

Caring for the region's wildlife

HOW CAN PEOPLE HELP?

- Do not disturb wildlife.
- Use natural resources wisely: reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Plant native trees and shrubs to provide nesting areas and be careful when felling trees as baby birds can be separated from their parents.
- Responsible disposal of rubbish including fishing tackle.
- Look after your pet cat responsibly by making sure that it's fed good quality food, that it's desexed, identified with a microchip and collar and ideally doesn't roam especially in native bush.
- Look after your pet dog responsibly by ensuring that it is fed good quality food, is desexed, doesn't roam and when out on a walk in areas where there is wildlife ensure that they're on a lead and under your control.
- Be considerate of volunteers.
- Educate others about the importance of preserving our natural heritage and respecting animals and our environment.

By Carmen Hall
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The number of rescues carried out by the ARRC Wildlife Trust has jumped by 150 in one year.

Figures show it rescued 850 mainly birds in 2017 up by 150 in 2016. Founding Trustee Dr Liza Schneider says the increase is likely due to more people knowing they provide vet care and rehabilitation for wildlife.

"I also believe more people are concerned about the welfare of animals in our community. Unfortunately people often bring them in for care when they would be better off being left out in the wild. For example baby birds that are just learning to fly often stray from their nests with their



Two rare bittern chicks were rescued by ARRC last year.

parents in the vicinity. People become concerned that the birds can't fly properly, catch them and bring them in for care." Often baby birds did not survive, she says.

"On the other hand there are times when these babies are under threat by cats or dogs so bringing them into us for care is a safer option."

Another down side was the charitable trust relied on volunteers.

"Some members of the public show very little consideration for these people who are often stretched during our busy season. A real concern is burn-out of our volunteers and we need to look after an appreciate our people as well as the animals that we care for," she says.

Animals it cared for included moreporks, hawks, kereru, little blue penguins, shags, waxeyes, tui, kingfishers, fantails and seagulls.

The most unusual were two rare bittern chicks on the critically endangered list with as few as 900 left in New Zealand.