

## Index to the Rare Bits Newsletters about Threatened Species Work - 4. THREATS TO ANIMAL SPECIES

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			Type of threat	4. Threats to Animal Species Quotes
50 Sep -03	7	Bay of Plenty	boats	Dabchick: boats do appear to have a negative impact on dabchick behaviour by disturbance, and that the wash from boats impacts on dabchick nests.
53 Jun -04	12	Canterbury	community involvement	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.
48 Apr -03	9	Nelson/ Marlborough	disease	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.
44 Apr-02	7	Waikato	disease, capture	Chytrid fungus has been positively identified from dead frogs in the main Archey's populations on the Coromandel and the King Country. Plans are afoot to capture 50 Archey's frogs from the King Country in April to begin a captive population as a safeguard against their possible extinction in the wild.
43 Dec-01	1	Northland	disease, rats	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
49 Jun -03	20	Otago	DoC feeding	Weka: 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.
54 Sep -04	1		DoC feeding	[Albatross]: 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
40 Mar-01	10	Otago	dogs	Oamaru.. 2 dogs killing large numbers of blue penguins... irresponsible dog owners and their dogs are still a threat to ground-nesting birds
42 Oct -01	11	Nelson/ Marlborough	drought	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	drought	It appears that drought in North Marlborough has had a major impact on weka, with reports of huge declines in the Upper Pelorus and on d'Urville Island. We are therefore repeating our annual counts. Initial results show that the decline is widespread e.g., Port Underwood Saddle: 80 calls last year, only one this November.
44 Apr-02	14	Nelson/ Marlborough	drought	After last year's record-breaking drought, we experienced the wettest spring and summer on record. This appears to have affected a number of plants and birds. Fantails have taken a conservancy-wide dive, and even island populations have been affected. On Takapourewa Island, they have been found drowned in stock water troughs.
44 Apr-02	15	Nelson/	drought	Weka are having a good breeding season in the Sounds Area after being devastated by the drought in many places, including Port

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		Marlborough		Underwood and Mt Richmond Park. Full recovery is still some time away
45 Jun-02	12	Nelson/ Marlborough	drought	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.
49 Jun -03	14	Nelson/ Marlborough	drought, forest clearing	(short-jawed kokopu): spotted a freshly dead one in a dried out pool in the Eves Valley Scenic Reserve. A follow-up survey revealed giant kokopu, banded kokopu, inanga, upland bully, koura and long-finned eels - but no more jaws. This site is a great little stream and shows the importance of riparian native forest for sustaining suites of large galaxiids.. the reserve is one of the very few remaining lowland alluvial forest remnants in the region
51 Dec -03	10	Wanganui	drought, poaching	This year's annual kereru count ..produced the second lowest count seen over the 13-year period. The reasons for this year's low numbers are uncertain but could include: late bud-break of preferred species, perhaps due to ground water deficit; plentiful food elsewhere; illegal hunting of kereru
47 Dec -02	1	Auckland	drought, storms, predation	Pateke: The cause of this low survival rate is probably a combination of pukeko and harrier predation and lack of food resources. Food availability is low due to very dry feeding areas after weeks of low rainfall and strong winds.
38 Sep -00	11	West Coast	farm burning	A snail shell found on the outskirts of Hokitika was handed in to us by a local farmer/teacher in June and identified as <i>Powelliphanta annectens</i> . Follow-up surveys found 2 live snails in the vicinity, and a proposed burn of the area was put off indefinitely by the farmer .. The population is undoubtedly the result of a translocation (probably accidental) of the species away from its natural range in the Kahurangi National Park area, so it was decided that the site does not require active conservation management. However, because few such translocations are documented, a full report..was written.
36 Apr-00	13	Wanganui	farm roads	Area staff started discussions with landowners adjacent to the stream with the high population of short-jawed kokopu only to discover that one of them had bulldozed a track immediately adjacent to it.
44 Apr-02	15	Nelson/ Marlborough	fences	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.
48 Apr -03	4		flooding	The four pairs of kokako breeding in the Auckland Regional Council Hunua Ranges Management Block produced five fledg lings this season. There were seven nesting attempts, of which five failed due to flooding and suspected harrier and possum predation.
52 Mar -04	12	Wanganui	flooding	Blue duck: A series of flood events during spring and early summer appear to be the primary cause of this high rate of chick mortality.. Of the nine nests that failed..seven were washed out by floods.
53 Jun -04	6	Tongariro/ Taupo	flooding, hydro schemes	Whio: Productivity was very low this year (19 chicks from 44 pairs), primarily due to flooding in October. The monitoring and banding will continue for two years after the water has been released. The water release is due to occur when hearings within the environment court have been resolved.
42 Oct -01	9	Wanganui	forest clearing	Twenty-eight NZ robins were transferred to Bushy Park from an area of pine plantation at Waimarino, which is soon to be milled.
49 Jun -03	16	Canterbury	forest clearing, flooding, weeds	Periegops suteri: The primary cause of decline for this species is likely to be a reduction in suitable habitat. There are few remnants of mature forest remaining on Banks Peninsula and these are under considerable threat due to their small size and the impacts of weeds and pests. In some reserves.. the leaf litter layer in which it lives is regularly swept away by flooding. The spiders are also likely to be eaten by animal pests such as hedgehogs, cats, rats, mice and possums

