

# Waitutu Field Trip Summary

22nd - 28th February 2018



*Rose Collen*

*April 2018*

## **Summary:**

This report summarises the latest (Feb. 2018) in a long-term series a quarterly monitoring trips at five sites (Poteriteri, Crombie, Waitutu, Slaughter Burn and Grant Burn) within Waitutu Forest. Rodent and mustelid monitoring was carried out, seed fall collected and all traps checked, cleared if necessary and rebaited.

## **Weather:**

The weather for the trip was generally fine apart from day three, which brought wet and windy weather and a hut day for most.

## **Personnel:**

**Poteriteri Hut:** Michael Jones, Cleo Schurink

**Slaughter Burn Hut:** Peter Dilks

**Grant Burn Biv:** Terry Greene, Matthew Greene

**Waitutu Hut:** Colin Bishop, Saelyn Guyton

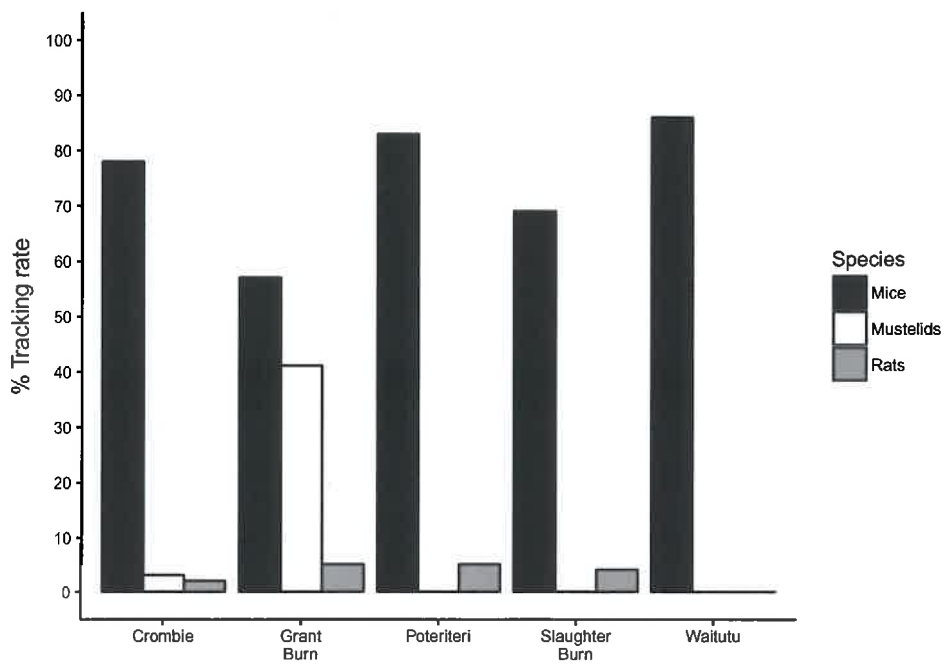
**Crombie Biv:** Shane McAusland

## **Tracking Tunnels:**

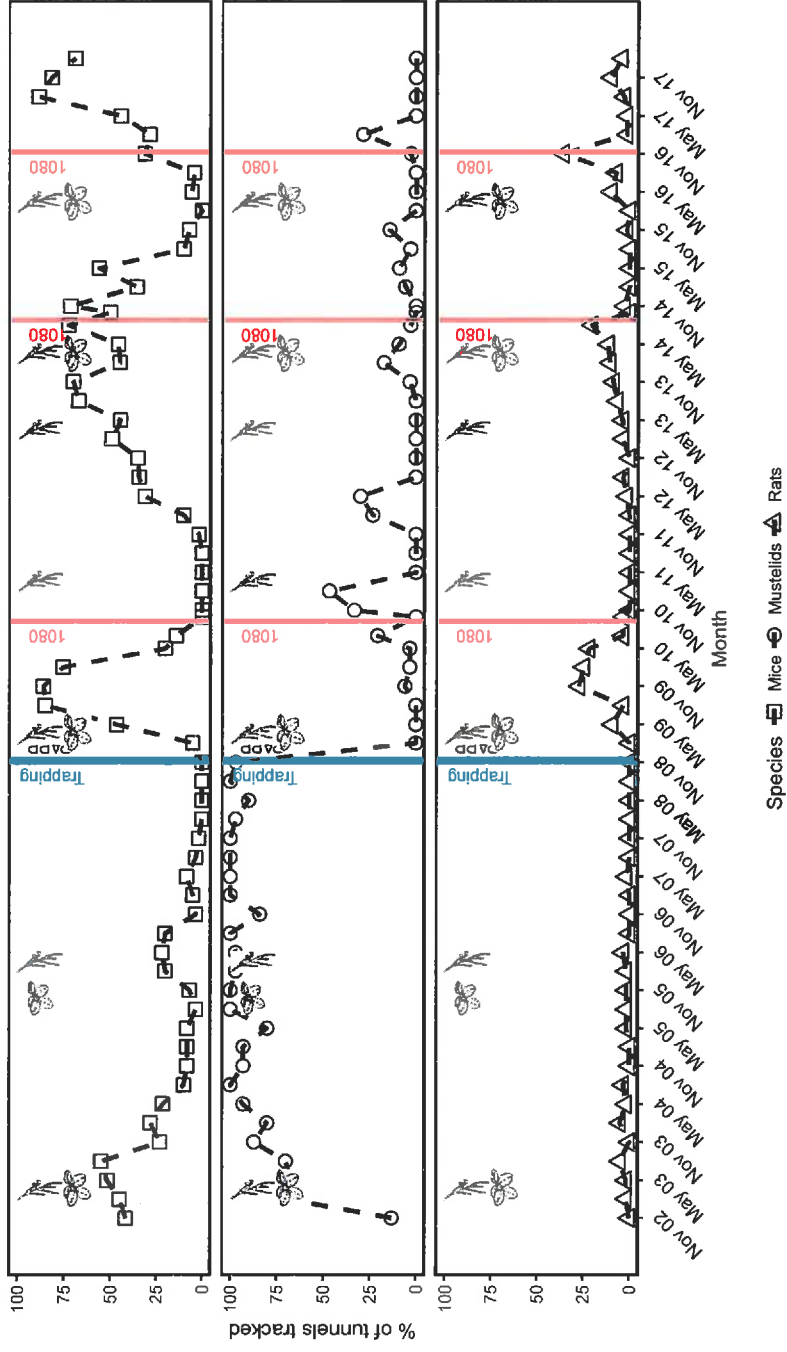
Mouse tracking remains high but has decreased slightly at all sites since the last monitoring trip in November 2017, with the exception of Waitutu where

there has been a slight increase. Rat tracking remains low, at a level similar to the November monitoring. Mustelid tracking is also very low at all sites except at Grant Burn, where the tracking rate has increased from 23% in November 2017 to 41% in February 2018.

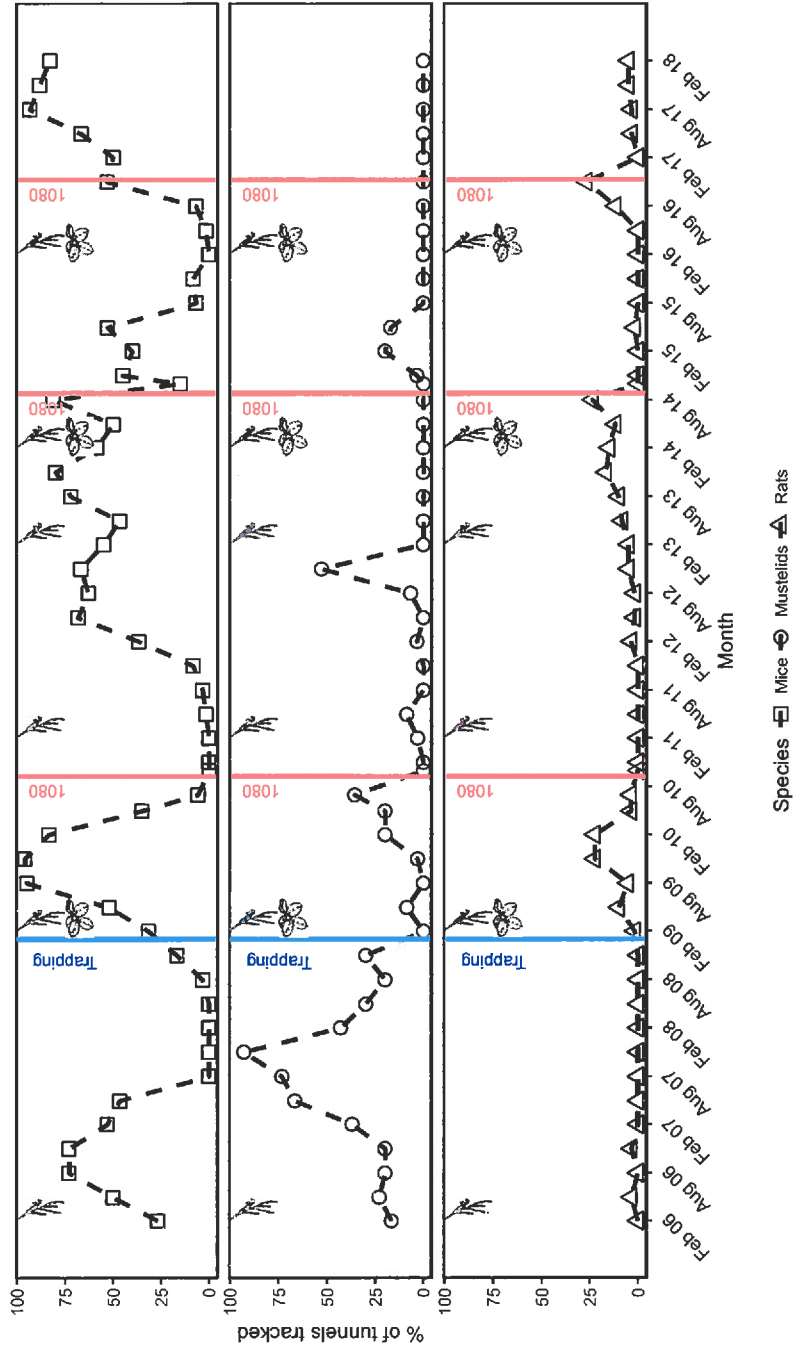
### Feb 2018 - All areas - % of tunnels tracked



