

Index to the Rare Bits Newsletters about Threatened Species Work - 21. BIODIVERSITY LOSS

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				21. Biodiversity Loss Under DoC Care Quotes (except whio, kiwi, kakapo)
39	Dec-00	20		Whenua Hou Nature Reserve (Codfish Island) [is] rat free.. we decided to hold up to 400 bats in captivity for the duration of the [rat poisoning] programme. A trial with 50 bats was carried out first with no loses. So before the bait was dropped 385 bats were caught and put into four purpose built aviaries (batteries). Under the watchful eye of a dedicated team they were feed a diet of mealworms that had been feed a nutrient supplement. This proved very acceptable to the bats, with most putting on weight and having to be put on a diet. They were all weighed and checked every 8 days, which was no small task. During the operation only 9 bats were lost up until the week of the final release in late September, when for some unknown reason 45 bats died during the check up, apparently from heat stress. Even with the mass mortality it was an amazing achievement to keep that number of bats in captivity for over 3 months. Overseas experts had indicated that we should expect a mortality rate of up to 50 percent as a matter of course
46	Sep -02	13	Aorangi Island	A mouse was reported.. A full SOP response was launched with 64 bait stations, Elliot traps, Easiset mouse traps, lures, chew sticks etc. We were not able to follow the SOP to the letter in terms of frequency of visits as the weather did not play ball. After six weeks we have had nothing to confirm any rodents in the area. We have removed the Elliot traps as they were killing diving petrels, spotless crakes and lizards. We also removed the Easisets as they have killed lizards and giant weta.
37	Jun -00	5	Auckland	The Hunua kokako: Only 2 of the 4 pairs attempted to breed and both nests were lost in incubation. Four Mapara females were transferred in last season, and although 1 had paired with a resident male she had been killed during winter by a stoat.
37	Jun -00	7	Auckland	A covenant within the Carter Holt Harvey managed forest at Woodhill was visited in May to inspect what was once our largest mainland population of <i>Pimelea tomentosa</i> . Unfortunately fallow deer browse was extensive, and only 4 plants were relocated.
41	Jun -01	3	Auckland	Our <i>Lepidium flexicaule</i> transfer to Rangitoto has been a little less than successful with 100 out of 150 plants still alive (66%) after 3 months, but only 5 out of 150 plants still alive (3.3%), after 10 months. Rangitoto is a harsh environment, and this translocation was always going to be a challenge.
43	Dec-01	4	Auckland	fairy tern nests..One of the female's first clutches failed due to the single egg being buried in a sand storm, and the other female's first clutch contained one infertile and one fertile egg. The fertile egg was taken to Auckland Zoo to be incubated, and a replacement egg from Waipu (that had been incubated at the Zoo and was ready to hatch) placed in the nest. It hatched successfully but the chick was killed during the sand storm. The second clutches have been more successful. The female whom the male favours, has just had her fertile egg taken to the Zoo and has been given two fertile eggs from Waipu that are about to hatch. The other female has abandoned her second clutch and the single fertile egg is at the Zoo being incubated.
45	Jun-02	4	Auckland	Recent monitoring of kakabeak (<i>Clianthus puniceus</i>) on Moturemu Island has revealed that only five of the original individuals planted in August 2001 have survived. Unfortunately the surviving plants were in poor health, being subject to some form of insect attack..analysis showed that plants had a significant amount of fungal growth..There were also at least three types of insect attack.. these attacks may be due to an underlying cause rather than being the cause of poor health. Stress from drying or root damage, increased shading from overgrowing trees, or some other sudden change, may alter the plant's condition and make it more attractive as a food source. Alternatively, overcrowding of a pest species on some other neighbouring plants may result in a spillover effect. A planting project with more rigorous monitoring is planned.
49	Jun -03	3	Auckland	Vegetation and weed control to allow daylight and reduce competition from kakabeak seedlings on Moturemu has just been completed..transplanted kakabeak did not survive
49	Jun -03	4	Auckland	We've also been out re-surveying coastal cress (<i>Lepidium oleraceum</i>) sites in the northern Mokohinau Islands. All our records of cress are 10 years or older, so it was time to re-check them. Six individual plants were found on only one stack. Rat eradication some years ago has left the

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				islands predator-free and now honeycombed with bird burrows
49 Jun -03	4	Auckland		coastal shore-cress (<i>Lepidium flexicaule</i>) on Rangitoto: first returned to the island in 1999. All these plants died, though some flowered, seeded, and seedlings grew. Three individuals from another transfer in 2002 are still alive and have flowered. Dense weed infestations seem to hamper establishment of the coastal shore-cress on the island. The translocation is now entering a re-assessment phase, during which the Conservancy will consider whether it is feasible to continue to try and establish a population of this cress on Rangitoto, or whether Auckland's weedy flora will win out
51 Dec -03	1	Auckland		Kakabeak from Moturemu Island (Kaipara Harbour) has been planted at several sites on Tiritiri Matangi Island. One aim is to test results of planting near petrel burrows: early observations indicate that those planted round burrows are struggling compared to the other sites. Interference by petrels, penguins, and pukekos is proving frustrating! Attempts to carry out a rat eradication operation on Moturemu Island for kakabeak protection have been thwarted so far by continuous rain
51 Dec -03	1	Auckland		The one and only naturally occurring sand spurge (<i>Euphorbia glauca</i>) known in the Auckland Area is perched precariously on a cliff on Browns Island. Eighty young Euphorbias grown by the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens were planted in the general vicinity of the wild plant this winter. Four months later, only 11 of the 80 are still looking good. Most of the rest seem to have succumbed to snails, which defoliate the plant and eat at the stems
51 Dec -03	1	Auckland		damaged by roading contractors: green mistletoe (<i>Ileostylus micranthus</i>) and pale flowered kumeraho (<i>Pomaderris hamiltonii</i>) have been destroyed. These incidents occurred despite previous contact with the council about the plants and the council agreeing to avoid damaging the plants. Our people once again got together with their people to try and stop this from happening again. Some of the remedies discussed included better marking of the sites, more regular contact, and maps that can be given to the people driving the machinery
52 Mar -04	5	Auckland		Despite the hard work of the tern wardens, no fairy tern chicks were fledged in the Auckland Conservancy this summer. One promising development was a confirmed breeding attempt at Pakiri Beach, on the east coast near Leigh, the first in 38 years at this site. A pair laid one egg which, because of high predator numbers in the area, was transferred to another nest at Papakanui. Unfortunately, the chick disappeared soon after hatching. Predation by a black-backed gull is suspected. After the initial removal of their egg, the Pakiri pair readily accepted a new wax-filled dummy egg. This is a hopeful sign, as the old wooden dummies used to date are frequently rejected by the birds
39 Dec -00	5	Bay of Plenty		Staff have recently checked on the survival of the <i>Rorippa divaricata</i> planted on Mokoia Island last year. Because most plants had died off during winter a spring check for seedlings was necessary. Unfortunately no seedlings were found despite most of the original plantings surviving and setting seed.
39 Dec -00	5	Bay of Plenty		In August, further planting and monitoring of threatened/uncommon plant species as part of the restoration project on Whale Island continued. Monitoring of those species initially planted last year has revealed mixed survival rates
41 Jun -01	6	Bay of Plenty		<i>Rorippa divaricata</i> In March, staff returned to Mokoia Island to monitor <i>Rorippa divaricata</i> plantings that were established in 1999. Only three surviving plants from 245 plants established were found, although the majority of these set seed before dying off last winter so we hope that further plants will re-establish.
41 Jun -01	6	Bay of Plenty		<i>Pterostylis micromega</i> : ..no plants were located. The wetland habitat has changed greatly since the original discovery with much more water present and no grazing. While this management regime has greatly improved the functioning and quality of the wetland it may not have been so favourable for the orchid.
42 Oct 01	6	Bay of Plenty		A second application of Pestoff 20R (12mm diameter, 2-4 gram) Wanganui No. 7 cereal pellets containing 20ppm brodifacoum was dropped onto Mokoia Island..As part of the project, 25 North Island weka were captured from the island and transferred to Equine Farms, near Rotorua

