Corporate video now available with new translations

The well-received corporate video that details the manufacturing, research & development, and operations behind Bell's rodent control products, is now debuting in five new languages.

With subtitles translated into French, Spanish, German, Italian and Greek – customers around the world can learn more about the day-to-day operations at Bell's headquarters.

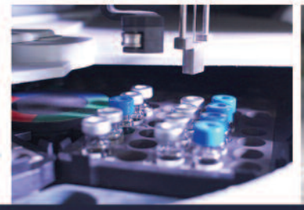
Contact your Bell Representative for more information about viewing the videos.

Bell LABORATORIES, INC.

3699 KINSMAN BLVD. | MADISON, WI 53704
www.belllabs.com

Address Service Requested

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit 1355



THE BELL REPORT

North American Edition

VOLUME 35 | NUMBER 1 | JANUARY-MARCH 2016

Shiant Isles

TURN TO BELL TO PROTECT CHERISHED SEABIRDS

Eradicating rodents, be it in any environment, is a challenging job. Now imagine a scenario in which you need to eliminate more than 3,600 black rats (Roof Rats, *Rattus rattus*), over the course of a blistery winter on remote and uninhabited islands off the coast of Scotland.

The only way to get there is sailing through rough waters. With no harbour on the isles, you need to lug heavy equipment (18 lb. pails of bait, bait stations, food and more!) over an undulating landscape of slippery rocks and seaweed. Finally, baiting takes place along rugged terrains and jagged cliffs, which means harnessing into a makeshift ropes course and scaling across the rock face with bait in tow.

This synopsis was the actual job description for the team members of the Shiant Isles Recovery Project. Their mission is to remove invasive black rats from the isles in order to protect the cherished seabirds that breed there every year.

The Shiant Isles Recovery Project (SIRP) is a partnership between RSPB Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Nicolson Family; it is funded by EU LIFE+ Nature LIFE13 NAT/UK/000209. The eradication of black rats is being led by Wildlife Management International Ltd with the support of Engebrets and Sea Harris Ltd.

The Enchanted Isles

The Shiant name derives from a Gaelic term meaning "holy" or "enchanted". A befitting name for the moss-soaked isles, an emerald jewel rising from the sea on the Scottish horizon. As a designated Special Protection Area (SPA), the Shiants are one of the most important seabird breeding sites in Europe.

During the peak summer breeding season, thousands of seabird species inhabit the island including more than 65,000 pairs of puffins and tens of thousands of guillemots, razorbills and shags, amongst other species. This prolific nesting means an abundance of food for black

Continued on page 2

Right: Tom Churchyard (RSPB) accessing bait stations on the cliffs

Shiant Isles *Cont. from page 2*

Will Whittington and John Tayton preparing bait for the boulder field.

stations will be placed around the islands to detect any wandering intruders which would then be targeted by an incursion response. Biosecurity best-practice approaches will be developed as part of this project in accordance with U.K. legislation and environmental considerations.

The work on the Shiant Isles is also intended to develop expertise in the UK for both island restorations and implementation of biosecurity protocols. The RSPB aim to develop these over coming years to secure a better future for all of the UK's seabird islands.

Interim Project Manager, Tom Churchyard said "this project is really our proving ground. Our work here is testing our logistical ability, pushing the boundaries on what RSPB have previously been comfortable doing. Alongside other work in the UK, such as the excellent Isles of Scilly Seabird Recovery Project, we hope this work will give us the skills to protect and restore seabird islands around our diverse coastline."

In two years, the SIRP team hopes for a successful eradication and a "rat-free" declaration to ensure the safety for thousands of seabirds for generations to come.

For more information about the Shiant Isles Recovery Project visit www.rspb.org.uk/shiantslife

Shiant Isles *Cont. from front page*

Team briefing prior to baiting.

rats, whose summer population is estimated to be as high as 30,000.

Rodents are one of the most serious threats to the seabird species. They prey on the eggs and hatchlings of birds while threatening fauna and native flora. Between 2000 and 2013 it was reported that 10 of the 16 monitored Scottish seabird colonies suffered from significant declines, due in part to predation by invasive species.

The black rat is thought to have invaded the Shiant Isles from a shipwreck dating back to the 18th century. Many believe the isles are the only remaining home to black rats throughout the UK, driven out by their more aggressive and larger counterparts, the brown rat (Norway rat, ***Rattus Norvegicus***). Recent National Biodiversity Network data shows, however, black rat populations around the U.K, particularly in ports and port towns.

Conserving the sanctity of such important breeding grounds was the catalyst behind the SIRP's determination to take on the project. Removing the rodents ensures the safety to the breeding seabirds, returning the isles to their "enchanted" epithet.

