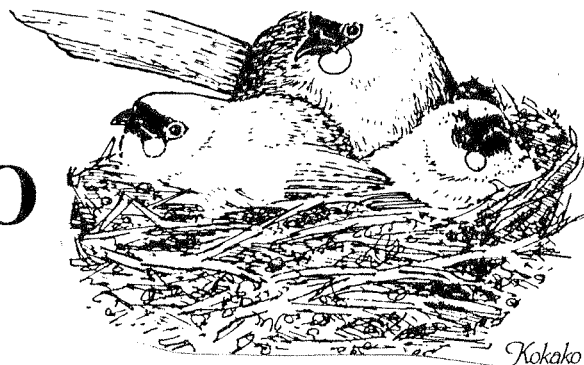


KAHAROA KOKAKO TRUST



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NEWSLETTER MAY 1999

It is a while since we have contacted supporters, apologies for our long silence and thank you for your ongoing interest and support. This newsletter is to give you an update on the Kokako population in the block and an outline of this year's plans.

Bird Census: We had a Trust meeting in May to which Carmel Richardson reported that in the adult census, September/November 1998 she identified 30 birds, 12 pairs and 6 singles. In the juvenile census, mid February 1999, she identified 10 pair of adult birds, 2 pair of the original 12 had become singles. Of the 10 pair, 5 had fledged 4 with singles and one pair with 2. The pair fledging 2 juveniles was in the same vicinity as those that fledged 2 last year, but not the same pair. There was also another "sub-adult" bird identified but not matched to its parents. A total of 7 fledglings for the year and an expectation that there would be an increase of pairs in the next adult census. Carmel expressed the need for more birds to be banded to aid in monitoring and identification.

Tracks & Bait Stations: It has been decided to extend the bait network system prior to the 1999 bait drop. This will require establishment of some new tracks, and some existing tracks require maintenance due to wind falls and the recent heavy rain. The committee are planning that this work be done through offers from local residents and there could possibly be DOC "volunteer helpers" available.

Pest Control Programme & Monitoring for 1999: Talon* bait is going to be used again this year and the first pulse and second pulses are planned to be about the same timing as in 1998, i.e. end of September / end of October. A third pulse will probably be done this year also - December/January. Richard Griffiths, DOC is to conduct the possum and rodent monitoring this year.

Vegetation Monitoring: Under the auspices of Dale Williams and Richard Griffiths a group from the Rotorua Botanical Society visited the Kokako Block in May and established some plots on which to monitor the tree vegetation. The interest from this Group is appreciated and we look forward to their findings relevant to possum damage on trees in the Block.

Vehicle: We are on the lookout for a 4WD vehicle that can be used by Carmel while working on the surveys of Kokako. We have storage near the block, so the vehicle needs to be reliable enough for the short trek but not necessarily registered and warranted, although they would be desirable.

Funding: DOC has allocated funding for the adult census to be done September/November 1999 but not for the juvenile census to follow. We require funding to ensure this project's future. Avenues of community and national funding are being investigated by the Trust but if anyone has any suggestions please let us know.

Donations: We have keen people but manpower alone is not sufficient. We invite you to become a "Kaharoa Kokako Supporter" by sending a donation, which will be receipted and is tax deductible, to The Kaharoa Trust, C/- Anne Managh, Kapukapu Road, R D 2, Rotorua.

This is sponsored by

Olphert Sandford

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