

Road kill of native birds

Impacts & Factors

Larger native birds are recorded in road-kill studies.

- 'Road kill is the most visible impact of roads on birds.
- This poster identifies some of these birds and explains why they are vulnerable.
- Smaller birds are 'missed' because they are not easily seen, and are removed quickly by scavengers.

Brown Kiwi (SI and NI)



Roads separate habitat



Pūkeko



Mowing creates verge foraging

Roads separate habitat

Scavenging road-kill

Shags / Cormorants



Roads disrupt roosting sites

Bridges cross flight paths

Kororā



Roads separate breeding and feeding grounds



Petrels



Street lights confuse flight paths



Weka



Roadsides are habitat



Scavenging road-kill



Kāhu



Scavenging road-kill

Tarāpunga



Roads disrupt roosting sites

- Greater Risk Times
- Roading Impacts
- Main Highways

Bird Behaviour Factors Key

- Nocturnal
- Fear Freeze
- Flightless
- Flies along rivers
- Roosts over water
- Walk
- Rabbit density
- Attracted to light
- Attracted to food
- Roosts at high-tide

Mitigation

Pūkeko and Kāhu – Harrier hawks are the most common native roadkill in some areas; however, both are common and their deaths from roadkill are only likely to significantly affect very localised populations. Both birds are predators of other native bird species, as are black-backed gulls.

Shags / Cormorants

Mitigation at bridges that cut flight paths, and where roadsides are roosting sites.

Weka

Use fences to prevent weka crossing roads at high-kill sites such as intersections. Reduce spring speed limits.

Brown Kiwi [SI and NI]

Reduce night speed limits. Use fences to prevent kiwi crossing roads.

Pāteke Brown Teal

Remove roadside drains and puddles that attract pāteke. Reduce night speed limits and install warning signs and underpasses.

Kororā Little Blue Penguin

Install underpasses and/or install exclusion fences. Create suitable breeding habitat on the safe side of the road.

Pūkeko

Reduce mown roadside strip and create a barrier of taller rushes adjacent to road.

Petrels

Use shielded street lights that can be dimmed when birds are flying and replace lights with alternative road delineation methods that respond to car headlights.

Kāhu Harrier Hawks

Place road-kill off the road, early in the morning.

Tarāpunga Red-Billed Gulls

Retain roosting sites and create safe roosting sites away from traffic.

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Caution at night

Threat Risk Status

- Nationally Vulnerable or At Risk
- Recovering or Naturally Uncommon
- Not Threatened

These rankings are synthesised from Robertson *et al.* 2016. Conservation Status of New Zealand Birds, 2016. <https://www.doc.govt.nz/documents/science-and-technical/nztcsl9entire.pdf>. Many petrels are classified as 'relict'. The two species identified on the map are Hutton's shearwater (Punakaiki) – nationally vulnerable and Westland petrel – naturally uncommon; North Island kiwi – at risk; South Island kiwi – nationally vulnerable.