



Welcome to May's newsletter

I hope you are all well and keeping safe within your bubble.

As the weather is getting colder, pest animals are on the move looking for nice warm spots to live. It is a great time to get your traps and toxin baits set. One property on Redoubt road has just recently caught 18 possums in 7 days using 4 Timms traps. It was a great effort by Geoff.

Long tail bat monitoring

It is with great excitement that we can report that long tail bats were detected at one property during this summer's long tail bat monitoring programme.

From November to April we carried out monitoring for long tail bats using two different types of automatic bat monitors. An AR4 designed by Department of Conservation and another called the Bat Logger that was borrowed from Auckland Council. Both automatic devices were left out for seven nights at each location.

Monitoring took place at 14 properties with a total of 35 monitoring sites, totalling 98

bat recording probably represents a bat travelling from the established population of bats within the Hunua Ranges.

Long tail bats are capable of flying up to 50km in one night looking for food and roosting sites.

To assist & encourage bats we can do the following:

- continue to carry out pest animal control. The main predators of bats are stoats, rats, possums and cats.
- leave old mature trees standing because bats use these to roost in old cavities or under loose bark.
- plant more natives to link the remnant bush patches within the wildlink.
- turn outside lights off when not in use. Bats are sensitive to light and prefer it dark.

It would be wonderful to have bats throughout the wildlink. So, if you would like any assistance with pest animal control or planting natives please get in touch.

Also, please let me know if you would like to be involved with the next long tail bat monitoring programme this coming summer





Bird monitoring

Looking for an activity to keep you busy while in isolation? I have the perfect activity - bird watching. It is fun and easy, can be done at home and you can take the kids with you, if they can sit still and quiet.

I have noticed people posting more bird sightings at home and birds seem to be happier. Have you noticed any differences? Maybe it is just that more people are spending more time at home noticing, or it could be nature enjoying this little break from human movement. It is defiantly quieter out there.

So far we have 32 bird species observed in the wildlink with the most commonly observed being, tui, grey warbler and myna. A flock of 5 kereru were spotted in Fitzpatrick Road recently. Have you seen them? What a sight that must have been! I would love to hear about more sightings like this. Has anyone seen the Kakas lately? All your hard work with pest animal control and planting natives is paying off. I hope to see more large flocks of native birds present in the future.

How to do 5 min bird counts

- 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

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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

- <https://www.naturespace.org.nz/resource-centre/bird-and-lizard-monitoring>
- <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/five-minute-bird-counts/>
- www.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

Project size - area and involmment

Since the South-East Wildlink link started in September 2017 we have contacted over 99 properties within the wildlink area. The combined land area for those 99 properties is 1037 hectares.

It doesn't matter how large or small the property is, the collective effort of everyone will ultimately make the difference for our native flora and fauna.

Thank you to everyone currently involved, your pest animal control work and native revegetation is critical to the success of the wildlink.

It is great working with an enthusiastic group of property owners who love nature. I have also enjoyed discovering so many beautiful bush remnants that remain in the wildlink area. Majestic old puriri, karaka, kahikatea, & taraire stands are a sight to see. It gives me great hope that we can restore our beautiful country to its former glory.

We would still like to increase the amount of people involved in the wildlink so I

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Pest animal monitoring

Would you like to be involved in the possum and rat monitoring programme again? If you haven't done it before, now is a great time to start.

Monitoring allows you to see what pest animal species are on your property to confirm how effective your current control is. It also helps to decide what control tools might be needed in the future .

Monitoring involves using 10x nontoxic wax tags left out for 3 nights on your property. We also have tracking tunnels that detect rats, mice, lizards & weta.

Monitoring is free and easy to do. I can help anyone who is starting for the first time.

If you would like to be involved with the monitoring, please contact me and we can get it organised to commence after the Covid-19 lockdown is over.

[Facebook group for the South-East Wildlink](#)

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about pest animal/weed control, re-vegetation or interesting bird, bat, lizard, fish sightings or anything relevant to the project.

To join the group follow the link below or search South-East Wildlink.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2341448545905199/>

Upcoming events

May

Set traps and full toxin bait stations

June

14 June, 3.00 - 4.30pm Winter gathering

July

27 June - 5 July 2020 - garden bird survey

<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/animals/birds/garden-bird-surveys>

August

Set traps and full toxin bait stations

15 - 23 Aug - Pest animal monitoring

November

Set traps and full toxin bait stations

21-29 Nov, - Bird count

Public day Sat 21 Nov 9.00am - 12.00noon

Summer - November to April

Long tail bat monitoring, if you are interested in having monitoring to determine if

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All events are subject to change due to covid 19.

For more details and to RSVP please email

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