



New Zealand

GARDEN BIRD SURVEY

Run by Manaaki Whenua

State of New Zealand Garden Birds 2024

Te Āhua o ngā Manu o
te Kāri i Aotearoa



Manaaki Whenua
Landcare Research



BACKYARD BEATS

What are our birds telling us?

Birds act as backyard barometers – telling us about the health of the environment we live in. They are signalling significant changes in our environment over the last 10 years. We should be listening.

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research has distilled a substantial information base – bird counts gathered by New Zealanders from more than 49,000 garden surveys since 2014 – into simple but powerful metrics.



Key signals continue for four native species



Kererū counts again show a shallow increase over 10 years (39%), but a shallow decline over 5 years (7%), with moderate to rapid declines seen in seven regions in the short term.



Fantail (pīwakawaka) counts again show a shallow increase nationally over 10 years (43%), with moderate long-term increases in four regions. We now see little or no change in their counts over 5 years (2%), compared to the shallow increase seen last year.



We continue to see a shallow increase in tūī (kōkō) counts in the long term (23%) and again in the short term (7%). Their regional long-term trends continue to show a rapid increase in Canterbury (207%) and now show a moderate increase in Marlborough (68%).



Silveryeye (tauhou) counts show little or no change nationally over 10 years (0%) and 5 years (2%), compared to the shallow and moderate declines, respectively, seen last year. Their regional long- or short-term trends now show increases in 10 regions.

Key signals for introduced species that also act as environmental indicators



Myna counts continue to show little or no change nationally over 10 years, but for the first time show a shallow decline (7%) over 5 years. There is some evidence that the rapid increase in their counts in Wellington continues in both the long and short term (237% and 82%, respectively).



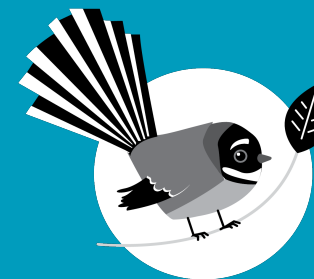
Goldfinch counts now show little or no change over 10 years (2%) and a moderate decline over 5 years (28%), compared to the short-term rapid decline seen last year.



Starling, house sparrow, chaffinch, and dunnock counts again show a shallow decline over 10 years (14-18%). Starling counts show a shallow decline over 5 years (8%), while house sparrow and chaffinch show a moderate decline over 5 years (21% for both species).



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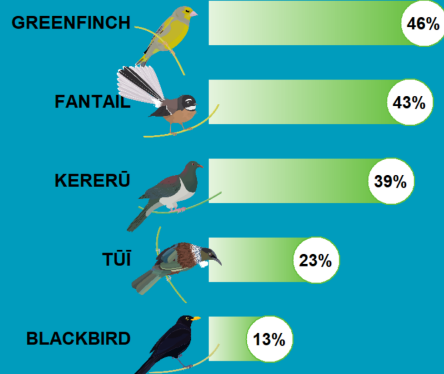
New Zealand
**GARDEN
BIRD
SURVEY**

NATIONAL PICTURE

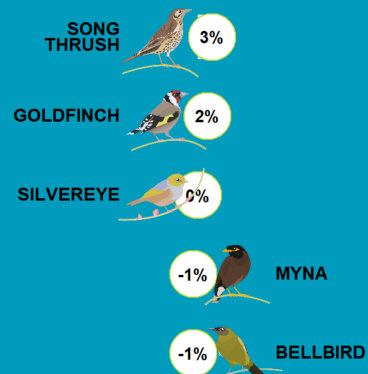
How have garden bird counts changed?

2014–24

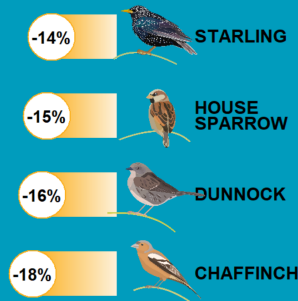
SHALLOW
INCREASE



NO OR LITTLE
CHANGE

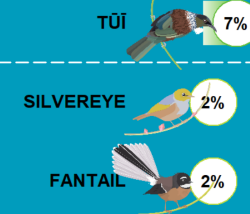


SHALLOW
DECLINE



2019–24

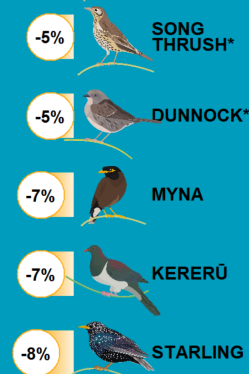
SHALLOW
INCREASE



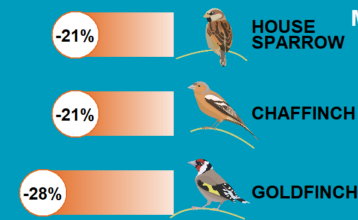
NO OR LITTLE
CHANGE



SHALLOW
DECLINE



MODERATE
DECLINE

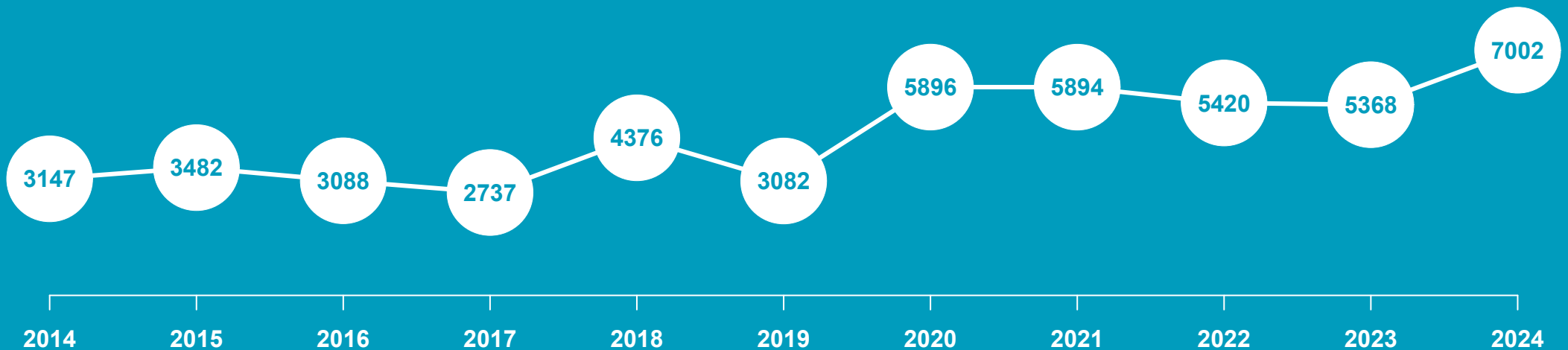


* Based on available data, evidence for these species' estimates is weak.

Data source: 49,492 and 32,662 garden surveys nationwide for 2014–24 and 2019–24, respectively.

49,492
garden
surveys
nationwide

**Thanks to all our
volunteer bird counters!**



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, 49,492 garden surveys have been completed nationwide since 2014. 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



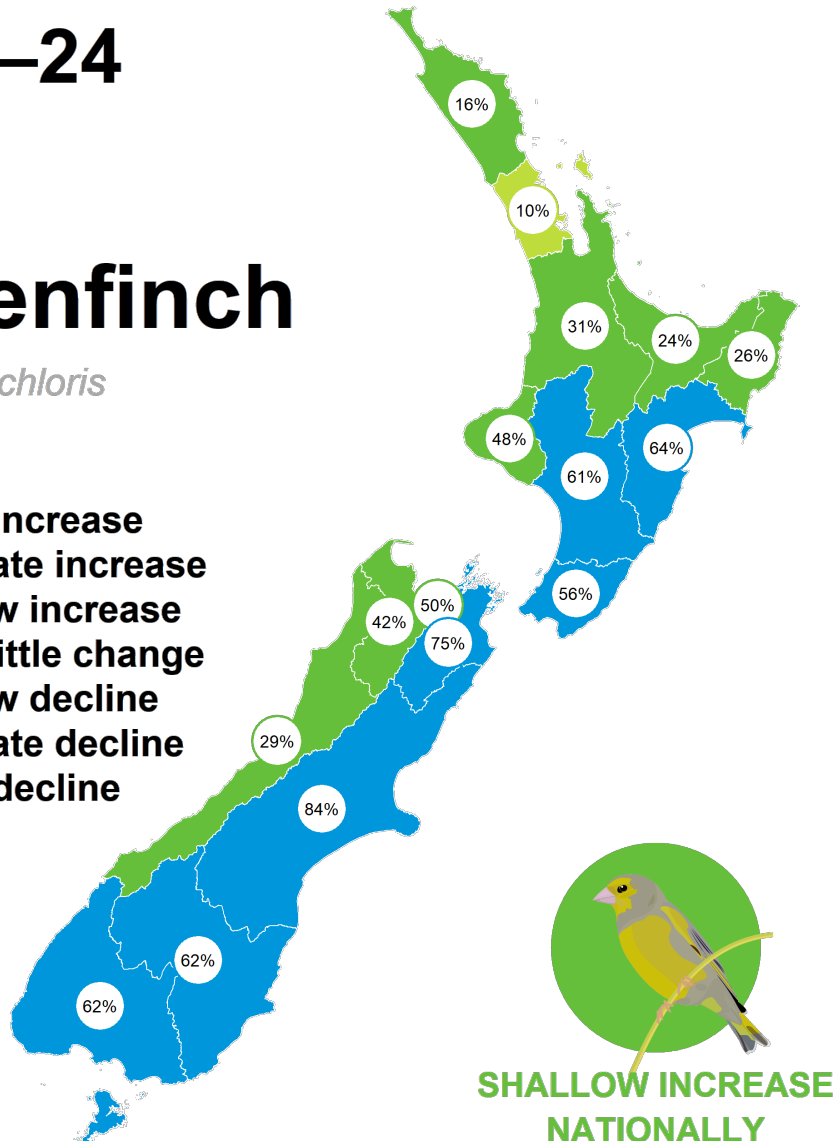
How have garden bird counts changed across regions?

