

Is pest control helping our native birds?

- Some local examples



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Auckland Council Biodiversity Group





Waitākere Ranges possum control



Hunua Kokako Project



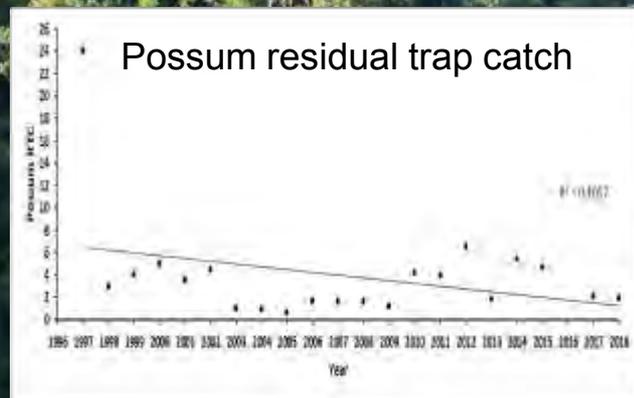
Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary

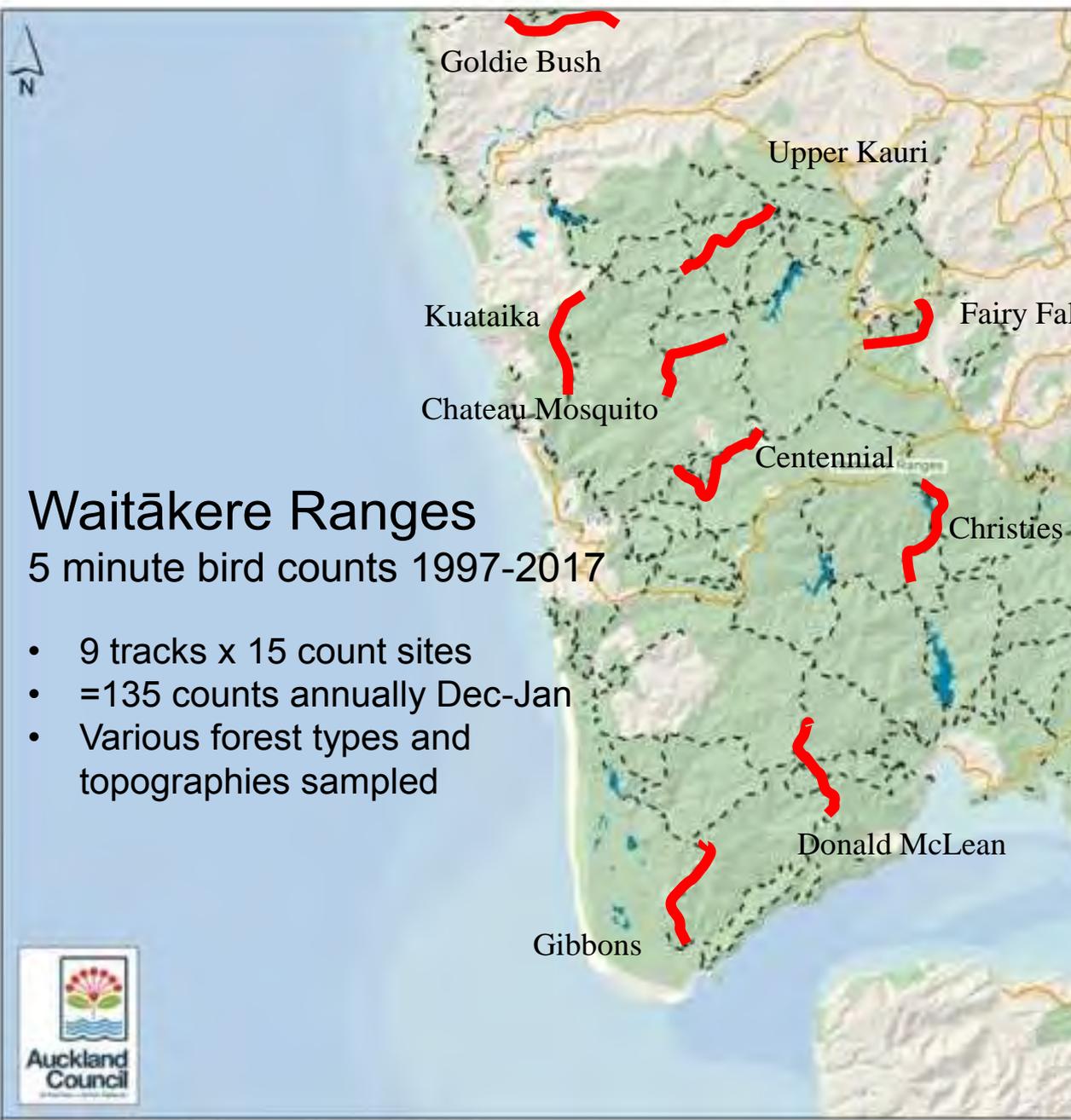


Brief overview

Severe possum damage in Waitākere Ranges

Ground-based control 1997-1998 over an area of 28,000 ha

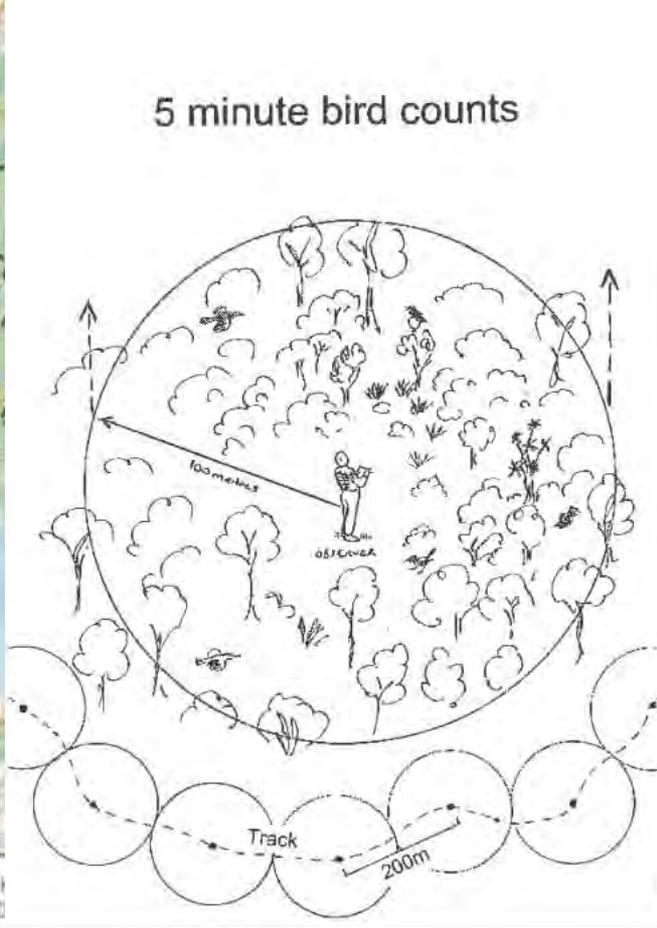




Waitākere Ranges

5 minute bird counts 1997-2017

- 9 tracks x 15 count sites
- =135 counts annually Dec-Jan
- Various forest types and topographies sampled



This report is available in Maori and is available in the indigenous language system on request. Auckland Council, Land & Forest Succession Programme, P.O. Box 21000, Auckland. 2018. All rights reserved. Auckland Council uses the services of the Auckland and surrounding area. Auckland Council is a member of the Auckland Regional Council. Auckland Council is a member of the Auckland Regional Council.