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			as a safeguard against the loss of this population. These birds will be returned to the island once the operation is completed
43 Dec -01	4	Bay of Plenty	Mistletoes: Further <i>T. antarctica</i> seeds have also been planted on Mokoia Island during September and October as the initial planting several years ago does not appear to have survived. Several hundred seeds were cello-taped onto fivefinger trees
43 Dec -01	5	Bay of Plenty	..resurveying populations of <i>Thelypteris confluens</i> and <i>Cyclosorus interruptus</i> ..which have not been checked for several years. Although the work was undertaken in late October several of the original populations could not be found .. <i>Calochilus robertsonii</i> (Redbearded Orchid): The annual survey this year has revealed a large decline on last year's record of 3,268 plants with only 1,042 plants found.. <i>Caleana minor</i> (Duck Orchid): ..making a concerted effort to get some seed set on the few plants of <i>Caleana minor</i> which still exist at its only known New Zealand site in Rotorua. The last few years have been a failure, with insects or other browsers destroying all plants before flowering or seed set could occur.. <i>Rorippa divaricata</i> : No new populations were found and several existing populations had died out with the sites being invaded by secondary native shrub species and exotic grasses. Eight live plants in total were found, a decrease from 12 known plants last year
44 Apr -02	8	Bay of Plenty	a few clumps of <i>Cyclosorus</i> and <i>Thelypteris</i> were noted in amongst a heavy reed sweet grass infestation. It appears that numbers of both species have declined..since early 90's, probably as a result of weed competition
44 Apr -02	8	Bay of Plenty	survey using volunteers ..for the elusive <i>Pterostylis micromega</i> record (1984) from the Lower Kaituna wetland. No plants were found
47 Dec -02	6	Bay of Plenty	<i>Lepidium oleraceum</i> and <i>Euphorbia glauca</i> : Tuhua (Mayor Island), approximately 40 plants were established around south-east bay in winter 2000. Recent assessments indicate approximately 50% are surviving. Slugs, snails, and sparrows are browsing plants. Taumaihi Island, August 2000 planting of 27 <i>Lepidium oleraceum</i> was assessed in 2001 with no plants found. This site was rechecked in April 2002 with still no plants found and only two <i>Euphorbia glauca</i> plants found.
47 Dec -02	7	Bay of Plenty	Four live striped skinks were recovered from a dead miro tree on the Mount Te Aroha access road in late July. These were held in captivity by John Heaphy and later transferred to the National Wildlife Centre at Mt Bruce for research purposes on the advice of the <i>Oligosoma</i> Recovery Group. One dead striped skink was also recovered. This discovery is one of the few times over the last decade that live striped skink have been found in native forest habitat.
51 Dec -03	6	Bay of Plenty	North Island robin – Tuhua (Mayor Island): The opportunity was taken to monitor North Island robin (taken from Mokoia Island) for the first time since their release on Tuhua on 17 May 2003. ..Of the 42 released, a minimum total of 11 birds (26%) were located: six confirmed males..one confirmed female..two partially identified birds..and two unidentified birds
52 Mar -04	6	Bay of Plenty	Another attempt at translocating Tupeia seed to Mokoia Island was made in December. Several past attempts in recent years using Tupeia plants haven't established successfully to date. This latest attempt involved translocating seed onto the fivefinger hosts and covering it with a small piece of shadecloth to reduce the chances of losing the seed. A total of 483 seeds were translocated to the island.
52 Mar -04	7	Bay of Plenty	Red-bearded orchid: The annual survey this year has shown a concerning decline to a total of 694 plants; the lowest number recorded since 1993. There are no obvious reasons for this
55 Dec -04	6	Bay of Plenty	In September, several hundred more Tupeia seeds were planted along the sunny northern side of Mokoia Island on fivefinger trees, in the hope of establishing the species on the island. A quick check on the <i>Ileostylus</i> seed planted in July revealed that some seed had disappeared from the branches, with a few seeds dry and most likely dead
53 Jun -04	1	Big South Cape Island	In March 1964..a ship rat plague was causing immense damage to property and wildlife.. by the time we reached Big South Cape (five months after the first reports) many land bird populations had already been almost totally destroyed
44 Apr-02	16	Canterbury	<i>Leptinella filiformis</i> : Until 1998 it was thought to be extinct.. 31 plants .. were planted out at Medbury Reserve.. monitored in October; six had been destroyed and a further four damaged by rabbits. The rabbits were probably attracted to the plants by the newly disturbed ground when

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			they were planted. Hopefully the unusually damp summer on the plains has ensured this population will become established enough to withstand further attention from the rabbits.
45 Jun-02	12	Canterbury	The orange-fronted parakeet has recently been reclassified from a Category 2 specie to Category 1 – nationally critical. ..The results of the 2001/2002 parakeet breeding season were fairly positive. The monitored orange-fronted and yellow-crowned parakeet pairs attempted to raise two broods..the first nesting attempt produced both orange-fronted and yellow-crowned parakeet fledglings in March, the second attempt produced only yellow-crowned parakeet fledglings in May. The orange-fronted parakeet pair was successful in fledging seven chicks from their first nest but unfortunately the second nest was abandoned – it contained five late development stage eggs. The cause of the abandonment is not known and the pair did not appear to nest again. There were two individual orange-fronted parakeets monitored. These two either did not breed or kept the whole affair well hidden -which this species can easily manage much to the frustration of the monitoring team, as neither partners or nests were seen. Further observations in the valley have indicated that breeding has now finished and the parakeets are starting to flock for the winter period. [breeding most likely prevented by DoC disturbance]
49 Jun -03	17	Canterbury	Because OFP were regularly seen at several sites in the Hawdon Valley, nest searches were concentrated in this area for most of January..very few pairs were located repeatedly. One OFP nest was located when the Hurunui was visited in mid February to check on parakeet activity. The nest was climbed and monitored. All five eggs from the nest were removed and flown in an incubator via helicopter and plane to Invercargill and delivered to Te Anau Wildlife Park. After candling to determine the ages and conditions of the eggs, they were swapped with five red-crowned parakeet's eggs. Four of the eggs hatched and all the chicks fledged, in spite of both foster parent birds dying and the chicks requiring hand feeding four times a day for several weeks! The next step is to decide whether the chicks in Te Anau will get to breed in captivity or whether they will wait till they get to Te Kakahu (Chalky Island).. Lets hope more than one nest can be found next season
52 Mar -04	19	Canterbury	The orange-fronted parakeet (OFP) population crashed in the South Branch of the Hurunui during the rat plague of the 2000/01 summer. The species was in dire trouble and the Recovery Group had to re-think its priorities!
52 Mar -04	19	Canterbury	Above all, this work highlights the value of 'habitat' based survey as a cost effective method in dealing with multiple species
53 Jun -04	12	Canterbury	titi/sooty shearwater: a visit in December revealed 10 eggs using a burrow scope. A follow-up visit last week by local DOC staff and Kerry-Jayne showed a woeful story. There was no sign of any chicks alive, and four dead chicks were found inside the burrows. Their ripped out throats pointed to mustelid predation, confirmed by stoat scats and a small hole forced between the netting and fence posts. The only good news is that there is no sign that adults were taken, so they should return to breed next year. Priorities from here are to source funding for a professional predator-proof fence. The best efforts of the landowner have not been enough against the wily fence-cracking skills of stoats.
53 Jun -04	14	Canterbury	A collaborative project ..saw the translocation of two native invertebrates back to Quail Island. A summer student investigated the feasibility of translocating several ground beetles (<i>Megadromus guerinii</i> , <i>Holcaspis intermittans</i> , <i>Holcaspis suteri</i>), native slugs (<i>Pseudaneitea maculata</i>) and Banks Peninsula tree weta (<i>Hemideina ricta</i>) to the island. The results of her study indicated that the source population of ground beetles and native slugs would not be detrimentally affected by the removal of specimens for translocation. The translocation of <i>Megadromus guerinii</i> beetles and native slugs (<i>Pseudaneitea maculata</i>) was completed in April, 2004
55 Dec -04	14	Canterbury	The orange-fronted kakariki: a number of the captive juveniles died. These special parakeets are certainly not easy to raise in captivity! Following the last Rare Bits story and a couple of bird transfers to and from Te Anau and Christchurch, the first eggs were laid by Valentine and Arthur in Te Anau in late August. Unfortunately after four eggs were laid, Arthur mysteriously died and the eggs had to be artificially incubated at Burwood Bush. The "supermum" foster parent at Isaacs Wildlife Centre (Christchurch) fortunately came to the rescue again, and her eggs were swapped with the orange-fronted kakariki ones. But fate stepped in once more, and she abandoned the nest after three eggs hatched

