New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

Bioeconomy Science Institute™
Maiangi Taiao

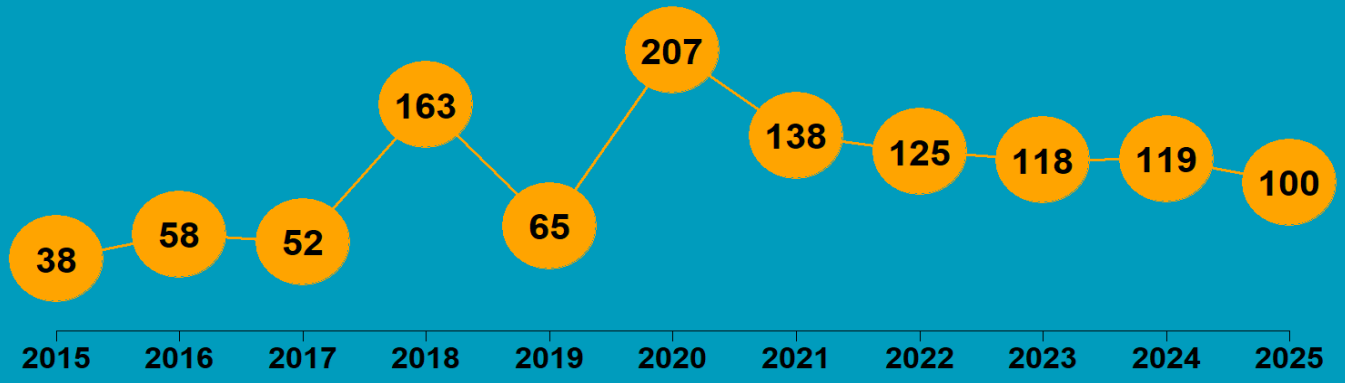
Summary report

SOUTHLAND REGION

2025 | State of NZ Garden Birds

Te Āhua o ngā Manu o te Kāri i Aotearoa

NUMBER OF SURVEYED GARDENS



New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

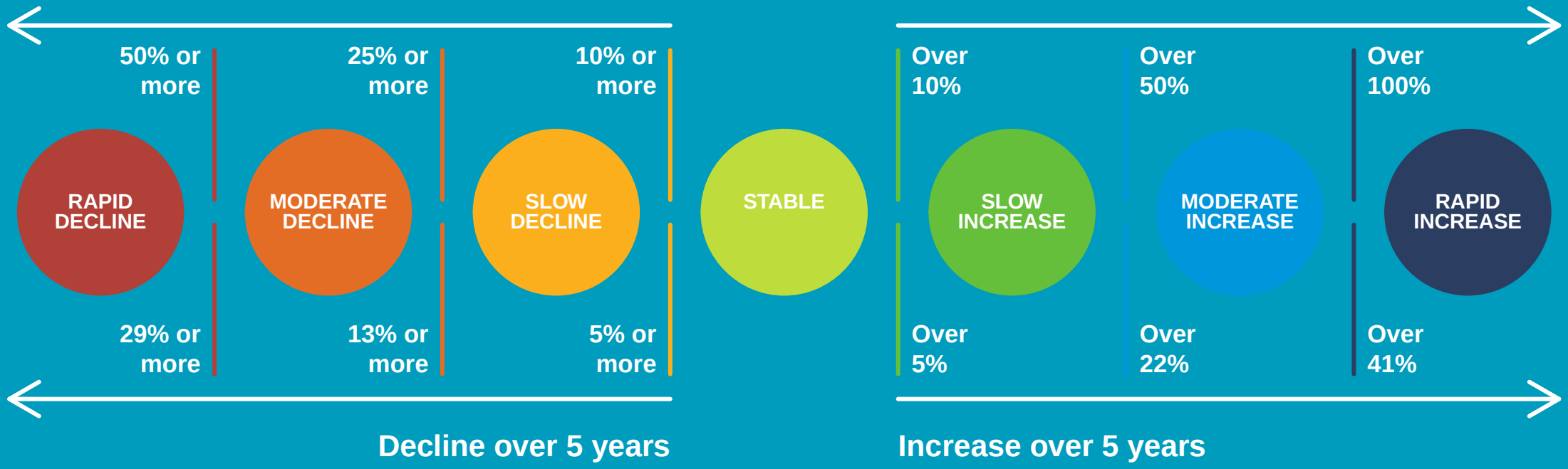
We have estimated how bird counts have changed over the last 10− and 5−year periods in different regions, districts, and neighbourhoods across New Zealand for 14 common garden visitors – five native and nine introduced birds.

Thanks to all our volunteer bird counters, 51,515 garden surveys have been completed nationwide since 2015. We use specialised statistical tools to account for variation in sampling effort between regions, districts, and suburbs over time. We also account for variation in bird counts depending on whether the surveyed gardens were in a rural or urban setting, and whether birds were fed or not. Finally, we correct for the actual number of gardens in each area.

We then classify these changes according to their direction and size (see diagram below) to help us identify changes of potential concern or interest.

How have bird counts changed?

Drawing attention to changes in counts that may be of concern or interest



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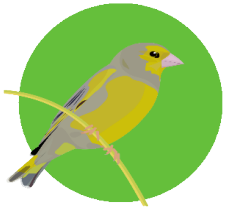
New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

SOUTHLAND | Greenfinch

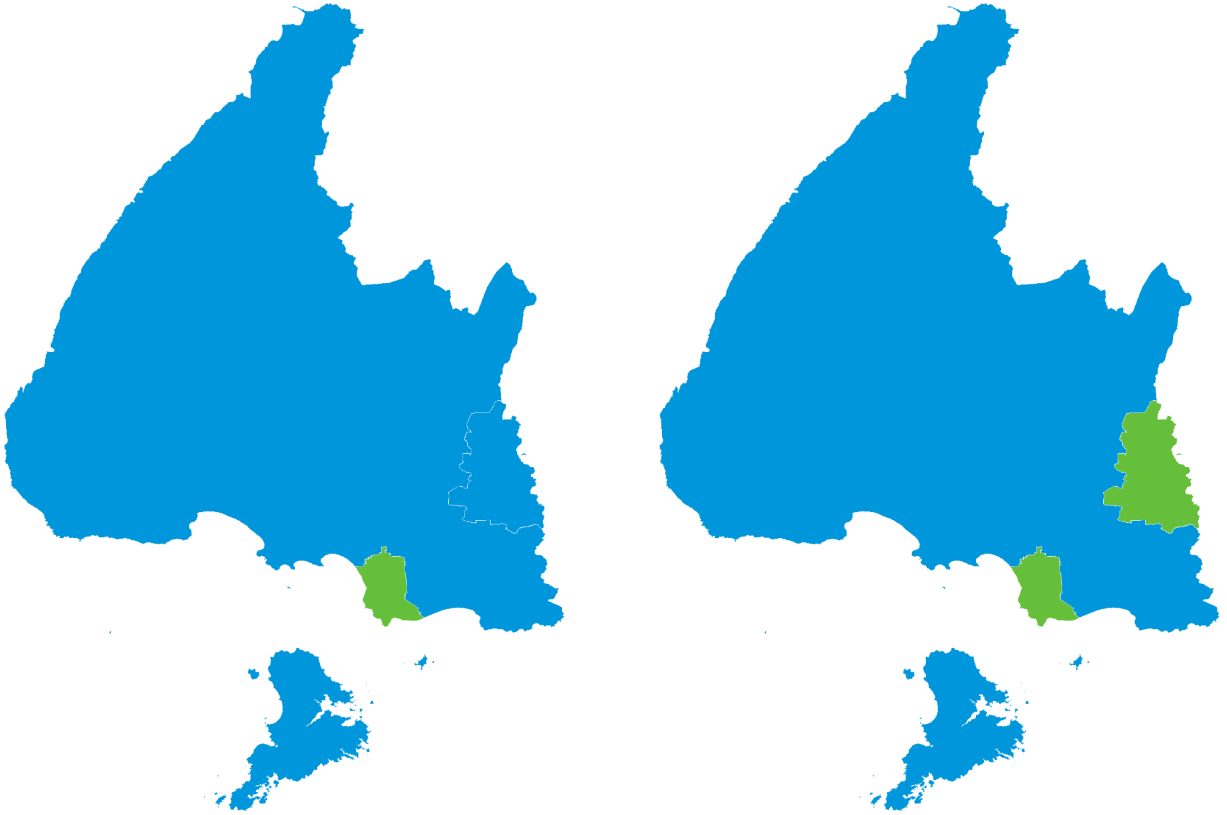
How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

