

# Conservation tales: the assumption of happily ever after



Sophie Fern  
@sophiefern

# Flagship species conservation in New Zealand

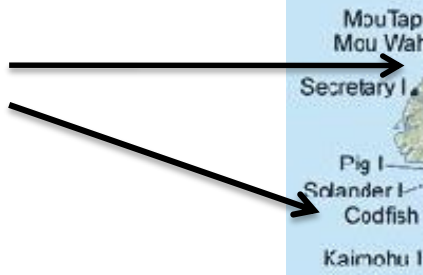




Takahē



Kākāpō



Chatham Island  
Black robin

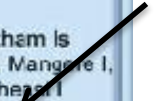
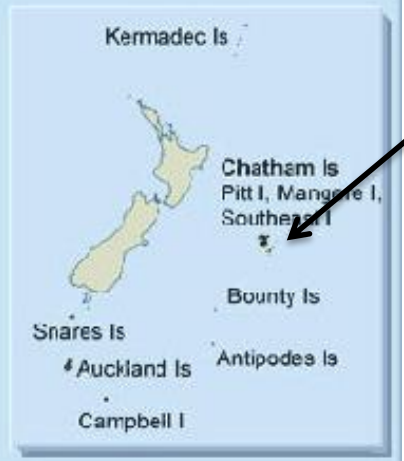
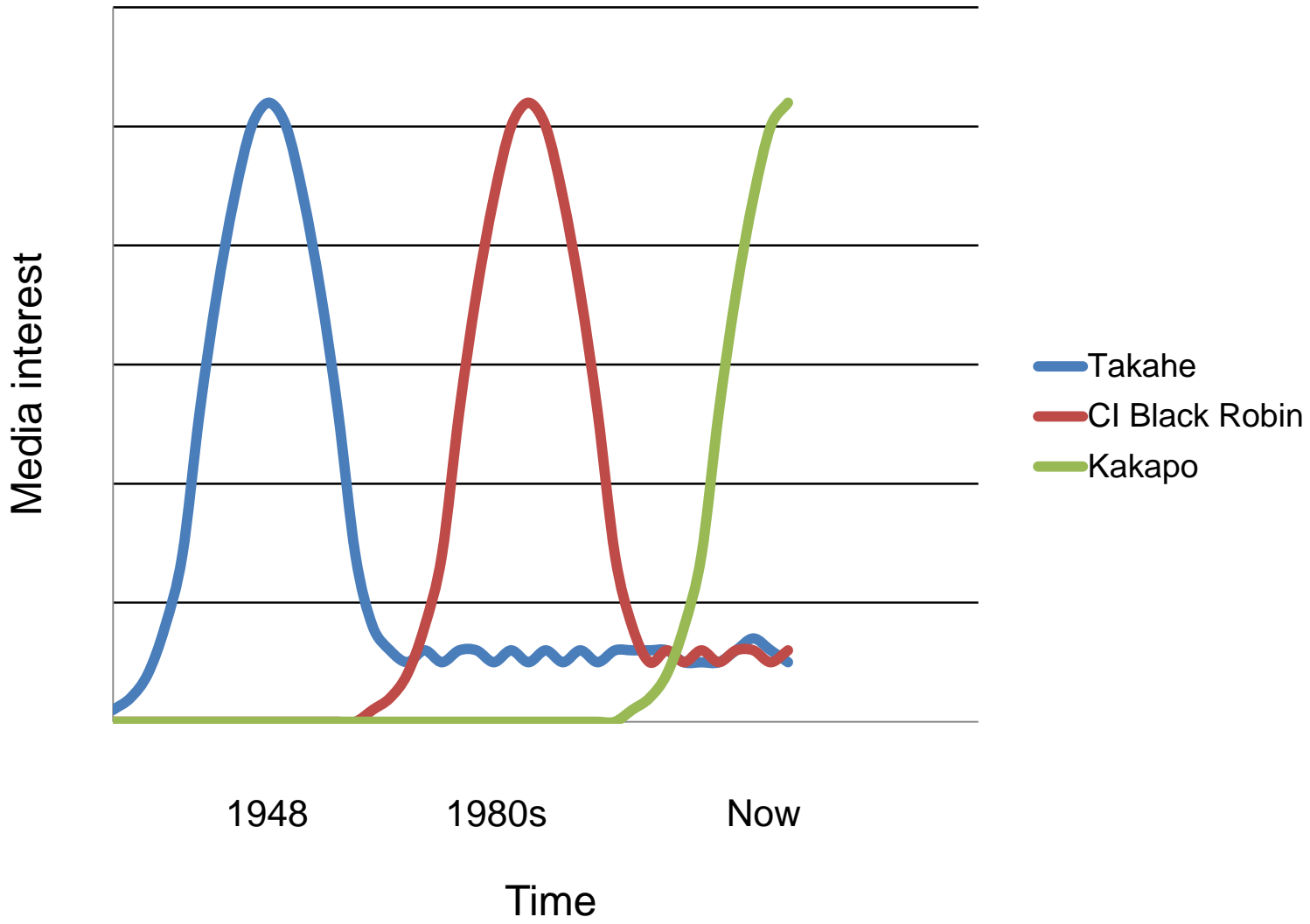
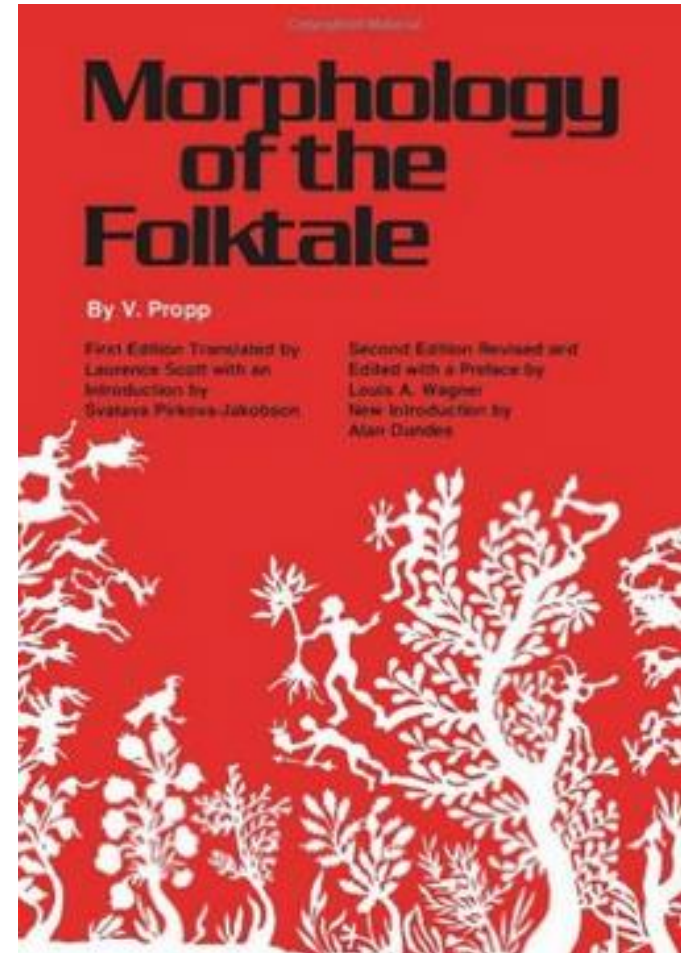


