



GBI Environmental News

The publication of the Great Barrier Island Charitable Trust, whose trustees are:
John Ogden (Chair), Jude Gilbert, David Speir, Liz Westbrooke. Secretary: Fenella Christian.



Photo courtesy of DoC

Kotare, Kereru and Controversy Kaikoura Restoration 'No-Rats' Trial

Mission Statement: Our vision is to protect native species through the eradication of rats and feral cats, to re-introduce species lost to the Island, and to work towards building an ecology-based economic framework for Great Barrier Island.



Okiwi school has many classrooms — Headmaster Colin Griffiths at Whangapoua Estuary with some of the children preparing for their forthcoming visit to Leigh Marine Reserve.

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Editorial...

Great Barrier Island Charitable Trust here to stay

There will be many people who receive and read this newsletter who will be unaware of the local politics surrounding the vision of the GBIC Trust. Some may have seen the recent Close-Up item on the TV, and may still be wondering why the opponents of the Trust are so vehemently opposed to rat and feral cat eradication. Over the last six months a small group of people, including members of the community board, have misinformed the public by distorting the Trust's vision. To restate: that vision is to eradicate rats and feral cats, to reintroduce birds lost to the Island, and to work towards building an eco-based sustainable economy for Great Barrier.

The Trust is very clear that it has been engaged in the business of research and information transfer: researching the ecological, social and economic costs and benefits related to our ambitious vision, and informing the community of its findings in this newsletter, other publications, and at meetings. We know we have considerable support to eradicate rats and feral cats; what we are finding out about is how this could be done. We have at no time promoted any method for a decision—that decision can only

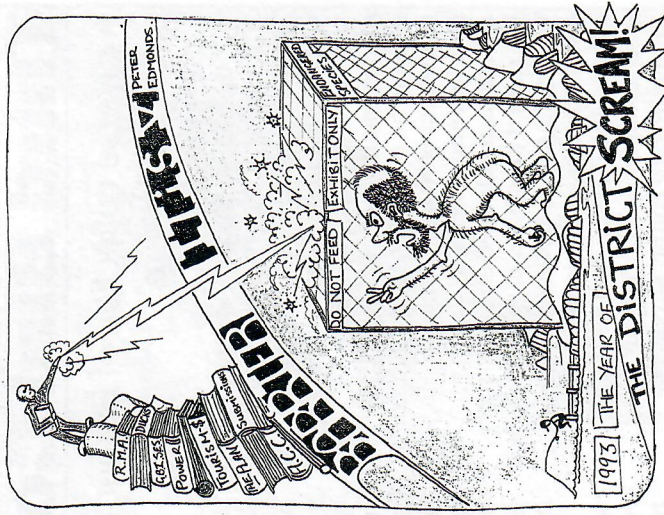
be made by an informed community and all the local authorities involved on the Island. The Trust is years away from putting any option forward for the community and relevant organisations to consider.

We have not proposed aerial baiting for rats over the whole Island, simply informed people that this is the current method used by the Department of Conservation to eradicate rats from uninhabited islands. This method may or may not be appropriate for parts of Great Barrier Island. Nor has the Trust proposed 'quarantine' for seagoing vessels, it has put forward a range of biosecurity measures that would need to be considered if the island became rat free.

Even our World Heritage Site presentation to Auckland City Council carried no recommendations—just an idea for the council to consider. It will rightly be Council's job to consult with the community about what this involves should they wish to take the idea further. The Community Board has pre-empted that consultation with the community by stating that it does not want it. Elsewhere many communities have eagerly sought such status.

It is essential that a viable and sustainable economy be created on Great Barrier. Over the last decade

History tends to repeat itself even on our little rock. Peter Edmonds' cartoon from 1993 parodies the communities' reaction to the district scheme of the time.



we have lost 25% of our population. As school roles decline, the money coming onto the Island from the Conservation sector has increased. The Trust considers that the most sustainable contribution is to "bank" the island's rare biota and natural environment. The sway is 'green'—the thrust of the Auckland City District Plan is to protect the environment of the island, the Auckland Regional Council pest management strategy and plans to protect Barrier are strengthening, and the local Department of Conservation is expanding. The CRESA report and the support for the GBIC Trust indicate many islanders also want to protect and enhance their environment. The Trust is committed to contributing to an island-led future where we are part of the decision making not just objecting to it.

