

North Island Brown Kiwi



COMMON NAME: **NORTH ISLAND BROWN KIWI** – Bartlett, 1850

LATIN NAME: *Apteryx australis mantelli*

LATIN MEANING: Gr. *Apterugos*, without wings; Mantelli; after Walter B. Mantell (1820–1895) British amateur geologist and naturalist who lived in New Zealand.

MAORI NAME: Tokoeka

CLASS: Aves

ORDER: Apterygiformes

FAMILY: Apterygidae

GENUS: *Apteryx*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Mantelli*

DESCRIPTION:

Females are larger than males with birds weighing between 1.5–3 kgs. The average size is around 50 cm. Plumage is rather harsh to the touch. Colouration can vary from grey/brown to almost black/brown or reddish brown. Displays of white plumage are not uncommon in some local populations.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Found in forested areas of the North Island, Little Barrier Island, Kapiti Island and recently reintroduced into several forests south of Palmerston North.

BREEDING:

Nest in burrows or holes, beneath dense vegetation or roots of forest trees and hollow logs. Incubation period is around 72–84 days with the incubation by male alone. Eggs are laid from July through to February. Clutch may consist of 1–2 eggs with several clutches laid in a season.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Breeding pairs are very territorial, defending their patch against all invaders. Juvenile kiwi are, however, able to range through established adult territories without being challenged.

DIET:

Kiwi eat a wide variety of insect life, including beetle grubs and adults, worms, spiders, caterpillars, centipedes, millipedes, snails, cicada nymphs, weta, cockroaches and woodlice, plus various dupes and berries of native shrubs and trees (eg. Miro, Hinau, Kahikatea, Totara and Coprosma).

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

Habitat loss, introduced predators eg:

- Stoats (threaten adults/chicks)
- Ferrets (threaten chicks)
- Feral dogs and hunting dogs (threaten adults/chicks)
- Fire and flooding

New avian diseases and parasites that may reach New Zealand.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

In serious decline.



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Great Spotted Kiwi



COMMON NAME: **GREAT SPOTTED KIWI** – Potts, 1872
 LATIN NAME: ***Apteryx haasti***
 LATIN MEANING: Gr. *Apterugos*, without wings;
 Haasti; after Sir John Francis Julius von Haast (1824–1887)
 New Zealand explorer, geologist and author.
 MAORI NAME: Roa
 CLASS: Aves
 ORDER: Apterygiformes
 FAMILY: Apterygidae
 GENUS: *Apteryx*
 SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Haasti*

DESCRIPTION:

A large grey kiwi distinguished from the Little Spotted Kiwi by the chestnut tinge on the upper back and mottled bands of brown/black plumage. Iris black, bill ivory white – pinkish, feet grey-brown.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Found only in the north western part of the South Island, as far south as Brunner and the Paparoa Ranges of the West Coast and east to Arthurs Pass.

BREEDING:

Similar to brown kiwi but incubation is shared with the female. Incubation around the 72–84 day period with a clutch of 1–2 eggs.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Breeding pairs are very territorial, defending their patch against all invaders. Juvenile kiwi are, however, able to range through established adult territories without being challenged.

DIET:

Kiwi eat a wide variety of insect life, including beetle grubs and adults, worms, spiders, caterpillars, centipedes, millipedes, snails, cicada nymphs, weta, cockroaches and woodlice, plus various dupes and berries of native shrubs and trees (eg. Miro, Hinau, Kahikatea, Totara and Coprosma).

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Habitat loss, introduced predators eg:
- Stoats (threaten adults/chicks)
 - Ferrets (threaten chicks)
 - Feral dogs and hunting dogs (threaten adults/chicks)
 - Fire and flooding

New avian diseases and parasites that may reach New Zealand.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

In gradual decline.



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Little Spotted Kiwi



COMMON NAME: **LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI** – Gould, 1847
 LATIN NAME: ***Apteryx oweni***
 LATIN MEANING: Gr. *Apterugos*, without wings;
 Oweni; after Richard Owen (1804-1892) British zoologist,
 anatomist and opponent of Darwinism.
 MAORI NAME: Kiwi pukupuku
 CLASS: Aves
 ORDER: Apterygiformes
 FAMILY: Apterygidae
 GENUS: *Apteryx*
 SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Oweni*

DESCRIPTION:

The smallest of the kiwi family with overall grey colouring and a mottled irregular pattern of black/brown plumage across the body. It weighs between 1.2–2 kgs with a body size around 40 cm. Iris black, feet pale with white claws.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Once widespread throughout New Zealand, it is now found only on Kapiti Island and a few other islands, where it has been introduced.

BREEDING:

Nests in burrows or holes, beneath dense vegetation or the roots of forest trees and hollow logs. The incubation period is around 72–84 days with the incubation by the male alone. Eggs are laid from July to February in a clutch of 1–2 eggs. Several clutches may be laid in a season.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Breeding pairs are very territorial, defending their patch against all invaders. Juvenile kiwi are however able to range through established adult territories without being challenged.

