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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. Fortunately two chicks hatched from the last nest at Mangawhai. The chicks have now fledged and left their natal site with their parents. There was some encouraging news from this season: two of the six breeding pairs were first-timers; three pairs attempted to breed at Waipu for the first time since 1994; and a newly-hatched chick was accepted and reared by foster parents, though it disappeared in a storm a week later.
49	Jun -03	25	A national project to collect vital information is currently underway on Southern right whales (SRW) around NZ mainland coasts...Nathalie Patenaude (University of Auckland)..was able to identify 23 individual SRWs photographed around NZ..preliminary information suggests that the mainland and subantarctic group may be separate populations. If this is the case, then the mainland group is very rare and should be afforded maximum protection . especially with the major increase in marine farming that's coming. SRWs appear to be particularly vulnerable to human-related threats. Ship strikes and incidental entanglement in fishing gear or marine developments have been identified as the most significant cause of mortality. Other threats include: loss of habitat from coastal development, especially large marine farms in their feeding, breeding and migration routes, and being harassed by people... Because SRWs show strong site-fidelity (when animals return to their natal site to breed), these threats can have significant implications in the survival of SRWs. If we lose the handful of females currently breeding around NZ (either to entanglement or loss of habitat etc.) the survival of this group of whales will be threatened due to there being little or no recruitment into these areas by other adult females. It would be a great loss to our marine biodiversity if we lose these groups of whales. We may not see them around New Zealand again..Our committed DOC team will be out responding to SRW sightings and collecting important data to help us clarify the status of the SRW population.. This information includes..biopsy sampling to determine sex of the animal and the relatedness of the population
50	Sep -03	19	Southern right whales: As of the first week of August, we have collected eight photo id's and three biopsy samples. Two of the biopsy samples have been from reproductive female whales, and one sample from a calf. All of these samples have been from whales in the East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservancy. Another biopsy on an adult around the Otago Peninsula could not be recovered. Thanks to Science & Research, New Plymouth Area Office, University of Auckland, and the International Whaling Commission, we now have six Paxarm biopsy guns at SRW hot spots around the country. This will give us a greater opportunity to be on site and obtain a biopsy sample from these whales
53	Jun -04	20	Southern right whales around NZ mainland: Last year a total of 66 sightings were reported from around the mainland. This number includes re-sights of the same animals; therefore it in no way reflects population size. Good quality identification photos were obtained for many of the individuals seen, and a total of 12 genetic samples were obtained (11 from biopsies and one from a sloughed skin sample
54	Sep -04	1	For the 2003/04 season, 12 albatross chicks hatched from 15 eggs laid. Four chicks subsequently died; some of these chicks were supplementary fed. Autopsies of these chicks by Massey staff have shown that their diet lacked sufficient calcium. Massey is in the process of analyzing the nutritional components of proventricular oil that is obtained from sooty shearwaters and has been used in supplementary feeding of albatross chicks at Taiaroa Head for almost 20 years. From what we have learnt so far from the deaths of this season's chicks, Massey will be able to provide us with much better guidelines for the nutritional requirements of albatrosses
55	Dec -04	19	Southern Right Whales: Last winter (2003) DOC staff obtained 12 biopsy samples from nine individuals, and 66 sightings and photos. This winter (2004) has been a flop in comparison; only one biopsy sample has been obtained, and only half as many whales sighted compared to 2003. In

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			2003, most sightings were in East Cape, Otago, Southland and the West Coast. In 2004 sightings seemed to focus on Nelson and Northland
43 Dec-01	4	Auckland	The Hunua Ranges kokako population currently has five breeding pairs. Four chicks have been banded, two nests have failed, but one of these pairs is now re-nesting.
44 Apr-02	5	Auckland	Takahe: There were three chicks produced this season and all are ready to be banded.
51 Dec-03	2	Auckland	Tiritiri Matangi Island:dodging rain showers and high winds chasing the elusive kokako. So far there is one active nest and one still being built on Tiritiri Matangi Island, and also one nest in the Hunuas.
44 Apr-02	18	Canterbury	The 2001/02 orange-fronted parakeet work commenced in September. Very few were seen..All previous nest sites were .. inspected for nesting activity each month. No nests were found to be active. ..parakeet numbers are well down overall on last season's. This may be either part of a normal population drop following a mast season, a consequence of parakeets being very quiet after the frenetic activity of last season when the population was boosted by a large pulse of beech mast babies, or it may result from rat predation. Since January, nine parakeet nests have been located, but only one belongs to an orange-fronted parakeet pair. Of these nests, one failed (revealing a dead female, which may have become eggbound), and the remainder has nestlings at the moment. The orange-fronted parakeet nest is significant for more than its valuable contents. It is the first nest recorded in the wild for which the final clutch size is known. (The only other orangefronted parakeet nest discovered (from the Hope Valley) had the adults and eggs shifted into captivity before the clutch was completed.)
