

Slim pickings from the traps

The ATBST is grateful to its 40-odd volunteers who continue to brave cold wet and windy conditions (and the odd sunny calm day!) to keep our trap lines clear, record results and reset traps. This past month it was Leena, Hermann, Al and Zoe doing the checking and sadly they report that some vandals have been active again with with one trap found halfway down the bank and 33 sprung or tampered with.

Results from their last check netted a stoat, but otherwise slim pickings:

Trap check results - October 2013

M 11 stoats, 5 rats, 16 rats, 23 rats, 46 rats, 73 rats.

Total : 1 stoat, 5 rats

Running totals: 1,027 rats, 114 stoats, 89 possums, 20 mice, 4 hedgehogs, 1 quail.

Some may wonder about the reason we record so much detail on trapping. This is so that one day we can use the data collected in "observations/for the record" to identify bad performing traps due to either their location or mechanical problems. That enables us to run this trap line as efficient as possible. Occasionally I glance at those observation and identify the odd trap which wasn't working at its best.

Perhaps this winter a volunteer may look at the information with a more systematic approach to analysing and extrapolating lessons learned. Anyone volunteering?