Significant increases in kereru and tui

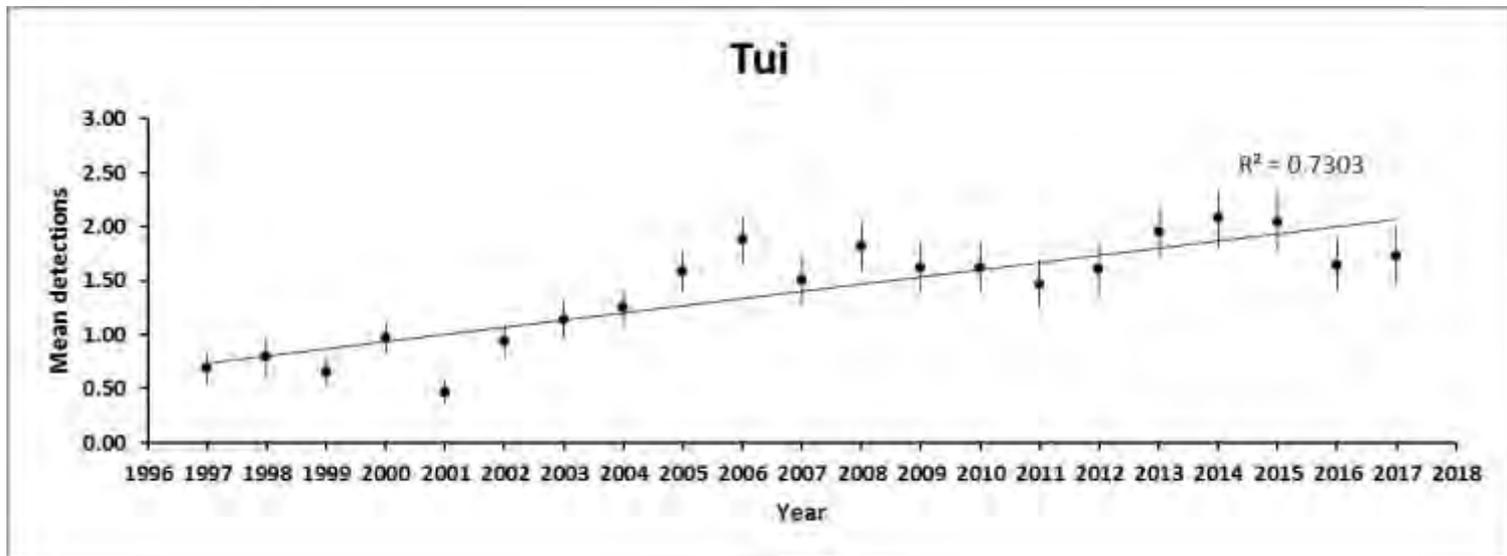
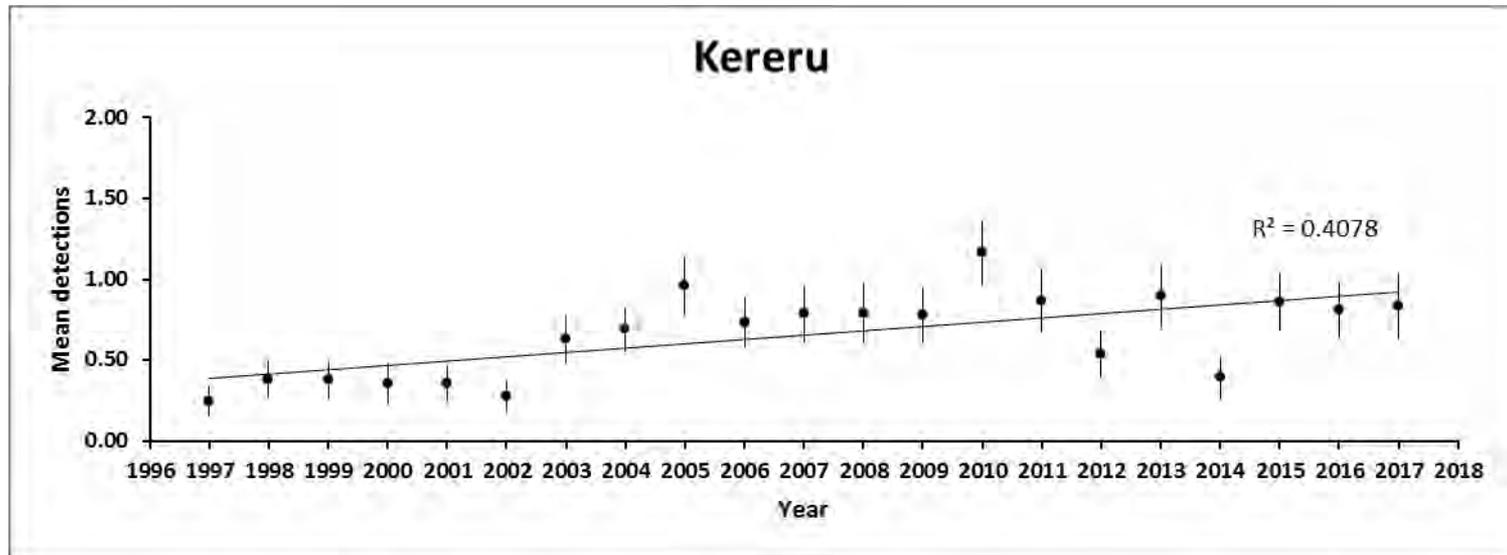




