



NEWSLETTER

March 2009

Check out our web site which is now up and running: www.etet.org.nz. We welcome feedback and you will find the newsletter and the trap data on it. Also any volunteer opportunities.

Kiwi

The trap lines in Purangi have seen a decrease in stoat catches over this summer. January 2008 resulted in 15 stoats caught, and Feb 2008 23 caught, this year the result was Jan 12 caught and Feb 7 caught. It will be interesting to see if March has a spike in catch data. Check out the web site in April for the result. In our QE11 bush we have rat lines laid, and this saw for the first time the stoat trap line in the centre of the area had nil catch for January.

Plans are progressing well with the expansion of the Pouiatoa block. We have local contractors track marking and track cutting. This has proved to be challenging as I am sure those of you who have been into the area will well know the difficult terrain they are experiencing.

We will be undertaking a kiwi call survey in both areas this autumn. This will be the third survey for the Purangi area. We are hopeful that we will see an increase in the number of calls heard. The survey in the Pouiatoa area will provide us with base estimates. This will allow us to monitor changes in the future.

Subject to fundraising success, we hope to undertake ground based possum control. The track network in the area will give the needed access for this to happen.

The National Kiwi Plan has been approved. Work is now happening on each sub-species (taxon) plan. In Taranaki our birds are Western North Island Brown kiwi. There are four Taranaki based community groups involved with kiwi projects in Taranaki.

- East Taranaki Environment Trust (ETET)
- Taranaki kiwi Trust (TKT)
- Rotokare Trust
- South Taranaki Forest & Bird

We all work in different areas and focus on different aspects of kiwi protection. We will all be involved in developing the taxon plan for the kiwi in Taranaki.

Whio (Blue Duck)

There have been highs and lows with this seasons breeding. By early Dec there was 9 ducklings confirmed hatched. A number of other females were sitting on nests including one from the 2005 brood. During this time four unbanded females were also located. They were all paired up with resident drakes which is very promising for future seasons. The floods in January caused mayhem and it is feared a number of ducklings did not survive.

In the coming weeks a survey will be happening to check out the status of the ducklings and the adults. Although a lot of damage has occurred on a number of major tributaries, the whio have been heading to smaller tributaries and successfully feeding and doing very well.

We have been receiving plenty of calls from farmers who have seen whio. This is great, please keep it up. We have found a number of birds which Dean did not know about. There has been no birds involved with ONE this season.

The trap lines which are all community monitored has also had a slow start to stoat catching. Generally January is the peak month, but not this year. Once again we are waiting for the results of March to see if there is a spike in catch numbers.

Hedgehogs continue to be a major underrated pest. It is great to see the increased awareness of everyone to the problems caused by the pests we are targeting.

Over the page are the trap catch stats for you.

Sponsors

Thank you to our sponsors and funders. Without funding this project could not continue.

Thanks to Taranaki Regional Council, Biodiversity Fund, TET, TSB Community Trust, Greymouth Petroleum, BNZ Save the Kiwi Trust.

Cheers Bob & Karen

Karen Schumacher, Chairperson East Taranaki Environment Trust

Ph: 06 756 8064 Email: maungawhiri@xtra.co.nz