

The effects of a La Niña summer on the breeding success of Australasian gannets (*Sula serrator*) at Cape Kidnappers

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A significant La Niña pattern developed during the summer of 1999/2000, and we studied the effects of this condition on the breeding biology of Australasian gannets (*Sula serrator*) at Cape Kidnappers. The Australasian gannet population has been increasing in New Zealand since the start of the century, with the first accurate census estimating around 21000 breeding pairs in 1946/47. The population had increased to an estimated 46000 breeding pairs in 1980/81, an increase of around 2.3% yr⁻¹. This

trend appears to have continued. However, what effect will the recent increase in the frequency and severity of El Niño and La Niña events have on this species? During the summer of 1999/2000 we collected a range of breeding data from the Cape Kidnappers colony to try and document the effects of this event on this species. Preliminary data collected on breeding success will be presented.

OSNZ Auckland Tiritiri Matangi bird population study : 14-year review

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The bird population on Tiritiri Matangi Island has been surveyed every spring and autumn since 1986 by members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand. The prime purpose of the survey work was to monitor the development of the bird populations in an environment subject to a major restoration exercise involving the extensive planting of native trees.

The survey continued as other significant environmental changes occurred on the island. These

included the successful eradication of kiore (*Rattus exulans*) - the Pacific rat - in September 1993, and the introduction of several native bird species between 1989 and 1998. The Tiritiri Matangi project has produced one of the most successful bird recovery programmes anywhere. Continuing as it has for 14 years, the OSNZ survey provides valuable data on the bird population density in these unusual and unique environmental circumstances.