The trustees re-assure you that the GBIC Charitable Trust is undiminished—it will continue to work on your behalf to explore the issues and possibilities of eradicating rats and feral cats from this Island. The trustees will continue

to find out more through research and monitoring of our fauna and flora, look into the economics of the Island, and communicate with you through our Enviro-News. New non-poisonous rodent control technology is already on the horizon, and new scientific advances seem sure to assist in achieving our vision in the future.

Thank you to the many who have expressed support for the Trust in the last few months—your membership is valued and your enquiries welcome. We need to work together to sustain a rich and fascinating environment for visitors and future generations of Islanders.

**Kia Kaha
From the Trustees.**

Third Bird Count

A diverse collection of Barrier aviaphiles set out to count the Kotare

Kingfishers or kotare are quite a feature of Great Barrier Island. Although they are neither rare nor endangered, many ornithologists, and other visitors, have commented on how abundant they seem to be on the Island compared to the rest of New Zealand. The New Zealand species (*Halcyon sancta*) is a sub-species (*vagans*) of the sacred kingfisher of Australia, with eight slight variants throughout the Pacific. Our kingfishers are colourful and noisy, and were the most conspicuous bird in our last "5 minute bird count" survey at the end of September 2006. At that time they were re-establishing their nesting territories, abandoned for the winter trip to the coast, and a lot of penetrating kek-kek-ing was to be heard.

The third bird count was on January 25th. Twenty people turned out at dawn to gather the data. As they had all done the job before, it was fairly routine doing the "five minute counts" at the same locations. Kingfishers were again conspicuous, and we made a special effort to try to convert

"heard or seen at 84% of all 5-minute counts" into some real numbers. The method was to count the occupied nesting holes in the banks along a known distance of road, then multiply up by the total length of road on the Island. To this figure we could add some guesswork about the numbers nesting elsewhere. The idea was to get a "ball-park" estimate, not a true figure.

Between the five minute counts we cruised many kms of Barrier roads, looking for the characteristic kingfisher nest holes, counting them and classifying them as "active", "possibly active" or "old, inactive". Active nest holes were identified by the presence of droppings and the "churring" coming from them when they contained chicks. If some of the counting team thought this was an eccentric activity, and some drivers thought worse, some passing vehicle occupants and adjacent landowners clearly thought we were up to no good. Our results are summarised below:

Number of km counted	Number of active holes found	Number of possibly active holes	Number of inactive 'old' holes
34	26	16	359

What can we make of these results? We can certainly say that kingfishers seem to have a lot of 'spare' real estate, most of which never gets used by the family! Maybe holes are territorial marking by the pair—another way of saying "we own this bank". We can now make a few "back of the envelope" calculations as follows:

Definite nests per km of road counted = $26/34 = 0.76$ nests per km.
Possible plus definite nests per km of road = $41/34 = 1.21$ nests per km.

Assuming total GBI road length is c. 70km (estimated from the map) these figures equate to 53 certain or 85 possible nesting pairs on the Island's roads. But there are many other nests, in the banks of creeks in the bush, in holes in trees, coastal cliffs, old road and path cuttings etc. These are more difficult to estimate! The details will be in my report, but using the above figures, and some estimates for the number of nests in other places, I come up with a figure of: 200 – 250 nesting pairs on the whole of Great Barrier in 2006/07. This could be an underestimate: there may be up to five hundred pairs.

So what? Why does it matter how many kingfishers are here? Kingfishers are not at risk, on the Barrier or elsewhere. Although



Kingfisher at roadside nesthole Photo: Courtesy DoC

some eggs and chicks are predated by rats, adult birds seem well able to defend themselves and their nesting holes. Changes in relative abundance can be easily monitored by the 5-minute count technique, provided counts are carried out at the same place and season. Absolute numbers are important only if we are concerned with the genetic breeding pool, with measuring the impact of kingfishers on their prey or other ecological interactions. These latter deserve study because skinks are

an important food item. Like moreporks, kingfishers eject the inedible bits – beetle wing-cases, crustacean carapaces, bones, fur and feathers – in pellets which are dropped below perches and nest-holes, so their diet can be quantified by anyone with a microscope and patience.

