

# Post-release monitoring of the NI robin (*Petroica longipes*) at Bream Head Scenic Reserve, Whangarei, Northland

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Translocations have been used as an important conservation tool in New Zealand since the 1960s. Post-release monitoring is vital for quantifying the success of any translocation. North Island robins (*Petroica longipes*) were recently (April-May) reintroduced to Bream Head Scenic Reserve (685ha), where they have been locally extinct for over 100 years. Translocated birds were derived from two source populations, Mangatutu in Pureora forest, central North Island, and Tiritiri Matangi off the coast of the Whangaparoa peninsula. A combination of formal surveys and incidental observations are being used to evaluate the initial success of the translocation and to investigate whether robins display source population fidelity in pairing behaviour. As of July 31, 65% of the robins from both source populations have been observed, many of them more than once. Robins have also been sighted in most parts of the reserve. With around 66% of the released birds seen, early indications are that the translocation might succeed. Some individual birds have ranged widely across the reserve whereas others have been repeatedly observed in the same general location indicating they may be establishing territories, further increasing our confidence of the initial success of the translocation. Of the eight male/female interactions observed to date, only two were confirmed as birds from the same source population whereas six were from different source populations. Although more data are needed, this indicates that source fidelity may not be important in establishing pair bonds for robins. This will be beneficial where there are genetic management goals associated with a translocation. Formal surveys and informal observations will continue into the breeding season to further establish the outcome of the translocation.