Photo: Jason Hosking

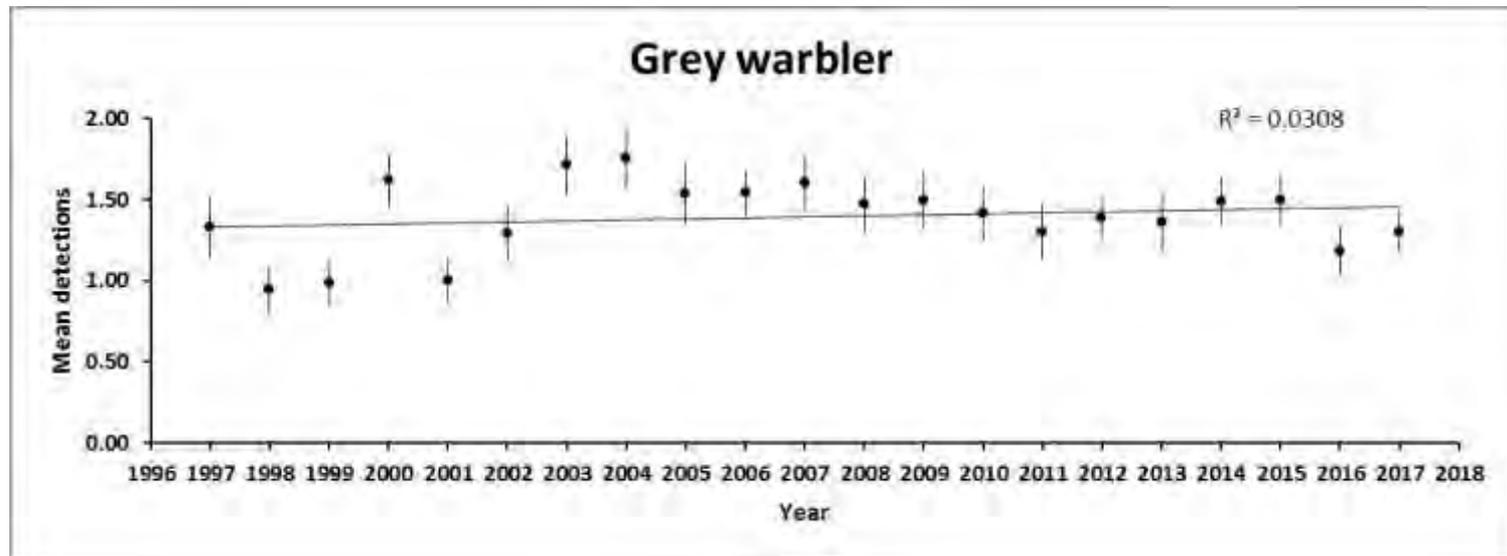
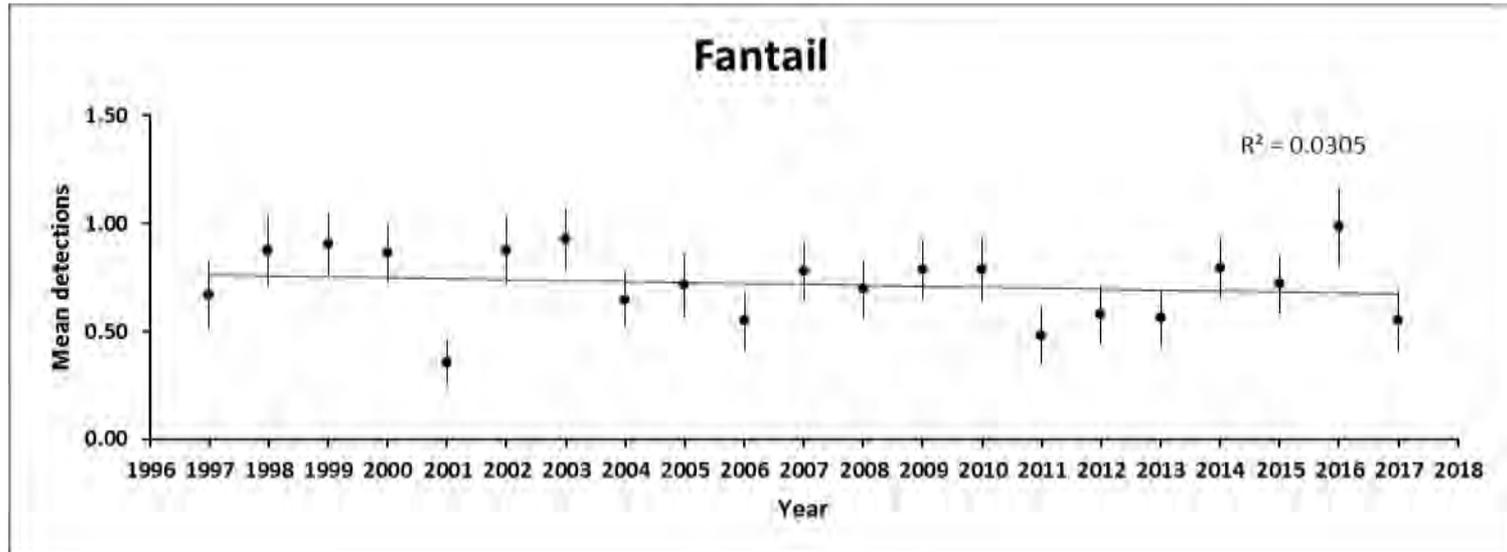
- Kereru are sensitive indicators of possum numbers
- Possums compete with kereru for food
- Kereru nests and young are vulnerable to possum predation