Other bird count news:

THE ROBINS are doing well at Windy Hill with 23 banded fledglings and only one nest predated by rats and one by moreporks.

Two Windy Hill robins have been identified at Mt Hobson and one down in Rosalie Bay, demonstrating how rapidly the Island would be populated by robins if it wasn't for predation by rats. Kaka also seem to have had a successful breeding season, with six chicks seen at Windy Hill, and at least one at Okiwi. Anecdotal information from several sources indicates that the kaka population has increased over the last decade – since we stopped calling them “buzzards”! Although there has been no influx of bellbirds to match that in 2005, at least one has been reported (Halema Jamieson—at Okiwi). The 2005 influx failed to establish—again demonstrating the significance of rat predation on small birds.

Following their success at the last bird count, Amanda Yates and Emma Hunt sat on the edge of Andy Oxborough's swamp at Awana one balmy evening in February, and played the “crake tapes”. They were amazed to get

Forest and Bird Magazine features Great Barrier Island

The most recent issue of Forest & Bird Magazine (No 323; Feb. 2007) features an illustrated three-page article entitled ‘Catching the New Wave’ which discusses the conservation initiatives on Great Barrier. The article is written by Barrier resident Tim Higham, and is the first national exposure of the GBICT's vision of a rat-free island. There is also an article about the Department of Conservation's GPS logging work on the black petrels of Hirakimata (Mt Hobson). A map demonstrates the remarkable journeys made by these birds. See: www.forestandbird.org.nz

several clear positive responses! I have spent every summer for 16 years within 100 metres of that swamp and never known for sure, until now, that spotless crane were there! Which just goes to show ... something.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to all those who participated in the 5-minute counts again: Don Armitage; Jeff Campbell; Des Casey; Fenella Christian; Peter Edmonds; Emma Hunt; Halema Jamieson; Ezra Kendall; Maaka McCandless; Hillary McGregor; Joanne O'Reilly; Emmy Pratt; Dale Tawa; Bert Vowden, Duane Walker; Tahī Walker and Amanda Yates. I'll be writing my third report on that to DoC (Biodiversity Advice Fund) soon and copies will be available.

COVER PHOTO of the Kotare is a juvenile—distinguished by a darker back, reduced eye stripe and buff colour on breast compared to an adult. Photo: DoC Archives

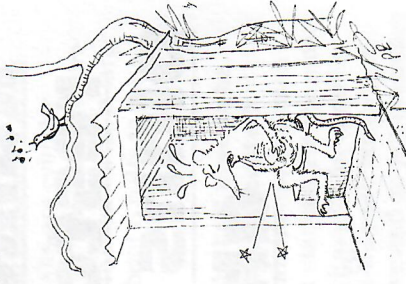
Rodenticide Trial for 'No-Rats' on GBI

by Jude Gilbert

THE NEW RODENTICIDE 'No-Rats' is to be trialled soon in the Rosalie Bay catchment on Great Barrier. As part of researching options for the eradication of rats on Great Barrier Island, John Ogden and Judy Gilbert recently met with the director and head scientist of the

distributing company KiwiCare. No-Rats is a cellulose based product that rats are unable to digest as they do not have the required bacteria in their gut. The particular cellulose used at high concentrations causes the rats to become constipated and die quite rapidly from heart failure. The product literature claims the bait is rat specific and lethal after a minimum of 40grams has been ingested. The non toxic product has been trialled overseas on a number of other bird and animal species, including dogs, ducks, cats, and cattle, and while some had temporary constipation, none sickened or died. No-Rats is certificated for use on rats in New Zealand and has Bio-Gro status.

While No-Rats has performed well in controlled conditions overseas, there have not been any field trials in NZ. With good track infrastructure and an



established record in product trials, the Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Trust is well positioned to be able to undertake the trial of this product. If it trials successfully No-Rats could be a very positive way of managing rats on the Barrier without toxins. KiwiCare is keen to have their product trialled in the field here and has agreed to supply the Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Catchment Trust with enough bait to cover a 30-40 hectare area over 6-8 weeks starting in the autumn. Two areas have been selected – one has rats already managed at low densities and covers open fields with multiple buildings while the other area has not had any pest management, has rats at high densities, and covers regenerating manuka and mature forest. Two areas allows for the product to be trialled in different habitats with varying rat densities. A control area was established last year and will also be used as a measure of management efficacy.

