## Bellbird/korimako Anthornis melanura

### **Endemic. Not Threatened**



Bellbirds are olive green, with a purplish head. Females have duller plumage than males.



Their song resembles the chiming of bells. The alarm call is a series of loud, rapidly repeated, harsh staccato notes.



Adult male bellbird/korimako. Photo: Craig McKenzie



Bellbirds are endemic to New Zealand, and occur throughout the country from the coast to about 1200 metres. They live in forest and scrub habitats. They can be spotted in urban areas, especially if there is bush nearby.



Bellbirds eat nectar, fruit and insects. They are important pollinators of many native plant species, such as mistletoe, fuchsia and kowhai.



Bellbirds breed from September through to February. They prefer to nest in trees with dense foliage for cover. Bellbirds mate with the same partner each year and maintain the same breeding territory. The female makes the nest, lays 3-5 eggs, and incubates the clutch. Both parents feed the chicks, which fledge after 14 days. A pair can raise two broods in a season.



Seen it!

Just as people from different parts of New Zealand can have noticeably regional accents, bellbirds also sing with regional 'dialects'. Bellbird songs vary enormously from one place to another, even over short distances.



## Silvereye/tauhou Zosterops lateralis

#### Native, Not Threatened



The silvereye (waxeye, white-eye) is a small olive green bird, with a white ring around its eye. Males have slightly brighter plumage than females.



Adult silvereye/tauhou. Photo: Tony Whitehead



Silvereye have a range of clear, high-pitched and melodious calls including warbles and trills, often repeated. The main contact is a plaintive creee, and the flight call a shorter cli-cli, with many birds calling at once. Full song is a quiet, long warble.



The silvereye has a wide distribution throughout New Zealand. They can be found from sea level to above the treeline but they are not abundant in deep forest or open grassland.



Silvereyes mainly eat insects, fruit and nectar. They have a fine tapered bill and a brush-tipped tongue for reaching nectar. They are often seen feeding in flocks.



Silvereye were self-introduced in the 1830s and are now among the most common bird in suburbia. Its Māori name, tauhou, means 'stranger' or more literally, 'new arrival'.

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Seen it!

Cover photo: Sacred kingfisher. Photo: Bartek Wypych

New Zealand Government







# Fantail/pīwakawaka Rhipidura fuliginosa

### **Endemic**. Not Threatened





North Island adult fantail pīwakawaka calling. Photo: Ormond Torr



Fantails are quite vocal with either a single 'cheet' call, or more rapid 'tweeta-tweeta'.



Fantails are endemic (unique) to New Zealand and are widespread except where frosts and snow falls are too harsh. Their range extends from sea level to the snowline.



Their main prey are moths, flies, spiders, wasps, beetles and sometimes fruit. Fantails use their broad tails to change direction quickly while hunting for insects, plucking the insects from the air. They will hang around people (and other birds), but it's not because they are friendly, it's because you are disturbing food for them to eat!



The fantail lifespan is less than 3 years. Fantails stay in pairs all year but high mortality means that the pairing seldom survives more than one season. The success of the species is largely due to their prolific and early breeding. Both adults incubate eggs for about 14 days and the chicks fledge at about 13 days. Both adults feed the young, but as soon as the female starts building the next nest, the male takes over the role of feeding the previous brood.



Young are fed about every 10 minutes - about 100 times per day!



Grey warbler/riroriro

Gerygone igata

#### Endemic, Not Threatened



The grey warbler is a relatively inconspicuous grey-brown bird with pale grey on the face, throat and breast and an off-white belly and under-tail.



Adult grey warbler/riroriro. Photo: Bartek Wypych



Grey warblers have a characteristic long trilled song. Only males sing, although females do give short chirp calls, usually as a contact call near the male.



The grey warbler occurs everywhere where there are trees or shrubs, including rural and urban areas. They are typically found only in woody vegetation, in mid to high levels of the canopy, making them difficult to observe.



Grey warblers are insectivores, often hovering to pick insects and spiders from plants.



Grey warblers usually breed from August to January. The nest is a hanging enclosed dome, usually found in the outer branches of the canopy, 2-4 m off the ground. Birds in the north raise one brood per season, whereas those in the South Island usually have two broods. Females lay 3-5 eggs per clutch.



Grey warblers are the only mainland host for the shining cuckoo. The female shining cuckoo removes a single egg from the grey warbler nest, replacing it with her egg. After hatching, the cuckoo chick ejects all grey warbler eggs and nestlings from the nest and is raised alone by the grey warbler.

Seen it!



Wood pigeon/kererū

Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae

### Endemic, Not Threatened



The kererū is a large bird with iridescent green and bronze feathers on its head and a white vest. Kererū measure up to 51 cm from tail to beak, and weigh about 650 g.



New Zealand wood pigeon/kererū. Photo: Herb Christophers



The noisy beat of their wings is a distinctive sound in our forests. Their call is a soft 'oo'.



Kererū are found in most lowland native forests throughout the country. They inhabit a wide variety of forest types. Providing there is food, they also visit urban parks and rural and suburban gardens.



Kererū eat berries, leaves, buds and flowers. Since the extinction of moa, kererū are now the only seed disperser with a beak big enough to swallow large fruit, such as those of karaka, tawa and taraire. The disappearance of the kererū would be a disaster for the regeneration of our native forests.



As long-lived birds, they breed slowly. They nest mainly in spring and early summer producing one egg per nest, which both parents look after. The chick leaves the nest when about 40 days old. It is fed 'pigeon milk', a protein-rich milky secretion from the walls of the parents' crops, mixed with fruit pulp.