Last 10 years
2015–25

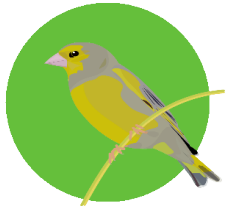
MODERATE INCREASE REGIONALLY



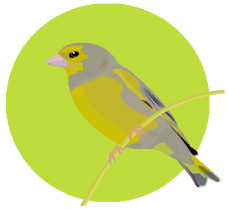
SLOW INCREASE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25



SLOW INCREASE REGIONALLY



STABLE NATIONALLY

Data source: 51,515 and 34,750 gardens surveyed nationwide for 2015–25 and 2020–25, respectively.

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New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

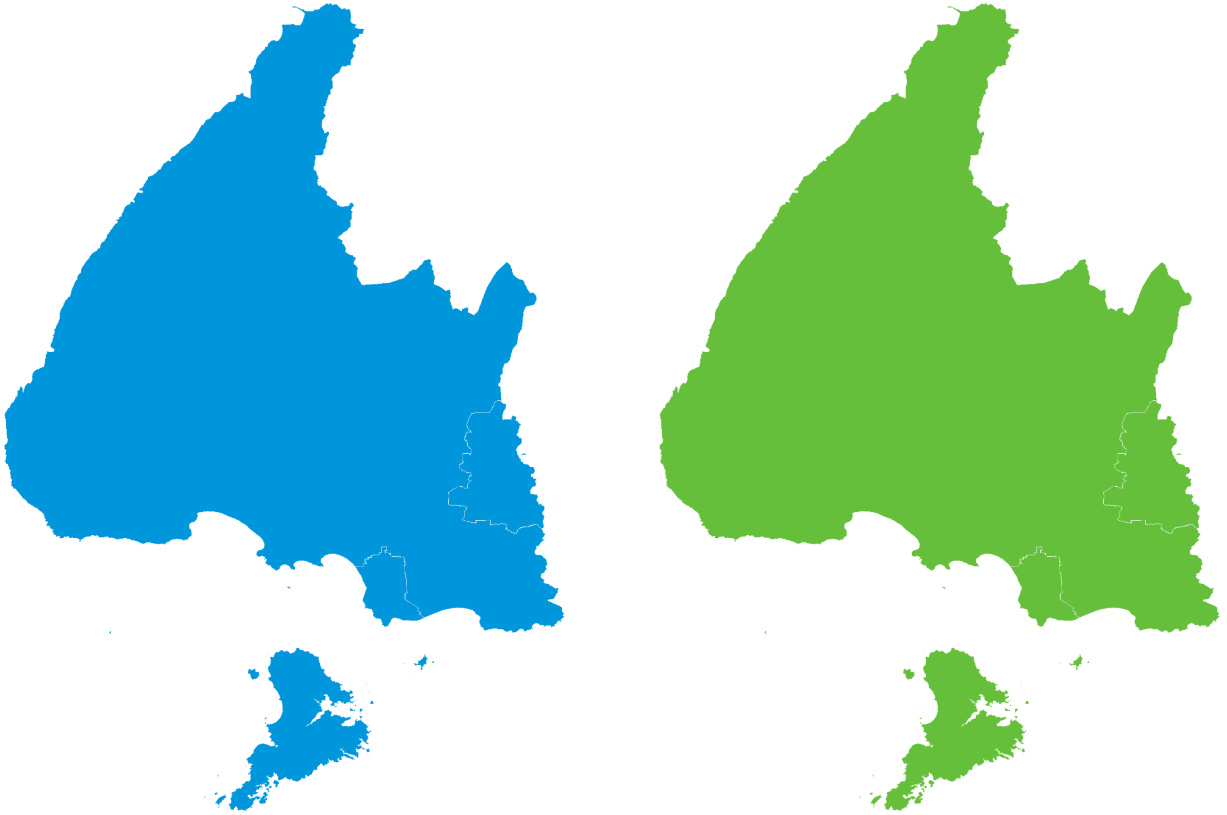
SOUTHLAND | House sparrow | Tiu

How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

Last 10 years
2015–25

MODERATE INCREASE REGIONALLY

STABLE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25

SLOW INCREASE REGIONALLY

STABLE NATIONALLY

Data source: 51,515 and 34,750 gardens surveyed nationwide for 2015–25 and 2020–25, respectively.

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New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

