



How to use these flashcards

New Zealand Status

Bird Illustration

Use a QR code scanner on your smart phone to scan the QR code which will link to the bird's call or song. All calls/songs have been obtained from **nzbirdsonline.org.nz**

Habitat

Ticks indicate bird presence in habitat

Buildings



Paddocks



Bush



Coast & Sea



Nesting: Indicates if the bird nests on the island.

Numbers: Indicates the approx. number of birds on the island

Identification

Description of bird.

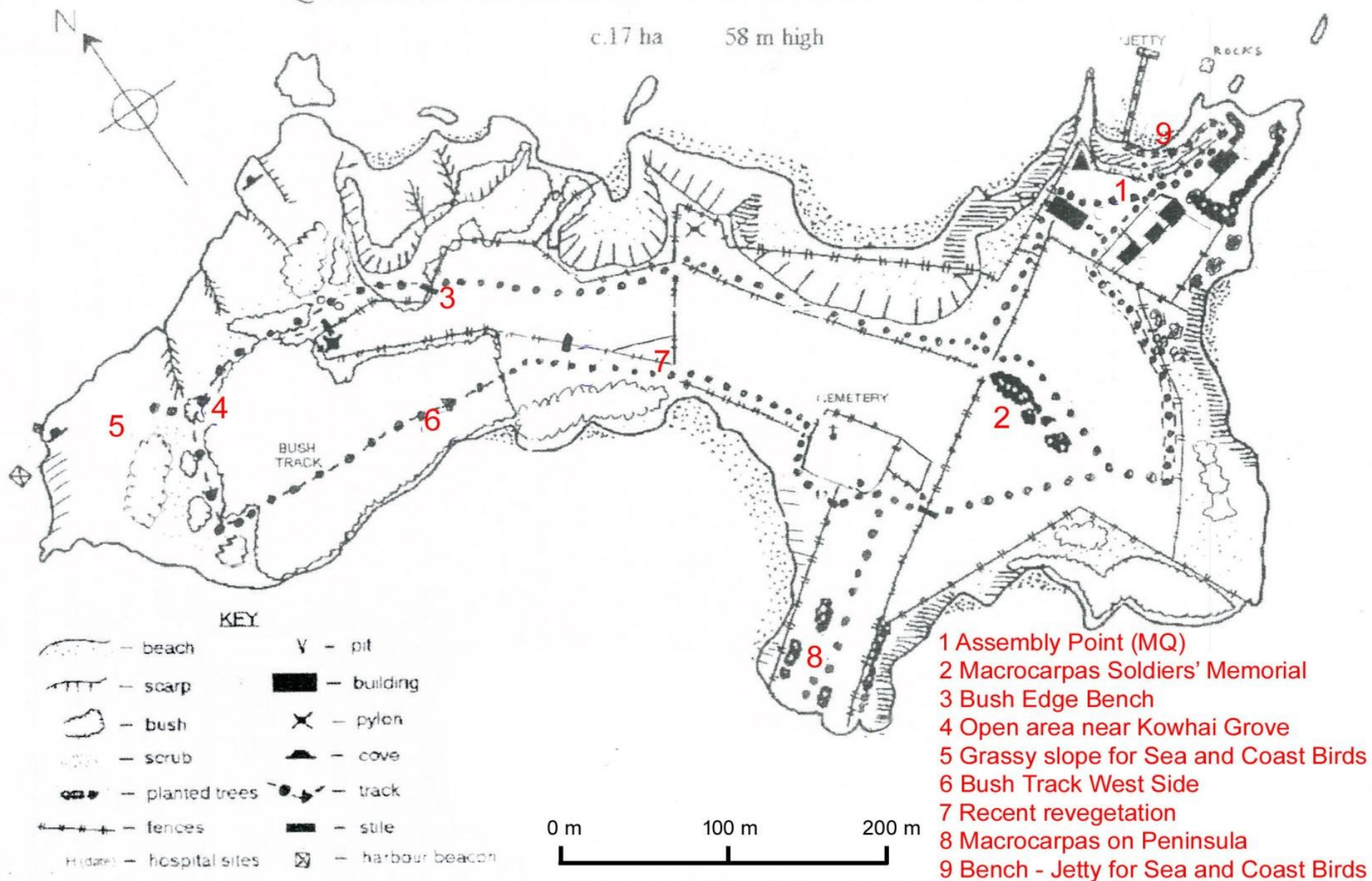
Length:, Weight:

Conservation Status

Department of Conservation assessment of the risk of a bird becoming extinct.

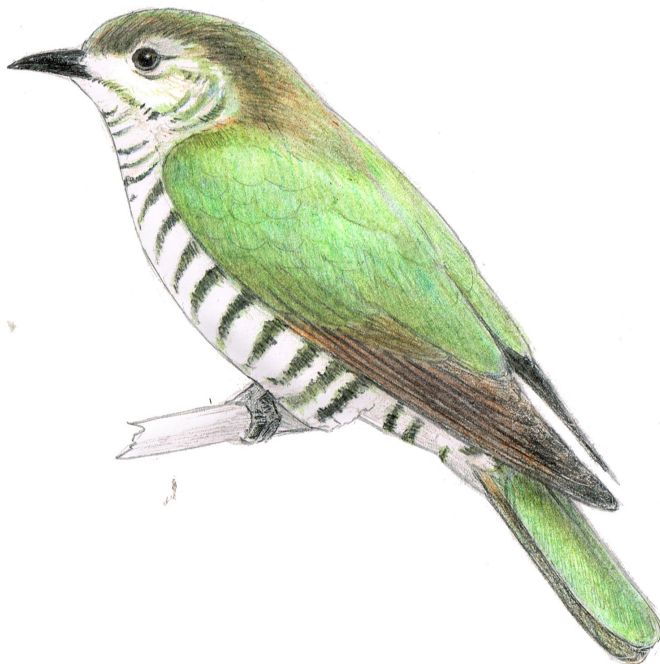
QUARANTINE ISLAND/KAMAU TAURUA

c.17 ha 58 m high



Pipiwaharaura - Shining Cuckoo

Native



Scan the QR
code to hear
male song



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting: ?

Numbers: Occasional, brief visits to the island.

Identification

Little bigger than a sparrow yet song, a loud series of upward slurred whistles ending in a downward whistle is unmistakable and a welcome sign of spring. Lays eggs in grey warbler nests. Migrates to Bismarck Archipelago (New Guinea) and Solomon Islands for winter.

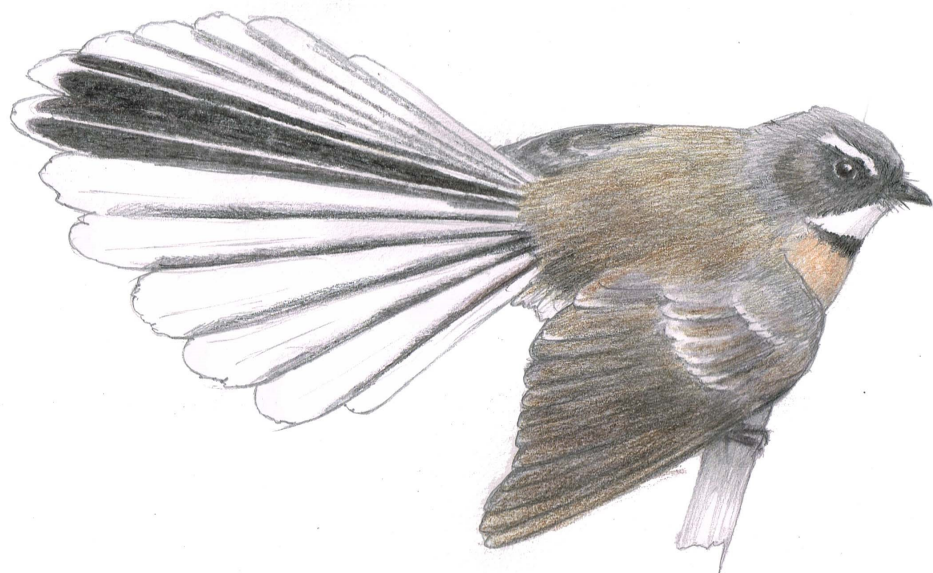
Length: 16 cm, Weight: 23 g

Conservation Status

Not threatened. Present wherever grey warblers live.

