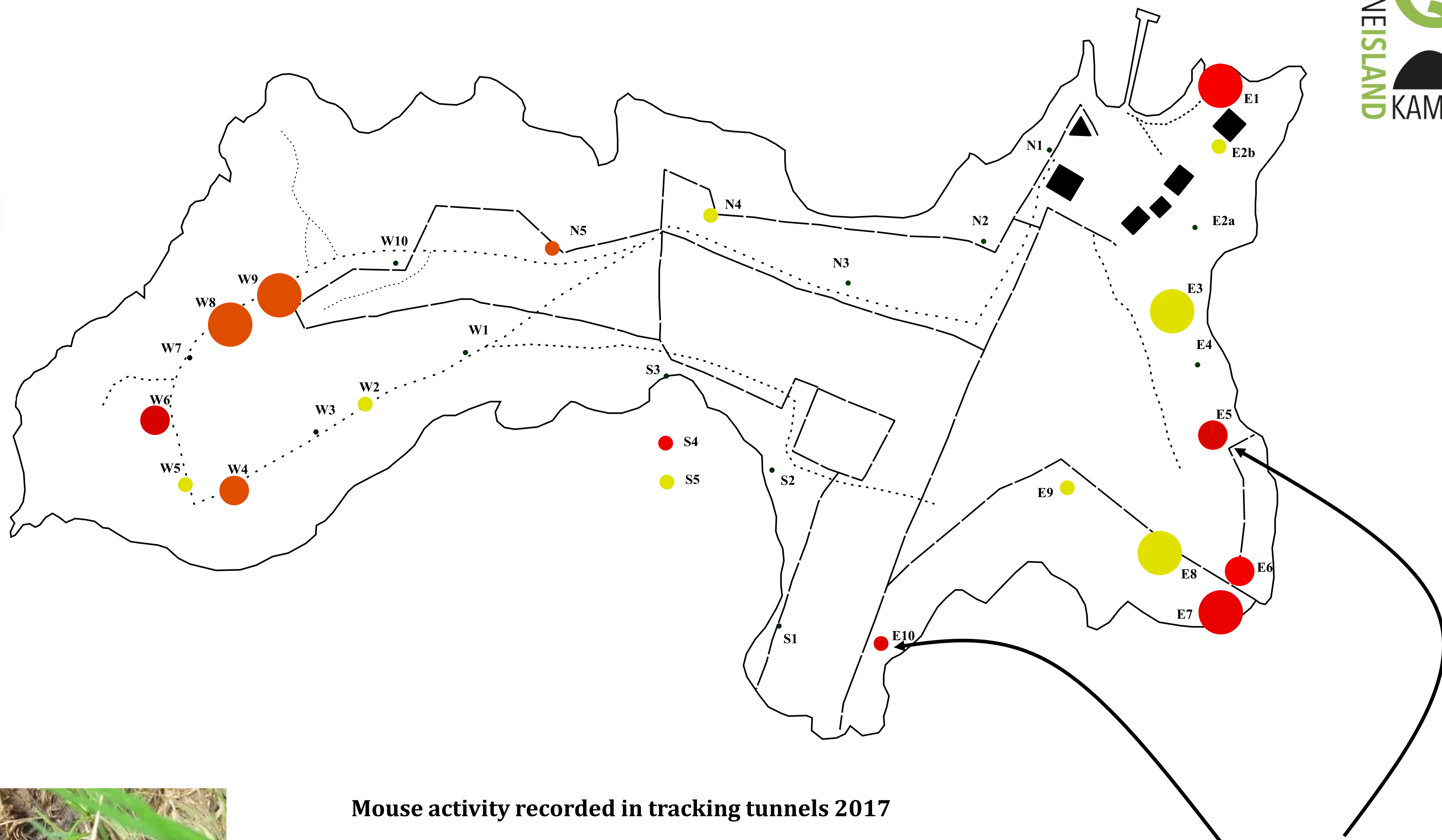


Predators of Kamau Taurua

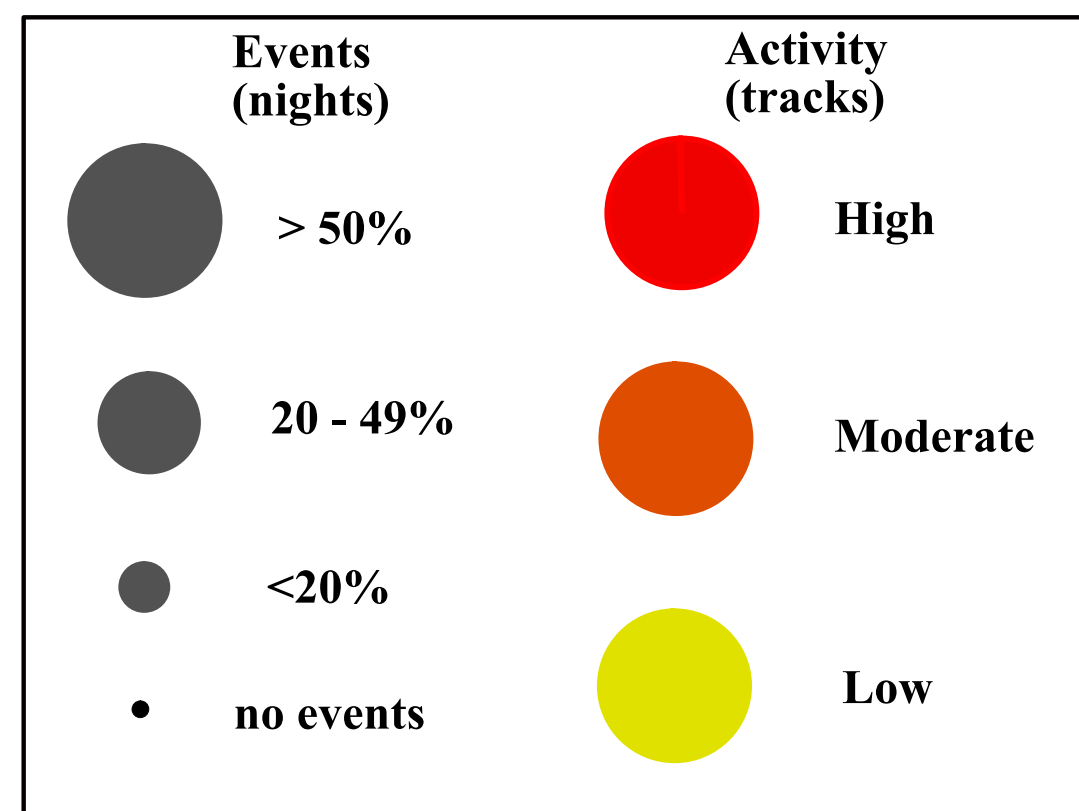


Mus musculus / Kiore



Mus musculus / Kiore

Mouse activity recorded in tracking tunnels 2017



Rattus norvegicus / Kiore

Birds of Kamau Taurua

How to take a five minute bird count (5MBC)

The observer records:

- their own name
- the number of birds seen and heard of each species
- the location of the station
- the date, start time
- the weather variables; temperature, wind, other noise, sun, precipitation type and precipitation value

-Don't count the same bird twice at one site.



Most common at 4.

BellBird/ Korimako
Endemic/ Not Threatened



Most common at 3.

Chaffinch, Introduced



Most common at 1 and 9:

Red Billed Gull

Native/Declining

Also common at '7'



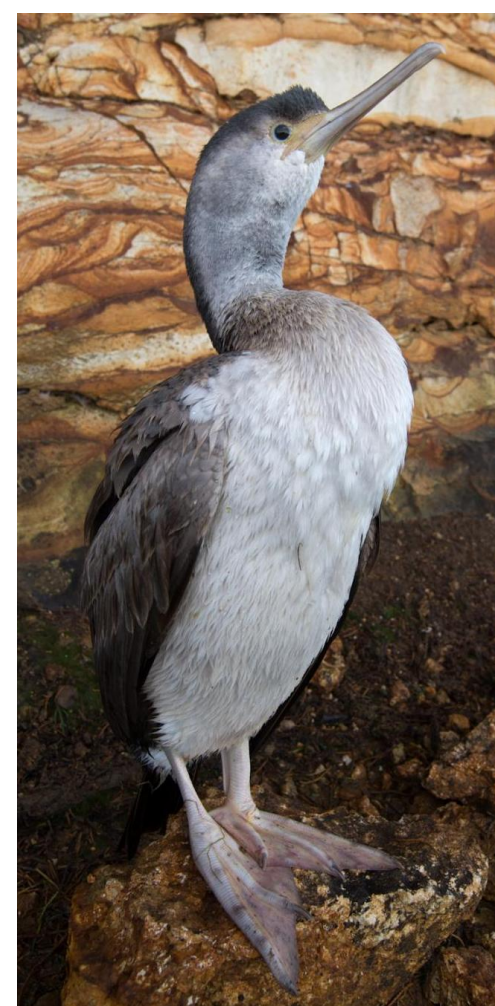
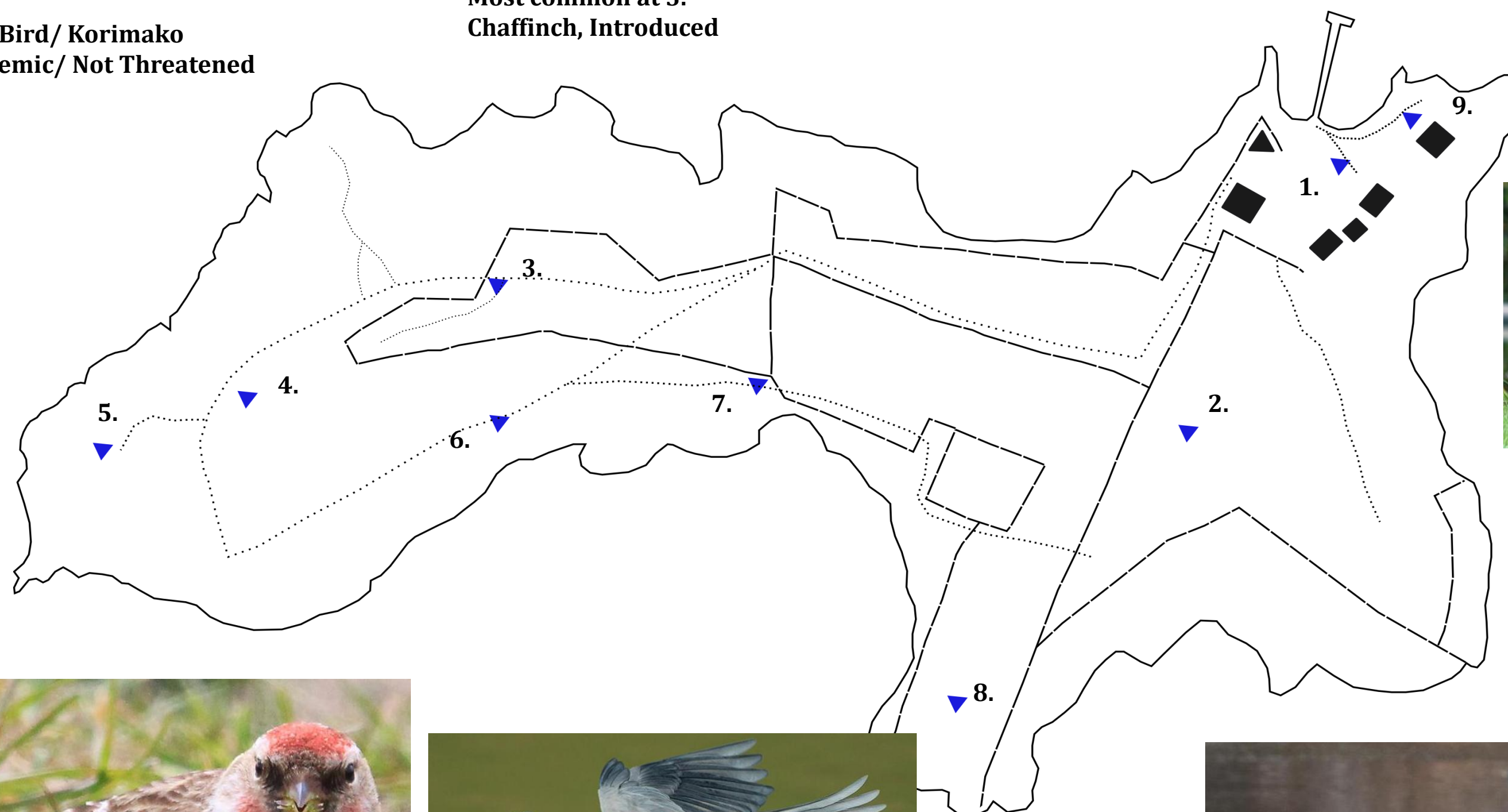
Dunnock

Introduced



House Sparrow

Introduced



Most common at 5.

Spotted shag/ Parekareka

Endemic/ Not Threatened



Most common at 6.

Redpoll

Introduced



Most common at 7.

White Faced Heron/ Matuku

Native/ Not Threatened



Most common at 2.

Paradise Shelduck/ Putakitaki

Endemic/ Not Threatened



Most common at 8.

Black-Backed Gull/ Karoro

Native/ Not Threatened

Also common at '5'

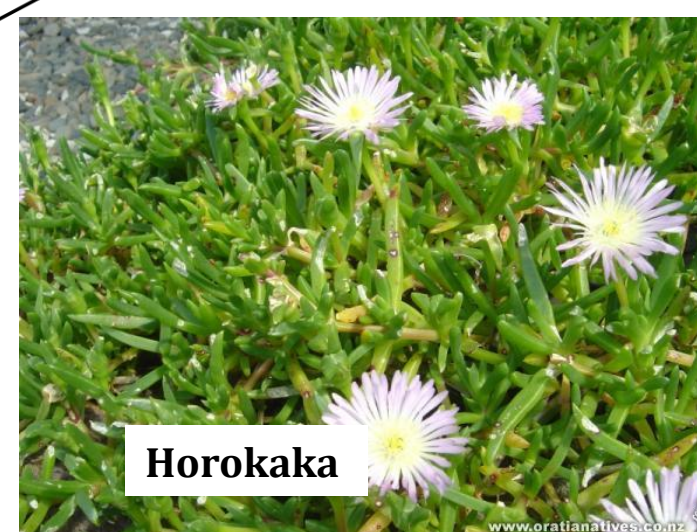
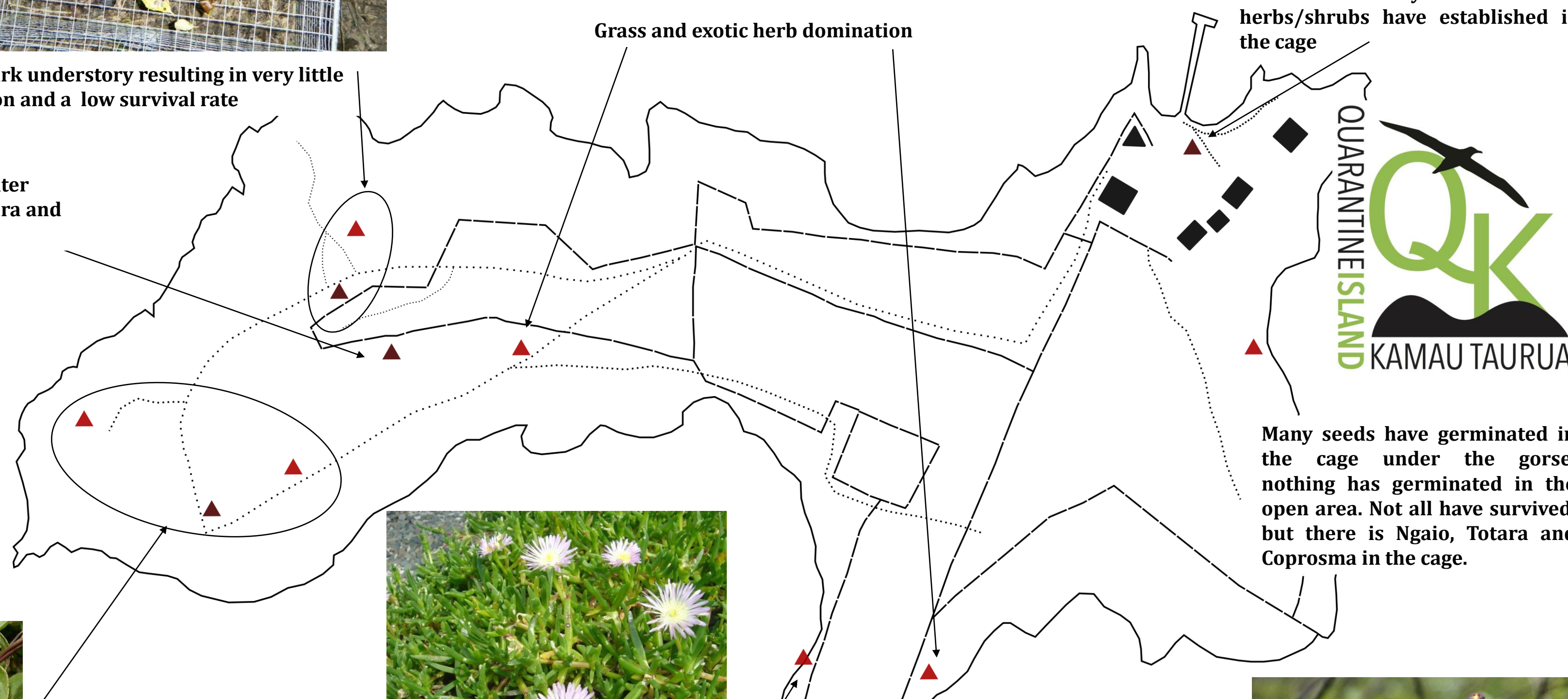
Seedling Germination On Kamau Taurua



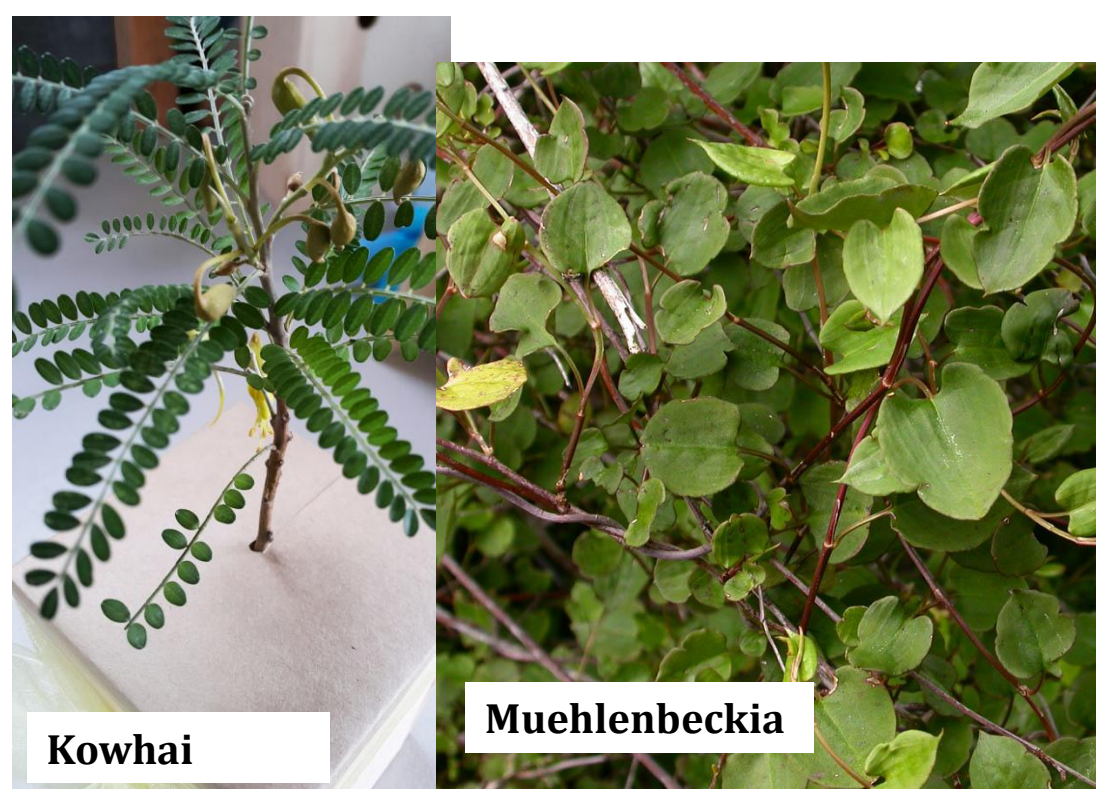
Under the large Beech and Totara trees there is greater germination in the cage than in the open space, Totara and Jasmine mainly, but low survival in both.



