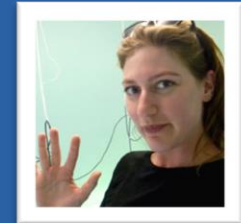




ICWT Newsletter

Issue 3 – Summer 2015



Editor: Sabrina Luecht

WELCOME! The Trust's quarterly newsletters are designed to provide you with updates, for distribution internally and externally.

Wildlife Division

2014/15 Breeding Season Ends

The **Kaki Recovery Programme** has had its most successful breeding season on record, with over 200 critically endangered **black stilt/kaki** chicks hatched. 31 chicks hatched from eggs laid by captive pairs at the Trust. This is the first season that the Trust has hand reared newly hatched chicks (18 in total), hatched wild collected eggs (7 in total), and left later clutches with pairs for hatching/rearing. The Trust has also increased its resident breeding pairs from 4 to 5. The busy hatching/rearing period is now coming to end and juveniles will be held for pre-conditioning until their release in September 2015.

New Zealand shore plover chicks prior to release



Black stilt chicks in a brooder box

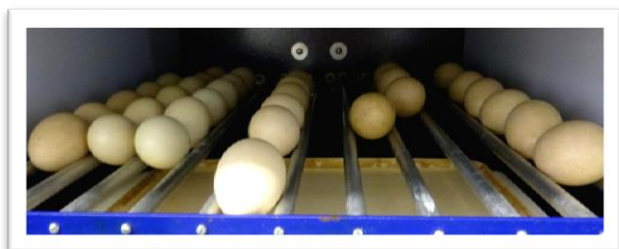


The Trust hatched 31 critically endangered **New Zealand shore plover/tuturuatu** chicks this season. From the eight breeding pairs, four pairs produced up to three clutches each. 9 juveniles were released on Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf on 27 January 2015 and 11 juveniles were released on Waikawa/Portland Island in Hawke's Bay on 27 February 2015. The last chick to hatch will meet with juveniles from Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre for a second release on Motutapu Island in late March 2015. The Trust is also set to receive one adult male and two adult females for flock mating purposes.

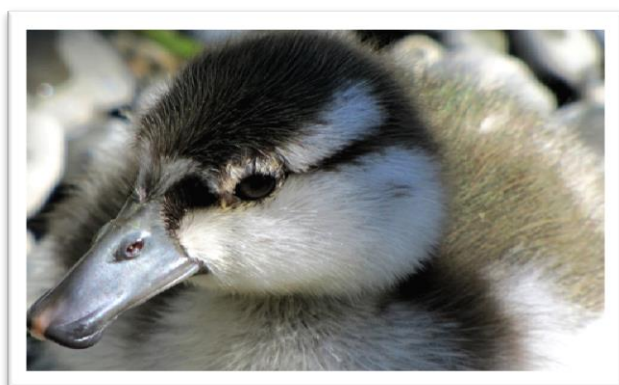
This season has been less prolific for nationally endangered **orange-fronted parakeet**/kakariki karaka, compared to previous breeding seasons (last season being the best on record). Only 2 pairs bred this season, but they still managed to hatch 30 chicks. A release of 25 juveniles is scheduled for 11 March 2015 in the South Branch Hurunui valley. All juveniles will be fitted with tail mounted transmitters for post-release monitoring. This will be the first time a mainland release has been attempted since inception of the captive breeding programme. We hope for a successful outcome!