N.B. Possum control would have also provided some short term rat control

Kereru would have also benefitted from fewer rats



Little change in fantail and grey warbler



Collapse of northern rātā forest, Hunua Ranges



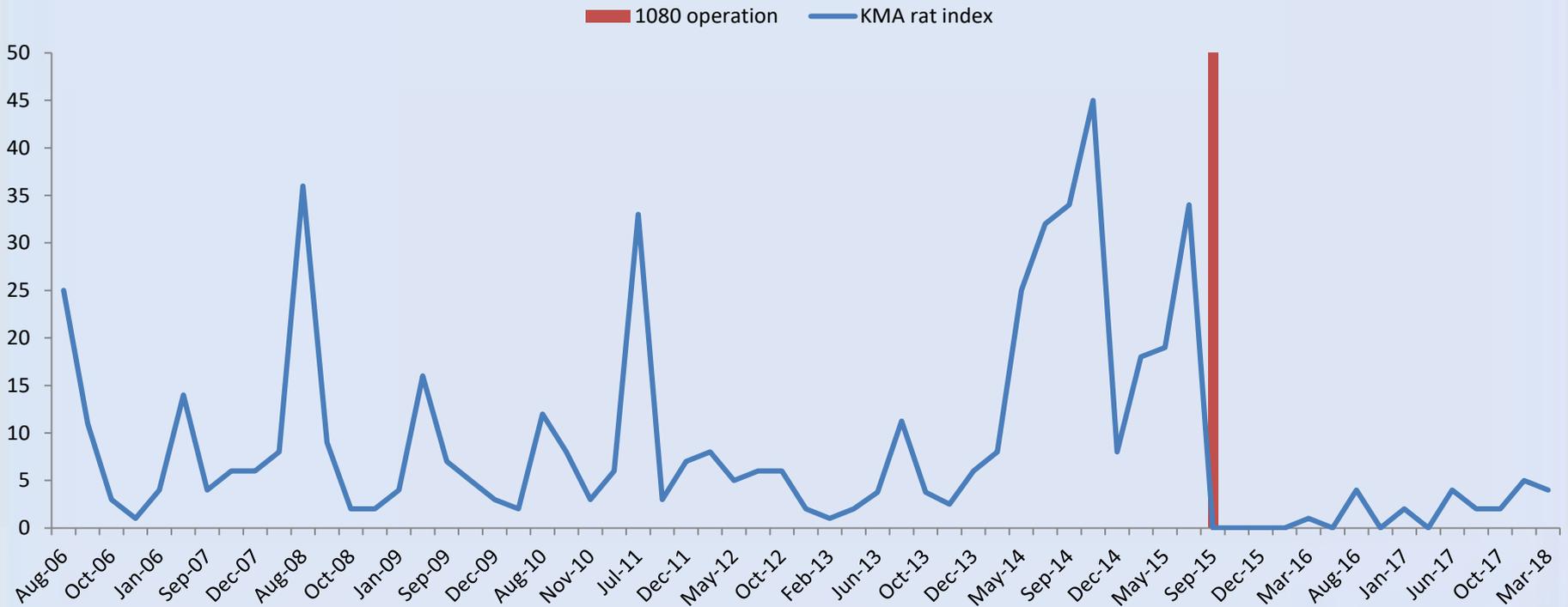


Mark Darin

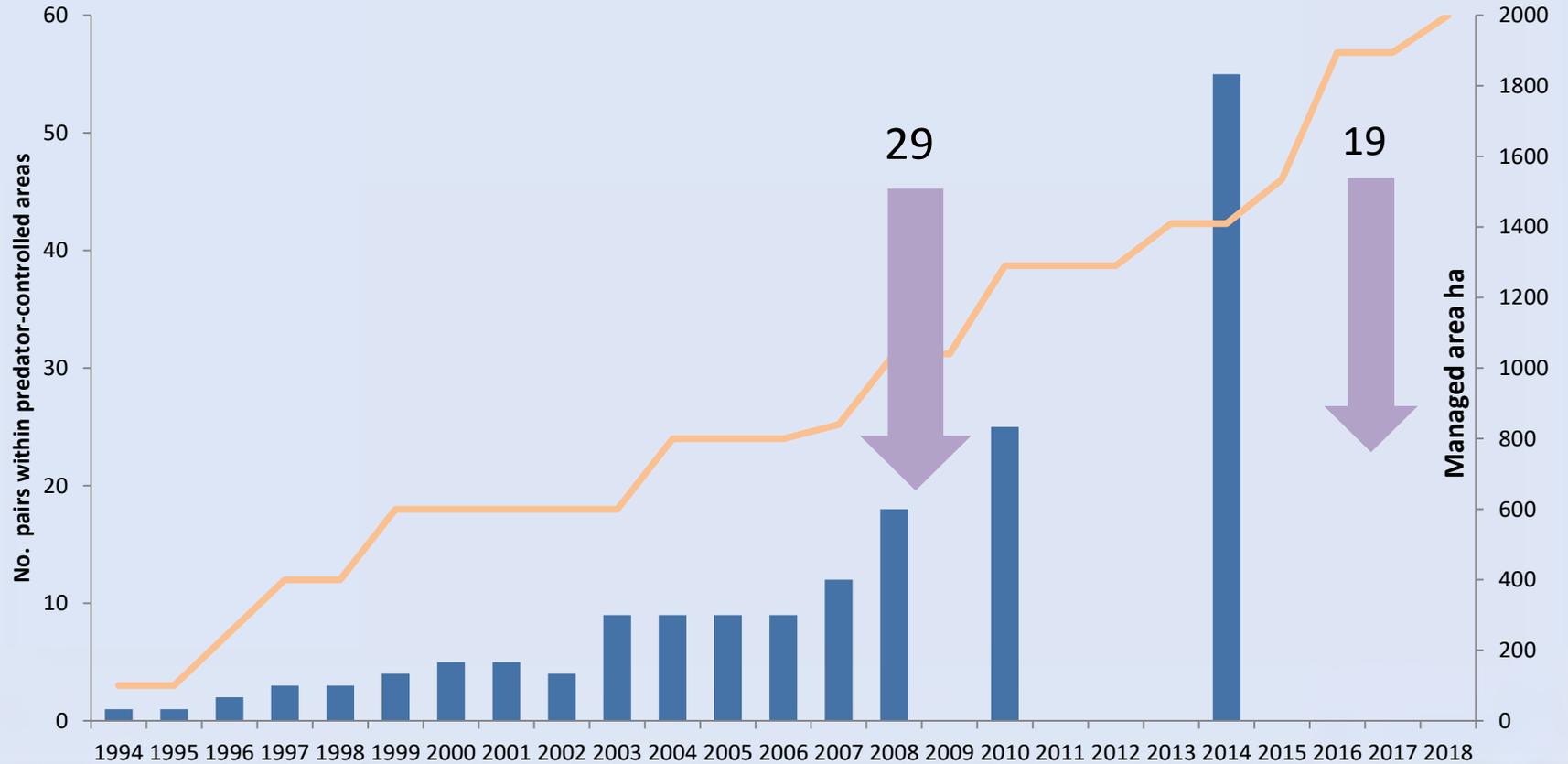
Hunua Kōkako Recovery Project

Rat monitoring, Hunua Kōkako Management Area