45 Jun-02	12	Canterbury	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.
49 Jun -03	10	Canterbury	Because OFP were regularly seen at several sites in the Hawdon Valley, nest searches were concentrated in this area for most of January. However, only 2-3 YCP nests at the prospecting/laying stages were found. Searches continued while there were signs of breeding activity in YCPs. Most OFPs appeared to be single birds or in flocks with YCPs, or just flying through quickly in the canopy. Some OFPs were displaying breeding behaviours, but very few pairs were located repeatedly.
53 Jun -04	12	Canterbury	Stony Bay (Banks Peninsula) 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.
43 Dec-01	9	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	A seabird population monitoring programme has begun as part of an ecological skills project. The first monitoring trip took place during November 2001. A series of permanent monitoring quadrats and transect lines were established in November with assistance from Graeme Taylor, BRU, to record burrow density and population changes over time. Over 150 birds were banded during the trip and they included a mix of Fluttering and Sooty Shearwater, grey-faced petrel and black winged petrels.
43 Dec-01	10	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	New Zealand dotterel: two birds have fledged; another two were banded during late November..
44 Apr -02	24	Kapiti Island	Hihi (stitchbird) feeders were kept open through the winter in an attempt to increase survival. At the end of last season nine adults (7f, 2m) and eight fledglings were sighted. In the Oct 01 survey, a total of 13 birds (9f, 4m) was identified. All seven of the females seen regularly this season have attempted to breed. Six nest sites (all natural) were monitored (including three new sites). The nest site for one female was not located

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			but her behaviour suggested that she attempted to nest twice. Overall eight nesting attempts were monitored, including two second attempts. At least 19 fledglings from six nests have been sighted post-fledging, of which 12 have been banded.
43 Dec-01	12	Nelson/ Marlborough	Takahe: The number of breeding pairs on Maud has re-stabilised to five. The season looks good, with two chicks already hatched and four eggs incubating. Supplementary feeding of adults and chicks, extra water catchments and additional staff time are factors contributing to the success of the project. Torrential on-going rain is, however, affecting chick survival with one lost and a number of fertile eggs failing to hatch
46 Sep -02	7	Nelson/ Marlborough	A brood of three New Zealand falcon chicks were banded inside Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project area early this year. One of the two females failed to fledge, and her partially -developed primaries were all that could be found.. The remaining female's carcass was discovered on farmland near Lake Rotoiti in mid August. We suspect that she did not develop the hunting skills she needed to survive through the winter. Only one other nest was monitored last season, outside the Mainland Island, and the nest failed before hatching.
48 Apr -03	9	Nelson/ Marlborough	Fifteen <i>Leiopelma pakeka</i> frogs were collected off Maud by Bruce Waldman and taken to Canterbury University to help further our understanding of frogs in general and of the chytrid fungal disease specifically. Some Maud Island frogs have been developing lesions around their eyes, and this is being investigated
48 Apr -03	10	Nelson/ Marlborough	This year saw a first ever on Maud: two sets of takahe twins were produced by two breeding pairs. This is the first time twins have fledged successfully since 1993. Supplementary feeding of these pairs appears to have been crucial to the survival of the twins, as it reduces the need for the birds to travel away
50 Sep -03	13	Nelson/ Marlborough	research proposals..include: homing ability of native frogs, chemical communication in frogs.. the role of scent in predation of reptiles
55 Dec -04	13	Nelson/ Marlborough	Black-fronted terns: Four colonies are being monitored; approximately 70 pairs in total. A high turnover of nests has been observed, with in excess of 150 monitored. Nest failures were due to a range of factors including predators and abandonment. Time lapse video will be used to gain some insight into the causes of nest disturbance. One of the four colonies is also receiving predator control and is being monitored to gauge if the trapping results in an increase in fledging success.
