

A flock of riverine birds, possibly sandpeps, is shown in flight against a solid grey background. The birds are white with brown and black markings on their wings and heads. They are scattered across the frame, with some in the foreground and others further back, creating a sense of movement.

Change in the threat status of riverine birds

Colin O'Donnell
Department of Conservation
codonnell@doc.govt.nz

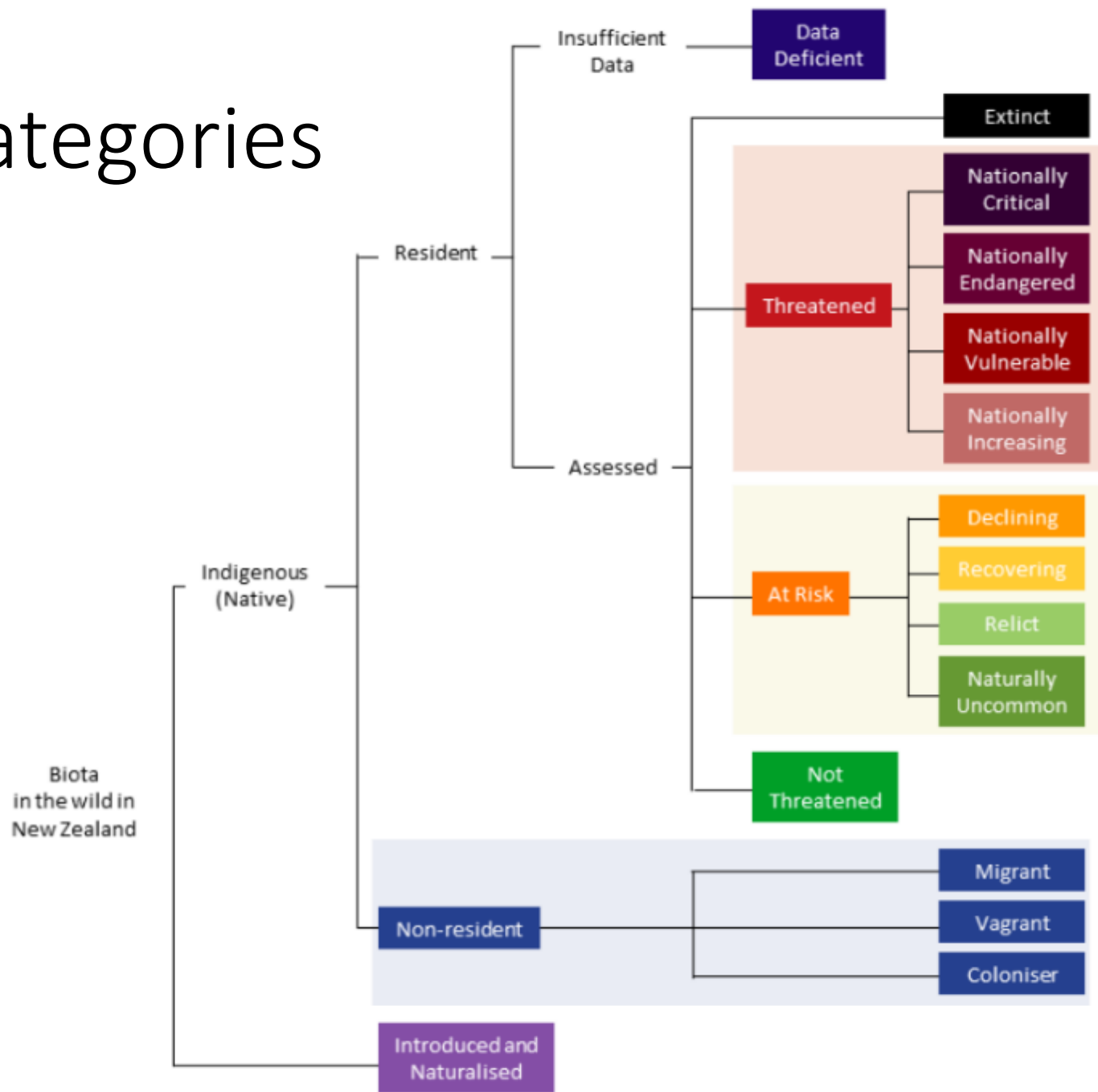
Threat Classification System (NZTCS)

