

Thanks to the trappers, 4 stoats caught!

Many thanks to the checking team who are doing a great job in chilly mid-winter conditions: Pat and Dave, Dave and Barbara, Zoe, Aurora and Tom, Paul, Robert and Hermann. Many thanks also to Aurora for becoming yet another new volunteer. Marahau was hit hard by recent slips and so was our trap line. Plenty of stoat boxes have been waterlogged or tipped over but the numerous slips have missed them all! Tom will from now on add the kill rate across our 100 stations (in reality we have 99) for a quick glance at efficiencies. Remember that some stations have only one trap, others three and most two. Our total traps on the coastal stoat line number 177.

TRAP CHECK RESULT 23RD JUNE:

M 11 rat, 4 stoat, 5 rat, 7 rat, 11 rat, 22 rat, 45 rat, 48 possum, 56 rat, 59 rat, 60 rat, 63 rat, 65 rat, 67 rat, 68 rat, 73 rat, 75 rat.

Total: 1 stoat, 1 possum and 15 rats. Kill rate (100 stations) was 17%.

For the record, observations show: bait gone (13 times) : M2, M3, M4, M5, M10, 8, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20 , 32R 33R; sprung (4 times) : M1, M8, 29R, 31R. 64 possum traps replaced. 33 not found, possibly gone in slip?

TRAP CHECK RESULT 7TH JULY:

M2 rat, M6 rat, M8 rat, M11 rat, 7 rat, 16 rat, T 7 rat, 19 rat, 22 stoat, 43 rat, 44 possum, 45 rat, 58 rat, 61 stoat, 62 rat, 63 rat, 65 stoat, 67 rat 74 rat, 79 rat.

Total: 3 stoats, 1 possum, 16 rats. kill rate (100 stations) was 20%.

RUNNING TOTALS :

949 rats, 112 stoats, 87 possums, 19 mice, 4 hedgehogs, 1 quail.

For the record, observations show; bait gone (17 times): M1, M3, M4, M10, 8, 13, 14, 18, T5, 21, 53, 54, 56, 60, 75, 76, 78. Sprung: 58 possum trap, 64 possum traps set incorrectly. 8 have been taken back to workshop, won't set. 33 present in original location, not in slip.

JOBS FOR NEXT RUN:

Reinstall 8, new bait holders for 7 traps.

OTHER NEWS :

The trust received a report on the performance of our Good Nature self-setting traps on Pitt Head from Allan. Unfortunately there are problems with the gas cylinders leaking and the lure not performing well. The catch rate so far seems to be low. The situation will be discussed on the next trust meeting at the end of this month.

We will soon have a date for our next tree planting mission this month. The sites have been prepared already by DOC. I will keep you posted.

The Banded Rail in the Marahau Estuary have been seen from time to time lately. The count is between one and three birds and all seems well there.

As some of you are already aware, I will be away for a couple of months in August and September. Robert Palzer is standing in for me and a roster has been put up. His phone number is (03) 527 8060. Robert will email you to confirm the check and any details. The kits remain in the Birdsong cabinet - no change there.

