

(4) *Stewart Island*

Active measures were pursued towards the eradication of rabbits, which were illegally liberated on Stewart Island and had increased and spread to such an extent as to give cause for the gravest concern for the welfare of the flora of the island.

There are now grounds for believing that this pest has been entirely removed from the main island (Stewart Island), but the utmost vigilance will be maintained and steps taken to eradicate them from a small off-shore island which still remains infested.

Steps were taken to deal with a colony of German owls, known enemies of small native birds, and intensive trapping has, it is believed, resulted in their eradication.

(5) *Animal Pests destroyed*

The numbers of animals during the financial year ended 31st March, 1946, showing the zones of operations in which they were destroyed and the numbers of each species, are set forth in the following tables:—

Table A.—Numbers destroyed in each Zone of Operations during the Financial Year 1st April, 1945, to 31st March, 1946

Area of Operations.	Deer.	Chamois.	Goats.	Pigs.	Totals.
<i>North Island</i>					
Urewera country	928	..	..	139	1,067
Kaimanawa Ranges	1,686	..	59	255	2,100
Ruahine Ranges	303	..	569	50	922
Tararua Ranges	398	..	196	9	603
<i>South Island</i>					
Otago	1,036	3	..	..	1,039
South Westland	1,471	1	..	..	1,472
Southland	2,366	16	..	46	2,428
Stewart Island ...	351	..	..	..	351
Totals	8,539	20	824	599	9,983

Table B.—Numbers of each Species destroyed in the Financial and Operational Years

Species.	Financial Year, 1st April, 1945, to 31st March, 1946.	Operational Year, 1st June, 1944, to 31st May, 1945.
Red deer (<i>Cervus elephas</i>)	8,433	9,389
Fallow deer (<i>Mazama dama</i>)	..	1,368
Virginian deer (<i>Cervus virginianus</i>)	106	170
Chamois (<i>Rupicapra tragus</i>)	20	22
Wild goats	824	2,307
Wild pigs	599	330
Wild cats*	57	38
Rabbits*	144	47

* Stewart Island only.