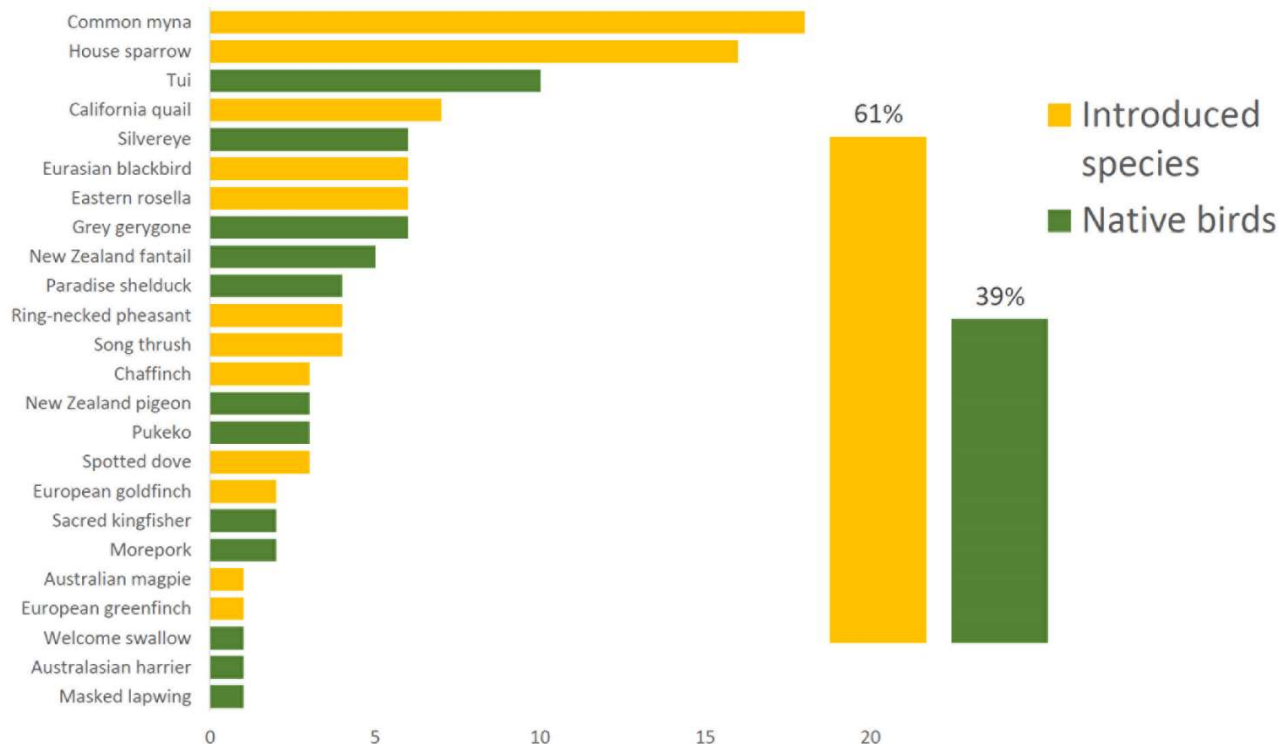




WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Summer bird count results

Thank you to everyone who participated in the summer bird counts last December. South-East Wildlink is home to 35 bird species. However, this time, we counted only 24 species, probably due to the low number of participating properties. Although half of that number were native New Zealand birds, the introduced species almost twice outnumbered the natives:



The most common species were the introduced common myna and house sparrow, followed by native tūī. Also, there were two ruru owls (morepork) which are hard to spot in the daytime!



We need more observations to understand whether native wildlife benefits from our predator control efforts and possibly discover some rare birds in the area. Therefore, we encourage everyone to join South-East Wildlink's five-minute bird count in May. It's fun and easy! All you need to do is to record all the birds you saw or heard at your property within 5 minutes and share this information with us. It is okay if you can't identify some species because every record matters. You can increase your birding confidence by attending an upcoming online seminar:

Annual Howick Bird Count Seminar
Wednesday, 22 Feb • 19:00–20:30
<https://meet.google.com/twx-srfc-tfm>

Or by signing up for a short field trainee course here: d.erastova@forestandbird.or.nz

Community mahi



Forest and Bird, Trees For Survival, Conservation Volunteers New Zealand, Young Farmers and Local Landowners work together to restore Papakura Stream area.

In the previous issue https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/sites/default/files/2023-02/SEWNewsletter_November2022.pdf we told you about the habitat restoration mahi that takes place along the Papakura Stream catchment area. Local landowners and volunteers, led by professionals from Trees For Survival and Conservation Volunteers New Zealand, planted 100K+ native trees and grasses over the past three years. In 2023, this project will expand further and recruit more private land for tree planting. Forest and Bird will assist engaged landowners and Young Farmers with pest control and wildlife monitoring. The latter include bird counts and long-tailed bat recording. Also, Forest and Bird is committed to creating a biodiversity profile of all the organisms living in the Papakura Stream area. We will update you in our next Newsletter.

