

Little Spotted Kiwi



COMMON NAME:	LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI – Gould, 1847
LATIN NAME:	<i>Apteryx oweni</i>
LATIN MEANING:	Gr. <i>Apterugos</i> , without wings; Oweni; after Richard Owen (1804-1892) British zoologist, anatomist and opponent of Darwinism.
MAORI NAME:	Kiwi pukupuku
CLASS:	Aves
ORDER:	Apterygiformes
FAMILY:	Apterygidae
GENUS:	<i>Apteryx</i>
SPECIES/SUB SPECIES:	<i>Oweni</i>

DESCRIPTION:

The smallest of the kiwi family with overall grey colouring and a mottled irregular pattern of black/brown plumage across the body. It weighs between 1.2–2 kgs with a body size around 40 cm. Iris black, feet pale with white claws.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Once widespread throughout New Zealand, it is now found only on Kapiti Island and a few other islands, where it has been introduced.

BREEDING:

Nests in burrows or holes, beneath dense vegetation or the roots of forest trees and hollow logs. The incubation period is around 72–84 days with the incubation by the male alone. Eggs are laid from July to February in a clutch of 1–2 eggs. Several clutches may be 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:

The range is restricted.



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