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			(one was infertile). The two remaining chicks are subsequently being hand-reared
38 Sep -00	6	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	in Tongariro Forest 21 Operation Nest Egg birds have now been released since 1997. Despite at least three deaths (ferret, pig & misadventure) and five transmitter failures, the remaining 13 birds are doing well and all remain within various parts of Tongariro Forest.
39 Dec-00	7	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	The 3 North Island (NI) brown kiwi released into Boundary Stream earlier in the year have had mixed fortunes. In late September the oldest (6 months) and largest (1300 gm) kiwi was found dead in the reserve. The cause of death is thought to be exposure because the bird was located in an exposed part of the reserve. There was no evidence of predation, and a severe southerly storm had hit the reserve at the time bringing extreme winds, freezing temperatures, and snow.
46 Sep -02	3	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	As yet genetic testing has not been done, however based on morphological differences, the Powelliphanta found in the Taraponui Covenant and Cashe's Bush are likely to be a species or sub-species endemic to the Maungaharuru Range. In 2000, 25 live snails and four empty shells were found in the 20x25 permanent plots. This year, 53 live snails were found. Three empty shells were found, only one of these had evidence of predation. A second population inhabits nearby Cashe's Bush Scenic Reserve. Unfortunately this year's survey has shown a 58% decrease in numbers, although only one of the empty shells found shown signs of predation
47 Dec -02	10	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	Urgent action was taken to save the kakabeak at Bartlett's after a recent visit (the first in several years) discovered it was being badly browsed. The tree was sprayed with 'Treepel' to deter goats.
49 Jun -03	10	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	April saw the fifth anniversary of a 28 robin release into the mainland island. Twelve of these birds were female, of which only five went on to breed.
51 Dec -03	8	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	In April 2003, two Cook's scurvy grass (<i>Lepidium oleraceum</i>) seedlings were planted and hundreds of seeds were sown on Whanga-o-kena (East Island) near East Cape as part of the restoration plan for the island. We returned to Whanga-o-kena in October 2003 to check on the seedlings and seeds, and to plant a further 70 seedlings. Both seedlings were alive but we found no evidence that any seeds had germinated
52 Mar -04	10	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	Kowhai-ngutu-kaka: planting of this endangered shrub on road cuttings in the East Cape region.. a mob of goats had been gobbling their way through the plants and had even ring-barked the older specimens.. The lesson from this is that 'extinction events' can occur with disagreeable rapidity
44 Apr -02	24	Kapiti Island	Twenty brown teal have been released on Kapiti over the past two years. Of these, six are known to have died..
44 Apr-02	23	Korapuki Island	Korapuki Island: Unfortunately, a large darkling beetle translocated from Middle Island does not seem to be doing at all well. None of the 50 translocated beetles were found, and it seems likely that they met their fate in the mouths of Duvaucel's geckos, which are abundant on the island
45 Jun -02	17	Mokoia Island	At the end of the breeding season on Mokoia Island there were 20 birds (5 males, 5 females and 10 fledglings). A decision has been made by the Conservator in consultation with the Mokoia Island Trust, to remove all remaining hihi from Mokoia and transfer them to Kapiti Island. The decision will mean that there is one less island with hihi on it. The reasons for the removal are the lack of an increase in numbers (since released in September 1994), the amount of staff resources needed to sustain their intensive management and the financial input required in managing them. The removal will take place this winter
47 Dec -02	19	Mokoia Island	Fifteen hihi (eight males and seven females) were transferred from Mokoia to Kapiti, Mt Bruce in mid August till November as a result of a management decision to shift them to Kapiti, Mt Bruce to improve their chances of survival. No birds now remain on Mokoia. The Kapiti birds are being monitored.
47 Dec -02	19	Mokoia Island	Recent monitoring of mistletoe seed (<i>Tupeia</i>) planting from last season and previous years has still failed to find any plants establishing on the fivefinger hosts. It also appears that <i>Rorippa divaricata</i> has not reestablished on the island following re-introduction of plants several years ago.

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36	Apr-00	16	Nelson/ Marlborough	A February search for the red-throated eye-bright (<i>Euphrasia</i> unnamed), which appears to be confined to the Southern Arthur Range, revealed only 1 plant over an area where there were numerous individuals 5 years ago. This gives cause for concern because the reasons for decline are not apparent.
36	Apr-00	16	Nelson/ Marlborough	The Mt Stokes mohua population has dropped dramatically. At the end of the 1998-99 summer there were around 90 birds, but now numbers are estimated at 27, of which only 6 are female. Predation by ship rats is thought to be the cause of the sudden decline. This may have occurred during winter if the birds also roost in cavities. The department had successfully increased mohua numbers on Mt Stokes to a size where the risk could be taken to establish a second population on a predator-free island. Four birds, including 1 female, were transferred late last year to Nukuwaiata. Plans to move more were scrapped when it was realised there had been a sizeable drop in the population. Seven nesting attempts were made over summer but few were successful. Cuckoo parasitism was an added problem. Intensive trapping of stoats had been sufficient to protect the birds because rats had almost never been recorded at this altitude on Mt Stokes.
37	Jun -00	2	Nelson/ Marlborough	In January 1999 we transferred 4 female kaka from Whenua Hou (Codfish Island) to the RNRP area in an effort to increase our sample size. One of these nested last summer – only a year after her release. Unfortunately, her eggs and a recently hatched nestling were preyed on, probably by rats.. Three of these birds left the RNRP area after their release but remained local. One subsequently died but the other 3 are alive and well.
37	Jun -00	15	Nelson/ Marlborough	Survey work on Arapawa Island confirmed the presence of the protected, undescribed <i>Megadromus</i> beetle at several sites, as well as <i>Wainuia</i> and occasional <i>Powelliphanta</i> snails. However, in many areas these species are being heavily hit by pigs which have severely rooted large areas of forest floor, overturning large stones in the process.
40	Mar-01	7	Nelson/ Marlborough	A visit to the Matiri Plateau yielded only around 40 individuals of the indeterminate species <i>Melicytus</i> “Matiri”, many heavily browsed, confirming that this species is threatened.. Monitoring of 5 <i>Scutellaria novaezealandiae</i> sites has unfortunately recorded a loss from the type locality. <i>Celmisia macmahonii</i> has been collected from the Sounds and is now being propagated for population enhancement. ..Fire on Boxing Day burnt all 300 recently planted <i>Muehlenbeckia astonii</i> , but the plants are tenacious. Despite being in the ground for only a few months, some are showing signs of regrowth when watered by a couple of concerned individuals!
41	Jun -01	9	Nelson/ Marlborough	A Cook’s scurvy grass census of the outer Pelorus Sound islands has confirmed that it is present on 6 of the 15 islands and islets visited. This year’s exceptional drought has killed most plants though..
42	Oct -01	11	Nelson/ Marlborough	During the drought, large numbers of <i>Raoulia</i> mats died on the Cloudy Bay Foreshore, which meant that when staff came to survey for the recently discovered mat daisy jumper moth, <i>Kiwaia</i> , none could be found.
43	Dec-01	12	Nelson/ Marlborough	only one who was seen in the whole East Branch
43	Dec-01	12	Nelson/ Marlborough	We previously reported on work to measure changes in falcon numbers over 300 km2 in Marlborough. This work was repeated in November. While there is evidence of decline since baseline research in the 1970’s, the significance of this trend is questionable. It is even more difficult to assign possible causes for any decline.
44	Apr-02	15	Nelson/ Marlborough	Takahe: Two chicks have survived to over 50 days on Maud Island, which is a good effort in a summer of massive rainfall. Eric, hung up by his leg in a sheep netting fence, would have died if Steve had not found him and administered some TLC. Fences were also responsible for Albert’s death previously, fuelling debate about whether to take sheep and fences off Maud Island altogether.
44	Apr-02	15	Nelson/ Marlborough	The last surviving female mohua from Mt Stokes, rescued in 1999 just before ship rats wiped out the rest, has finally bred on Nukuwaiata. The 27 mohua from the dart Valley also released Nukuwaiata in October 2001 have been hard to monitor. Their secretive habits and the difficult terrain have resulted in only nine individuals being positively identified from colour bands