2014–24

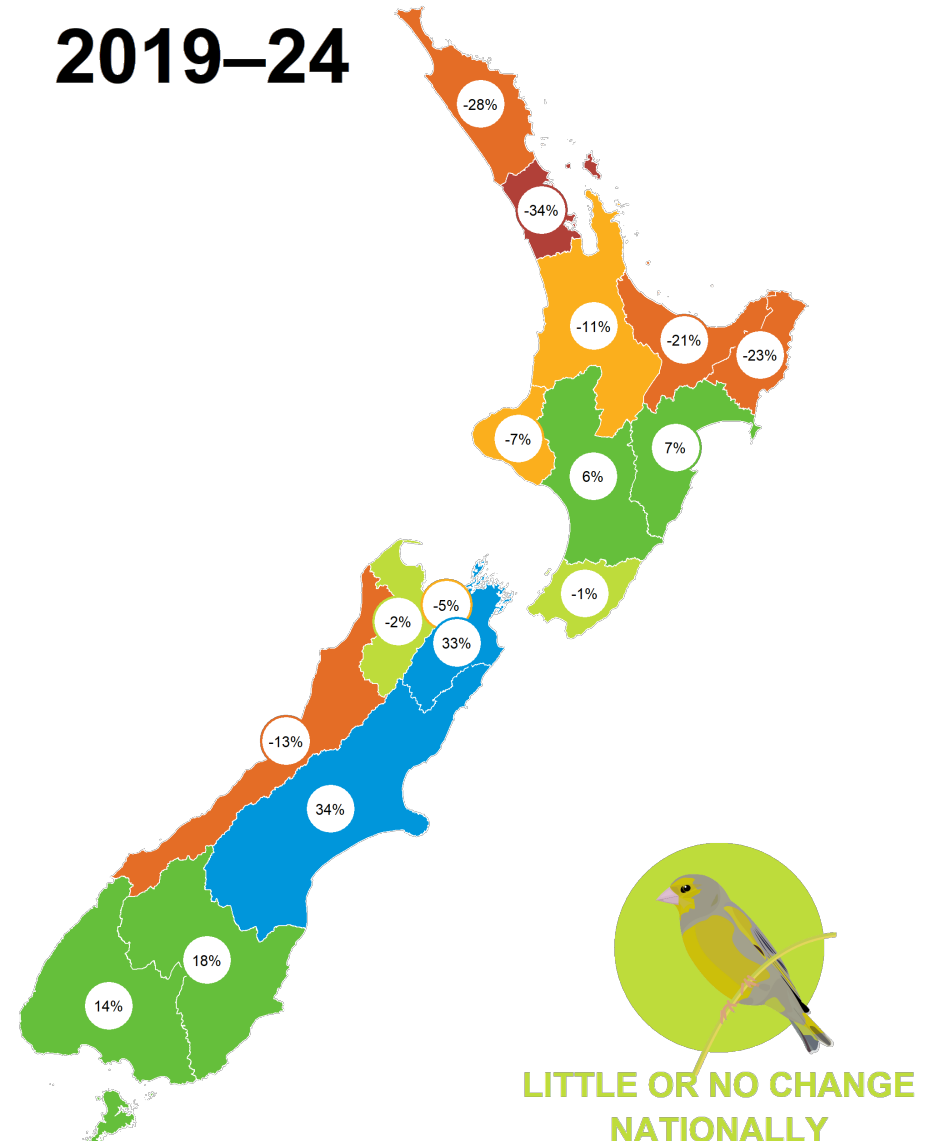
Greenfinch

Carduelis chloris

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



How have garden bird counts changed across regions?

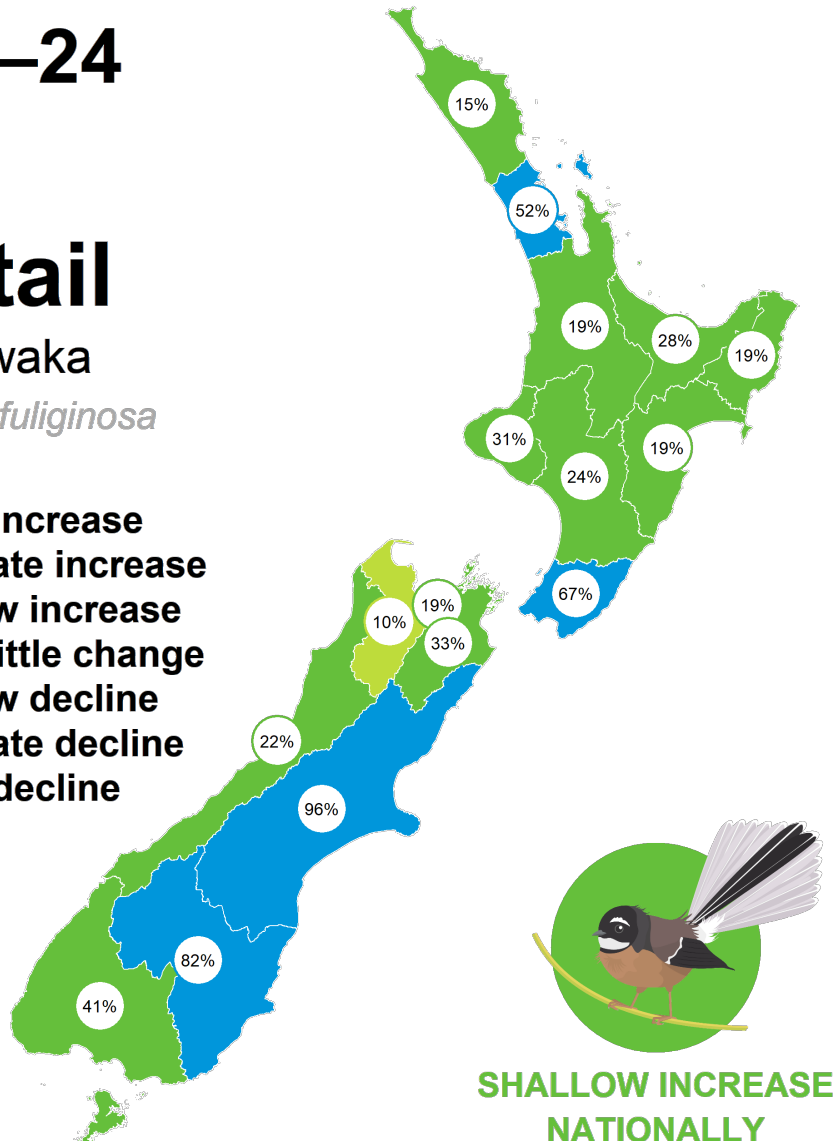
2014–24

Fantail

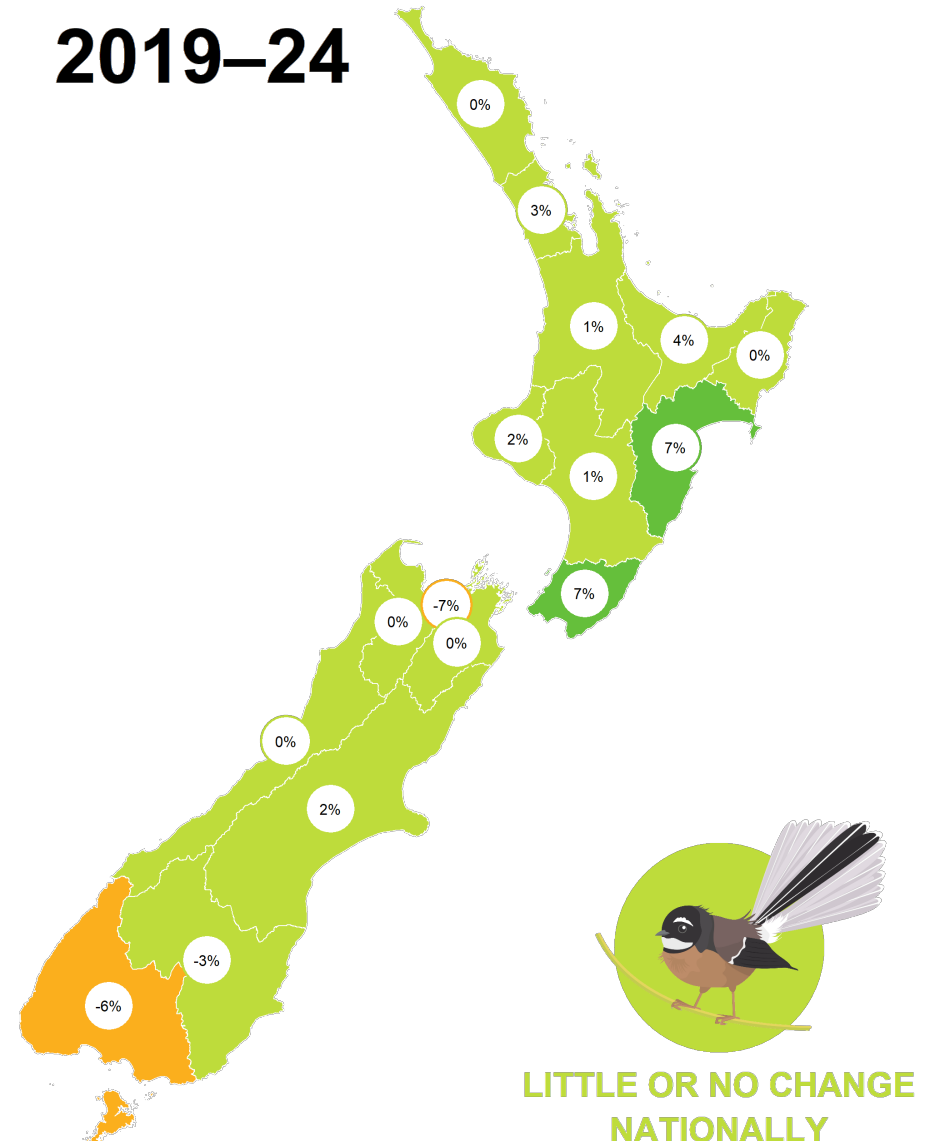
Pīwakawaka

Rhipidura fuliginosa

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



How have garden bird counts changed across regions?