Piwakawaka—Fantail

Endemic



Scan the QR
code to hear
song and calls



Habitat

Buildings



Paddocks

Bush



Coast & Sea

Nesting:

?

Numbers: 1-5 but not always present

Identification

Unmistakable but watch out for the black form.

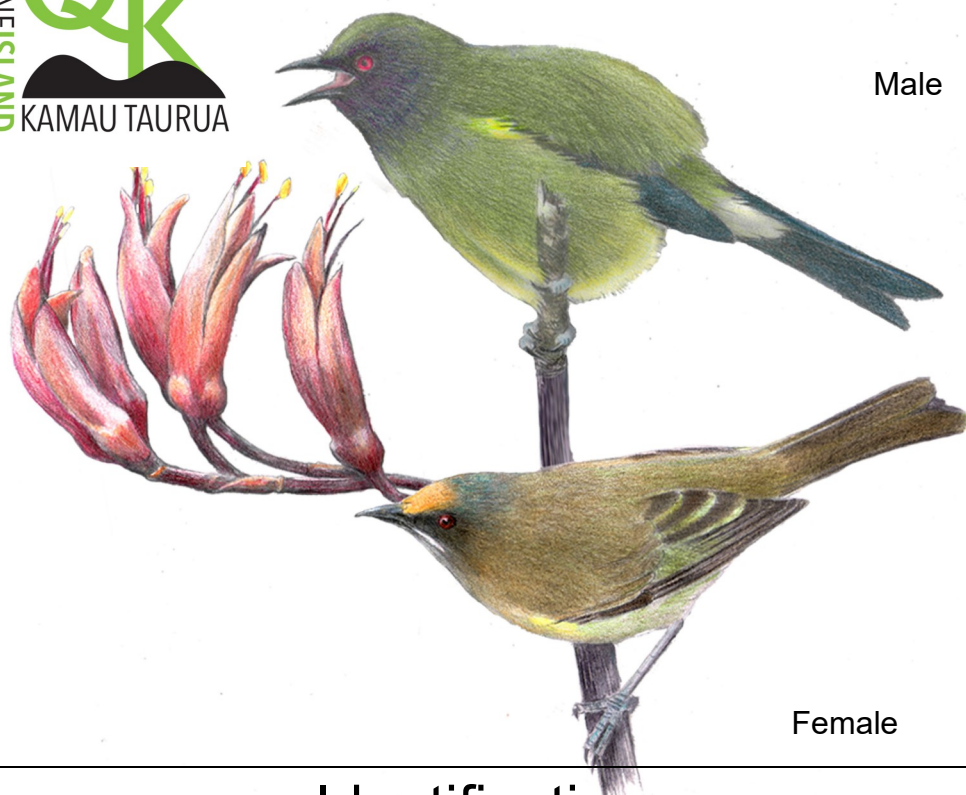
Length: 16 cm, Weight: 8 g

Conservation Status

Not threatened. Common in all but treeless farmland and tussock. One of the few endemic birds to adapt to the changes of the last 200 years.

Korimako— Bellbird

Endemic



Male

Female

Scan the QR code to hear an adult song



Habitat

Buildings
Paddocks
Bush
Coast & Sea



Nesting:



Numbers: Several Pairs

Identification

Not much bigger than a sparrow yet has loud, varied calls and songs evocative of NZ bush. Males are larger and darker than females. When feeding on nectar their heads may become brightly coloured from pollen; orange from harakeke flax and blue from kōtukutuku fuchsia.

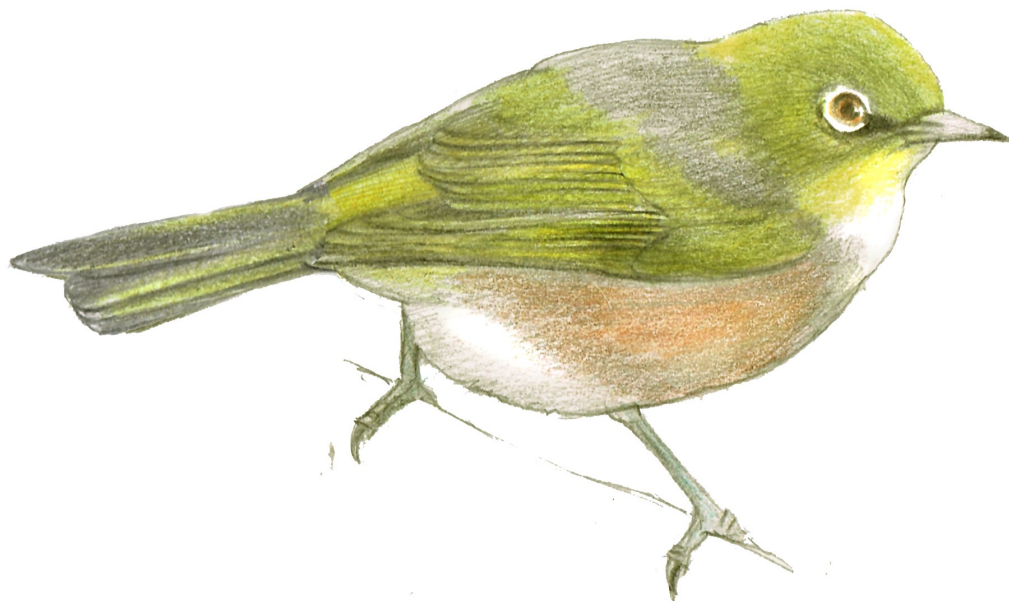
Length: 20 cm, Weight: 34 g (m), 26 g (f)

Conservation Status

Least concern. Especially common around Dunedin but more restricted to native bush elsewhere.

Tauhou—Silvereye

Native



Scan the QR
code to hear
calls and song



Habitat

Buildings



Paddocks

Bush



Coast & Sea

Nesting:



Numbers: ~20 spring and summer. Many more
in autumn.

Identification

Small, sparrow sized bird that flits around in
bushes and trees calling constantly and eating
insects, nectar and berries. Often in flocks.

Length: 12 cm, Weight: 13 g

Conservation Status

Not threatened. Common throughout NZ
in all but treeless farmland and tussock.
Flew across from Australia in the 1850s.

Riroriro—Grey Warbler

Endemic



Scan the QR code to hear a territorial song



Habitat

Buildings



Paddocks

Bush



Coast & Sea

Nesting:



Numbers: ~5 pairs

Identification

Tiny, grey-brown bird with a white tip to its tail. Flits and hovers around in bushes and trees eating insects. Often sings a thin whistling wavering song.

