

Ewen lab hihi research update

April & May 2015



ACCEPTED PAPERS, MEDIA & OUTREACH

- **Patricia** has had her latest manuscript accepted for publication – **Brekke, P., Ewen, J.G., Glucas, G.V. & Santure, A. (2015) Determinants of male floating behaviour and floater reproduction in a threatened population of the hihi (Notiomystis cincta). Evolutionary Applications In press.**

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

- **Victoria** has returned from a successful first field season in New Zealand.
- **John** co-chaired the 2015 Hihi Recovery Group meeting on Rotoroa Island, New Zealand.
- **Anna, Doug, John, Kevin & Victoria** attended the Hihi Recovery Group meeting.
- **Chris Smith** submitted a manuscript for publication on hihi moult to Notornis.
- **David** and **Ali** have been working on manuscript corrections for their latest Kapiti Island study
- **Kate Lee** has been sorting all hihi blood samples at IOZ to ready them for transport from London back down to New Zealand (see an introduction to Kate below).
- **Kate Richardson** is managing to squeeze in work on thesis chapters around a full time job at DOC.

FEATURE STORY: Welcome to Kate Lee – an Introduction

I am very excited to be joining the Hihi Group. I am an Irish scientist with a background in plant genetics, but more recently completed a bioinformatics masters to move from the laboratory bench to the computer. In the last few years I have been a research assistant in the University of Leicester, working on a variety of projects including the the genomics of species such as rye, wheat, cress, crustaceans, bees, bacteria and humans - but no birds!

For my PhD I hope to build on the work already completed by the team. The aim of my project is to look at the variation in the genome of a large portion of the birds studied over the last two decades and determine the DNA sequence variation that is responsible for their morphological characteristics which have previously been recorded. This information might then be used to model how the birds in this population adapt to their environment at a genomic level and help chose the best birds to put into new environments as the project expands to new areas.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone, learning more about birds and perhaps even getting my hiking boots dirty out in the field!



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 + Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund + BOU.

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PhD Students

- Kate Richardson (Massey University, New Zealand k.richardson@massey.ac.nz)
- Victoria Franks (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom vix_franks@hotmail.co.uk)
- Kate Lee (University of Auckland, New Zealand)



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