

BINGO

Native Birds of Aotearoa



Pīpīwharau

- 'Shining Cuckoo'
- Metallic green wings and stripy chest
- Flies to the Pacific Islands for the winter and then returns to lay an egg in the nest of the grey warbler. The chick is raised by the tiny grey warblers before flying to the islands itself. It returns to the same spot each year.
- Its call tells us spring has arrived.

Weka

- Endemic (found only in NZ)
- Not threatened
- The size of a chicken
- Flightless
- Eats meat and berries/leaves
- Important to disperse seeds
- Can be a predator to other birds, insects, frogs, lizards and small mammals.

Whio

- 'Blue Duck'
- Endemic (found only in NZ)
- Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable
- Found in clean, fast-flowing rivers in the North and South Islands
- 'Whio' is the sound of the whistle of the male bird, females make a rattle/growl
- Camouflage to look like a rock

Kākāriki

- 5 species: red-crowned parakeet, yellow-crowned parakeet, orange-fronted parakeet, Forbes parakeet, Antipodes Island parakeet
- Endemic (only found in NZ)
- There were once huge flocks of these in NZ, but they are now endangered
- 'Kakariki' means 'green' and 'small parrot'
- Vulnerable, as they nest in holes in trees

Tītipounamu

- 'Rifleman'
- Endemic (only found in NZ)
- Not threatened
- NZ's smallest bird
- One of only two remaining wren species in NZ
- Constantly moving to catch insects
- Found in mature forest

Hoiho

- 'Yellow Eyed Penguin'
- Endemic (only found in NZ)
- Nationally Endangered
- World's rarest penguin species
- 65% decline of Northern population in the last 20 years
- Adults have a yellow band of feathers around their head and eyes

Pāteke

- 'Brown Teal'
- Endemic (only found in NZ)
- Has changed from 'endangered' to 'recovering'
- Aotearoa's rarest waterfowl on the mainland
- A small dabbling duck
- Is severely impacted by predators, but does well in predator controlled areas
- Male whistles, females quack

Pūtakitaki

- 'Paradise Shelduck'
- Endemic (only found in NZ)
- Not threatened, numbers increasing despite being hunted
- Females have a white head, males have a black head
- Males say 'zonk zonk' and females say 'zeek, zeek'.

Tōrea pango

- 'Variable oystercatcher'
- Endemic (found only in NZ)
- Recovering
- Lives on sandy beaches
- Used to be shot for food
- Long bright orange bill probes for shellfish
- Can be very aggressive to people when guarding their nest

Kōtare

- 'Sacred Kingfisher'
- Native
- Not threatened
- Lives in cavities or burrows in trees, cliffs, banks etc.
- Can dive under water to catch prey
- Eats fish, tadpoles, crabs, crayfish, insects, lizards, mice, and small birds

Koekoeā

- 'Long-tailed Cuckoo'
- Endemic (only breeds in NZ)
- Migrates to the Pacific Islands in the winter
- Naturally Uncommon
- Long tail and piercing shriek
- Lays eggs in North Island Whiteheads' nests and in South Island brown creeper or yellowheads' nests

Tūī

- Endemic (only found in NZ)
- Not threatened
- White tuft on neck
- Has two voice boxes and can make a range of sounds
- Can mimic other sounds and were trained by Māori to recite speeches and say karanga
- Important pollinator of many native trees
- Nectar feeders

Kōtuku

- 'White Heron'
- Native, found also in Australia, South Pacific Islands and Asia
- Rare in New Zealand, breeding only in one place (Whataroa- South Westland)
- Only non endemic bird on NZ currency
- A saying about Kōtuku, 'He kōtuku rerenga tahi' or the bird of single flight, implying something seen perhaps once in a lifetime

Warou

- Native
- Not Threatened
- Self introduced from Australia, becoming common in the 1960s-1970s
- Dart around, a familiar arrow shaped silhouette with a forked tail
- Build nests from mud and grass on buildings and structures

Tarāpuka

- 'Black-billed Gull'
- Endemic (only found in NZ)
- Threatened- nationally critical
- Aotearoa's only endemic gull
- Most threatened gull species in the world
- Found mainly in braided rivers in the South Island; small numbers scattered across North Island

Tuturiwhatu

- 'New Zealand Dotterel'
- Endemic (found only in NZ)
- Threatened, but recovering
- Lives on sandy beaches
- Coastal development and human recreational activities on beaches are having a growing impact on them

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Miromiro

- 'Tomtit'
- Endemic (only found in NZ) - Not threatened
- Although smaller, it looks similar to a robin with a large head, short bill, and short tail
- North Island male is black with a white belly, males of other species have a yellow belly. Females are brown and white.
- Lives in forest or shrubland
- Eats invertebrates

