

## Kakariki



COMMON NAME:	<b>RED-CROWNED KAKARIKI</b> – Sparrman, 1787
LATIN NAME:	<i>Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae</i>
LATIN MEANING:	Cyanoramphus Gr. <i>kuanos</i> , dark blue; <i>rhamphos</i> , the bill. Novaezelandiae L. <i>novus</i> , new; Mod L. <i>Zeelandiae</i> , Zeeland, Netherlands; after New Zealand.
MAORI NAME:	Kakariki – green parakeet
CLASS:	Avis
ORDER:	Psittaciformes
FAMILY:	Platycercidae
GENUS:	<i>Cyanoramphus</i>
SPECIES/SUB SPECIES:	<i>Novaezelandiae</i>

### DESCRIPTION:

A small parakeet with a band of red across the forehead from the mandible to the top of the crown and just behind the eye; violet blue on the inner primary feathers. The iris is red, the mandible pale blue/grey with a black tip. The legs and feet are greyish brown.

### HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Once widely distributed throughout both islands, but now scarce on the two main islands. Inhabits forests, scrubland and open areas.

### BREEDING:

The breeding season depends on the availability of food; most breeding takes place in late spring to early summer. Red-crowned Kakariki are cavity nesters. The clutch size varies from 3–6 white eggs, the incubation period is around 20 days and is carried out solely by the female. The male assists with the feeding of chicks. Chicks fledge at around five to six weeks after hatching.

### SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Kakariki will flock together at an abundant food source or on islands with limited fresh water. Pairs sometimes remain together throughout the year, but territorial behaviour has not been recorded.

### DIET:

A wide variety of food is eaten (seeds, berries, dupes, fruits, buds, flowers and shoots of both native and introduced plants) plus invertebrates and nectar.

### PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Loss of habitat and introduced predators (eg. rats, mustelids and cats)
- Avian diseases from introduced parrots.

### CONSERVATION STATUS:

Threatened (regionally).



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