Image from <http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/habitats/offshore-islands/our-offshore-islands/>





Vladimir Propp (1895-1970)  
My favourite Russian theorist





...or did they?



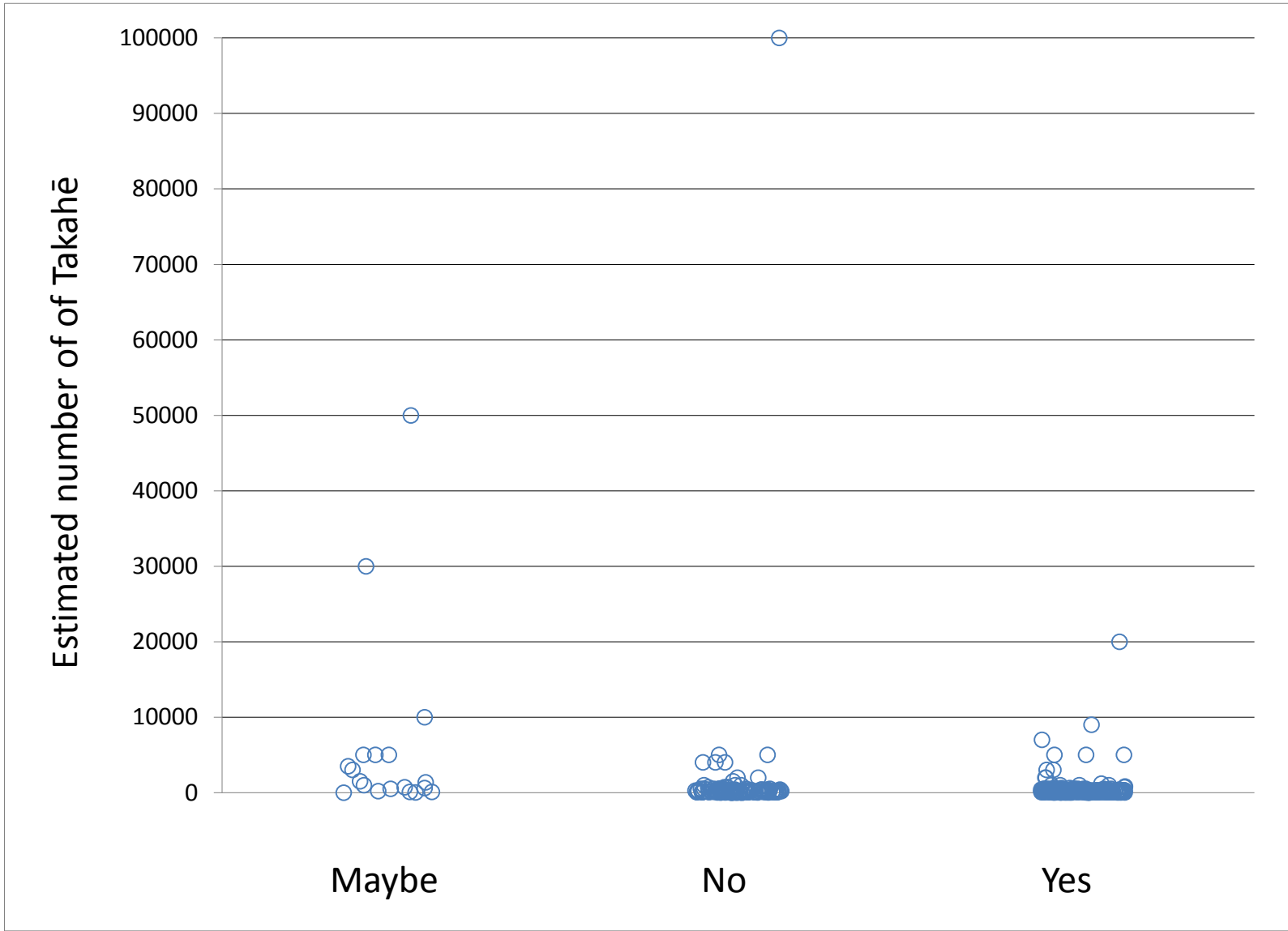
**Sophie Fern** @SophieFern · Mar 29

If you live in NZ, I'd love you to fill out this short survey. It doesn't matter if you don't know the answers:

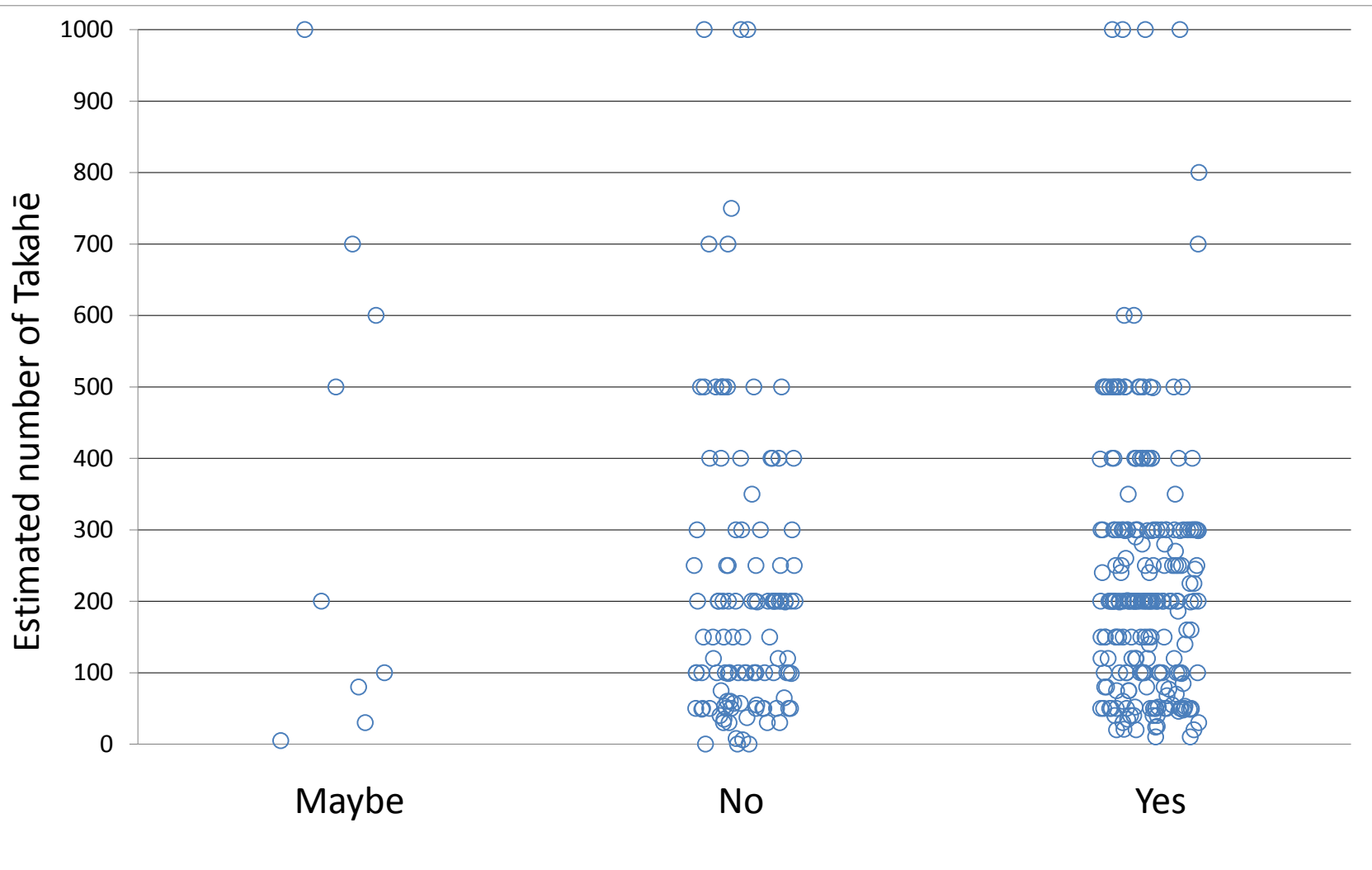
[surveymonkey.com/r/72VMNNJ](https://surveymonkey.com/r/72VMNNJ)