- Assesses conservation status of groups of plants, animals and fungi
- Administered by the Department of Conservation
- Rules-based approach to assess the risk of extinction based on estimates of population size and trend projected over three generations
- Assessments every 5 years
- Public submissions (3 months)

<https://nztcs.org.nz/>

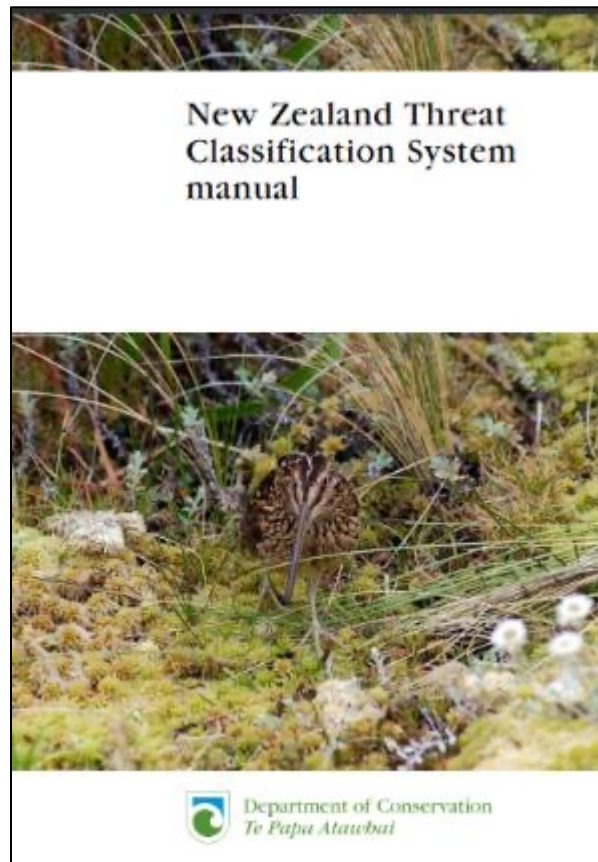


Threat Categories



NZTCS guidelines

- <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/science-publications/conservation-publications/nz-threat-classification-system/>



Critical information:
predicted rates of decline (next 3 generations) &
population size

TOTAL POPULATION TREND*	TOTAL NUMBER OF MATURE INDIVIDUALS					
	< 250	250- 1000	1000- 5000	5000- 20 000	20 000- 100 000	> 100 000
> 10% increase	NC	NV/ NU	NU/ Rec	NU/ Rec	NT/ NU _{RR} / Rel	
Stable (± 10%)		NE/ NU	NV/ NU	NU/ Rel		
10-30% decline		NE		Dec		
30-50% decline						
50-70% decline		NE				
> 70% decline						

Birds reassessed 2021

- Panel of 12 experts
- From Government, external agencies, private consultancies