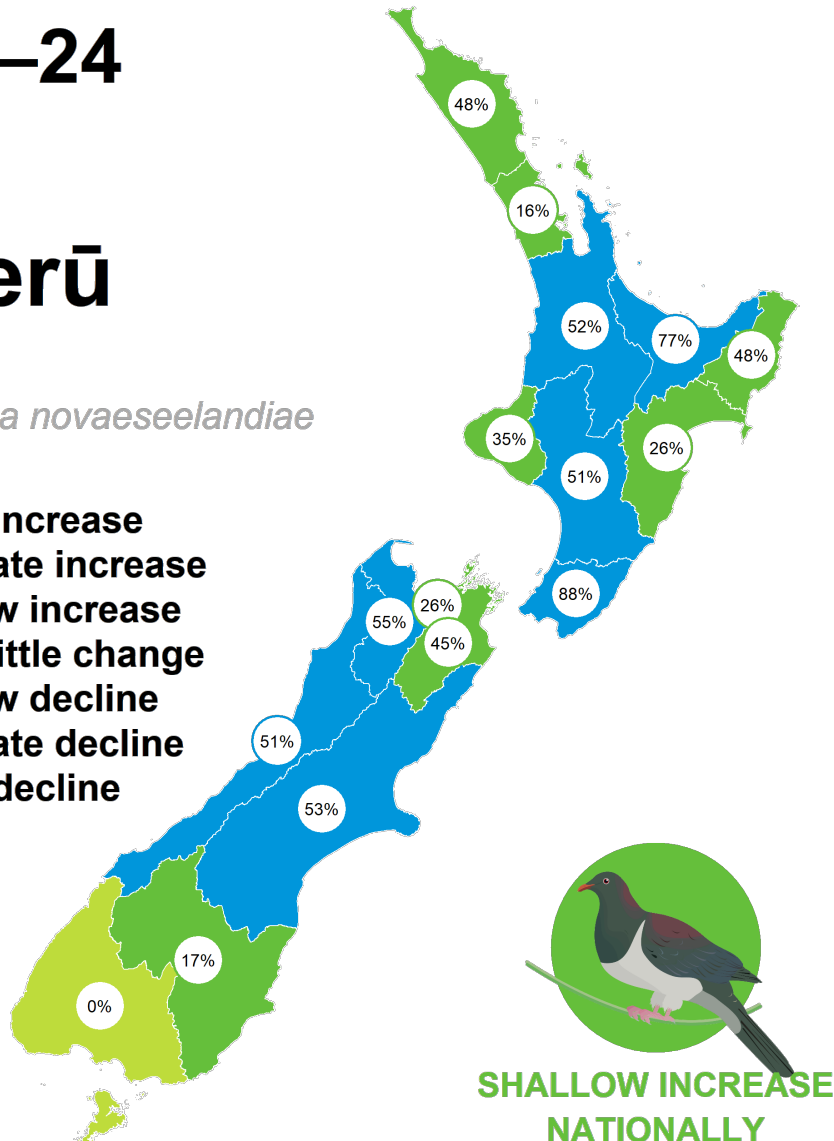
2014–24

Kererū

Kererū

Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



How have garden bird counts changed across regions?

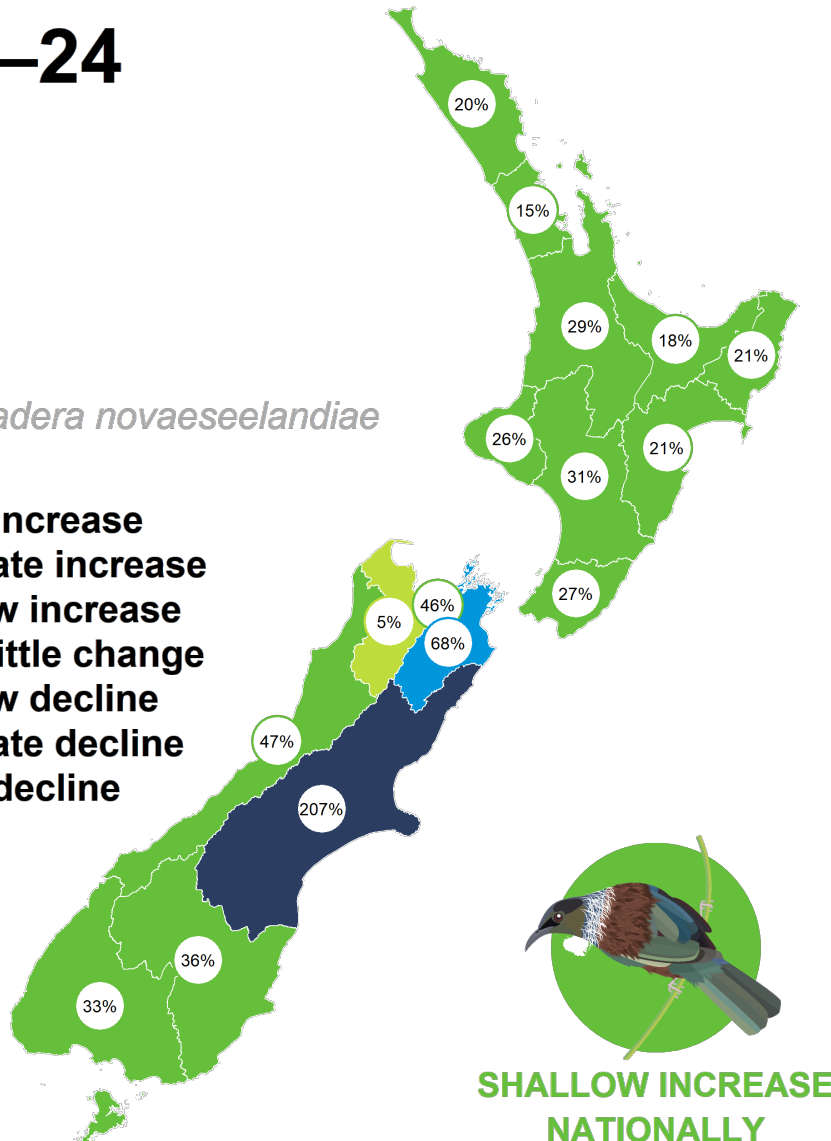
2014–24

Tūī

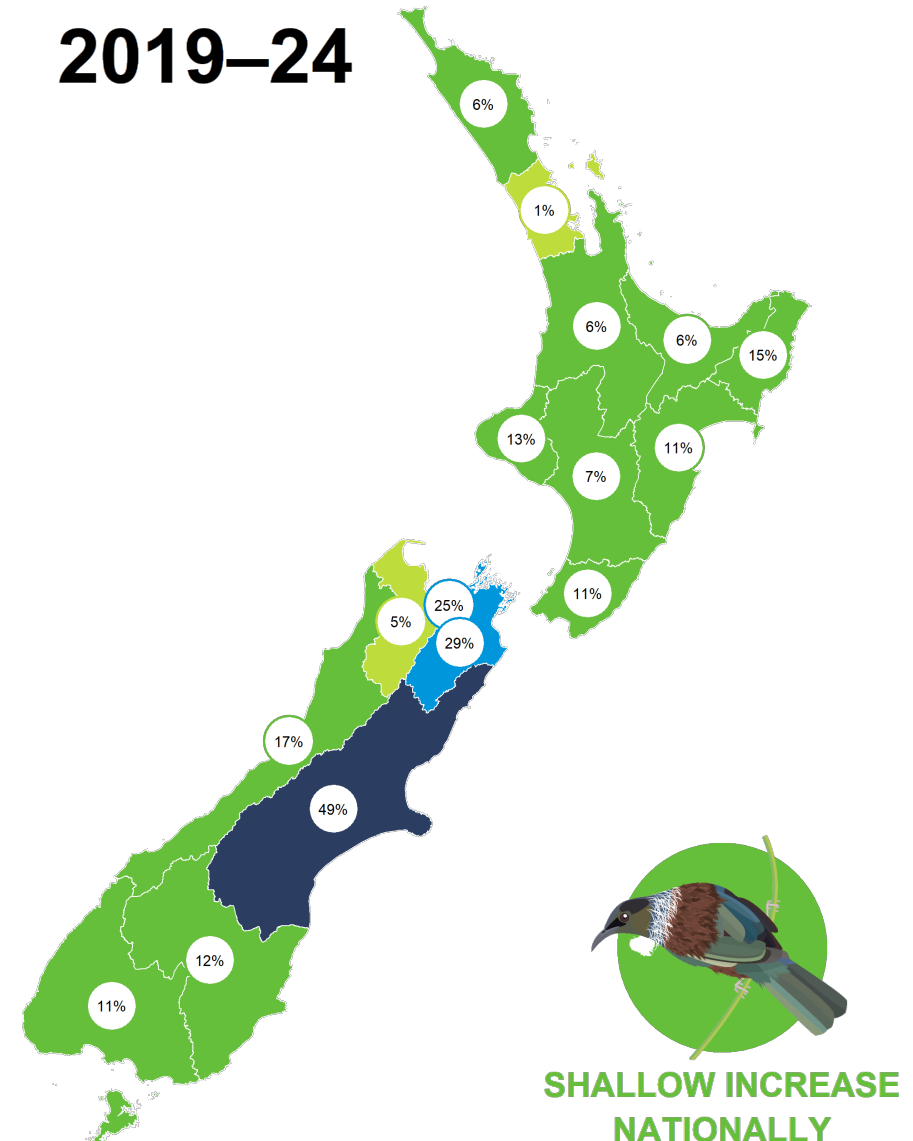
Kōkō

Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



How have garden bird counts changed across regions?