KMA RTI 2006-2018

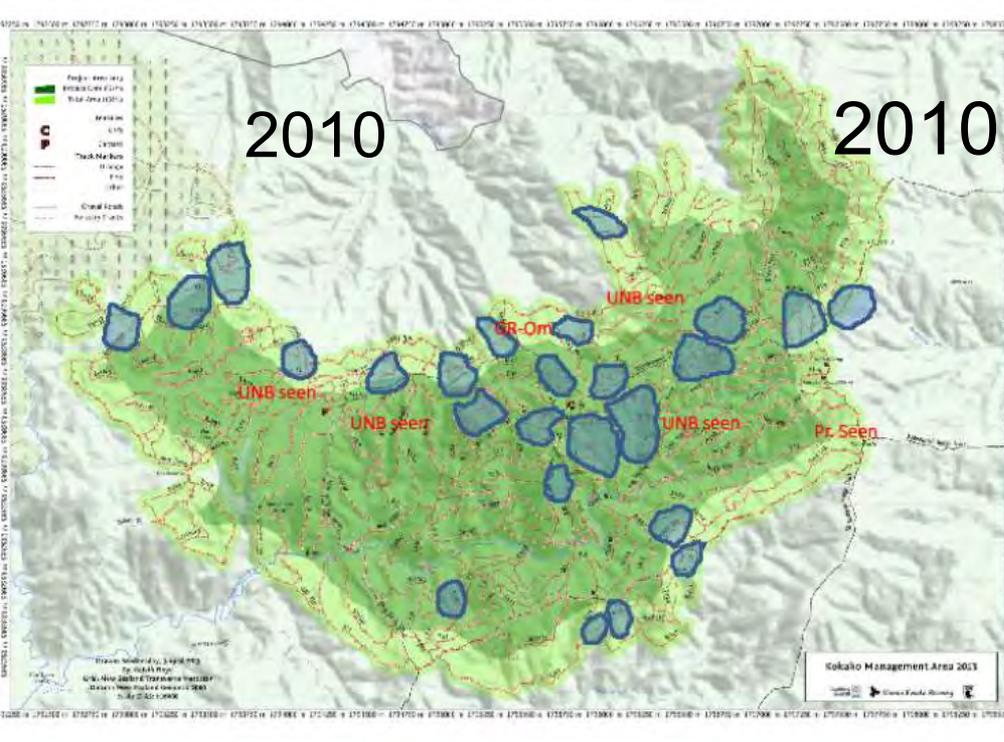


Hunua kōkako population

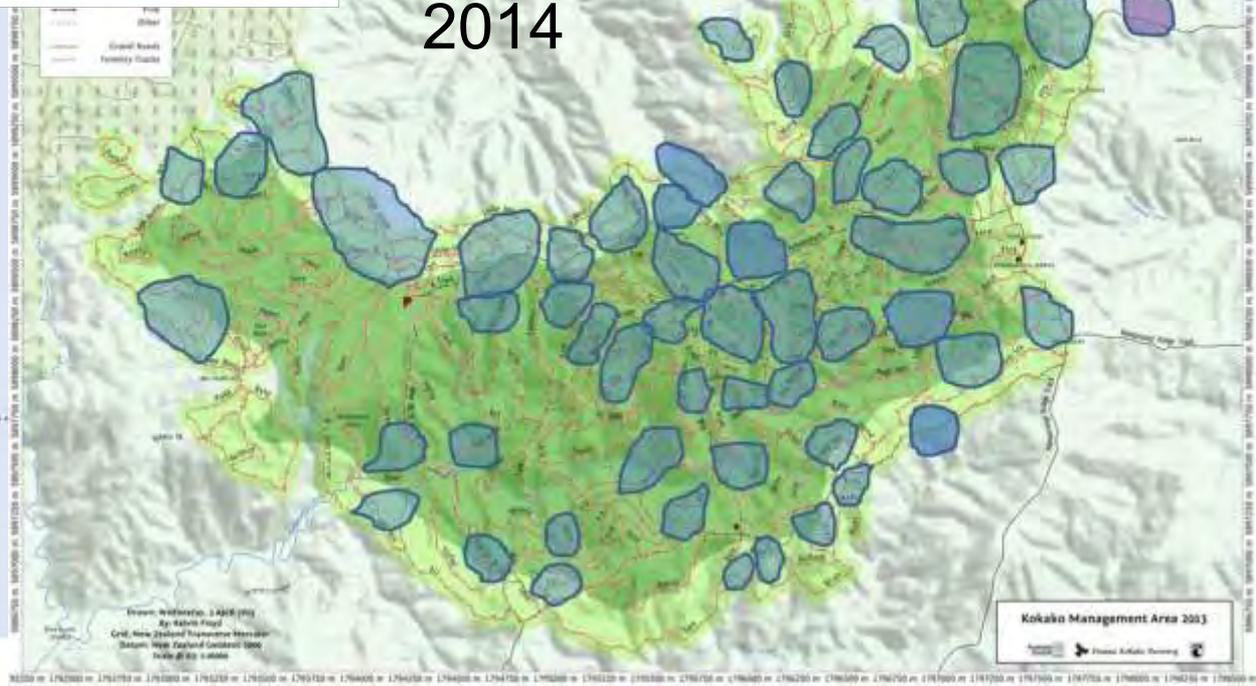


2010

2010 and 2014 kōkako census

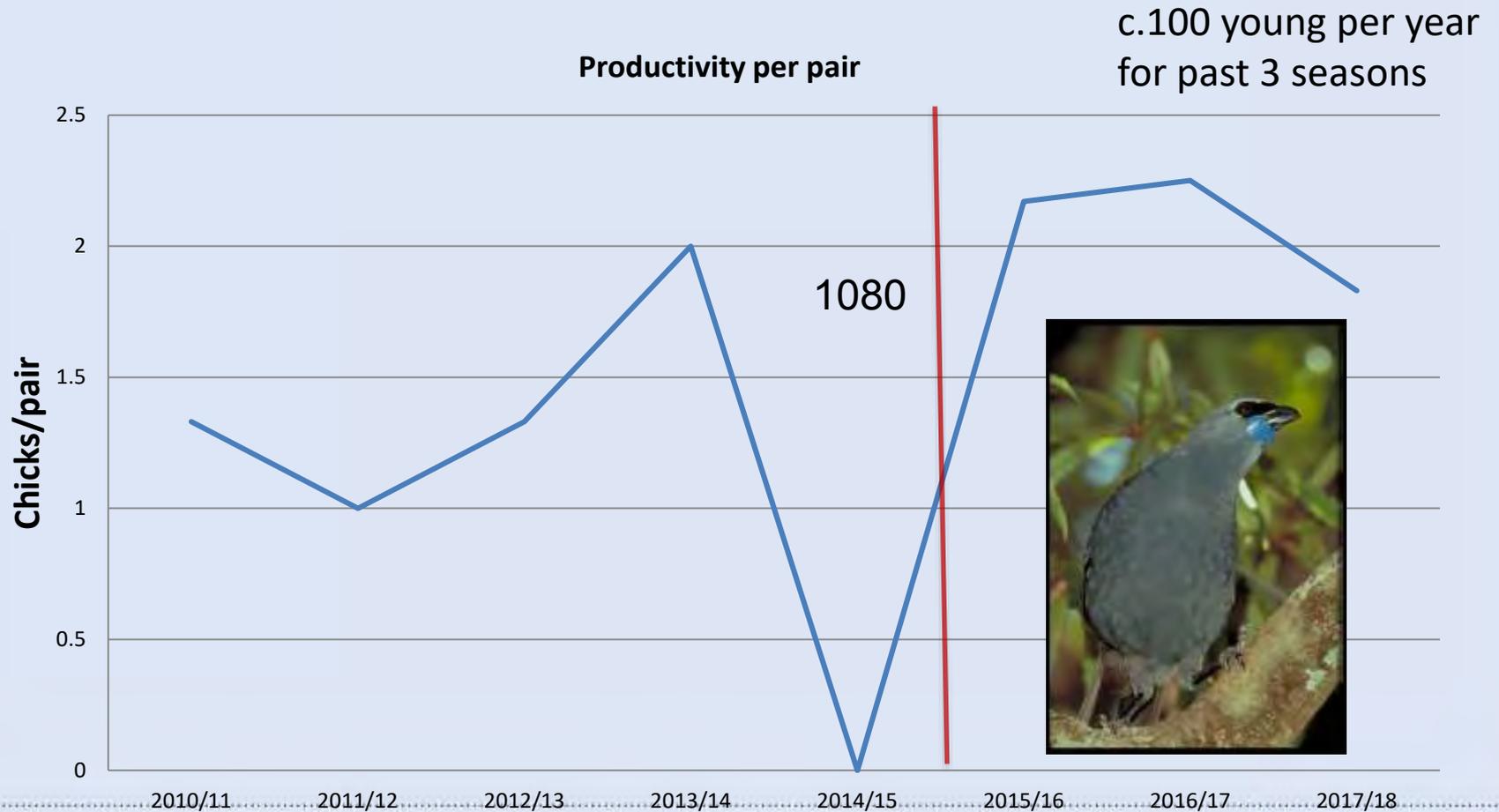


2014



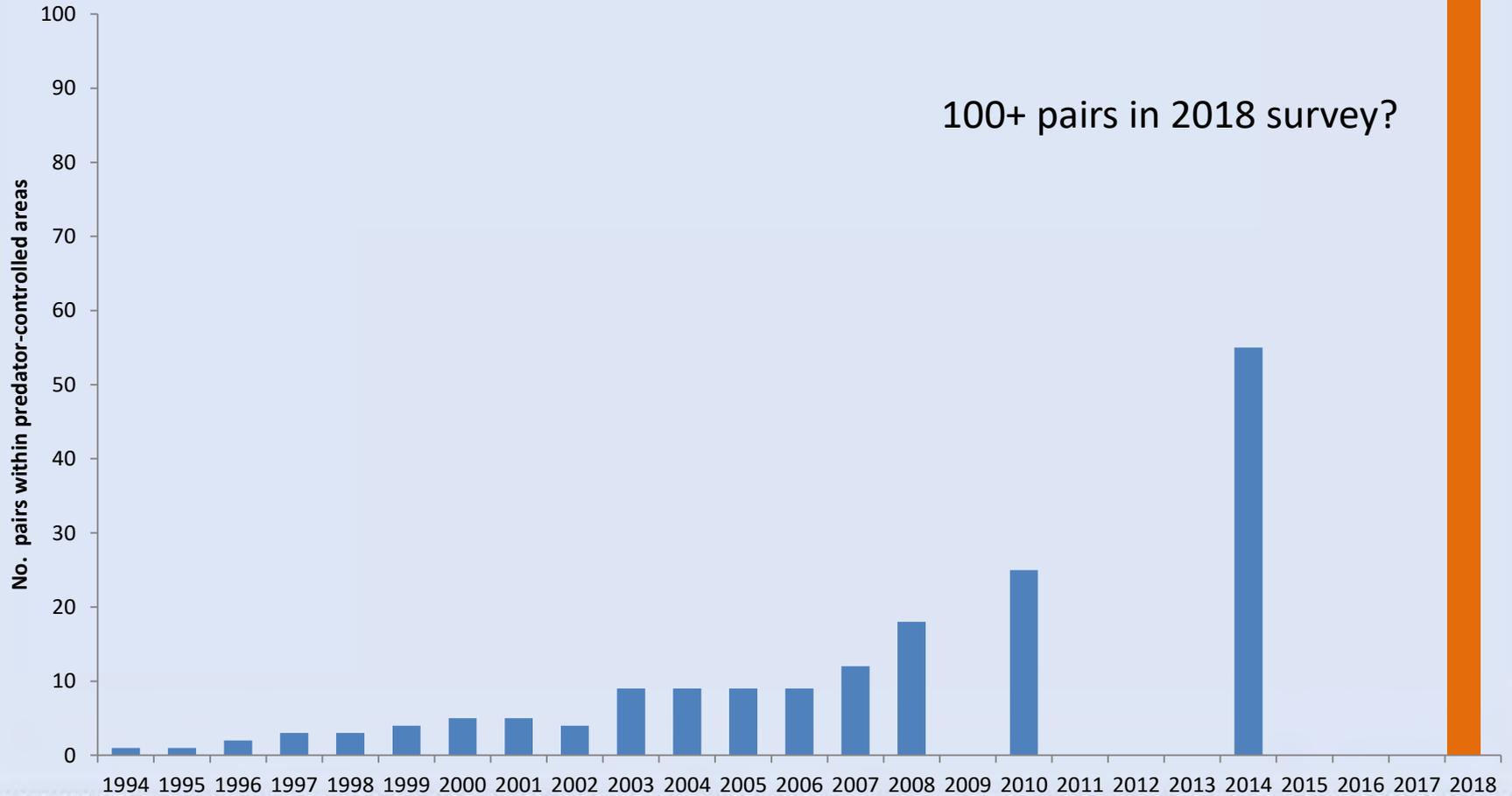
Increase from
25 to 55 pairs

Recent breeding success



Hunua kōkako population

?



Conserving kōkako benefits other species too