Image: Liz Brown

Example: kakī/black stilt

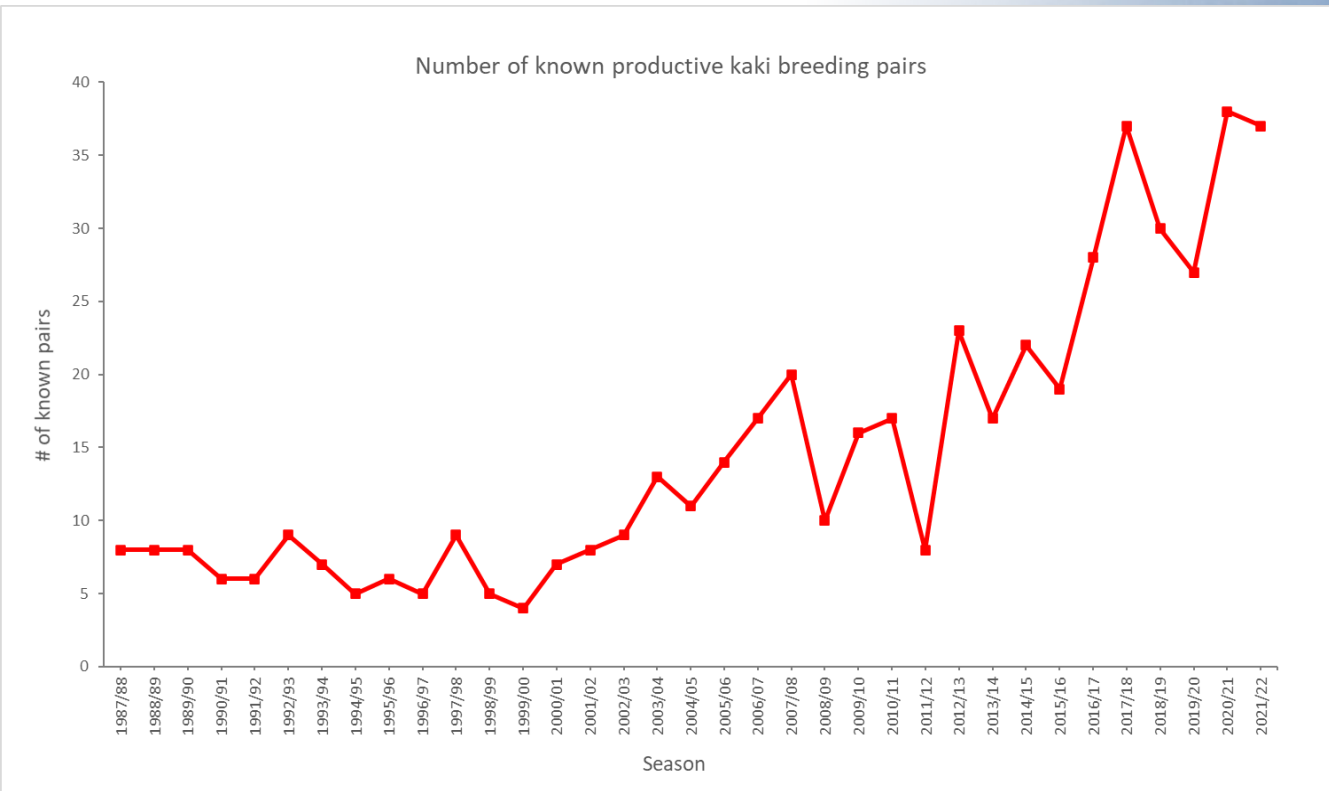


Image: Liz Brown



Species Details

Taxonomy

Hierarchy [Himantopus](#) / [Recurvirostridae](#) / [Charadriiformes](#) / [Aves](#) / [Chordata](#) / [Animalia](#)

Species Type **Bird**

Formal Name

Name and Authority ***Himantopus novaezelandiae* Gould, 1841**

Scientific Name ***Himantopus novaezelandiae***

Genus **Himantopus**

Species Epithet **novaezelandiae**

Trinomial Type

Trinomial Epithet

Naming Authority **Gould, 1841**

Taxonomic Status **Taxonomically Determinate**

Related Assessments

Report Name	Conservation Status	Year Published	Report Status
Birds 2002 from Hitchmough 2002 <i>Himantopus novaezelandiae</i> Gould, 1841	Nationally Critical	2002	PUBLISHED ARCHIVED
Birds 2005 (Hitchmough et al. 2007) <i>Himantopus novaezelandiae</i> Gould, 1841	Nationally Critical	2007	PUBLISHED ARCHIVED
Birds 2008: (Miskelly et al. 2008) <i>Himantopus novaezelandiae</i> Gould, 1841	Nationally Critical	2008	PUBLISHED ARCHIVED
Birds 2012: (Robertson et al. 2013) <i>Himantopus novaezelandiae</i> Gould, 1841	Nationally Critical	2013	PUBLISHED ARCHIVED
Birds 2016 (Robertson et al. 2017) <i>Himantopus novaezelandiae</i> Gould	Nationally Critical	2017	PUBLISHED ARCHIVED

