

Ewen lab hihi research update

April 2011



ACCEPTED PAPERS AND MEDIA *publications in scientific journals, popular science and media coverage*

- No new papers accepted this month but a bunch in the pipeline.
- Hihi were translocated from Tiritiri Matangi to Maungatautari as part of Kate's PhD project and this got picked up by various NZ media (Kate pictured with the kids during the public release). Kevin was contracted to organise and manage the actual capture and transfer of birds. Leila was also involved and used the opportunity to sample birds for her own project.
- The New Zealand Listener has published a good story detailing the problems currently faced by Maungatautari titled "Storm over Waikato"



PRESENTATIONS, VISITS & NEWS *conference presentations, visits to and from group members etc*

- Dr Tony Sainsbury (IoZ) visited Tiritiri and spent time with Kate, Leila and Kevin to discuss disease risk assessments in translocation.
- Ali had a productive meeting with co-supervisor Tim Coulson and modified her modelling approach of the Kapiti island hihi population.
- 39 hihi (all with transmitters) were released at Maungatautari on the 14th April and Kate plus helpers have been following them since.
- Dr Rob Pickles (IoZ) is in New Zealand helping Kate track hihi for a month.
- Leila has returned to the UK after another successful field season on Tiritiri Matangi.
- Patricia is starting a 3 month contract at the IoZ working with the corn crane reintroduction project while she waits for news on numerous hihi related post-doc applications.

FEATURE STORY: **An edited book on reintroduction biology by John, Doug, Kevin (and Phil Seddon).**

It has been a long time coming but we are now close to a final draft manuscript of a book titled "*Reintroduction biology: integrating science and management*". Most of the last month has been devoted to editing and/or finishing off our own contributions to this text. We have an exciting line up of authors talking on topics that include release site selection, husbandry, post-release dispersal, monitoring, disease and genetics. Hihi feature throughout given the contribution that research on this species has provided to the scientific discipline of reintroduction biology. The book will be published by Wiley-Blackwell. We will keep you posted with progress!

Preface intro (draft): *The first seeds for this book were nourished on Tiritiri Matangi Island off the northern coast of New Zealand in a heated discussion with then Department of Conservation employee Rosalie Stamp. Hot because it was a fantastic February summer day and also because Rosalie was expressing frustration in her role of dealing with translocation permit applications for the Auckland region of New Zealand's Department of Conservation. During the 2000's there had been (and continues to be) an increasing transition from government run reintroductions (the predominant form of conservation translocation; see chapter 1) to reintroductions requested, planned and implemented by community conservation groups. That this conversation was happening on Tiritiri Matangi is fitting because the island presents a showcase for the successful integration of community participation in conservation. Rosalie was frustrated about the often poor understanding of how to plan and undertake reintroductions. This is not simply the fault of an enthusiastic but untrained public. Another then Department of Conservation employee Richard Griffiths challenged us on a regular basis to prove where our scientific contribution was actually being used by "on the ground conservation managers" rather than for filling the publications section of CV's. It appears a perennial issue that scientists frequently publish their important results in specialist journals which are not read by managers. Managers get on and manage. Now the story complicates because skilled managers are being replaced by enthusiastic community groups. Rather than being viewed as a backward step in conservation this wider interaction between a growing number of stakeholders should be viewed as a huge success. Conservation needs wide acceptance and ownership to succeed. We only require better integration of all stakeholders into an informed and powerful scientific management base – embodied in the growing scientific field of Reintroduction Biology.*

FUNDING *our major funders and new funding news*

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