Incident reporting

As we go about our Forest & Bird activities, there is a chance that our volunteers will find themselves in a situation that results in an injury or another less-than-ideal outcome. One of the best tools for managing this risk is incident reporting. By reporting a near miss, injury or illness, non-injury incidents and hazards you help to keep yourself and others safe. After all, if we don't know that something has happened, we can't take steps to keep it from happening again.

The **printable incident reporting form** can be downloaded [here](#), or requested from your Project Manager (d.erastova@forestandbird.or.nz).

What to report and why

- **Injuries and illnesses** (including pain and discomfort caused by repetitive movements or poor ergonomics);
- **Near misses**, which *nearly* resulted in an injury or incident;
- **Non-injury incidents**, such as property damage and environmental incidents;
- **Hazards**, which you think *could* cause injury or incident.

This [guidance document](#) provides a more in-depth description of each category of reporting, and explains why they're important.

What happens once we report an incident?

The Project Manager will review all incident reports and assess what action (if any) is appropriate to address any issues raised. We may be in touch if we need more information, and to work with you if any further action would be helpful.

Pest control trapping scheme

- ✓ **This guide** is to explain the trapping programmes behind the various control tools recommended within these guidelines.
- ✓ The below methodology is tailored for **overall biodiversity gain** for an area, & is aimed at targeting control prior & over the bird breeding season.
- ✓ Pulsing in the specific months has been determined by; controlling pest animals when food is most scarce (end of winter) making bait more attractive, limiting populations over the summer months & when young stoats leave their dens, and during the breeding season when birds are on the nest & pest animal numbers tend to be at their highest through food abundance.

Rat trapping programme:

		Trapping programme for Rats																																											
Month		August				September				October				November				December				January				February				March				April				May							
Week		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4				

- Trapping is through snap traps (T-Rex or similar) in lockable bait boxes.
- Trapping will be pulsed 4 x per year, with each pulse being 6 weeks consecutive.
- Traps should be checked 1-3 days.

Possums:

Timms Traps:

- Trapping should be pulsed 4 x per year, with each pulse being 2 weeks consecutive.
- Traps should be checked 2x in the first week & 1x in the second week as a minimum.
- An exception for a pulse (especially the April one) to be longer than 2 weeks can be made if area is relatively small (<10 hectares) and is surrounded by some possum habitat. Trap catches may reflect higher as possums outside the control area start coming in.
- Traps should be secured so that when sprung will remain in position.

		Trap Pulsing Programme for Possums																											
Month		August				Sept/October				November				January				Feb/march				April							
Week		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4				
Check 2x																													
Check 1x																													

- Possum specific lure will be used e.g apple with cinnamon, icing sugar & flour. No meat or fish due to risks for non-target animals.
- Where there are potential non-target risks identified traps can be elevated into a tree.
- Traps can be elevated on a wooden stand to reduce risks to non-target species & interference with children (see guidelines for further information)

Please place an order with d.erastova@forestandbird.or.nz if you need tools, equipment or consumables for the next pest trapping round in April at your property with the following information:

- What is it for?
- What do you need?
- How much do you need of each item?
- Please mind, that you will receive the toxins you ordered in March to start baiting in April. Other orders (traps and lures) can come sooner.
- Please mind, I can't guarantee there will be anything left for you on the next hand-out day if I don't hear from you in February - early March.

Upcoming events

TrapNZ online workshop

This workshop is suitable for anyone who trap or bait pests and wants to share their success. We will cover basic aspects of using TrapNZ software (registration, creating online devices, submitting catches) and more advanced features. There will be a Q&A section at the end of the workshop.

28.02 @ 7p.m.-8.30p.m.

Click the link below

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84055417957?pwd=K3hLTGwxRnpJbFUzcTFtS3dSWUpSUT09&from=addon#success>

Hand-out day

Next hand-out day when you can pick-up bait, return your old broken equipment and claim new tools, discuss any issues and socialise is on the **18th of March at 9 a.m.** The venue is to be confirmed. **Please place order in advance by contacting Daria:** d.erastova@forestandbird.or.nz.

Bat monitoring

We encourage you to join us in our search for an extremely rare unique long-tailed bat. This native animal was spotted in South-East Wildlink earlier, so now we collect data on its occurrence. It's super easy, all you need to do is to find a good spot and attach a recording device that will do the job for you! For more details, please contact Daria d.erastova@forestandbird.or.nz.

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