

2. Biodiversity in the forest

The range of living things



Kereru/NZ pigeon Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.



Tui Photo: R. Veitch/DOC.



Korimako/Bellbird Photo: R. Veitch/



Tauhou/Silvereye
Photo: DOC.



Piwakawaka/Fantail
Photo: DOC.



Riroriro/Grey warbler
Photo: J.L. Kendrick/DOC.

2. Biodiversity in the forest

The range of living things

A forest community includes many different plants and animals that relate to each other in some way. Some provide food, some give shelter or shade, others help to disperse seeds or help to break down the forest litter into rich soil. Take some time to look at the birds of the forest and think about their special place in the forest community.

- Walk slowly and quietly through the forest and listen for the sounds of birds.
- Find a place to sit quietly and make a map of the sounds you hear.
 - Draw a circle and imagine you are sitting in the centre of that circle.
 - Put a cross in the circle to show any bird sound that you hear around you while you count slowly to 50.
- Make another sound map in a different area of the bush.
 - Compare the 2 maps and explain the results to a friend.
 - If they are very different, attempt to explain why that might be so.
- Identify any birds that you can.
- What food is available for the birds at this time of year?
 - Will the same food be available all year round?
- Give the birds a job description for the work they do in the forest.
 - What is their special role?

All forest litter is recycled. Invertebrates break down dead plant and animal materials.