DIET:

Kiwi eat a wide variety of insect life, including beetle grubs and adults, worms, spiders, caterpillars, centipedes, millipedes, snails, cicada nymphs, weta, cockroaches and woodlice, plus various dupes and berries of native shrubs and trees (eg. Miro, Hinau, Kahikatea, Totara and Coprosma).

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

Habitat loss, introduced predators eg:

- Stoats (threaten adults/chicks)
- Ferrets (threaten chicks)
- Feral dogs and hunting dogs (threaten adults/chicks)
- Fire and flooding

New avian diseases and parasites that may reach New Zealand.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

The range is restricted.



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Brown Teal



COMMON NAME:	BROWN TEAL – Gray, 1845
LATIN NAME:	<i>Anas aucklandica chlorotis</i>
LATIN MEANING:	L. <i>anas</i> , a duck. Aucklandica; after the Auckland Islands, south of New Zealand <i>Chlorotis</i> ; Gr. <i>khloros</i> , green. <i>Otis</i> ; Gr. <i>bustard</i> .
MAORI NAME:	Pateke
CLASS:	Aves
ORDER:	Apterygiformes
FAMILY:	Apterygidae
GENUS:	<i>Anas</i>
SPECIES/SUB SPECIES:	<i>Aucklandica / Chlorotis</i>

DESCRIPTION:

A small brown duck related to the Chestnut Teal of Australia; around 48 cm in size. Males have dark brown heads with a greenish bloom on nape, a white collar on the front part of neck and a green speculum. The female is uniformly brown with a bluish/black bill and slate grey feet.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Restricted mainly to Great Barrier Island and Northland. Captive bred ducks have been released into protected reserves throughout the North Island and into Fiordland National Park.

BREEDING:

July–December. Nests are constructed in well-concealed situations near water. 5–7 cream coloured eggs are laid.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

A semi-nocturnal, small, dabbling duck of lowland wetlands and coastal areas, it forms large communal daytime roosts. During the breeding season it becomes very territorial.

DIET:

Pateke feed in the evening and at night on invertebrates and plant material in damp or flooded pastures, lawns, drains, shallow wetlands and estuaries.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Habitat loss
- Introduced predators like ferrets, stoats, cats and dogs.
(Pukeko and Australian harrier hawks will also prey on ducklings)
- Shooting
- Increased coastal subdivision of land.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

DoC Status: Category B (Molloy & Davis 1994)

IUCN Status: Endangered (IUCN 1994).



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Campbell Island Teal



- COMMON NAME: **CAMPBELL ISLAND FLIGHTLESS TEAL**
 – Fleming, 1935
- LATIN NAME: ***Anas aucklandica nesiotis***
- LATIN MEANING: L. *anas*, a duck.
 Aucklandica; after the Auckland Islands, south of New Zealand
 Gr. *nesiotes*; an islander.
- CLASS: Aves
- ORDER: Apterygiformes
- FAMILY: Apterygidae
- GENUS: *Anas*
- SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Aucklandica / Nesiotis*

DESCRIPTION:

Resembles Auckland Island Teal in both sexes, but slightly smaller and browner. Males do not have a white collar or dark line on the back. The size is around 41 cm.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Restricted to the sub-Antarctic Campbell Islands, with a few ducks still residing on Codfish Island from a captive release.

BREEDING:

Nests are concealed under vegetation; 3–5 eggs are laid between October and December.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

The flightless Campbell Island Teal is largely nocturnal and active at twilight, although activity is not uncommon during the day.

DIET:

Omnivorous in nature, it forages amongst decaying seaweed on the foreshore for terrestrial insects, worms and small snails. Small crabs and clams have also been identified as food sources.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Antarctic Skua prey on both adults and ducklings
- The return of rats and cats to Campbell Island from a ship wreck.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Critically endangered (IUCN Red List Category A 1994).



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Blue Duck



COMMON NAME: **BLUE DUCK** – Gmelin, 1789

LATIN NAME: *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*

LATIN MEANING: Gr. *hymen*, *humenos*, a skin or membrane; *laimos*, the throat; ref. the membranous upper chin of the Blue Duck. *Malacorhynchos*, Gr. *malakos*, soft; *rhunkhos*, the bill; ref. soft flaps on upper mandible.

MAORI NAME: Whio

CLASS: Aves

ORDER: Apterygiformes

FAMILY: Apterygidae

GENUS: *Hymenolaimus*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Malacorhynchos*

DESCRIPTION:

A large duck about 53 cm in size. Dove grey colouring with a bluish sheen, heavily spotted red/brown on the breast, pinkish/white bill with a black tip, dark brown feet. Female has reduced red/brown spotting on the breast and spots are completely absent in juveniles.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Whio are river dwelling and sometimes referred to as a torrent duck. They frequent the headwater catchments of rivers in both the North and South Islands.

