



Forest & Bird
TE REO O TE TAIAO | Giving Nature a Voice



**South East
Wildlink**



To our wonderful South east wildlink community
Welcome to the quarterly update.

This newsletter includes a very positive result from our last monitoring event as well as news of our next bird count and some handy info on bait and possums.

We still really need more local landowners to become involved with pest animal control in the area so please pass on this newsletter to anyone you know in the neighbourhood or drop me a line and I can contact them directly. Let's make this a safe place for our native birds to flourish.

Thanks
Naomi

South east wildlink

Protecting and connecting patches of native bush within the South east wildlink area.

Working with the South Auckland branch of Forest & Bird and local land owners to control pest animals between Totara Park and Clevedon Scenic Reserve.

By carrying out pest animal control in the area we are providing safe refuges of native forest for species such as Kaka, Kereru, & the long tailed Bat; that have all been recorded within the area.

We are providing free advice on pest animal control.

We also carry out bird count surveys twice a year and Rat & Possum monitoring on public & private land.

Monitoring is an important part of the project as it records progress over time and helps as modify our pest animal control to where it is required.



Wax tag monitoring results

Wax tags are a monitoring tool that allows us to see which animal pests are present in an area. Wax tags are non toxic; the animals are attracted to the luminescent strip which is attached. They bite the wax tag to see if it is edible; leaving bites marks on the wax tag which allows us to identify the species present.

Wax tags are set up in monitoring lines of 10 tags; 20 meters apart and left out for 3 nights.

In August wax tags were set up on 11 properties; some properties had 1, 2 or 3 lines of 10 wax tags with a total of 180 wax tags deployed over 18 monitoring lines.

Results

2 Possums detected

21 Rats detected

157 Nothing detected

These are great results showing the pest animal control the property owners are doing is working. Keep up the great work.

Thanks to everyone that participated in the wax tag monitoring.

If you would like assistance with pest animal control or monitoring on your property please contact me.

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Wax tag monitoring



50 0 50 100 150 200 m

Wax tag monitoring
 ● Possum
 ● Rat
 ● Rat Possum
 ● No sign of pest animals



5 minute bird counts - November 2018

5 min bird counts helps us monitor progress of the South east wildlink. An increase in native bird species should be noticeable over time with an increase of pest animal control.

Would you like to be involved with a bird count?

We are planning on doing 5 minute bird counts on **Saturday 10th November 2018**.

You can either join us in our organised bird counts within the area or you can carry one out in your own property. It will take about 30min per location.

Bird counts are recommended to be done between the hours of 7am—12noon.

How to do 5 min bird count

- Find your location; wait 3 minutes for the birds to settle
- Count all birds (native & non native) within a 10m radius, from ground to sky
- Do three sets of 5 minute counts
- Count any birds you hear or see within 5 minute. Wait 5 minute before starting next count.
- Repeat twice more
- Take a photo if you are unsure of species.

If you hear a bird then see it, only record it the once.

You can either email us your results or load them onto iNaturalist. I have started a project on iNaturalist. Projects—Southeast Wildlink

<https://inaturalist.nz/projects/southeast-wildlink>

Resources

- nzbirdsonline.org.nz has photos & sound of birds
- Free device app – Birdlife of New Zealand
- The field guide to the Birds of New Zealand by Barrie Heather & Hugh Robertson



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Long tailed Bat - *Do you have any on your property?*

The NZ long tailed Bat (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*) has the highest threat ranking of 'nationally critical'. It's biggest threats are; predation by introduced pest animals, loss of habitat & roosting holes. They are aerial insectivores, feeding on small moths, midges, mosquitoes and beetles. Bats prefer to feed along forest edges and over native shrublands, they also like to feed on aquatic insects near ponds and streams. It can fly at 60 kms per hour and has a very large home range (100 km²).

Long tailed Bats are in the area and have been recorded in the Hunua Ranges, Waitawa Regional Park, Clevedon Scenic Reserve and on Redoubt Road.

Do you think you might have Long tailed Bats on your property? Would you like to find out?

Over the months between Nov - March we are offering to set up an automatic Bat monitoring (ABM) detector on your property for a week to find out. Please make contact to organise having a bat monitor on your property. If you do have Long tailed Bats on your property we can help you with a pest animal control plan.



Know your bait

Pindone



Target animal - Possum & Rat

Pindone is a multi-feed toxin. This means bait must be available to them for 5 nights. Try filling bait stations on day 1, refill on day 3, 5, 14 & possibly 17 days after first application.

How it works – It is an anti-coagulant; reduces clotting power of blood.

Secondary poisoning— Low.

Antidote—Vitamin K

Wear gloves when handling toxin bait.

Store in original container, in a dry locked place away from food, children & domestic animals.

Disposal of spoiled bait should be within a managed landfill site or buried 60cm deep in an appropriate site.



Pest animal of the month - STOAT



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Stoats have a home range of around 200ha, (1.4km)

They hunt day and night on rats, rabbits, mice, birds, eggs, lizards and invertebrates.

Main identifying feature is their tail with a black tip.

They are good climbers and swimmers.

Breeding season is Sept - Oct (can have 8-9 young).

Use a DOC200 trap for trapping Stoats; can bait with egg or rabbit meat. You only need one trap per 8-10 hectares.

Exerts taken from Pest animal control guidelines for the Auckland Region; Auckland Council.



Upcoming events



November

Time for your next toxin bait application & trap setting if you are doing the 4 times a year pulse method recommended (Jan, Apr, Aug, Nov) by Auckland Council.

5 min Bird Count

Saturday 10th November

9am—12.00pm

For more details please email

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<https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/projects/south-east-wildlink>

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