

# Recording Sheet Information

## **Instructions to Contributors/Observers.**

### **Introduction**

Little is known about the status and numbers of kea in the South Island.

Information gathered from this community based survey, in conjunction with intensive summer surveys, will provide crucial data on kea numbers, breeding success, movement between areas and survivorship between seasons.

### **Who?**

Anyone can be a part of the survey! If you are out and about in the Southern mountain areas during July this year we would love you to be involved. You don't have to be a scientist!

### **Where?**

These will be at any site/s easily accessible to you. You can choose one site for all your observations or a separate location for each day you observe (e.g. Saturday – Arthur's Pass village; Sunday Carrington Hut; the following weekend Waimakariri Falls Hut etc).

### **When?**

These are run annually on weekend afternoons during July. Each recording period will occur on 4 consecutive Saturday and Sunday afternoons, for as long as you like, between 12noon and 4pm (a total of 8 separate recording days).

Observers can choose to do as many or as few days at a variety of locations during the survey period. If you can only observe for 2 hours between 12 and 4 then this is also okay (ensure you fill in the time period you did observe for and exact time of your maximum count).

### **Equipment Required?**

All you will need is the following equipment/information for each observation:

Recording sheet, recording sheet information, binoculars, clip board, pen/pencil and of course warm clothing! Optional extras – GPS and camera for identity photos of kea.

### **What happens to the Information Gathered?**

The data collected from this count will be entered onto the New Zealand eBird database to enable analysis of kea populations. You can visit this website to follow our progress and the progress of kea at <http://ebird.org/content/newzealand>.

We will also post the results of this study, as they become available, on our web-site [www.keaconservation.co.nz](http://www.keaconservation.co.nz).

### **Any Questions?**

If you have any questions, at any time, please get in contact with Tamsin (Project Coordinator) on 0274249594 or email on [n.notabilis@xtra.co.nz](mailto:n.notabilis@xtra.co.nz).

**References:** National Bird Banding Scheme – OSNZ (<http://osnz.org.nz/studies.htm#banding>)  
New Zealand eBird - <http://ebird.org/content/newzealand>

## **How to fill in the Recording Sheets**

### **1. Observer details**

Please provide your name and contact details in the space provided. This will allow us to contact you if we have any queries about your observation.

### **2. Table 1: Date, Times and Location details**

#### **Date**

Please include the day and date on each completed recording sheet e.g. Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

#### **Observation start and end times**

This information will provide us with a measure of effort. Ensure that you write down what time you started your observations and what time you completed your observations eg. 12.40pm – 3.30pm. ***Ensure that all observations take place between 12 noon and 4pm.***

#### **Exact time maximum numbers of kea seen**

This survey aims to count maximum numbers of kea in each area. In order to do this we require you to write down when you saw the maximum number of kea seen at anyone time ie. If you saw 2 kea at the start of your survey (12.40pm) but at 2.20pm you saw 3 kea together and saw only 2 kea after that period, then you will enter 3 for that completed survey period (seen at 2.20pm).

#### **Location Name**

Please include the name of the area you are working in along with a basic description (e.g. Porter Heights ski field car park; Fox Glacier terminal face; Mt Aspiring French Ridge hut; public walking track between Carrington and Barker Huts Arthur's Pass etc).

If you are able to include GPS/map coordinates please do so.

### **3. Table 2: Kea details – Numbers, Age, Band info, Behaviour**

Be as accurate as possible with the information you enter on your recording sheet about individual birds. Please include the following information where possible (if unsure please place a zero or N/A to indicate that you have not simply missed the information out):

#### **Maximum kea numbers in each age category**

Please record the maximum numbers of kea seen during your observation period in one or more of the 3 boxes supplied:

- Sub-adult
- Adult
- Unknown age

i) Sub-adult (top photos) – if you are able to see **any** yellow colouration around eyes, nostrils (cere) and/or on lower beak (see pictures at right), the kea is a sub-adult.

ii) Adult (bottom photos) - if the kea has completely black/dark colouration around the eyes, nostrils and beak, and there is no evidence of any yellow, it is in an adult.



iii) Unknown age - if you are unable to ascertain the birds' colouration for whatever reason (e.g. it is too far away etc), enter it into the unknown age category.

### Are Kea banded?

- If no bands are present write 'No' in the column.
- If you cannot see if birds are banded write "*unable to see if banded or not*".
- If you are able to clearly view bands on any of the kea, please record the following banding information in the column corresponding to the individual birds age (sub-adult, adult or unknown):

### Band Information

#### Reading the bands

In line with the National Bird Banding Scheme, bands should be read from top to bottom (elbow to claw) on the left leg, then top-to-bottom (elbow to claw), on the right leg.

***Make sure you correctly identify which side of the bird you are looking at.***

Any numbers on metal bands? If you are unable to read metal band numbers, please do not guess. If you are able to read with the help of binoculars, read the number twice and record it immediately.

Any colour bands? Please record the position and colours of any coloured bands.



### General behaviour:

Please describe what the kea are doing at the time of your observation:

For example you may use as many of the following general categories below or make up some of your own;

- Physical manipulation of human property (e.g. vehicles, equipment, buildings, rubbish bins, bags etc)
- Feeding/foraging – natural or human (searching or eating of food)
- Social interaction (preening, playing, chasing, feeding of another bird)
- Human interaction (being fed by people, exploring a person)
- Flying or walking around study area.

### Transferring Information to our Online Form

([http://www.keaconservation.co.nz/kearesearchprojects/populationresearch.html#send\\_kea\\_sightings](http://www.keaconservation.co.nz/kearesearchprojects/populationresearch.html#send_kea_sightings))

Our online observation form is very simple. On it you will be able to enter all the following information:

- When? Date (calendar supplied)
- Where? Location
- How Many? Maximum number seen at anyone time
- Presence of yellow? To ascertain age
- Presence of bands?
- Band details
- Any other comments – please add in all other information that is on the form ie. Start/end times, what the kea are doing, whether kea were heard but not seen (if a zero count) etc.
- Your details – all contact details can be inserted here.