BREEDING:

Females are able to start breeding at 12 months of age, while most males first breed in their second year. The breeding season is from August–November with clutches of 4–9 white eggs. Only the female incubates throughout the 35 day incubation period. Ducklings are fledged at around 70–82 days.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Adult Whio are both sedentary and territorial with pair bonds maintained throughout the year and over several years.

DIET:

The main food for Whio is freshwater invertebrates, although freshwater snails and chironomid larvae are also eaten. Reports also indicate that birds have been seen eating fruits of stream-side plants in the South Island.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Habitat loss
- Disturbance including white water recreational activities
- Hunting dogs and shooting
- Predation of nests by rats (eggs), stoats (adults, ducklings, eggs), ferrets, feral cats and dogs (adults), gulls, hawks, eels, shags (ducklings) and falcon (adults and ducklings)
- Introduced trout competing with Whio for freshwater invertebrates.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Vulnerable (IUCN 1994)

Nationally endangered (DoC ranking 2002).



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NZ Falcon



COMMON NAME: **NEW ZEALAND FALCON** – Gmelin, 1788; OR **SPARROW HAWK** – Gmelin, 1788

LATIN NAME: ***Falco novaeseelandiae***

LATIN MEANING: *Falco* Late L. *falco*, a falcon (L. *falx*, a sickle; ref. the hooked talons). *Novaeseelandiae* L. *novus*, new; Mod. L. *Zeelandia*, Zeeland, Netherlands; after New Zealand, which received its name from the explorer Abel Tasman who explored the West Coast in 1642, naming it *Nova Zeelandia* after his Dutch home.

MAORI NAME: Karearea

CLASS: Aves

ORDER: Falconiformes

FAMILY: Falconidae

GENUS: *Falco*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Novaeseelandiae*

DESCRIPTION:

An endemic species, the males are around 43 cm weighing 300 grams, females 47 cm and weighing some 500 grams. The colouring is generally black above, buff barred and streaked below. Thighs and under tail-coverts are a rufous brown with darker streaks. Legs, feet and cere are yellow, claws black.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Widespread in the high country of the South Island and lower North Island.

BREEDING:

Nests are a simple scrape on a sheltered cliff ledge or high in an *Astelia* clump within a tree. Breeding is from October–December. 2–4 eggs are laid, which change from white to reddish-brown. Incubation is around 30–33 days. Chicks fledge at around 55 days.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

A strongly territorial and mainly sedentary species, although less so in the winter when food is scarcer.

DIET:

Mainly a diet of birds, which can include such native species such as Pigeons, Tui, Kakas, Parakeets, Grey Warblers and Fantails. A range of insects and small reptiles also add variety to the diet, along with the occasional rabbit or hare.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Introduced mammalian predators such as stoats, ferrets, feral cats (taking young from the nest) and rats (stealing eggs)
- Habitat loss and shooting.
- Chemical sprays used in agricultural also affect breeding chances.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Endemic, endangered.



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North Island Weka



COMMON NAME: **NORTH ISLAND WEKA** – Sparrman, 1786

LATIN NAME: ***Gallirallus australis greyi***

LATIN MEANING: *Gallirallus* L. *gallus*, the farmyard cock; genus *Rallus*, rail; ref. brown speckled plumage and ground loving habits of the Weka *G. australis*. *Australis* L. *australis*, southern (*auster*, *austri*, the south). *Greyi* – after Sir George Grey (1812-1898); Governor of South Australia (1841-1845) and New Zealand (1845-1853 & 1861-1867).

CLASS: Aves

ORDER: Gruiformes

FAMILY: Rallidae

GENUS: *Gallirallus*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Australis* / *Greyi*

DESCRIPTION:

A large flightless rail with a strong mandible and feet and reduced wings. The plumage is mainly brown and black, but the tone of the brown and the amount of black vary with more grey on the breast. Legs are brown. Males are 1–1.2 kgs, females between 700–900 grams in weight.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Various habitats on offshore islands, Bay of Islands and inland Bay of Plenty.

BREEDING:

Breeding can take place at any time of the year. A grass-lined nest is made beneath some over-hanging vegetation and 2–4 creamy white to pinkish eggs with brown and pale purplish blotches are laid. The incubation period is around 25–27 days. Active within hours of hatching, chicks are covered with black downy feathers.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Weka are a very inquisitive, yet highly territorial species. Aggression is not uncommon and mature females will kill immature males when thrust together. Males can become aggressive towards chicks. Weka have also been known to fight and kill intruding ferrets and rats.