Kaikoura Is. restoration plans moving ahead

by Jo Ritchie

In a dramatic first for Great Barrier Island a complete island will be totally eradicated of introduced mammalian pests, and further protected against re-infestation—creating an island ark for endangered bird, reptile and invertebrate species.

What's happening?

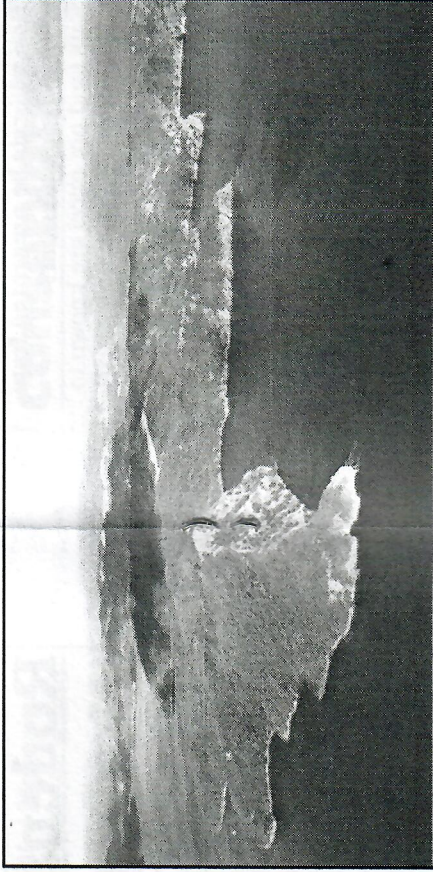
The Motu Kaikoura Trust wants to restore the natural environment of Kaikoura Island by removing introduced plants and animals. Rodents (rats and mice), feral cats, pigs, rabbits and deer all have significant impacts on the native animal and plant life of the island. They limit opportunities for native species such as skinks, kaka and brown teal through predation and competition for food and habitat. In the absence of animal pests, species such as black petrel may naturally re-establish and lost species such as giant weta and tuatara could be reintroduced

Where is Kaikoura Island and why restore it?

Kaikoura or Selwyn Island (564 hectares) is located off the west coast of Great Barrier Island, at the entrance to Fitzroy Harbour.

Predominantly covered in manuka and kanuka forest it also contains some pockets of native broadleaf forest including large trees such as pohutukawa, puriri and kohekohe, which provide the seed source to expand these forest remnants. The island is also on the 'flyway' for species such as Cooks and Black Petrel as they move between Great Barrier and their feeding grounds in the Hauraki Gulf and on the Kaipara Harbour. Bellbirds also move between Great Barrier and Little Barrier.

The removal of animal pests will allow species such as petrels and bellbirds to naturally re-establish and also provide a haven for the reintroduction of a range of species including giant weta and tuatara.



them from becoming bait-shy thereby increasing the chances that they will consume a lethal dose. The baits are cylinder shaped, about 2cm long and are dyed green to deter birds. A large rat needs about 6 baits to get a lethal dose.

Why does the bait need to be applied from a helicopter?

Trapping and the use of poison baits in bait stations are the most common techniques for control, but because they are labour and cost intensive and do not maximize the chances that every target animal will encounter them, they tend not to be used for eradication in areas as large as Kaikoura. Aerial baiting removes these issues. It is not limited by terrain or vegetation cover and provides the ability to accurately place bait at very close spacings (within 1-2m of each other compared to 25m to 50m spacings on a bait station grid). Aerial baiting technology has been refined by the Department of Conservation and to date rats have been successfully eradicated from about 50 New Zealand islands using this technique.

What impact does the aerial baiting operation have on the environment?

The operation will have only positive impacts. People will not be impacted in any way. The operation must be undertaken to a rigorous Code of Practice and will only be undertaken on uninhabited islands. Brodifacoum is insoluble in water and is rapidly broken down following rainfall by soil micro-organisms. Extensive

How and when will animal pests be removed?

The deer removal programme commenced in October 2006. Ground hunting with experienced local hunters and trained dogs is proving extremely successful but it may take a couple of years to remove the last animal. Pigs will also be removed using the same techniques. Rabbits and cats will be removed using a combination of ground based techniques.

