

# BLACK SWAMP BUFFER ZONE

## PREDATOR CONTROL PROJECT (Issue 4 | June 2021)

Kia ora koutou, and welcome to our forth BSBZ quarterly newsletter.

With winter well under way, trap checking has been relaxed to once per month. At this time, hedgehogs have gone into hibernation, we are still catching lots of rats, and the mustelids (stoats and weasels) continue to be caught in lower numbers.

Many thanks to those who have been recording your trap catches via Trap.NZ.

**We currently have 104 rats, 51 hedgehogs, 18 mustelids, 12 possums, and 4 mice recorded, totaling 189 pests trapped to date!**



18 Mustelids



12 Possums



51 Hedgehogs



104 Rats

Over the winter months, keep an eye out for kākā visiting from our offshore island sanctuaries Hauturu/Little Barrier and Taranga/Hen and chickens.

This time each year, juvenile male kākā head off on an O.E to the mainland, investigating food sources and potential new territory. You may hear the raucous screeching of these large brown parrots flying overhead, or their musical whistles from large trees as they settle in for the evening.

Kākā nest in hollow tree cavities, rendering females and their offspring extremely vulnerable to predation by stoats, possums and rats.

They tend to respond well to predator control, and hopefully with our continued efforts, they will choose to settle down and start raising families here sometime in the near future.

For some fascinating winter viewing, I highly recommend watching RNZ's stunning new series 'Fight for the wild', on the battle to protect New Zealand's unique biodiversity.

Catch up at TVNZ on demand or <https://www.rnz.co.nz/programmes/fight-for-the-wild>

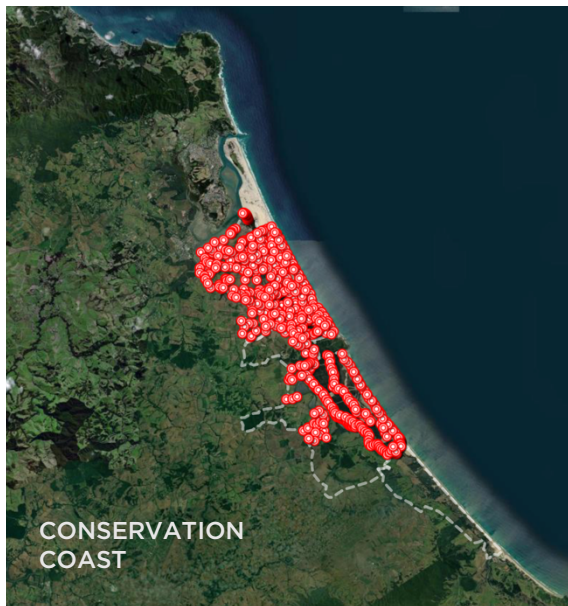


## CONSERVATION COAST

Our expansion of predator control continues south into Tomarata-Te Arai and Pakiri. It has been great meeting with neighbors here, and finding many are already undertaking trapping.

With the addition of these new community predator control zones, we will increasingly use the overarching name 'The Conservation Coast' to refer to our combined efforts, which are starting to look really impressive.

When we combine the Predator Control Zones set up so far, we currently have 825 traps set, and have removed over 2,527 invasive predators in total!



The conservation coast; Integrated predator control for the protection and enhancement of our native biodiversity.

If you have not been receiving email correspondence from us or Trap.NZ, please do get in touch, there have been some issues with emails diverting to people's junk files.

As always if you have any issues, questions or need assistance with trapping contact me any time. But for now, happy trapping, and thanks again for helping keep the wildlife in our community safe from invasive predators.

Ngā mihi nui, Alex.

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