



# NEWSLETTER

June 2009

## Kiwi

We have just finished the kiwi call survey, both for the Purangi block and the Pouiatoa block. The Purangi block has shown quite a change since trapping started in 2005.

We have continued to use the same 6 listening sites to ensure consistency in any trend change. Each survey site is monitored for three nights for a two hour period. The first listening night at Purangi was rather windy which resulted in a poor result for that night. At several of the sites a number of other kiwi calls were heard but the listeners could not get a fix on them, so they were not included. Below are the best 2009 single night call and the 2007 best individual night calls in brackets.

Site 1 – 20 calls (9 calls)  
Site 2 – 17 calls (13 calls)  
Site 3 – 17 calls (5 calls)  
Site 4 – 16 calls (4 calls)  
Site 5 – 5 calls (4 calls)  
Site 6 - 9 calls (6 calls)

Site 5 also had 2 calls which were 3 minutes outside the listening time. At site 2 after the listening period Dean played a kiwi call and a female replied, then she charged out of the scrub and bounced off his leg and wandered over to some crown fern and stopped.

The Pouiatoa now has 6 permanent listening sites.

Site 1 – 1 call  
Site 2 – 2 calls  
Site 3 – 0 calls  
Site 4 – 8 calls  
Site 5 – 3 calls  
Site 6 - 9 calls

The listening nights at Pouiatoa were during a full moon, and conditions were very clear and very cold. This may have impacted on the listening results. It will be interesting when we redo the survey how the Pouiatoa block will change. Although the kiwi numbers were low, there was a lot of other bird species recorded. We will be doing some population modeling on the results to monitor trends and estimate of total population. As Bob always says we can't run kiwi through a set of yards and count them!

Taranaki Regional Council is doing some baseline residual trap catch data for possums for us in the Pouiatoa block. This too will give us good benchmarking for the future.

The track cutting for the stoat boxes should be finished by the end of July. This has been a real challenge, with the terrain and weather but the team have broken the back of it. Once the trap boxes are out they will have monthly checks by Terry Fieldes and Brian Hughes. Many thanks to those landowners who have given permission for Terry and Brian to work on their properties. Thanks also to those who report to Terry's wife Chris in the Four Square at Urenui when there is something in any of the boxes.



*Brian Hughes cutting the track*

We have been very fortunate to have been successful in our funding bids. Over the next year we have received financial support from Lotteries Environment and Heritage, Ministry for the Environment, WWF Habitat Protection Fund and continue to receive support from Biodiversity fund and Greymouth Petroleum. The Taranaki Regional Council, Department of Conservation and Maori Woman's Welfare League continue to provide support. For the "Saving kiwi in Taranaki" project this means we will be continuing with the mustelid (stoat) trapping, undertaking possum control work, and increasing our advocacy work.

We hope to increase volunteer opportunities throughout the year. These may be when we are checking stoat box lines for maintenance, weed control in front of boxes or with kiwi listening. We will be putting these on our web page and putting them in the newsletter.

### **Whio (Blue Duck)**

This project is now called the Egmont National Park Population Establishment Project.

A number of our volunteers, plus a group of trainee teachers joined Dean Caskey and walked in to release juvenile ducks in late summer. It was quite a highlight with the ducks being very quiet (too quiet says Dean). They immediately started feeding completely ignoring us all. We may be looking at adding another road to the network as the ducks continue to spread out into new territories. During the summer period Dean Caskey spent time trying to locate the various birds. At least 29 confirmed individuals (14 female and 15 males) were identified with a number of unconfirmed reports of at least another 7 birds. A total of 22 adults were captured between July 2008 and June 2009. All 22 birds captured were processed for weight, tarsus length, txt removal/replacement and general checking. Seven of the females continue to carry transmitters to enable monitoring for the 2009 breeding season. Breeding attempts monitoring will be carried out by Dean commencing in October. If anyone is keen to become a volunteer in this work or in inputting the catch data please contact us.



Dean and volunteers with bird to be released.

### Trap catch check schedule

Below is the schedule for the traps for checking. Please be aware of people on the roads or farms who are checking boxes and take care.

<b>Service Month</b>	<b>Egg pickup Thursday</b>
July	2nd July 2009
August	30th July 2009
September	3rd September 2009
October	1st October 2009
November	29th October 2009
December	3rd December 2009
January	31st December 2009
February	28th January 2010
March	25th February 2010
April	1st April 2010
May	29th April 2010
June	3rd June 2010

*Cheers Bob & Karen*