47 Dec -02	13	Nelson/ Marlborough	Hutton's shearwater:... led a crew into the colony in early spring to mark a large sample (two thousand birds) of all ages while they were still sitting on the snow waiting for the thaw to reveal their burrows..these birds were marked across their white fronts with spray paint
40 Mar-01	1	Northland	<i>Placostylus snails</i> A visit to Motuopao Island off Cape Maria van Diemen on 8 February found 22+ live snails, including 17+ juveniles..the population now appears to be on a growth spurt. In 1996, 10 snails were put together to allow mating. Maybe that had the desired effect.
44 Apr-02	3	Northland	The 2001/02 kokako breeding season was a slow one in Mataraua. Three nests were found in late November and early December; one of these produced two chicks, the other two nests failed, and the cause was unable to be ascertained due to safety standards involving tree climbing.
52 Mar -04	2	Northland	fairy terns: Six chicks have fledged from six breeding pairs: four pairs bred at Mangawhai (an increase from a stable three pairs since 1995) and two pairs at Waipu. There were two birds breeding for the first time this season, both paired with an older bird. One was an older male that disappeared after the first of their two eggs hatched; unfortunately the female couldn't care for the chick on her own and it too disappeared. The other bird and her older partner fledged two chicks. Of the other ten eggs (from the total of 14): four were infertile; one chick of two that hatched at Waipu disappeared without trace, possibly taken by a black-backed gull; one fertile egg failed to hatch; and the remaining six eggs hatched and chicks fledged. These six chicks have now left their natal sites and will be flocking up with the adults and moving over to the West Coast. Overall the results were pleasing, certainly an improvement on the two chicks that fledged last year due to bad weather
37 Jun -00	17	Otago	Between October 1999 and February 2000 mohua nest monitoring occurred in the Caples and Dart valleys..This was part of a stoat control

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			study..The Caples was used as the control site, where no predator control was carried out...After a couple of weeks of ropes and mist net hauling, we managed to band around 120 birds. Nest finding provided more challenges because several pairs of birds were found building up to 4 different nests on the same day! Eventually 72 nests were closely monitored, 37 spread over two sites in the Caples and 35 throughout four areas in the Dart. Whenever possible trees were climbed to monitor nesting stages and measure nest holes. Of the total 54 breeding females, all survived the season...There was a 69% success rate in the Caples and 80% in the Dart...reasons for these nest failures including floods, abandonment, predation, and long tail cuckoo parasitism..All-in-all a thoroughly interesting and enjoyable season was had by all involved.
43 Dec-01	16	Otago	Asaphodes stinaria: 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..The female laid eggs that hatched into caterpillars, which were reared through to adults on wetland Ranunculus species and established for the first time, the host plant for the moth
52 Mar -04	22	Otago	The last of the 12 albatross eggs is in the process of hatching and has been placed under a foster pair of albatross. An albatross chick that we were hand-feeding has died. This chick was not fed at all by parents so it is hard to know if it was missing something important in its diet, or possibly died from ingested food/liquid into lung cavities which can cause pneumonia-related problems. Two other chicks are receiving some feeding from us too, both of which would have died without assistance. All other chicks are doing well with no fly strike problems this year. At another nest the male has so far failed to return from sea. The female has been on the nest for 10 days now compared to the usual change over every second or third day!! She is readily taking fish fillets without us having to restrain and force feed her
52 Mar -04	24	Otago	yellow-eyed penguin: nest numbers were generally about the same or slightly up on last season on the Peninsula and in North Otago, but approximately 13% down in the Catlins. Some monitored areas have had egg infertility/early chick deaths but generally productivity has been good, with high mean weights at the February monitoring. From 152 nests, 218 chicks fledged. This average of 1.43 chicks per nest is considered to be a very good. Average weight for chicks on the peninsula and the Catlins was 5.49 kg which is also very good. Kevin Pearce notes that the mean weight for the individual North Otago areas ranges from 4.7–6.4 kg. Twenty chicks were banded at Katiki Point, 12 at Barracuda Bay, 10 at Waianakarua, 10 at Bushy Beach, 3 at Tavora, one at Beach Road and one at Katiki Beach
53 Jun -04	16	Otago	During the 2003/04 season 15 albatross eggs were laid, from which 12 chicks hatched. Four chicks subsequently died, some of which were supplementary fed. This supplementary feeding of very small chicks was new for staff; in the past large chicks have been fed, but dealing with chicks less than a week old was a real challenge. Autopsies of these chicks by Massey University staff have shown that their diet lacked sufficient calcium
39 Dec-00	15	Southland	<i>Takahe</i> : The takahe-nesting season is underway with field teams now in the Murchison Mountains. A few pairs have nested early, but it appears that most will be laying a bit later than normal owing to the snowfalls and cooler weather over October.
