

2016

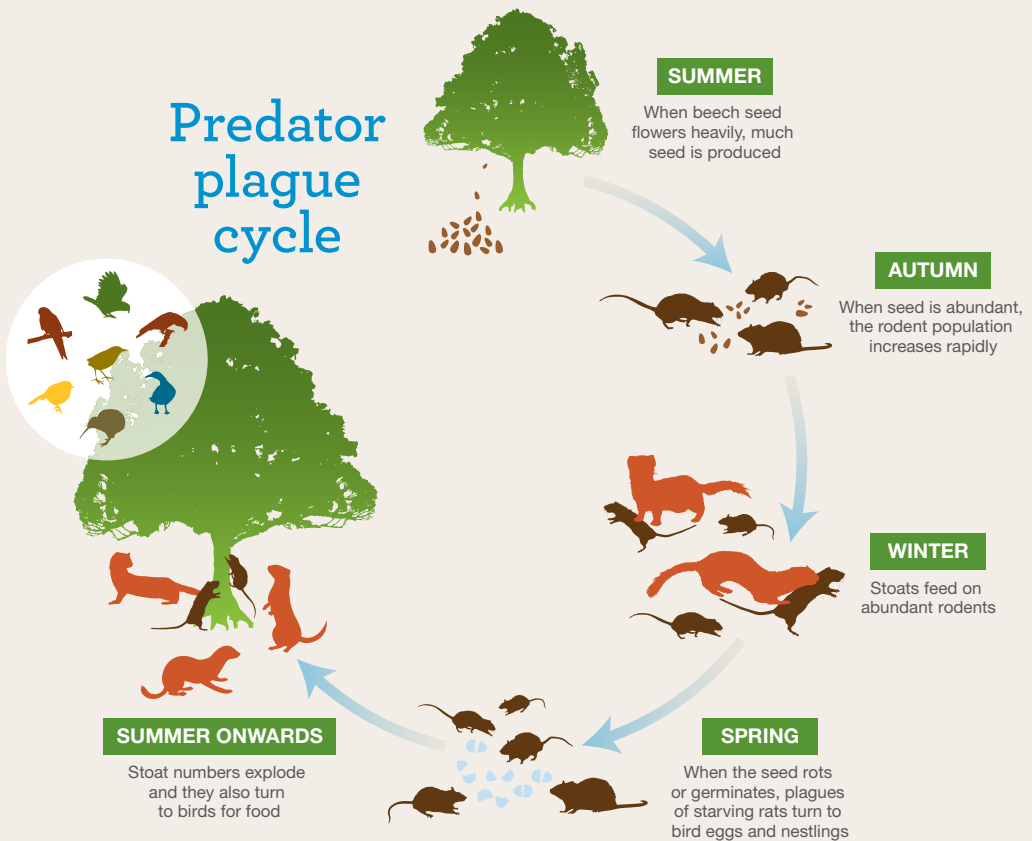
Predator RESPONSE



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

‘Battle for our Birds’ is a programme to protect our native wildlife from predators.

Heavy seeding of beech, rimu and white pine in our native forests this year will again drive higher than normal rodent and stoat numbers that will prey on endangered birds.



