tended to be habitat and diet generalists [15], making it easier for them to adapt to different environments. The generalist nature of the species of successful translocations made them more likely to be able to establish populations in new habitats. In contrast to generalist species, specialists may have trouble adapting to a new environment. However, birds that are specialists, but have all of their required resources present on New Zealand, may also establish themselves once translocated, assuming they can occupy open niches or outcompete animals that occupy those niches.

It should be noted that this study has several limitations. First and foremost, the sample size of the native mainland translocations is small. A larger sample size would strengthen the statistical tests and provide more accurate results. Another limitation is that most of the translocation data end around the year 2000. No data were found for the native New Zealand and native mainland translocations that extend after 2004 with the exception of two mainland translocations that go to 2007. Furthermore, all of the translocations involving the introduced passerines were from the late 1800s with only seven extending into the early 1900s. Additional monitoring years for all of these translocated populations would make this analysis stronger.

In accordance with the above conclusions, we recommend that any future translocations involving birds, especially those on islands such as New Zealand, be evaluated individually. Trends in data, like those presented in Griffith et al. and Wolf et al. [1-2], should not be the sole criteria used to determine parameters of the translocation, such as the optimal founder group size. These trends may be used to get a rough estimate of the numbers needed. However, the data in this analysis illustrates that founder group size is not a significant factor in the success of translocations of native birds. Therefore, other factors should be evaluated for their importance to the success of the translocation.

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