

Ewen lab hihi research update

September 2011



ACCEPTED PAPERS, MEDIA & OUTREACH

• WISNZ (Hihi Recovery Group sponsor) competition winner Sara Corbett (pictured right, checking that the hihi nest boxes are clean and ready) spent the week on Tiritiri Matangi assisting with the pre-breeding population survey and learning about hihi with Leila and Kate.



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

- **Ali** presented a talk at the British Ecological Society conference in Sheffield titled “Does supplemental feeding affect the viability of translocated populations? The example of the hihi (*Notiomystis cincta*)”.
- **Leila** presented a talk at the University of Cambridge SymbLS conference titled “A window to the past: does adult ornamental plumage reveal early life environments?” (in hihi)
- **Ali** submitted a manuscript – “Population modelling is key to maximising the success of assisted colonisations” by A. Chauvenet, J. Ewen, D. Armstrong, T. Blackburn and N. Pettorelli.
- **Leila** attended a workshop held by the British Trust for Ornithology about how the trust could better serve students and early career ornithologists (in York).
- **John** attended a symposium at the Royal College of Surgeons (London) titled “Living with uncertainty in animal disease management”
- **Jean-Baptiste Mihoub** (Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris), his partner **Peggy**, **Sara** (WISNZ), **Leila** and **Kate** conducted a successful pre-breeding population survey on Tiritiri Matangi. **Total birds recorded = 172**
- **Doug** visited Tiritiri Matangi to set up the seasons robin work and meet **Leila** and this seasons two research assistants **Michelle** and **Will**.

FEATURE STORY: **Rose et al.’s review manuscript which should appear in a New Zealand Journal of Ecology special issue on Tiritiri Matangi Island.**

1995 – 2010: A 15-year history of ecological research on Tiritiri Matangi Island’s hihi

In 1995 and 1996, a release of 51 hihi (*Stichbird Notiomystis cincta*) onto Tiritiri Matangi Island (wild caught on Hauturu, Little Barrier Island) marked the start of a research and ecological restoration success story. Although the establishment of populations of hihi elsewhere in New Zealand has proven to be difficult, the population on Tiritiri Matangi Island has grown to ca. 150 individuals and has become one of New Zealand’s few detailed case-study species, and the basis for a diverse research programme due to its behaviour, molecular ecology, and conservation challenges. Here we review the major contributions from 15 years of ongoing research on this dynamic species at this spectacular study location and demonstrate how behavioural ecology, genetics, parasitology, and applied population ecology can inform conservation management.



FUNDING *our major funders and new funding news*

CURRENT AND PAST FUNDING – thank you!

+ British Research Council + Royal Society + Leverhulme Trust + Department of Conservation + AXA-fund + NERC + SoTM + ASAB + Massey University + Wesfarmers Industrial and Safety NZ Ltd.

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