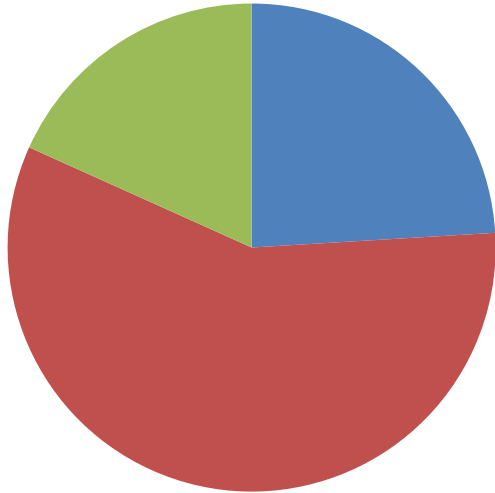
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- Have you ever seen a takahē and, if so, can you describe where?
- Without looking up the answer, how many takahē are there in New Zealand?
- Have you ever seen a kākāpō and, if so, can you describe where?
- Without looking up the answer, can you estimate how many kākāpō there are in New Zealand?
- Have you heard of the Chatham Island black robin?
- If your answer to question 5 was yes, can you briefly outline what you know about them?
- If your answer to question 5 was yes, can you estimate how many Chatham Island black robins there are in New Zealand?
- What is your age range

