Otatara Landcare Group AGM 2024

Bush Haven Report

In the year to end March 2024, we received 24 (34) kereru, 14 (12) tui, two bellbirds and one kingfisher, with the following outcomes:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | total in | euthanased | DOA | died in care | released | as % |
| Kereru | 24 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 42% |
| Tui | 14 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 50% |
| Bellbirds | 2 |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |
| Kingfisher | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |  |

13 of the 24 kereru came from Otatara. 14 of all birds were definite window strikes, 8 of which were injured beyond repair and either died soon after arrival or were euthanased. 5 kereru were found huddled on the ground very thin and at least 3 of those starving. All 5 were eventually released with very good weight gain. Another 5 birds were on the ground for unknown reasons and of those 3 had been attacked by cats and had open fractures which are unsustainable.

It was a sad year seeing so many beautiful healthy kereru injured so badly.

Because we also had a rush of baby tui we were quite thoroughly nailed to hourly feeds throughout December into March and vowed ”never again”. Thanks to Douglas for tireless help. Our new helper Jo Cockroft has now taken over the small bird care of tuis, bellbirds etc. Jo is planning to eventually take over from us with all the birds.

We have recently reviewed the number of kereru brought to us from Otatara over the past five years and the incidence of window strike, with results as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Season | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
| Otatara total | 20 | 9 | 10 | 22 | 13 |
| window strike | 12 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 8 |

Note that the window strike actual numbers may be higher than those reported, as the cause of several injuries are recorded as unknown.

We ran a “Kereru Alert” feature in Pigeon Post in Autumn 2021 near the start of the 2021/22 season, but it is not clear if it has had any real impact on the incidence of window strike (or the total number of kereru injured) in Otatara since then, unfortunately.

Last May we rehydrated some sooty shearwaters found lying on Oreti Beach and released them at Whalers Bay when they regained strength. This year we had a plan which you will read about in the next Pigeon Post. Avian flu fortunately is not a thing yet so we were free to help these lovely birds.

Kathy Morrison.