

Heaps of rats in August!

No stoats were caught but the teams recorded the highest catch rates of rats ever in August – a total of 50 rats with an overall catch rate of 25%! Special thank you to those responsible for clearing and resetting the traps - Mike and Lorraine, Elaine and Andrew, Jason, Robert, Barbara and Dave, Lucy, Krissy, Paul and Tom. Many thanks to Aquataxi for transport to the lines this month.

Notes and observations

The catch rates on the brand new B and C lines were extremely high at 45% and even on the A mainline about the catch was about 17%. A section of A line (55 to 81) was unusually 'busy' but rates on B and C in next check were far lower. A brand new line probably kills most of the resident rats first and then drops to a more normal level of between 15 and 20%.

Exciting sighting

A **Fernbird** was seen in the Wetland behind Anchorage and a **Banded Rail** in the Marahau estuary. They are slowly returning!