

## BACK to 'BASE-ics' : Waikawau Bay wetlands and estuary action, monitoring and research over 10 years.

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Back to “Base”-ics:

A 10 year journey with a bit of No.8 science. Trapping and poisoning regimes constantly had to be re-adapted to wet conditions.

Understanding the ecosystems we were working in also became imperative when it was discovered that there was a small resilient population of fernbirds, and spotless crane, banded rail, pateke, and bittern. We needed to better understand and adapt to the environment we were working in and measure success or failures as we went. These are some of the tools we used:

- ☐ Ecological baseline surveys including reptiles, fish, shellfish and invertebrates,
  - ☐ Bird surveys on an annual basis with anecdotal records from locals
  - ☐ monitoring for positive /negative effects of rodent control with presence/absence of reptiles/inverts/birds
  - ☐ botanical assessments and surveys, weed pest impacts and research ( especially for *paspalum vaginatum*),
  - ☐ research into mice trapping techniques and baiting regimes
  - ☐ control plots when necessary.
- Assessing fernbird recruitment into other areas.