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45 Jun-02	11	Nelson/ Marlborough	Monitoring of peppergrass survival was monitored on two small islands, where it was introduced, in the Moutere Inlet. Its continued survival was surprising as recruitment has been very poor and weed competition severe.
45 Jun-02	12	Nelson/ Marlborough	A survey of the Rarangi foreshore <i>Raoulia</i> mats failed to find any of the Cloudy Bay mat daisy jumper, <i>Kiwaia</i> sp. cf. <i>jeanae</i> . This is the second year we have failed to detect any of these flightless moths which are known from this site only. Their habitat was severely affected by the big drought of 2000/2001 and we are unsure whether the species has survived.
48 Apr -03	8	Nelson/ Marlborough	<i>Craspedia</i> "Leatham" survey showed that the original population of plants has decreased from 67 to 36 rosettes over the last two years.. The large drop in plant numbers has prompted the setup of formal monitoring and careful weed control.
48 Apr -03	10	Nelson/ Marlborough	Mohua: The highlight was two chicks produced by the one surviving Mt Stokes pair who are now over four years old. Hopefully they will continue to breed for a few more years. Dart Valley sourced mohua on the island showed no sign of breeding, or mixing with the Mt Stokes birds. The low survival rate of these birds (five of the original 27) is a mystery, but may be related to the dryness of the island compared to the Dart Valley.
49 Jun -03	13	Nelson/ Marlborough	(<i>Lepidium banksii</i>), is stubbornly resisting all recovery attempts. Of the transplants at five sites, only one appears healthy - seeding prolifically for the entire season. A previously unrecognised threat was identified this year: root aphids, which annihilate nursery plants over hot summer months
53 Jun -04	12	Nelson/ Marlborough	Also in May, Hamilton's frogs were transferred from Stephens Island to the Inner Chetwode. Native frogs have been successfully shifted on two other occasions in the Sounds and we are confident that taking 80 of the 300 animals from this small population will allow the species to increase on both islands
36 Apr-00	7	Northland	The 5 pairs [of fairy terns] that bred this season in Northland produced a total of 8 nests, including 3 infertile and 3 re-nests. Seven chicks hatched. At Waipu 1 chick disappeared after 3 days and 1 of a pair of chicks at Mangawhai disappeared after bad weather. Two transfers were carried out in an attempt to increase the number of eggs laid. A chick from a fertile egg, which was transferred to Waipu from Papakanui, disappeared after 2 days. One of 2 eggs, transferred from Papakanui to an infertile nest at Mangawhai, hatched and the chick fledged.
37 Jun -00	5	Northland	(Kokako) There were only 3 nesting attempts this season: [only] the third was successful. These chicks were translocated to Puketi, and were the only known kokako chicks to be produced in Northland this year. Unfortunately, predators killed both chicks within 2 months of their release.
38 Sep -00	4	Northland	Our mawhai <i>Sicyos australis</i> at Otuaataua Stonefields is proving to be a little tricky to manage. After re-locating one plant, it was promptly eaten by wayward cows. Another then sprung up and was sprayed deliberately by an adjacent landowner. We are waiting and hoping another will appear. Seed collected off the plants were taken to the botanic gardens, but they did not germinate.
38 Sep -00	5	Northland	Mistletoe (<i>Tupeia antarctica</i> and <i>Ileostylus micranthus</i>) seed was planted on a range of host trees around the island but so far does not appear to have established. However the endangered native cress <i>Rorippa divaricata</i> has fared better with 50% of the original plantings having established and set seed, although half of these have died off over winter.
40 Mar-01	1	Northland	The annual brown teal trend counts in January and February were 104 and 92 respectively, a significant drop from 174 and 162 in 2000. A handful of birds are 'hanging in' at the southern Bay of Islands. Around Teal Bay and Mimiwhangata, the birds are just holding their own, while the population around Whananaki has taken another serious drop to just 6 birds.
41 Jun -01	1	Northland	Another attempt is being made to grow <i>Asplenium pauperequitum</i> from the Poor Knights Islands by spore. This critically endangered fern has previously proved too difficult to grow in cultivation
42 Oct -01	3	Northland	<i>Asplenium pauperequitum</i> : If the plant can be grown in cultivation through to the sporophyte stage, it will be a huge step forward for

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			safeguarding this critically endangered species, as all attempts to grow it so far have been unsuccessful.
42 Oct -01	3	Northland	<i>Lepidium flexicaule</i> transfer sites on Rangitoto Island .. five plants reported previously as having survived from the translocated population of 150, have died. However, seven seedlings were located, having germinated from the seed produced by the now deceased adult plants. Exotic annual plants seem to be out-competing this native cress there.
43 Dec-01	1	Northland	The latest field trip to the <i>Placostylus ambagiosus</i> subsp. <i>Paraspiritus</i> colony confirmed that there was a massive die-off there a couple of years back, and there are now fewer snails than when we started protection work in 1988. None of the other colonies have crashed. As the common garden snail also occurs here and also suffered a big die-off we are speculating that perhaps a disease event occurred. Norway rats invaded a small island (Snail Rock) off Purerua Peninsula about six months ago and seriously depleted the snails (<i>P. hongii</i>) there. Instead of well in excess of 100 snails, just 15 were found this time
45 Jun-02	3	Northland	Holloway's crystalwort (<i>Atriplex hollowayi</i>): is now so restricted and in such low numbers that stock, wild horses, and chance summer easterly storms are an extreme threat to its survival. Te Pahi staff have had a summer -long struggle trying to erect horse-proof temporary fences..One hundred and fifty nursery-grown plants were planted out but few survived. Planting methods will be reviewed next year.
45 Jun-02	4	Northland	Thirty robust skinks and 41 Matapia Island geckos were transferred from Matapia Island to Motuopao Island in 1997. Monitoring was carried out in March 2002, nearly 5 years later. Three robust skinks were caught over 80 trap nights. Two were adults from the original release and the other is a juvenile born on the island. No Matapia Island geckos were seen from 2.5 hours spotlighting. This is not surprising as we have had very little success spotlighting for Pacific geckos on Lady Alice Island. We will now try using artificial 'gecko homes' (sunken pitfall traps filled with rocks).
48 Apr -03	2	Northland	The main threats to <i>Atriplex hollowayi</i> are high tides, and pigs ploughing through flotsam washed ashore. Overall they have been a lucky bunch of plants, with many being missed by horse hooves and pig feeding.
49 Jun -03	3	Northland	This year a small success can be claimed for the world's rarest tree on the Three Kings Islands. Botanists visiting the islands to remeasure permanent plots established in 1946 discovered that two of the seeds planted last year from fruit harvested from the single remaining wild <i>Pennantia baylisiana</i> tree had germinated. Unfortunately one of the tiny seedlings had died, so was collected and confirmed as <i>P. baylisiana</i> at Auckland Herbarium. The other seedling was looking unhealthy, so was given some water in the hope that it would survive. Whilst this is not exactly ground breaking work, it is significant in that it shows that it may be possible to get the plant growing from seed on the island without having to resort to the risky step of bringing in plants and soil grown on the mainland.
50 Sep -03	3	Northland	Shore spurge (<i>Euphorbia glauca</i>), once widespread in the inner Hauraki Gulf, now remains only on Brown's Island. We planted 80 new shore spurges on Brown's this winter, all were grown from the seed of cuttings taken from the one remaining natural plant on the island..As our one plant failed to flower and produce seed, we removed cuttings from it in 1999. This was a tough decision as the plant only had a few stems. But the gamble paid off, as they flowered profusely and set seed while in cultivation at the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens
52 Mar -04	3	Northland	Three Kings Islands in March 2002, 21 ripe fruit were discovered on the lone surviving wild tree of <i>Pennantia baylisiana</i> . This plant sets very little seed because it is essentially a female, so this event was seen as a great opportunity to harvest and plant the seed at selected marked sites. During a visit in March 2003, two seeds were found to have germinated at damp sites in the mouth of Tasman Valley, though one had died and the other was looking very dry and unhealthy. The tiny seedling was watered. Hopes that this might be the breakthrough that the plant needs on the island were renewed with the discovery that the seedling was still alive and starting to form two new leaves in December 2003, though the seedling was still tiny and very vulnerable. Staff caged the seedling with wire to protect it
36 Apr -00	19	Otago	Stu Thorne in Wanaka has been back into the Dingle valley checking <i>Pittosporum patulum</i> . To his dismay 3 of the 4 young trees at one site,

