

For millions of years our precious birds evolved with no mammalian pests. They were unprepared when man arrived along with creatures that could chase and sniff them out. Birds and their nests were decimated. Our birds need our help to survive.



NZ Dotterel Endemic. NZ dotterel are losing beach habitat to humans and housing. They are disturbed by dogs and suffer predation by cats, stoats, and rats. They return every year to their nesting territories. Ten pairs make Tawharanui their home.



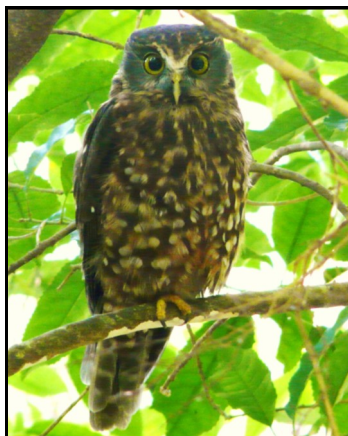
Variable Oystercatcher Endemic. From juveniles to breeding age takes seven years. They can be seen feeding on the beaches and amongst the rocks. They can be very noisy and aggressive when protecting nests.



Black-backed Gull Unprotected, native. They scavenge and eat food scraps, fish, worms and small chicks. At Tawharanui some cruise on the updraft created by the cliff along Ocean Beach and pick off NZ dotterel chicks.



Red-billed Gull Native. Declining numbers these birds are now on the threatened species list. They roost and nest in large flocks. A colony nested near Phoenix Rock for three years and now have moved further east.



Morepork, Native. Morepork roost during the day in thick vegetation. Morepork eat mice, spiders and baby birds. Morepork may be seen during the day when bellbirds and tui gang up to drive them away from their territories. They are regularly heard at night.



North Island Brown Kiwi Endemic. Kiwi were introduced to Tawharanui in 2006. If you carry a torch covered in red cellophane and are very quiet in Ecology Bush you may hear them scratching around in the forest floor. If you are lucky they may pop out on the track for you to see. Their repetitive call can be heard at night.

Tawharanui Open Sanctuary is a joint project between Auckland Council AC and Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Incorporated (TOSSI).

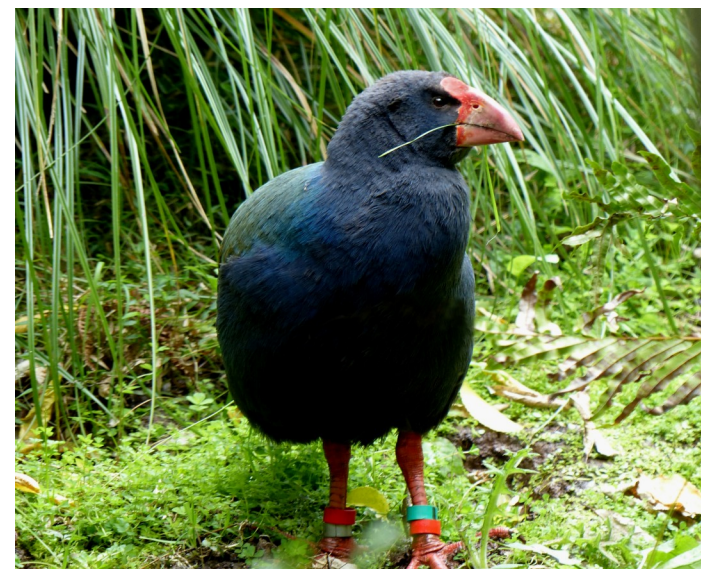


Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc.



Birds at Tawharanui Open Sanctuary

(A full bird list is available at the office.)



Takahe are endemic. (They are only found in NZ.) Takahe can't fly as they evolved in New Zealand with no ground predators. Since 2014 fourteen have been released at Tawharanui through the Department of Conservation Takahe Recovery Programme. They all have radio transmitters and are monitored carefully.



Pukeko are native. (They are found in other countries) Common pukeko can fly. Pukeko were a wetland bird. When humans arrived they flourished on open farm land and are now abundant everywhere.



North Island Robin
Toutouwai. Endemic. Inquisitive, especially in chance of food when the forest floor has been disturbed in their territory. North Island robins were released back into Tawharanui in 2007.



Saddleback Tiede. Endemic. Vulnerable to mammalian predators because saddleback feed on the ground and roost low in the forest. They thrive in managed sanctuaries. They were released in 2012.



Whitehead Popokatea. Endemic. Distributed in native forests in the North island. Whiteheads are host parents for the long tailed cuckoo who lays an egg in their nest. They were released back into Tawharanui in 2007.



New Zealand Pigeon
Kereru, Kukupa, Parea. Endemic. They thrive in native forests especially in lowland areas, forest patches, rural and city gardens and parks, feeding mainly on berries. Their nest is a flimsy platform of sticks.



Bellbird Karimako. Endemic. Bellbird disappeared from Northland in the 1850s. In 2005 they returned naturally to Tawharanui from Hauturu Island and have been extremely successful. Their melodic song can be heard often.



Tui Endemic. Tui have a brood diet of nectar, fruit and invertebrates. Tui fly up to 20 kilometres for a good food source. They have adapted well to human changes and visit rural and city gardens.



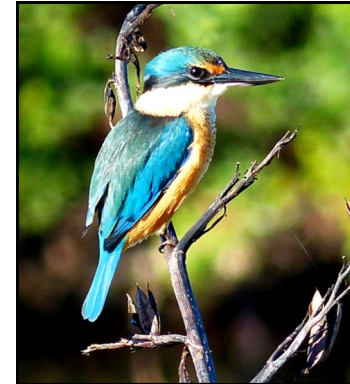
Red Crowned Kakariki. Endemic. A parrot very susceptible to mammalian predators. They are rare in native forests on the mainland but common on Stewart Island and predator free islands. They were released at Tawharanui in 2009.



Kaka Endemic. Kaka numbers were reduced by clear-felling of forests for farming. When predators were removed from Tawharanui kaka found their own way back. They are successfully breeding at Tawharanui.



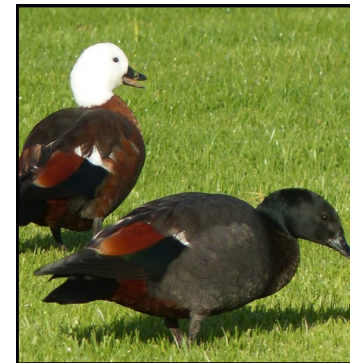
Fantail Piwakawaka. Native. When catching insects they are manoeuvrable using their tails to stop in mid air and change direction. They are friendly along bush tracks. In city gardens they are very susceptible to cats.



Kingfisher Kotare Native. They usually are solitary or in pairs perching on posts, rocks, and power lines between feeding flights. Their diet is insects, crabs, lizards earth worms, mice and small birds. They nest in holes in banks and tree trunks.



Brown Teal Pateke Rare Endemic. Translocated to Tawharanui in 2008 to 2010 through a captive breeding programme. They are now established at Tawharanui and in neighbouring wetlands.



Paradise Shelduck
Putangitangi. Endemic. Mostly seen as pairs but during December they flock to moulting sites such as Tawharanui Lagoon. The male has a black head and the female has a white head.