Dry and dark understory resulting in very little germination and a low survival rate



The cage provided the native ice plant and a small leaved shrub (*Chenopodium* sp. – naturally uncommon) with a climbing frame. In the open a naturally uncommon blue wheat grass is growing.



Lizards of Kamau Taurua



Southern grass skink/ Mokomoko

Endemic/ Not Threatened

We had no information about what types of lizards lived on Quarantine Island/Kamau Tuarua as no one had ever done a survey. We knew there were some, because during the summer you see them wriggle away through the grass.

We have put Artificial Cover Objects (ACO's), to act as 'Lizard Hotels', out on the Island and help us find out which ones live here. We will also keep an eye on the skinks as the mice and rats are eradicated, they will help us know if we are doing a job eradicating the predators/competitors. Our results at the moment are indicating we have Common skinks/Southern grass skinks here on the island, and quite a few of them.

Diet: Skinks eat mainly invertebrates (beetles in particular), spiders, the caterpillars of moths and butterflies. They also eat a small amount of seeds and fruit. This is why we have planted special plants in some places on the island that will provide them with food. The skinks will also disperse the plant seeds in their poo.

Lots of insects and moths can be found in long tussocks/grasses.

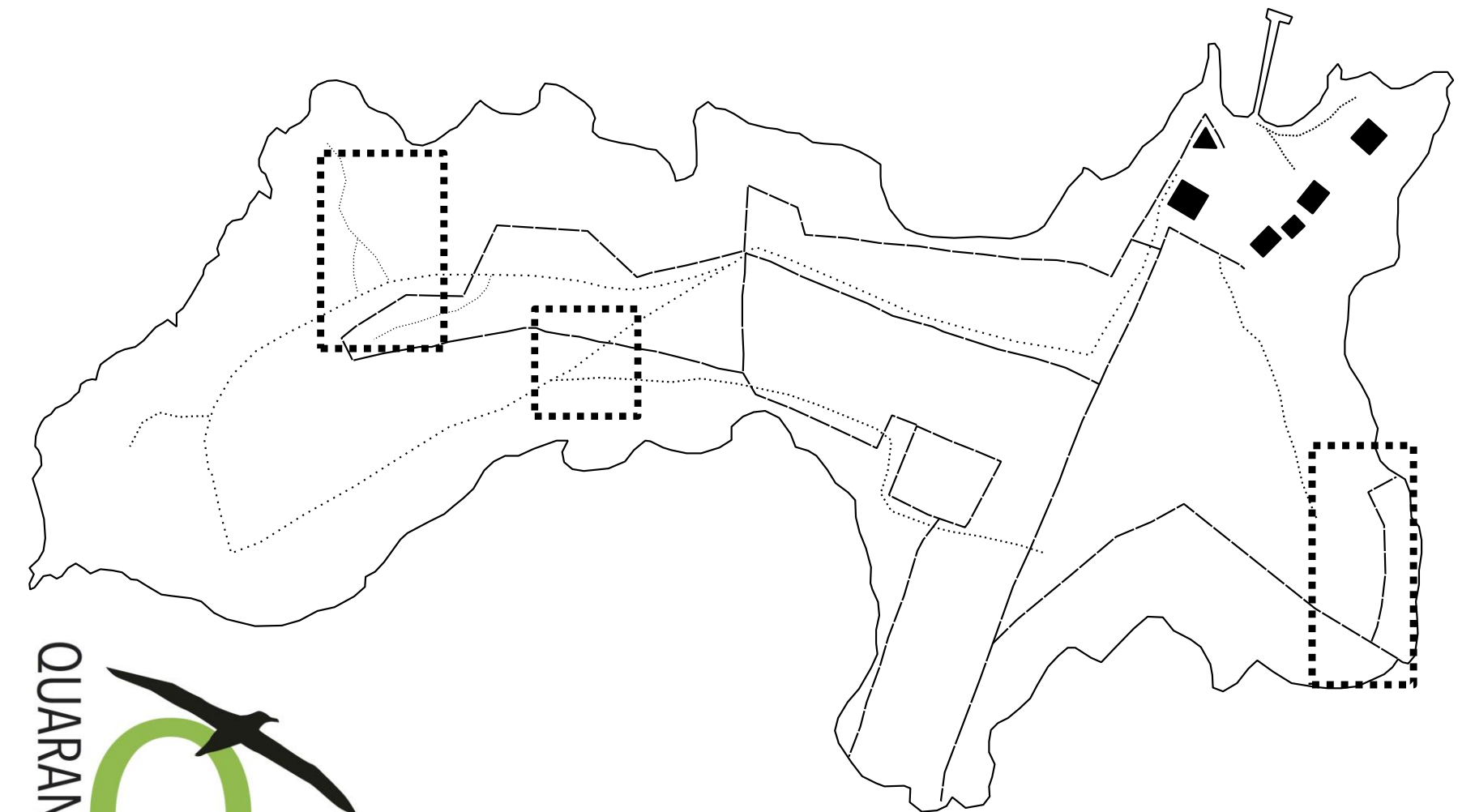
Native shrubs with twisty branches provide delicious fruit, e.g. Tororaro and porcupine shrub.



Habitat: Lizards are cold-blooded, so during the day when it is not so warm they are often out sunbathing to make sure they stay the right temperature. Keep an eye out in your backyard on cooler mornings, grey days.

Skinks love rock piles and log piles that have plenty of holes for hiding in case a predator comes by. During the cool winter rocks are really important to lizards as they hold the heat from the sun and keep the lizard warm.

Southern grass skinks prefer to live in grassy areas with rocky outcrops and in scrublands, rather than forests. We have seen plenty of wiggly lizard tails rushing off into the long grass around the island on hot days.



Areas where we are monitoring lizards are marked by the squares: edges of mature forest, long grass with shrubs and gorse/ taller shrub communities'

Life History:

