

Mohua released in Arthur's Pass



A charitable trust has relocated 58 mohua from Chalky Island in Fiordland to the Hawdon Valley at Arthur's Pass in a bid to halt the decline of the bright yellow bird. The native bird, which features on the New Zealand \$100 note, is found only in the South Island and is critically endangered. One of the Mohua Charitable Trust founders, Nigel Babbage, said yesterday's relocation was the largest to Canterbury since it was founded in 2010 and cost \$32,000. A team of 12 Department of Conservation staff captured the birds with mist nets and transported them by helicopter from Te Anau to Rangiora. Another helicopter took them to Hawdon Valley, where they were released. "There were two known mohua in Hawdon Valley and now there are 60, so hopefully we're re-establishing the population in Canterbury," Babbage said. Pictured, Graeme Elliott, a scientist at the Department of Conservation, releases 58 endangered mohua into the Hawdon Valley at Arthur's Pass.

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