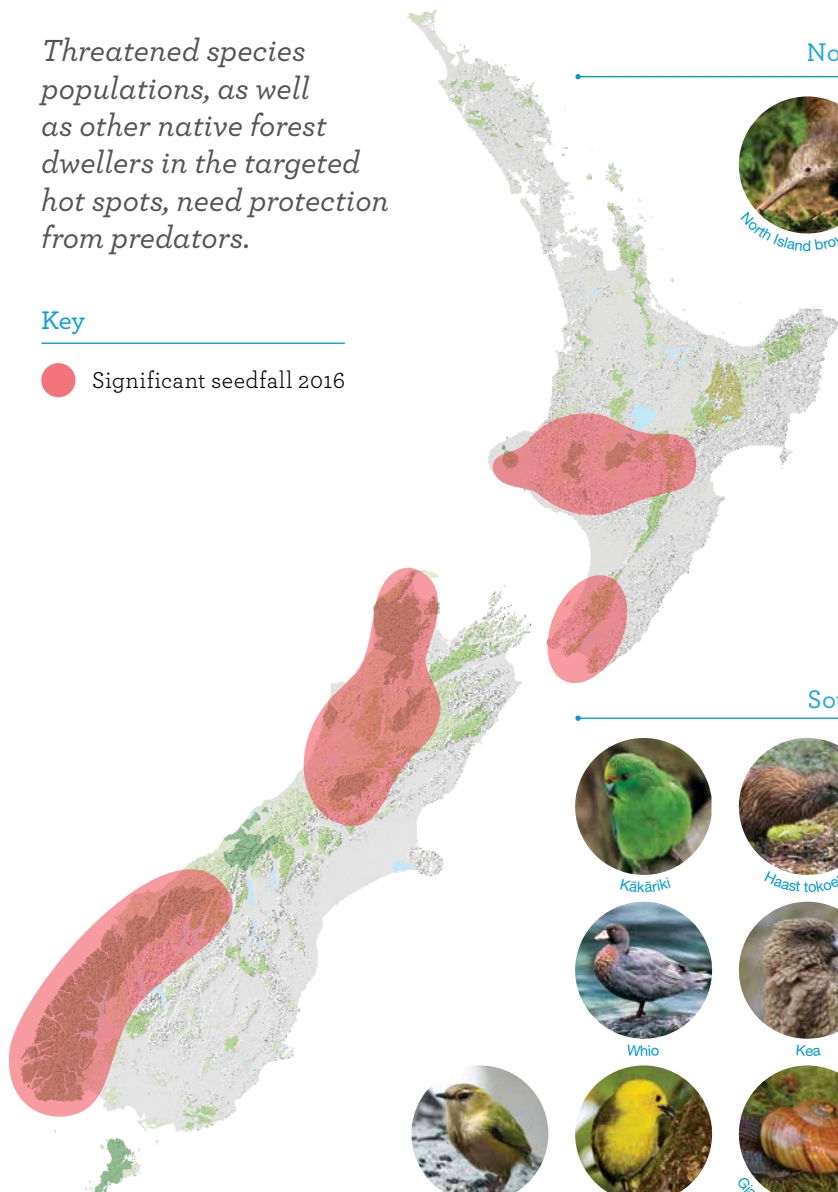
Biodiversity HOT SPOTS



Threatened species populations, as well as other native forest dwellers in the targeted hot spots, need protection from predators.

Key

● Significant seedfall 2016



North Island species



North Island brown kiwi



Whio



Kākā



Short-tailed bat

South Island species



Kākāriki



Haast tokoeka



Great spotted kiwi



Whio



Kea



Kākā



Rock wren



Mohua



Giant snail/Powelliphanta



Short-tailed bat

Threatened POPULATIONS

Ground nesters and hole nesters are highly susceptible to rat and stoat attack.



Orange-fronted parakeet/kākāriki karaka

Nationally endangered

POPULATION: **200 – 400**

Found only in the Hawdon, Poulter and Hurunui valleys.

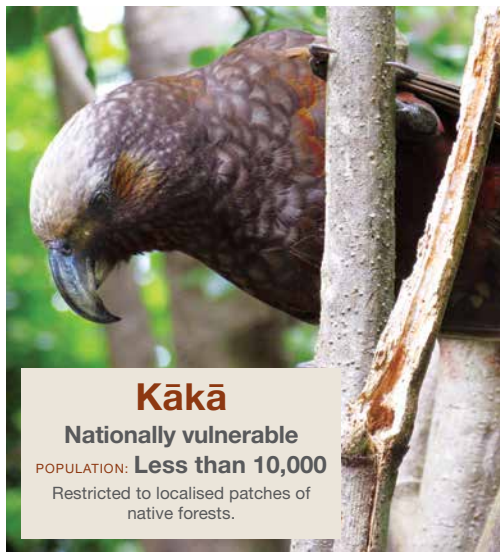


Haast tokoeka

Nationally critical

POPULATION: **400**

Very restricted distribution. Actively managed population lives in the Haast Range.



Kākā

Nationally vulnerable

POPULATION: **Less than 10,000**

Restricted to localised patches of native forests.



Rock wren/tuke

Nationally endangered

POPULATION: **Sparse**

Patchy distribution through South Island alpine and subalpine areas.



Blue duck/whio

Nationally vulnerable

POPULATION: **Less than 1,000 breeding pairs**

Found in limited numbers in fast-flowing mountain streams.



Kea

At risk

POPULATION: **1,000 – 5,000**

World's only alpine parrot. Ground nesting means at least 60% of nests are attacked by predators.



Yellowhead/mohua

Nationally vulnerable

POPULATION: **Approx 5,000**

Found only in limited areas of the South Island's beech forest.



Short-tailed bat/pekapeka

Critical/vulnerable

POPULATION: **Restricted**

Roosts in old trees in mature forests.