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52 Mar -04	12	Wanganui	forestry, marram, weeds	Katipo: There has been concern that the population is in decline, particularly as a result of habitat alteration; sand dunes are being replaced by pine plantations, planted with marram grass or invaded by weeds.. Spiders were largely absent from areas with dense marram, high levels of litter and sparse foredune vegetation.
47 Dec -02	5	Waikato	ground nest disturbance	New Zealand dotterel: Although the Aotea nest is in a good spot, with no management, it is highly likely to fail from human disturbance over the Christmas season
55 Dec -04	13	Nelson/ Marlborough	ground nest disturbance, hydro schemes	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. Pressures on braided river habitat are continuing to increase in Marlborough, with the proposal for a significant hydro scheme on the Wairau
41 Jun -01	8	Bay of Plenty	ground nests disturbance	<i>NZ dotterel</i> Thanks to Bryan Williams and his signs we've managed to get a fledgling at a beach near New Plymouth.
43 Dec-01	10	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	ground nests disturbance, vehicles	New Zealand dotterel: two birds have fledged; another two were banded during late November..Protection for these birds has included predator trapping (for cats, hedgehogs and mustelids), giving presentations to the local moto-cross club, and involving local school children in the protection of the area. NZ dotterel at Te Araroa has had a disappointing season yet again. Vehicles and wandering cattle have destroyed all nesting attempts so far.
52 Mar -04	16	Nelson/ Marlborough	hares, goats	Powelliphanta "Anatoki Range": The number of snails appears to be similar to when it was last surveyed in 1991, and it appeared that none of the empty shells were predated by possums or rats. The main threat seems to be habitat degradation by hares and goats
44 Apr-02	21	Otago	hedgehogs	Central Otago Area staff have been surveying new areas on the Hawkdun Range for scree skinks, without success so far. An interesting find was evidence of hedgehog predation of lizards at relatively high altitude on the range
51 Dec -03	12	Nelson/ Marlborough	hydro schemes	black-fronted terns: The status of BFTs (Serious Decline) is not anticipated to improve if a proposal by Trustpower to develop a hydro scheme along 50 km of the Wairau goes ahead
50 Sep -03	13	Nelson/ Marlborough	hydro schemes	The Wairau River provides breeding habitat for c.30% of all black-fronted tern, and hence plans for a run of the river power scheme raised concerns
46 Sep -02	6	Nelson/ Marlborough	koi, mosquito fish	One of two known koi carp populations was eradicated in a Nelson ornamental pond through draining of the waterway. A lot of floundering around in mud and co-operation from the Nelson City Council and Fish and Game assistance allowed this project to reach a successful end. The remaining population will hopefully be dealt with along similar lines in spring. And then there are the 10 <i>Gambusia</i> populations to keep us busy.
52 Mar -04	17	Nelson/ Marlborough	livestock	giant weta <i>Deinacrida parva</i> : Habitat on the river flats is being strongly impacted by cattle grazing, potentially reducing available cover for the weta
55 Dec -04	16	Otago	livestock	another longjaw site in a spring-fed stream adjacent to the Kauru River which is heavily impacted by cattle.
39 Dec-00	8	Wellington	marram	Marram invasion has caused the dunes to become steeper which in turn forces the oystercatchers to nest closer to the storm surge line (the major cause of nest loss).
53 Jun -04	19	Southland	marram	attacking marram grass at Mason Bay on Stewart Island. Marram grass was originally introduced to Stewart Island to 'stabilise' the dunes. It has been amazingly successful, changing the whole nature of the dune system and driving many plant and animal communities to the brink of extinction. Dune areas are under-represented in New Zealand's protected areas, being under pressure

