



Meaning and design of nature for the urban built environment

24 – 26 August, 2005

Lincoln University

Managing New Zealand cities for indigenous wildlife

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The most conspicuous birds in New Zealand cities are almost invariably introduced. Few indigenous landbird species have adjusted to human induced land clearance and the suite of introduced mammalian predators present in urban environments. However, problems encountered when attempting to restore indigenous forest birds in urban landscapes go beyond providing sufficient habitat and reducing predator impacts. Many New Zealand landbirds have limited powers of dispersal, and translocations may be a necessary component of restoration.

Forest birds are returning to Wellington city as a result of effective possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) and rat (*Rattus* sp.) control in urban reserves, as well as translocations of 11 forest bird species to predator-free sites within or near the city. Most of these translocations have been to the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, a 252 ha predator-fenced reserve embedded in the Wellington townbelt. Characteristics of each bird species that affect their vulnerability to urban predator guilds are discussed, and predictions on their ability to survive outside the fence are compared with empirical data. Species known or suspected to have bred in unfenced sites since 2000 include whitehead (*Mohoua albicilla*), bellbird (*Anthornis melanura*), tomtit (*Petroica macrocephala*) and red-crowned parakeet (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*) in addition to 8 indigenous forest bird species already present.