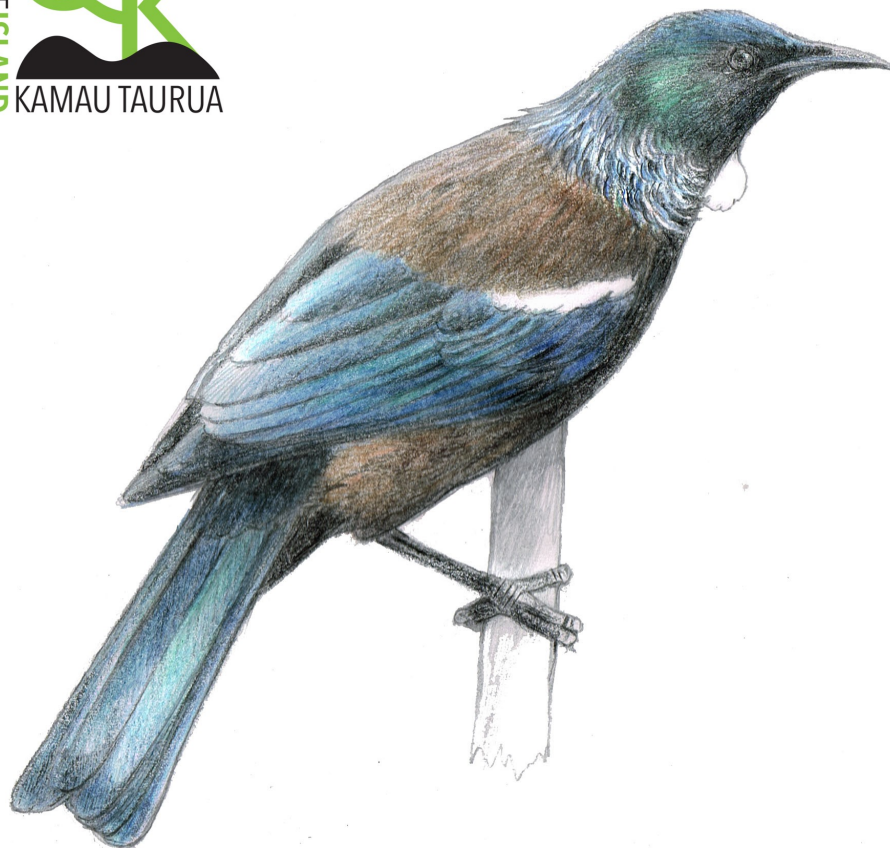
Length: 11 cm, Weight: 5.5—6.5 g

Conservation Status

Not threatened. One of the commonest endemic birds; present in all but treeless farmland and tussock.

Tui

Endemic



Scan the QR
code to hear the
song



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

No

Numbers: Occasional brief visits to the island.

Identification

Noisy, busy, glossy black bird with white tuft of feathers on chin.

Length: 30 cm, Weight: 125 g (m), 90 g (f)

Conservation Status

Not threatened. Common in all but treeless farmland and tussock.

Taringi—Starling

Introduced



Scan the QR code
to hear territorial
song



Habitat

Buildings ✓

Paddocks ✓

Bush

Coast & Sea

Nesting: Nests in holes in buildings, trees and cliffs.

Numbers: Several Pairs

Identification

Glossy black with yellow beak in summer, black speckled with small white spots and dull beak in winter. Juveniles brown. Short tail. Walks/waddles around on grass digging for worms and grubs. Descends in flocks on berries and fruit in autumn and even feeds on flax nectar when it can sport a jaunty orange head.

Length: 21 cm, Weight: 85 g

Conservation Status

Least concern. Introduced from Europe for insect control in the late 1800, they are now common throughout NZ in all but native forest and alpine areas.

Tiutiu—Song Thrush

Introduced



Scan the QR
code to hear a
full song



Habitat

Buildings



Paddocks



Bush



Coast & Sea

Nesting:



Numbers: ~ 5-10

Identification

Distinctly spotted breast distinguishes it from female blackbirds. Hops/bounces around on short grass digging for worms and grubs. Feeds on berries and fruit in late summer and autumn.

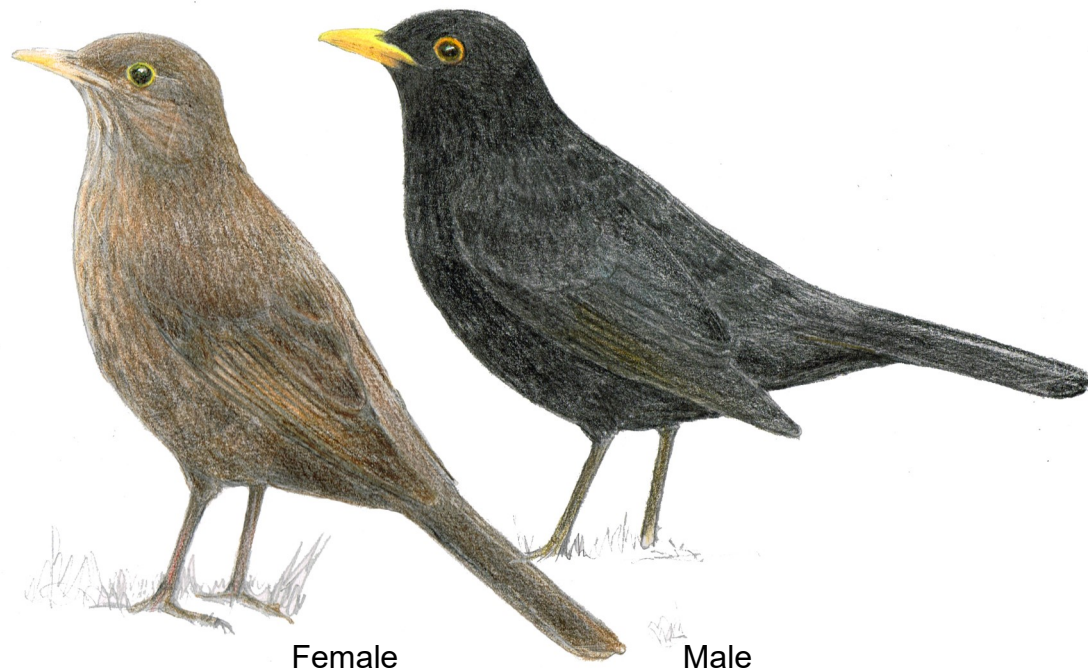
Length: 21-23 cm, Weight: 70g

Conservation Status

Least concern. Introduced from Europe in the late 1800s. Common throughout NZ except in treeless farmland, tussock and extensive native forest.

Blackbird

Introduced



Scan the QR code
to hear adult male
territorial song



Habitat

Buildings ✓

Paddocks ✓

Bush ✓

Coast & Sea ✓

Nesting: ✓

Numbers: ~15

Identification

The yellow beaked, black males can be told from similar sized starlings by longer tail and solid black not glossy or white speckled feathers. Tell brown females from song thrushes by darker feathers and smudgy, slightly paler rather than distinctly spotted breasts. Hops/bounces around on short grass digging for worms and grubs. Feeds on berries and fruit in late summer and autumn.

