

# Northland Annual Kiwi Call Count Survey: Instructions for Listeners



## Purpose

Counting the number of kiwi calls is simple but effective way of monitoring kiwi.

When calls are monitored in the same place over several years, it helps build a picture of what is happening with kiwi numbers and distribution – are you hearing more, fewer or the same number of birds? Are they in the same places, a smaller area, or has the population expanded over more ground?

When a kiwi population is being managed, the call count results should show the benefits.

Kiwi Call Count Survey's have been carried out in Northland each year for the past 15 years. The data you collect during your kiwi listening is important for your own group/project's monitoring, and also contributes to the regional knowledge of how Northland brown kiwi are doing.

## How to do the Kiwi Call Count Survey

1. **Establish a good listening site** that you are committed to listening to for the next 5 - 10 years in order to monitor the success of kiwi recovery for your group/project.

Good spots are:

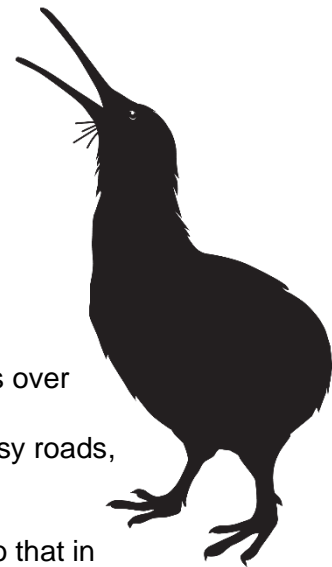
- Easy and safe to get to in the dark
- Have wide listening coverage (ie you can hear calls over a big area)
- Have little noise disturbance from (ie away from busy roads, talking people, crashing waves)
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Use a GPS to mark the location of your listening site and map it so that in the event you cannot continue to be the listener at that site, others can easily find it and continue the monitoring.

If your site is not on your own land please check each year with the landowner or land manager and ensure they are happy for you to be on site. Ask for any information or health and safety updates that will help you understand what is going on at the site and hazards that may have emerged since you were last there.

It's a good idea to go and check your site during the day prior to the listening period each year. Check it is still accessible and safe to get to. Figure out where you will sit to get the best listening coverage. If your site is in the bush, use pegs with some reflective tape, and attach these to the trees along the way to help you find your way out on your return (Get in touch with Ngaire if you need more info on this: [ngaire@kiwicoast.org.nz](mailto:ngaire@kiwicoast.org.nz)).

2. **Check the dates** of the two Official Listening Windows set by DOC (these will be on the Kiwi Coast Events Calendar ([www.kiwicoast.org.nz](http://www.kiwicoast.org.nz))). Keep as many nights clear in your diary as you can – the weather is very unpredictable at this time of the year and most listeners find they are hard pressed to complete the four nights in the first window.



3. [Download the Kiwi Coast Listening App, sign up and get approved access](#) or print off the official [Kiwi Call Count Survey Card](#).
4. **Listen** 4 nights X 2 hours, approx 6pm to 8pm. Only listen if the conditions allow – no point listening during bad weather.
5. **If in doubt about your hearing get someone to give you a hand/ear**, - if you are unsure please ask. The Kiwi Coast website has the kiwi calls and other birds you may hear at night [here](#).
6. **What You Will Need**
  - Fully charged phone
  - Torch/headlamp and spare batteries
  - Warm clothes, something to sit on, food + drink
  - Be sure that someone knows where you are going and when you expect to return.
7. **When you get on site begin filling in your site info** with the date, weather, etc and get an eye in for distances and terrain. Settle in and get comfortable!
8. **Record data for for each night you listen**. Be as accurate as you can and fill out all the fields otherwise the data may be discarded by DOC
9. **Keep a copy** of your data before sending it to DOC.
10. **Share your data with DOC so it can be included in the Northland Annual Kiwi Call Count Report**.
11. **Be safe** – use a buddy system so someone knows when you are going kiwi listening, where you are going, and when you have returned safely. And take a back up torch and/or spare batteries!!

**Who to contact for Kiwi Listening Support in Your Area:**

**Overall Northland Kiwi Call Count Survey Coordinator:**  
Department of Conservation: Ayla Wiles

**Northland Regional Council:** Rolf Fuchs or Pete Graham

**Kiwi Coast: Ngaire Sullivan** [ngaire@kiwicoast.org.nz](mailto:ngaire@kiwicoast.org.nz)  
**Mid North: Andrew Mentor:** [andrew@kiwicoast.org.nz](mailto:andrew@kiwicoast.org.nz)  
**Far North: Lesley Baigent:** [lesley@kiwicoast.org.nz](mailto:lesley@kiwicoast.org.nz)

**DOC Bay of Islands:** Cinzia Vestena

**Community Coordinators:**

Todd Hamilton – Whangarei Heads

Phillip Saunders – Waimate North