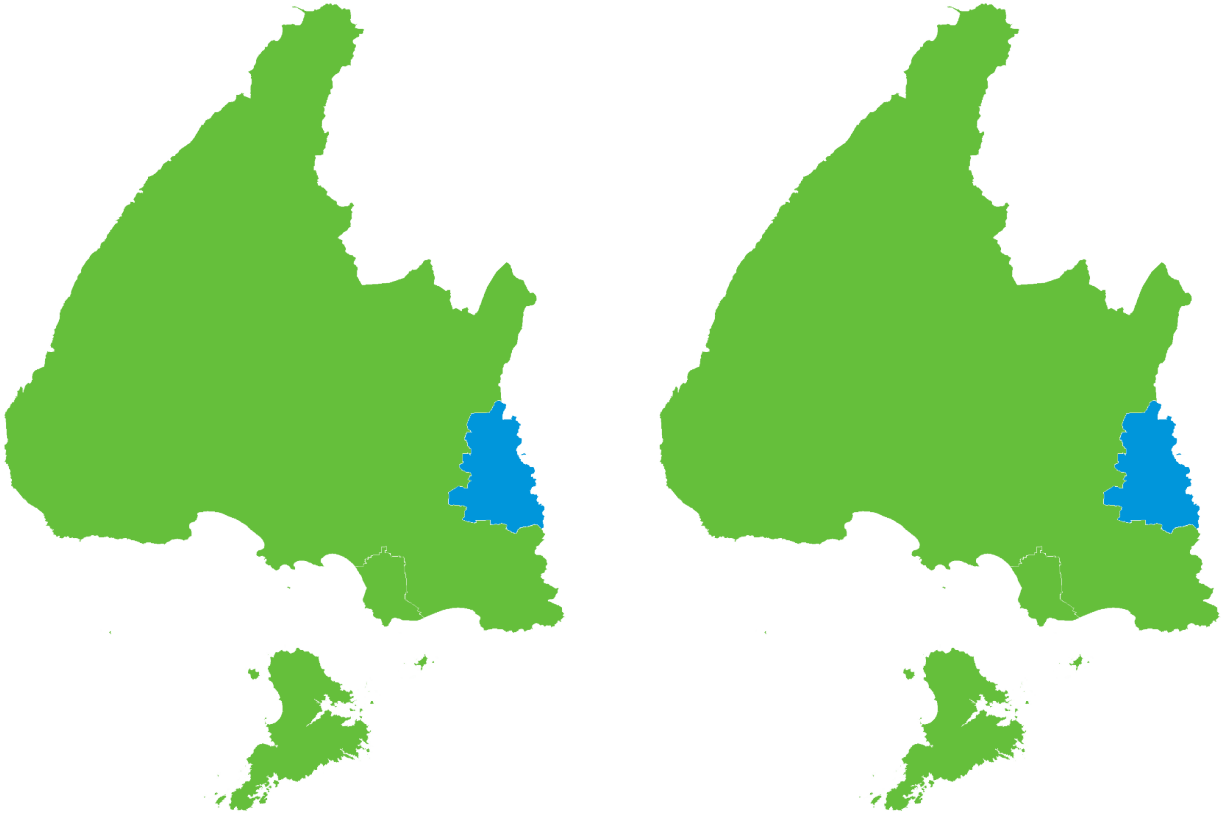
SOUTHLAND | Tūī | Kōkō

How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

Last 10 years
2015–25

SLOW INCREASE REGIONALLY

SLOW INCREASE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25

SLOW INCREASE REGIONALLY

SLOW INCREASE NATIONALLY

Data source: 51,515 and 34,750 gardens surveyed nationwide for 2015–25 and 2020–25, respectively.

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New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

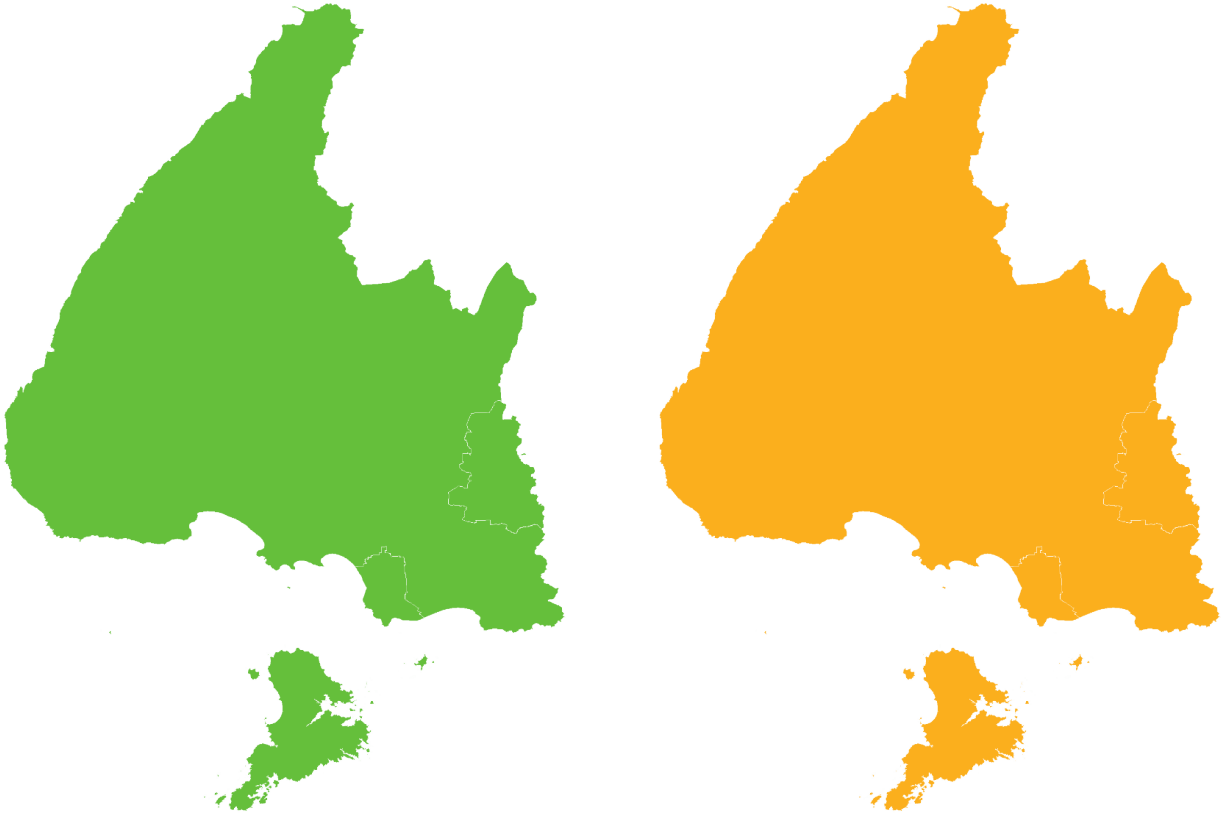
SOUTHLAND | Fantail | Pīwakawaka

How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

Last 10 years
2015–25

SLOW INCREASE REGIONALLY

SLOW INCREASE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25

SLOW DECLINE REGIONALLY

STABLE NATIONALLY

Data source: 51,515 and 34,750 gardens surveyed nationwide for 2015–25 and 2020–25, respectively.