Pest-proof fence completed 2004

Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary

Tāwharanui mammalian pest eradication 2004

Present in 2004

Mice
Norway rats
Ship rats
Rabbits
Hedgehogs
Possums
Weasels
Stoats
Ferrets
Feral cats

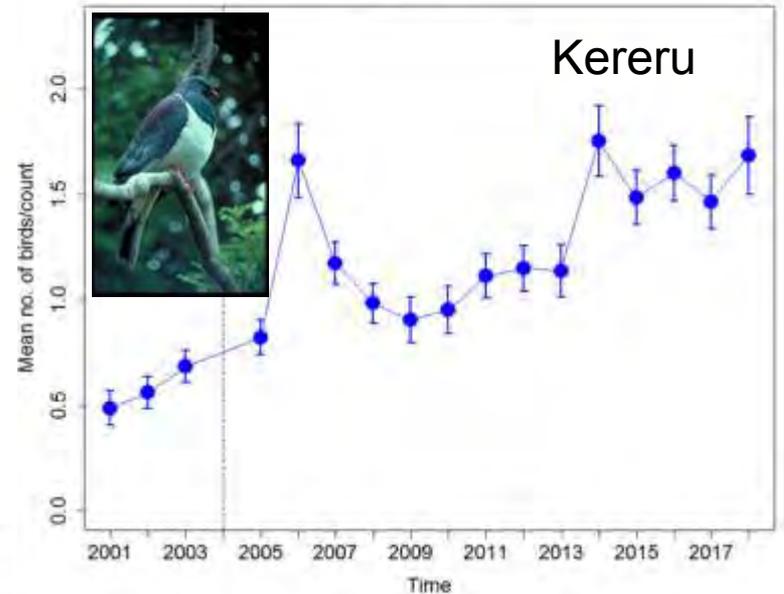
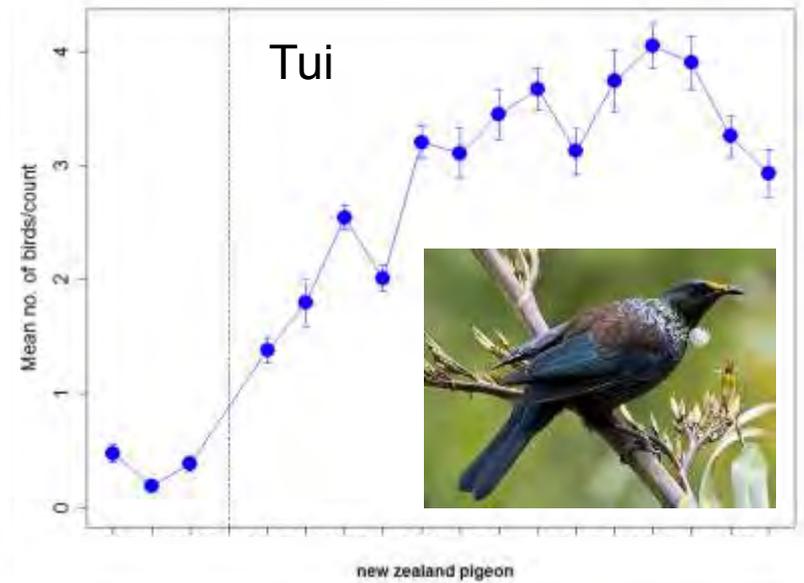
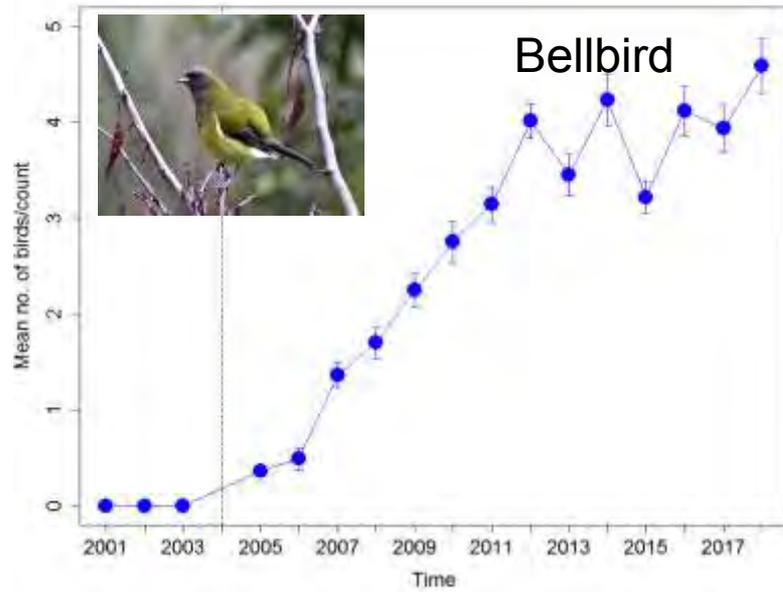