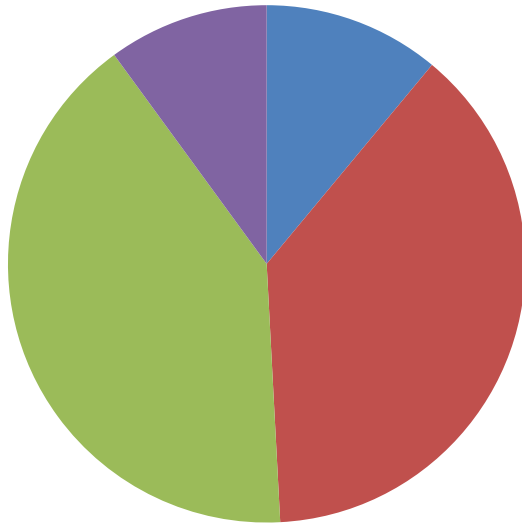






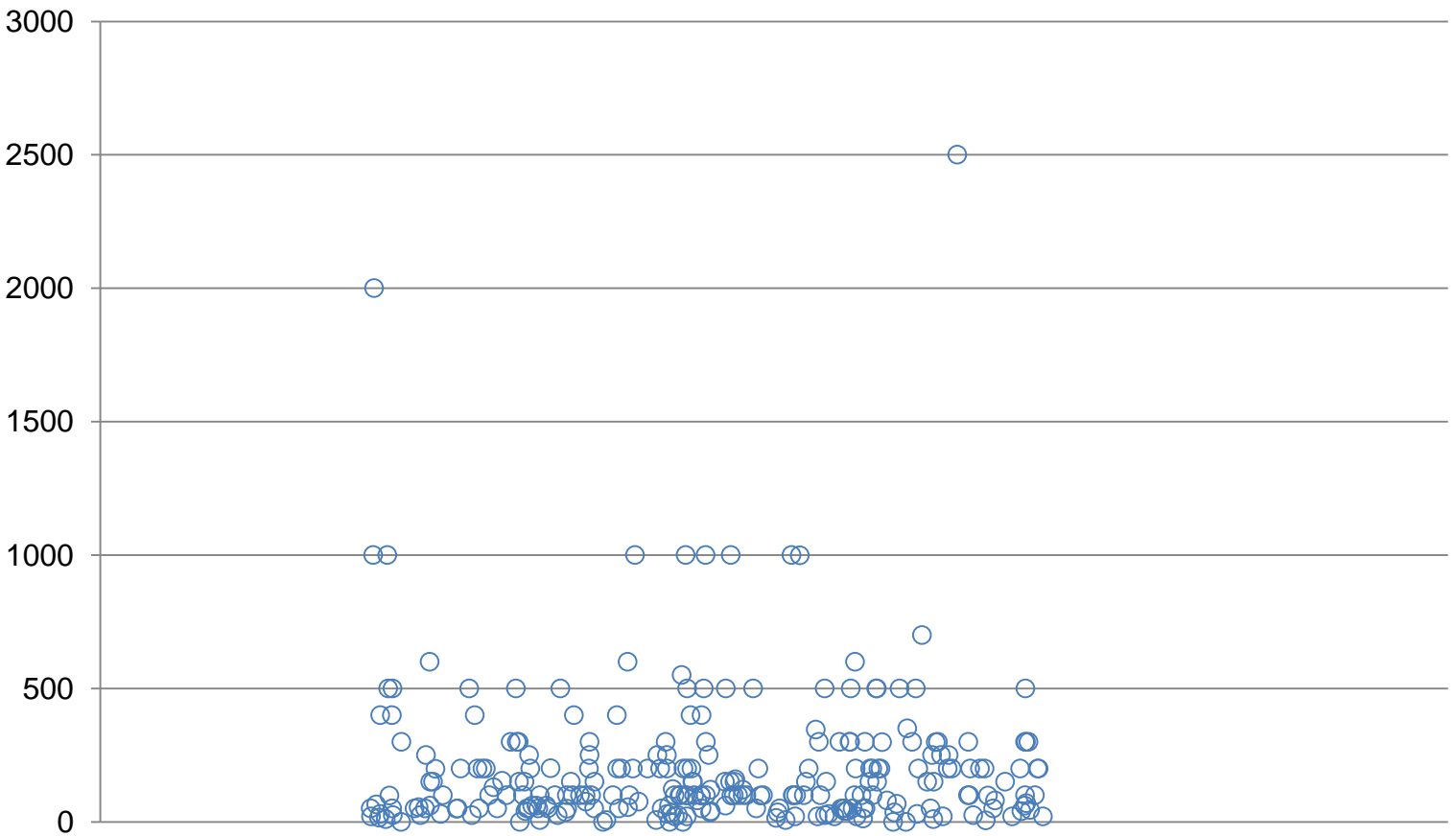


Of the 25% who had NOT heard of the Chatham Island Black Robin:  
24% were aged under 30  
58% were aged 31-45  
18% were aged 46+



Of the 73% who HAD heard of the Chatham Island Black Robin:  
11% were aged under 30  
38% were aged 31-45  
41% were aged 46-60  
10% were aged 60+

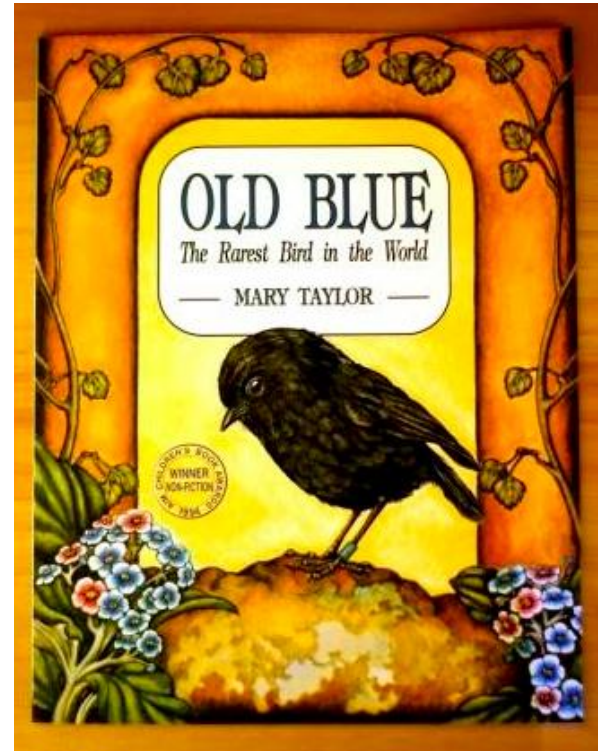
Estimated number of Chatham Island  
Black Robins



Yes



Don Merton  
“The man who saved the Black Robin”  
1929-2011



Old Blue  
“The last remaining fertile female”







New Zealand conservationists celebrate rare parrot breeding success

- The public knows less about these animals than I thought they would
- Those who have had one-on-one encounters estimated the number of these animals more accurately.
- CI Black Robins story has become NZ culture





@SophieFern the robins are probably under 300?! I had no idea, Thought they were in the thousands now. Sadness. For all they are seen as a “success story” they have a long way to go

@SophieFern Done. I actually thought Kākāpō and Black Robin were extinct so learnt something :-)

@SophieFern I’m facepalming about overestimating the robin Numbers. I guess it’s knowing how far they’ve come made me think it was more

“All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others”  
George Orwell

