

Water

Water sources for birds can be provided with a birdbath or small pond. Lizards will use a pet's water bowl on the ground. You may be lucky enough to have a stream running through your property. If it could do with weed clearing and replanting, refer to our streamside planting guide www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Photo: Auckland green gecko - Dylan Van Winkel

Shelter & protection

Piles of stacked rocks, stones, tiles, bricks or logs can provide lizards with a safe home, or a great spot for basking in the sun. Leaf litter, mulch and bark encourage earthworms and insects. Rotting trunks and branches and wood piles provide a safe haven for wētā. Make your own wētā motel by cutting galleries in a piece of wood. Native trees provide homes for insects - for example, the 'singing' cicadas of our summer months, which shed their skins on the trunks of trees such as kōwhai and mānuka.

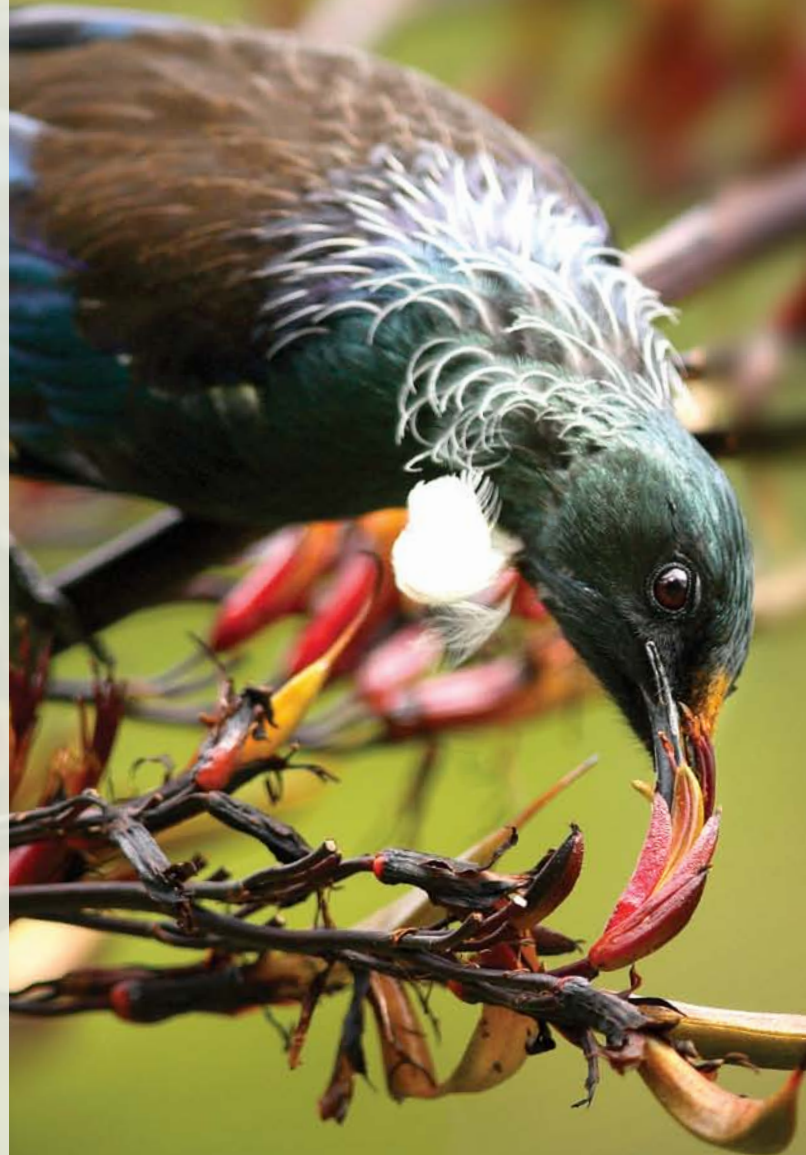
The pūriri moth is our largest native moth, emerging at night and dying the next day after breeding. Plant pūriri, putaputawētā and kānuka to encourage pūriri moth into the garden to lay their eggs in the bark.

Dense hedging provides safety and shelter for birds to roost at night. A tall native tree fern within a bush area may be used by morepork for its day roost.