DIET:

Weka are omnivorous, eating everything from the dupes and fruits of native plants to invertebrates, reptiles, snails, eggs and birds. Weka readily kill mice, rats and rabbits.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Introduced predators such as ferrets, stoats, cats and dogs
- Introduced bird species such as blackbirds and thrushes competing for native dupes, fruits and invertebrates.
- Habitat loss, modification and degradation.
- Introduced avian diseases and parasites.
- Vehicles causing road kills.
- Poorly managed pest control operations, traps, rat baits and toxins such as cyanide, snail and slug baits.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Threatened, more endangered than the North Island Kiwi.



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Black Stilt (Not presently held at the Otorohanga Kiwi House)



COMMON NAME: **BLACK STILT** – Gould, 1764

LATIN NAME: *Himantopus novaezealandiae*

LATIN MEANING: *Himantopus* Gr. *himantopous*, a wading bird, now usually identified as the Stilt. *Novaeseelandiae* L. *novus*, new; Mod. L. *Zeelandia*, Zeeland, Netherlands; after New Zealand, which received its name from the explorer Abel Tasman who explored the west coast in 1642, naming it *Nova Zeelandia* after his Dutch home.

MAORI NAME: Kaki

CLASS: Aves

ORDER: Charadriiformes

FAMILY: Recurvirostridae

GENUS: *Himantopus*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Novaezealandiae*

DESCRIPTION:

Both sexes are similar. Upper parts are black with a green gloss on the wings. Under parts are a brownish, brown/black. The iris is crimson, the mandible black and the feet bright pink.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Wetland areas of inland Otago and South Canterbury while a few birds winter in the northern harbours.

BREEDING:

Pairs start breeding at 2–3 years of age. Usually they nest in isolation from other stilts and will defend their territories from others. The breeding season is from September–October with 3–6 eggs laid in a depression in the shingle, lined with grasses, twigs or riverbed debris. Both parents share incubation, changing every hour for 25 days. Chicks fledge at 6–8 weeks of age.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Kaki (Black Stilts) are very territorial with pairs defending their feeding grounds throughout the year. Some birds do migrate to northern harbours like Kawhia and the Firth of Thames during the winter months.

DIET:

Black Stilts forage in shallow water on shingle riverbeds, streams, swamps and tarns for various species of bottom-dwelling insects like mayfly and caddis fly larvae. Waterboatmen, backswimmers and damselflies, as well as various species of gastropods, are also taken.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Predators (eg. feral cats and ferrets)
- Habitat loss and modification such as hydroelectric and agricultural development and weed invasion.
- Human disturbance – recreational users of riverbeds and wetlands can crush eggs or chicks and scare adult Kaki away from their nests.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Critically endangered.



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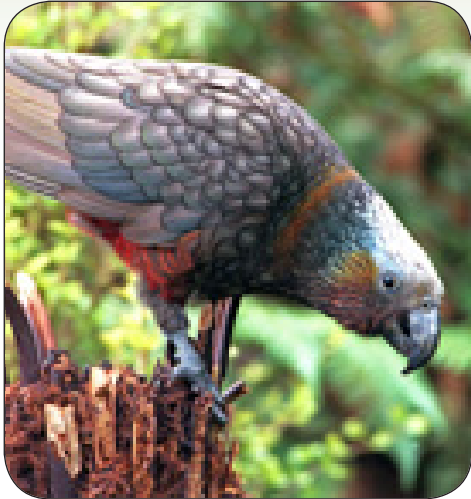
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North Island Kaka



COMMON NAME: **NORTH ISLAND KAKA** – (Gmelin, 1788) Lorenz, 1896

LATIN NAME: ***Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis***

LATIN MEANING: *Nestor* (Greek myth). Nestor, wise old king of Pylos at the siege of Troy, formerly a great warrior and universally respected for his wisdom; ref. the grey, hoary head of the Kaka N. *meridionalis* L. *meridionalis*, southern; L. *septentrionalis*, northern.

CLASS: Aves

ORDER: Psittaciformes

FAMILY: Nestoridae

GENUS: *Nestor*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Meridionalis* / *Septentrionalis*

DESCRIPTION:

The sexes are alike, size 45 cm with males 475 grams, females 425 grams. Overall body colouration is brown-green with underling coverts a brilliant orange-scarlet. Crown pale white, iris dark brown, mandible black with yellow cere, feet slate black.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Widespread in mature forest throughout New Zealand.

BREEDING:

The breeding season extends from September–March and 3–5 white eggs are laid. The female alone incubates for 24 days and is fed by the male at the nest. The pair feed the nestlings for 9–10 weeks. On fledgling, juveniles spend some time on the ground, which makes them vulnerable to introduced predators.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

The Kaka is a flock bird and to some extent nocturnal, calling more frequently at night and generally more active at first light. During the day Kaka are less sociable with individuals feeding silently.

