

Predator control - why it is so important

Like many of our native birds, kōkako are at risk of predation by introduced mammals, particularly whilst nesting. Possums, rats and stoats are considered the biggest threat to kōkako, preying on eggs and chicks.

Female kōkako are also at risk during the breeding season. As the females do all the incubation and brooding throughout a 50-day nesting period, this makes them vulnerable to attack. Sadly, years of such predation events can result in populations being reduced to mostly old male birds!

This underscores the importance of vigilant predator control when supporting kōkako populations. Possums, rats and stoats need to be managed to very low levels for kōkako to successfully breed and to fledge chicks. This is best done using a combination of trapping and poisoning throughout the breeding season (October to March).

Please get in touch if you want to better understand the predator control requirements required for kōkako to thrive.



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Predation: Possum and rat raiding a nest.



Vigilant pest control is essential for kōkako to thrive.