

Great Spotted Kiwi



COMMON NAME: **GREAT SPOTTED KIWI** – Potts, 1872
 LATIN NAME: ***Apteryx haasti***
 LATIN MEANING: Gr. *Apterugos*, without wings;
 Haasti; after Sir John Francis Julius von Haast (1824–1887)
 New Zealand explorer, geologist and author.
 MAORI NAME: Roa
 CLASS: Aves
 ORDER: Apterygiformes
 FAMILY: Apterygidae
 GENUS: *Apteryx*
 SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Haasti*

DESCRIPTION:

A large grey kiwi distinguished from the Little Spotted Kiwi by the chestnut tinge on the upper back and mottled bands of brown/black plumage. Iris black, bill ivory white – pinkish, feet grey-brown.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Found only in the north western part of the South Island, as far south as Brunner and the Paparoa Ranges of the West Coast and east to Arthurs Pass.

BREEDING:

Similar to brown kiwi but incubation is shared with the female. Incubation around the 72–84 day period with a clutch of 1–2 eggs.

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 gradual decline.



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