

18 December 2023

Radio New Zealand

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 20 November 2023 in which you asked the following:

I am just getting in touch with regard to a number of stories that have run recently about native animals being shot on purpose by people.

I was wondering if I could request the number of native birds DOC have recorded being shot by people over the last five years.

I would also like to know what the breakdown of each bird was.

I was hoping that DOC may have this data readily available but if not please treat this request as an OIA.

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The Department records compliance and enforcement matters in our CLE database which launched in 2020. Prior to that, compliance data was not centrally stored and cannot be reliably reported on. For that reason, we have prepared a response using the information available to us, from late 2020 to 2023. For clarity, information prior to this date is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as it would require substantial research and collation to prepare.

Please note this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Department's website. You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

Nāku noa, nā

Rachael Jordan
Principal Advisor Regulatory Services
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Appendix A – Total number of native birds shot between 2020 and 2023

Bird type	2023	2022	2021	2020 (note part year only)	Total
Australasian bittern/matuku-hūrepo	1				1
Australasian gannet/Tākapu	1				1
Black billed gull/tarāpuka	1	1			2
Kākā			1		1
Kea		1	8		9
Kiwi		1			1
Kōtuku/White heron		1			1
Morepork/ruru			1		1
New Zealand falcon/kārearea	1	2			3
New Zealand pigeon / kererū / kūkū / kūkupa		1	1	1	3
New Zealand scaup/Pāpango		2			2
Paradise duck / pūtakitaki / pūtangitangi		1			1
Red-billed Gull/Tarāpunga	6	8	5		19
Tūī	3	1	5		9
Variable oystercatcher/tōrea pango	2		1		3
Not recorded/Unknown species		1			1
ALL SPECIES	15	20	22	1	58