

Conservation Coast

Predator control project (Issue 10 | December 2022)



Kia ora, and welcome to our tenth quarterly update.

As we head into the festive season, many of our shorebirds are already halfway through their breeding season, with fairy tern, dotterel and oyster catchers busy nesting and raising chicks along the coast. It's also breeding season for stoats so now is an important time to rebait and check your traps!

Over the past few months you may have heard distinctive booming calls from local wetlands. This is the mating call of Matuku hūrepo or the Australasian bittern. With the help of local volunteers, we recently undertook a survey of bittern in wetlands from Pākiri to Waipu and were thrilled to record 19 booming bittern. These Critically Endangered wetland birds are thought to number less than 700 individuals and are on the

decline due to the loss of their wetland habitat and the impacts of introduced predators. Unfortunately, two were also hit by cars during the survey period. Further surveys should allow us to understand whether our local populations are in decline or increase. Our bittern now rely on remaining wetland fragments scattered around the district, and our collective predator control efforts will hopefully help them by alleviating the pressures from invasive predators!

In the last quarter we have caught an impressive 620 predators including 112 mustelids, 116 possum, 190 hedgehogs and 421 rats. **This brings the grand total to 5,600 pests removed within the Conservation Coast!**

What an amazing collective effort! Hats off to you all 😊





Our predator control efforts are helping to keep Critically Endangered species like Matuku hūrepo (Australasian bittern) safe.



If you are struggling to maintain your traps, need a refresher on how to set traps, or use Trap.NZ to record your catches please do get in touch, we are more than happy to help.

Until next time, happy trapping, and thanks again for helping keep the wildlife in our community safe from invasive predators.

Ngā mihi nui, Alex.

Predator Control Zones	 Mustelids	 Possums	 Hedgehogs	 Rats
Mangawhai Predator Control Zone	10	15	22	61
Black Swamp Predator Control Zone	36	30	111	294
Tomorata - Te Ārai Predator Control Zone	55	58	26	136
Tara Iti Golf Club Ecological Sanctuary	225	179	1301	354
Te Ārai Regional Park	74	50	84	469
Te Ārai South	85	462	463	213
Totals	485	794	2007	1527

Over 5,600 predators have been removed!

Conservation Coast

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