Heavy seeding in our native forests this year will drive high rodent and stoat numbers that prey on endangered birds. ‘Battle for our Birds’ is a predator control response to protect our native wildlife from predators.
Species at high risk of predation during the coming year.

Areas currently planned for 1080 protection – 2014/15.
**Yellowhead/mōhua**

**Population:** Less than 5000  
**Threat status:** Nationally vulnerable  
**Found in:** Small isolated populations in the South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura  
**Did you know:** The mōhua is the bird featured on our $100 note. Only found in the southern half of New Zealand, it nests in tree holes, making it highly vulnerable to predators like possums, stoats and rats. A predator plague in 2000 drove the last mōhua out of the Marlborough Sounds and caused population crashes in Canterbury, Otago, Southland and Fiordland.

**Orange-fronted parakeet/kākāriki karaka**

**Population:** 200–400  
**Threat status:** Nationally endangered  
**Found in:** Three alpine beech forest valleys in Canterbury: the Hawdon, Poulter and Hurunui  
**Did you know:** These birds are the rarest of our parakeet/kākāriki species. In the past decade, rat and stoat explosions have wiped out some breeding strongholds and reduced other local populations by up to 85%.

**Haast tokoeka**

**Population:** About 400  
**Threat status:** Nationally critical  
**Found in:** Haast Ranges, West Coast of the South Island  
**Did you know:** A shy, mountain-loving bird, the Haast tokoeka is one of our rarest species of kiwi. More than half the known population lives in an actively managed area of the Haast ranges, where the battle continues to save these birds from extinction.

**Blue duck/whio**

**Population:** Under 3000  
**Threat status:** Nationally vulnerable  
**Found in:** Clean, fast-flowing rivers in the North and South Islands  
**Did you know:** Rarer than some species of kiwi, the whio features on our $10 note. It is one of a handful of torrent duck species worldwide and only lives on fast-flowing backcountry waterways. Nesting along the riverbanks, they are at high risk of attack from stoats and rats.

**Short- and long-tailed bats/pekapeka**

**Population:** Unknown  
**Threat status:** Critical/vulnerable  
**Found in:** North and South Island forests  
**Did you know:** Often roosting in large trees, Māori folklore associates pekapeka with a mythical, night-flying bird that foretells death or disaster. Short-tailed bats often crawl on the ground foraging for food, making them highly vulnerable to predation.

**Great spotted kiwi**

**Population:** About 15,000  
**Threat status:** Nationally endangered  
**Found in:** Localised subalpine South Island forests  
**Did you know:** The largest of our kiwi species, great spotted kiwi live largely at higher altitudes in the Kahurangi, Paparoa and Arthur’s Pass National Parks. Despite their size, chicks are still vulnerable to stoats, particularly during South Island beech mast conditions.

Population: 1000–5000
Threat status: At risk
Found in: Alpine environments of the South Island
Did you know: The world’s only alpine parrot, the kea is renowned for its intelligent and inquisitive nature. Kea nest on the ground, and monitoring indicates up to 60% of nests can be attacked by predators during breeding.

North Island brown kiwi
Population: About 25,000
Threat status: Nationally vulnerable
Found in: Lowland and coastal native forest and subalpine areas in the North Island
Did you know: The North Island brown kiwi is one of our most common kiwi species; however, the population is steadily declining by about 2–3% a year. Without ongoing support, experts estimate brown kiwi will be extinct in the wild within two generations.

Kākā
Population: 1000–5000
Threat status: Nationally vulnerable
Found in: Large forested areas in the North and South Islands
Did you know: Once common throughout New Zealand, kākā are now largely limited to a few localised forest strongholds in the central North and South Island. Often nesting in holes in trees, kākā chicks stand little chance when attacked by rats, stoats and possums.

Kea
Population: 1000–5000
Threat status: At risk
Found in: Alpine environments of the South Island
Did you know: The world’s only alpine parrot, the kea is renowned for its intelligent and inquisitive nature. Kea nest on the ground, and monitoring indicates up to 60% of nests can be attacked by predators during breeding.

Giant snails/Powelliphanta
Population: Unknown
Threat status: Varies between species
Found in: Native forests, especially around north-west Nelson and north Westland.
Did you know: These species of native carnivorous snails are the largest in the world, some growing as big as a man’s fist. They suck up earthworms like spaghetti but are among our most threatened invertebrates. Rats and possums are major predators.

Rock wren/tuke
Population: Unknown
Threat status: Nationally endangered
Found in: Alpine and subalpine habitats in the western half of the South Island
Did you know: A small reclusive bird, rock wrens are restricted to small pockets of the South Island’s high country. They are poor fliers, nest on the ground and are easy targets for introduced predators.

Other native species benefit
More numerous birds such as fantails/piwakawaka, kererū, bellbirds/korimako, tūi and robins – along with native lizards and insects – also benefit from protection from imported predators. Studies in the Tongariro Forest, for example, show fantail breeding success doubled after rat and stoat numbers were knocked back.
KIWI AND PREDATORS
INFORMATION

9 out of every 10 kiwi chicks born in the wild die before they reach breeding age (their first birthday) without predator control.

Up to 70% of kiwi chicks survive to breeding age (their first birthday) in areas that have predator control.

Is the estimated rate of decline per year for the national kiwi population.

ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED is the ongoing fall in total kiwi numbers each year if current population trends aren’t reversed.

Is the number of human generations within which kiwi are estimated to disappear from the wild if the current population decline continues.
The total area of Rotorua forest that was targeted in a 2013 conservation blitz resulting in 337 possums, 385 rats, and 7 stoats trapped in the first week alone. This involved over 700 hours of work at an estimated cost of about $40,000 in materials and labour.

A conservative estimate of the number of native birds killed by predators like possums, stoats and rats each year.

The number of offspring that a female rat can potentially produce every 8 weeks in ideal conditions.

Monitoring work suggests the South Island beech forest seeding could potentially generate more than 4 million rats in the areas DOC is targeting for pest control alone.
is a biodegradable poison. It breaks down naturally in the environment and does not leave permanent residues in water, soil, plants or animals. The active component of the poison occurs naturally in many plants found in Australia, South America and Africa. These plants evolved the poison as a defence against browsing animals.

The approximate amount of public conservation land currently treated with 1080 (about 440,000 hectares of a total 8.75 million hectares).

The approximate number of bait pellets dropped over an area about the size of a doubles tennis court in an aerial 1080 operation.

The number of kiwi that have been monitored using radio tracking equipment through 1080 operations since 1990. None have ever died as a result of 1080 poisoning.

Rat tracking rates dropped to zero and remained undetectable for 5 months after the 2006 Hawdon Valley 1080 operation.

The number of times traces of 1080 have been found in reticulated drinking water supplies, in over 500 samples tested over the last 5 years. 1080 is readily soluble and dilutes quickly to low concentrations in contact with water.

The average cost per hectare of aerially spreading 1080 to control rats, possums and stoats across large areas of often difficult terrain. Costs for ground control, like trapping, vary but can be more than three times as much.

$17

The Department of Conservation is planning to manage pests in response to a predicted predator plague this year. For more information visit:

www.doc.govt.nz/battleforourbirds