

Progress Report: Beach Patrol Data Entry and Reporting Project

To: Council
From: Ian Armitage

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Steady progress continues with development of the *Birds New Zealand* Beach Patrol Data Entry and Reporting Project following its launch at the society conference in Blenheim in 2015.

Data entry by members through their home-based computers continues using a double-entry process. 25,999 entries have been transcribed once (25,700, Sep. 2016) and 15,578 have been transcribed twice (7,700, Sept 2016). Two members have entered more than 10,000 cards each, and a further three members have entered more than 1,000 cards each. 4,900 entries have been reconciled (by myself) to ensure that a high quality database is produced, i.e. there is consistency between the first and second entries (3,000, Sept. 2016). The table below summarises the position at 12 noon on 8 March 2017.

Data entry progress

Form type	Keyed once	Double entered	Reconciled
Beach patrol card	25,267	16,991	4,800
Beach patrol data sheet	732	587	100
TOTAL	25,999	15,578	4,900

All Beach Patrol Cards up to the end of 2015 have been scanned into the database. A pause with scanning of cards/record sheets has now been made to enable the database for the 1951 to 2015 period to be completed, a span of 64 years. But as the earliest records go back to 1943 the database for some petrels, shearwaters and gulls is for a period of up to 72 years.

470 cards have been set aside as being “illegible”, or not “Beach Patrol cards”. These are still being checked against the real cards to determine what has happened (some are mismatched fronts and backs of cards) but in due course it is hoped that most of these will be placed back into the database for transcription (in some cases following rescanning of the real cards). Nearly 100 illegible records have been deleted.

The summary of “Species found” is updated each day; the following table shows the summary at 12 noon on 8 March 2017. It is clear that the majority of birds reported are shearwaters, prions and little penguins.

Sooty shearwater	56,464	Little penguin	39,627
Fairy prion	42,353	Fluttering shearwater	22,424
Prions (not identified)	20,208	Southern black-backed gull	15,173
Short-tailed shearwater	10,971	Common diving petrel	10,744
Australasian gannet	10,363	Broad-billed prion	10,033

Development and testing of a data interrogation and reporting system is commencing in association with Dragonfly Data Science Ltd. A presentation on progress with development of the Beach Patrol Data Entry and Reporting Project will be made at the forthcoming conference in Te Anau.