The variety and multiple layers of vegetation can offer the best shelter from weather, and provide predator-safe resting places for your garden wildlife.

Photo: Tūi on flax - Rob Suisted

“A stand of tall kānuka may be used by tūi for a nesting location.”



Nesting locations & materials

A tall tree can be used as a song-post by birds such as the tūi, thrush, blackbird and kingfisher to proclaim their territory. If you are lucky, it may also function as the launching perch for the aerial display of kererū during spring. Finely-branched shrubs such as matipo and kōhūhū provide nest sites for fantails and grey warblers. Kānuka and mānuka provide the fine nesting material used by tūi, and a stand of tall kānuka may be used by tūi for a nesting location. Nesting hollows in mature trees such as pūriri, macrocarpa and the tops of dead ponga are a safe place of refuge for moreporks and kākāriki.

Nesting boxes are easy to make (see useful links) but only introduced birds such as starlings will use them.

Useful links

BIRD RESCUE CENTRES

www.birdrescue.org.nz

www.spcanet.org.nz/spcanetaction/birdwing.aspx

BIRD IDENTIFICATION

www.whatbird.co.nz

PLANTING FOR NATIVE BIRDS

[www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/nativeanimals/birds/tree-planting-for-native-birds)

nativeanimals/birds/tree-planting-for-native-birds

[www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/branches/central-](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/branches/central-auckland/native-plants-attract-birds)

auckland/native-plants-attract-birds

ATTRACTING LIZARDS

www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

www.srarnz.org.nz/LizardToolkit

NESTING BOXES

www.nzbirds.com/more/boxes.html

INSECTS

[www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/home-and-garden/build-a-weta-motel)

home-and-garden/build-a-weta-motel

[www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biosystematics/invertebrates/invertid)

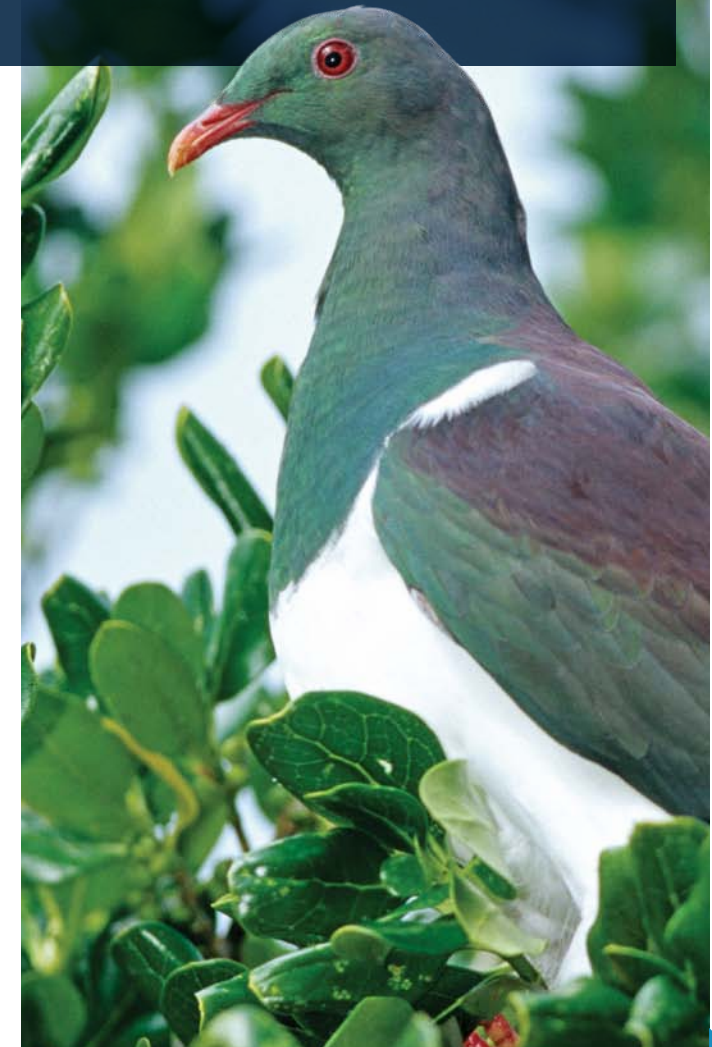
biosystematics/invertebrates/invertid

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on ecological restoration and protecting native wildlife in the Auckland region contact the Auckland Council's biodiversity team on 09 301 0101 or visit www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Front Cover Photo: Kererū in tree - Rob Suisted

Wildlife and your backyard



What

Wildlife simply refers to animals that are living in their natural habitat. New Zealand native wildlife is under increasing threat due to loss of habitat through urban expansion and smaller gardens. Native birds, lizards and invertebrates are common to backyard gardens. Other inhabitants and visitors are butterflies, bees and spiders.