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				from farming, recreational use and housing development
43 Dec-01	1	Northland	mosquito fish	Recent monitoring of dwarf inanga in the Kaiwi and Pouto Lakes made the alarming discovery of <i>Gambusia affinis</i> (mosquito fish)..implicated in the demise of dwarf inanga in the Kaiwi lakes.
39 Dec-00	11	Nelson/ Marlborough	pigs	Hutton's Shearwater: The impact of stoats on this species has been a concern for many years.. PhD research concluded that while many colonies have become extinct, including four in the last 30 years, these were all accessible to pigs. The two remaining colonies are inaccessible to pigs and considered to be stable
37 Jun -00	15	Nelson/ Marlborough	pigs	Survey work on Arapawa Island confirmed the presence of the protected, undescribed Megadromus beetle at several sites, as well as Wainuia and occasional Powelliphanta 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. The invertebrates tend to be surviving where there is substantial bedrock outcropping that curtails pig activity.
52 Mar -04	25	Southland	poaching	Stewart Island: lizard[s]: All are under threat from rats, cats and poachers.
47 Dec -02	3	Waikato	predation	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
45 Jun -02	7	Bay of Plenty	quarrying	Hochstetter's Frog : An intensive survey of Ottawa Forest revealed one discrete population and two small outliers each with a few frogs. The main population lies very close to an area where a quarry exists, is potentially under threat and will require monitoring.
42 Oct -01	2	Northland	rats, mice	Kaitaia Area staff have been busy setting up a new project to protect the Te Pahi flax snail ( <i>Placostylus ambagiosus</i> ) populations from rodent predation..There will be four treatment sites to start with; two where rats and mice will be trapped, and two where we will trap only rats.
55 Dec -04	3	Northland	roading	Hochstetter's frogs: Transit NZ are planning other works on the hill and every single stream there is occupied by frogs
44 Apr-02	6	Waikato	storms, aerial predators	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. The early season nest predation was most likely from aerial predators and ceased when nests were covered.
39 Dec-00	15	Southland	tourism	Permit workload is high with increasing numbers of research and tourist permits for the sub-Antarctic Islands (40 applications and they are still coming).
44 Apr-02	2	Northland	trout, smelt	It was concluded that any proposed restoration programmes for land-locked koaro needs to enhance the survival of these life stages, and manage the combined effects of trout and common smelt in both lake and respective tributary stream habitats
55 Dec -04	4	Waikato	vehicles, starvation	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
45 Jun-02	8	Wanganui	weeds	The coastal moth <i>Notoreas</i> 'Taranaki' appears to be benefiting from work carried out by Jim Clarkson from the Stratford Area Office. Management of the coastal herbfields, where its host plant <i>Pimelea urvillena</i> grows, has continued with exhaustive hand weeding occurring. Moths have been found for the first time at one of the managed sites.
48 Apr -03	14	Otago	weeds	Central Otago grasshopper ..investigating how the reduction of ground cover (predominantly introduced thyme) affects grasshopper abundance. Previous research has shown that grasshopper numbers were greatest in areas of low thyme density. These areas correspond with tailings which have been most recently mined. Mining ceased in the 1980s, and there is now a risk

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				that weed invasion may alter the habitat and reduce grasshopper density
51 Dec -03	13	Nelson/ Marlborough	wetland loss	Brown mudfish were once widespread throughout the entire region but wetland drainage and habitat modification has caused a huge decline in their numbers, with the reduction of the population to just one small part of Mangarakau.