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			which had all been healthy last May, had been totally defoliated. Possums seem to be the most likely culprit, and a strategy for protecting the site is being considered.
43 Dec-01	16	Otago	The ongoing situation with mohua is supported in Otago, with nest numbers in the banded population at Lake Sylvan at only two thirds of last spring. Distributional work in the Catlins has revealed gaps in some areas, with the Catlins River Walk birds being right down in numbers.
43 Dec-01	16	Otago	<i>Asaphodes stinaria</i> : This is the first Southland record since 1944, despite intensive survey work. In the last three years, a few specimens from South-Westland, Queenstown, and Trotters Gorge (East Otago) have been found. The latter record included a male and female collected..
46 Sep -02	10	Otago	After years of planning and consultation it finally seems that the joint Ngai Tahu DOC co-management project to reintroduce buff weka into Otago is about to happen. Barring last minute hitches, by the time you read this we should be in the Chatham's catching the chosen few.
47 Dec -02	16	Otago	Buff weka: trapping of [30] birds on the Chathams [for translocation to Wanaka].. we had one die from systemic gout..Most of the birds have coped well..Four birds have however set their sights on further horizons by swimming off the island. One is definitely still in the locality, two others have yet to be tracked and one was killed on the road near Lake Hawea a walk of about 10 km in a straight line but a bit longer as the weka walks in two days.
47 Dec -02	17	Otago	At the end of last years breeding a number of adult yellow-eyed penguins were recovered dead along the coast. Additionally during the winter, numbers of YEP seemed to be lower than normal on beaches where counts have been made
49 Jun -03	20	Otago	Wanaka staff had a really interesting summer with the weka on Te Peka Karara in Lake Wanaka.. of the 30 birds bought over from the Chathams one died in the aviary after two weeks from systemic gout; nine have swum off the island; two were run over on the Hawea road; and one was killed by a falcon. This left us with 19 of the original birds. Seven pairs attempted to breed and three pairs fledged a total of five chicks. Nine other chicks were killed near the aviary by other weka. This leaves a total of 24 on the island at the beginning of winter. In addition there are still some seven birds running around on the adjacent land. The death of a bird from gout made us reassess the diet for the birds in the aviary. As a result, we removed all additional protein from the diet and replaced it with fruit.
51 Dec -03	16	Otago	monitoring of spring annual sites in Central Otago is painting a rather bleak picture, with the apparent loss of several sites which had previously supported good populations of <i>Ceratocephala pungens</i> and <i>Myosurus minimus</i> subsp. <i>novae-zelandiae</i> ...Some losses have resulted directly from land development
52 Mar -04	23	Otago	Weka: A sick chick that we had in the quarantine aviary on Te Peka Karara has died. She was taken off the island to the vet in Wanaka on 21 st January, returned to the quarantine aviary on the 24 th and looked like she was perking up, but then died on the 27 th . The provisional diagnosis for the dead chick (sent to Massey for autopsy) is that she was probably affected by bacterial peritonitis / air sacculitis, which is basically a huge bacterial infection in the abdominal cavity. The cause is unknown, but the symptoms may be exacerbated by stress. The other loss was a fledged female who recently had a transmitter attached. She got tangled in vegetation by her harness and perished. There was nothing obviously wrong with the harness settings, so it is likely that it was just very bad luck that she got caught.
53 Jun -04	15	Otago	blue penguins on the Otago Peninsula went through a period of mortality during the moult period
53 Jun -04	17	Otago	Final checks have been made for seedling establishment at several sites where grass beneath <i>Olearia</i> trees were sprayed in early spring. Unfortunately we appear to have been unsuccessful this year
55 Dec -04	17	Otago	Hunter Valley:. Black-billed gulls have declined dramatically from 581 in 1969 to just 12 in the last survey. This trend is also evident in the nearby Makarora catchment.
50 Sep -03	17	Southland	The 2002/03 season has seen a slight decline in the southern New Zealand dotterel population: from 205 birds in 2002, to 192 in 2003.. Very high rat numbers and corresponding high cat numbers probably contributed to the decline in the dotterel population this year

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50 Sep -03	18	Southland	Euphorbia glauca [at Rakiura] ..this once stable population is in a state of decline. Plants which in the past have had hundreds of live stems, now manage only a few live and several dead ones. In some cases the plant has gone. Results indicate that the number of stems for some plants has increased, but overall there has been a 50% reduction in live stems.. While the transfers to Whenua Hou are thriving, two sets of transfers to Fortrose (Southland) have failed.
52 Mar -04	25	Southland	The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust has been conducting an intensive monitoring programme of yellow-eyed penguin breeding success on Stewart Island. The news is not fantastic, with most nests having failed. In one spot where three breeding areas are being monitored (Rollers Beach through to Long Harry), only two chicks remain alive. The decline appears to be due to a lack of food for chicks. Monitoring will continue until either all the chicks have fledged or died.
52 Mar -04	26	Southland	Post-release monitoring of 18 tieke (saddleback) and 18 toutouwai (robins) introduced from Breaksea to Erin Island in Lake Te Anau is winding down for the season. Sabrina Taylor (University of Otago PhD student) has been closely following the tieke since their release in early September last year. It is believed that at least two pairs of tieke and 5–6 single birds have survived, although no breeding has taken place this season. Most of the toutouwai have been re-sighted, they are continuing to breed following an earlier introduction, and some have dispersed to the surrounding Doubtful Islands
48 Apr -03	16	Tiritiri Matangi Island	Six nesting attempts were made by the three female kokako on the island [Tiritiri Matangi]. Shazbot abandoned both nests despite chicks hatching. Kahurangi's two nests failed.
48 Apr -03	16	Tiritiri Matangi Island	Three takahe chicks were produced. This year was the first time Tiri takahe have managed to rear two chicks from one clutch! Another two chicks were produced, but only one of these survived.
44 Apr-02	9	Tongariro/ Taupo	two kaka nests have been detected in Rangataua Forest, both in early incubation. Staff will monitor them as they run the stoat/possum/rat gauntlet over coming months. This work is to monitor kaka nesting success in an area without pest control, to provide a comparison with other managed areas
49 Jun -03	8	Tongariro/ Taupo	Hypericum aff. japonicum was discovered growing commonly at a temporary wetland, side by side with the common Hypericum japonicum. At the time, this wetland was very dry due to the drought conditions, and most wetland plants were suffering. Several plants were collected to be grown on for identification purposes, which unfortunately have not yet flowered. However, one plant appears to be Centipedia minima subsp. minima (Nationally Critical), which is assumed to be extinct in Tongariro Taupo Conservancy. The other may be Isolepis basilaris (Serious Decline), which has not previously been recorded here. Fingers crossed for these discoveries
55 Dec -04	10	Tongariro/ Taupo	In late August 2004, 40 saddleback were captured on Cuvier Island for translocation to Boundary Stream Mainland Island, an 800 ha intensively managed reserve in Hawke's Bay. The birds were screened for disease on the island; unfortunately initial results were positive for salmonella. Due to the difficulty in testing and treating salmonella, which could take up to 30 days, the saddleback were transferred to Auckland Zoo. The retested samples returned positive for citrobacter, a common harmless bacteria which mimics salmonella. The saddleback were then driven to Boundary Stream. Two males died through complications in transit. One male and one female were too sick to be released and kept in captivity. The female recovered quickly and was released nine days later, while tests showed the male had campylobacter, tapeworms and aspergillosis. He is currently being rehabilitated at the Massey Rescue Centre. The remaining 22 females and 14 males were released on 10 th September. Ten birds had tail-mounted transmitters attached and were monitored weekly. Two weeks after release, four transmitted saddleback were found dead following a week of extremely cold southerlies which brought snow to the higher parts of Boundary Stream. Necropsies of two birds found they died of aspergillosis, a common fungal disease that can become fatal when the bird is under stress. One bird had a broken neck, but mammalian predation was ruled out. The fourth bird was too decomposed to necropsy, but no obvious signs of predation were found. A survey

