

Wanaka Predator Control Programme

Update of the Mohua and new trap line

15th June 2012

We only do Mohua monitoring in October while they are breeding, so no more data but every time we have been checking the traps we always look and listen for Mohua and we have been hearing and seeing them at the usual places. There is a good size flock at the Young Fork and more birds scattered along the track to the mouth. We also go new sightings along the blue-Young link track which is very exciting.

I missed the recent Mohua recovery group but I' talking with Ros Cole and Graeme Elliot about the management of our predator control programme for this winter.

It has not been a very good year from some populations. Most of us Dart, Caples, Makarora, Landsborough have had high rat and mice numbers due to a semi beech mast last year which provided a lot of food for the rodent population to grow quickly and impact on the Mohua population. The Dart population lost a lot of their birds last summer despite doing a ground base bait station poison operation.

I'm not sure what was the impact of the rats on our population has we do not monitor our birds as closely as Queenstown does with banding and mark recapture method. Also we have more of silver beech rather than red beech forest which do not provide as much food so are not as favourable for rats.

I'm planning to re-monitor the Makarora Haast area next October and hopefully we will have a better understanding of rat predation impact on Mohua.

Kind Regards,

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