

Orange-fronted Parakeet/ Kākāriki Karaka Monthly Status Report December 2021 – January 2022

Reporting Period: 30/11/2021 – 31/1/2022

Recovery Programme Status: How are we tracking to our goal “Preventing Extinction”?

Overall:

- Establishment of new population at Brook Sanctuary continuing to look positive and to be further bolstered by additional translocations planned for next two months.
- South Branch population bolstered by translocation of birds overrepresented in initial Brook translocations, and aerial 1080 operation to protect mainland valleys planned to occur in early February.
- There is still a significant vulnerability to this population for rapid decline during beech mast events – a priority for 2022 is determining the next sites to establish new populations at and get the process for these underway.
- COVID response continues to create uncertainty regarding translocations/releases and aerial 1080 operations, as well as day to day management of the species in the wild and captivity. Contingency planning underway and Kākāriki Rangers trained to enable them to support Isaac’s captive operations if required.

Milestones from this month

Milestone

- Our current total (wild + captive) population estimate is now just over 500 kākāriki karaka.
- Second translocation of 20 kākāriki karaka to Brook Sanctuary (21/12/2021).
- Courtship and breeding behaviours observed in the Brook, feeders utilised, so looking positive that birds have anchored. At least one male predated by a falcon.
- Translocation of 20 kākāriki karaka to the South Branch (25/1/2022).
- Training of Kākāriki rangers to support Isaac’s staff looking after captive birds in the event of COVID-related disruptions.
- Aerial 1080 operation planned for early February to protect mainland valleys, with pre-feed planned for late January.
- Planning underway for further translocations to Brook Sanctuary in Feb/March.
- Initial conversation held with Kākāpō Expansion Plan project manager regarding possible collaboration on new translocation sites.

Project Issues (new actions bold and italicised)

Critical Issues	Priority	Action Required	Owner	Date First Raised
HT ensure Blumine island Orange-fronted parakeet population understanding and protection is obtained?		Understand how J4N roles can most effectively support Blumine priorities	Director NSI	27/02/2019 <i>To be resolved as J4N plan developed.</i>
How to increase aviary capacity for the Orange-fronted parakeet captive breeding programme?		Support construction of additional aviaries at Orana Park as supported by Governance and Recovery groups.	Director ESI	27/02/2019 <i>Capacity in process of being increased effectively.</i>
How to ensure that work is not being compromised by access constraints, including elevated river levels and restrictions imposed by adjacent leaseholders?		Build relationships and understandings with Mt White station, Eskhead station and Lake Taylor station to establish greater security of access	Director ESI	28/10/2020 <i>Still a live issue, access restrictive for some valleys</i>
How to ensure that COVID responses, such as Traffic Light Setting changes and interregional travel restrictions, do not impact translocations?		Support travel required to enable translocation as required.	Director ESI	5/11/2021 <i>Still a concern given Omicron outbreak and subsequent DOC travel restrictions.</i>
How to ensure that 1080 aerial operation to protect the Poulter Valley and remaining birds proceeds this year?		Work with MOH to get approval for operation.	Director ESI	5/11/2021 <i>Approval granted and operation to proceed in early 2022.</i>

Released under

Actions for GG Consideration (updates bold and italicised)