DIET:

Dupes, fruits and nectar from native trees and shrubs plus invertebrates found in rotten logs. Honeydew from native beech trees is also an important part of their diet.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Kaka require large tracts of mature forest to survive. Habitat loss from forest clearance for agriculture and logging has had a devastating effect on their numbers.
- Browsing by introduced possums, deer and pigs has also reduced their food source.
- Introduced wasps compete with Kaka for honeydew, which is an important part of the Kaka's diet in native beech forests.
- Kaka are cavity nesters, which makes them vulnerable to stoats (adults, chicks), rats, possums (chicks and eggs).

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Threatened endemic species.



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Kea



COMMON NAME: **KEA** – Gould, 1856

LATIN NAME: ***Nestor notabilis***

LATIN MEANING: *Nestor* (Greek myth). Nestor, wise old king of Pylos at the siege of Troy, formerly a great warrior and universally respected for his wisdom; ref. the grey, hoary head of the Kaka N. *meridionalis* L. *notabilis*, remarkable striking.

CLASS: Aves

ORDER: Psittaciformes

FAMILY: Nestoridae

GENUS: *Nestor*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Notabilis*

DESCRIPTION:

The sexes are similar, although the male is larger with a more outward curving upper mandible. The overall colour is an olive green with scarlet under wing coverts. The iris is dark brown, the mandible and legs dark brown to black. Size 46 cm. Juveniles crown immediately after fledging. The nape is olive/yellow, the cere and mandible bright orange-yellow. Legs are light grey.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Kea inhabit the South Island high country and alps.

BREEDING:

Kea do not usually breed until they are five or six years old. Breeding commences in mid-winter with a clutch of 3–4 eggs laid and incubated by the female alone for around 25 days. The male will feed the female on the nest; chicks spend up to 12 weeks or more in the nest and once they have left are fed by both parents for a further three months.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Kea are intelligent, playful, social animals and require considerable mental stimulation.

DIET:

Kea are opportunists and are generally willing to eat a wide variety of food.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Degradation of their habitat by fire
- Over-grazing by domestic stock and browsing by feral animals (eg. thar, rabbits).
- Predation at nests by introduced mammals such as stoats
- Illegal shooting and poisoning
- Illegal capture and trading in Kea.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Category B threatened species.



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Tui



COMMON NAME: **TUI OR PARSON BIRD** – Gmelin, 1788

LATIN NAME: ***Prothemadera novaeseelandiae***

LATIN MEANING: *Prothemadera* Gr. *prosthema*, an appendage, an addition; *dere*, the neck; ref. the curled feathers and filamentous plumes on the neck of the Tui. *Novaeseelandiae* L. *novus*, new; Mod. L. *Zeelandia*, Zeeland, Netherlands; after New Zealand, which received its name from the explorer Abel Tasman who explored the west coast in 1642, naming it *Nova Zeelandia* after his Dutch home.

CLASS: Aves

ORDER: Passeriformes

FAMILY: Meiphagidae

GENUS: *Prothemadera*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Novaeseelandiae*

DESCRIPTION:

The sexes are alike with the female slightly smaller. Tui appear black at a distance, but are mainly iridescent green with dark bluish/purple reflections. Around 30 cm in size. The back and side of the neck are ornamented with white-shafted filamentous feathers, which curl forwards on the side of neck. Tui have a white, double, throat tuft of curled feathers. The iris is dark brown, the bill and legs black.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Widespread in forests, open country and urban areas throughout New Zealand.

BREEDING:

Nesting starts as early as September with the peak months from November–January. Nests are built in the fork or outer branches of trees. They are an open-weaved construction of twigs and sticks with a lining of leaves, tree ferns and moss. Clutches of 3–4 elliptical eggs are laid. These are white or pink, with reddish brown specks or blotches. The incubation period is 14 days with chicks fledging 11 days later. The female alone incubates.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Tui are a very aggressive species and will chase other Tui and different species away from a good food source.

DIET:

Tui belong to the honeyeater family and mainly feed on nectar from various native plants flowers (eg. Kowhai, Puriri, Rewarewa, Kahikatea, Pohutukawa, Rata and flax). A number of introduced plants also provide a great source of nectar for Tui (eg. Taiwan Cherry and Camellias). Tui are also very important as pollinators of many native trees. During the breeding season and with young chicks in the nest they will take invertebrates, especially large insects like cicadas and stick insects.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Introduced predators such as possums (eggs and chicks)
- Rats (eggs and chicks)
- Destruction of habitat.
- Feral cats (adults)
- Mustelids (eggs and adults)

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Common.