39 Dec-00	15	Southland	In December a survey trip to Rose Island (northern Auckland Islands) will take place. The survey will develop and refine census/monitoring techniques with Auckland Island snipe to guide management for the recently discovered Campbell Island snipe as part of the recovery programme objectives
39 Dec-00	15	Southland	<i>Southern NZ dotterel</i> : It appears to be a good season with many nests and some early chicks. A survey of all potential nesting sites has started.
39 Dec-00	16	Southland	<i>Powelliphanta spedeni spedeni (giant land snail)</i> : This rare species lives in the mountains of northern Southland. Monitoring is needed to detect potential decline in numbers...[5 people and] Two methods of sampling were used. Three monitoring plots in tussock were established, and 1.5 plots were searched. Live snails were recovered and a number of shells also. The second method is to search discrete patches of the plant <i>Astelia nervosa</i> for snails. The snails have been marked and released. We hope to learn about life history and home range from this study.

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45 Jun-02	15	Southland	A small group of Hector's dolphins..take up residence in Porpoise Bay each summer and autumn..The increasing visitor numbers and attempts to swim with the dolphins off the beach, the establishment of a commercial boat viewing operation, and concern at possible behavioural change amongst the dolphins led the department to initiate a study.. The dolphins formed significantly tighter pods when the dolphin-viewing boat was present in the bay. The presence of swimmers also increased the probability of dolphins remaining in a tight state.. considering the importance of Porpoise Bay to the animals, the potential for increased disturbance through an increase of tourism to the area, was cause for concern..The then level of impact should be acknowledged as being the cause of the limit of acceptable change. Those disturbance levels should therefore not be exceeded..Since [the] study there have been fewer dolphins recorded in the bay – a maximum of 10 in 1999/2000, 12 in 2000/2001, and 15 in 2001/2002. Last year it was recognised that up to date information..was needed..the New Zealand Whale and Dolphin Trust was contracted to study dolphin abundance and movements at Porpoise Bay over the 2001/2002 summer. The study involved: The compilation of a photographic identification database; Mark -recapture analysis of the animals photographed to determine population size; Theodolite observations from the land overlooking the bay to track dolphin groups with and without boats and/or swimmers present; Analysis of dolphin movement patterns with and without boats and/or swimmers present
51 Dec -03	19	Southland	There has been much activity recently in Southland with regard to collating information on southern right whales...Southland has one of the two nationally important sites located at Te Waewae Bay near Tuatapere. This location has had as many as 10 whales visiting at once, with groups often staying for a week at one time. The other important site is Hawke's Bay, where mother and calf pairs are often seen...The team in Southland had a particularly successful whale season with biopsy samples and ID photos collected from six whales in two separate incidences (25 August and 15 September)
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	Takahe chick rearing at the Burwood Bush captive rearing unit is continuing to go well, there are now 17 chicks and one egg from a late re-nest due to hatch shortly.
53 Jun -04	19	Southland	yellow-eyed penguin chicks: This year the Trust monitored all of the nests along the northern coast of Stewart Island looking for evidence of cat predation. Instead, they found that most chicks appeared to have died of starvation. The Trust and DOC will continue to monitor these birds over the next few years to determine if this is normal or a one-off event.
43 Dec-01	17	Tiritiri Matangi Island	Thirty-two first clutch hihi nests have been recorded to date, with 54 chicks having fledged so far. A further 19 second clutches have been laid. Two adult males have been found dead, one had no head (thought to have been preyed on by a morepork) and the other died of aspergilosis. Forty - two chicks of various ages have died in nests and where possible, their carcasses have been preserved for future pathology. A total of 15 nests have been treated or changed in response to mite infestations and unfortunately the new pre-egg laying mite treatment using diatomaceous earth has not yielded very promising results.
43 Dec-01	17	Tiritiri Matangi Island	There are currently three pairs of kokako on Tiri and although the season began promisingly (after some 'soap-opera-like' partner swapping and red herrings) there is currently only one active nest with one chick. The Wattle Valley pair began incubating on or about October 30. Unfortunately the nest was empty when staff went to band the (approximately) 16-day old chicks. A kahu was seen in the valley the following day, and in the absence of any mammalian predators this species is strongly implicated in the nesting failure. A one-year old female paired up with one of the lone males and nested in the middle of the island. Unfortunately her mate was found dead (killed by trauma to the head and

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			neck by an unidentified assailant) just before her eggs were due to hatch. Her incubation pattern became somewhat erratic immediately after her mates death but the decision was made not to pull the eggs and attempt to hand-rear the chicks (as this has never been successfully achieved for kokako). Although she appears to have quickly bonded to the neighbouring male and settled down to a more regular incubation/brooding pattern her nest was found to contain a dead chick and a dead or infertile egg a few days later. Hopefully she will nest again soon. The Bush 1 female has traded in her old mate for a new model this year, and hopefully this pairing will be more successful than last year (no fledglings from two attempts).
