

PREDATOR FACTS

Extinctions of over 50 endemic species have occurred during the 1000 years of human settlement in New Zealand as a direct or assumed result of predation, while many others are in continued decline, and without effective predator control, will also become extinct.

Predator control is vital in order to preserve New Zealand's unique biodiversity.

The most common predators are:-

STOAT

Considered to be the most numerous and most destructive predator of native birds . They are implicated in the extinction of some bird species and the major decline of many others. They also feed heavily on reptiles and invertebrates.



Major cause of extinction of :- Bush wren
Laughing owl
Native thrush

Major cause of decline of :- S.I. kokako
Takahe
Kaka
Mohua
Kakapo
Kakariki
Kiwi
Hutton's shearwater

Known to prey on:- Caspian tern
Weka
Yellow-eyed penguin
Banded dotterel

FERRET

Ferrets have a significant effect on many riverbed breeding birds.



Known to prey on: Black stilt
Dotterel species
Pied oystercatcher
Royal albatross chicks
Yellow-eyed penguin
Little blue penguin
Weka
Kiwi
Wetland birds

Major cause of decline:- White-flipped penguin
Grand skink
Otago skink

Ferrets are able to take on and kill adult kiwi.



HEDGEHOG

The main negative ecological impact of hedgehogs is predation of eggs and chicks of ground dwelling birds.



Predators of :-

Banded dotterel
Black fronted tern
Pipit
Dotterel

Significant impact on:-

Native slugs and snails
Rare giant native centipede
Invertebrates
Lizards

Possible predators of native frogs.

RAT

The establishment and spread of ship rats coincided with a major period of indigenous bird extinction or decline.



Responsible for the extinction of:-

SI Kokako
Native thrushes
Stewart Island wren
Stewart Island snipe
Flightless weevil

Responsible for dramatic declines in:-

Robin
Stitchbird
Saddleback
Kakariki
Mohua
N.I. Kokako
Bellbird
Snails
Lizards

SOLUTION — INTENSIVE PREDATOR TRAPPING

