



Cliff Viewing Area - Wildlife of Taiaroa Head

For each species observed think about the following questions:

- Are they native to New Zealand or been introduced from elsewhere?
- What do they use the headland for (breeding, resting, feeding)?
- Do they interact with the Royal Albatross? How?



Spotted Shags

These birds nest on cliff ledges where predators can't reach their eggs or young.



NZ Fur Seals

There is a small breeding rookery on Taiaroa Head that is inaccessible by land. The ones that you see hauled out on the rocks are mainly non-breeding males.



Rabbits (droppings)

Although not often seen, the abundance of droppings and burrows are evidence that they live here.



Bull Kelp

The holdfast of this plant firmly anchors it to the rocks and the blades are filled with pockets of air to keep them afloat.



Red-billed Gulls

400-600 pairs nest here annually.



Black Backed Gulls

Much bigger than the Red-billed gull, but only 20-30 pairs nest on the headland.



**Stoats
(caught in trap)**

Stoats are trapped on the headland to prevent them from attacking albatross chicks.



Little Blue Penguins

These small birds only come to shore after dusk. Look for nesting boxes that DOC has provided.

The wildlife of Taiaroa Head has changed over time. Suggest reasons why.