Length: 25 cm, Weight: 90 g

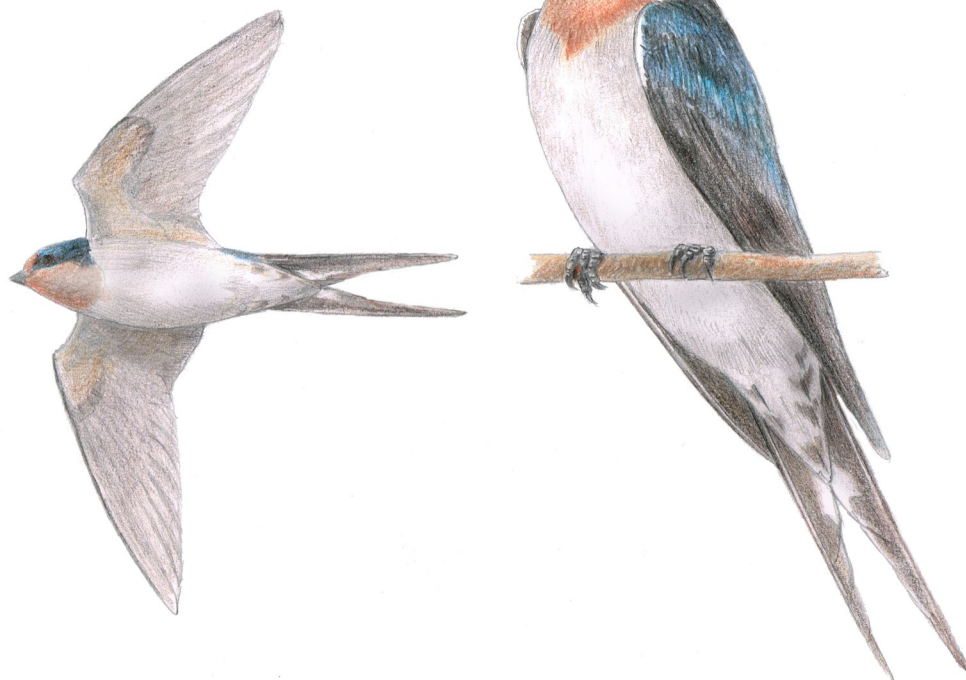
Conservation Status

Least concern. Introduced from Europe in the late 1800s. Common throughout NZ. One of few introduced birds to colonise native forest.

Warou—Welcome Swallow

Native

Scan the QR
code to hear
calls and song



Habitat

Buildings



Paddocks



Bush

Coast & Sea

Nesting: Builds mud nests attached to
buildings and coastal cliffs.

Numbers: 2-3 pairs.

Identification

Sparrow sized, slim bird, usually seen
flying around catching insects or perched
on fences or wires.

Length: 14-16 cm, Weight: 9-20 g

Conservation Status

Not threatened. Flew across from Australia
and spread throughout NZ from 1960s
onwards, benefiting from the clearance of
bush for agriculture, towns and cities.

Dunnock

Introduced



Scan the QR
code to hear
male song



Habitat

Buildings



Paddocks



Bush



Coast & Sea



Nesting:



Numbers: ~10 pairs

Identification

Sparrow sized, grey brown bird that creeps around on the ground and flies low from bush to bush; the best way to tell it from a sparrow or other introduced little brown birds. Close up has slim beak and grey breast.

Length: 14 cm, Weight: 21 g

Conservation Status

Least concern. An unlikely introduction from Britain in the late 1800s to control insect pests. Common throughout NZ, less so in Northland but present from mountains to coast except extensive native bush.

Tiu—House Sparrow

Introduced



Female

Male

Scan the QR
code to hear
male calls



Habitat

Buildings



Paddocks



Bush

Coast & Sea

Nesting:



Numbers: 30-50

Identification

The familiar sparrow. Lots around the houses and chooks and in autumn in the paddocks feeding on seeding grasses. Males are distinctive but females and young are grey brown and look similar to other females and young of introduced species. See redpoll, chaffinch, greenfinch, goldfinch, yellowhammer, dunnoek and skylark for differences.

Length: 30 cm, Weight: 125 g (m), 90 g (f)

Conservation Status

Not threatened. Common in towns and cities and farmland throughout NZ.

Redpoll

Introduced

Scan the QR code to hear calls from a large flock



Female

Male

Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

?

Numbers: ~ 5-20 Summer, few Autumn.

Identification

Small, sparrow sized streaky brown finch with a touch of red on the head. Males can be bright red on head and breast in spring when they fly around singing a buzzing song over much of the island. Feeds on grass and thistle seeds in paddocks.

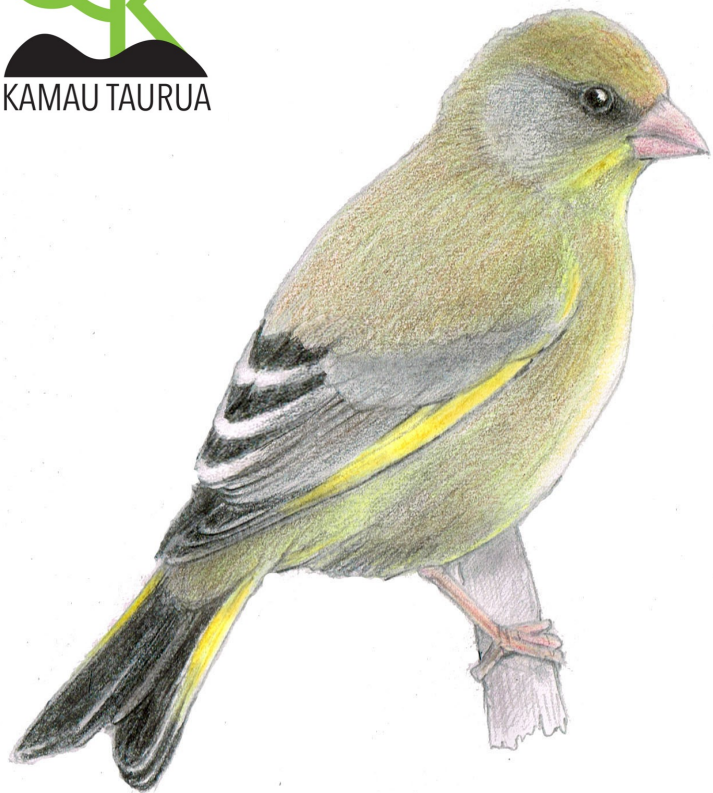
Length: 12 cm, Weight: 12 g

Conservation Status

Least concern. Introduced from Europe in the late 1800s. Common throughout NZ in agricultural, tussock and beech forest areas, more so in the South than North Island.

Greenfinch

Introduced



Scan the QR
code to hear the
song



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks



Bush

Coast & Sea

Nesting:

?

Numbers: ~10

Identification

Sparrow sized greenish brown with a touch of yellow in the wings and tail. Feeds on seeds in paddocks.

