



# NEWSLETTER

October 2009

## Kiwi

What a couple of hectic months its been. The Pouiatoa block is operational now. Over the first week of August we deployed 375 new stoat boxes. The teams were flown into the area each day by Tarata Helicopters (thanks Matt), then they walked out placing stoat boxes every 100 metres. The weather was generally kind, and did not hold us up. We did get rain on the Tuesday, and the team did get wet and cold, but plenty of hot soup, BBQ venison, whitebait fritters and cake helped. A big thank you to those who helped during the week, and to Laurel who helped me with the catering.

To date we have over 1300 stoat boxes in the Purangi/Matau/Pouiatoa block. It will be interesting to see the trap catch numbers after 12 months.

The first few checks of the interior stoat box lines has been completed and already we are catching stoats. For the first four months 23 stoats have been caught. In October 14 large resident stoats were killed in the interior, which will have a positive result for kiwi.

We have got a number of photos from the trap deployment on the web site. Go on to [www.etet.org.nz](http://www.etet.org.nz) to have a look.

At the National kiwi hui during winter the focus was on dogs. Kiwi have a life span of about 30 to 40 years. In Northland it is about 13 years. Their problem is dogs. Often not intentional, but with kiwi having no real wings therefore no strong breast bone, they are easily crushed. Their strong scent means dogs investigate and when they grab them they in-avertedly crush them.

How you can help – make sure any hunters on your land have dogs which are avian aversion trained. Consider getting your farm dogs put through the course as well. TRC are looking at training for this and coming to you to put your dogs through if you request it.

The trap stats for the last year are included in this newsletter.

The male kiwi are busy sitting on nests now. Hope it's a good season for chicks.

The final results for the kiwi call survey showed an average of 4.3 calls per hour for Purangi and 1 call per hour for Pouiatoa. Egmont National Park survey had .375 calls per hour.



Carting in the stoat boxes

To give us additional base line information we will be doing a 5 minute bird call survey over the next few months. This is another tool to measure how successful the predator trapping is. A lot of our native birds are ground nesting, so it will be interesting to monitor changes in bird numbers.

We have updated our brochure. A copy is with this newsletter. We have had a lot of requests for people to become “members” to support the Trust’s work. You will see this is now included, and offers an opportunity for an annual guided walk and listen for kiwi.

## Whio (Blue Duck)

The early spring has seen a number of pairs start their breeding efforts. Dean was surprised when he started to monitor the 7 females which are transmitted to find action well under way. One pair already have ducklings on the water and others are looking like they are about to start egg laying. That was the good news, unfortunately one female was predated. She was in the protected area, but still got nabbed.

We are hoping to extend to one extra road this summer, as some birds have spread out. We have enough boxes, but are looking for people to volunteer to monitor them once a month. We are looking for people for York Road, and Radnor Road. If you think you can help please contact us.

Karen Schumacher, Chairperson East Taranaki Environment Trust

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**Blue Duck trap data - 494 boxes**

Month	stoat	rat	hedgehog	sprung	rabbit	weasel	other	cat	ferret	Grand Total
7 - 2008		1	42	19	8	1	0	0	0	71
8 - 2008		0	49	2	9	4	0	0	1	66
9 - 2008		1	27	6	4	3	0	0	0	41
10 - 2008		1	25	14	13	2	0	1	0	56
11 - 2008		0	29	11	9	6	0	5	0	60
12 - 2008		4	51	12	14	8	0	2	0	91
1 - 2009		10	37	17	15	4	0	6	0	89
2 - 2009		5	41	41	8	3	0	4	0	102
3 - 2009		2	46	55	16	6	1	2	0	129
4 - 2009		2	19	51	25	0	1	1	0	100
5 - 2009		0	20	25	8	0	1	0	0	54
6 - 2009		2	25	22	14	0	0	0	0	63
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>922</b>

**Kiwi trap data Purangi/ Matau - 553 boxes**

Month	stoat	rat	hedgehog	sprung	other	mouse	rabbit	weasel	ferret	Grand Total
7 - 2008	6	64	6	27	0	0	0	1	0	104
8 - 2008	4	29	2	30	0	0	1	0	0	66
9 - 2008	4	50	7	23	3	0	2	0	0	89
10 - 2008	1	34	2	19	1	0	3	1	0	61
11 - 2008	2	30	3	19	1	0	2	0	0	57
12 - 2008	5	20	2	23	1	0	2	0	0	53
1 - 2009	12	29	9	25	2	1	0	1	1	80
2 - 2009	7	23	17	36	2	0	0	1	0	86
3 - 2009	7	31	17	33	1	0	0	0	0	89
4 - 2009	1	34	10	34	0	1	1	2	0	83
5 - 2009	3	47	13	32	1	2	0	1	0	99
6 - 2009	5	44	18	30	1	1	0	1	0	100
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>967</b>

**Kiwi trap data - Pouiatoa - 335 boxes**

Count of Catch	Catch									Grand Total
Month	stoat	rat	sprung	rabbit	hedgehog	ferret	weasel	other		Grand Total
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1
8 - 2008	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0		8
9 - 2008	2	2	7	0	0	0	0	0		11
10 - 2008	4	4	11	0	0	0	0	0		19
11 - 2008	1	3	13	0	0	0	0	0		17
12 - 2008	4	7	6	1	0	0	0	0		18
1 - 2009	7	3	5	1	1	0	0	0		17
2 - 2009	7	5	9	1	5	0	0	0		27
3 - 2009	9	9	5	0	3	0	0	0		26
4 - 2009	7	6	12	0	2	1	1	0		29
5 - 2009	4	16	4	0	2	0	0	0		26
6 - 2009	3	10	2	0	6	0	0	3		24
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>223</b>