

## **OUR NZ FAIRY TERN VOTED SEABIRD OF THE YEAR**

### **IT'S OUR TERN!**

Indeed it is our tern! We at the NZ Fairy Tern Charitable Trust are absolutely delighted that so many Kiwis have responded to the call to vote for "our tern", and made it New Zealand Seabird of the Year, winning with 1882 votes .

We'd like to thank Wade Doak for being the bird's champion, and Kristi Henare of Forest and Bird's northern branch for being joint campaign manager. Thanks too to all those who voted for our rarest bird and to Forest and Bird for running such an interesting campaign.

In many ways the success of this campaign gives recognition to the efforts of all those who work so hard for the fairy tern's survival - the Department of Conservation rangers and wardens; the volunteers who monitor the birds and trap predators and all those people who support the Trust and Forest and Bird.

While there are only 35-40 birds, including 8-10 breeding pairs, the intensive efforts put in by DoC and volunteers have paid off in recent years. Last year's tally of 12 chicks surviving to fledging was a record since the protection programme began. So far this breeding season six chicks have hatched and there are hopes for more as the season goes on.

The NZ fairy tern is a beautiful little bird, found only in New Zealand and it's wonderful that through this competition so many more people have become aware of the bird and its plight. With a concerted effort, this bird can be saved from extinction!

**You can join the Trust and help with our efforts to protect the fairy tern.**

**Go to 'The Trust' page on this website and see [Join us](#)**

- Heather Rogan

Convenor, New Zealand Fairy Tern Charitable Trust