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North Island Kokako (Not presently held at the Otorohanga Kiwi House)



COMMON NAME: **WATTLED CROW** – Gmelin, 1788
 LATIN NAME: ***Callaeas cinerea wilsoni***
 LATIN MEANING: Callaeas Gr. *kallaia*, a cock's wattles; the New Zealand Kokako *C. cinerea* has orange or blue wattles at the base of the bill. *Cinerea* L. *cinereus*, ash-coloured, ash-grey (*cinis*, ashes).
 MAORI NAME: Kokako
 CLASS: Aves
 ORDER: Passeriformes
 FAMILY: Callaeidae
 GENUS: *Callaeas*
 SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Cinerea / Wilsoni*

DESCRIPTION:

The sexes are similar, although the males are slightly larger. The body is steel grey or blue/grey. Kokako have a black face mask from the base of the mandible to behind the eye and across the forehead, plus sky blue fleshy wattles at the base of the mandible (chicks have pink wattles). The iris is dark brown, the mandible, legs and feet are black.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Found in forests north of Taranaki and on island sanctuaries.

BREEDING:

Breeding occurs throughout November and December. The nest is a large structure normally built in the cover of dense vegetation. Incubation takes 20 days; female alone incubates. 1–3 creamy coloured eggs with brown speckles are laid. Chicks fledge a further 30–34 days after hatching.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Kokako are very territorial, generally pairing for life. Pair-bonding is reinforced through displays, courtship feeding and preening. Kokako are weak flyers and rely on their song to establish and hold territories.

DIET:

Kokako are herbivorous, feeding mainly on the dupes and fruits of native trees (eg. Totara, Matai, Miro, Kahikatea, Rimu and Coprosma) plus leaves, ferns, orchids, fungi and mosses. With young in the nest, insects are taken to feed to chicks.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Habitat loss
- Predation by introduced predators, like mustelids, rats, possums.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Endangered.



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NZ Kingfisher



COMMON NAME: **NEW ZEALAND KINGFISHER** – Lesson, 1830

LATIN NAME: *Halcyon sancta*

LATIN MEANING: Halcyon Gr. *halkuon*, a mythical bird, long associated with the kingfisher, which nested on the sea. Sancta L. *sanctus*, holy, sacred; throughout the Pacific kingfishers were regarded as gods by the natives and believed to have power over the waves and sea. Vagans L. *vagans*, wandering.

MAORI NAME: Kotare

CLASS: Avis

ORDER: Coraciiformes

FAMILY: Alcedinidae

SUB-FAMILY: Daceloninae

GENUS: *Halcyon*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Sancta vagans*

DESCRIPTION:

The crown and forehead is a deep green with a broad black band running from the gape through and below the eye to encircle the nape. There is a broad buff collar across the hind neck; the upper back and scapulars are deep green, the lower back, upper tail coverts and wings ultramarine, the throat and breast buff/white. The mandible is black with the base of the mandible pale yellowish. Iris black and feet dark brown.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Found throughout New Zealand from coastal regions to forested areas. Absent from high, snow-covered mountain areas.

BREEDING:

Kotare are monogamous with both parents sharing in the incubation. The breeding season runs from October to January, with 4–5 white coloured eggs laid. The incubation period is 20–21 days. Young fledge at around 26 days. Nest sites may be on riverbanks, roadside cuttings, coastal cliffs or tree cavities. The nest chamber is usually at the end of a short upward-sloping tunnel.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Kotare are usually solitary or in pairs, spaced widely apart when breeding and when perching on posts or power lines between feeding flights.

DIET:

Opportunist feeders, Kotare will attack every kind of small animal, reptile or bird. On tidal mudflats their diet consists mainly of crabs, on river ways they feed on tadpoles, koura (crayfish) and small fish; in open country and forested areas earthworms, large insects, dragonflies, chafer beetles, wasps, spiders, lizards, mice and small birds are taken.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

Introduced mammalian predators.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Not threatened.



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Variable Oystercatcher



COMMON NAME:	VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER – Forster, 1844
LATIN NAME:	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>
LATIN MEANING:	Haematopus L. <i>Haematopus</i> , blood-foot (Gr. <i>haima</i> , blood; <i>pous</i> , the foot). <i>Unicolor</i> L. <i>unicolor</i> , of one colour, iniform.
MAORI NAME:	Torea-pango
CLASS:	Avia
ORDER:	Charadriiformes
FAMILY:	Haematopodidae
GENUS:	<i>Haematopus</i>
SPECIES/SUB SPECIES:	<i>Unicolor</i>

DESCRIPTION:

Variable colouration; unicolor individuals are entirely black with a red mandible and scarlet iris, legs a coral pink. Pied individuals are black with white belly, flanks, rump and tail coverts. Intermediate individuals have variable amounts of white on wing bars, rump and belly. All birds have an orange eye-ring, bright orange mandible (often with a yellow tip) and coral pink legs.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Scattered right round the New Zealand coastline.

BREEDING:

October to February, clutch size 2–3 olive/grey eggs with dark brown spots. Eggs are laid two days apart and the incubation period is 26–28 days. Chicks fledge some six weeks after hatching.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Monogamous, divorce is rare and pairs will defend their territories. During the winter months Variable Oystercatchers will form flocks.

DIET:

Forage for shellfish (eg. limpets, mussels and other estuarine bivalves).