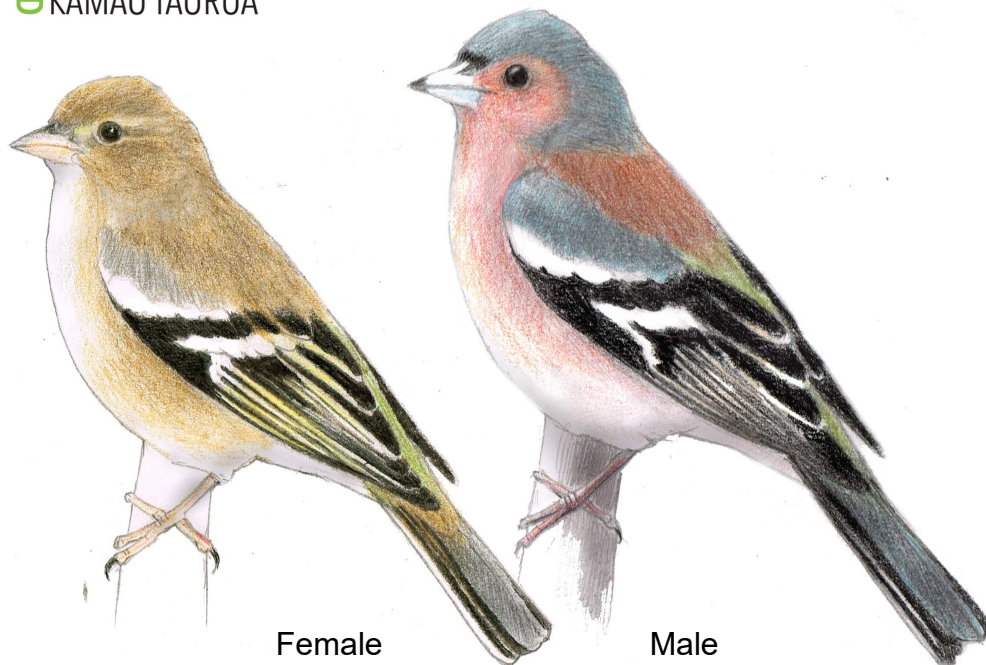
Length: 16 cm, Weight: 28 g

Conservation Status

Least concern but has decreased in UK due to agricultural changes and parasites. Introduced from Europe in the late 1800s. Common in suburban and agricultural areas.

Pahirini—Chaffinch

Introduced



Scan the QR
code to hear
male song



Habitat

Buildings



Paddocks



Bush



Coast & Sea

Nesting:



Numbers: ~10-20

Identification

Sparrow sized. Males are quite colourful, females pale brown with larger white patches on the wing than female sparrows and white edges to the tail.

Length: 14.5 cm, Weight: 17.5-24.5 g

Conservation Status

Least concern. Introduced from Europe in the late 1800s. One of the few introduced species to colonise native forest, it is now one of the commonest birds throughout NZ.

Goldfinch

Introduced



Scan the QR
code to hear
male territorial
song



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting: ?

Numbers: ~30+ in Summer, few in Autumn

Identification

Sparrow sized brightly coloured finch. Young birds are streaky pale brown but unlike female sparrows, have black and yellow wings. Feeds on grass seeds and thistles, often in small flocks.

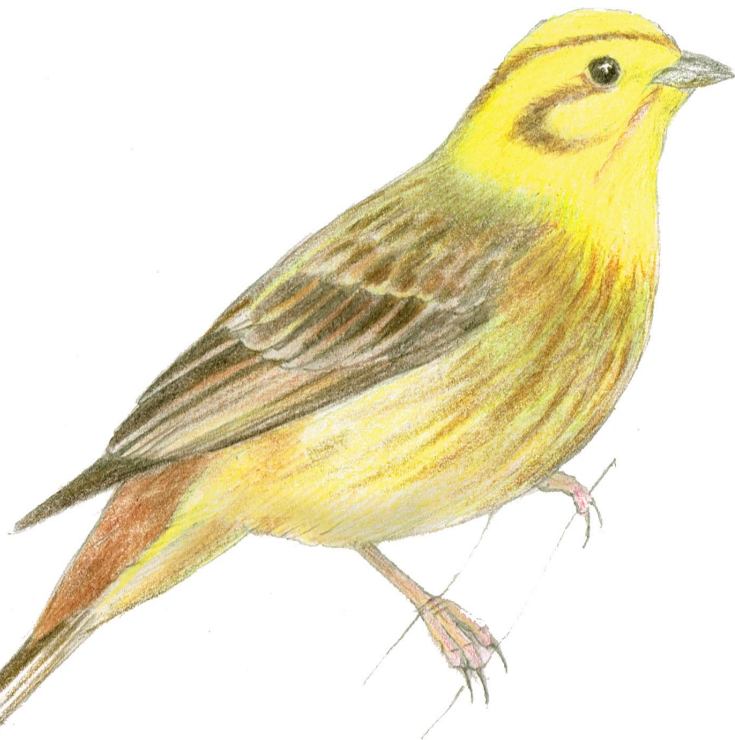
Length: 12 cm, Weight: 15 g

Conservation Status

Least concern. Introduced from Europe in the late 1800s. Common throughout NZ in agricultural areas.

Yellowhammer

Introduced



Scan the QR
code to hear
male song



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks



Bush

Coast & Sea

Nesting:

?

Numbers: 2-3

Identification

Sparrow sized. Males have bright yellow heads. Females and young are a duller streaky brown and can be told from sparrows by rusty brown lower back and white outer tail feathers. Usually feeds on the ground in paddocks.

Length: 16-16.5 cm, Weight: 18-30 g

Conservation Status

Least concern. Introduced from Europe in the late 1800s where it has declined due to changes in agricultural practices. Common throughout NZ in agricultural and tussock grassland areas.

Skylark

Introduced



Scan the QR
code to hear full
song in flight



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

?

Numbers: 2-5

Identification

Streaky brown bird, slightly larger than a sparrow. In spring and summer usually seen hovering high in the sky, singing continuously. Otherwise creeps around in the paddocks. Close up told from female and young sparrows by crest and white outer tail feathers.

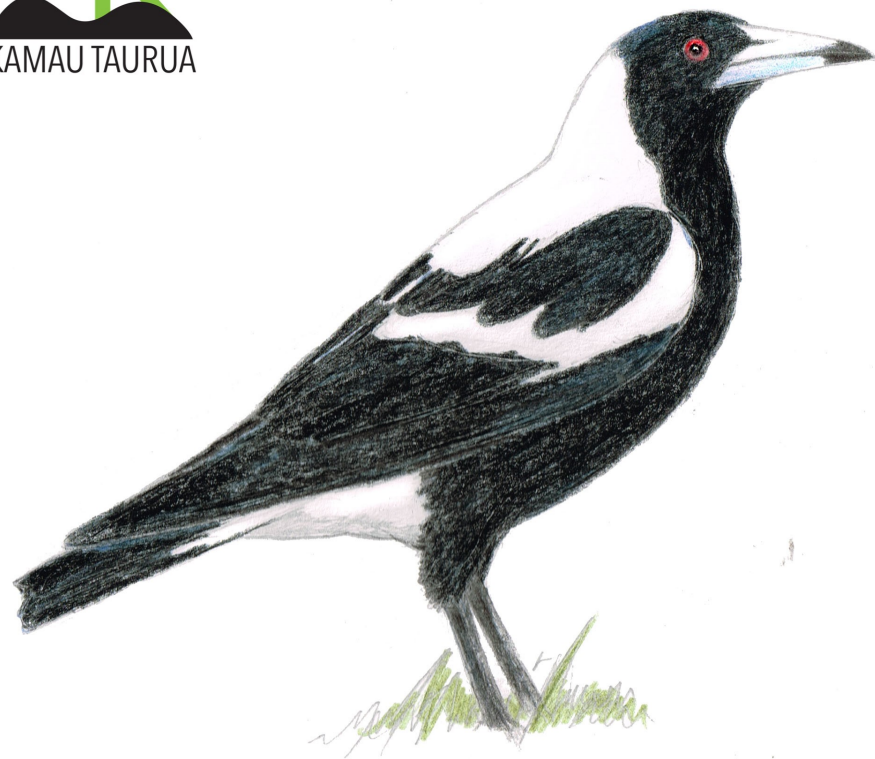
Length: 18 cm, Weight: 38 g

Conservation Status

Least concern. Introduced from Europe in the late 1880s. Common in open farmland, tussock and coastal dunes. Has declined markedly in Western Europe due to changes in agriculture.