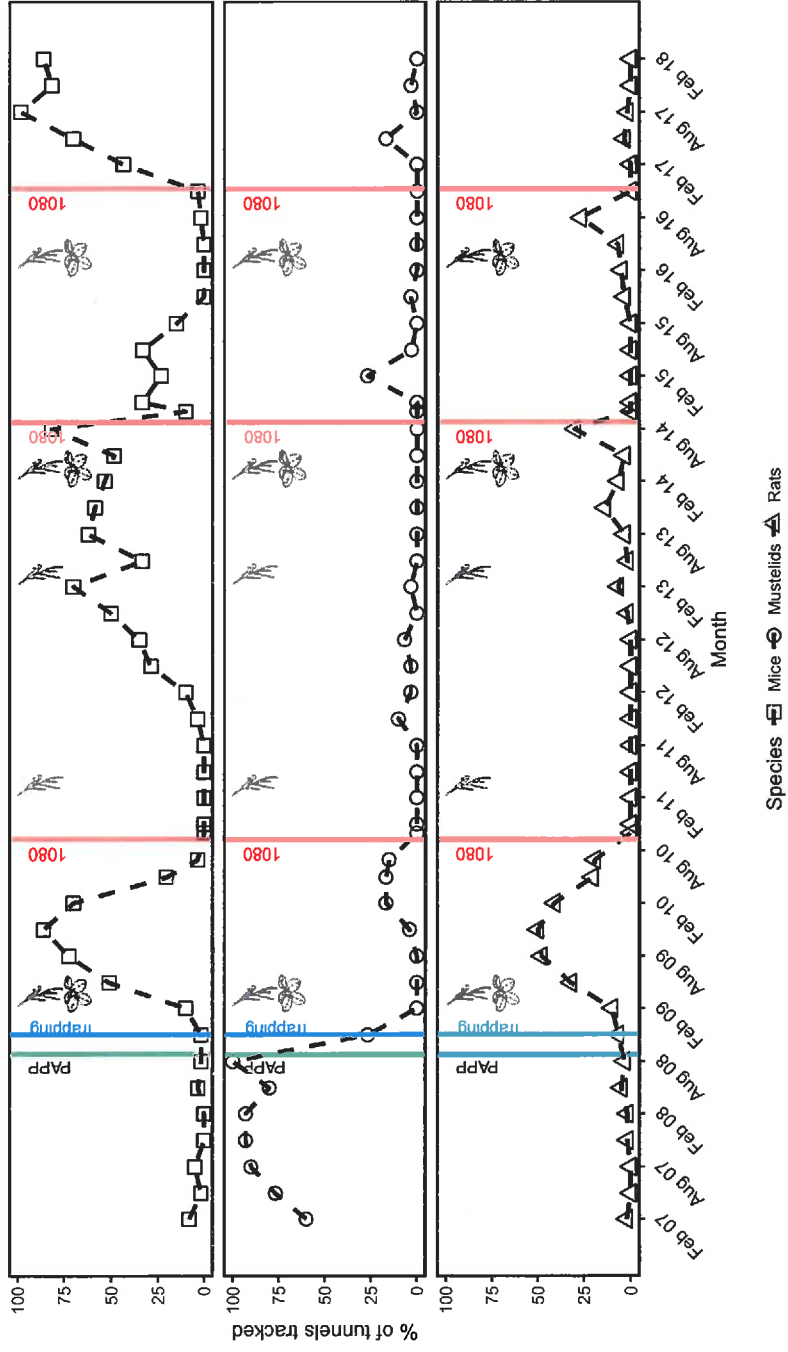
## Slaughter Burn - % of tunnels tracked



