Baylis, Alan Tennyson, Susan Waugh, Sandy Bartle, Stuart Hunter, Brett Gartrell and Kerri Morgan – *Impacts of the Rena Oil Spill on New Zealand Seabirds* – gives the numbers of each bird species found dead on Bay of Plenty beaches, with the total at 2,016, including 652 that were not oiled. The species most affected was the Diving petrel. The figure is included in the Bay of Plenty total for the year although mileage was not recorded.

The region with the best birds per kilometre total was Bay of Plenty with 150 birds per kilometre, the result of a concentrated effort to locate victims of the oil spill. Next were Taranaki at 65 and Auckland West at 57, both scores coming from the prion wreck. Four districts had no patrols done: Fiordland, Offshore Islands, Wairarapa and East Coast North Island.

The average recovery rate for the whole country is around 31 birds per kilometre, a little up from the 1 per kilometre average of 2010.

Birds recovered in 2011 including *Renac* casualties (brackets indicates the 2010 and 2009 figures):

Royal albatross 1 (2, 5)
Wandering albatross 3 (5, 6)
Shy/White-capped mollymawk 25 (29, 40)
Salvin's mollymawk 2 (2,4)
Black-browed/Campbell mollymawk 3 (1, 5)
Grey-headed mollymawk 4 (8, 8)
Buller's mollymawk 74 (27, 16)
Sooty albatross 1 (0, 0)
Light-mantled Sooty albatross 1 (3, 2)
Yellow-nosed mollymawk 0 (0, 1)
Chatham Island mollymawk 1 (0, 0)
Mollymawk sp.7 (16, 10)
Northern Giant petrel 6 (7, 6)

Southern Giant petrel 0 (17, 8)
Giant petrel sp. 6 (7, 6)
Buller's shearwater 282 (107, 456)
Sooty shearwater 650 (1,983, 417)
Short-tailed shearwater 8 (157, 116)
Wedge-tailed shearwater 0 (1, 1)
Flesh-footed shearwater 119 (22, 24)
Fluttering shearwater 471 (250, 402)
Hutton's shearwater 63 (59, 127)
Little shearwater 35 (14, 12)
Diving petrel 1,146 (86, 111)
White-chinned petrel 5 (6, 2)
Westland black petrel 2 (0, 1)
Black petrel 3 (1, 2)
Grey petrel 0 (1, 0)
Antarctic fulmar 1 (59, 3)
Cape pigeon 25 (41, 36)
Blue petrel 28 (9, 6)
Fairy prion 2,304 (192, 226)
Fulmar prion 55 (2, 0)
Broad-billed prion 34,630 (47, 43)
Thin-billed prion 1,153 (14, 22)
Salvin's prion 2,257 (3, 3)
Antarctic prion 1,265 (4, 7)
Prion sp. 12,169 (166, 109)
Cook's petrel 9 (19, 11)
White-naped petrel 0 (1, 0)
Mottled petrel 40 (27, 44)
Black-winged petrel 0 (2, 2)
Pycrofts petrel 0 (0, 1)
Gould's petrel 1 (0, 0)
Kerguelen petrel 2 (0, 0)
White-headed petrel 9 (33, 7)
Grey-faced petrel 15 (17, 13)
White-faced Storm petrel 86 (6, 19)
Grey-backed storm petrel 0 (0, 1)
Black-bellied storm petrel 0 (0, 1)
Storm petrel sp. 5 (1, 0)
Shearwater/petrel sp. 5 (21, 25)
Yellow-eyed penguin 5 (5, 4)
Blue penguin 365 (420, 410)
White-flipped penguin 18 (5, 19)
Fiordland Crested penguin 3 (1, 4)
Red-tailed Tropic bird 1 (0, 0)
Tropicbird sp. 0 (1, 0)
Gannet 115 (429, 213)
Black shag 3 (6, 4)
Pied shag 33 (32, 25)
Little Black shag 5 (1, 1)
Little shag 6 (3, 1)