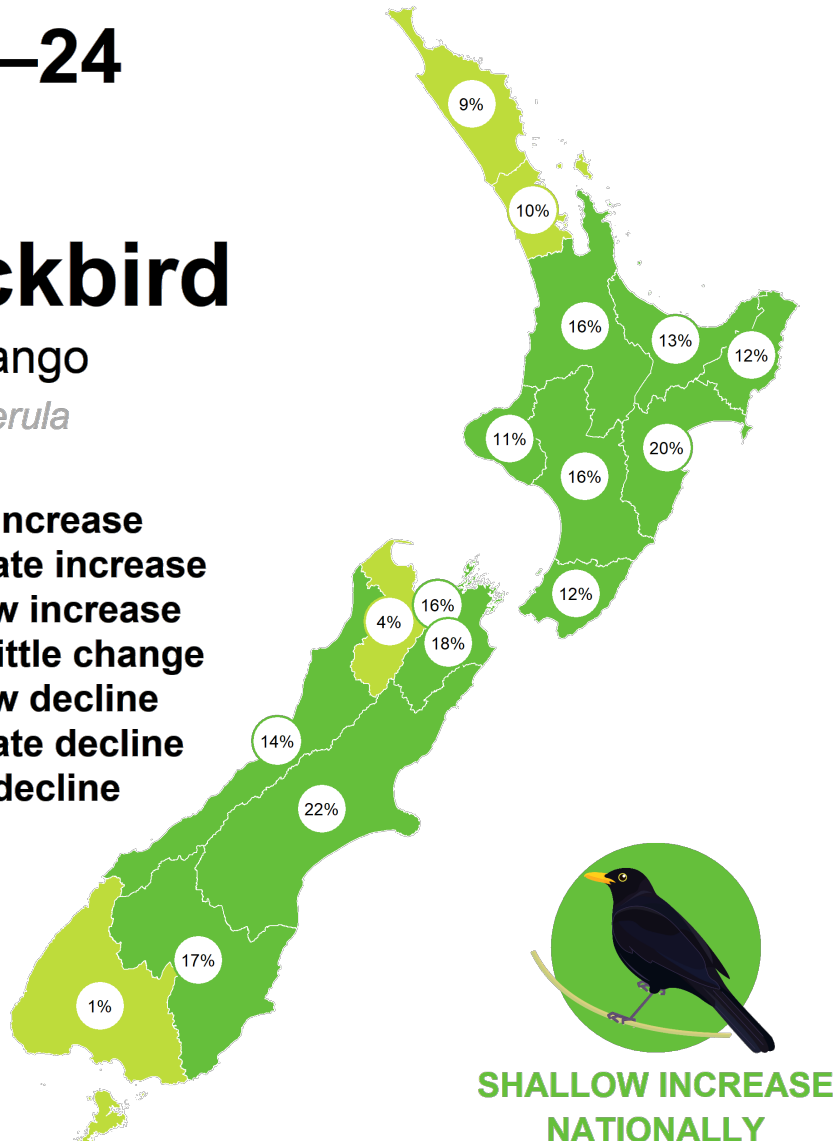
2014–24

Blackbird

Manu pango

Turdus merula

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



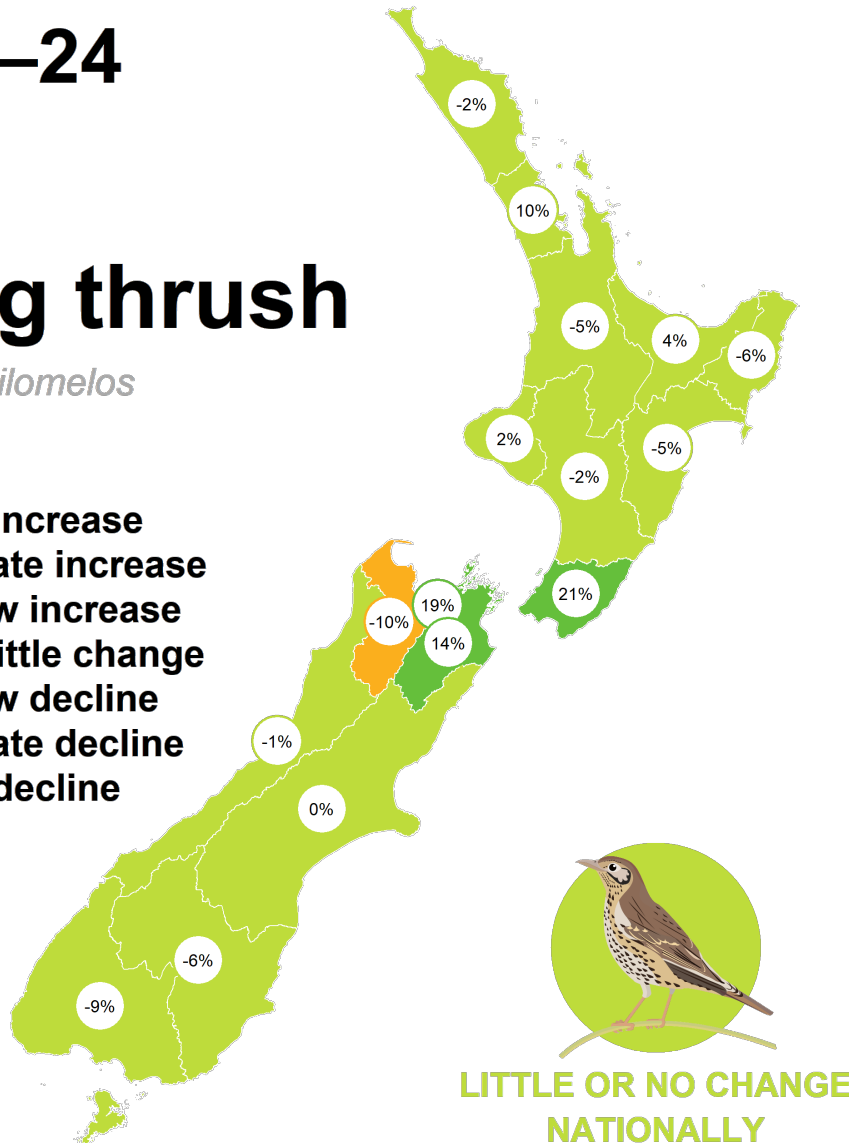
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2014–24