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Loss of habitat through waterfront development
- Introduced predators preying on eggs and young birds
- Human disturbance.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Rare.



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NZ Pigeon



COMMON NAME: **NEW ZEALAND PIGEON** – Gmelin, 1789

LATIN NAME: *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*

LATIN MEANING: Hemiphaga Gr. *hemi*, half (ie. between);
The NZ Pigeon was regarded as intermediate between *Carpophanga*
and *Magaloprepia* (Splendour) pigeons.

MAORI NAME: Kereru, Kuku, Kukupa

CLASS: Avis

ORDER: Columbiformes

FAMILY: Columbidae

GENUS: *Hemiphaga*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Novaeseelandiae*

CHATAM ISLAND PIGEON: *H. n. chathamensis*

DESCRIPTION:

A large pigeon 51 cm in size. The sexes are alike. The head, throat and upper breast are metallic green. The nape, back and wings are purple with a coppery green sheen. Breast and belly and feathered legs are white. The iris is dark red, the mandible crimson with a yellow tip. The feet are red with black claws.

The Chatham Island Pigeon is larger than the mainland species, has greyer upper parts and breast and a heavier mandible.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Found throughout mainland New Zealand in forested areas and residual forest remnants including some offshore islands.

The Chatham Island Pigeon survives on Pitt Island and the main islands, where it inhabits lowland coastal forests.

BREEDING:

Nests from November to March with just a single white egg laid. The incubation period is approximately 30 days with the squab fledging some 6–7 weeks later. The nest is a flimsy structure of twigs and sticks supported on several branches (at times the egg can be observed through the bottom of the nest).

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Kereru are generalist herbivores eating fruit, foliage and the flowers of native and introduced plants (*Notornis* Vol.55).

DIET:

Diet consists of various native and introduced fruits and dupes of trees and shrubs with a large helping of young foliage. Common fruits eaten include Fuchsia, Puriri, Makomako, Tawa, Taraire, Matai, Kahikatea, Titoki, Maire, Hinau, Pigeonwood and Mahoe.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Habitat destruction and illegal hunting
- Introduced predators destroying nests and eating eggs and squabs.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Gradual decline.



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Kakariki



COMMON NAME:	RED-CROWNED KAKARIKI – Sparrman, 1787
LATIN NAME:	<i>Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae</i>
LATIN MEANING:	Cyanoramphus Gr. <i>kuanos</i> , dark blue; <i>rhamphos</i> , the bill. <i>Novaezelandiae</i> L. <i>novus</i> , new; Mod L. <i>Zeelandiae</i> , Zeeland, Netherlands; after New Zealand.
MAORI NAME:	Kakariki – green parakeet
CLASS:	Avis
ORDER:	Psittaciformes
FAMILY:	Platycercidae
GENUS:	<i>Cyanoramphus</i>
SPECIES/SUB SPECIES:	<i>Novaezelandiae</i>

DESCRIPTION:

A small parakeet with a band of red across the forehead from the mandible to the top of the crown and just behind the eye; violet blue on the inner primary feathers. The iris is red, the mandible pale blue/grey with a black tip. The legs and feet are greyish brown.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Once widely distributed throughout both islands, but now scarce on the two main islands. Inhabits forests, scrubland and open areas.

BREEDING:

The breeding season depends on the availability of food; most breeding takes place in late spring to early summer. Red-crowned Kakariki are cavity nesters. The clutch size varies from 3–6 white eggs, the incubation period is around 20 days and is carried out solely by the female. The male assists with the feeding of chicks. Chicks fledge at around five to six weeks after hatching.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Kakariki will flock together at an abundant food source or on islands with limited fresh water. Pairs sometimes remain together throughout the year, but territorial behaviour has not been recorded.

DIET:

A wide variety of food is eaten (seeds, berries, dupes, fruits, buds, flowers and shoots of both native and introduced plants) plus invertebrates and nectar.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Loss of habitat and introduced predators (eg. rats, mustelids and cats)
- Avian diseases from introduced parrots.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Threatened (regionally).



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Grey Teal



COMMON NAME:	GREY TEAL – Buller, 1869
LATIN NAME:	<i>Anas gibberifrons gracilis</i>
LATIN MEANING:	Anas L. <i>anas</i> , a duck. Gibberifrons L. <i>gibber</i> , a hump; <i>frons</i> , the forehead. Gracilis L. <i>gracilis</i> , slender.
MAORI NAME:	Tete
CLASS:	Avis
ORDER:	Anseriformes
FAMILY:	Anatidae
GENUS:	<i>Anas</i>
SPECIES/SUB SPECIES:	<i>Gibberifrons / Gracilis</i>

DESCRIPTION:

New Zealand's smallest flying duck, overall grey with the head and back of the neck a dark brown. Throat, chin and side of head are almost white. Back and flank feathers are dark brown with pale edges. The speculum is green with a narrow white band. The mandible is blue/grey, the feet black and iris a bright red.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Tete prefer shallow freshwater lakes, lagoons and swamps with extensive marginal cover. They are found throughout South Auckland, Waikato, Hawkes Bay and Otago. The species is also found throughout Australia, New Guinea and New Caledonia. The New Zealand population is subject to periodic influxes from Australia, as birds are driven out by drought.