"By eradicating the invasive rat population on the Shiants, the project aims to increase the resilience of seabirds and help to reverse population declines," said Elizabeth "Biz" Bell, senior ecologist with family-owned Wildlife Management International (WMIL) of New Zealand, who set up the project's rat removal program. "In the absence of rats, struggling seabirds will have safe breeding sites on the Shiants which will allow the recovery and restoration of the island's existing colonies."

A Triple Threat

The SIRP team needed rodent control products that not only performed well, but also prove time and again to be reliable. Rodenticide that was palatable, effective and resistant to mould and mildew in the ubiquitously soggy region of Northwest Scotland was of utmost importance. Bait stations and traps designed to withstand the harshest of elements and keep non-targets out, was of course a top priority as well. So, the team turned to Bell's Contrac® Blox, Protecta® Bait Station and Trapper® T-Rex® Rat Snap Traps – a triple-threat in rodent elimination.

With product in hand, the next challenge was laying out a plan of attack. How do you bait a boulder field laid at a 90-degree angle, a cliff or a shoreline, all while ensuring no risk to non-target species?

First tactic, the team planned the baiting and eradication phase to take place during the winter of 2015-2016, when populations (both rats and seabirds) were at their lowest levels.

Next step was determining bait placement. The team began by placing canes across the islands to establish a bait station grid. Tube bait stations were placed at each marker, with Protecta stations employed in the toughest terrain. The climbing team also established routes along the island for bait placement along the shoreline cliffs.

Eight blocks of Contrac Blox were placed in each station, and 150 T-Rex Snap Traps were used in the pre-assessment phase for resistance sampling and collecting specimens. It took 1,100 bait stations (including 250 Protecta stations) and 4 tonnes (8,800 pounds) of bait for the project alone.

"After the initial baiting, results were encouraging with large amount of bait take along the coastlines and boulder fields," said Bell.

The team took several steps to ensure bait take was up-to-standards. They set trail cameras up to record rats eating bait. Flavourful, non-toxic wax blocks placed between bait stations served as a monitoring device to pinpoint any bait-shy or trap-shy rodents.

The team also recorded chew marks on the wax-blocks to determine which smells and flavours enticed rodents the most, to later employ during monitoring stages.

The Road Ahead

With the eradication stage now complete, the second stage of the project begins, encouraging seabird species to breed on the isles.

"From spring 2016 Manx shearwaters and Storm petrels will be encouraged to nest on the Shiant Isles, and their expected recovery will be monitored," said Bell. One method of encouragement – the team will use loudspeaker systems to broadcast birdcalls to assure migrating seabirds that the isles are now a safe refuge.

Biosecurity measures will also be developed to reduce any risk of re-infestation. Permanent

Continued on back page

IS IT A MOLE, A VOLE, OR A DIFFERENT RODENT HOLE?

Quite often voles are mistaken for moles (or gophers, or Norway rats) and vice versa. These animals spend most of their lives underground, making proper identification even trickier. Voles spend an average of 10 minutes a day above ground and moles rarely venture to the surface.

What clues we do have are the burrows, runways and mounds they create to access their underground networks. But, how can you tell the difference between rodent burrows and runways? Properly identifying the pest (mole or vole in this case) can be the difference in a pest management program that works and one that is a continued source of frustration. Here are a couple tips and tricks to keep in mind.

VOLES

- Create well-defined surface runways, about two inches wide
- Burrows have clearly visible entry and exit holes
- Runways form as voles constantly scurry back and forth between burrows and food sources
- Sometimes voles will take advantage of abandoned mole tunnels, so look for the entry and exit holes to determine if it's a vole infestation

MOLES

- Cone/volcano shaped hills (or mounds) that contain loose soil and large dirt clods
- The mounds are created as moles push dirt upwards while tunneling for food
- Underground runways are slightly raised – caused by tunneling of moles under soil
- Runways are much wider than those created by voles

Personnel News

Bell Promotes Westover, Haddad and Lynch

Mark Westover

Former Vice President of Sales and Business Development, Mark Westover, has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer for Bell. In his new role, he will be providing strategic guidance and leadership, overseeing Research & Development, Operations and Customer Service.

To ensure a continued commitment to serving customers, Bell also promoted Sheila Haddad and Patrick Lynch to Vice President of Sales. In their new roles, they will oversee the management of Bell's domestic technical representatives for the professional pest control market in the U.S.

Sheila Haddad

Patrick Lynch

Haddad is based near Hartford, Conn. and will manage the Eastern regions of the U.S. and Eastern Canada. Lynch is based near San Diego, Calif. and will manage the Western regions of the U.S. and Western Canada.

Haddad brings more than 25 years of industry experience to her position. She joined Bell in 2003 as a technical representative and served more recently as regional manager for the East Coast. She currently serves on two boards; the Connecticut Pest Control Association and the New England Pest Management Association.

Lynch gained his expertise in the rodent control industry working as a Bell technical representative for the New York and New Jersey region since 2006, and more recently as a regional manager for the West Coast. He currently serves on the National Pest Management Association public policy committee.■