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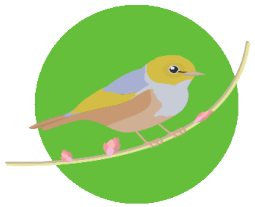
New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

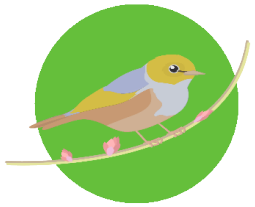
SOUTHLAND | Silvereye | Tauhou

How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

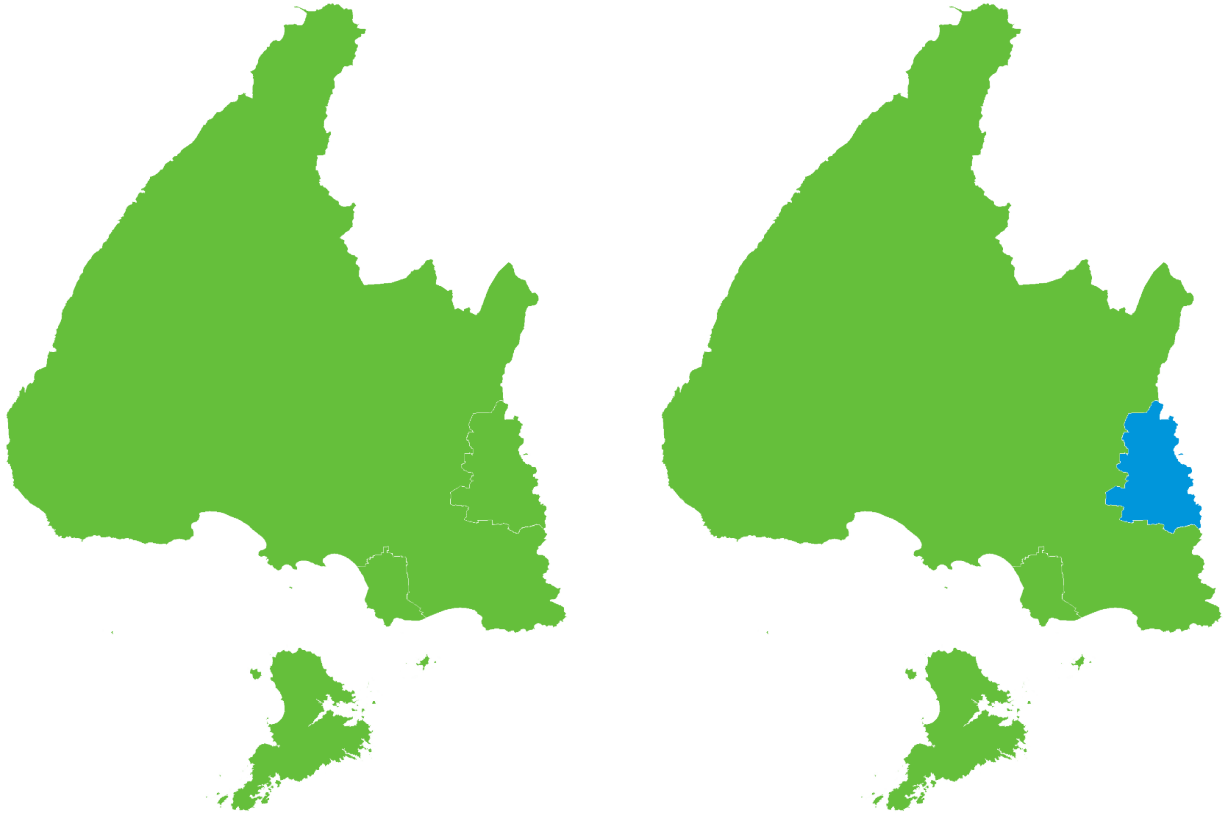
Last 10 years
2015–25



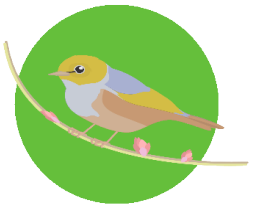
SLOW INCREASE REGIONALLY



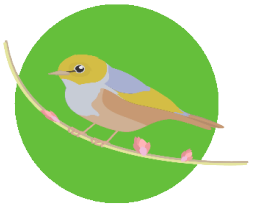
SLOW INCREASE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25



SLOW INCREASE REGIONALLY



SLOW INCREASE NATIONALLY

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New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

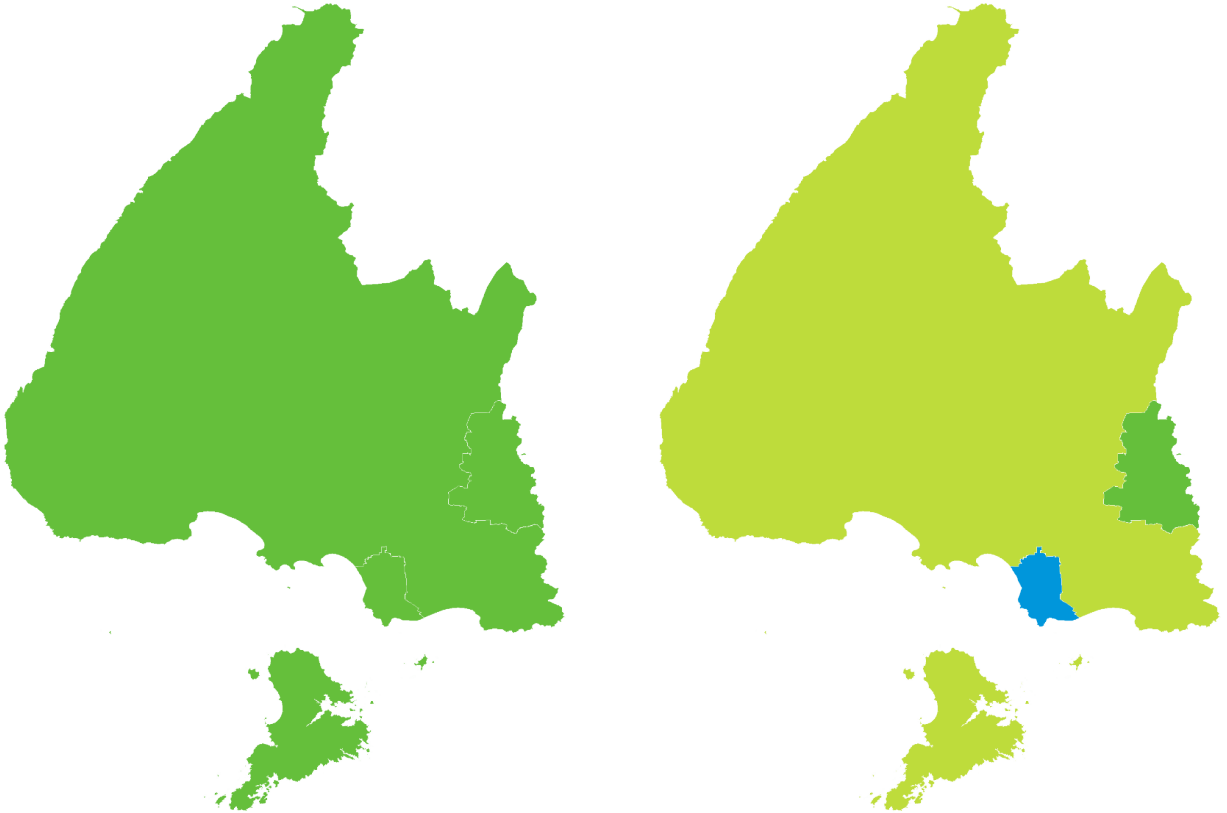
SOUTHLAND | Bellbird | Korimako

How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

Last 10 years
2015–25

SLOW INCREASE REGIONALLY

STABLE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25

SLOW INCREASE REGIONALLY

SLOW INCREASE NATIONALLY

Data source: 51,515 and 34,750 gardens surveyed nationwide for 2015–25 and 2020–25, respectively.

