

## MARKED INCREASE IN RECORDS SENT TO THE OSNZ MOULT RECORDING SCHEME OVER 2012-14

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At the talk Monica Awasthy and I gave at the Tauranga OSNZ Conference in 2012, we appealed for submission of records from members who were routinely collecting moult information as part of their studies and/or banding activity. Mike Bell responded to this very positively by offering to send in a spreadsheet of extensive records of primary moult routinely collected by his banding group. This single contribution is the prime reason that records held by the OSNZ Moulting Recording Scheme have now increased by 81% to a total of 5929. So many thanks to Mike Bell and to others in his team - Brian Bell, Chris Bell, Conori Bell, Dave Bell, Hinewai Bell, Padul Bell, Paul Bell, Rick Bell, Ian Carberry, Willie Cook, Andrew John, Dianne John, Sara Kross, Karen Lomax, David Melville, Juila Melville, Jim Murray, Oliva Norton, Mara Nydegger, Peter Reese, Paul Sagar, Heather Smithers, Jon Stewart, Jack Taylor, Kirsten Taylor, Tamati Taylor, Robin Toy, Sandy Toy, Mersadez Wilson, Ian Wilson, Sadez Wilson and Toni Wilson. Tony Beauchamp, Ben Bell, Brian Gill and Peter Rees submitted additional moult records over 2012-14.

The OSNZ scheme has now accumulated moult records for 131 species, 40% of them for birds in active moult, the rest for non-moulting birds, while most (80%) are from live birds. Three new species added since 2012 are Mottled Petrel, Pitt Island Shag and Kakapo. The top ten species on the records list are Silvereye (1111 records), then House Sparrow (686 records), followed further back by Goldfinch (455 records), Greenfinch (375 records), Redpoll (320 records), Yellowhammer (290 records), Chaffinch (199 records), Blackbird (142 records), Black-fronted Tern (137 records) and Dunnock (107 records). More details of the records received are shown in Table 1 that uses the order of species given by Heather & Robertson (2005) in *The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand*.

**Table 1. Summary of moult records received to date**

Species	In moult	Not in moult	Alive	Dead	Total
Mollymawk, Black-browed	2	36	0	38	38
Mollymawk, Shy	5	26	0	31	31
Mollymawk, Grey-headed	1	0	0	1	1
Shearwater, Flesh-footed	0	2	0	2	2
Shearwater, Short-tailed	0	1	0	1	1
Shearwater, Fluttering	11	1	0	12	12
Shearwater, Hutton's	2	1	1	2	3
Petrel, Common Diving	3	5	0	8	8
Petrel, Black	0	2	0	2	2
Petrel, Westland Black	0	1	0	1	1
Petrel, Kerguelen	1	3	0	4	4
Petrel, Cape (Cape Pigeon)	0	2	0	2	2
Prion, Fairy	0	87	0	87	87
Prion, Antarctic	1	0	0	1	1
Prion, Salvin's	2	0	0	2	2

Prion, Broad-billed	1	1	2	0	2
Petrel, Blue	0	4	0	4	4
Petrel, Cook's	0	2	0	2	2
Petrel, Mottled	0	1	0	1	1
Petrel, Grey-faced	1	2	0	3	3
Taiko, Chatham Island	0	3	3	0	3
Petrel, White-headed	4	0	0	4	4
Petrel, Grey-backed Storm	0	10	10	0	10
Petrel, White-faced Storm	2	3	0	5	5
Penguin, Blue	4	2	2	4	6
Gannet, Australasian	37	1	6	32	38
Shag, Pied	1	1	0	2	2
Shag, Little	0	1	1	0	1
Shag, Spotted	6	1	0	7	7
Shag, Pitt Island	2	0	2	0	2
Heron, White-faced	3	1	1	3	4
Heron, Great White	0	1	1	0	1
Bittern, Australasian	0	1	0	1	1
Spoonbill, Royal	2	0	0	2	2
Mallard	15	13	27	1	28
Duck, Grey	2	0	2	0	2
Teal, Grey	0	1	1	0	1
Teal, Brown	11	39	15	35	50
Harrier, Australasian	67	28	46	49	95
Falcon, New Zealand	8	8	0	16	16
Quail, Brown	1	1	0	2	2
Pheasant	4	3	4	3	7
Rail, Banded	0	5	4	1	5
Weka	2	1	3	0	3
Pukeko	0	3	1	2	3
Oystercatcher, Pied	5	0	1	4	5
Oystercatcher, Variable	2	0	2	0	2
Stilt, Pied	7	27	0	34	34
Stilt, Black	5	4	0	9	9
Pratincole, Oriental	0	2	0	2	2
Dotterel, New Zealand	6	13	1	18	19
Dotterel, Banded	23	43	0	66	66
Plover, Shore	8	23	0	31	31
Wrybill	9	34	1	42	43
Plover, Pacific Golden	20	47	0	67	67
Plover, Spur-winged	1	14	0	15	15
Turnstone	11	18	0	29	29
Knot, Lesser	9	49	1	57	58
Sanderling	2	0	0	2	2
Sandpiper, Curlew	2	4	0	6	6
Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed	1	9	0	10	10