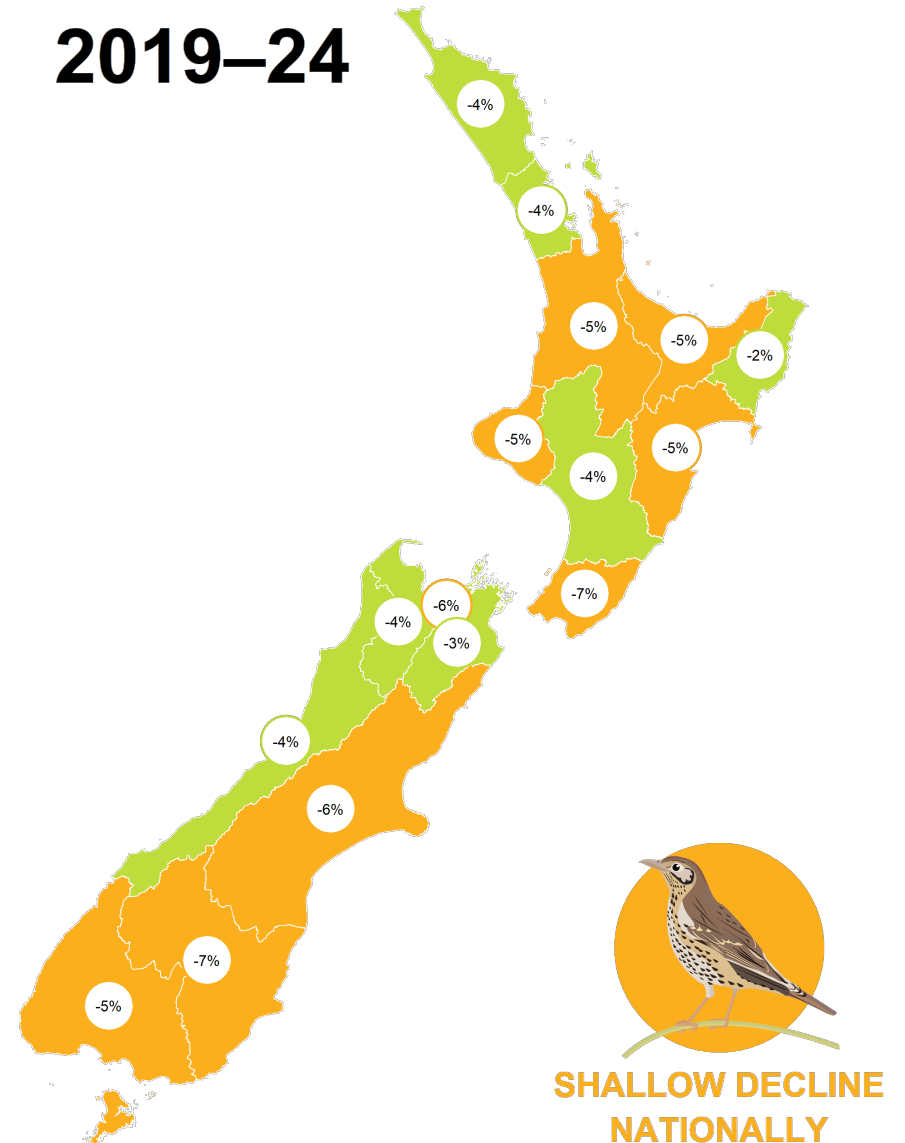
Song thrush

Turdus philomelos

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



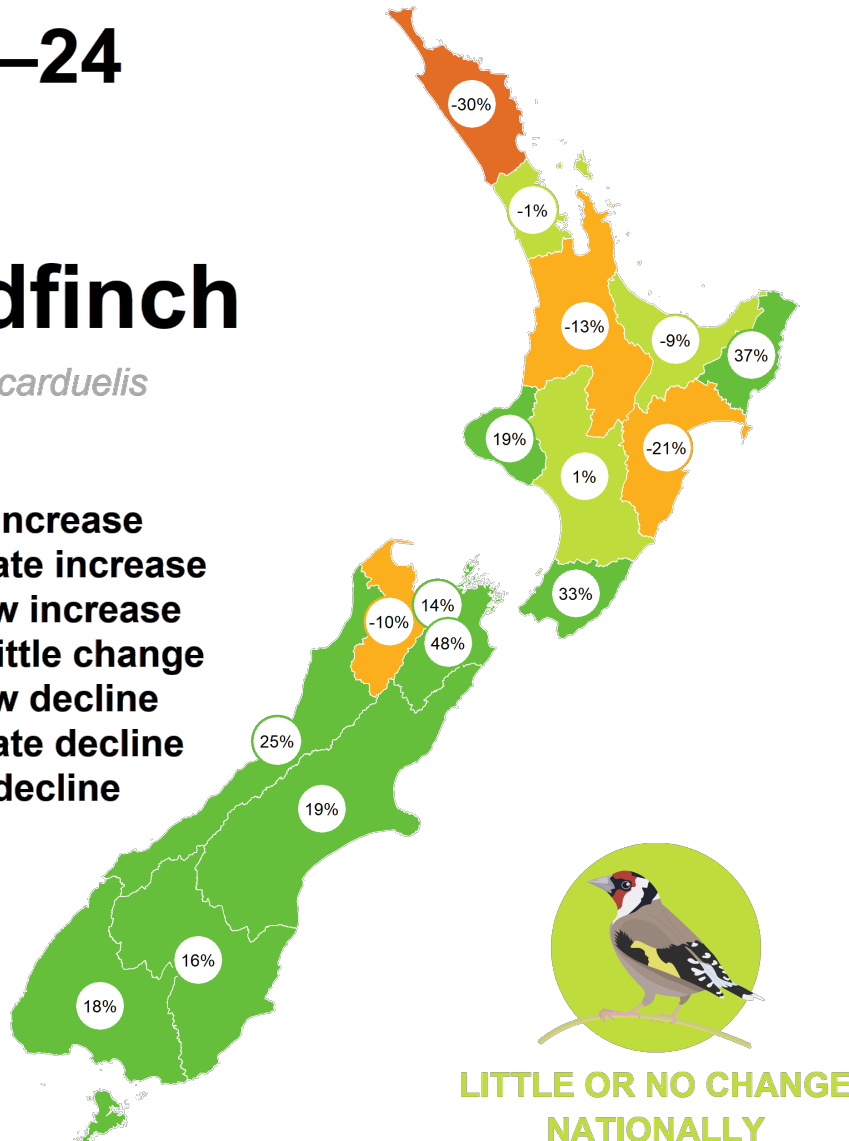
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2014–24

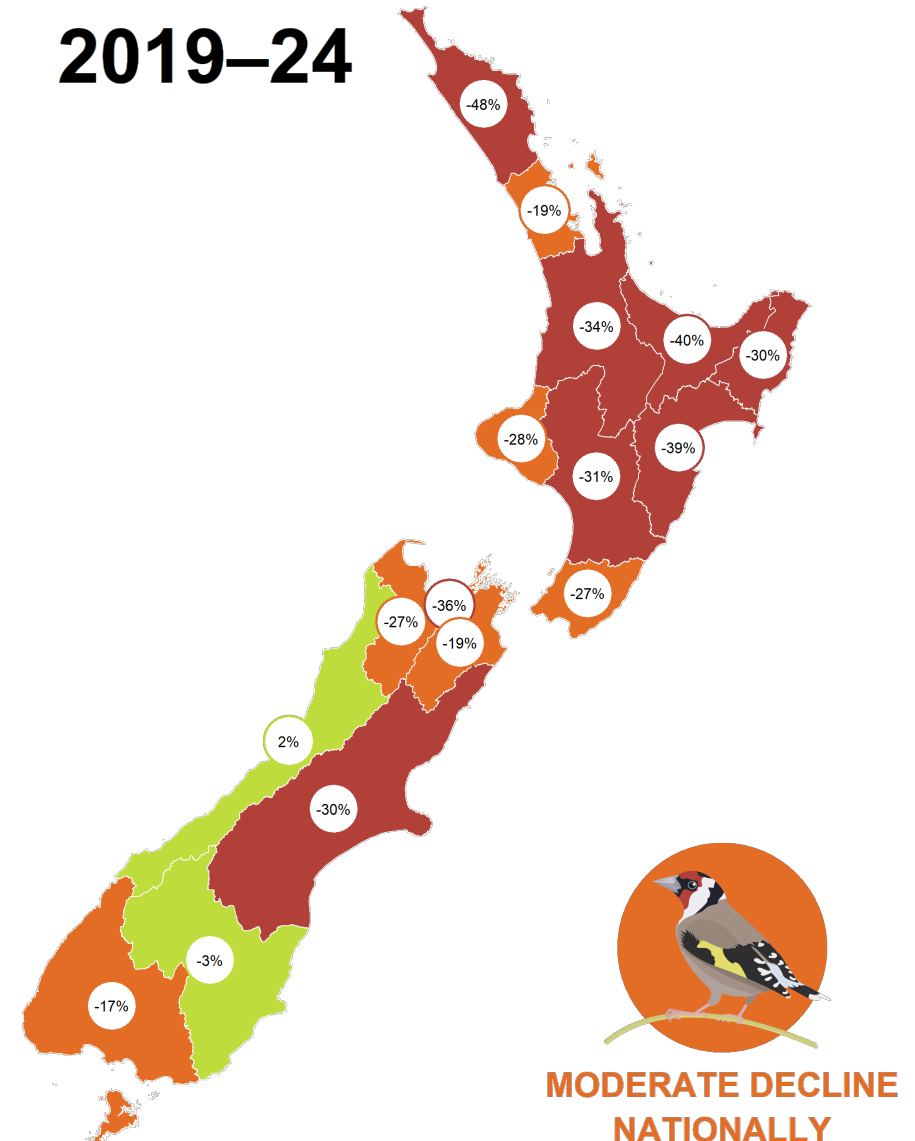
Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



How have garden bird counts changed across regions?

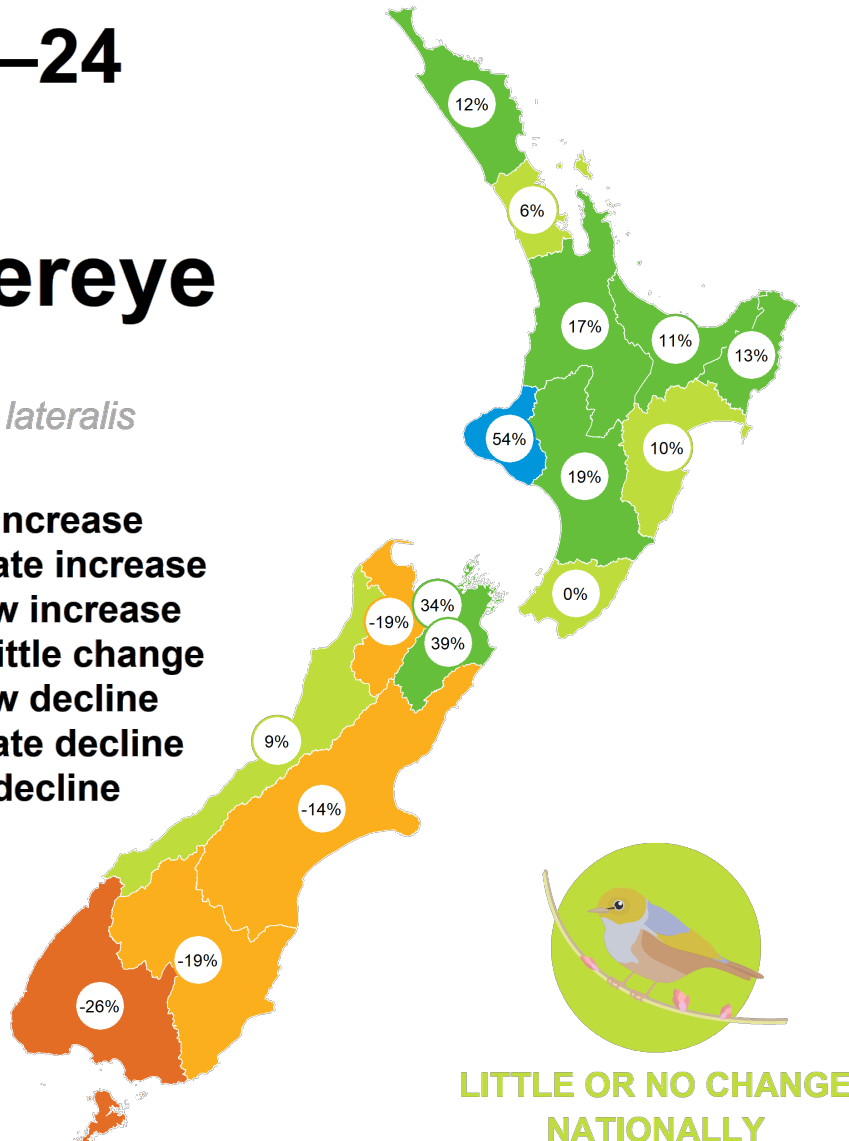
2014–24

Silvereye

Tauhou

Zosterops lateralis

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



How have garden bird counts changed across regions?