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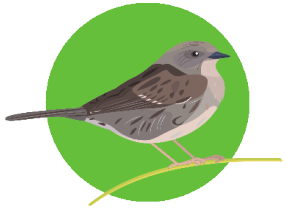
New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

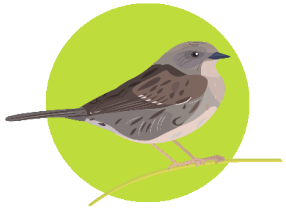
SOUTHLAND | Dunnock

How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

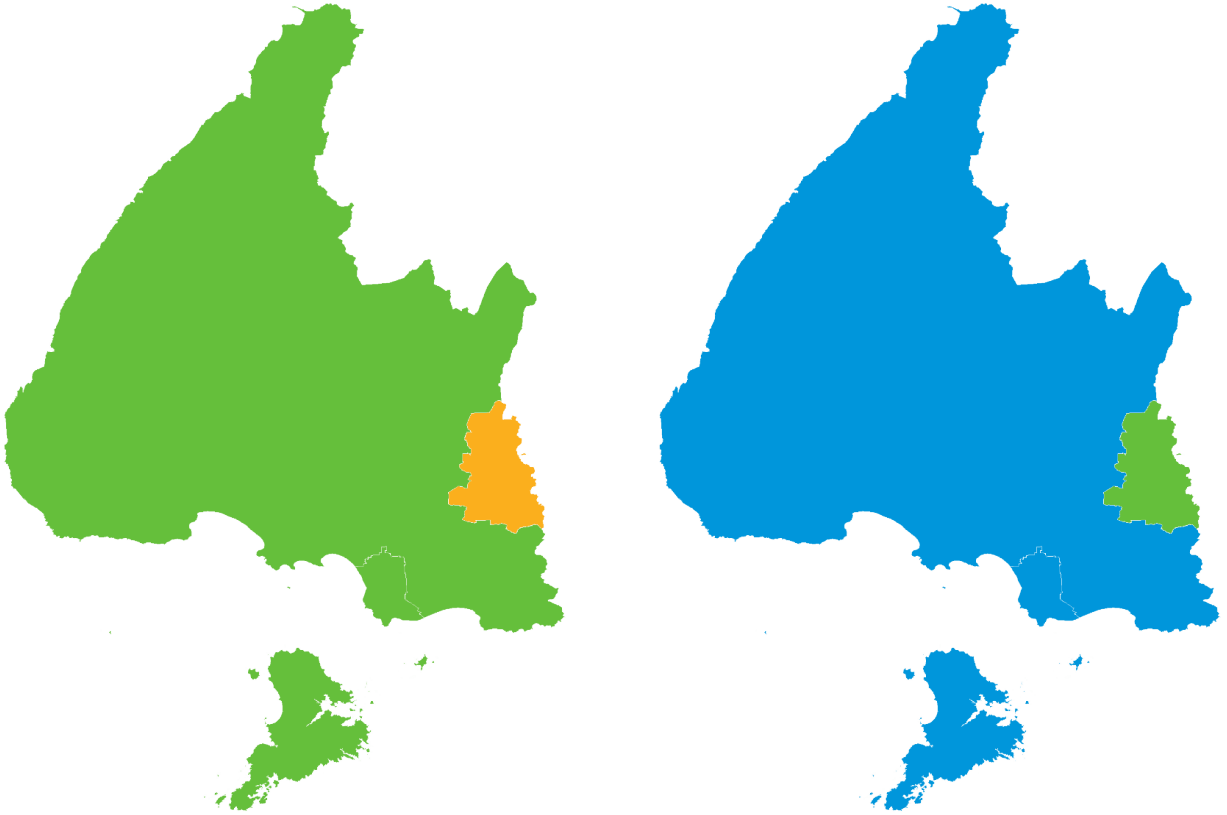
Last 10 years
2015–25



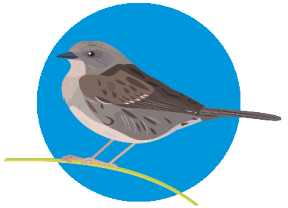
SLOW INCREASE REGIONALLY



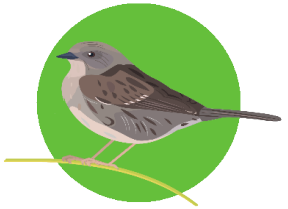
STABLE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25



MODERATE INCREASE REGIONALLY



SLOW INCREASE NATIONALLY

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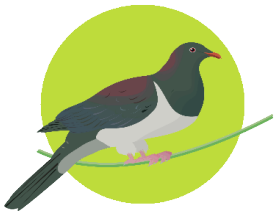
New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