Rodents will be removed with a combination of an aerial drop using Pestoff 20R a brodifacoum based toxin (the same as that used on Little Barrier Island) and ground based follow up with bait stations and traps. It may take up to 3 years to remove the last one.

Why Pestoff 20R?

Pestoff 20R is a cereal based pellet bait that has been specifically formulated to kill rodents. Brodifacoum is the best poison for eradicating rodents because the combination of a highly palatable bait and the fact that the rodents cannot detect the poison, prevents

Conservation Board on Barrier

by Jude Gilbert

THE AUCKLAND Conservation Board visited Great Barrier for three days in February as part of their series of field visits to significant areas of the Department of Conservation's Auckland conservancy. As a new member of the Board I was pleased to be able to share a local perspective on the Department of Conservation and current conservation issues. The Board visited Kaikoura Island for an update on their restoration plan, checked out the proposed Marine Reserve from the sea, and discussed issues for the Management of Te Paparahi, the island's northern bush area. There was also a visit to the set of the TV show 'Castaways' at Haratonga.

The Board held two public forums—the one at Claris was well attended by locals and a variety of topics were raised including the maintaining of view-points, the proposed Marine reserve, and the community debate over the GBIC Trust's vision of eradicating rats and feral cats. The second forum

was held as part of the Board's meeting at Orama. Several local conservation projects made presentations to the Board - Glenfern Sanctuary, Mohunga Peninsula, and the GBIC Trust. These were all well received and the Board expressed its intention to provide letters of recommendation for groups to use to support funding applications.

The main focus for the Board over the next 18 months will be to prepare for the review of the Auckland Area Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). Currently all DoC conservancies operate with their own individual strategy—a nationally standardised CMS format is currently being drafted on which to base planning for the next ten years. As the Board has some input into the CMS it is to visit most of the significant sites over this year in order to develop a better understanding of the issues for each area. Visits are scheduled for the Kaipara, Little Barrier, Browns, Rangitoto, Tiritiri Matangi, and Kawa Islands.

Kaikoura Restoration Project (cont. from p9)

How does this affect people visiting Kaikoura Island?

People will continue to have free access to the island. The only time that the island will be closed to the public will be when the aerial drops are being undertaken. Notification will be way of signage and public notices in the Barrier Bulletin and the NZ Herald.

Who can I get further information from?

Rod Miller - Motu Kaikoura Trustee
Email: hellorodmiller@hotmail.com Phone/Fax: (09) 4255612

How will rats be prevented from returning to Kaikoura?

Rats (and not mice) are known to swim quite large distances (further in salt water because of its buoyancy). Rats from Stewart Island are known to have reinvaded islands at least 200m off its coast and it's likely that with favourable conditions they can swim a lot further. To stop rats reinvading Kaikoura Island, they will also be eradicated from Motuhaku, Moturako, Nelson and the Grey Islands. Bait stations and some traps will also be installed on the closest peninsulas on the Bracewell and Stelin properties and on some DoC land.

The Trust will also undertake an education programme for all visitors to the island to ensure rodents do not come ashore with boats, planes, equipment etc. This will include signs at main entry points and an information pamphlet. Permanent bait stations will also be maintained in main entry points such as the wharf, airfield and Bradshaw Bay

When will the rodent eradication programme start?

Providing that the resource consent is approved, it is planned to start the programme in winter 2007. This is the best time of the year as natural food supplies are low and rodents are more likely to take the baits. The aerial baiting will involve two drops 4-10 weeks apart depending on weather conditions. The ground based removal of survivors will start once the second drop has been completed.

(Continued over)

monitoring of other similar operations (both on islands and the mainland) has found no traces of brodifacoum in soil or water. This has included analysis of shellfish and marine fish species.

Skywork Helicopters will apply the bait. Skywork is a local company familiar with the islands of the Hauraki Gulf and Kaikoura Island. They have considerable experience in this field. The helicopter will be fitted with an on-board computer navigation system and will utilise custom designed baiting buckets. The combination of the pilots experience and specialised equipment will ensure that bait is only applied to target areas. Because rodents (especially rats) can live down coastal cliffs some baiting will need to be undertaken in these areas. Some bait will fall into the water but will be rapidly broken down by wave action and will not be a threat to marine life.

