

*Island Conservation* continued from front page

**Tetiaroa Atoll**

Rats have been dominating Tetiaroa Atoll for hundreds of years. After a failed attempt to rid the island of invasive rats in 2012, conservationists are ready to try again, but this time with the help of drone technology. For decades helicopters have been the primary tool for distribution of pelleted rodenticides on remote islands, but drones are cheaper, smaller, lighter, and can be easily transported and reassembled. Also, fewer people are required for operation. Drones are programmed to fly along a predetermined path, dropping bait

so precisely that the application avoids non-targets. There is no need to hire and fly in an international helicopter pilot when local experts can be trained to fly these drones through an automated process. Efforts to eradicate these invasive rodents from the island will begin early next year. ■



Photo Credit: Carol Raydon & Tetiaroa Society



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**COME SEE US AT BOOTH #517**

Off the west coast of Puerto Rico, you will find a tiny island, Desecheo Island. This island was once home to one of the largest colonies of birds in the Caribbean before it was overrun with roof rats (*Rattus rattus*). It took many years to rid the island of this invasive mammal. With the help of Island Conservation teams and the use of Bell Laboratories Island Restoration Bait, Desecheo Island was declared rodent free in 2017. But conservation efforts didn't stop there, the new task was to repopulate the island with the previous seabird species, such as brown noddies, brown boobies, red-footed boobies, and bridled terns.

Bird decoys (made from pvc plastic) and sound system speakers were chosen as the solution. Triangular mirrors were also put up next to these decoys to create the illusion of

more birds than were actually present. This made it seem as if the island was crowded with birds, making it appear to be a safe and optimal nesting area. The speakers were placed strategically around the island and played sounds of seabirds to attract those flying overhead. Within the first year, conservationists observed that these tactics were producing good results, that is until a huge storm hit the island, causing massive destruction to all of the decoys, mirrors, and speakers. Luckily, some bridled terns still made it to the island in time for breeding season. Once the researchers receive more tools, they believe additional migrating seabirds will find their way back to Desecheo Island. The techniques used on this island have proven successful and can be repeated on other Caribbean islands in order to bring back their lost seabird populations.

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# Friends OF THE FOREST



Behind Bell's corporate office sits a lush 4-acre forest and walking path. Earlier this year, Bell offered corporate office employees, who have an interest in the outdoors, a chance to get out from their desk and learn more about this asset. About seven people signed up to form Friends of the Forest.

The idea is for them to meet a couple times a year to either discuss the types of plants discovered or even lend a hand to fight some of the invasive, undesirable plants. "It's our own little four-acre island restoration project" expressed Jared Hook, Director of Procurement, and originator of this group.

The purpose is not only to help the woods look beautiful and stay healthy, but also to get people outside and give them a chance to interact in a new way. This group is open to all; some already have an interest in nature, while others just want the chance to learn something new.

There have been reported animal sightings of deer, turkeys, coyotes, and foxes so far, as well as a variety of bird species. Currently, the group is working on identifying and taking inventory of all the plants in the forest, so that they can determine what needs to be controlled and what to help propagate.

A few projects are already underway, such as the planting of some pine trees, maple trees, and bushes. Bull thistles were recently dug up before they got the chance to bud. This effort kept thousands of new seeds from being released. Also, the five closest oak trees to the building were dead wooded, meaning they were trimmed up to remove dead branches, as well as treated against oak wilt and oak blight, to give them the best chance of survival.

A lot of work happens behind the scenes to make our land look ravishing, so thank you to all those that contribute in some way or another. ■

## PULSE BAITING WITH iQ

Increasing regulatory pressure on the use of rodenticides makes it critical for pest management professionals (PMPs) to ensure their knowledge of rodent activity is verifiable.

One tactic PMPs can implement is the combination of non-toxic monitoring blocks in conjunction with rodent monitoring technology. This gives PMPs proof of which bait stations have rodent activity. PMPs can then use this information to

provide a targeted rodenticide approach for their customers. Knowledge of when and where rodents are traveling also allows PMPs to:

- ✓ Use snap traps in bait stations with verified activity.
- ✓ Know where exclusion efforts will be most effective.
- ✓ Know when active bait rotation is necessary.

## MAKE THE SWITCH AFTER PROVEN ACTIVITY

### PRE-BAIT USING DETEX® NON-TOXIC BAIT

Pulse baiting is the use of a non-active monitoring bait to first diagnose activity in bait stations. Once activity is confirmed, an active bait is placed in the bait station.



### SWITCH TO ACTIVE BAIT

When rodent activity is proven via Bell Sensing App, swap out non-toxic monitor for an active bait.



FROM THIS  TO THIS

## Bell's iQ Products Win Top Award

Bell's iQ product line was granted the 2021 Internet of Things (IoT) Evolution Business Impact Award. As a recipient of this award, Bell demonstrated how the iQ products, solutions and services provide leadership to its industry. These affordable, smart rodent devices proved to be one of the top innovating solutions that are paving the way for the IoT future, as well as the future of rodent control. ■



### iQ PRODUCT LINE UP



## CONTRAC<sup>®</sup> California

**SAME GREAT BRAND,  
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**NOW AVAILABLE IN  
SOFT BAIT**



Bell Laboratories, Inc. has launched Contrac California Bromethalin Soft Bait for the California market. Bell is committed to providing pest management professionals with the tools needed for successful rodent control, no matter the regulatory changes our industry faces. Similar to Bell's Contrac California Blox, this soft bait is made with the single feed, acute active ingredient bromethalin. Available now as 8g sachets packaged in a 16lb pail, this product is registered for use only in the state of California. ■