Selected Assessment

2021

Species Name *Himantopus novaezelandiae* Gould, 1841

NZOR

Edit Status

PUBLISHED

Report

Birds 2021 (Robertson et al. 2021)

Population State

unnatural

Population Trend

STABLE +/-10% over 15 years (Medium confidence)

Population Size

MATIND<250 (High confidence)

**Conservation
Status**

Nationally Critical

Umbrella Category

Threatened

Criteria

A(1)

Status Change

No change

Assessment History

2021

2016

2012

2008

2005

2002

Species Name

Himantopus novaezelandiae Gould, 1841

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Edit Status

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Umbrella Category

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Criteria

A(1)

Status Change

No change

Changes: Nationally Critical species

Common name	Threat Status 2016	Threat Status 2021	
Kōtuku/white heron	Nationally Critical	Nationally Critical	Same
Matuku/Australasian bittern	Nationally Critical	Nationally Critical	Same
Pārera/grey duck	Nationally Critical	Nationally Vulnerable	Better
Tarāpuka/black-billed gull	Nationally Critical	Declining	Better
Kakī/black stilt	Nationally Critical	Nationally Critical	Same

Change in status: black-billed gull

- At Risk Declining

Status Change

Change Reason

Qualifiers

Notes

Better

More knowledge

Climate Impact Conservation Research needed

Recruitment Failure

New aerial surveys in 2014/15 to 2016/17 (Mischler 2018) found more black-billed gulls than expected (60,256 nests in 2016/17).

Historical data might have overestimated numbers of breeding birds and magnitude of reported declines. Mischler (2018) suggests that population might be stable but confidence is low and recommends a census in 10 years to confirm this trend.

Riverbed habitats continue to experience threats and some level of decline continues to be reported, particularly in its South Island population (Walker and Monks 2020). Thus, the population of black-billed gull is assessed with a decline of 10-30%.

(Database extract)