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			six weeks after release estimated 21 birds present, giving a 57% minimum survival rate.
41 Jun -01	4	Waikato	It was not a good season for NZ dotterel on the Coromandel. At our main management site at Opoutere, only six chicks successfully fledged (usually 16- 20). The rest of the peninsula suffered similarly owing to a combination of successive easterly storms in November, and higher than usual egg predation. At Opoutere, only six chicks fledged from 133 eggs laid!
44 Apr-02	6	Waikato	out in the bush, contractors and Maniapoto Area staff are conducting a post-breeding census of kokako at Mapara, primarily to find out rates of female mortality over the breeding season. Over the previous few seasons of no predator management, there has been a high rate of female loss (presumably due to stoats taking nesting females).
45 Jun-02	6	Waikato	The Mahoenui Giant weta only have one significant population, which survives in a gorse-covered reserve in the King Country. Over the years the weta have been translocated to various sites in an effort to establish a second population..Weta were found at one of the four release sites visited
46 Sep -02	3	Waikato	At the end of July, 49 Archey's frogs were transferred from Whareorino Forest in the King Country to Canterbury University. Populations of this 'Nationally Critical' species have dramatically crashed in some areas with amphibian chytrid fungus being a likely cause. The frogs were transferred to Canterbury University to establish a captive population
47 Dec -02	3	Waikato	Whareorino fieldwork also revealed seven dead Archey's and one dead Hochstetter's. All except one of these frogs were found over the 15 x 15 m grid where grid counts have been carried out since November 2001. The remaining dead frog was found approximately 1 km away on a track. On some of the frogs there is evidence of predation, holes in the ventral surface and body contents missing. The frogs will be examined for evidence of the identity of the predator
47 Dec -02	4	Waikato	The Archey's frogs taken down to Canterbury University to establish a captive population have continued to receive media attention. Of the forty-nine frogs taken down, three unfortunately died. The cause of death is not known
47 Dec -02	4	Waikato	Planning is now in full swing for a second transfer of Archey's frog, this time from representative sites from the Coromandel. Auckland Zoo is hoping a purpose built facility may be ready early next year to house the three Coromandel sub-populations separately
47 Dec -02	4	Waikato	monitoring radio tagged kaka..to assess the effectiveness of pest control on a species sensitive to mustelid predation. Female kakas are followed to nests which are monitored. A sample of chicks have transmitters fitted to find out how many survived and where they disperse to...A dramatic increase in fledgling mortality has been noted coinciding with a change to the pest control regime. Seventeen female chicks were monitored since the breeding season and excluding missing birds, eleven of fourteen fledglings have died. Nine of these were probably (some certainly) killed by stoats. And just to show that the predators are not targeting birds wearing radio transmitters, one observation included finding the remains of two untagged kaka within the same den as a dead tagged bird. So the results of a productive nesting season for kaka in the Waipapa has very much been let down by poor fledgling survival. The pest control regime was an aerial 1080 pollard operation in October. While this did offer protection during the time birds were nesting, as pest numbers increased, the level of protection decreased toward the end of the season when fledgling kaka become vulnerable.
49 Jun -03	5	Waikato	Lepidium oleraceum: Three-monthly monitoring of the Matariki Island population of nau continued last month. The population appears to have stabilised again after suffering a net loss detected on the previous visit. Both insect damage and white rust infection are present at low levels, and plants appear to be in good condition. Weeds are an ongoing problem and probably the greatest threat to this population
49 Jun -03	6	Waikato	Maniapoto and Waikato Area offices are combining forces to survey the southern Waikato for the last remaining King Country kiwi. It is likely that any kiwi remaining will be captured and transferred temporarily to captivity until a suitable predator controlled Waikato site is ready for their release

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51 Dec -03	3	Waikato	To date we have lost eight of the 38 birds from the pateke release at Port Charles. Autopsy has confirmed that four were killed by cat(s), one died from Aspergilosis, one was run over by a car, one was killed by a dog, and one was killed by a cat or stoat. The birds are now dispersing some distance from the release site and many have paired with other released birds, or with wild birds. A number of nesting attempts have been observed, and nesting is ongoing. The eggs from one nest which was abandoned by mum were taken into 'captivity' (a bantam hen) as a short-term measure. However, our hatch window calculations were slightly out, and one hatched. The other eggs either died before hatching or were not fertile. The duckling is now in the capable hands of the Otorohanga Zoo, where it will be raised for release back to Port Charles during the next release of 50 birds in April 2004
52 Mar -04	5	Waikato	We now have 14 dead pateke from the original 38 released at Port Charles, Coromandel Peninsula. It doesn't sound that great, but this 65% survival rate (to date) is above our 50% target for the year. The breeding season is now over and we've seen a few nesting attempts. Only one of these attempts produced a fledged duckling, the rest were killed or "disappeared" before they were old enough for us to attach transmitters. We are currently redesigning our cat control regime, which should increase survival, especially after the next release of birds on 13 May this year
53 Jun -04	4	Waikato	A member of the public recently handed in a Mahoenui giant weta found washed up on a Coromandel beach adjacent to Mahurangi Island. This is the first evidence for almost 10 years that a giant weta population is still present on the island. In 1993, almost 300 Mahoenui giant weta were translocated from the King Country to Mahurangi Island. However, no weta were found on the island when it was searched in 1999 and it was assumed that the translocation had failed.
53 Jun -04	5	Waikato	Re-monitoring of 35 plots of dactylanthus seed planted in 2000 revealed that no plants have as yet established. Likewise with the mistletoe (<i>Tupeia</i>) seed planting from December 2003.
55 Dec -04	4	Waikato	The pateke released at Port Charles in May are doing very well. Since the release we have lost three birds to vehicle kills, one to starvation, and two to predation; leaving 37 of the 43 released alive and well. We've found two unmonitored ducklings dead; one from predation, the other caught in a Fenn trap.
36 Apr-00	13	Wanganui	(<i>Celmisia aff gracilenta</i>) Unfortunately Robyn couldn't get any of the seed to germinate
36 Apr-00	13	Wanganui	(<i>Sebaea ovata</i>) Jim Campbell created some new habitat at Whitiua..Plants were transplanted to the three newly created scrapes. Then the place got flooded and most of the plants died.
36 Apr-00	13	Wanganui	<i>New Zealand dotterels..out on a limb:</i> The pair of dotterels nesting in South Taranaki produced eggs that subsequently disappeared and no chicks were observed.
37 Jun -00	10	Wanganui	Whio: Some of the captive-reared birds have been lost through starvation, not from a lack of food resource. We assume the birds starved because they did not know how to forage for aquatic invertebrates. Other birds have succumbed to predation from stoats or ferrets, and one of the wild caught birds was run over by a car (can you believe it!)
39 Dec-00	8	Wanganui	Stratford Area staff have now taken to earth-moving techniques to create more mudfish habitat! Unfortunately last year's fry transfers were not successful, but we hypothesise that the size of fish transferred may be influential.
39 Dec-00	8	Wanganui	<i>Euphorbia glauca</i> ; the transplant site at Cape Egmont was blitzed by a storm early last year, and is battling to recover. Some plants have survived, but the good soaking by the sea killed most of the population that had been establishing well.
40 Mar-01	3	Wanganui	<i>Blue duck in Egmont National Park:</i> The planned transfer of further wildhatched and captive-raised birds has been postponed owing to poor productivity of both wild and captive populations this season. Survivors from last year's release are still encountered, but the birds had transmitters removed because of weight loss problems so monitoring is much more labour intensive.

