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

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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-

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Photo Credits: Andrew Wright & Freddy Villamar

Take a Closer Look... COMMON RODENT ENTRY POINTS

Under Door Sweeps

Around HVAC Lines

Weep Holes

Garage & Roll-up Doors

Under Sinks

Roof Lines

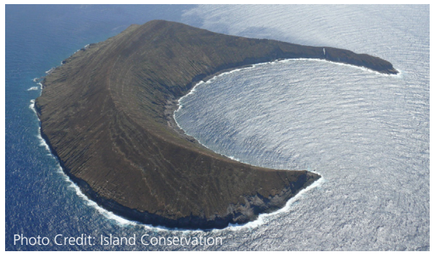

Photo Credit: Island Conservation

NEVER CHECK AN EMPTY TRAP AGAIN

TRAPPER® T-Rex® iQ™

Many PMPs think about using smart devices at accounts to improve on time savings and data collection. That, paired with historical data trends, means that smart devices have a place at every single type of rodent control account.

There's another major reason to incorporate smart traps, like T-REX iQ or 24/7 iQ into your routes: job safety and employee retention. Moving ladders, climbing pallets and climbing into crawlspaces can create unsafe conditions on the job site. This also creates a lot of work for PMPs to move ladders from one location to the next, regardless if there is rodent activity in the trap or not.

iQ products can greatly reduce the frequency PMPs are using ladders, by only climbing when activity has been verified from the ground.

How Long Would it Take to Check 20 iQ Traps?

iQ™ products have a Bluetooth® range of 30-100', depending on structural obstacles.

Many traps at accounts never see action. PMPs place traps in common sense areas, hoping to catch a rat or a mouse. Rodents like to travel in hard to reach, dark locations. To improve trapping efficacy, traps must be placed in these out of the way areas throughout the account.

Trapping can oftentimes be the most labor-intensive aspect of any rodent control job. From setting the traps out, getting ladders, securing the traps and then checking every one at each visit, conducting proper rodent trapping can eat up most of the time allocated to the account.

Imagine the warehouse to the left, with wood rat snap traps set around pallets and in the rafters. How long would it take every week to check these traps? Now think about using T-REX iQ. From this position in this warehouse, you would instantly know which handful of traps need service. Go straight to the two or three traps that need to be re-set, automatically capture timestamps for all traps, and move on to better inspections or increased customer interaction.

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*