Sandpiper, Pectoral	4	12	0	16	16
Stint, Red-necked	2	12	0	14	14
Curlew, Eastern	2	1	0	3	3
Whimbrel	1	3	0	4	4
Whimbrel, Little	3	2	0	5	5
Curlew, Bristle-thighed	0	3	0	3	3
Godwit, Bar-tailed	13	72	1	84	85
Godwit, Black-tailed	0	1	0	1	1
Godwit, Hudsonian	0	3	0	3	3
Tattler, Wandering	2	8	0	10	10
Tattler, Siberian	1	0	1	0	1
Phalarope, Grey	0	1	0	1	1
Skua, Brown	1	0	0	1	1
Skua, Arctic	2	0	0	2	2
Skua, Long-tailed	2	0	0	2	2
Gull, Black-backed	17	3	2	18	20
Gull, Red-billed	47	1	37	11	48
Gull, Black-billed	4	1	2	3	5
Tern, White-winged Black	2	0	0	2	2
Tern, Black-fronted	27	110	133	4	137
Tern, Caspian	2	0	0	2	2
Tern, White-fronted	13	7	4	16	20
Tern, Sooty	1	0	0	1	1
Tern, Fairy	1	0	0	1	1
Tern, Little	2	0	0	2	2
Noddy, White-capped	1	0	0	1	1
Tern, White	2	0	0	2	2
Pigeon, Rock	47	12	53	6	59
Pigeon, New Zealand	38	5	9	34	43
Dove, Spotted	6	0	3	3	6
Kakapo	1	0	1	0	1
Kaka	14	76	76	14	90
Kea	1	0	0	1	1
Rosella, Eastern	1	3	0	4	4
Parakeet, Red-crowned	5	2	6	1	7
Parakeet, Yellow-crowned	1	1	0	2	2
Cuckoo, Oriental	1	1	0	2	2
Cuckoo, Pallid	0	1	0	1	1
Cuckoo, Shining	0	14	6	8	14
Cuckoo, Long-tailed	0	7	2	5	7
Morepork	2	11	3	10	13
Owl, Little	1	0	0	1	1
Kingfisher, New Zealand	13	13	15	11	26
Swallow, Welcome	3	3	3	3	6
Pipit, New Zealand	0	1	0	1	1
Dunnock	32	75	105	2	107

Blackbird	53	89	130	12	142
Thrush, Song	25	63	79	9	88
Fernbird	1	0	0	1	1
Whitehead	9	0	9	0	9
Creeper, Brown	1	6	7	0	7
Warbler, Grey	33	42	74	1	75
Fantail	28	63	88	3	91
Tomtit	27	40	67	0	67
Robin	20	30	48	2	50
Silvereve	536	575	1097	14	1111
Stitchbird	25	7	32	0	32
Bellbird	30	28	58	0	58
Tui	10	18	21	7	28
Yellowhammer	12	278	289	1	290
Bunting, Cirl	7	17	24	0	24
Chaffinch	65	134	197	2	199
Greenfinch	127	248	372	3	375
Goldfinch	100	355	444	11	455
Redpoll	45	275	320	0	320
Sparrow, House	468	218	682	4	686
Starling	30	31	53	8	61
Myna, Common	17	0	2	15	17
Saddleback	3	2	2	3	5
Magpie, Australian	48	6	44	10	54
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2348</b>	<b>3581</b>	<b>4739</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>5929</b>

There are many opportunities for anyone handling birds to contribute to the Moulting Recording Scheme – e.g. banders, beach patrollers, or postgraduate researchers. Remember that you can record useful moulting information on birds at any time of year - and potentially from every bird you handle (live or dead). Records for non-moulting birds include both those in old plumage (worn and faded) and those in new plumage (fresh without wear) and the state of plumage ('old' or 'new') needs to be stated on the moulting card or record form. For many native species, especially endemics, we still have little systematic documentation of moulting patterns, so as much moulting information as possible is needed on them - complete the whole moulting card if you can. If time does not allow, concentrate on wing and tail moulting scores, or just primary moulting. Primary moulting scores are important measures of the timing and progress of moulting. I encourage banders to record primary moulting scores routinely and to submit them annually on an Excel spreadsheet, as was done so usefully by Mike Bell and his team. If you run low on moulting card supplies, submitting photocopies of the cards and forms is fine. You can download PDF files of the moulting card, non-moulting form and some recent reports from the website (<http://osnz.org.nz/moulting-recording-scheme>). Alternatively, email me ([ben.bell@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:ben.bell@vuw.ac.nz)) or contact your Regional Representative. I look forward to receiving moulting records from you over the forthcoming year.