BREEDING:

Nesting occurs from June to January with nest sites in tree hollows, rabbit burrows, beneath tussocks, sedges and rocks. Grey Teal readily take to nest boxes. The clutch size varies from 5–9 cream coloured eggs with incubation carried out by the female alone. Incubation period is 24–26 days.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

A flock bird, Tete is also remarkably mobile. Movements within New Zealand are apparently random with birds dispersing in all directions.

DIET:

Insects, worms and snails, plus shoots and the succulent roots of vegetation.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Introduced predators
- Illegal hunting
- Loss of habitat.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Uncommon, but the range is increasing.



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Otagense Skink



COMMON NAME: **OTAGENSE SKINK**

LATIN NAME: *Oligosoma otagense*

CLASS: Reptilia

ORDER: Sauria

FAMILY: Scincidae

GENUS: *Leiolopisma*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Otagense*

DESCRIPTION:

A heavy-bodied skink with an overall length of slightly over 30 cms weighing up to 45.7 grams. Gravid females can weigh up to 52 grams. Colouring is black on the upper surface with bold, greenish/gold blotches on the back, sides, limbs and tail. The under surfaces are light grey or yellowish with black mottling.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Central Otago areas around the Macraes Flat and Middlemarch districts, east of the Rock and Pillar Range. Otago skinks inhabit areas with schist tors, outcrops and bluffs.

BREEDING:

Mating occurs in April and the young are born in January–February. Twins are normally born, although there has been a report of a triplet birth.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Otago skinks are diurnal and strongly saxicolous (dwelling amid rocks). They are active throughout the year, although activity and feeding slows down during the winter months. They do not appear to hibernate.

DIET:

Invertebrates which may include beetles, moths, cicadas, bees, weta, ants, grasshoppers, wasps, larvae, spiders, flies and dragonflies, plus soft fruit and vegetation.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Introduced mammalian predators (eg. rats, mustelids, cats and Little Owls)
- Loss and degradation of habitat.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

DoC Status: Nationally critical (2004)

IUCN Status: Critically endangered.



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Tuatara



COMMON NAME:	TUATARA
LATIN NAME:	<i>Sphenodon punctatus</i>
LATIN MEANING:	Sphenodon – Gr. <i>sphen-enos</i> , 'wedge'; <i>odus, odontos</i> , 'tooth'. <i>Punctatus</i> L. 'spotted'
MAORI NAME:	Tuatara means 'peaks on the back'
CLASS:	Reptilia
ORDER:	Rhynchocephalian
FAMILY:	Sphenodontidae
GENUS:	<i>Sphenodon</i>
SPECIES/SUB SPECIES:	<i>Punctatus</i>

DESCRIPTION:

Similar in appearance to lizards, the tuatara is the only surviving member of a reptile family known as Sphenodon, meaning 'wedge tooth'. Sphenodons became extinct some 60 million years ago, leaving the tuatara as the last remaining representative or 'living fossil'. Tuatara may live up to 100 years; males weigh around 1 kg and are some 50 cm in length. Females are shorter and a good deal lighter. Skin colouration can vary between animals from an olive green to dark pink or slate grey. Young Tuatara possess a third eye or 'pineal eye', which has a lens, retina and nervous connections to the brain, but has no visual function. Males have no sexual organ. They can swim well and are most active between 7–22 degrees Celsius.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Once found right throughout New Zealand, they are now restricted to predator-free offshore islands.

BREEDING:

Sexually mature at around 15–18 years, females mate only every second year. They excavate a short burrow in the ground to lay their eggs. A clutch can consist of up to 15 eggs. They are covered with soil and then left to incubate naturally in the soil's warmth. Incubation can vary from 11–15 months, but once hatching occurs the young are totally independent of their parents – in fact they need to avoid their parents' cannibalistic habits!

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Tuatara are nocturnal, but will come out during the day to bask in the sun. Foraging for food takes place at night. Tuatara are one of the longest living and slowest growing reptiles in existence. In cooler parts of the country, Tuatara will hibernate, as they do here at the Otorohanga Kiwi House.

DIET:

Mainly insectivorous, but will also take smaller reptiles like skinks and geckos and the chicks of petrels with whom they share their burrows. Adults will also predate their own young.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Introduced predators: Maori introduced the Polynesian rat (kiore) and dog (kuri). Europeans introduced two species of rat, cats, dogs, ferrets, stoats, possums.
- Habitat changes and deforestation has contributed to their decline on the mainland.

CONSERVATION STATUS: Protected since 1895.



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