

Ewen lab hihi research update

September 2014



ACCEPTED PAPERS, MEDIA & OUTREACH

- No new hihi papers this month but we are close!
- **Ali** has contributed a story to The Applied Ecologist's blog on the Journal or Applied Ecology website. It relates to her PHD work on hihi (see feature below).

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

- **Congratulations to Kate** who has accepted a new job as Senior Biodiversity Ranger for DOCs southern island team, based on Stewart Island. Although before finishing her PHD, she is committed to doing so, and has support from DOC to see it done.
- **Ali** has now made the big move south and is based at the University of Queensland. Updated contact details to come shortly.
- Welcome to **Kirsty MacLeod** who is a post-doctoral research associate working with Rose Thorogood on a range of projects including with hihi data collected by Rose.
- **Donal & Victoria** plus volunteers including HRG sponsors NZSafety completed the pre-breeding population survey for hihi on Tiritiri Matangi island.
- **Victoria** is back in the UK and has now officially started her PHD at the University of Cambridge.
- **Lydia** is now in New Zealand and planning the hihi survey for Maungatautari.

FEATURE STORY: Snapshot of the start of Ali's Applied Ecologist's blog.

What does it take to save a hihi?

To read the full blog please visit;
<http://jappliedecologyblog.wordpress.com/2014/09/08/what-does-it-take-to-save-a-hihi/>

This post was written by Alienor Chauvenet (alienor.chauvenet@ioz.ac.uk, @AChauvenet) on her paper "Saving the hihi under climate change: a case for assisted colonization", which was selected as Editor's Choice and was a highly commended entry for the Journal of Applied Ecology's Southwood Prize 2013.

I can imagine that your first reaction might be "what's a hihi?!". The hihi –or stitchbird- is an endemic passerine bird species of the North Island, New Zealand. It's not as famous as the kakapo or the kiwi but it's just as threatened and interesting.

In fact, it almost disappeared decades ago as the European colonisation of New Zealand introduced invasive mammalian predators who love to chomp on cavity nesting birds like the hihi, and cleared away native forest in which they are normally found. By sheer luck, the species managed to stick it out on one single island, called Little Barrier Island (LBI) or Hauturu. Today, they survive in six populations including the one on LBI and are a conservation success story.

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 + NZ Safety Ltd.

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