The Trust is required to submit a resource consent application to the Auckland Regional Council for the aerial baiting part of the eradication. This application requires the preparation of an Assessment of Environmental Effects or AEE which identifies any adverse effects and sets in place strategies to remove or minimise them. It also requires that all affected parties are consulted. Consultation with locals will occur prior to the application being submitted. This will include commercial fishers, iwi, the Community Board and the Great Barrier Island Trust as well as the Department of Conservation, owners of adjoining islands and on the closest parts of Gt Barrier Is.

Kereru, the native New Zealand pigeon, in gradual decline

by Liz Westbrooke

The first trigger for pest management in the Windy Hill area was the noticeable decline in kereru numbers. Although there was only anecdotal evidence, it made us look at all possible ways to halt this downward trend and led into the rat-trapping projects.

Kereru are a very important bird for Great Barrier, and indeed for New Zealand as a whole, because they are the only bird left capable of digesting and distributing large seeds. The pigeon can thus transport karaka, miro, tawa, puriri and taraire seeds from mature forest areas into regenerating bush and kanuka/manuka eco-systems. And they arrive complete with their own fertilizer pack ready-to-go!

The first time I saw kereru soaring skywards and then diving deeply with acrobatic twirls, I was most impressed. Was this the same clumsy bird as the one with the noisy flight and near-miss landings? This dive is a mating dance and although performed by both males and females, it is mostly the 'boys' showing off.

Pairs of kereru usually occupy the same area each breeding season so you will see the same birds reappearing year after year. Their nest is a platform of sticks loosely built anything between 2m and 15m above the ground.

Somewhat flimsy, the egg and chicks inside can often be seen from beneath. The female generally lays only one white egg (although there can be several nests each season) and only 10 - 15% of the chicks successfully fledge. Although able to live to about 15 years old, their average life expectancy on the mainland is only 5 - 6 years due to predation by rats, possums, wild cats, hawks, stoats etc.

Illegal hunting by humans reduces this average life span again to only 3 years. There is no data specific to Great Barrier Island but the fact that they are still here in reasonable numbers is probably due to the absence of possums and stoats.

Breeding success is closely linked with food supplies. Studies on the mainland show that a number of kereru actually starve to death. Rats and other birds

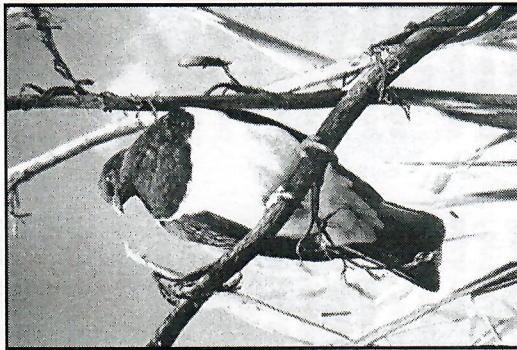


Photo: Courtesy Doc

compete fiercely for their favourite foods - miro, tawa, puriri, taraire and pigeonwood. Kereru also like kahikatea, coprosma, titoki, nikau, privet, elder and plums! They will also eat supplejack and cabbage tree fruits but these are much less preferred.

These birds can fly long distances, up to 25km, but have a slow top speed of 35km/hour. Four Southland kereru have been recently fitted with satellite transmitters in a current study. Over a period of four months 'Roger', one of these birds, clocked up five flights across Foveaux Strait and a couple of excursions from Invercargill to the Hokonui Hills!

There are many environmental factors that are affecting the kereru population. If you are interested, take a look at these Web sites:

- www.kererudiscovery.org.nz
 - <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/dominionpost/3908504a20479.html> (article on 26.12.06)
- References:
- Kelly CT. 1995. *Birds of New Zealand*. Collins
 - Windy Ridge School material sourced from DoC & ARC
 - J Ogden. 2006. *Biodiversity Advice Fund Report 1*
 - Dominion Post. *The Threatened Fate of the Kereru*.

projects on the mainland aimed at protecting and enhancing the lives of these iconic birds: primary school groups such as the collaboration of four North Shore schools in the Kereru Awhina Project, community groups such as the Karori Sanctuary project, and some are Department of Conservation research projects.