Image: Peter Langlands

Change in status: black-billed gull

- At Risk Declining

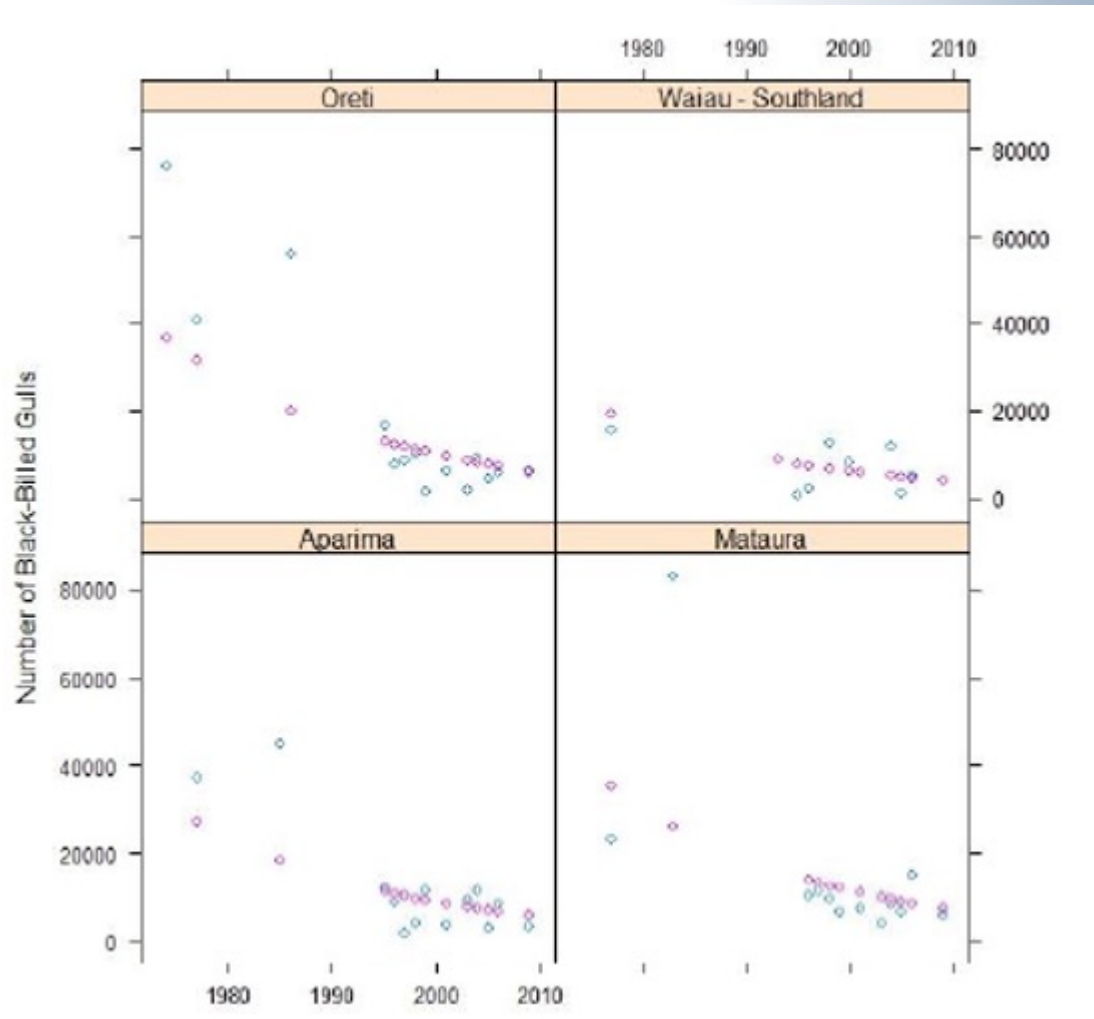


Image: Peter Langlands

Change in status: grey duck

- Nationally Vulnerable

Status Change

Better

Change Reason

More knowledge

Qualifiers

Conservation Research needed Data Poor: Recognition

Data Poor: Size Data Poor: Trend Secure Overseas

Notes

High level of hybridization with mallard has impacted the genetic 'purity' of the grey duck. Migration from Australia and isolated populations suggest pure grey duck are still present in New Zealand. However, nuclear DNA study is required to ascertain the genetic 'purity' of observed grey duck (Williams 2017, 2019). Recent observations suggest ongoing segregation of grey duck populations in areas like Northland and West Coast from widespread grey/mallard hybrid population; this will have decreased the rate of introgression of mallard genes.



Image: Colin O'Donnell

No changes: Nationally Endangered species

Common name	Threat Status 2016	Threat Status 2021	
Tarapirohe/black-fronted tern	Nationally Endangered	Nationally Endangered	Same