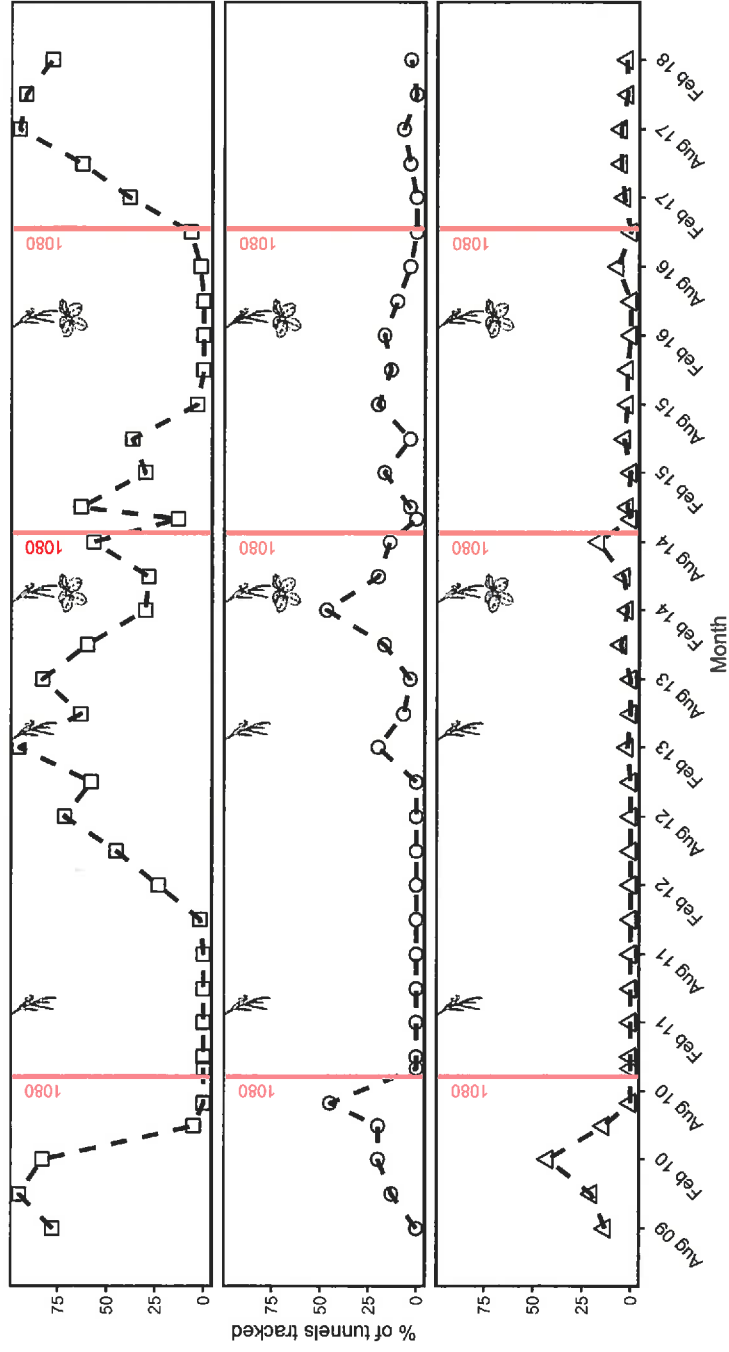
### Poteriteri - % of tunnels tracked



# Waitutu - % of tunnels tracked

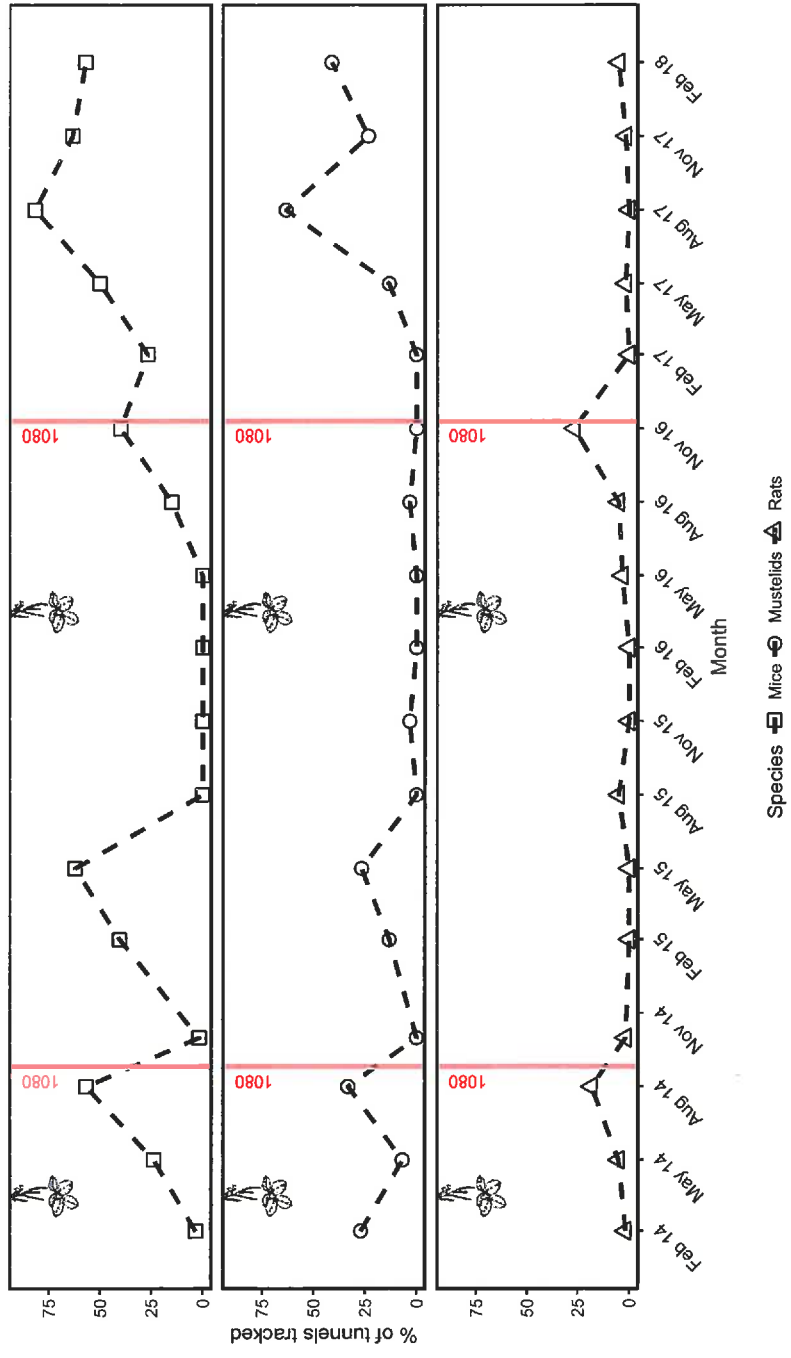


# Crombie - % of tunnels tracked



Species Mice Mustelids Rats

# Grant Burn - % of tunnels tracked



## Stoat traps:

Table 1: Animals trapped in this and previous quarterly check.

