

Surveying for bats in Taranaki

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Initial surveying for the continual presence of both the Lesser Short-tailed bats (*Mystacina tuberculata*) (STB) and the New Zealand Long-tailed bats (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*) (LTB) at Waitaanga in northern Taranaki was completed during the summer of 2012-13. This followed up on an original population project in this location during 1998 and 1999. Both species of bat were found to still be present at Waitaanga. Subsequently surveying for the presence of bats in additional areas of Taranaki, including for within Egmont National Park have been undertaken for the following three summer seasons. A total of 45 surveys have been successfully completed at 40 separate locations involving a total of 470 nights with 1,198 STB and 17,527 LTB passes recorded. This further improves our understanding of where bats remain present within the Taranaki region.