

## Island Conservation

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vation efforts put forth over the last two years, North Seymour Island and Mosquera Islet are beginning to see growth in their ecosystems.

### Lehua Island

Lehua Island was declared free of rodents as of mid-April. Restoring the island's ecosystem and saving various native plant and animal species is the main goal when eliminating rodent populations. Bell contributed to this Hawaiian project by manufacturing and shipping 22,000 lbs. of rodent bait. Due to the conservation efforts taken on Lehua Island, 14 native plants were restored, and 17 seabird species, many of which are threatened, can nest safely. ■



Island Conservation staff transporting bait. Photo Credit: Andrew Wright & Freddy Villamar



# THE BELL REPORT

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## 3 MORE ISLANDS DECLARED RODENT-FREE

Bell Laboratories is pleased to announce that three more islands are declared rodent-free as of May 2021.

### North Seymour Island & Mosquera Islet

Two Galapagos islands, North Seymour Island and Mosquera Islet, found that their ecosystems were disrupted by not one, but two species of rats, the Black rat (*Rattus rattus*) and the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*). The infestation of rodents caused a major threat to many native Galapagos plants and animals.

Combating these rodents was a new experience for all with the first-time use of drone technology. Drones were chosen over helicopters because of their precision, which ultimately saved money, time, and effort. For this project, three drones flew on a GPS-directed path

to cover over 50% of North Seymour Island in bait; the rest was distributed by hand with the help of 30 park rangers. Bell manufactured and shipped 12,000 lbs. of rodent bait to aid in this project.

In addition, bait stations were placed around the perimeter of the islands to prevent any future invasions. Bell provided the islands with 288 EVO Express bait stations and 432 Protecta bait stations. The contributions made by Bell Labs aided the Island Conservation team in their in the removal of the invasive rats, and both Galapagos islands were declared rodent-free in late May.

Island Conservation's successful elimination of rodents also lead to the survival of many rare birds such as Blue-footed Boobies, Frigatebirds, and Swallowed-tailed Gulls. Due to the conser-



Photo Credit: Andrew Wright & Freddy Villamar

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## Take a Closer Look... COMMON RODENT ENTRY POINTS



Under Door Sweeps



Around HVAC Lines



Weep Holes



Garage & Roll-up Doors



Under Sinks



Roof Lines

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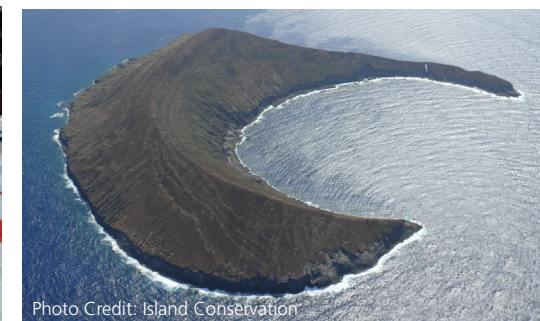


Photo Credit: Island Conservation



Photo Credit: Craig Riekens





# TRAPPING: DO'S & DON'TS

Critical trapping tips so you don't get outsmarted by rats at your accounts.

## DO'S

- Place trap facing towards the wall on rodent run lines
- Place traps back to back, parallel to the wall on rodent run lines
- Use zip-ties to fasten snap traps to PVC pipes where sebum or other rodent signs are present

## DON'TS

- Place one snap trap parallel to wall
- Leave space between the snap trap and wall
- Place snaps in corners

When EVO Tunnel is used in tandem with TRAPPER T-Rex, the result is a system that meets stringent NAWAC animal welfare standards established in New Zealand and recognized around the world.

**Protecta®**  
**EVO** **EDGE™**  
PATENT PENDING

**VERSATILE STATION  
FOR BAITING  
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Can hold up to 8  
20g or 28g  
Bait Blox

Holds 2 Mini T-Rex  
Snap Traps or  
1 T-Rex Snap Trap

Uses EVO key for  
fast, easy access



# Anatomy of a Rat



**3** FEATURES that make a rat, a rat



Rats' teeth are hard. In fact, on MOH's scale of hardness they rank 5.5. In theory, this means that a rodent can gnaw through copper, wood, cement, and aluminum, among other things. Rodents' teeth grow at a rate of about a half inch per month, so they must constantly be gnawing, or their teeth could grow to be a foot long in just two years!

Rodents' feet are built for burrowing, climbing, and jumping. The sharp nails on rats' front and back feet make them amazing climbers and diggers. Rats also have metatarsal pads on their feet that allow them to jump & climb without injury. Roof rats, because they spend so much time climbing and jumping, have extra metatarsal pads, to accommodate their particularly acrobatic lifestyle!



Rats' tails have many uses—they are used for balance, grip, and body temperature control. Specialized vessels regulate blood flow in the tail, when they fill up, they release heat, which cools down the rat. When the vessels constrict, they conserve heat, keeping the rat warm. Rats' tails are hairless so that heat can easily escape.\*

\*Source: National Geographic