Team	Issue	Context	Recommended Actions	Risk of not proceeding	Status
Eastern South Island	Increase captive breeding capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently not enough captive breeding capacity to meet the needs of the Kākāriki Karaka. • While there is a possible solution through the establishment of additional aviaries at Isaacs, they have stopped progress until the situation with the go-cart club relocation is addressed. 	<p>Governance Group to mandate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find solution to resolve standoff with building new aviaries whilst go cart issue is being worked through. • Install aviaries at Orana Park. • Complete Isaac/DOC operational Plan to build new aviaries and secure 10-year tenure for captive breeding • Investigate alternative funding options for IVL bid <p>Current Task assignment for this with ESI Director: DOC-6144305</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Population declines and extirpation of populations in some valleys - the survival of the species is reliant on captive released birds 2. Species persistence 3. Species extinction 4. Loss of primary captive facility for the species 5. Compromised captive breeding programme 	<p>GG agreed on recommendation during GG meeting. 27/8/20</p> <p>Agreement at the Recovery Group Meeting that alternate breeding capacity at alternate locations will be investigated.</p> <p>Action agreed for Mark F and Anne R to explore, in the first instance, Orana Park as a candidate site.</p> <p>Anne and Mark engaged with Orana and have confirmed with Orana Park CEO that aviaries can be constructed there. Quote has been provided by Orana Park as to what it would cost them to construct the aviaries.</p> <p>Now require confirmation of funds and agreement on design. 27/8/20</p> <p>Nic Toki, Wayne Beggs and Andrew Grant met with Rob Clarke (Chair TICWT) re MOU and ongoing relationship with TICWT 1/7/2021</p> <p>Draft for 2021-2026 MOU has been completed and is with Dir ESI for consideration and signing with TICWT</p>

Team	Issue	Context	Recommended Actions	Risk of not proceeding	Status
Biodiversity Group	Recovery Group/Governance Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There hasn't been optimal collaboration between the Recovery Groups and Governance Groups. • This has also translated to less than optimal outcomes for operational activities. • Proposed changes to the functions of the groups including membership, have been tabled. • Clarity around expectations is critical to ensure the groups are utilised to their full effect. 	<p>Governance Group to agree on and mandate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication expectations and processes between RG, GG and Operations • Adjust any documentation as required including TOR and task assignments for GG and RG members 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poor advice input for recovery programme 2. Inefficient advice input to recovery programme 3. Poor information pathways 	<p>Task Assignment was drafted in April and is with Ops Manager, North Canterbury, for review and provision to Biodiversity to outline specifically what is required. 27/8/20</p> <p>GG to consider and provide recommended action forward here.</p> <p><i>Minutes from 12/7/21, 3/6/2021, 19/4/2021, 8/3/2021, 9/11/2020, 13/7/2020, Set/2021 have not been forthcoming – how does GG formally communicate to other Kākāriki kakaraka stakeholders?</i></p>

Released under

OPERATIONS REPORT

Population situation (includes captive and wild sites)

SITE	Situation
ORUAWAIRUA (BLUMINE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 81 birds (based on survey conducted in August 2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7 nests confirmed this season (1 unsuccessful)
BROOK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 27 birds (based on sightings since release) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 20 birds released in November + 20 birds released in December ○ 15 birds from first translocation were resighted at least one week after being released ○ 14 birds from second translocation were resighted at least one week after being released ○ Of these, at least 1 male died (apparently preyed upon by a falcon) and 1 female probably died (missing after initiating a nest and partner has paired with another female) ○ 8 nests confirmed this season (1 unsuccessful)
HAWDON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly 2 birds (based on 2020/21 searches) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No new data for 2021/22
POULTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly 15 birds (based on 2020/21 searches) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No new data for 2021/22
SOUTH BRANCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 280 (237-323) birds (based on mark-resight analysis in Fig. 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 9 nests confirmed this season
NORTH BRANCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 2 birds (based on 2021/22 searches) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 localised OFP sightings (2 sightings of a male OFP and 1 of a female OFP) recorded over two days in July 2021
ISAACS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 adults ?? juveniles/chicks (heaps) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 11 breeding pairs ○ 8 pairs nesting ○ 3 pairs not breeding, may need a swap around ○ juveniles/chicks everywhere ○ Still have the pair breeding that pluck their chicks of which are fostered out to other pairs
AUCKLAND ZOO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 adults + 11 juveniles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 breeding pairs with a total of 11 chicks (clutches of 6 and 5). Of the 11 chicks, 3 DNS at Auckland and 1 was DOA at PS, 7 are for release. Both pairs have not bred a second clutch. ○ 1 non-breeding pair
ORANA PARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 adults + 11 juveniles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 older pair (now on display and are very settled) ○ 2 pairs bred and 8 chicks were released at Brook in Dec. ○ 1 pair nested again and produced 5 chicks as well as fostered 2 of Red and Poles (the pluckers) chicks.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Also Orana hand reared 4 of the plucked chicks as well. ○ 3 pairs not breeding
MT BRUCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 adults <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 pair on display
TOTAL POPULATION ESTIMATE	<p>Current</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captive ≈ 108 (40 adults and ??juveniles) • Wild ≈ 407 • Total ≈ 515 birds (including juveniles in captivity) <p>2020/21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total ≈ 351 birds <p>2019/20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total ≈ 304 birds <p>2018/19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total ≈ 180-230 birds (pending revision)

