

North Island Brown Kiwi



COMMON NAME: **NORTH ISLAND BROWN KIWI** – Bartlett, 1850

LATIN NAME: *Apteryx australis mantelli*

LATIN MEANING: Gr. *Apterugos*, without wings; Mantelli; after Walter B. Mantell (1820–1895) British amateur geologist and naturalist who lived in New Zealand.

MAORI NAME: Tokoeka

CLASS: Aves

ORDER: Apterygiformes

FAMILY: Apterygidae

GENUS: *Apteryx*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Mantelli*

DESCRIPTION:

Females are larger than males with birds weighing between 1.5–3 kgs. The average size is around 50 cm. Plumage is rather harsh to the touch. Colouration can vary from grey/brown to almost black/brown or reddish brown. Displays of white plumage are not uncommon in some local populations.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Found in forested areas of the North Island, Little Barrier Island, Kapiti Island and recently reintroduced into several forests south of Palmerston North.

BREEDING:

Nest in burrows or holes, beneath dense vegetation or roots of forest trees and hollow logs. Incubation period is around 72–84 days with the incubation by male alone. Eggs are laid from July through to February. Clutch may consist of 1–2 eggs with several clutches laid in a season.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Breeding pairs are very territorial, defending their patch against all invaders. Juvenile kiwi are, however, able to range through established adult territories without being challenged.

DIET:

Kiwi eat a wide variety of insect life, including beetle grubs and adults, worms, spiders, caterpillars, centipedes, millipedes, snails, cicada nymphs, weta, cockroaches and woodlice, plus various dupes and berries of native shrubs and trees (eg. Miro, Hinau, Kahikatea, Totara and Coprosma).

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

Habitat loss, introduced predators eg:

- Stoats (threaten adults/chicks)
- Ferrets (threaten chicks)
- Feral dogs and hunting dogs (threaten adults/chicks)
- Fire and flooding

New avian diseases and parasites that may reach New Zealand.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

In serious decline.



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