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40 Mar-01	4	Wanganui	<i>Brachyglottis turnerii</i> : Colin Ogle (retired) and I (Graeme) tried in vain to get to the Sugar Loaf Islands again to check weeds and Cooks scurvy grass. It's obviously not meant to be.
44 Apr-02	11	Wanganui	<i>Ranunculus recens</i> The transplant sites haven't fared any better. Twenty-odd seedlings were found in one 5'5 cm patch where an adult had been the year before. There were also two seedlings just below this clump. But that's all that's left from the original plantings at four 50'50 cm sites. More of a worry is that we spotted Chilean rhubarb (<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>) on the cliffs just below the original site.
45 Jun -02	9	Wanganui	Mt Taranaki: Whilst data are still being analysed, 'walk-through' surveys of North Island brown kiwi in Egmont National Park have produced worrying results. Areas known to hold several pairs of birds from previous surveys have revealed only the odd bird. Of key concern was the absence of any birds on the western side of the mountain where 10 km of track were walked with no birds recorded.
46 Sep -02	4	Wanganui	Whio: Results of this years translocation efforts to Mt. Taranaki are promising with seven of the ten birds released between January and March this year known to be alive. Two birds were killed by stoats. Captive-bred birds have largely remained on the release river whilst wild-bred birds have wandered widely around the mountain.
48 Apr -03	8	Wanganui	Following last year's exciting discovery of four live striped skinks (<i>Oligosoma striatum</i>) at Te Aroha (BoP) last year, another specimen has been found in Taranaki..Unfortunately this animal was dead..Despite attempts with a number of trap designs, the elusiveness of this species has made survey work impossible. Work with captive animals is ongoing to trial new traps and baits
38 Sep -00	8	Wellington	Staff have assessed threatened plants planted since 1993 at several protected areas..In Nikau Bush CA, Barkers koromiko (<i>Hebe barkeri</i> - planted in 1995), Chatham Island (CI) kakaha (<i>Astelia chathamica</i>) and rautini (<i>Brachyglottis huntii</i> , 1998)..Blackberry has proved too strong a competitor for some individuals. At Chudleigh CA, Barkers koromiko (1995), CI ribbonwood (<i>Plagianthus chathamicus</i> , 1995 & 1999), CI kakaha (1999), rautini (1998) and toetoe (<i>Cortaderia turbaria</i> , 1997 and 1999) have generally done very well. Stock caused some minor losses. At Wharekauri CA Chatham Island speargrass (<i>Aciphylla traversii</i>) has been introduced.. 1998 plantings were blitzed by pigs.. At Tangepu CA results range from excellent to poor. There were stock problems prior to the fence repair..Unsuccessful plantings include sowthistle (<i>Embergeria grandifolia</i>) and Cook's scurvy grass. Chatham Island forget-me-not (<i>Myosotidium hortensia</i>) were destroyed by cattle and sheep, although some individuals have grown well and produced seedlings. CI kowhai (<i>Sophora chathamica</i>) planted in 1994 at Smiths Private Reserve has done well only on steep lagoon banks.
39 Dec-00	10	Wellington	Many hundreds of cuttings from the other 3 single trees of <i>O. gardnerii</i> were taken in July 2000. Cuttings from only one of these trees (Te Kowhai station) have formed roots.
40 Mar-01	4	Wellington	The single and only known Wairarapa <i>Pimelea tomentosa</i> could not be found during a site inspection in February and is believed to have died. Three seedlings from last year's seed collection are being grown at Otari
40 Mar-01	6	Wellington	It was only an average year for Chatham Island oystercatchers with 19 chicks fledging from managed areas and 4 from unmanaged areas. The settled weather over the Chathams during the breeding season meant that no nests were lost to storms, however, several chicks died during or soon after hatching, which may be a reflection of the very dry conditions. Predation by cats and weka, and stock trampling were the main causes of failure. Some good video footage was obtained, especially of 1 bird valiantly defending its nest against a small mob of very inquisitive sheep
42 Oct -01	10	Wellington	<i>Hihi</i> : The installation of nest-cam and temperature probes will provide us with more information about hihi incubation and brooding. We will be attempting to hand-rear chicks from six days, and if further information is obtained, also from the egg. Due to some adult mortality over winter, and for genetic diversity, more birds are required for future seasons. Young chicks taken from Tiritiri Matangi nests will be transferred to Mount Bruce to be hand-reared. Handreared birds are easier to manage and provide better viewing opportunities for the public, as they are

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			less wary.
42 Oct -01	10	Wellington	Seven pairs of NZ Shore Plover are held for breeding this season. Their offspring will continue to be released onto a predator-free (privately owned) island in the North Island. Thirteen juveniles from last season were released in May 2001 with at least nine still present in September.
42 Oct -01	10	Wellington	Six striped skinks (1 pair and 4 males) have recently arrived for research purposes. The research will involve trialing bait types and trap designs for use in the field. Striped skinks have rarely been seen in the wild and it is thought they are arboreal and current trapping methods are insufficient.
44 Apr-02	13	Wellington	<i>Euphorbia glauca</i> (sourced from captive breeding populations Mana Island) have been planted on Matiu/Somes Island last winter. Forty individuals were planted and 10 were still surviving as of December 2001
44 Apr-02	13	Wellington	National Wildlife Centre (Mount Bruce): After a very slow start to the season, 15 shore plover chicks were produced. Two clutches were removed for artificial rearing to boost production. These juveniles will soon be released onto Portland Island. The 10 pairs of Campbell Island teal have had an enforced break from breeding, while Hihi (stitchbird) have had a difficult season, with four adults succumbing to aspergillosis. However, three locally bred chicks survive, along with three "orphaned" chicks from Tiritiri Matangi that have been hand-reared. Surplus birds not required for breeding stock will be released onto Kapiti Island to boost numbers.
44 Apr-02	13	Wellington	The resident kokako pair (a captive bred female and Taranaki male) made two unsuccessful nest attempts this season before the female died of age related conditions in December (at 15 years old). Five other kokako from Mangatutu were caught and brought to the NWC in August. These birds, plus our resident single male make up three pairs for the 'breed on site and release into Mt Bruce forest' programme. Not surprisingly, no offspring were produced from these pairs as they had new mates and captive life to get used to.
44 Apr-02	13	Wellington	The wild kaka population at Mt Bruce continues to grow. As the one captive pairs' genes were over-represented among the releasees, they were transferred to Wellington Zoo and a new pair brought in.. All juveniles will join the wild population once they are independent...Despite predator control over 75ha, two adults, two chicks and two fledglings have been lost; stoats look to be the main culprits.
44 Apr-02	14	Wellington	Six striped skinks were transferred to the NWC in August to allow experiments to guide recovery actions - mainly bait preference and trap design. Only one female is held at NWC, and no breeding occurred this season.
45 Jun-02	10	Wellington	A team from the KWST spent up to a week on Kapiti Island mist-netting passerines for transfer to the Sanctuary in Wellington in May. Thirty bellbirds, 36 North Island robins and 30 whiteheads were released at the sanctuary to boost the numbers transferred last year.
50 Sep -03	10	Wellington	Kokako are once again flying free in the Mount Bruce Scenic Reserve, following the first-ever release of pairs to the mainland. Two pairs of kokako and a large male named "Whakatere," after an ancestor of the donor iwi, Ngati Rereahu, were taken from Mangatutu ecological area in the Pureora Forest Park, a stronghold of the species, and released at the Mt Bruce Scenic Reserve. Rereahu iwi from Te Kuiti handed over the birds to Rangitaane O Wairarapa at a ceremony at Mt Bruce attended by over 100 people. This is a first step towards re-establishing a new North Island population in the wild. Kokako became extinct in the lower North Island some 60 years ago, with the last sighting reported by Mt Bruce takahe recovery pioneer Elwyn Welch in the mid-1940s. Once wide-spread throughout the North Island, the species has now vanished from the southern part of its former range with just 1200 birds remaining. Over the past 15 years, remnant populations of kokako have been managed and have recovered to become viable. DOC Biodiversity Ranger Tony Silbery said to restore kokako to its original geographic range, new populations have to be established in areas from which they have vanished. "Even where they are currently surviving, there are populations on the verge of extinction that need an infusion of new birds. We want to spread the population out more."
52 Mar -04	15	Wellington	A spring/summer census of Chatham Island shag and Pitt Island shag breeding colonies has revealed an alarming decline since the 1997 census: Chatham Island shags have dropped by 67%, while Pitt Island shags have dropped by 25%.