43 Dec-01	17	Tiritiri Matangi Island	Four pairs/groups of takahe are currently rearing one chick each. Three hatched early November with the other hatching in the first week of December. One takahe had to be removed to Auckland Zoo for six days for treatment of a bad limp. Unfortunately his group have rejected him since his return (despite his being the 'Alpha' bird in this group for the previous three years).
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..Another two chicks were produced, but only one of these survived.
43 Dec-01	7	Tongariro/ Taupo	Area staff have been working with Brian Lloyd learning the finer points of monitoring short-tailed bats on the southern flanks of Mt Ruapehu. The technique involves catching and radio tracking bats to find communal roosts, then video monitoring them under infra red light to assess numbers as they leave at night to forage. Local staff will be picking up this work and continuing it annually.
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
36 Apr-00	9	Waikato	An impressive number of bats - somewhere in the region of 500 - have been banded and processed over the past three summers. These 10-day trips have given Maniapoto staff wonderful opportunities to learn about bats, handle, band, and measure them. Everyone concerned has greatly appreciated this opportunity to be involved in hands-on research with a species that many people rarely see! The Bat Team has also started bat catching/monitoring at Ruakuri Natural Tunnel cave at Waitomo. This cave also appears to house a sizeable bat population, and several hundred have already been captured and marked.
44 Apr-02	6	Waikato	A combination of stormy weather and egg predation has not been good for New Zealand dotterel at Opoutere this season. In the worst year since a fulltime ranger has been employed at Opoutere, only six chicks fledged from 20 pairs.
50 Sep -03	4	Waikato	Michael Crossland (Northern Region Frog Ecologist) is piloting a new monitoring technique for Hochstetter's frog in Northland and Auckland conservancies. Michael is recording the presence or absence of frogs on repeated visits to selected sites. The site-occupancy technique allows a probability of frog detection to be calculated
51 Dec - 03	4	Waikato	An inventive frog stage..a digital camera and the natural pattern markings of Archey's frog will be used in a mark-recapture pilot over the next few months at Whareorino. All going well, we will be able to monitor individuals through time without having to resort to the usual method of toe-clipping
52 Mar-04	6	Waikato	Over the last few months, Jessica Wallace (Waikato University) has been trialling the frog stage in the field. The stage was especially created to aid individual photo identification of Archey's frogs for mark-recapture and the trials have been funded by MWH. Although there are still a few problems to work through in the field (e.g. how to stop the frogs from trying to escape and leaving dirty footprints all over the mirrors), the stage will hopefully reduce the number of photos that are required to be taken of each frog. The photo identification technique has been

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			working well during the mark-recapture pilot and will be used in monitoring the effects of rodent control on frogs
52 Mar -04	6	Waikato	over the next 6 months, trialling the use of site-occupancy to monitor weta populations in their gorse habitat. The technique involves making repeated visits to sites searching for weta, and recording presence and absence.
40 Mar-01	4	Wanganui	<i>Short-jawed kokopu</i> : Two years' data from tagging a population of short-jawed kokopu is being analysed..a number of fish have not been recaptured, and we were intrigued to find out where they had disappeared to. However, a thorough search 100 m upstream and downstream from the study reach found only 2 tagged fish, so we are no wiser.
37 Jun -00	11	Wellington	Forbes parakeet received serious attention this season on Mangere Island with the start of a combined field ecology and nuclear DNA study on the species and its hybridisation with Chatham Island red crowned parakeet. Efforts concentrated on capture and banding for mark/recapture research, erecting nest boxes, location and monitoring of natural and artificial nests, collection of genetic material for the DNA work, and collecting baseline morphometrics and photographic records of plumage variations (hybrid index) from Forbes, red-crown, and hybrid parakeets. Sixtysix adults and 39 nestlings were individually colour banded and the above information collected. Nest monitoring revealed a very low hatch rate (30%) but high fledging success (chicks fledged from eggs hatched) at 47% compared to other parakeet species. Nest boxes in the revegetating Douglas Basin shrubland recorded a second year of very high egg infertility at over 50%.