Population Trend

DEC 50-70% over 33 years *(Medium confidence)*

Population Size

MATIND=1000-5000 *(Medium confidence)*

Image: Jack van Hal

Changes: Nationally Vulnerable species

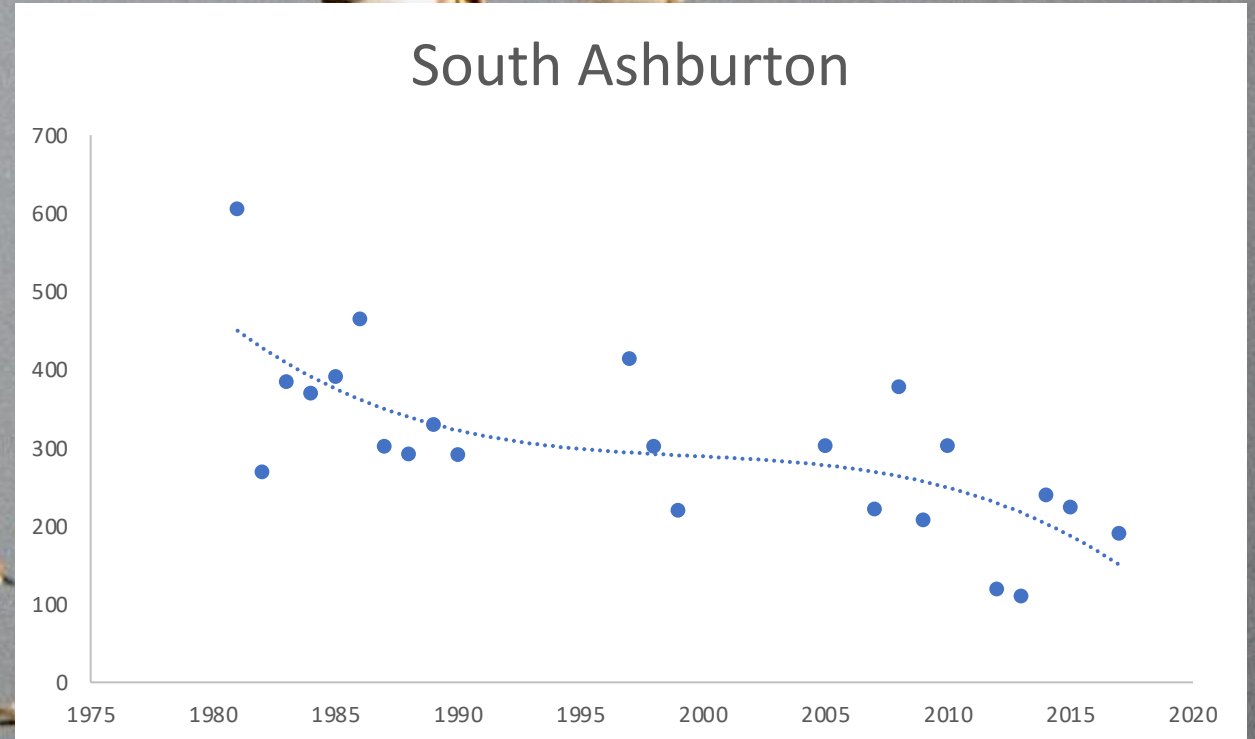
Common name	Threat Status 2016	Threat Status 2021	
Tūturiwhatu/banded dotterel	Nationally Vulnerable	Declining	Better
Taranui/Caspian tern	Nationally Vulnerable	Nationally Vulnerable	Same
Whio/blue duck	Nationally Vulnerable	Nationally Vulnerable	Same
Ngutu parore/wrybill	Nationally Vulnerable	Nationally Increasing	Better

Banded dotterel
changes reflect
uncertainty about:

- Rate of decline in coastal versus riverbed dotterels
- Overall population size (mature individuals)
- Generation time