When enough fruit is available, some pairs of kererū will have a large chick in one nest and be incubating an egg in another nearby.







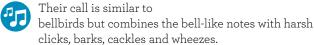
# Tūī Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae

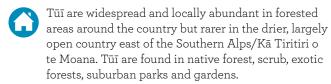
### Endemic, Not Threatened



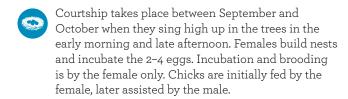


Adult tūī in kōwhai. Photo: Craig McKenzie



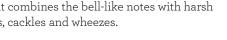


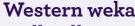
Tūī feed mainly on nectar from flowers of native plants such as kōwhai, kahikatea, rātā and flax. Occasionally they will eat insects. Tūī are important pollinators of many native trees and will fly large distances, especially during winter, for their favourite foods. Tūī are quite aggressive, and will chase other tūī and other species away from good food sources.



These clever birds mimic sounds such as the call of the bellbird and in urban areas sometimes telephones!

Seen it!





Gallirallus australis australis

Endemic, At Risk—Declining



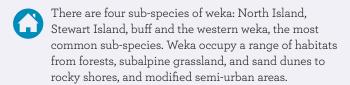
The weka is a large, brown flightless bird with a short, sharp bill.

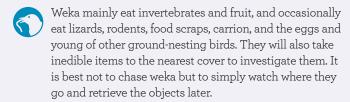
The weka's best known call is



Adult western weka. Photo: James Mortimer

a repetitive, loud 'coo-et' that is usually heard at dusk. It is presented as a duet, with the male giving the lower and slower part.





Weka usually breed once a year. Where the populations are territorial they mate for life but not when there is less need for males to defend a territory.

Buff weka were once common on the eastern South Island but became extinct there in the 1920s. However, they were introduced to Chatham and Pitt islands in 1905, where they are considered a pest, so many Chatham Islanders hunt them for the dinner table (that is illegal here!).





Sacred kingfisher/kōtare

Todiramphus sanctus

### Native, Not Threatened



Photo: Bartek Wypych

Kingfishers have a wide range of unmusical calls, the most distinctive of which is the staccato 'kek-kek' territorial call.

Kingfishers are found throughout the country in both coastal and inland freshwater habitats. They live in a wide range of habitats, including forest, river margins, farmland, lakes, estuaries and rocky coastlines.

Their diet in estuarine mudflats is mainly small crabs, with a range of tadpoles, freshwater crayfish and small fish in freshwater habitats. In open country they eat insects, spiders, lizards, mice and small birds.

Nest sites are in cavities in trees, cliffs and banks with breeding from September to February. After leaving the nest chicks are fed by both parents for 7–10 days before they start to catch food for themselves.

Kingfishers appear to have high fidelity to breeding sites. The same burrow has been reported in use for 20 consecutive years, but it is not known how many birds were involved.

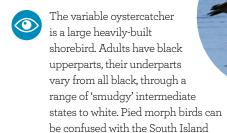




# Variable oystercatcher/tōrea

Haematopus unicolor

## Endemic, Recovering

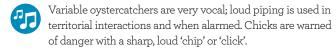


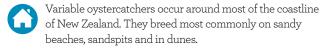
pied oystercatcher. They have a

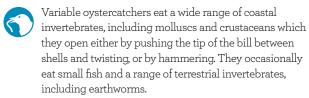
conspicuous long bright orange bill

morph, variable oystercatcher feeding. Photo: Ormond Torr

(longer in females), and stout coral-pink legs. The iris is red and the eye-ring orange.







Variable oystercatchers breed in monogamous pairs and defend territories vigorously against neighbours. Nests are normally simple scrapes in the sand and the 2-3 eggs are laid from October onwards. Incubation is shared and takes about 28 days. Chicks fly at 6-7 weeks old and late chicks may not fledge until March. Chicks are vigorously protected by both parents, often well after fledging. Adults show high fidelity to their mate and the site.

The proportion of all-black birds increases as you head south.

Little penguin/kororā

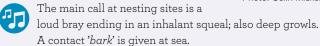
Eudyptula minor

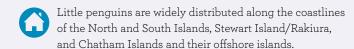
### Native, Declining

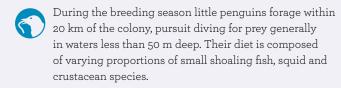


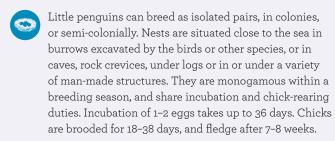


Little penguin/kororā. Photo: Colin Miskelly









When returning to nesting areas at dusk, they congregate in small groups, or 'rafts' offshore. Rafts usually come ashore together and comprise the same individuals each night.

Seen it!

Spotted shag/parekareka

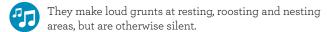
Stictocarbo punctatus

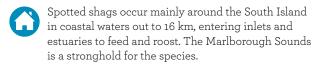
#### Endemic, Not Threatened

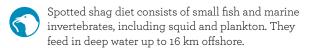


Adult spotted shag in breeding plumage. Photo: Ormond Torr

front and back of the head. Bare facial skin between the eye and bill turns green-blue before the breeding season.









Spotted shags often have a mass of small stones ('rangle') in their gizzards, but the reason for this is unknown. The possibilities include: to function as ballast, to grind up food, or to create an inhospitable environment for gut parasites.







