

Trapping Report for January 2014

The massive slowing of our catch rate in November has changed quite dramatically since the end of December. In particular we are catching a much higher number of stoats, and their numbers even exceeded the rat count during the last two checks. This is a first! A banded rail chick has been seen by the causeway so it's especially heartening that two stoats have been caught in that M section.

Many thanks to the those filling in for trappers who had to cancel. The trapping team were Paul, Moppy and Peter, Jason, Leena, Zoe, Mike and Lorraine, Georgina, Esther and Eric, Aurora, Pat and Dave, Dave and Barbara.

Results for 8th Dec, 2013:

11 rat, 51 rat, 70 rat and 79 rat.

Total : 4 rats

Observations for these records : bait gone: 15, 18, 20, 21, 63 71, 72, 77, label gone on stoat box 58 (now replaced). T5 and T6 returned to base for tuning are now back in place, with wire mesh repaired on 51.

Trap check results for 22nd Dec 2013:

M2 rats, M8 rats, M11 stoats, 11 rats, 14 rats, 34 stoats, 54 possum, 55 rats, 56 rats, 58 rats, 61 rats, 62 rats, 68 rats, 71 stoats.

Total : 10 rats, 3 stoats, 1 possum.

Observations for these records: bait gone: 12, 13, T 3, T4, 19, 20, 24, 34R, 63, 33 trap lost, 30R and 33R sprung.

Trapcheck for 4th Jan, 2014:

30 R rat, 34 R rat, 56 stoat, 70 stoat, 79 stoat.

Total : 2 rats, 3 stoats.

Observations on these records: The 8 traps of M line and 1 to 10 were not done; bait gone: 12, 25, T4, 18 vandalised, sprung and bait gone.

Trap check for 18th Jan, 2014:

M 1 stoat, M 2 stoat, M 11 rat, T 4 stoat, T5 stoat, 29 rat, 31R rat, 35 stoat, 40 rat, 50 rat, 75 stoat.

Totals: 5 rats, 6 stoats

Observations on these the records: bait gone : 17, 18,20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 53, 76. sprung : 27 R, 30, 31, 32 possum trap, 34, 41, 28 R, 30, 31, 34. 28 R trap defect -back at base, 42 needs bait-holder.

Running totals: 1056 rats, 126 stoats, 90 possums, 20 mice, 4 hedgehogs, 1 quail.