

Rats and More! Trapping report for April, 2013

The rats got a fair hiding last month, as we approach the 1,000 mark! The trapping team - Pat and David, Al, John and Debbie, Leena, Jason, Jim and Janet, Lucy, Dave W. were joined by new trainee volunteer Paul.

Thank you Dave for giving Paul expert tuition. Paul will join Tom and another new trainee, Aurora, on the job next weekend.

Jim and Janet set off on their trap-check without bait and some traps were left without, but Tom has since placed fresh bait. It is notable is that far more bait has disappeared this month than is usual, so we are assuming that mice often squeeze past without being caught.

David observed that some stoat traps and possum traps have been incorrectly set. Trappers, please make sure that the pull handle, the thin wire loop is flicked right back. On possum traps you need to hook the trigger arm around the bent bar, not the straight one.

Some also lack skill in setting the sentinel and one trapper had a hand caught in a sentinel trap while distracted from the task! Fortunately this caused surprisingly little damage. Tom plans refresher training before you next head out, and will try to get more details for proper health and safety reporting.

Important: If any of you experience any trap incident, a fall or suffer a wasp sting please let Tom know, so that all incidents are recorded.

Results for 31 March :

M6 rat, 9 rat, 12 stoat, T4 rat, T6 rat, 21 rat, 26R mouse, 28R rat, 28 rat, 29R mouse, 30 rat, 32 rat, 37 rat, 38 rat 39 rat, 54 rat, 58 rat, 59 rat, 67 rat, 70 rat, 73 rat, 78 rat.

Total: 19 rats
 2 mice
 1 stoat

Observations for the record:

- *bait gone* : 19, 23, 25, 53, 67, 71
- *trap sprung*: 71, 75
- *left set but not baited*: 62, 63, 68, 69
- 34R located,
- 35 tag missing

Results for 14 April :

1 rat, 18 rat, 29 rat, 31R mouse, 34 rat, 35R rat, 38 rat, 40 rat, 41 rat, 64 rat

Total: 9 rats
 1 mouse

RUNNING TOTALS :

- 854 rats
- 103 stoats
- 82 possums

- 17 mice
- 4 hedgehogs
- 1 quail

Observations for the record:

- *bait gone* : M3, M4, M5 (and sprung), 2, 7, 26, 28, 30 (and sprung), 32, 36, 37, 39, 43, 44, 45, 45, 46,47, 48
- *sprung*: 14, 27R, 34R missing
- 35 needs a new tag
- 51 tag not located
- 52 tag missing; tape ok
- 64P 'lured' with stoat bait.