



**National Council of
Women of New Zealand**

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Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to the Department of Conservation on the Discussion Document
'Review of Level of Protection for some New Zealand wild Life'**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organization representing 42 Nationally Organized Societies and national members. NCWNZ has 31 branches spread throughout the country and 150 societies who affiliate with NCWNZ. NCWNZ works to promote the interests of women and families, and to engender understanding of issues of national interest through study and discussion.

This submission is written by the Environment Standing Committee based on input from branches/ Nationally Organized societies/ members.

Introduction:

At present the Wildlife act 1953 give absolute protection to wildlife throughout New Zealand unless it is listed as one of the schedules to the act. If listed on one of the schedules, the degree of protection is limited. Some Organizations and groups such as farmers and orchard growers, think that some species should have a changed level of protection and the Department of Conservation was asked for comments specifically on each species. NCWNZ members were asked to comment on the Department's views and their responses are collated here

Specific Comments

1. CANADA GOOSE:

This bird is at present on Schedule 1, as a game bird, but a large majority of NCWNZ members thought that it should be on Schedule 5 and unprotected. Canada geese are present in large numbers in some areas, especially in the South Island, and can do a lot of damage to farers crops. Culls are costly to organize by the Fish and Game Council.

2. PEA FOWL:

This bird is at present on Schedule 3, and can only be hunted by land occupiers, or by permission of land occupiers. Some thought they should remain on Schedule 3, but the majority thought they should be Schedule 5, as pests. The birds are increasing in numbers in many areas, and can cause damage

3. SPUR WINGED PLOVER:

This bird is not listed on any schedule, so is completely protected. The majority thought it should be on Schedule 5 as a pest. Plovers are suspected of attacking new born lambs, have been seen pecking sheep on the nose when they approach a nest, they chase the Australian Harrier off its nests, chase fantails away from their nesting areas, and can create a hazard to aircraft operations.



**4 EASTERN ROSELLA:**

This is a very attractive bird and listed on Schedule 5 as a pest. It is a real problem for orchard growers and gardeners. One response asked for more research before rescheduling; otherwise opinion was divided, the majority voting for Schedule 2, partially protected, but landowners can control it. The wild birds do not make good pets.

5. AUSTRALIAN SPOONBILL:

There is a small family of eight birds along the Whanganui River. DoC does not consider these a problem. However, they are like sparrows in Australia, round all the cafes and parks. Responders were concerned regarding the effect of large numbers on native species.

6 BLACK SHAG, LITTLE SHAG, AND PIED SHAG:

Most members considered that these species should be removed from Schedule 3, and left completely protected. DoC can issue permits for control in areas where they are a problem. One branch suggested they be assigned to Schedule 2, partially protected but landowners can control.

7. AUSTRALIA HARRIER:

All responders thought this bird should be removed from Schedule 1, as a game bird, and fully protected, with the option to review if numbers increase to levels where they become a problem. The birds contribute to nutrient redistribution and are often seen cleaning up road kill and other carrion.

8 BARBARY DOVE:

All responders thought this bird should be on Schedule 5 as pests, since they are spreading fast.

9 FERAL CHICKEN:

All thought this bird should be on Schedule 5, as pests, especially with possibilities of disease involving chickens. This also aligns the status of this species with other farm escapees.

10 RAINBOW SKINK:

Responders thought this animal should be on Schedule 5 as a pest, providing that capture for sale does not increase their spreading.

11. BANJO FROG:

Responders thought this frog should go to Schedule 5 as a pest.

General comment

In the majority of responses, the main comment was that no introduced birds or animals should be allowed to threaten New Zealand native species, and that all too often a threat was not understood until too late.

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National President

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Convener Environment Standing Committee