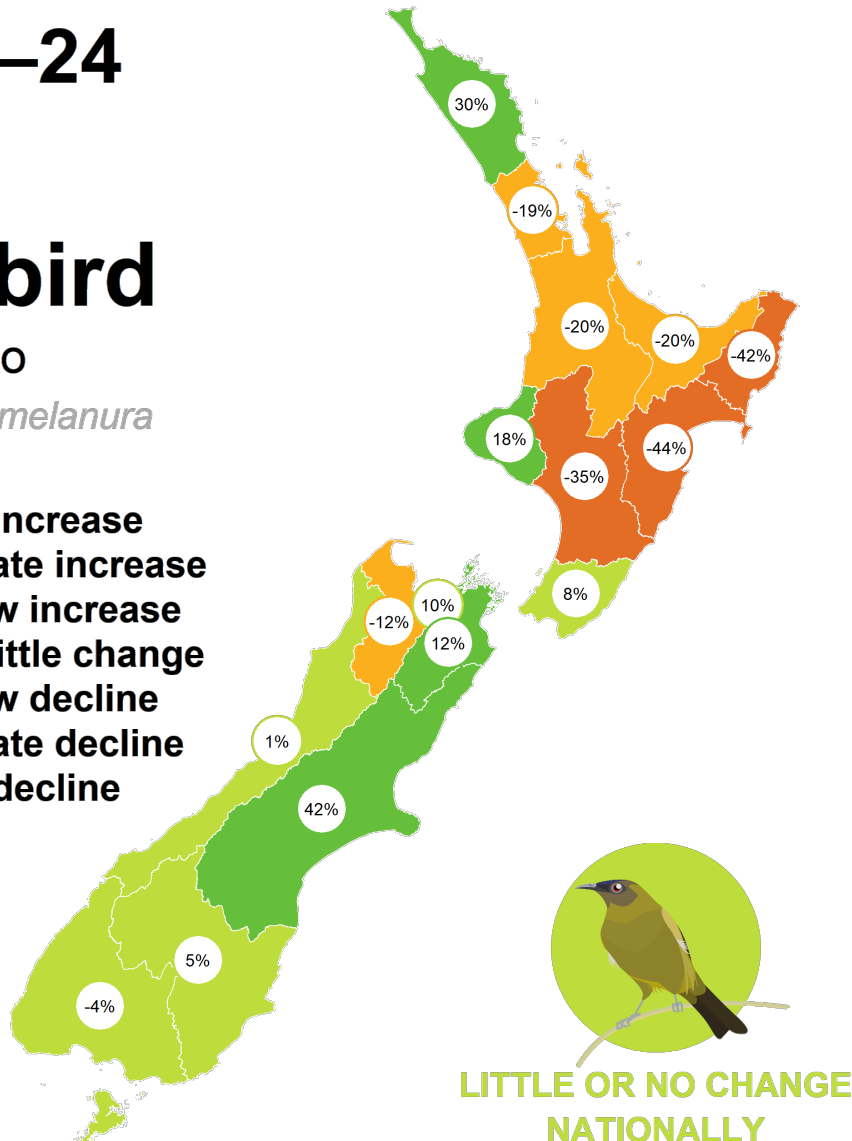
2014–24

Bellbird

Korimako

Anthornis melanura

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



How have garden bird counts changed across regions?