Released under the C...

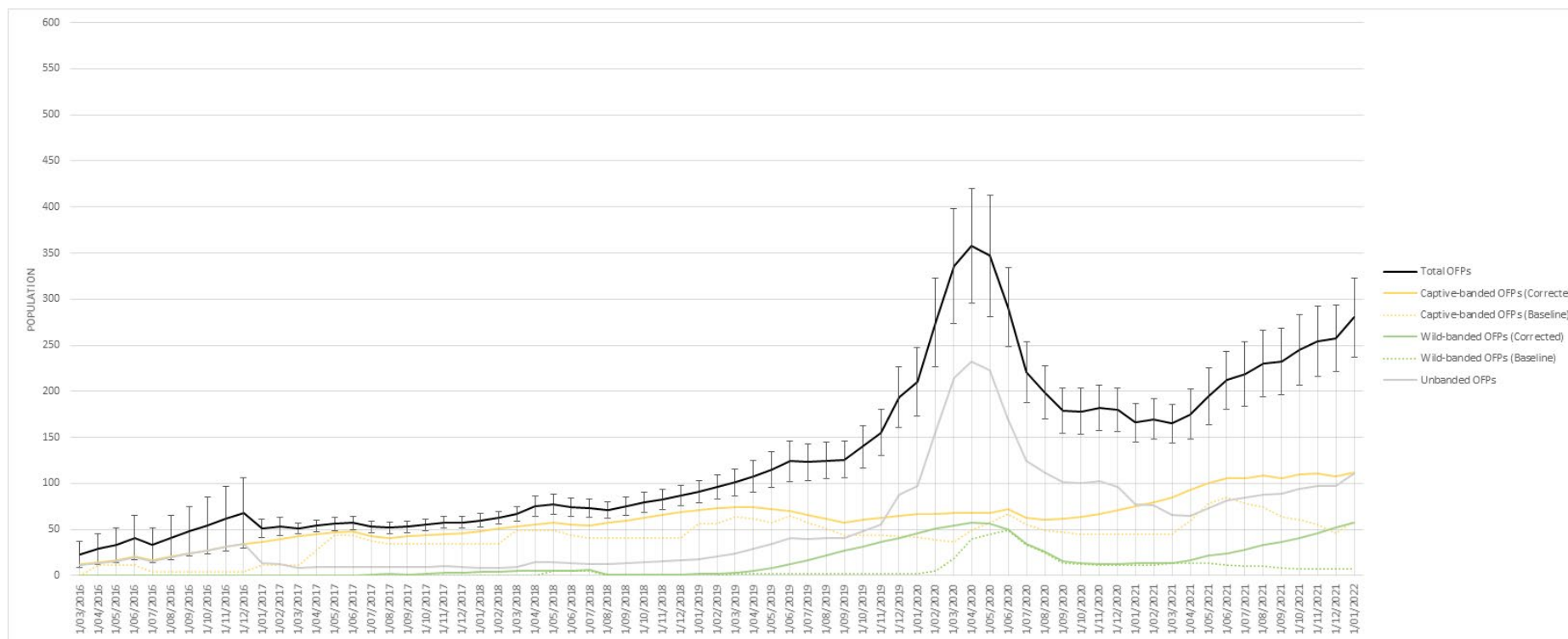


Fig. 1: Rolling population estimate for OFPs in the South Branch of the Hurunui, based on mark-resight survey data collected in the year leading up to each date. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. The analysis includes a 3-month pre-survey period to determine the baseline number of banded birds present. The impact of releasing birds in the wild is only fully realised in surveys that commenced after the date of their release. An interim correction factor has been applied to account for this.

Work programme (includes captive, operations, and research)

SITE	Last Month – (What happened since last report)	Next Month - (what is planned for next period)
Rangiora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second translocation of 20 kākāriki to Brook Sanctuary (21-12-21) Post release monitoring and nest finding @ Brook Sanctuary Training Brook volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of additional seasonal staff Bait station installation in the South Branch and Poulter Prepare a “Change request” for the Te Waipounamu project Recruitment of new Blumine B Band ranger Nest finding and protection South Branch

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trap checks in all valleys • Bait station installation in the South Branch and Poulter • Health and Safety Short Course and Safety Learning Day for Kākāriki Team • Nest finding and protection South Branch • Repairs to Poulter Valley access track • Search for kākāriki in the Poulter • Support contractors surveying for whio in Poulter and Hawdon • 5 minute bird counts South Branch (contractor) • Helicopter, 4WD, GIS & adrenaline kit training • Planning meeting with Hiking NZ to expand their work programme in 2022 • Translocation of 9 females and 11 males from Isaac's, Auckland Zoo & Orana Park to the South Branch (25-01-22) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trap checks in all valleys • Training of Kākāriki rangers to support Isaac's staff looking after captive birds • Repairs to South Branch access through Esk Head • Prepare lizard monitoring plan for South Branch • Plan bait station network in the Hawdon and order bait stations • Contingency planning for COVID 19