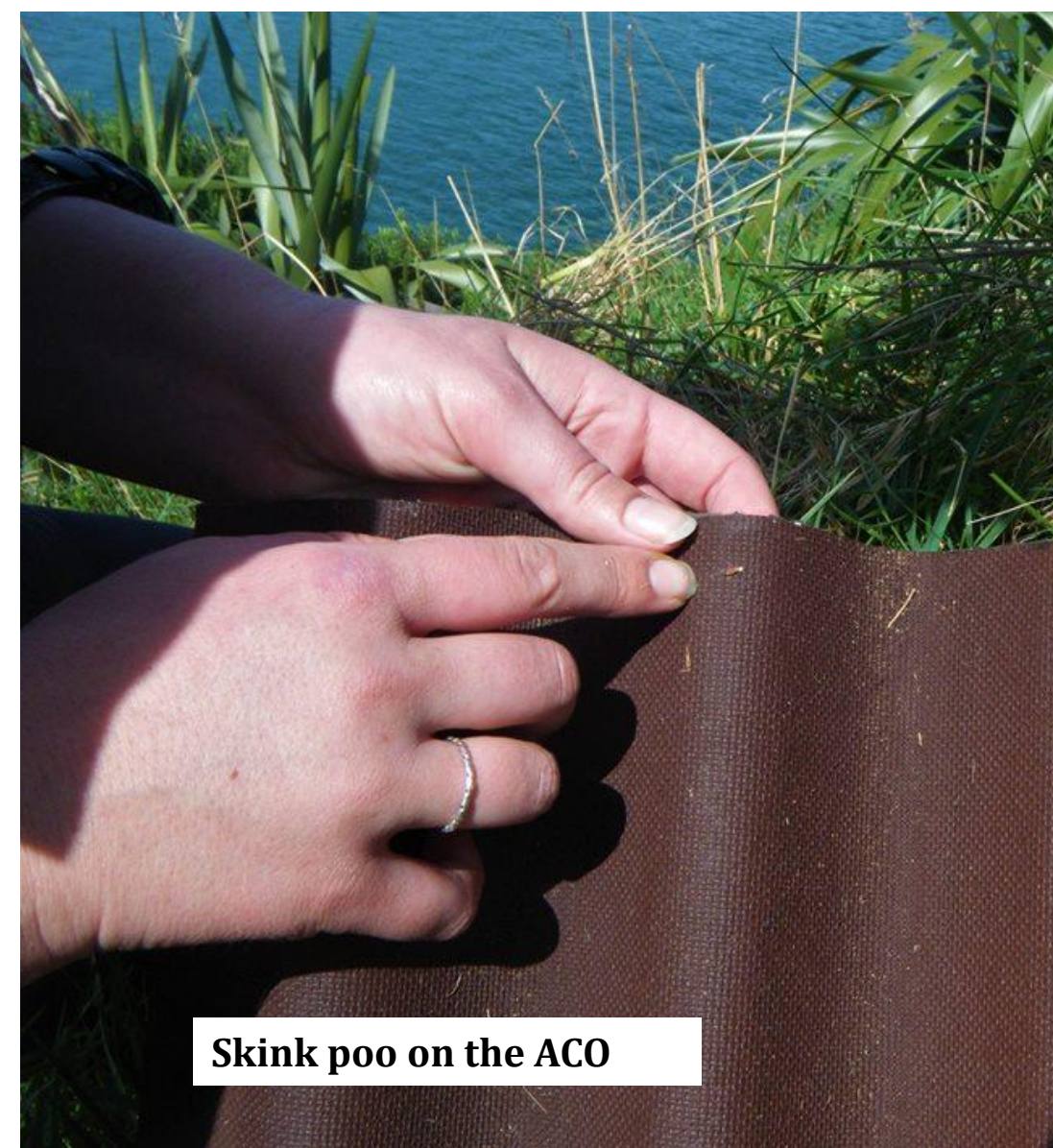
There are over 100 endemic (found only in NZ) species of lizard in New Zealand,

Almost all New Zealand lizards give birth to live young rather than laying eggs,

It can take between 1-5 years (or longer!) for some lizards to reach breeding age.

Skinks can give birth to between 1 and 6 young annually each summer, with geckos usually having only 2 babies each year,

Lizards in NZ are incredibly long-lived, with some geckos found to be over 40 years old in the wild and some skinks surviving to be over 30 years old in captivity!



Skink poo on the ACO

Make a lizard lounge in your backyard, check out the Department of Conservation's Toyota Guardians for ideas and to apply for a medal once you have made your own lizard lounge.

