

# Fabulous facts about...

## Auckland's shore and sea birds



Photo: David Cook Wildlife Photography

**Y**ou can depend on **tarāpunga/red-billed gull** to eat your leftover fish and chips. They are kleptoparasites – animals that steal food from others.

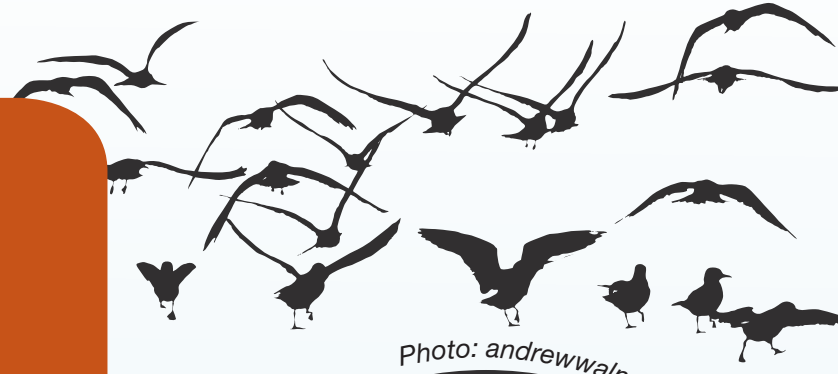


Photo: andrewwalmsleyphotography.com



**A**lthough they look like ordinary sea gulls, **tarāpuka/black-billed gull** are found only in New Zealand. More than 90% of their population has been lost since the 1980s.

**T**ūturiwhatu/**dotterel** build well-camouflaged nests in the sand above the high tide mark – where their eggs can be easily crushed by people, vehicles, horses, or stock.



Photo: Rod Hay

**B**rave beyond their small size, highly endangered **tara iti/fairy tern** swoop and poop on people getting too close to their young or their nests.



Photo: Rod Hay



Photo: andrewwalmsleyphotography.com

**D**espite living in colonies of thousands, **kororā/little penguin** can always find their mates in a crowd, because each one has a unique call.



Photo: @Jonathan Astin

**T**o catch fish, **tākapu/gannets** perform a spectacular dive-bomb from as high up as 30 metres. They plunge head-first into the sea at up to 145 km/hr!

**T**ōrea/oystercatchers are great parents and aggressively defend their offspring. They mob aerial predators and lure ground predators, including humans, away with cunning tactics.



Photo: Shelle Evans

**W**ith a wingspan of more than a metre, **tāiko/black petrel** are well equipped to fly long distances – adults and fledglings migrate to South America every year.



Photo: Terry C Greene

# Healthy Nature Healthy People

New Zealand Government

Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai