

## Index to the Rare Bits Newsletters about Threatened Species Work - 7. RAT TRAPPING

Vol., Date Page Conservancy

			7. Rat Trapping Quotes
36 Apr-00	5		The Mangatutu kokako: All the pest control continues to be successfully carried out by Laurence Gordon and the odd volunteer under his supervision. Laurence services somewhere in the vicinity of 1000 bait stations and has recently completed a very thorough and comprehensive track marking and mapping exercise, which will enable volunteers and future workers to find every bait station! This summer Laurence got rats to low levels despite apparent rodent plagues in many parts of the country
47 Dec -02	1		Tararu Valley Conservation: Volunteers have been creating track lines and setting out possum traps since spring 2001 and in started using Fenn MK6 traps in February 2002. As an alternative visual lure, we placed golf balls in some tunnels, and used hens' eggs in others. We employ both single and double trap tunnels. Many rats (30+), nine stoats, one ferret, and one weasel, have all been captured in the golf ball traps..we plan to increase both the number of traps and total area controlled and will maintain records of bait used and resulting pests caught.
45 Jun -02	7	Bay of Plenty	NZ Dotterel: Witana Murray reports trapping 50 cats, 21 stoats, 237 possums, 36 rats, 115 mice and 1 dog
52 Mar -04	7	Bay of Plenty	Kaharoa Forest was treated using feracol in bait stations for rat control, but.. numbers were not reduced to the required level. Furthermore, the kokako breeding season was very poor for a number of reasons. Onaia Ecological Area (EA) rodent results were 6% r.t.i (West Block) and 13% r.t.i (East Block). Possum numbers were kept to the 5% threshold (per 100 trap nights). To complicate matters further, the kokako started breeding late and were very sporadic, despite it being a good fruiting season.
55 Dec -04	14	Canterbury	orange-fronted kakariki: Two nests have so far been located.. one in the Hawdon Valley and one in the Hurunui. Both these nests are protected with tin wraps and a ring of Fenn traps at their base. It is quite early in season to be having nests already, especially at the chick stage. Further searches will continue and all nests found in the wild will get this same nest protection treatment. With rat numbers on the rise, the Hawdon predator control regime has geared up a couple of notches. Staff have been busy putting out extra bait stations and adding extra bait bag lines to the valley, in the hope of curbing the rising rat numbers.
37 Jun -00	10	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	In an effort to enhance the effectiveness of predator control regimes a couple of experimental initiatives have been added to the suite. A rodent-based form of Cholecalciferol (Feracol) is being trialed in a section of the reserve as a means of achieving sustained rat control.
38 Sep -00	5	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	The NTUERP [Northern Te Urewera Ecosystem Restoration Programme] continues to show impressive results following another season of pest control and outcome monitoring.. there are four core [intensive management] areas: Two of these areas (Otamatuna and Mangaone) used 'Pindone' poison to control rats, whereas Onepu and Waikokopu used the novel non-poison technique of trapping rats in corflute tunnels baited with peanut butter. Surprisingly, the trapping outperformed the poisoning method, reducing rat tracking indices much faster and keeping them at very low levels for longer than the poisoning method.
50 Sep -03	8	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	Kiwi: Nesting has once again started on the Puketukutuku Peninsula..Unfortunately once again the spectre of pigs uprooting trapping tunnels has arisen, with one pig captured containing a large number of rats from our snap traps as well
52 Mar -04	11	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	Dactylanthus taylori: Intensive trapping for rats and possums, and opportunistic stoat trapping, makes this locality a mainland island in all but name.
53 Jun -04	8	East Coast/ Hawke's Bay	Due to low numbers of rats, stoats and cats, we feel Boundary Stream is the ideal place to do this (release kokako). Rat and possum numbers are maintained at zero
42 Oct -01	2	Northland	Te Paki flax snail..predation: Rodents at these sites were previously controlled with bromadiolone, but due to changes in the DOC pest control QCM process, the high level of recreational pig hunting in the area, and iwi concerns about poison use, we had to come up with an alternative method. This year we received Biodiversity funding for <i>Placostylus</i> protection, so we now have the resources to trap rodents at the priority

