

New Developments for Birdsong Trust Volunteers.

This is Tom Horn's final trap report after 5 years as our volunteer coordinator and operations manager. He says 'farewell and thank you' for all the support. Tom's dedication has been vital for keeping our trap lines cleared and checked, so I'm sure we all say 'thank you' to Tom.

With new trap lines being introduced, Rebecca Martin takes over from Tom in August and will be introducing new methods of operations along our trap lines.

A new Birdsong Trust depot is being set up behind Abel Tasman Kayaks base in Marahau.

Bird Sightings:

- Repeat sightings of the Banded Rail off the Marahau causeway.
- A weka at C10, (above Observation Beach)
- Little blue penguin noise around A7

Sentinel possum traps

Tree-mounted possum traps from A26 to A 80 have been unused for several months due to zero possum catch. In July, chew cards will be attached to trees that have sentinel traps mounted. Traps will be reactivated if there is evidence of possum bites on chew cards.

Trapping Report July 2015

Catch rates of around 15% have been consistent over the past 3 months, slightly higher than catches in April and May. We should reach a total of 2,000 rats by the end of July.

The following members of our volunteer team were responsible for the May/June/July checks: Peter and Moppy, Claire, Aurora, Eric and Esther, Paul, Dave, Elise, Georgina, Allan and his Pitt Head crew. Thanks you for giving so much of your time especially in the cold and wet conditions we have experienced lately.

Thanks to Aquataxi, Seashuttle and the Doc boat for taking crew into the Park.

Adele Island

Checked once a month. Mice are still present on the island. All birdsong traps are rebaited.

Allan's Pitt Head Report

May: A24 traps checked on May 18th

27 empty gas cylinders replaced, 16 had been in service for 5 months or longer.

21 counters recorded 39 kills

1 possum caught

June: A24 traps checked in two parts, June 14th and 21st

44 empty gas cylinders replaced, 31 had been in service for 5 months or longer.

23 counters recorded 27 kills. This indicates a high activity rate on a historical basis.

No Possums

Trap check May 30

M line 1-11: not checked

T line 1-8, nil Catch rate 0%,

A line 1 – 83: 10 rats, 1 stoat Catch rate 13 %,

A line 84 – 127: 9 rats Catch rate 21 %,

B line 1 -28: not checked

C line 1- 23: not checked

Total catch rate across all lines: 19 rats, 1 stoats = 15%

Trap check June 16

M 1-11: 1 rat Catch rate 9%

T 1-11: nil Catch rate 0%,

Aline 1 – 83: 12 rats, 1 stoat Catch rate 14%,

A line 84 – 127: 4 rats Catch rate 9%,

B 1-28: 10 rats Catch rate 17%

C 1-23: 4 rats Catch rate 17%

Total catch rate across all checked lines: 31 rats, 1 stoat = 16%

Observations: 35% of all traps had missing bait and 16 traps had been sprung. This suggests traps have been tampered with.

Trap check July 7

M 1-11: 1 rat Catch rate 9%

T 1-8: 4 rats Catch rate 50%,

A 1 – 83: 12 rats, 1 stoat Catch rate 17%,

A line 84 – 127: 5 rats Catch rate 11%,

B 1-28: 4 rats Catch rate 14%

C 1-23: 2 rats Catch rate 9%

Total catch rate across all checked lines: 27 rats, 1 stoat = 14%

Observations: 25% of all traps had bait missing.

Running totals since October 2010 : 1977 rats, 154 stoats, 7 weasels, 104 possums, 23 mice, 6 hedgehogs, 1 quail

NB: this does not include Pitt Head traps