So what can you do to help:

- Plant some food sources for these birds - their favourites are miro, tawa, puriri, taraire and pigeonwood. We have information available on request on propagation of these species.
- Don't tolerate any hunting of these birds, make it known to others that they are protected and in decline.
- Get your pet cat spayed or neutered.
- Be very careful if you are visiting or returning to the island not to bring any unwanted 'visitors' (possums, stoats, ferrets, Norway rats) with you in your luggage, car, boat or caravan.
- Kereru frequently die after impacting glass windows in our Barrier houses. Avoid a 'see-through' flight path by use of screens or curtains, and save your glass as well.

North Island Robins Update

by Judy Gilbert and Tony Bouzaid



Photo: Little Windy Hill Trust

Improved pest management has made for a bumper breeding season for the robins at Little Windy Hill. At time of writing 23 young had been banded and fledged. This compares very favourably with the 16 young fledged in 2005-6 and 13 in 2004-5 from the same number of pairs. There are still 2 pairs sitting on 4 eggs so the final total of fledged juveniles may be as high as 27. This season began with five breeding pair of birds made up of the robins translocated from Tiritiri Matangi in 2004 and locally bred birds. However, after the first nesting round two birds from separate pairs disappeared leaving just four pairs for the remainder of the season. It is not known if they were predated by moreporks, hawks or died of old age. The two 'singles' then paired up, relocated their territory, and went on to successfully nest. It takes intensive effort to have the nests protected from rat predation. Throughout the robins territories rat traps and poison baits are spaced every 25x75m and this year a buffer zone of 150m of baits on one side of their area helped reduce rat invasion from unmanaged land. Out of 16 nests only one has been predated by rats.

Bush robin — locally grown, Little Windy Hill.

Glenfern Sanctuary had an increase in birds with 7 nesting pairs from 5 pairs last season. The loose male in Kotuku mated with a juvenile female fledged last year. Another pair, that hadn't been seen since the month of the release in April 20005, were found above the Karaka Bay Rd after the protected area boundary had been shifted to there and their nesting attempts monitored.

Despite the increase the nesting success was more variable with moreporks, possibly hawks, and a rat preying on chicks. From seven pairs eleven young fledged with 11 chicks lost. Two nests were lost to wind and several abandoned which is quite a common occurrence with these

birds. One was abandoned at Windy Hill. Robin young are chased out of the parent's territorial area after they have fledged and some may return the following breeding season to re-establish pairs. They disperse quite widely with three robins having been spotted up on Mt Hobson recently. One of these has come from Windy Hill, one is unbanded, and the third has yet to be identified. One value of intensely monitoring one species is that it acts as an indicator of likely breeding success for other birds within the area managed for rats and feral cats. Based on the success of the robins at Windy Hill it is probable that other birds have had a very productive year with much reduced predation.

If you spot a robin please try and identify it by reading the coloured bands on its legs from left top down and then right top down, just as you would read a book. Call Tony on 091 or Judy on 306 to confirm where the birds came from.

Confirming this, six young kaka were spotted in two nests early in the season within the managed area. One of reasons that small birds survive here at all, in spite of the onslaught from rats, is that they are such prolific breeders and start their breeding in late August/September while rats are still at reduced winter numbers. Most predation seems to occur with the rise in rats from January on when small birds may be on their third or even fourth nest.

You are offered the opportunity to join a group of New Zealanders for a Bush Regeneration/Weeding Ecotour on unique Lord Howe Island — a chance to experience this stunningly beautiful island, working on bush maintenance/weeding in the morning (3hrs) and in the afternoons enjoy a variety of walks learning about its fascinating geology, flora, fauna and marine life— with naturalist Ian Hutton.

Lord Howe Island Bush Regeneration/ Weeding Ecotour

16th — 23rd June, 2007

A chance of a life-time — to visit this unique World Heritage Park off the east coast of Australia.

You are offered the opportunity to join a group of New Zealanders for a Bush Regeneration/Weeding Ecotour on unique Lord Howe Island — a chance to experience this stunningly beautiful island, working on bush maintenance/weeding in the morning (3hrs) and in the afternoons enjoy a variety of walks learning about its fascinating geology, flora, fauna and marine life— with naturalist Ian Hutton.

For more information contact Wendy John - 09-815-3101 or wendyjoh@pl.net