## Index to the Rare Bits Newsletters about Threatened Species Work - 7. RAT TRAPPING

Vol., Date Page Conservancy

			<i>Placostylus</i> sites. 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. If time and resources allow, the trapping will be extended to more sites.
45 Jun-02	3	Northland	Five colonies of the Te Pahi pupuharakeke (flax snail) are being managed for rodents by a trapping operation. Each operation is over a 150m diameter circle containing 57 trapping tunnels with two rat traps per tunnel, and four mouse traps. Tunnels are 25m apart on a 50m grid. Indexing is done every three months to check the impact on rodent numbers in the trapping site.
39 Dec-00	14	Otago	<i>Mohua/predator control</i> : Rat captures in the Makarora and Dart Valleys are up on previous years, and rodents now appear to be a permanent feature of these permanent trap lines.
39 Dec-00	14	Otago	<i>Giant skinks</i> : The predator control pressure at MacCraes is finally starting to have an impact with cat and ferret totals caught this year being substantially lower than last year. Overall we have removed at least 138 cats, 161 ferrets, 26 rats, 13 stoats, and 17 weasels from about 700 ha of tussock grassland. This achievement has taken the efforts of 1.5 full time people.
40 Mar-01	9	Otago	Trap lines for stoats in the Makarora Valley continue to catch stoats. Recently numbers are dropping off, and the rate of rat captures is increasing slightly. This work is a joint operation with the Upper Clutha Branch of Forest and Bird, which has developed a sponsorship package. For \$50 individuals can purchase a tunnel and trap for inclusion in the line. Stoat numbers in the Dart remain high, but rat numbers are decreasing.
45 Jun -02	15	Otago	Taiaroa Head: Bruce has also been looking at an AEE for more intensive rat and rabbit control at Taiaroa Head. This is part of a move by the Conservancy to implement a more comprehensive reserve management programme than has been the case in the past
54 Sep -04	14	Otago	although it was a good beech flowering year in the Dart, there has been very little seed. He is also getting some rats turning up in the Fenn trap lines even though they are not appearing in the tracking tunnels
38 Sep -00	13	Southland	Te Kakahu: no sign of stoats was detected. The trap line on the adjacent mainland (a distance of 1100 m away) was checked again but not cleared and approximately 80% of the 108 traps set was still available to catch stoats. Only 5 stoats and a few rats were in the traps. This trap line was last cleared during February 2000
47 Dec -02	8	Tongariro/ Taupo	A community group at Pukawa has recently started controlling possums and rats around Pukawa Township
46 Sep -02	11	Tuhua Island	Tuhua: Following the air drop of bait in 2000, there has been several follow up visits to look for rats and cats. The intention being to eradicate Norway rat and kiore by primary and for cats to all die from secondary poisoning. Sometimes with Scott Theobald and his dogs, or simply to run lines of snap traps and tracking tunnels for rats
37 Jun -00	13	Wellington	Chatham Island oystercatcher recovery..Management includes predator control.. 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
37 Jun -00	14	Wellington	The survival of all 6 hatched chicks through to fledging was thanks to the extremely determined effort put in by field staff to protect the breeding burrows from cats, possums, weka, and rats.
39 Dec-00	9	Wellington	Taiko: Thirty-five burrows... Early indications are that there are high rat numbers in the areas, so lots of work will be needed controlling them around breeding burrows.
42 Oct -01	12	West Coast	Landsborough Valley: The trapline consists of 93 timber tunnels with double set Mark IV Fenn traps, baited with a single hen egg. The line was checked monthly from November 2000 to April 2001, and again in July 2001. Over this period, a total of 91 stoats, three ship rats and one mouse were caught.
46 Sep -02	8	West Coast	Okarito Kiwi Zone: The results from the rodent lines in March show that there has been a huge increase in rat abundance between March (3.5% tracking index) and August (80% tracking index). This correlates with our casual observations from the stoat trapping program which have

**Index to the Rare Bits Newsletters about Threatened Species Work - 7. RAT TRAPPING**

Vol., Date Page Conservancy

			indicated a much higher rat trapping rate than previously. We have also been noticing the capture of lactating female rat's right throughout the winter months. It seems that rat numbers are higher within the sanctuary (80% tracking rate) as opposed to in the two areas in which do not have stoat trapping (38.6%) although this will not be confirmed until the November tracking session is completed.
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