Native species and the **THREAT OF PREDATORS**

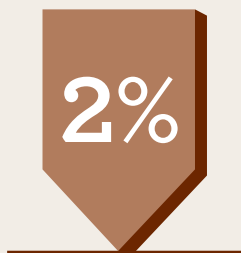


19 out of 20

kiwi chicks hatched
in the wild **die**

before they reach breeding
age (their 4th birthday)
without predator control.

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



Up to 60%

of kiwi chicks
survive
to breeding age

in areas that have
predator control.



is the number of
human generations
within which kiwi
are estimated to
disappear in the
wild if the current
population decline
continues.

Introduced predators IN NEW ZEALAND



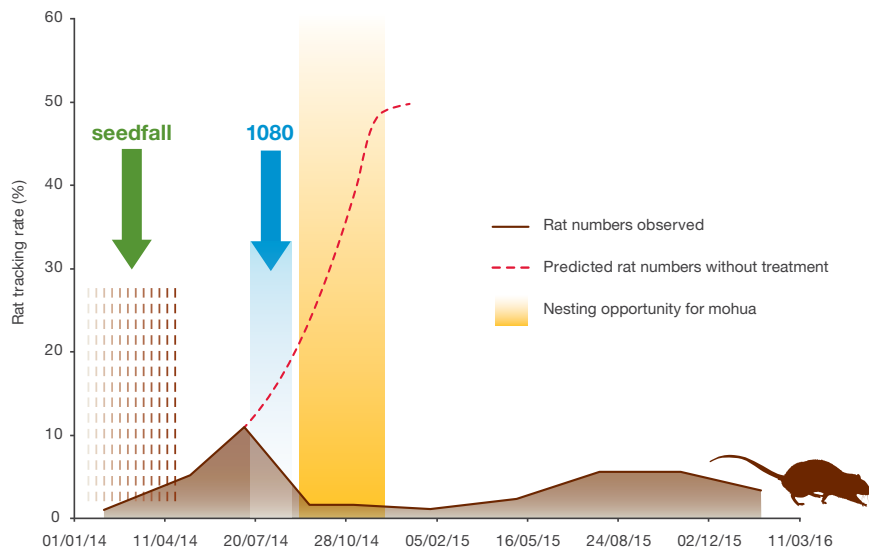
25 million

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

In winter 2014 DOC carried out 27 aerial pest control operations over 600,000 hectares across the South Island. The results from the Dart valley are shown below.

Dart valley 2014

Rat control leads to 89% nesting success for mohua



Seed falls in summer and rat numbers rise to threaten nesting birds and hijack resources in the forest.



Rapid knock-down of rat numbers also reduces the threat of stoats and allows native birds to breed.

Pest control IN NEW ZEALAND

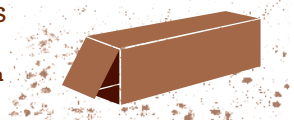


A range of tools is used to manage pest populations.

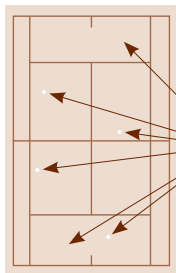
1080 is biodegradable, breaks down quickly in the environment and does not leave permanent residues in water, soil, plants or animals. The active component occurs naturally in many plants found in Australia, South America and Africa as a defence against browsing animals.

Conventional and re-setting traps and bait stations

are used for longer term and localised suppression of pest populations.



New methods of control are constantly being researched.



4-6

baits are dropped in an area the size of a tennis court

10%

Amount of public conservation land to be treated with 1080 during this mast.



The number of times traces of 1080 has been found in reticulated water supplies. Since 2008, more than 530 water samples from drinking water catchments and other water bodies have been analysed. Operations pose no risk to water supplies.

ZERO

The number of kiwi that have been monitored throughout 1080 operations since 1990.



0

Number of monitored kiwi that have died as a result of 1080 poisoning.

Images throughout: North Island brown kiwi: Andrew Walmsley, short-tailed bat: Colin O'Donnell, kākā: Herb Christophers, whio: Alan Reith, kea and kākāriki: Sabine Bernert, Great spotted kiwi: Rod Morris, Haast tokoeka: Barry Harcourt, mohua: James Reardon, giant snail/Powelliphanta: DOC, rock wren: Jack Van Hal.

Published by | Department of Conservation, PO Box 10420, Wellington 6143, New Zealand
Editing and design | Publishing Team, DOC National Office | May 2016

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



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government