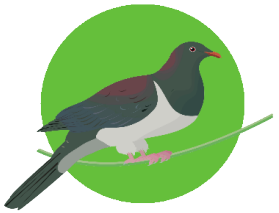
SOUTHLAND | Kererū | Kererū

How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

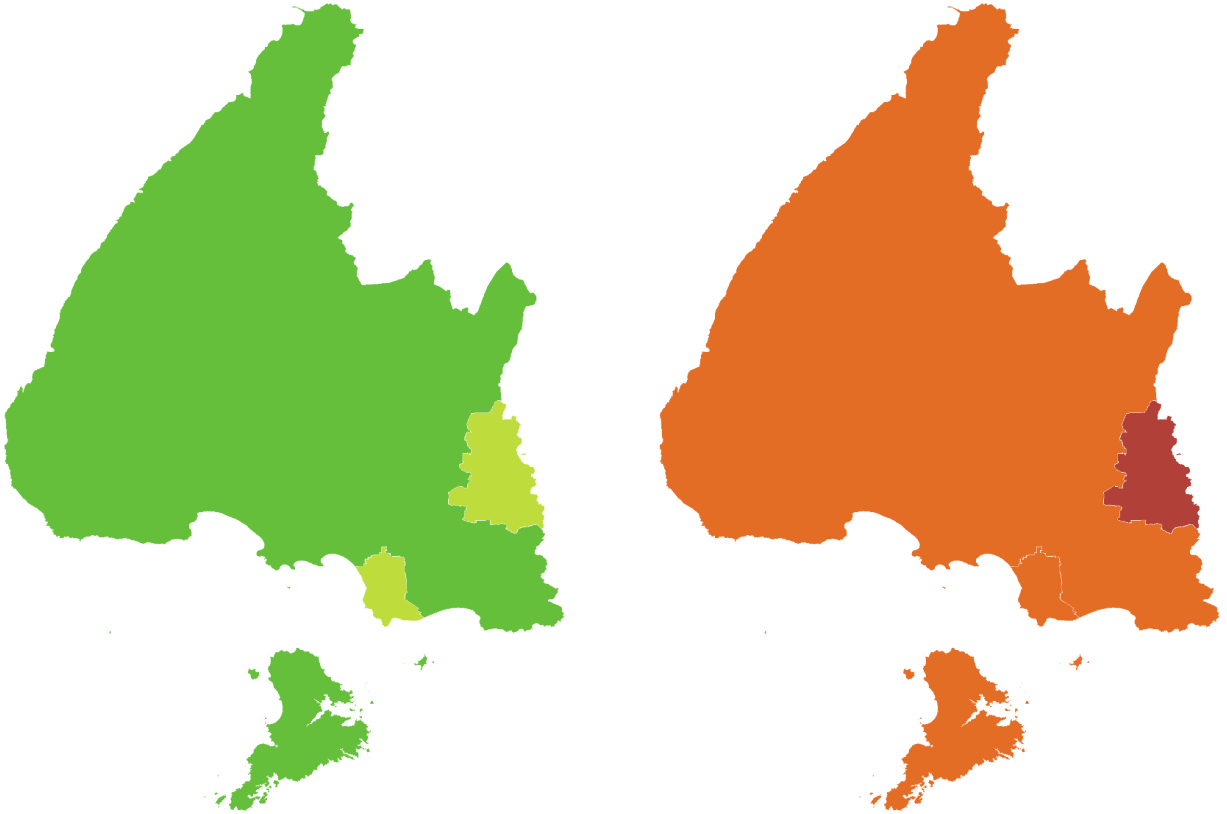
Last 10 years
2015–25



STABLE REGIONALLY



SLOW INCREASE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25

MODERATE DECLINE REGIONALLY

MODERATE DECLINE NATIONALLY

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New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

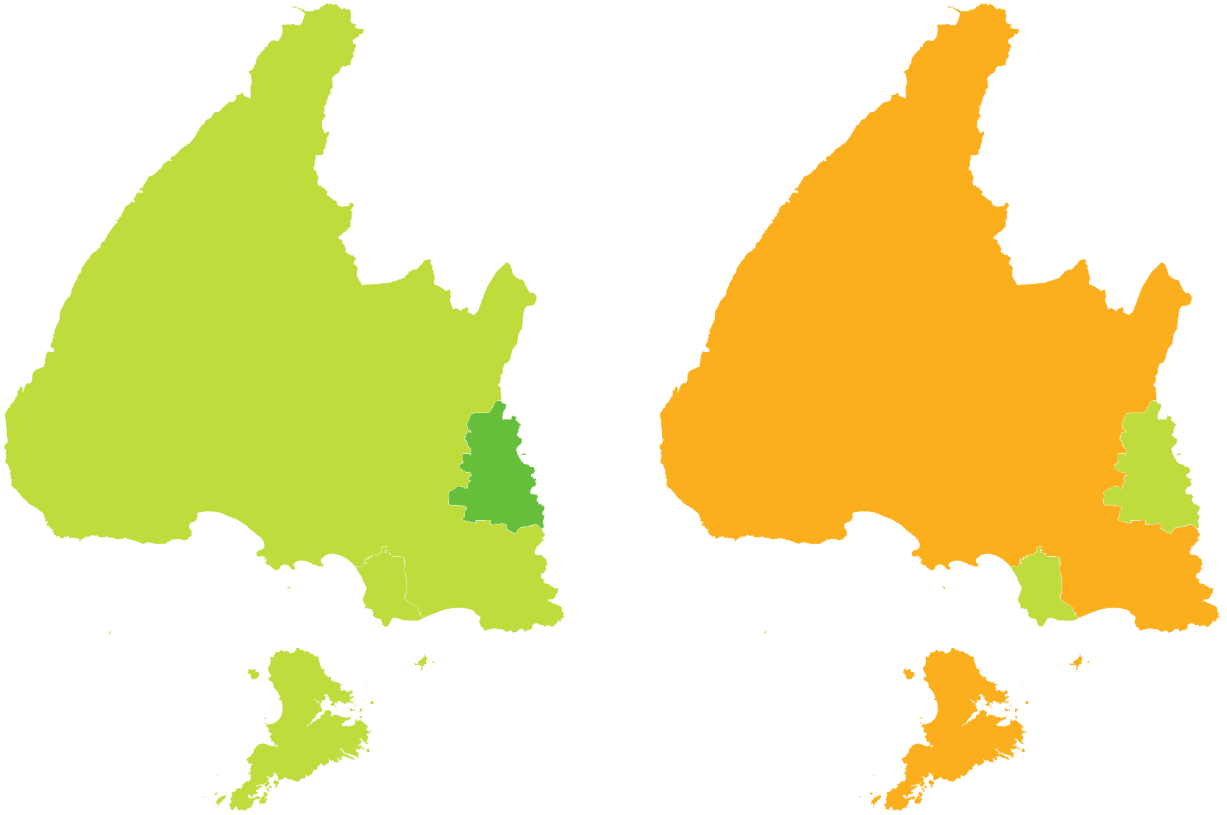
SOUTHLAND | Blackbird | Manu pango

How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

Last 10 years
2015–25

STABLE REGIONALLY

STABLE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25

SLOW DECLINE REGIONALLY

STABLE NATIONALLY

Data source: 51,515 and 34,750 gardens surveyed nationwide for 2015–25 and 2020–25, respectively.

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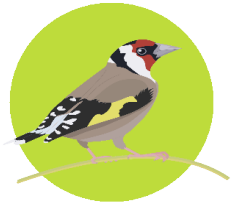
New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

SOUTHLAND | Goldfinch | Kōurarini

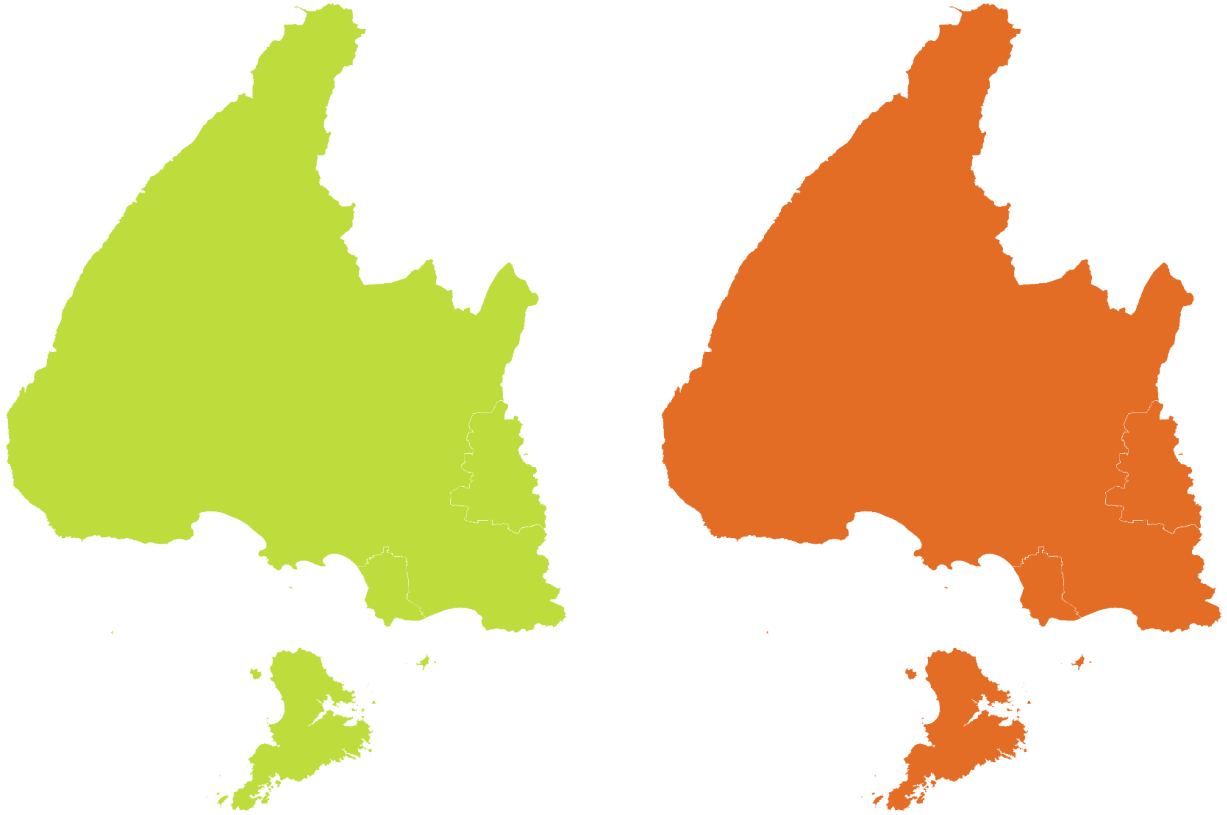
How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