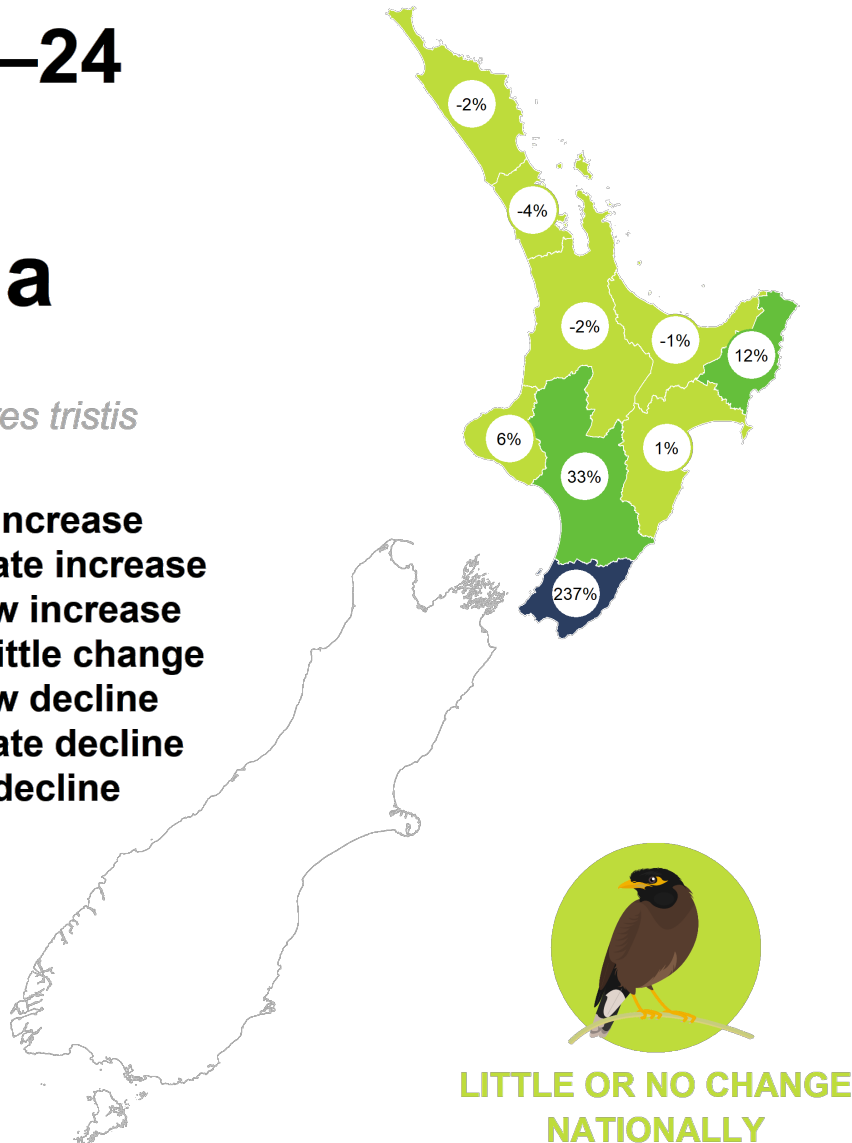
2014–24

Myna

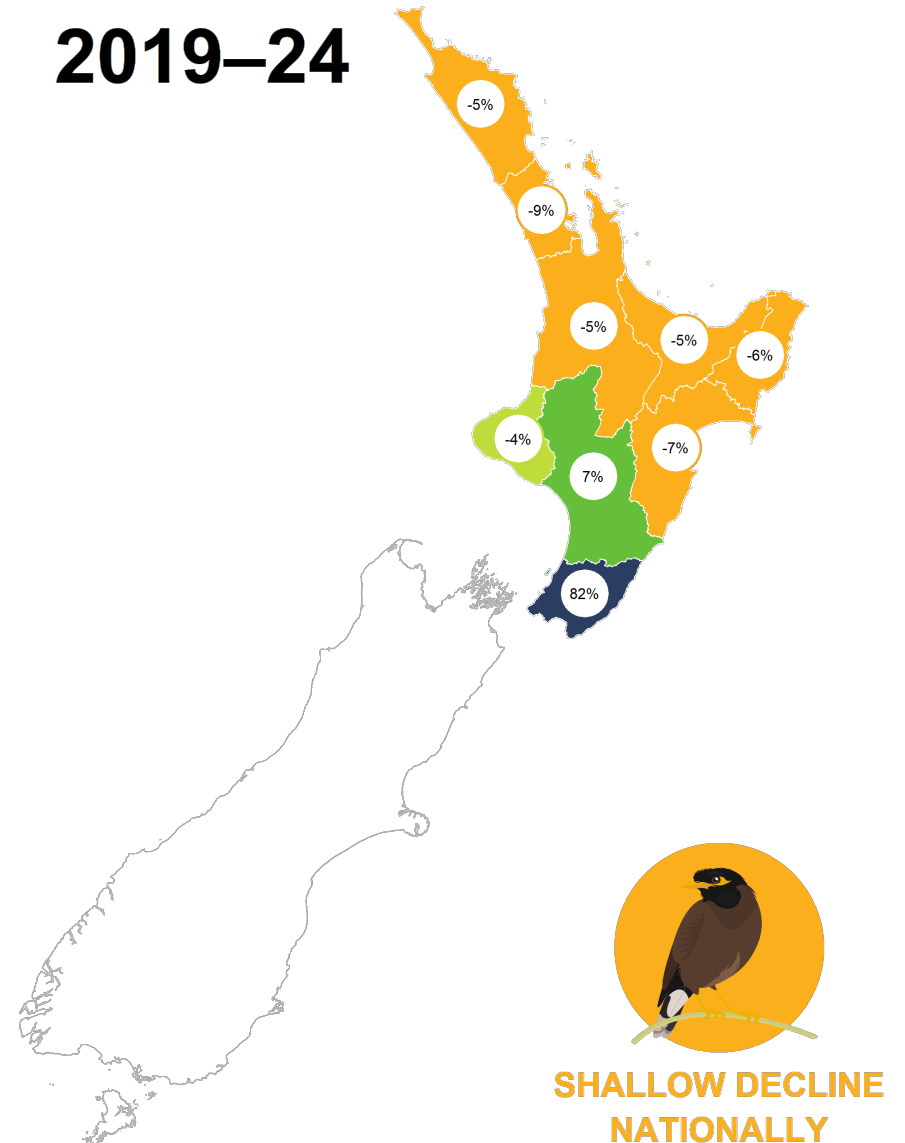
Maina

Acridotheres tristis

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



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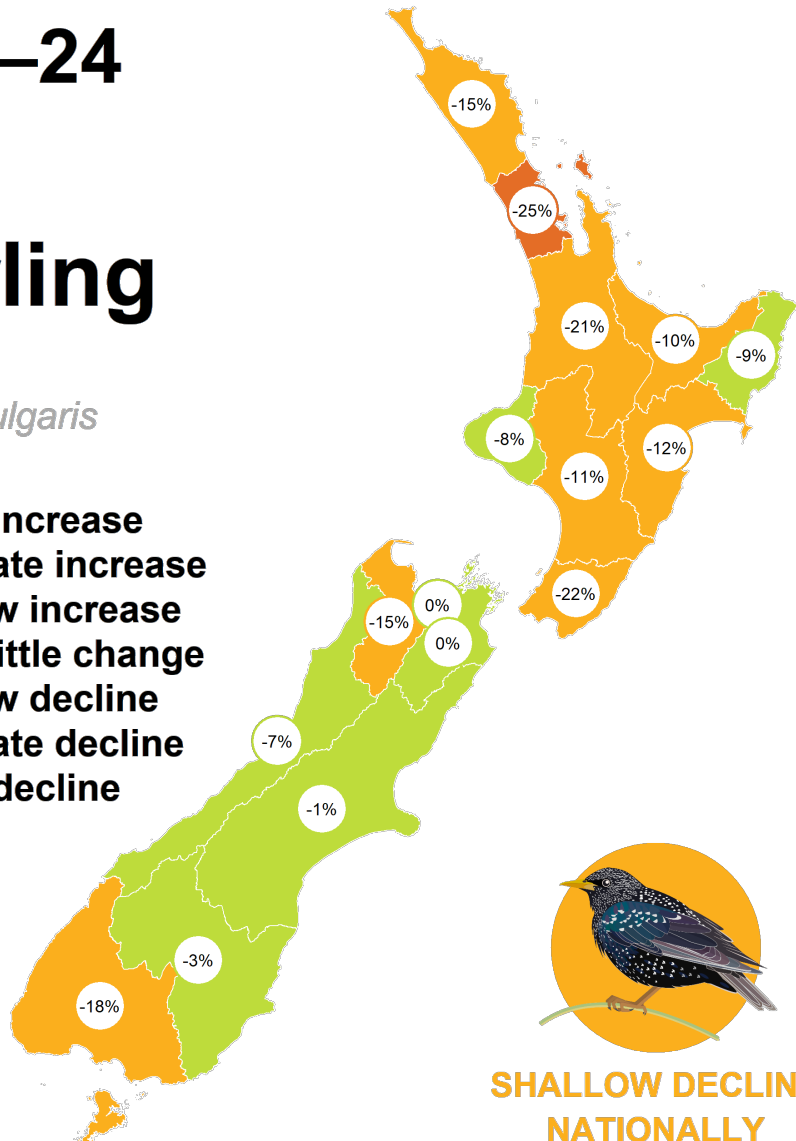
2014–24

Starling

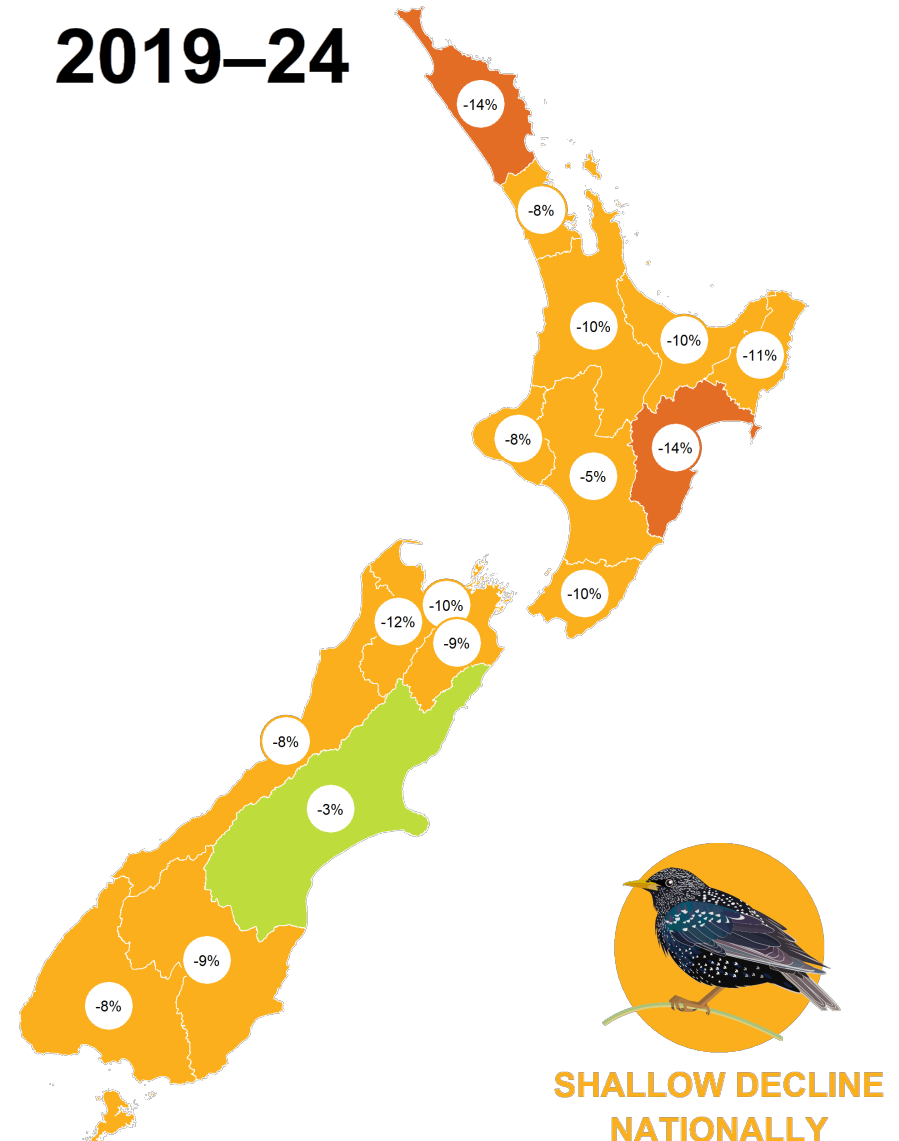
Tāringi

Sturnus vulgaris

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



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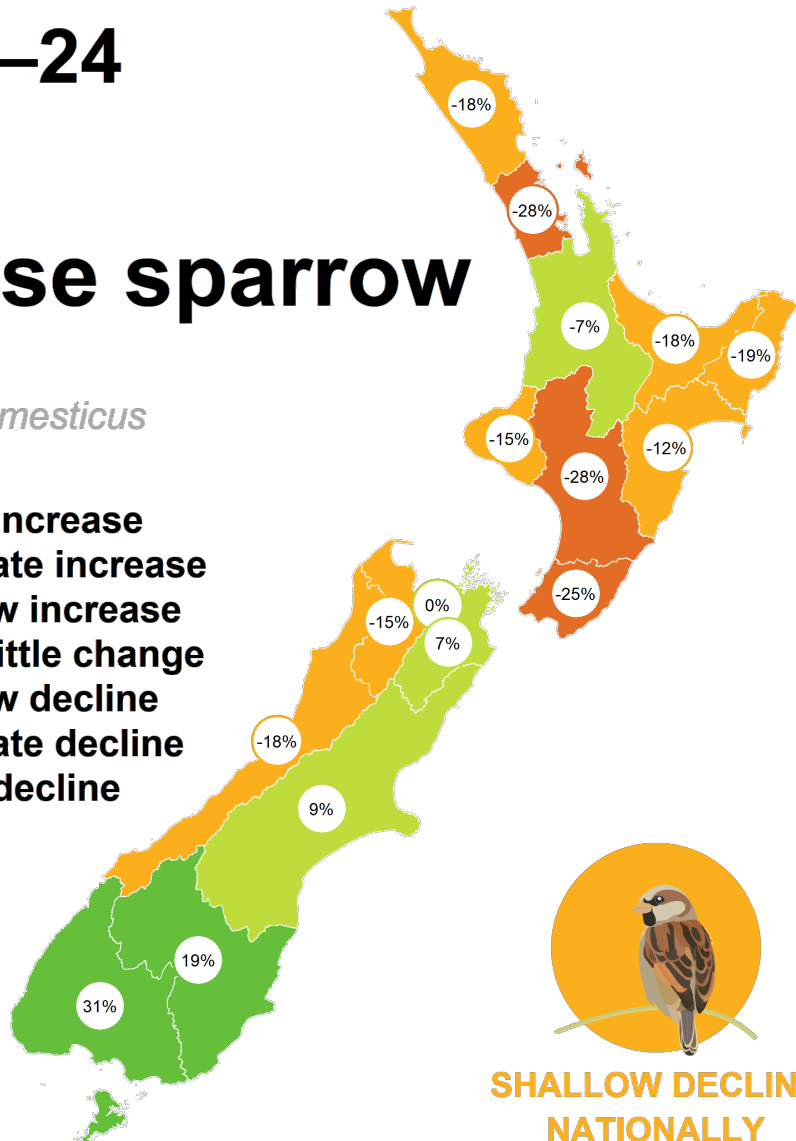
2014–24