Makipa—Magpie

Introduced



Scan the QR
code to hear
adult song



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea

Nesting:

Numbers: 1 pair



Identification

Chicken sized, noisy black and white bird.

Length: 41 cm, Weight: 350 g

Conservation Status

Least concern. Introduced from Australia around 1860-70 to control insect pests. Common throughout NZ, in towns and farmland.

Spur-winged Plover

Native



Scan the QR code to
hear calls from nesting
pair



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks



Bush

Coast & Sea

Nesting: ?

Numbers: 2-6

Identification

Chicken sized, noisy wading bird that walks around on the short grass in sheep paddocks.

Length: 38 cm, Weight: 350—370 g

Conservation Status

Least concern. Common in paddocks and estuaries throughout NZ. Flew across from Australia in 1930s, first nesting in Invercargill and spreading to Auckland by the 1980s.

Kahu—Harrier

Native

Scan the QR code to hear calls in flight



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

No

Numbers: 1-2 occasionally

Identification

Large, brown hawk usually seen soaring high over the island or flying more directly over the sea from one side of the harbour to the other.

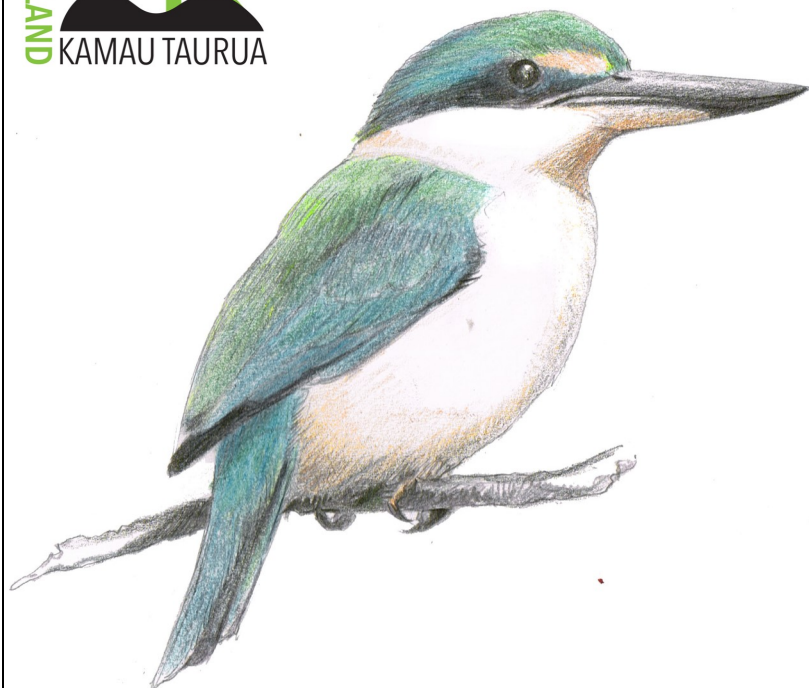
Length: 50-60 cm, Weight: 650 g (m), 850 g (f)

Conservation Status

Not threatened. Common throughout NZ in non-forested areas.

Kingfisher

Native



Scan the QR
code to hear
territorial calls



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks



Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

?

Numbers: 1-3 but not always present.

Identification

Usually seen sitting on a rock or branch, post or wire from which it dives down to catch fish and crabs around the coast, or cicadas, grasshoppers and skinks in the paddocks. Young birds are more gingery underneath and greener above.

Length: 23 cm, Weight: 55 g

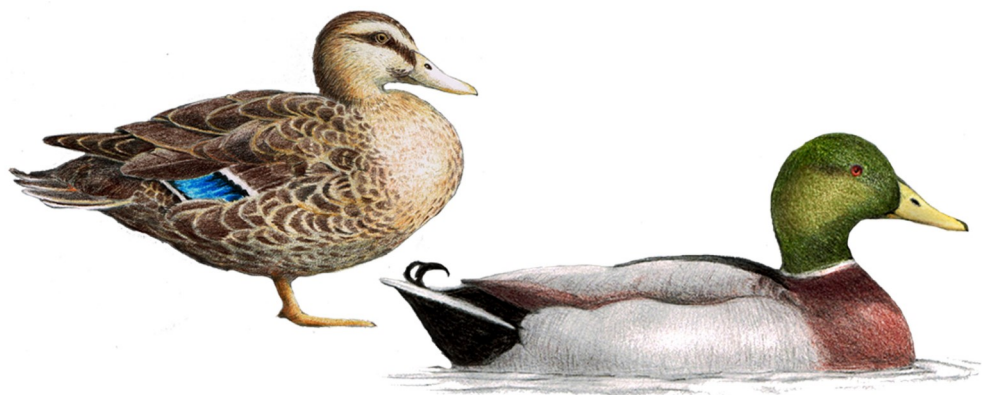
Conservation Status

Not threatened. Common on rivers, wetlands, coast and farmland. Many move to the coast in winter.

Rakiraki—Mallard

Introduced

Scan the QR code
to hear calls from
males and females
from a wild flock



Female

Male

Habitat

Buildings



Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

Numbers: ~10

Identification

Familiar duck of town parks. Males are often a lot less colourful than illustrated due to hybridisation with native Grey Duck but always have a curl above their tail. Odd colours and markings often result from crossing with domestic, farmyard ducks.

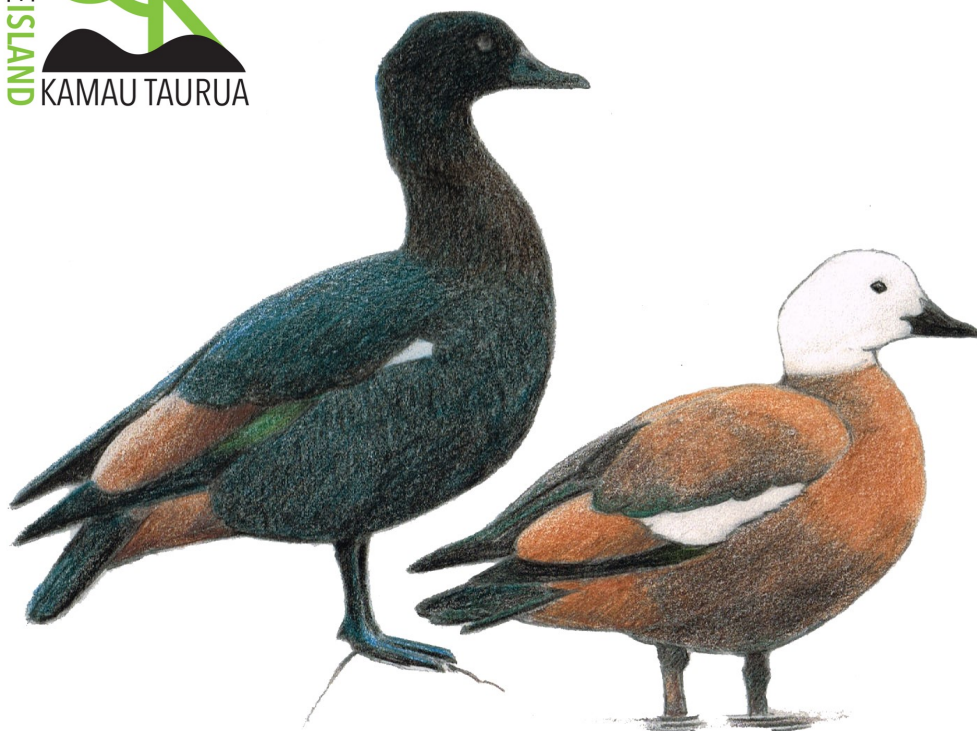
Length: 50-70 cm, Weight: 1050-1300 g

Conservation Status

Least concern. Introduced from UK from 1870s then from USA. Bred and released until 1974. Hybridisation with native Grey Duck has led to very few, if any of the native species remaining.

