

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.



Best place in NZ  
to see a kiwi

**OTOROHANGA KIWI HOUSE & NATIVE BIRD PARK**

PO Box 222, Otorohanga 3940, New Zealand

Telephone: +64 (7) 873 7391

[www.kiwihouse.org.nz](http://www.kiwihouse.org.nz)