Blue duck eggs in an incubator



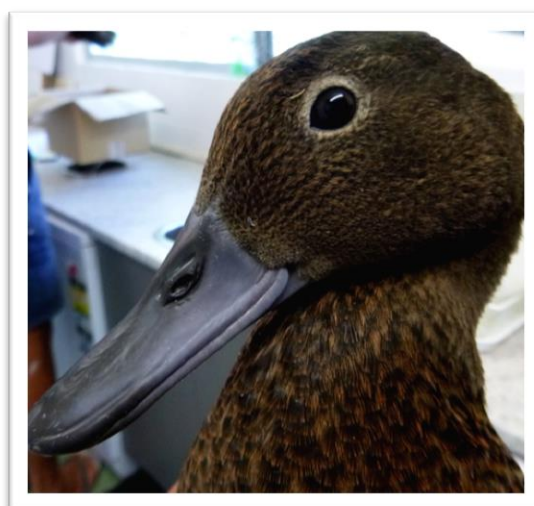
Two week old blue duckling



The Trust currently holds two North Island **blue duck**/whio breeding pairs, with the intention of holding a third pair once another waterfowl aviary is constructed. The Trust has had an extremely busy season with ducklings. 25 captive bred North Island whio eggs were hatched, and 40 wild collected South Island whio eggs hatched, utilizing the Whio Nest Egg (WHIONE) programme. Most juveniles have now been released or are scheduled for release shortly. 6 North Island whio were transferred for preconditioning to the new Department of Conservation whio hardening facility in Turangi, and have just been released in Egmont National Park. The remaining 12 North Island whio will be released at the end of March. 25 South Island whio juveniles were released on the West Coast - at the Styx, Arahura, Taipo, Moonlight and Roaring Meg Rivers. Nine transmittered South Island whio juveniles will be released into the northern area of Kahurangi National Park on 5 March 2015, and four will be released in the Oparara-Ugly Security Site in late March 2015.

The Trust's **brown teal**/pateke pairs are currently the most successful breeding pairs in New Zealand. So far the Trust has hatched 66 ducklings and pre-conditioned 15 juveniles from other captive institutions such as Auckland Zoo, Orana Wildlife Park and Nga Manu Nature Reserve. 81 juveniles have been released to date this season. A release of 20 juveniles occurred at Te Henga/Bethells Beach wetland near the Waitakere Ranges on 22 January 2015, with a second release of 20 juveniles at Young Nicks Head, near Gisborne on 14 February 2015. Both of these sites were new, hence juveniles were fitted with transmitters for post-release monitoring. 41 juveniles were also recently released at Purerua in Northland.

Brown teal juvenile during transmitter attachment



South Island kaka feeding



The young **South Island kaka** pair made their first breeding attempt last season (with infertile eggs), but have not re-laid this season, instead entering an early moulting phase. The Trust is now in the process of investigating transfer options to another captive breeding institution, to ensure these birds breed successfully and further the captive breeding programme.

Did you know?

The biggest threat to kaka survival is posed by introduced mammalian predators. Females are particularly at risk from predation by stoats during incubation in nest cavities, resulting in a skewed sex ratio across populations. Thus kaka can coexist with rats, and possibly with possums, but not with stoats.

Otago skink adult being weighed

Last breeding season the Trust had its first western **Otago skink** baby, the first in captivity globally. This season followed up with triplets, which was highly exciting! The **grand skink** pairs have not bred to date in comparison, and our fingers remain crossed for offspring next season.

Did you know?

The Otago and grand skink are both classified as Nationally Endangered in the New Zealand Threat Classification System, and listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. They are endemic to the central Otago region of New Zealand, and are only found in very specific locations, typically being limited to large schist outcrops. Both skinks are relatively large compared to other New Zealand skinks, capable of growing up to 30 cm in length. Although once widespread their range has decreased by roughly 90%. Farming intensification and introduced mammalian predators such as cats have led to ongoing population declines.



Grand skink adult during annual ID



South Island blue duck/whio releases – West Coast

All released South Island blue duck/whio were captive reared by the Trust. They were originally collected as wild eggs from the Styx River and Kawhaka Creek on the West Coast, at the beginning of the breeding season by Department of Conservation (DOC) monitoring staff via the Whio Nest Egg Programme (WHIONE).

On 12 February 2015 fifteen colour banded juveniles were released. Five birds (1 male, 4 females) near Julia hut on the Taipo River, five birds at the cable way on the Taipo River (2 males, 3 females), and five birds at the mudflats on the Arahura River (2 males, 3 females).