37 Jun -00	11	Wellington	[black robin] The established intensive monitoring technique (following all breeding attempts/banding all fledglings) on South East was down-scaled..Productivity of 14 pairs was monitored from 3 selected habitat types with results of 18 fledglings reaching independence. Productivity was 64% (chicks fledged from eggs laid) from the monitored sample..On Mangere Island intensive monitoring continues..The population started the season on par with previous years with 48 birds in the available robin bush habitat. However, productivity was only 16% with 8 fledglings reaching independence. Egg and chick failure was very high, clutch sizes small, and the season finished early with moult underway by late December/early January..introduced predators and disease was not apparent. Perhaps a crash in food supply is responsible?
37 Jun -00	12	Wellington	[Shore plover] It was an average season on South East Island where storm events were responsible for failure of a significant number of nests..14 pairs associated with a colour-band trial on the northern coast [had] 31-38% fledging success. The trial of double wrap-around colour bands sealed with solvent (tetrahydrofuran) has successfully completed 3 seasons. One problem..was related to the habitat in Whalers Bay where mineral deposits on the rock terraces began 'growing' inside the band, sealing them to the legs. Bands were removed and will not be fitted to territorial birds in this habitat in the future..The breeding activity of 23 other pairs on the island was also followed early in the season as potential donors of chicks for reintroduction to Mangere Island. Unfortunately the reintroduction had to be postponed a week prior to transfer when the holding aviary on Mangere was destroyed by a storm.. Another attempt will be made in the coming season. The biannual census on South East has shown a significant sex imbalance in favour of males for a second season running. The banding programme over the next 3 seasons will aim to identify which theory on the bottleneck for females is evident.
37 Jun -00	13	Wellington	Chatham Island oystercatcher recovery..Management includes predator control, stock exclusion, and nest manipulation (protection from high seas)..In the managed territories 25 chicks fledged and reached independence from 16 pairs, and in the unmanaged territories no chicks fledged from 12 pairs..predation events..recorded on video in unmanaged territories – 2 clutches of eggs were predated by a cat and 1 clutch of eggs predated by a weka. Several nests were lost to high seas in the managed territories despite shifting nests away from the wave zone. Numerous 'close calls' were recorded on video including cattle and sheep trampling, weka, and harrier disturbance. The predator control regime focused on trapping which yielded 51 cats, 719 weka, 61 possums, 44 rats (despite not targeting rats), and 41 hedgehogs over 5 months.. Sixty seven oystercatchers have been colour banded in the last 2 seasons, including all fledglings from the managed territories in both years.

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39 Dec-00	9	Wellington	mist-netting and banding Forbes' parakeets. They took plumage descriptions, measurements, photographs, feather and blood samples for DNA analysis..and faecal samples and blood smears for disease identification..A total of 46 birds was caught.
39 Dec-00	9	Wellington	It's shaping up for another good taiko season. Thirty-five burrows have had taiko activity to date, and 6-8 should breed. Graeme Taylor from BRU has been in the Chathams catching birds to take blood samples and band with black and white colour combinations. The colour bands will enable identification of individuals during video monitoring at the burrows. Graeme caught 13 birds, 8 banded and 5 unbanded.
39 Dec-00	9	Wellington	Grey faced petrels: Mt Bruce is trialing rearing these birds as practice for more threatened species. Six of the original 12 birds are doing well with some very impressive weight gains. Several of them are now well feathered on the belly. We also received another abandoned bird from a researcher.
42 Oct -01	10	Wellington	Hihi 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..Handreared birds are easier to manage and provide better viewing opportunities for the public, as they are less wary. Juveniles produced this season will be released onto Kapiti Island.
52 Mar -04	15	Wellington	Six kokako nests have been found on Kapiti Island, and another six pairs may be nesting out of a maximum possible 15 pairs. Four chicks have been banded, and another two have fledged. Twenty-eight nesting attempts of 18 female hihi have been monitored, producing about 40 fledglings. It has been a record year for takahe on Kapiti, with four chicks from four breeding groups (including one set of twins); unfortunately one chick has since died. A brown teal pair that had four ducklings in November is now down to one.
55 Dec -04	11	Wellington	Kokako: Monitoring of the birds released at Pukaha/Mount Bruce has commenced.
52 Mar -04	20	West Coast	Five giant kokopu and 31 shortjaw kokopu were tagged in the last 12 months in order to monitor a population of each as part of the Large Galaxiid Recovery Plan.