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53 Jun -04	10	Wellington	The bird whose demise was reported last issue is now thought to have been the victim of a harrier..it is a blow to lose a bird from such a small population under any circumstances..Another kokako release, this time two pairs of Mangatutu-sourced birds held at Mount Bruce since 2001, is planned for late May.
43 Dec-01	16	Otago	Possum control is occurring in parts of the Karangarua and Copland Valleys; both of these valleys hold the southernmost populations on the mainland of western weka in the conservancy. As part of ongoing monitoring of the effects of 1080 on non-target species 15 adult weka were captured in the Copland Valley and had mortality transmitters fitted in December 1999. Pre 1080 weka monitoring has been carried out every month to date. Four dead birds have been found in recent months. The first 2 birds found near the Welcome Flat hut were too decomposed to establish their cause of death. Two more birds found last week showed the cause of death was predation. Both had puncture wounds on the back of their skulls. Stoats are presumed to be the likely predator.
53 Jun -04	5	Waikato	A recent check has been made on the status of several threatened plants re-introduced to the island in recent times. Re-monitoring of 35 plots of dactylanthus seed planted in 2000 revealed that no plants have as yet established. Likewise with the mistletoe (Tupeia) seed planting from December 2003.. Rorippa divaricata has not been seen on Mokoia for some years..no sign of Rorippa was found
37 Jun -00	16	West Coast	Possum control is occurring in parts of the Karangarua and Copland Valleys; both of these valleys hold the southernmost populations on the mainland of western weka in the conservancy. As part of ongoing monitoring of the effects of 1080 on non-target species 15 adult weka were captured in the Copland Valley and had mortality transmitters fitted in December 1999..Four dead birds have been found in recent months. The first 2 birds found near the Welcome Flat hut were too decomposed..Two more birds found last week showed the cause of death was predation.
39 Dec -00	11	West Coast	Kiwi: Although 1 bird has died from unknown causes the remaining 7 seem to be doing okay despite some weight loss. Only 1 egg, diagnosed as an early dead embryo or infertile, has been lost since the beginning of artificial incubation in mid August.
39 Dec -00	13	West Coast	Lepidium flexicaule: the viability of seed was tested by placing 238 seeds in petrie dishes back at the office. Germination has now tailed off, with 70% of seeds germinating. This confirms that seed viability is not a limiting factor in establishing new sites.
48 Apr -03	11	West Coast	The Haast tokoeka breeding season started with the first nest detected in July 2002, and ended when the last of the season's 17 nests (from 26 potential breeding pairs) was abandoned and a broken egg retrieved on 14 January 2003. Seven (41%) nests produced chicks, which were caught and fitted with radio transmitters. Three of the chicks were subsequently killed by stoats, one drowned, one is missing (suspected transmitter failure) and two are still being monitored: Huia, 600 grams at 100 days old, and Mischief, 570 grams at 89 days old. To date this season's chick survival is 29%, compared with 33% in 2001/02. Three times as many stoats were caught during December 2002 and January 2003 as the same months last year. In total, 222 stoats were caught in the sanctuary during the 2002/03 breeding season compared with 98 in 2001/02. Unlike the Okarito Kiwi Sanctuary, this increase has not noticeably impacted on chick survival. Kahu, the one remaining monitored chick from the 2001/02 breeding season, was 468 days old at his last check ..He is still living within his parental territory, but spending more time in the sub-alpine scrub and beech forest at the bush line. We currently have transmitters on 48 Haast tokoeka: 44 adults (19 female and 25 male), 2 sub-adults (1 female and 1 male) and 2 juveniles (sex unknown). This equates to 24% percent of the estimated population (200 birds) within the sanctuary. A comprehensive survey is underway to get a more accurate estimate of the Haast tokoeka population within the sanctuary..Planning is also underway for trialling Operation Nest Egg (ONE) with Haast tokoeka in 2003/04. Our aim is to assess whether ONE techniques (used successfully with North Island brown kiwi and rowi) can be implemented with Haast tokoeka. This will provide us with systems and experience to draw upon if <i>in-situ</i> management is unsuccessful or threatened in any way, and alternative management options are necessary

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50 Sep -03	14	West Coast	tawaki (Fiordland crested penguin):The mark-recapture technique is being utilised whereby individual birds are marked for identification, and subsequent marked and unmarked birds that are caught are recorded, enabling survivorship calculations to be made for the population. Flipper bands were initially used in the study (1994-2001) at both the Jackson Head and Monro Beach colonies. Indications for this work were that adult survivorship figures were far lower than expected (70% in 1998), suggesting that bands are either detrimental to survival, or that they are falling off. To test these theories, subcutaneous transponders were implanted into a control population of birds at Jackson Head (1998-present) to see if survivorship figures differed. Recent survivorship calculations (2003) using a sex-based model suggest that adult and chick survivorship is approximately 98% and 44% respectively. These figures are typical of survival in seabirds such as penguins and petrels. It appears that on average, birds with transponders have a higher survivorship, suggesting that perhaps both theories are true
38 Sep -00	15		shore plover: The reintroduction programme shifted site in mid 1998 following the wind up of large-scale releases on Motuora Island after further clear evidence of morepork predating and scaring released birds from this island. The new site, a privately owned island free of significant introduced predators and morepork, has subsequently seen three annual releases of shore plover since 1998. (The island is not being named to respect the owner's wishes.) In contrast to Motuora, post-release survival and residency has been high at the new site.
38 Sep -00	16		<i>Sebaea ovate</i> : This last known New Zealand population is under severe pressure from encroaching weeds, trespassing stock, habitat degradation and possible mineral deficiencies.
39 Dec-00	20		Whenua Hou Nature Reserve (Codfish Island) [is] rat free.. Non targets were the big issue with emphasis on the bats, fernbirds and kakapo. The kakapo were 'relatively' straightforward, if not easy – find another suitable holding island, set up a new infrastructure for the team and move the birds for the duration of the programme. This meant timing the eradication for a year when the birds were unlikely to breed so as to minimise disturbance..Trials showed that the fernbirds were at significant risk from the bait, although there is debate over whether it is primary or secondary poisoning, so to safeguard the subspecies it was decided to establish another population on a nearby island. All the likely islands were owned by iwi, most of them being muttonbird islands.. The first attempt to the only available island at the time failed for reasons we'll never know. This meant that we had to eradicate the rats from another island (146 ha Putauhinu) in order to make it suitable for fernbirds..The eradication on Putauhinu was successful, and 21 fernbird were transferred in November-December 1997 and have, after some initial concern from some people, thrived, rapidly spreading around the island. Back on Whenua Hou it appears that sufficient birds have survived to re-populate the island with the first post drop breeding recorded in 1999. The bats were another story, trials indicated that transferring to another island was not an option..Eventually we decided to hold up to 400 bats in captivity for the duration of the programme. A trial with 50 bats was carried out first with no loses. So before the bait was dropped 385 bats were caught and put into four purpose built aviaries (batteries). Under the watchful eye of a dedicated team they were feed a diet of mealworms that had been feed a nutrient supplement. This proved very acceptable to the bats, with most putting on weight and having to be put on a diet. They were all weighed and checked every 8 days, which was no small task. During the operation only 9 bats were lost up until the week of the final release in late September, when for some unknown reason 45 bats died during the check up, apparently from heat stress. Even with the mass mortality it was an amazing achievement to keep that number of bats in captivity for over 3 months. Overseas experts had indicated that we should expect a mortality rate of up to 50 percent as a matter of course.. now everybody must play their part in ensuring that rats and other predators do not make it on to the island or any other island where they can upset the natural balance.
43 Dec-01	18		staff combined forces, and were assisted by Ngai Tahu and volunteers, in mid October to catch 27 mohua from the Rock Burn area of the Dart River..the 27 birds were all caught that day..An overnight trip was made to Nukuwaiata on November 7th to check up on the transferred populations. In two days of concerted searching using recordings from Mt Stokes and the Dart, only three Mt Stokes birds could be located, all

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			adults from the original transfer. No Dart birds could be attracted by the taped calls, and equally disappointing, no sign of breeding by the Mt Stokes birds was detected. Since then, ten of the Dart birds have been seen: a group of eight, and another of two. They were both seen near the central ridge and quickly flew off to the Western Cliffs, which may be where they are all hiding
47 Dec -02	12		International Ornithological Congress: I almost got sick of hearing the letters "DNA". Nevertheless, nuclear and mitochondrial DNA analyses are clearly transforming understanding of phylogeny, mating systems, population structure, dynamics and evolution, and resource use. I left bemused that DOC seems to be one of the few major conservation agencies worldwide not to have significant inhouse capability in this ubiquitously applicable field of science. Concern for genetic diversity: Many papers reported on the nature and extent of genetic diversity within and between existing taxa. A focus on describing and preserving biological diversity at the genetic level was apparent, just as we chart our conservation management towards higher and less diverse realms. Many countries are establishing tissue banks to facilitate analyses of genetic diversity. Conservation management as experiments: Many papers.. reported conservation management actions within a distinctly experimental framework and with clearly made predictions or hypotheses. What I found so appealing was the way this approach allowed the managers to conduct their work in a way that allowed them to draw unambiguous conclusions, they had removed potential ambiguity at the design stage.
48 Apr -03	3		The fairy terns haven't had such a good breeding season this year, with only two chicks fledging. They had a run of misfortunes during the summer : the first few nests were lost to high tides and predation; one of the first-time breeding pairs abandoned the nest; then one of the older breeding females at Waipu disappeared after their first chick hatched, and then the male disappeared also; finally, a storm in early January wiped out three of the four remaining nests.. a newly-hatched chick was accepted and reared by foster parents, though it disappeared in a storm a week later.
49 Jun -03	1		In October 2002 the World Conservation Union upgraded the conservation status of whio from Vulnerable to Endangered, while the Department of Conservation ranks whio as Nationally Endangered. The Blue Duck Recovery Group predicts that if the present rate of decline in whio populations is not addressed, the species will be functionally extinct from much of its present range within the next 10 years..In terms of what should be done at each site to protect whio, we are in the all-to-familiar situation of not knowing the answer, but unfortunately not having the luxury of time to wait before starting work.