



Suzanne Clegg and Phil Bradfield with one of more than 150 kokako banded at Mapara Wildlife Reserve in the past seven years.

IAN FLUX

Suzanne Clegg (DoC Te Kuiti) uses point height intercept equipment to determine how the forest vegetation is recovering in response to animal control at Mapara. Pest control undoubtedly benefits the entire forest community, even though in this case it primarily targeted kokako.

WHAT LIES AHEAD for the North Island kokako? We've won some of the battles, but what about the war?

Over the next year a revised recovery plan will be written. Managers are now confident that they can protect kokako in medium-sized (1,000 to 3,000-hectare) blocks. The recovery group is looking towards sustainable management for much larger areas and longer time periods. Future research and management will look at sustaining kokako over tens of thousands of hectares in the few remaining very large forests, especially Te Urewera. Eventually places such as Whanganui, from where kokako have disappeared, may again be home to this charismatic songster.

Whatever happens, the commitment and enthusiasm of the many people involved in kokako recovery has always remained high. Many early workers of ten to fifteen years ago like Rod Hay, Hazel Speed, Phil Bradfield, Gretchen Rasch,



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Rhys Buckingham, Dave King, Dale Williams and Alan Saunders are still involved. Forest and Bird remains actively supportive and currently administers the kokako Threatened Species Trust. Finally a huge debt is owed to the many dedicated field staff who have painstakingly undertaken pest control in these mainland restoration projects.

The future is looking brighter for Barley Magrew, Mohawk and other North Island kokako. ♦

SUE MOORE is completing a post-graduate Diploma in Wildlife Management, on study leave from DoC's Te Kuiti Field Centre. JOHN INNES is a scientist at Landcare Research, Hamilton. He is scientific coordinator of the kokako Research by Management programme, and was a founding member of the recovery group.