Putangitangi – Paradise Shelduck

Endemic



Male

Female

Scan the QR code to hear alarm calls



Habitat

Buildings



Paddocks



Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:



Numbers: Several Pairs

Identification

Big noisy duck. Females have white heads. Males and young birds of both sexes have black heads.

Length: 63—70 cm, Weight: 1.7 kg (m), 1.4 kg (f)

Conservation Status

Least concern. Common in farmland and wetlands throughout NZ.

Matuku Moana—White-faced Heron

Native

Scan the QR
code to hear
calls in flight



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks



Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

?

Numbers: Several Pairs

Identification

Pale grey heron. Usually seen fishing in shallow water around coast or standing on top of tall trees, where it possibly nests.

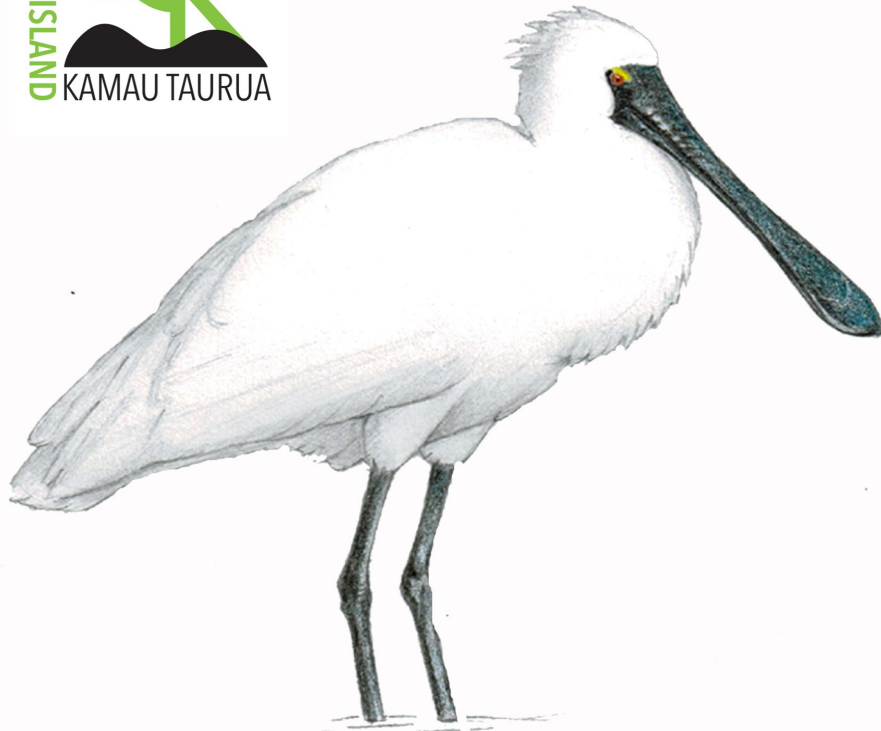
Length: 67 cm, Weight: 550 g

Conservation Status

Least concern. Common throughout NZ in farmland, wetlands and coast. It flew across the Tasman from Australia and colonised NZ from 1940s onward, benefiting from extensive bush clearances for agriculture.

Kōtuku ngutupapa—Royal Spoonbill

Native



Scan the QR code
to hear calls from a
breeding colony



Habitat

Buildings
Paddocks
Bush
Coast & Sea



Nesting:

No

Numbers: Often 1-4. More late summer/ autumn;
when as many as 50 may roost in the
trees below the cottage.

Identification

Large, intensely white bird with long
black beak. Feeds by walking along
in shallow water swinging beak from
side to side. Also perches in trees.

Length: 74-81 cm, Weight: 1.4-2.0 kg

Conservation Status

Least concern. Around 50 birds have nested at Okarito for
many years but numbers have increased to well over 2000
since the late 1970s and it has spread around NZ coasts.
Locally nests at Taiaroa Head and Green Island, feeding in
nearby wetlands and estuaries. Many local birds migrate
north as far as Northland harbours for winter.

Karoro—Black-backed Gull

Native

Scan the QR code
to hear calls at a
breeding colony



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

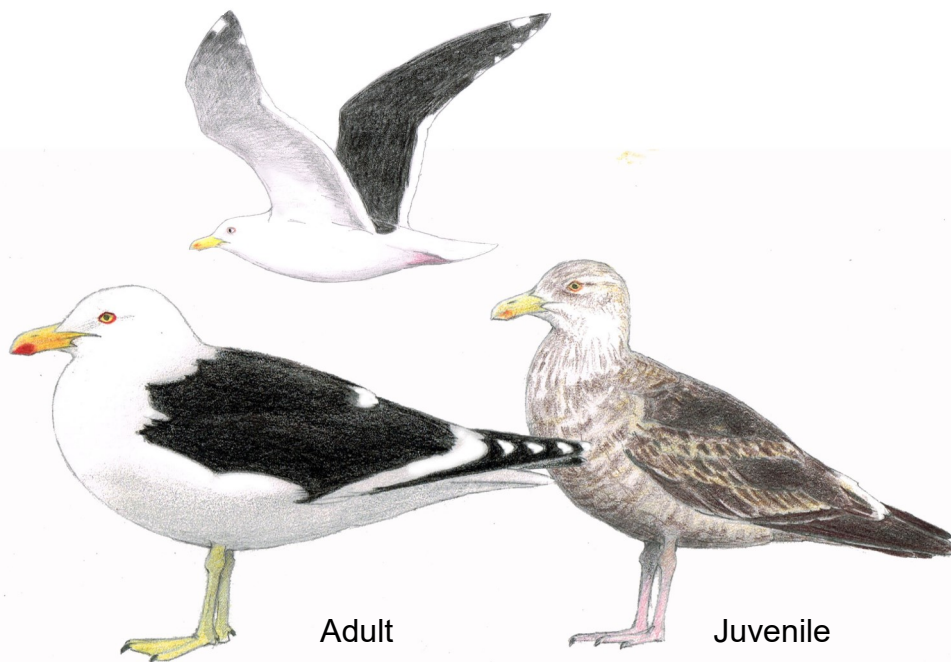
Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

Numbers: ~10 pairs nest. Up to several hundred at sea.



Adult

Juvenile

Identification

Largest seagull. Adults are white with black back and wings. Young start off brown and take 3 years to gradually attain adult plumage. Often flies over the island. Nests on the coast but rarely seen elsewhere on land.

Length: 60 cm, Weight: 1.0 kg

Conservation Status

Not threatened. Common along the coast and farmland.

Red-billed Gull

Native



Scan the QR code
to hear squabbling
during feeding



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

No, but possible

Numbers: Usually some around but
occasionally many hundreds.

