



Photo by Jackie Van Hal

More Mohua for the Hawdon

The Hawdon Valley received a boost in numbers with the release of mohua, a bright yellow native bird with their beautiful song. On Saturday the 28th October 2017, 20 mohua were caught at Creswick Flat in the Landsborough Valley by a team of volunteers and ornithologists from the Department of Conservation and the Mohua Charitable Trust.

The birds were transported safely to the Hawdon Valley, Arthur's Pass National Park, all the birds flew out of the boxes with no deaths. A huge thank you to the team for all their passion and hard work.

The trust would like to acknowledge and thank the **New Zealand Lottery Grants Board** for their support of this important project. A special thank you to the Department of Conservation staff and volunteers for their enthusiasm, passion and hard work making this project the success it is.

This translocation was recommended by Marion Rhodes in her recent Hawdon Mohua Monitoring, 2016/2017 Report.

The increases in Mohua have been for the populations in the Hawdon Valley and the South Branch Hurunui and good nesting has occurred in both valleys. Here are some quotes from the report.

“The winter of 2016 seems to have been particularly good for juvenile survivorship, both in the Hawdon and in the South Branch Hurunui. An increase in the population from 16 adults to 25 adults took two years in the South Branch (2010 – 2012), but happened over the course of a single season here {Hawdon Valley}.” (Hawdon Mohua Monitoring, 2016/2017, Marion Rhodes)

“While it is pleasing to see the Hawdon mohua population increasing in number under its own steam, I strongly suggest we look at doing further translocations to this valley. The population is still so small that a difficult winter could make a significant dent in numbers. “

(Hawdon Mohua Monitoring, 2016/2017, Marion Rhodes)