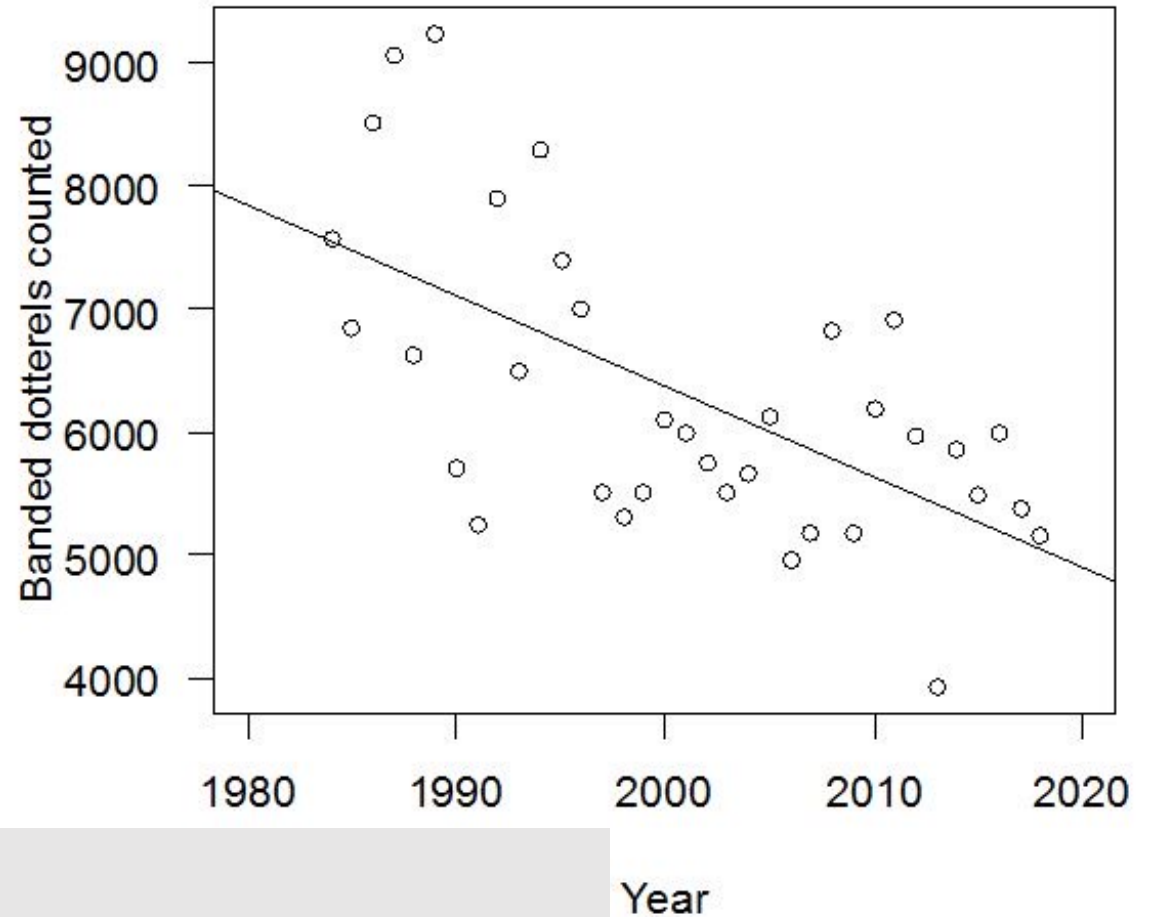


Estimated rates of decline – Braided rivers



- Estimated for 33 rivers
- Overall average = -3.7% pa
- Decline of 43% over 3 generations (if generation time = 5 years) (=NV)

Estimated rates of decline – National wader count



- Overall average = -1% pa
- Decline of 14% over 3 generations (=Declining)



Image: Glenn Hoyer

Wrybill – Nationally Increasing

- New ‘Threatened’ category
- Reflects that population increasing
- National wader counts 2020 data shows a 22% increase over 3 generations (24 years)
- But still <5000, so vulnerable to sudden change
- And last 2 annual counts very low – so still need to keep a close eye on status

Changes: At-Risk species

Common name	Threat Status 2016	Threat Status 2021	
Pīhoihoi/NZ pipit	Declining	Declining	Same
Tōrea/SI pied oystercatcher	Declining	Declining	Same
Tarāpunga/red-billed gull	Declining	Declining	Same
Tara/white-fronted tern	Declining	Declining	Same
Kāruhiruhi/pied shag	Recovering	Recovering	Same
Tōrea pango/variable oystercatcher	Recovering	Recovering	Same
Black-fronted dotterel	Naturally Uncommon	Naturally Uncommon	Same
Māpanga/black-shag	Naturally Uncommon	Relict	Worse
Kawaupaka/little shag	Naturally Uncommon	Relict	Worse
Royal spoonbill	Naturally Uncommon	Naturally Uncommon	Same

No change: Not Threatened species

Common name	Threat Status 2016	Threat Status 2021	
Grey teal	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Same
Australasian shoveler	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Same
NZ scaup	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Same
Australasian harrier	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Same
white-faced heron	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Same
pied stilt	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Same
welcome swallow	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Same
s. black-backed gull	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Same
paradise shelduck	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Same
NZ kingfisher	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Same
spur-winged plover	Not Threatened	Not Threatened	Same

Conclusions

- Recent changes a result of better information on population size and trend, rather than real changes in trend
- However, generally low-medium confidence in:
 - Actual trends
 - Longevity and generation times
- Reviews every 5 years could change these - so strong need to grow our knowledge
- ***All Threatened and At-Risk species have extinction profiles –*** so all need for protection and more conservation management

NZTCS Resources

- Web site <https://nztcs.org.nz/>
- Publications
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/science-publications/conservation-publications/nz-threat-classification-system/>
- Latest bird assessment
- <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/nztcs36entire.pdf>

