

Kiwi

Birds



Why I care about

Kiwis?

I started by watching a video about kiwis and got really sad because the video said that kiwi birds were endangered. So, I wrote this article to spread awareness about kiwi birds.

Kiwi Evolution

The ancestors of the kiwi birds flew from Madagascar and Australia to New Zealand. Since they were able to fly such long distances they probably had strong wings. Once they settled down in New Zealand, they didn't use their wings, as there were no land predators to hunt them.

Slowly, after many many

generations they evolved to have small and weak wings that could not lift them anymore.

When we humans came to New Zealand, we brought other animals (land predators), like stoats, weasels, cats, and dogs who hunted the kiwi birds. Defenceless against these introduced predators, the kiwi bird became endangered. Sadly, we

continue to lose 2 percent of them
every year.

Kiwi Features

Kiwi birds have mammalian and bird-like features. Their feathers are fur like in shape. They moult, which means they drop feathers and re-grow them, throughout the year. Kiwi birds also have whiskers like cats.

Most birds have hollow bones as they need to be light to fly, but kiwi birds have bones full of bone marrow as they are flightless.

Most kiwi bird females have 1 ovary, but some have 2 ovaries.

Kiwi birds have nostrils on the end of their beak, and their sense of

smell is very strong. Since kiwi birds have stout and powerful legs, they are fast runners.

Types of Kiwis

The country of New Zealand is made up of many many islands. There are 2 big islands called North Island and South Island.



Image obtained from [Wikipedia](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NZ_Regional_Councils_and_Territorial_Authorities_2017.svg)

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There are 5 types of kiwi birds.

1. **Roroa** lives in the north west of South Island and its scientific name is *Apertex Haastii*.
2. **Little Spotted Kiwi** lives scattered around the tiny islands of New Zealand and its scientific name is *Apertex Owenii*.

3. **Rowi** lives in the middle of the west coast of South Island and its scientific name is *Apertex Rowi*.

4. **Common Kiwi** is found in the south-west coast of South Island and in Stewart Island which is a part of south land. Its scientific name is *Apertex Australius*.

5. North Island Brown Kiwi lives
in North Island and its
scientific name is *Apertex*
Mantell.

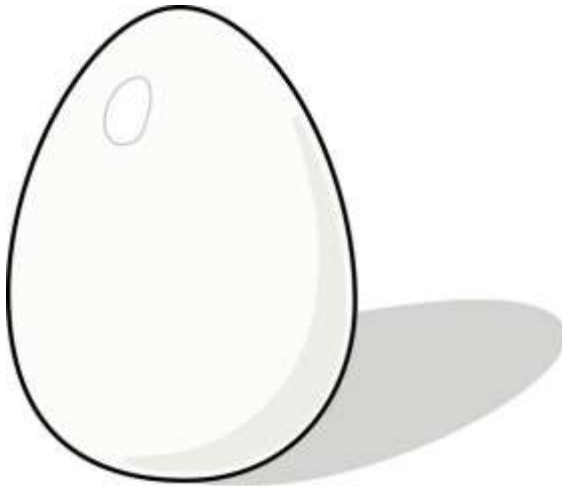
Lifestyle



Kiwi birds are nocturnal. In the daytime kiwi birds live in giant holes in the ground called kiwi nests. Kiwi birds come out at night

to hunt, play and eat. Kiwi birds usually live for 25-50 years.

Conservation of Kiwis



The Department of Conservation
monitors the male kiwi birds for

those incubating egg. When the eggs are partially incubated, they take them from the male kiwi and give the eggs to the kiwi hatchery which artificially completes the incubation process. The process of incubation takes 78 days. Then the egg hatches. After that, they raise the kiwi till it is 1kg in weight. Then the Department of Conservation returns it to the wild. The kiwi eggs

weighs 450 grams which is 25% of
the weight of the adult kiwi bird.