Last 10 years
2015–25



STABLE REGIONALLY

SLOW DECLINE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25

MODERATE DECLINE REGIONALLY

RAPID DECLINE NATIONALLY

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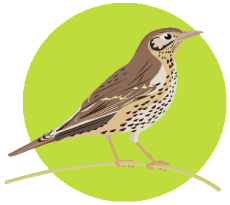
New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

SOUTHLAND | Song thrush | Manu-kai-hua-rakau

How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

Last 10 years
2015–25



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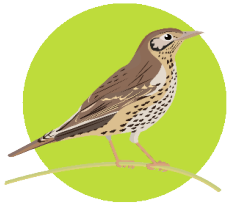
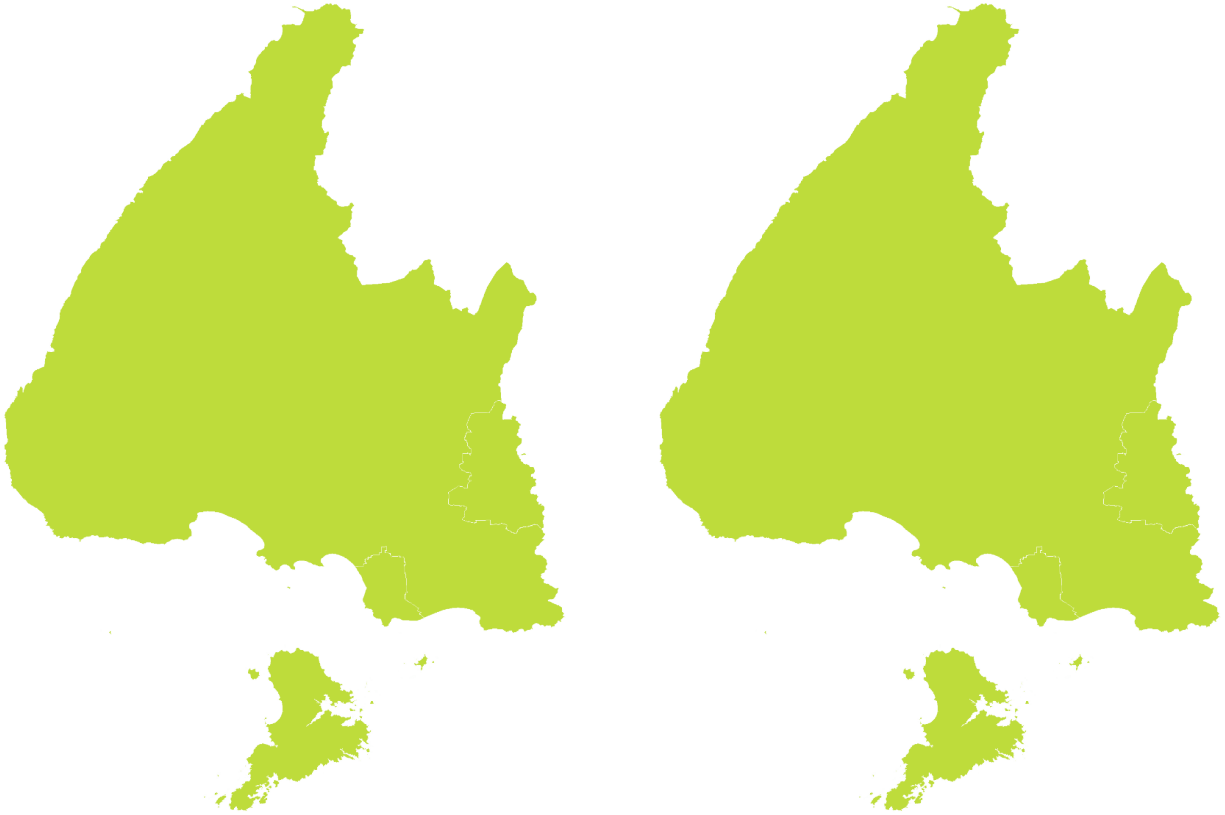
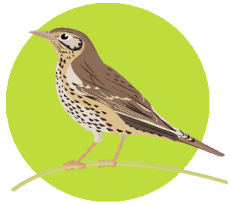


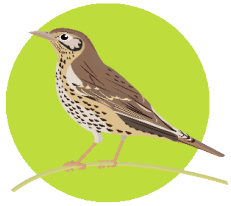
STABLE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25



STABLE REGIONALLY



STABLE NATIONALLY

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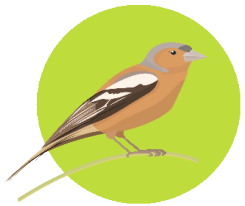
New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

