

Finding whio

Find out more about where whio / blue ducks live and how we boost their populations in captivity and keep them safe in the wild.

Partnering to protect nature so whio thrive

With Genesis Energy's help, the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) is able to operate whio security sites throughout the country, boost predator control efforts, and enhance the breeding and survival of these rare ducks.

Security sites

These high-priority areas are intensively managed, with the goal of having at least 50 pairs at each site. With the support of Genesis Energy, protection efforts are focused on ensuring that the sites have effective predator control regimes and maintain healthy duck populations.



Adult whio. Photo: BJ Cairns



Kayla from the Central North Island Sika Foundation Kaimanawa Recovery Project. Photo: Gary Harwood

Recovery sites

These sites help to maintain whio across their natural range. They are managed through community efforts and DOC initiatives.



Captive facilities

There are many places where you can see captive whio living in comfortable and safe homes. These birds are involved in breed-for-release programmes, through which whio are bred, hatched, raised and hardened before being tagged and released into security sites.

Rearing facilities

These facilities aim to speed up the recovery of wild whio populations at sites with existing predator control.



Andy Glaser from DOC talks to winning Squawk Squad classroom. Photo: Scott Smart

To find out more about whio, visit doc.govt.nz/whio or join the Whio Forever community @WhioForever  

