



Experience a different 9 to 5

with a summer job at the

Department of Conservation

Photo: Petrus Hedman

Biodiversity Ranger, Tara iti NZ Fairy

Location	Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland or Whangārei
Dates of Employment	7th September 2026 to 19 th February 2027
Salary	Salary range based on skills and experience is \$65,590 - \$76,589

Mō te tūranga | About the role

The New Zealand Fairy Tern/ Tara iti is New Zealand's rarest native bird. There are currently fewer than 45 birds left in the population. The survival of this species is supported by a dedicated team of DOC staff.

As a Biodiversity Ranger you will focus on supporting the protection and recovery of tara iti, one of Aotearoa's most critically endangered bird species. This is a 'Floating Ranger' role, intended to work across multiple sites and support various workstreams including predator control, site maintenance, species management, bird observations and our captive rearing program. We're looking for someone with a broad range of skills who can jump in and help out at any site depending on the needs of the program.

Key Tasks

- Undertake predator control, including kill-trapping, leghold trapping, and humane dispatch
- Monitor and protect tara iti pairs, nests, and chicks
- Support nest protection and manipulation under guidance from technical staff
- Liaise with volunteers and coordinate site activities
- Engage with the public, including advocacy and compliance
- Provide support across multiple breeding sites as required
- Transport equipment and supplies between sites
- Cover site rangers during leave or peak demand periods
- Maintain strong communication between field teams and DOC staff

Ngā pūkenga me ngā wheako | Skills and experience

- Strong field observation and monitoring skills
- Ability to work independently in isolated environments and as part of a small team

- Adaptability and ability to prioritise tasks in a dynamic work environment
- Strong communication skills and ability to engage with staff, volunteers, and the public
- Confidence managing compliance situations and delivering conservation messaging
- Practical, hands-on approach to fieldwork
- Good written skills and competence using Microsoft Office tools
- Physical fitness suitable for fieldwork, including walking to remote sites
- Experience in predator control methods
- 4WD and/or LUV competency
- High level of flexibility required to respond to operational needs across multiple sites
- Full New Zealand driver's licence

Mō te tīma | About the team/Location

The Tara iti programme operates across multiple coastal sites in Auckland and Northland, including Waipū, Mangawhai, Te Ārai, Pākiri, and Papakānui. The programme is supported by DOC staff, technical advisors, and the Tara Iti Recovery Group.

You will work alongside a team of seasonal rangers and volunteers, with support from Auckland and Whangārei mainland teams. This role requires travel between sites, including remote coastal environments, and provides a unique opportunity to contribute to the recovery of one of New Zealand's rarest bird species.

Additional Information

Roster: Rangers work 5 days on/ 2 days off with days off during the week. All Rangers are expected to work weekends and public holidays including Christmas. This is a full-time 40hr/ week role with flexible working hours depending on the work.

Accommodation: Ranger is responsible for finding their own accommodation.

Number of positions: One

Me he pātai anō, whakapā mai | For further enquiries

Please contact Kate Sparks ksparks@doc.govt.nz