



Ngāi Tahu taonga animal species

What are taonga species?

Taonga species are native birds, plants and animals of special cultural significance and importance to Ngāi Tahu. The birds and marine mammals are listed below.

The Crown's settlement with Ngāi Tahu (Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998) included recognition of the special traditional relationship Ngāi Tahu have with taonga species. Ngāi Tahu participates in the management of those species in many ways, including representation on species recovery groups.

Who is Ngāi Tahu?

Ngāi Tahu is a South Island iwi. Their takiwā (ancestral land) is defined by the Te Rūnanga Ngāi Tahu Act 1996. It covers most of Te Wai Pounamu (South Island) – excluding a northern segment – and the islands to the south including Stewart Island/Rakiura and other islands.

Reference; *Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998; Section 287, Schedule 97.*

For names of species not included on this list, the dictionary approved for reference by Ngāi Tahu is; *A dictionary of the Maori Language by Herbert W Williams, MA. Seventh edition 1971, A.R. Shearer, Government printer, Wellington.*

Birds

Māori name	English name	Scientific name
hoiho	yellow-eyed penguin	<i>Megadyptes antipodes</i>
kāhu	Australasian harrier hawk	<i>Circus approximans</i>
kāka	South Island kaka / forest parrot	<i>Nestor meridionalis meridionalis</i>
kākāpō	kakapo	<i>Strigops habroptilus</i>
kākāriki	New Zealand parakeet	<i>Cyanoramphus</i> spp.
kakaruai	South Island robin	<i>Petroica australis australis</i>
kakī	black stilt	<i>Himantopus novaeseelandiae</i>
kāmana	Australasian crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
kārearea	New Zealand falcon	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>
karoro	black backed gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
kea	kea/mountain parrot	<i>Nestor notabilis</i>
kōau	black, pied and little shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> , <i>P. varius varius</i> , <i>P. melanoleucos brevirostris</i>
koekoeā	long-tailed cuckoo	<i>Eudynamys taitensis</i>
kōparapara or korimako	bellbird	<i>Anthornis melanura melanura</i>
kororā	blue penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>
kōtare	kingfisher	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>
kōtuku	white heron	<i>Egretta alba</i>
kowhiowhio	blue duck	<i>Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos</i>
kuaka	bar-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
kūkupa/kererū	New Zealand pigeon	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae</i>
kuruwhengu/kuruwhengi	NZ shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchos</i>
mata	fernbird	<i>Bowdleria punctata punctata</i> , <i>B.p. stewartiana</i> , <i>B.p. wilsoni</i> & <i>B.p.candata</i>



Māori name	English name	Scientific
matuku	Australasian bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>
matuku moana	blue reef heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>
miromiro	tomtit (South Island and Snares Island)	<i>Petroica macrocephala macrocephala</i> & <i>P.m. dannefaerdi</i>
mohua	yellowhead/bush canary	<i>Mohoua ochrocephala</i>
ngutu pare/parore	wrybill plover	<i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i>
pākura/pūkeke	swamp hen/pukeke	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
pārera	grey duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
pāteke	brown teal	<i>Anas aucklandica</i>
pihoihoi	ground lark/New Zealand pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>
pīpīpi	brown creeper	<i>Finschia novaeseelandiae</i>
pīpīwharauaroa	shining cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>
pīwakawaka	South Island fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa fuliginosa</i>
pīwauwau	rock wren	<i>Xenicus gilviventris</i>
poaka	ped stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
pokotiwaha	Snares crested penguin	<i>Eudyptes robustus</i>
pūtakitaki	Paradise shelduck	<i>Tadorna variegata</i>
rīroriro	grey warbler	<i>Gerygone igata</i>
roroa	great spotted kiwi	<i>Apteryx haastii</i>
rowi	Okarito brown kiwi	<i>Apteryx mantelli</i>
ruru koukou	morepork	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>
takahe	takahe	<i>Porphyrio mantelli</i>
tara	tern	<i>Sterna</i> spp.
tarapirohe	black-fronted tern	<i>Sterna albobristata</i>
tarāpunga	black-billed gull	<i>Larus bulleri</i>
tawaki	Fiordland crested penguin	<i>Eudyptes pachyrhynchus</i>
tete	grey teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>
tīeke	South Island saddleback	<i>Philesturnus carunculatus carunculatus</i>
tītī	muttonbird/sooty shearwater, Hutton's shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus, Pufftoni</i>
tītī	common diving, South Georgian & Westland petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix, P. georgicus</i> & <i>Procellaria westlandica</i>
tītī	fairy prion & broad-billed prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i> & <i>P. vittata</i>
tītī	White-faced storm petrel, Cook's & mottled petrel	<i>Pelagodroma marina, Pterodroma cookie</i> & <i>P. inexpectata</i>
tītiti-pounamu	South Island rifleman	<i>Acanthisitta chloris chloris</i>
tokoeka	South Island brown kiwi	<i>Apteryx australis</i>
tōrea	ped oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
toroa	albatrosses and mollymawks	<i>Diomedea</i> spp.
toutouwai	Stewart Island robin	<i>Petroica australis rakiura</i>
tūi	tui/parson bird	<i>Prothemadera novaeseelandiae</i>
tutukiwi	Snares Island snipe	<i>Coenocorypha aucklandica huegeli</i>
turiwhatu	banded dotterel	<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>
weka	Western, Stewart Island & Buff weka	<i>Gallirallus australis australis, G.a. scotti</i> & <i>G.a. hectori</i>

Marine mammals

ihupuku	Southern elephant seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>
kekeno	New Zealand fur seal	<i>Arctocephalus forsteri</i>
paieka	humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>
parāoa	sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>
rāpoka/whakahoa	Hookers sea lion	<i>Phocarctos hookeri</i>
tohorā	Southern right whale	<i>Balaena australis</i>
upokohue	Hector's dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus hectori</i>