House sparrow

Tiu

Passer domesticus

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



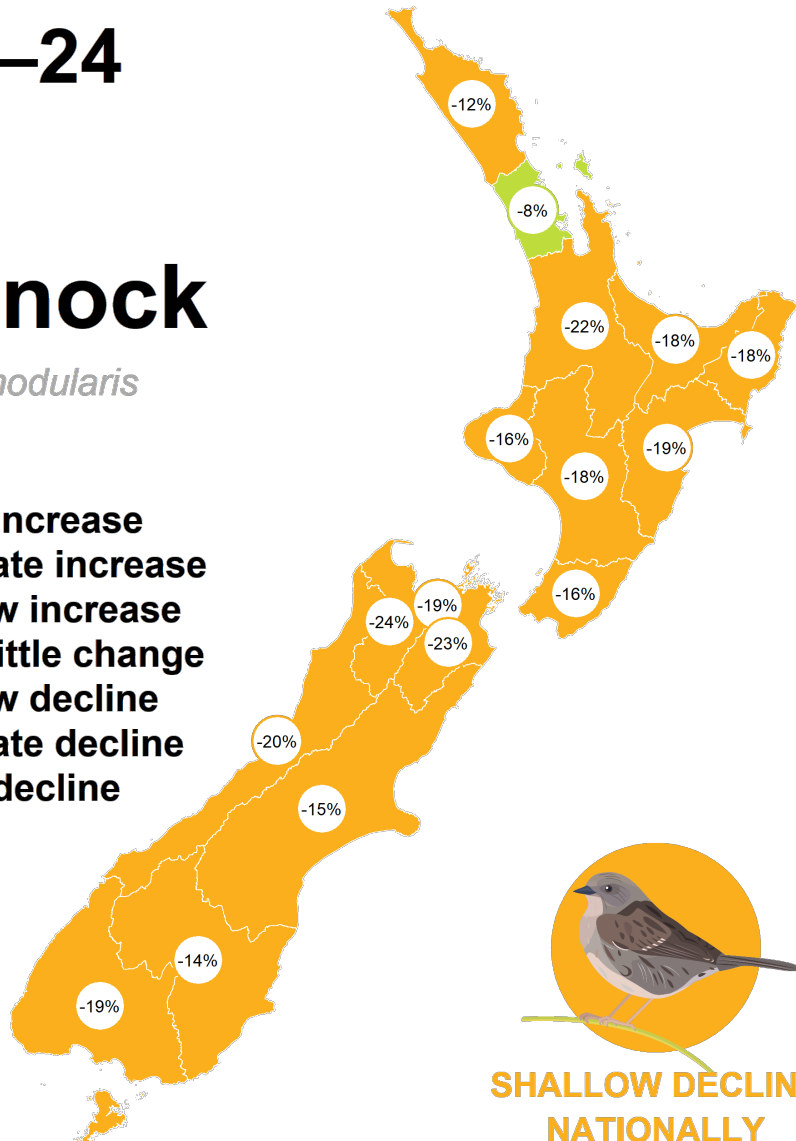
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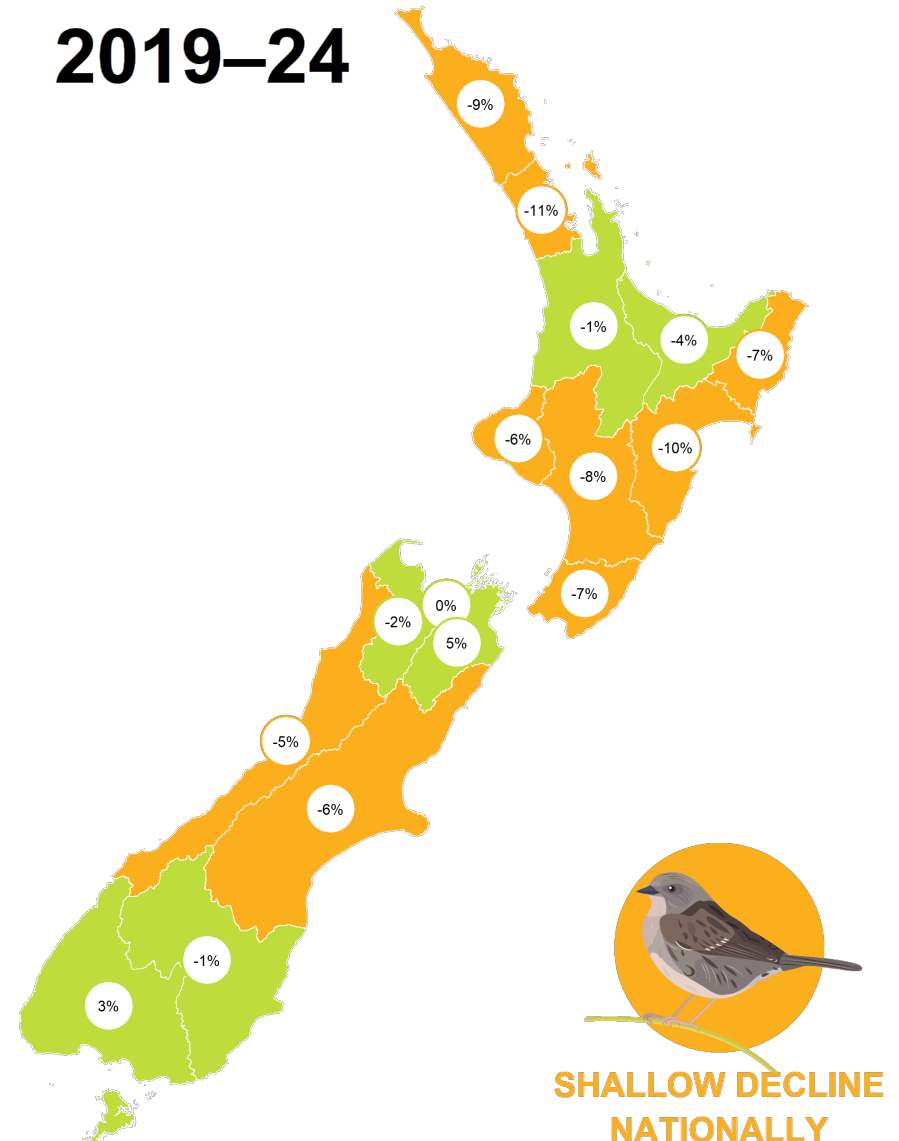
Dunnock

Prunella modularis

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24



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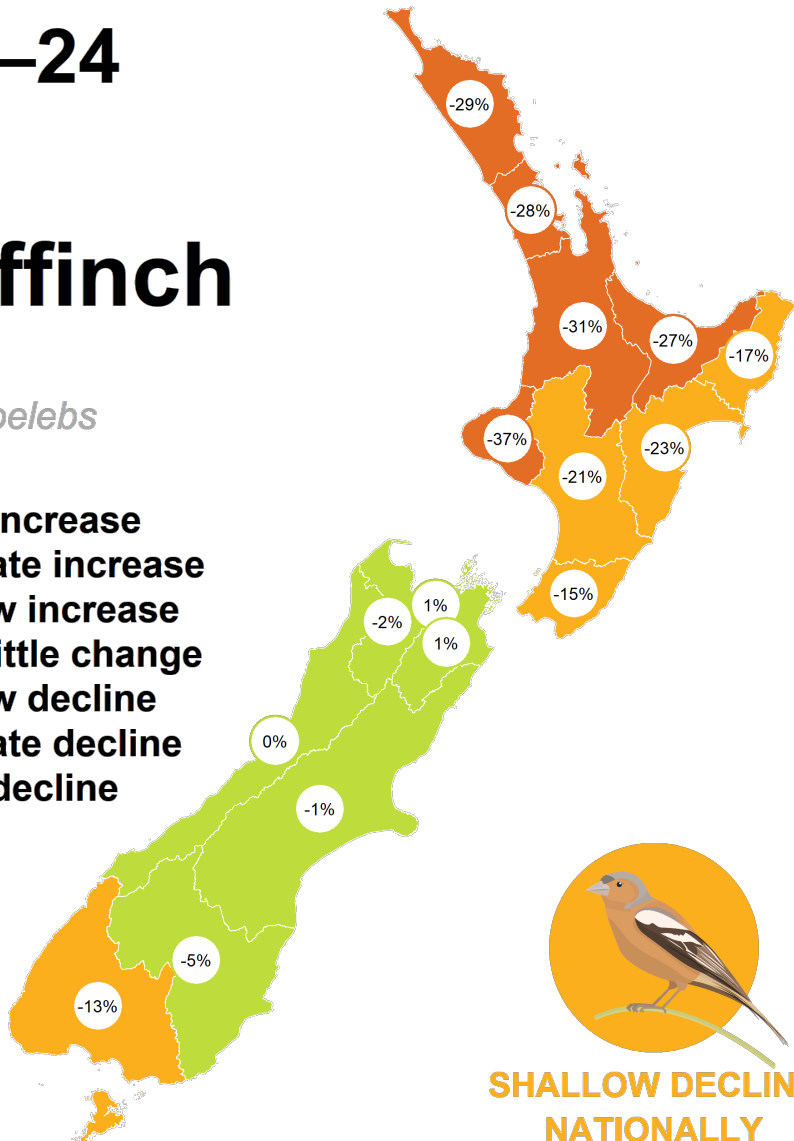
2014–24

Chaffinch

Pahirini

Fringilla coelebs

- Rapid increase
- Moderate increase
- Shallow increase
- No or little change
- Shallow decline
- Moderate decline
- Rapid decline



2019–24





2025

28 June to 6 July

Visit our webpage to learn more:

<https://gardenbirdssurvey.nz/>

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