



NEW ZEALAND (/NEWS/NATIONAL) / EN

## **New home for endangered black stilts**

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A new breeding aviary for the world's rarest wading bird is about to be built in the Mackenzie Basin near Twizel, the Conservation Minister says.



Conservation Minister Barry. Photo: RNZ / Tim Graham

Maggie Barry said efforts to save the black stilt had made some gains, but they remained extremely vulnerable to predators.

The Department of Conservation had been working intensively hatching and rearing chicks for release, but a snow storm two years ago destroyed one aviary and seriously damaged another, she said.

Ms Barry said American-based conservation trust Global Wildlife Conservation had made a significant contribution to replace the previous six-bay aviary with a larger 10-bay building.

Work on the rebuild was expected to begin in a few weeks and be completed by the end of November.

DOC said there were only 31 black stilt in the wild 25 years ago, now there were 106.