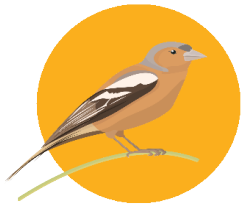
SOUTHLAND | Chaffinch | Pahirini

How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

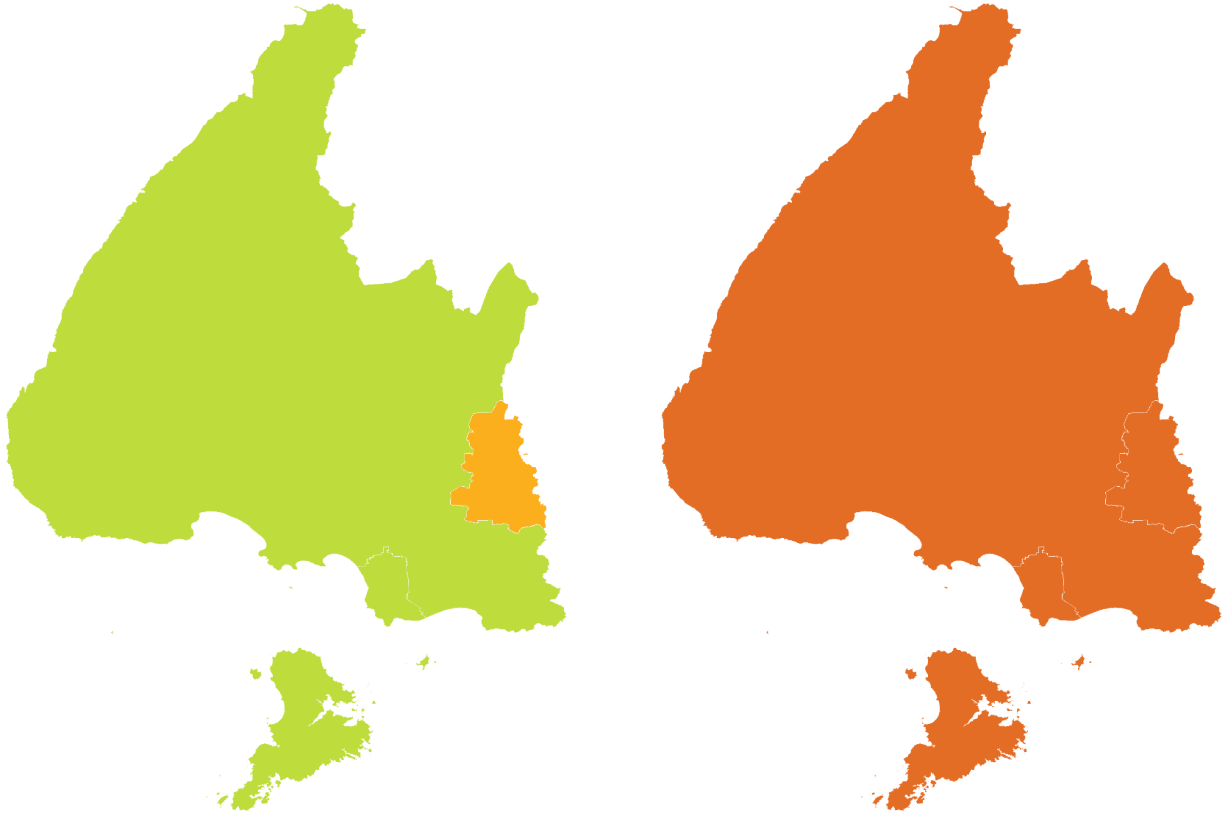
Last 10 years
2015–25



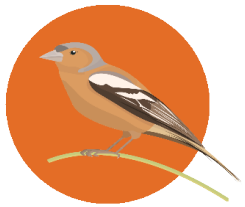
STABLE REGIONALLY



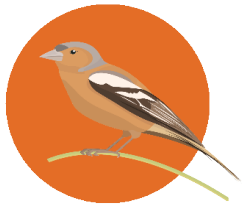
SLOW DECLINE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25



MODERATE DECLINE REGIONALLY



MODERATE DECLINE NATIONALLY

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New Zealand GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

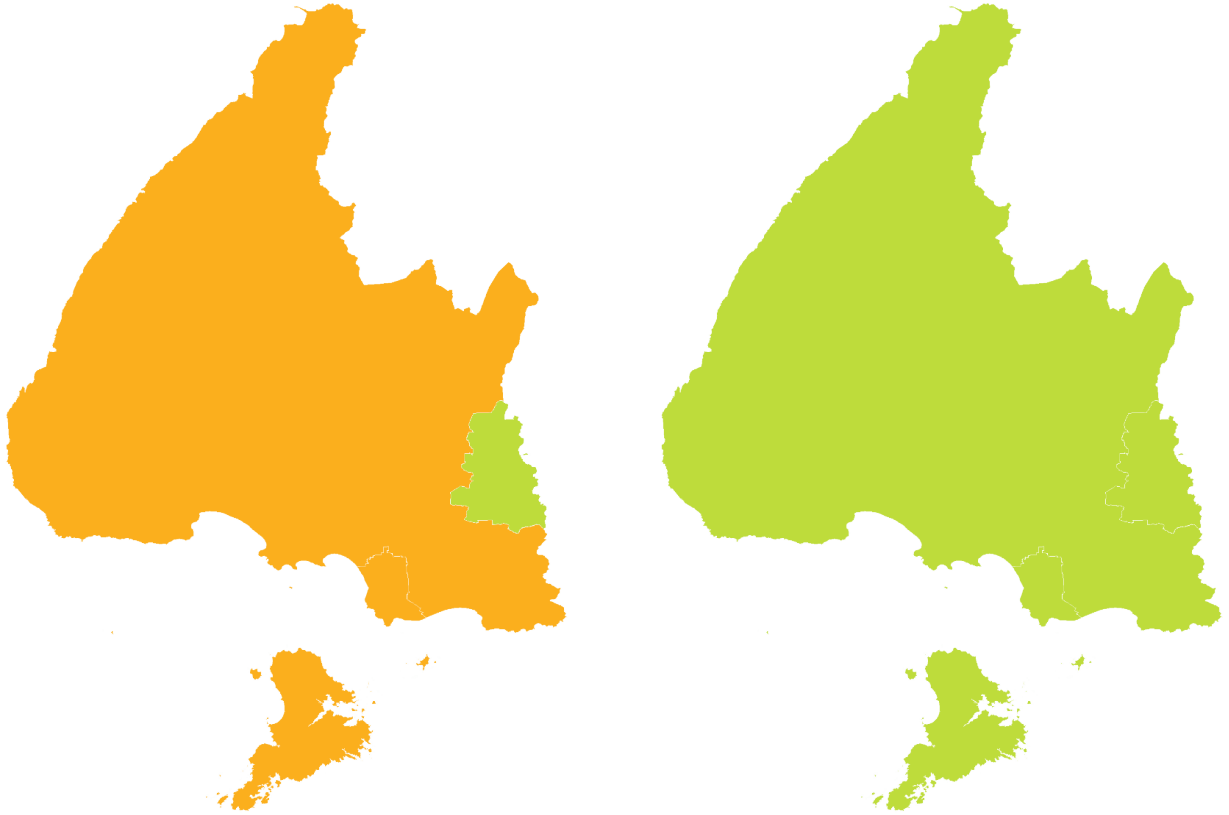
SOUTHLAND | Starling | Tāringi

How have garden bird counts changed in this region?

Last 10 years
2015–25

SLOW DECLINE REGIONALLY

SLOW DECLINE NATIONALLY



Last 5 years
2020–25

STABLE REGIONALLY

STABLE NATIONALLY

Data source: 51,515 and 34,750 gardens surveyed nationwide for 2015–25 and 2020–25, respectively.

New Zealand
GARDEN
BIRD
SURVEY

Visit our webpage to learn more:
https://gardenbirdsurvey.nz/

This report should be cited as: Hayman E, Brandt AJ, MacLeod CJ, Howard S, Diprose G, Gormley AM, Spurr EB. 2026. State of NZ Garden Birds 2025 | Te Āhua o ngā Manu o te Kāri i Aotearoa. Bioeconomy Science Institute – Maiangi Taiao, Lincoln. ISSN 2744-5267.

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