Still present:
Mice (common)
Rabbits (a few)
Occasional incursions of other species

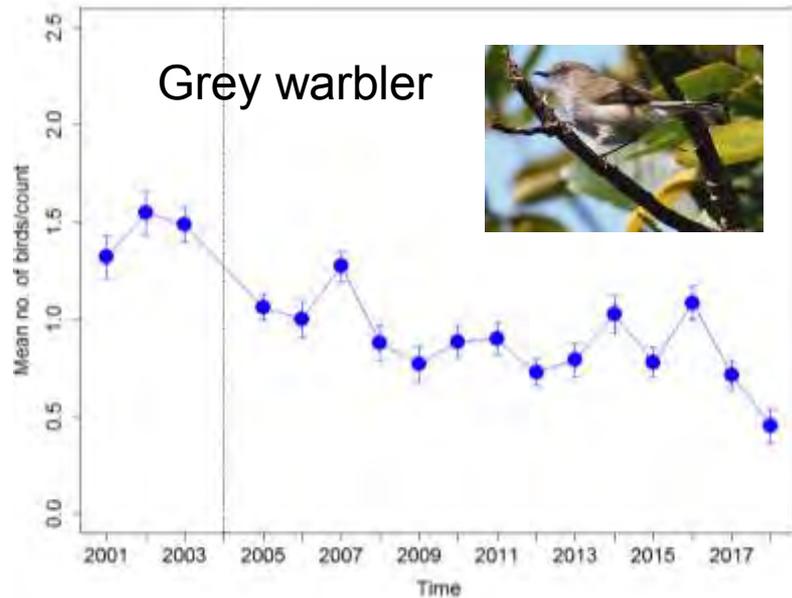
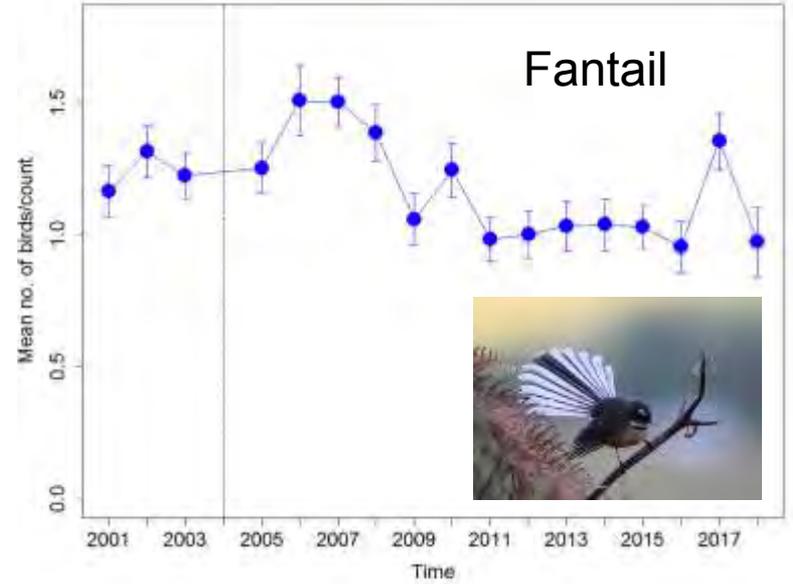
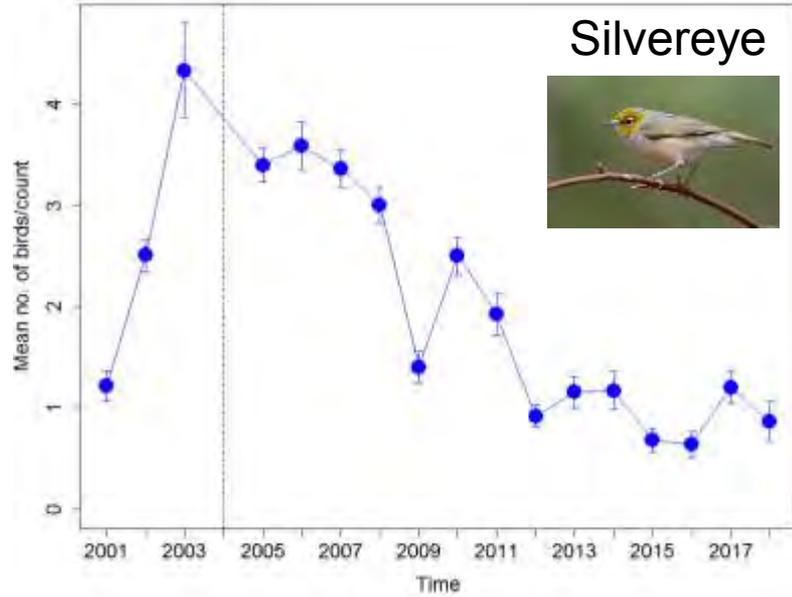
Translocations to Tāwharanui



Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary

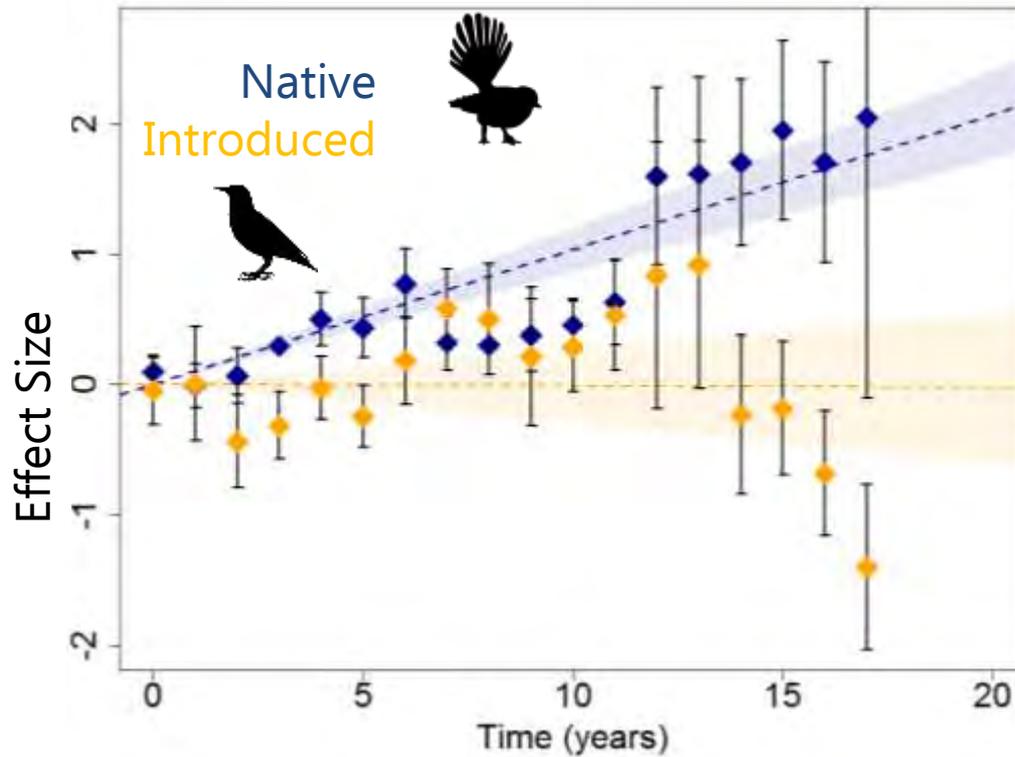


Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary



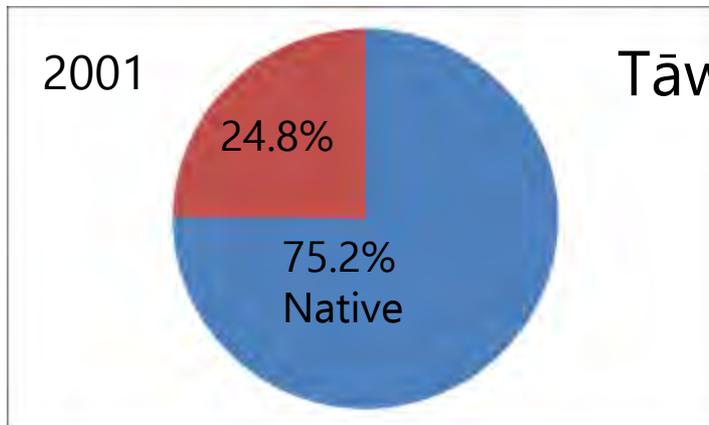


Native vs. introduced birds – all sanctuaries

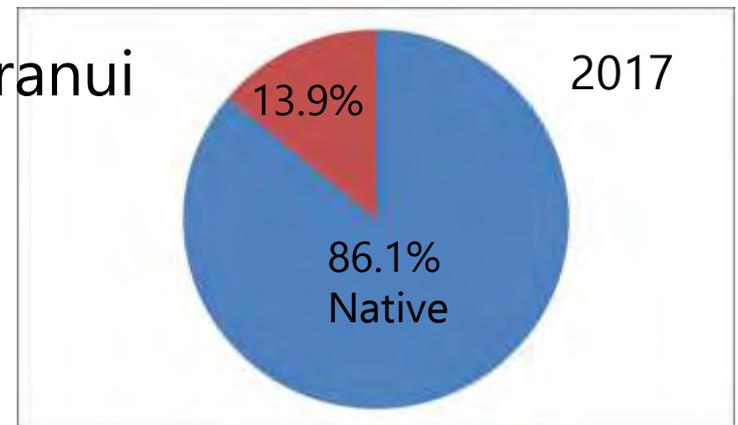


Native birds have increased while introduced birds have not.

Native birds now form a significantly greater proportion of total birds present.



Tāwharanui

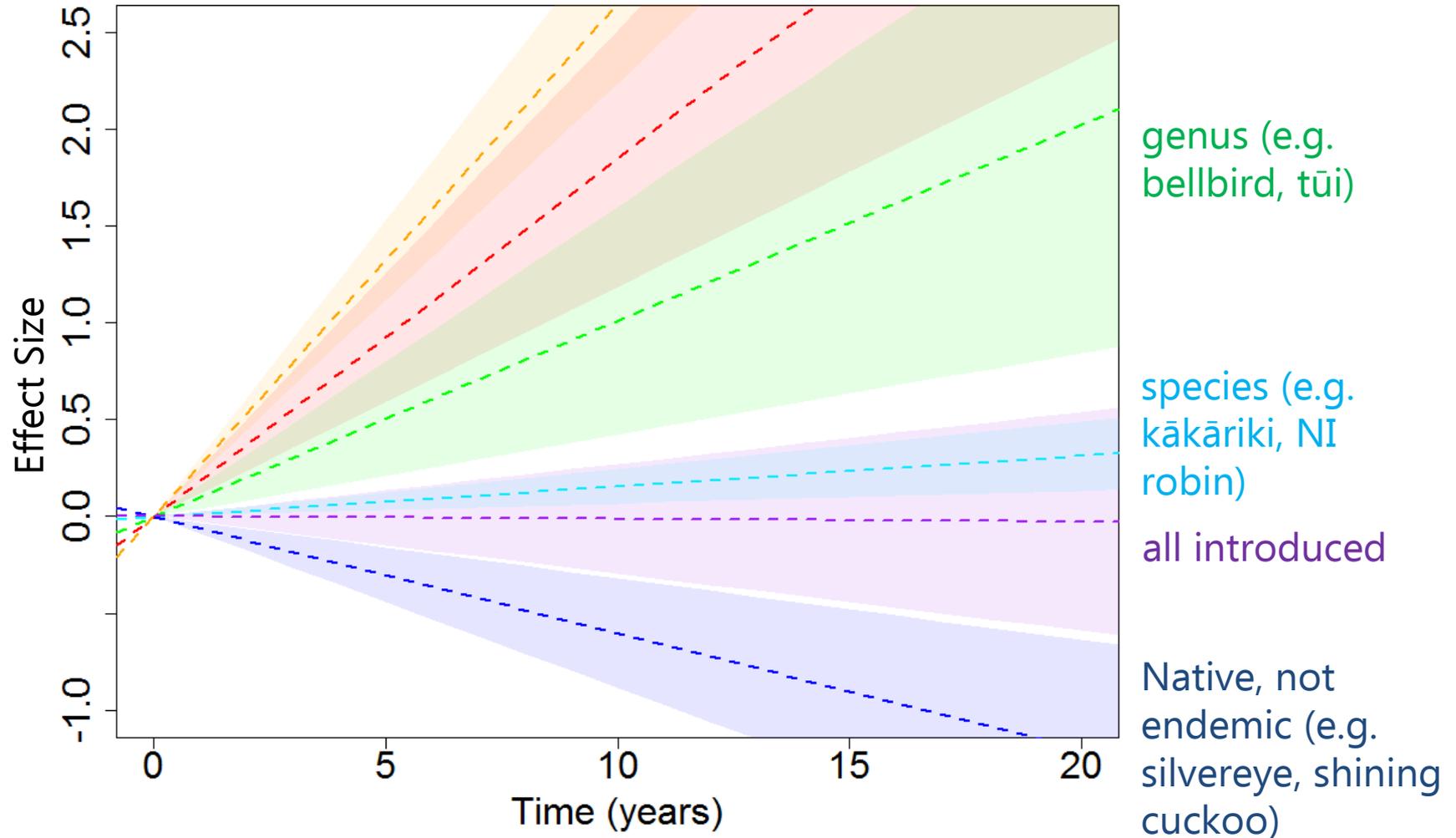




Endemics benefit more than native and introduced spp. (Data from all sanctuaries)

family (e.g. kōkako, hīhī)

order (e.g. kiwi)





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