Why?

By recreating lost habitat in your backyard, you will generate a more balanced ecosystem that will benefit your garden in a number of ways:

- birds enhance and enliven a garden with their song and activity
- bees, butterflies, geckos and birds pollinate flowers
- birds and lizards are seed dispersers
- praying mantises, ladybirds, bats and birds control insect pests
- native gardens and wildlife can create ambience
- a garden full of wildlife increases local biodiversity and is a fun place to learn about nature.

How?

Attract more wildlife to your backyard by providing:

- food
- water
- shelter and protection
- nesting locations and materials.



Photo: Tauhou/silvereye - Rob Suisted

Food

SEEDING GRASSES AND HERBS - Clumps of seeding grasses and lavender will attract introduced bird species such as goldfinch, chaffinch, sparrow and yellow hammer during winter. Also, try leaving your herb garden to go to seed, before you replant. The birds will feed, and plants that go to flower will attract butterflies and bees.

INSECTS - Multi-layered vegetation (ground covers, shrubs, trees and climbers) will encourage a variety of insects. Mulch, bark and leaf litter will harbour insects and worms to feed native animals including fantails, grey warblers, silvereyes, tūi, geckos, skinks and wētā.

NATIVE VEGETATION - Native trees and shrubs provide food for foliage feeders such as stick insects. Tree wētā are omnivorous, feeding mostly on fresh leaves of native plants, they prefer the softer leaves of species such as mahoe or *Coprosma*, they also eat small insects and fruit.

NECTAR AND FRUIT - A variety of flowering and fruiting plants will ensure a year round food source from your garden. Winter is a difficult time for tūi, silvereyes and bellbirds, so planting native pūriri, kohekohe and *Tecomanthe speciosa*, as well as exotic bottlebrush, flowering gum, and proteas will ensure a good winter nectar source. The planting table provides a guide to which plants provide a food source for different birds species and at what time of year. Native *Hebes*, cabbage tree and mānuka flowers are a good source of nectar for butterflies and bees. Ground-dwelling skinks and arboreal geckos eat small fleshy fruits of *Coprosma* and *Muehlenbeckia*, and geckos also feed on nectar, including pōhutukawa flowers.



Photo: Ladybird - Bryce McQuillan

Food for birds

Native bird	Preferred native plants		Food source	Time of year
	Common name	Botanical name		
		Shrubs		
Silvereye Tūi	Astelia	Astelia banksii	Fruits	Feb-May
Silvereye Tūi	Flax	Phormium tenax	Nectar	Nov-Jan
		Trees		
Kererū Silvereye Tūi	Cabbage tree	Cordyline australis	Flowers Nectar Berries	Jan-Apr
Kererū Tūi	Kōwhai	Sophora microphylla	Flowers Nectar	Sept-Nov
Kererū	Nikau	Rhopalostylis sapida	Berries	Dec-Jan
Grey warbler Fantail Silvereye Tūi	Mānuka Kānuka	Leptospermum scoparium Kunzea ericoides	Insects on bark, branches and foliage	All year
Kererū Tūi	Titoki	Alectryon excelsus	Berries	Oct-Dec
Kererū Grey warbler Fantail Silvereye Tūi	Karamu Shining karamu	Coprosma robusta C. lucida	Fruits Insects	Jan-May
Kererū	Pigeonwood	Hedycarya arborea	Berries	Nov-Apr
Kererū Tūi	Pūriri	Vitex lucens	Flowers Fruits	Apr-Nov



Photo: Piwakawaka/fantail - Andrea Lightfoot



Photo: Kahukura/red admiral - Auckland Council