The Arahura River birds first went to the Ngati Waewae marae at Arahura to be blessed by iwi. Department of Conservation ranger Glen Newton also conducted a whio talk to Kaniere primary school pupils, which included showing whio juveniles to eager students.

On 13 February 2015 ten more colour banded juveniles were released - at Grassy Flats on the Styx River (4 birds), Roaring Meg River (2 transpondered birds) and the Moonlight River (4 birds).

We hope these birds fare well - surviving and reproducing, stabilising and increasing the overall populations in West Coast catchments.



OUT AND ABOUT

The Vintage Ford Car Club visited the the Heritage Village. Landscaping is under way at Lake Diana. A fire was quickly brought under control by the Fire Service in early February at the riverbed on the North West boundary.



As part of the Trust's commitment to Health and Safety, we undertook a "dry run" for the Landscape Division to experience what it feels like to be in the water wearing waders. Life jacket function was also tested. Although the day was warm, the water was only 13.5 degrees, brrr!



In Brief

The Department of Conservation and West Coast Film have created an excellent video of South Island blue duck/whio rearing at the Trust, which will feature as a component of a whio awareness film.

Eight members of the Diana Isaac Retirement Village visited the property on 29 January 2015 to familiarise themselves with the Trust's operations and learn more about Lady Isaac's achievements in conservation.

The Vintage Car Ford Club visited the Heritage Village on 2 February 2015; it was fantastic to see these vehicles in a historic setting.

Automated water meter sensors have been installed at 13 locations throughout the property. Locations include the wetland, salmon farm, waterfowl stream, Swan Lake and Otukaikino Stream exit. These devices will monitor water levels and flow on effects, for environmental planning and emergency flood control management. Data on stream flows and the water table will enable future planning, i.e. whether a retention pond, increased discharge consent, or installation of additional culverts is necessary.

A stock water system has now been completed at the sheep farm to comply with Environment Canterbury (Ecan) regulations.

The landscaping ground works at the north side of Lake Diana are now almost complete, with 2100 native plants to be planted from March onwards.

Following a two year crack willow eradication programme the wetland is now almost completely willow free.

A hedgerow has been removed at HotMix to improve vision exiting the quarry and is a reflection of ongoing adherence to strict Health and Safety principles.

FAST FACTS

ICWT Facebook



2,570 Likes

60,000 Post Reach

Find us via our website:

www.isaacconservation.org.nz

Trust Staff

Trust Administration

Rob Clarke – Executive Trustee (Chairman)
Alistair McDonald – Trustee
William (Bill) Luff – Trustee
Bruce Rule – Operations Manager
Catherine Ott – Administration Manager
Michelle Foster – Accountant

Wildlife Division

Anne Richardson – Wildlife Manager
Sabrina Luecht – Wildlife Project Administrator
Emma Cournane – Wildlife Keeper
Mike Robb – Wildlife Keeper
Nicki Wells – Wildlife Keeper
Alan Harvey – Maintenance

Landscape Division

Bill Waterman – Landscaper
Ian Gebbie – Landscaper
George Maipi – Landscaper
Rachel Brewer – Landscaper/Caretaker

Maintenance Division

Jamie Ward – Builder
Andrew Smyth – Painter/Handyman



Heritage Village News



Medicinal herbs have recently been planted around the Pat Cotter Medical Cottage, as herbs have such relevance as medical cures.

The Trust is also in the process of creating a vegetable garden in the Heritage Village, looking forward to seeing fresh produce!

17 Beveridge Street

Erected circa 1880, this home is a good example of a two storied early colonial cottage, which originally stood in the working class heart of Christchurch. There was a strong sense of community in this neighbourhood (within the four avenues) and Beveridge Street used to play Conference Street in an annual cricket match.

Beveridge Street was originally named Aldred Street after the Rev. John Aldred. The name was changed in 1948, likely after Lord Beveridge who founded the British social security system – “The Beveridge Plan”. At the time of name change street numbers were also changed, thus we now know that 17 Beveridge Street was originally 24 Aldred Street (every postman’s nightmare!).



“The Doll’s House”