Identification

The common smaller pale gull. Usually seen flying over or past the island or feeding and swimming at sea. Roosts on the jetty overnight. Hard to tell from endemic Black-billed Gull. A bird with bright red beak and legs is this species. See Black-billed Gull for other differences.

Length: 37cm, weight: 240-320g

Conservation Status

At risk. Declining.

Black-billed Gull

Endemic



Scan the QR code
to hear squabbling
during feeding



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

No

Numbers: Small numbers around in late
summer to winter.

Identification

Hard to tell from commoner Red-billed Gull. Paler,
often looking almost white and a little slimmer with a
slightly longer and thinner beak. Can have a reddish
beak and legs but never as bright as Red-billed Gulls.
In flight black on wing tips less obvious.

Length: 35-38cm, Weight: 230g.

Conservation Status

Threatened. Nationally critical. Most nests
inland in eastern South Island and many spend
the late summer, autumn and winter on the
Otago coast.

Tara—White-fronted Tern

Native



Scan the QR
code to hear
calls at a colony



Habitat

Buildings
Paddocks
Bush
Coast & Sea



Nesting:

?

Numbers: ~5-10 regularly. Occasionally many more in feeding flocks.

Identification

Like a pale seagull with thinner, pointed wings, long slim tail and black cap. Feeds by flying several metres above water searching for shoals of small fish then diving down to catch them.

Length: 42 cm, Weight: 160 g

Conservation Status

At risk Declining. Still the commonest tern around NZ coasts. Decline often attributed to predation and disturbance at nesting colonies but highly likely to be also due to changes in food availability resulting from over fishing.

Black-fronted Tern

Endemic

Scan the QR
code to hear
calls



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

No

Numbers: Several often around the island in late summer and winter.

Identification

Smaller, less streamlined and greyer than the commoner White-fronted Tern. Usually seen flying past or feeding at sea by flying several metres above water then dipping down to pick food from surface.

Length: 28 cm, Weight: 95 g

Conservation Status

Threatened. Nationally endangered. Nests inland on braided rivers in the South Island. Several hundred spend the late summer to winter in Otago harbour.

Tarawhakarara—Caspian Tern

Native

Scan the QR
code to hear
adult calls



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

No

Numbers: 1 or 2 often fishing around the
island.

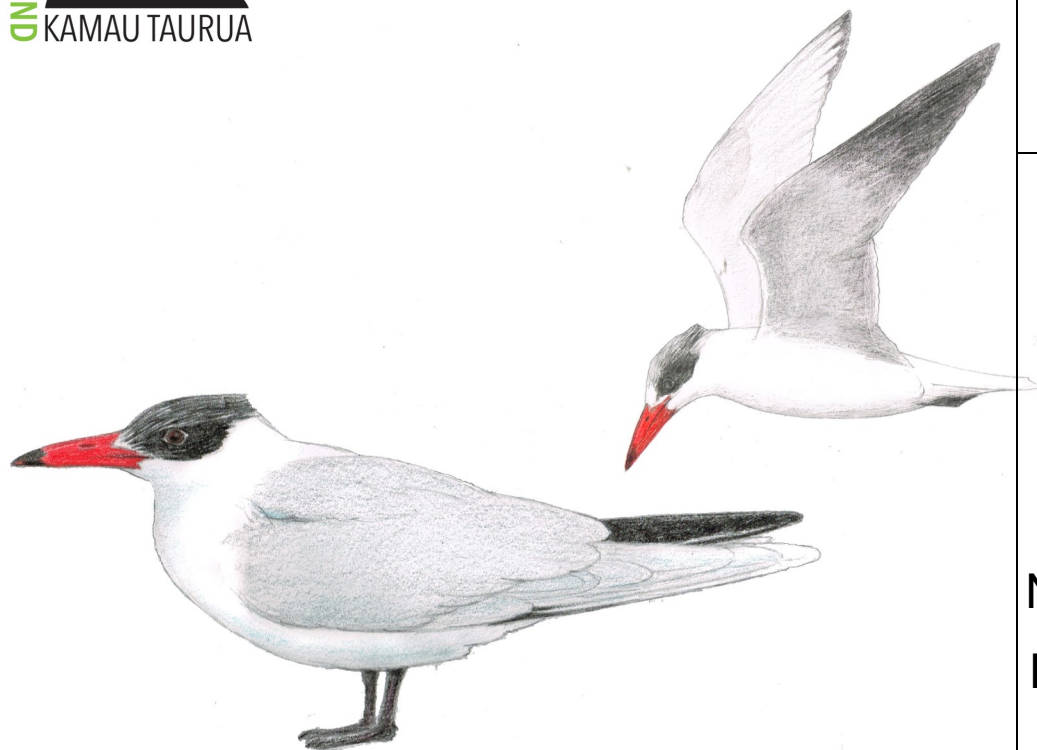
Identification

Large gull like tern with a long orange-red
beak.

Length: 50 cm, Weight 700 g

Conservation Status

Threatened. Nationally vulnerable, due to
small nesting population. Worldwide;
least concern.



Little Shag

Native



Juvenile

Adult

Scan the QR code to hear
nestling and adults in a
small colony



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting: Nesting colony of ~ 70 in trees
below houses.

Numbers: Several hundred

Identification

Smaller shag; either black or black and white or something in between. Young birds are scruffy black brown. Told from other shags by shorter beak and longer tail. Close up have black feet.

Length: 56 cm, Weight: 400-880 g

Conservation Status

Not threatened.

Kahia—Stewart Island Shag/Otago Shag

Endemic



Juvenile

Scan the QR code to hear calls from a breeding colony



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

No

Numbers: ~15 regularly roost on rocks and channel marker on the nor-west coast of the island.

Identification

Large, stocky shag; either glossy black or black and white. Young birds are brown. Close up, all have pink feet.

Length: 68 cm, Weight: 2.5 kg

Conservation Status

At risk, recovering. Stewart Island Shag recently divided into two species by DNA analysis; Otago Shag and Foveaux Shag.

Koautai—Spotted Shag

Endemic



Scan the QR
code to hear
calls



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

No

Numbers: ~10 regularly around the coast but
occasionally many more, sometimes
flocks of 100 or more feeding at sea.

Identification

Bigger than Little Shags, much the same size as
Otago Shags but slimmer. Looks mostly greyish
brown except in nesting season when it sports a
perky crest and neck and head is black, striped white.
Close up has yellow feet.

Length: 64-74cm, Weight: 700-1200g

Conservation Status

Not threatened. Common around much of
the South Island, less so in the North
Island.

Torea—Variable Oystercatcher

Endemic



Scan the QR
code to hear
calls from a
pair



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

Numbers: 2-3 Pairs

Identification

Noisy, chicken sized, black bird with bright orange beak and pink legs.

Length: 48 cm, Weight: 720 g

Conservation Status

Recovering after shooting ceased but still prone to disturbance as they live and nest on the coast all around NZ, often on beaches popular with swimmers, surfers, boaties and dog owners.

Torea—Pied Oystercatcher

Endemic



Scan the QR
code to hear
calls



Habitat

Buildings

Paddocks

Bush

Coast & Sea



Nesting:

No

Numbers: Dozens feed on sandbanks near the island at low tide. Flocks regularly fly past the island back and forth from their low tide feeding grounds to their roosts at high tide.

Identification

Noisy, chicken sized, black and white bird with bright orange beak and pink legs.

Length: 46cm, Weight: 550g

Conservation Status

At risk. Declining.