

THE BUDGIE WHO THOUGHT IT WAS A MOUSE!

Those members who thought it was only finches who are silly enough to get caught in a mouse trap will need to think again.

Our Services Officer, Dennis Lomman, was recently surprised to find a young three month old budgie dead inside his “Catch-All” mouse trap. Dennis has regularly used this type of trap in his budgie aviaries over many years without previously catching any budgies. Fortunately the budgie was not one which Dennis thought would go onto be a winner on the show bench.

Just goes to show that when keeping and breeding birds, surprises never end!

Ed: The usual solution to this problem is to solder one or two wires over the entrance holes on these traps, particularly if used in finch aviaries.



The Orange-fronted Kākāriki



ILLUSTRATION:
W.T. Green—1884

Malherbe's Kākāriki, *Cyanoramphus malherbi*, is endemic to New Zealand, where it is commonly known as the Orange-fronted Parakeet, a name it shares with a species from Middle America. The species is critically endangered with only 50–200 individuals left in the wild.

For many years the Malherbe's Kākāriki was considered a subspecies, or colour variant, of the more common Yellow-crowned Kākāriki, *C. auriceps*. However, recent research has shown that it is a valid species. They live in Southern Beech forest on the South Island, although they may have had a wider habitat range prior to the arrival of humans. They are threatened by the felling of old growth forest, which provided the hollows in which they nest, by overgrazing of the low bushes on which they feed and by predation from introduced rats, stoats and cats.

Reference: Wikipedia