Spotted shag 83 (47, 70)
Stewart Island shag 7 (9, 5)
Auckland Island shag 0 (1, 0)
Shag sp.6 (0,0)
White-faced heron 0 (1, 2)
Spoonbill 4 (2, 1)
Black swan 8 (12, 8)
Feral goose 2 (4, 7)
Canada goose 1 (0, 7)
Paradise duck 17 (4, 9)
Mallard 3 (8, 34)
Domestic duck 0 (1, 0)
Grey duck 0 (0, 1)
Grey teal 3 (0, 0)
Shoveler 1 (0, 0)
Scaup 1 (0, 0)
Harrier 3 (4, 4)
Turkey 1 (4, 0)
Chicken 2 (1, 3)
Banded rail 0 (1, 0)
Pukeko 1 (2, 5)
Pied oystercatcher 2 (1, 5)
Variable oystercatcher 1 (5, 2)
Spur-winged plover 0 (1, 1)
Banded dotterel 0 (2, 0)
Godwit 1 (0, 1)
Black-backed gull 90 (185, 114)
Red-billed gull 28 (33, 21)
Black-billed gull 10 (8, 8)
Gull sp. 0 (0, 1)
Brown skua 0 (0, 4)
Caspian tern 3 (8, 1)
White-fronted tern 24 (34, 20)
Arctic tern 0 (1, 0)
Sooty tern 0 (1, 0)
Native pigeon 3 (2, 0)
Domestic/feral pigeon 3 (5, 2)
Kaka 0 (1, 0)
Shining cuckoo 0 (1, 0)
Long-tailed cuckoo 1 (0, 0)
Kingfisher 0 (1, 0)
Blackbird 0 (4, 1)
Thrush 4 (0, 4)
Tui 3 (1, 1)
Starling 1 (0, 1)
Myna1 (1, 0)
Pheasant 0 (0, 1)
Yellowhammer 0 (0, 1)
Goldfinch 1 (0, 2)
House sparrow 0 (0, 1)

Silvereye 0 (0, 1)
 Magpie 14 (0, 9)
 Pipit 1 (0, 0)
 Weka 1 (0, 0)
 Bird sp. 2 (3, 3)

| Section of Coast | No. of Cards | No. of Birds | km covered |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Auckland East AE | 9 | 38 | 24 |
| Auckland West AW | 93 | 35,715 | 626 |
| Bay of Plenty BP | 9 | 2,098 | 14 |
| Canterbury North CN | 35 | 199 | 338 |
| Canterbury South CS | 7 | 21 | 8 |
| East Coast NI EC | - | - | - |
| Fiordland FD | - | - | - |
| North Coast SI NC | 5 | 13 | 14 |
| Northland East NE | 15 | 702 | 103 |
| Northland West NW | 12 | 3,566 | 228 |
| Outlying Islands OI (Chatham) | - | - | - |
| Otago OT | 6 | 18 | 9 |
| Southland SD | 65 | 879 | 245 |
| Taranaki TA | 40 | 11,451 | 175 |
| Wairarapa WA | - | - | - |
| Westland WD | 18 | 134 | 39 |
| Wellington South WS | 6 | 21 | 8 |
| Wellington West WW | 33 | 3,073 | 56 |
| Totals | 352 | 57,920 | 1,846 |

2011 banded birds

During the year five banded birds were noted on the cards. These are:

- 1) **Diving petrel** D 159820 – banded on 24/05/1994 at Motuotau Island, recovered 22/7/11 on Waihi Beach.
- 2) **Red-billed gull** E206121 – banded as a chick on 18/12/2010 at Kaikoura, recovered Kaikoura February 2011
- 3) **Red-billed gull** E 173288 – banded on 06/11/1991 at Kaikoura, recovered Kaikoura November 2011
- 4) **Northern Giant petrel** 13221251 – banded Macquarie Island 20/1/04 as a nestling, recovered Oreti Beach, Southland, 18/6/11
- 5) **Hutton's shearwater** X 14266 banded 21/12/2004 at Kowhai Stream in the Kaikoura Ranges, recovered 2/12/11 at Ruapuke near Raglan.

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!