	Nov 2017			Feb 2018		
	Waitutu	Poteriteri	Total	Waitutu	Poteriteri	Total
No. of trap boxes checked	201	58	259	200	57	257
Mice	0	0	0	1	1	2
Rats	11	7	18	20	11	31
Stoats	6	3	9	20	9	29
Weasels	4	4	8	6	4	10
TOTAL	21	14	35	47	25	72

All stoat traps in the Poteriteri block and on either side of the Waitutu River were serviced and rebaited with fresh salted rabbit meat. Stoat and rat catch rates increased since November 2017 at both sites, with little change in weasel catch rates.

## Bird lists for each site:

Kaka were seen at all sites and on most days but were generally quiet. Rifleman, grey warbler, bellbird, tui, fantail, tomtit and robin were commonly seen at all sites. A few juvenile ruru were encountered north of the Brown Burn at Poteriteri, and three pipits were seen along the lake front. A couple of long-tailed cuckoo were heard late evening and early morning at Poteriteri near the hut. A fernbird was seen in the scrub at the helipad by the Grant Burn Bivvy. Mohua were heard near TT line 2 in the Crombie.

## Other stuff.....

Didymo sampling was planned for all sites but only carried out at Crombie, due to lack of time and heavy rain affecting river flows.



### Slaughter Burn

- Heaps of relatively fresh pig rooting in all areas especially along river flats both sides of Waitutu River. No pigs were seen.
- Three deer seen and lots of deer tracks on Slaughterburn flats.
- Unable to find trap WTL29 - need to look for this on the next trip.

### Poteriteri

- Two deer seen, not much sign along river bed.
- Heaps of pig rooting on south side of Brown Burn, fresh scat all the way down S trap line in the swampy areas.
- Some trap box maintenance is needed:
  - new box lid for S3
  - new nail for N1 lid
  - new bait nails needed inside some boxes on R & B lines

### Waitutu

- One small pig seen on TT line 5, and three small piglets seen in hut clearing. Sow and boar with 10 piglets seen between hut and bridge - the sow was shot and found to be skinny. Lots of pig damage locally around the hut.
- AB line needs clearing with a chainsaw along lower section and new markers especially from traps AB20 to AB30.
- 56 Line needs chainsaw clearing especially from 56L6 to 12.
- Many traps need lid screws replaced and some need lid nails replaced.
- Toilet needs emptying.
- Area around Waitutu Hut could do with a trim.
- More wasps seen than on previous trips - about a dozen.

### Crombie

- Five deer seen, plus one small boar.
- Heli pad and tracks around the hut trimmed and some track maintenance done on TT circuit.

- A flat file would be handy to keep the slasher sharp for track cutting.

### Grant Burn

- Two deer seen.
- Terry and Matthew checked lower TCE and WTR traps and collected WWA seedfall in a day trip. WWA3 was destroyed by windfall, temporary repairs made but further repairs are needed.
- New Waitutu poster needs means of attaching to wall of bivvy. Temporary attachment using tape.
- Toilet needs emptying.

Table 2: Birds seen at each site - Feb 2018

Species	Poteriteri	Crombie	SB	Y22	GB	Comment
SIPO						
VOC					Y	Approx. 60 on coast 2/3 way to Aan Rive
Grey Duck	Y		Y			
Par. Shelduck	Y		Y	Y	Y	
Black Shag	Y			Y	Y	
WF Heron						
NZ Falcon	Y		Y	Y	Y	I heard Y22. 2 ad & juv seen at GB
Kereru	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Common throughout
Kea						
Kaka	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Plenty seen but relatively quiet
YCP	Y				Y	A few birds heard at GB
Parakeet sp						
Ruru	Y	Y			Y	Juveniles screeching at Poteriteri
Rifleman	Y	Y	Y		Y	
Grey Warbler	Y		Y	Y	Y	Everywhere
Bellbird	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Everywhere
Tui	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Common
Mohua		Y				Heard by Line 2 Crombie
B Creeper	Y	Y		Y	Y	
Fantail	Y	Y		Y	Y	Common
Tomtit	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Common
SI Robin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Common
Silvereye					Y	
Blackbird	Y		Y	Y	Y	
Song Thrush				Y		
Starling						
Chaffinch			Y		Y	
Greenfinch						
Redpoll				Y	Y	
SBBG				Y	Y	
Pied Shag			Y	Y		
LT cuckoo	Y					2 heard Poteriteri
Fernbird					Y	1 seen GB Biv clearing
Dunnock				Y	Y	
Black Swan	Y					
Pipit	Y					3 seen along lake front