Oruawairua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of all nests • Feeder cameras installed • Monthly trap and device checks • Training of Picton based rangers in Brook Sanctuary • Public access track cut • Install wasp bait stations • Resource consent work for 2x Portacom units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wasp bait operation – <i>Vespa</i> species have never been controlled on island • Recruitment of rangers for fixed-term positions • On-island implementation of research plan from Rangiora staff • Support 1080 operation • Monthly trap and device checks • Biodiversity track cutting from volunteers
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cameras are monitoring predator activity at the base of 44 OFP nest trees in SBH • Prepared band combinations for releases • Received transmitters for releases • Revised history of all nests in SBH • Updated various app features • Provided direction for NBH playback surveys, nest monitoring and protection, feeders, etc. • Outlined work plan for Biodiversity Ranger • Mapped historic interactions with falcons in North Canterbury • Updated list of potential release sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove nest cameras installed last season • Complete battery and SD card swap for trunk cameras • Remove surplus trunk cameras • Complete battery and SD card swap for feeder cameras • Remove surplus feeder cameras • Modify remaining feeder installations to reduce potential for failure and decrease predation risk • Continue to modify cameras to reduce issues with condensation during damp and rainy periods • Modify app to record more detailed data on other threatened species • Continue to update summary graphs and charts
Captive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18.11.21 Release Brook 10.10 	

- 20.12.21 Release at Brook 9.11, which included Floyd a 3yo male that we couldn't pair up and who is now breeding in the Brook
- Plan to release in the Sth Branch to dump of chicks from 2 of our prolific breeders, so their genes don't flood Brook in Jan (which we have actually done!)
- Unfortunately, we lost Casper the last of the Casey chicks to a ruptured liver from trauma (he was from one of the pairs that where not breeding) and also our great Red female who did all the fostering, from trauma after getting stuck in a log.

Released under the Official Information Act