Tauhou

- 'Silvereye' or 'Waxeye'
- Native
- Not Threatened
- Self introduced from Australia in 1850, becoming one of NZ's most widespread birds
- 'Tauhou' means 'new arrival/stranger'
- Ring of white feathers around their eyes
- Friendly bird, eats insects, fruit, and nectar

Takahē

- Endemic
- South Island Takahe is nationally vulnerable (North Island Takahe is extinct)
- It was thought to be extinct for 50 years before being rediscovered in 1948
- Now 400 takahe in NZ
- A stoat plague halved their numbers in 2007
- Flightless, larger, and more colourful than the similar looking pukeko, which can fly

Pukeko

- 'Purple Swamphen'
- Native - Not Threatened
- Self introduced from Australia 1000 years ago
- Abundant, widespread, lives in swamps
- Predator to some other birds such as pātaka ducklings
- Live in large social groups
- All eggs are laid in a single nest and the offspring are raised by all group members

Kererū

- Also known as wood pigeon, kukupa, kuku
- Endemic (only found in NZ)
- Green, bronze and purple with a white vest
- One of the largest pigeons in the world
- Spreads seeds of over 70 native forest plants.
- Are the only bird large enough to distribute some native seeds (since moa became extinct)
- Possums eat their eggs, chicks, and food sources

Kea

- Endemic (only found in NZ) - Endangered
- World's only alpine parrot
- Very intelligent bird that is attracted to people
- Found only in the South Island
- For over 100 years kea were shot by farmers, as they occasionally attacked sheep
- Ground nesting leaves them vulnerable to predators

Tieke

- 'Saddleback'
- Endemic
- Recovering
- North Island and South Island species
- Chestnut saddle across their back
- Bright reddish-orange wattles
- Vulnerable to predators
- Established colonies in predator free areas

Kōkako

- Endemic
- At risk
- Found in North Island forests and has a blue wattle and black 'face mask'
- South Island kokako, now thought to be extinct, had an orange wattle.
- Poor flyers that run and hop between trees
- Have a haunting song

Pīwakawaka

- 'New Zealand fantail'
- Endemic (only found in NZ) - Not Threatened
- Cheeky and friendly to people
- Eats insects
- Similar species is known as a 'Willy Wagtail' in Australia
- Black fantails comprise about 5% of the South Island population

Kiwi

- Endemic (only found in NZ) and a national icon
- 5 species, some critically endangered
- Easily predated, especially by stoats and dogs
- Lays large eggs
- Only bird with nostrils on the end of its beak
- Chicks born fully feathered and feed themselves, so are very vulnerable to predators
- Fewer than 5% reach adulthood in the wild

Riroriro

- 'Grey Warbler'
- Endemic (only found in NZ) - Widespread
- Only weigh 6.5 grams (second smallest bird in NZ) and are grey with red eyes
- Has a distinctive song, so it's easy to hear them, but difficult to spot them!
- Domed nest with side entrance hole
- Eats insects
- Raises shining cuckoo chicks

Ruru

- 'Morepork'
- Native - Not Threatened
- Small, dark, forest-dwelling, common owl.
- Nocturnal, with a distinctive 'morepork' or 'ruru' call heard at night
- Is common in Australia, where it is known as 'boobook,'
- Flies silently
- Roosts in cavities of trees during the day

Kākāpo

- Endemic (only found in NZ)
- Critically endangered
- Flightless, nocturnal parrot
- Heaviest parrot in the world
- Possibly longest lived bird species in the world (living up to 90 years)
- Only breed on rimu mast years (every 2-4 years when rimu trees have lots of fruit)

Kārearea

- 'NZ Falcon'
- Endemic (only found in NZ)
- Threatened/vulnerable
- Fastest NZ bird, reaching up to 230km per hour
- Catches live prey (do not eat road kill like hawks)
- Often lays eggs in a scrape on the ground, making them vulnerable to predators

Kākā

- Endemic (only found in NZ)
- At Risk/declining
- Large olive-brown forest dwelling parrot
- Competes for food with wasps and possums
- Stoats and possums predate nesting females
- Flourish in predator controlled areas
- Eat seeds, fruit, nectar, sap, honeydew and invertebrates

Toutouwai

- 'New Zealand Robin'
- Endemic (only found in NZ)
- At Risk/declining
- Sparrow sized with long legs
- Friendly, often coming close to humans
- 3 species in NZ
- Eggs, chicks and nesting females often killed by introduced predators
- Flourish in predator free areas