



# Backyard Birds



There are nearly 300 species of birds in New Zealand.  
 About 60 different species can be found in the Auckland region.  
 Half of the top 10 most common birds are native – this means they have always lived in New Zealand or found their way here without the help of people. Many of the birds seen in backyards have been introduced - for example, when European settlers arrived they brought blackbirds, thrushes and sparrows to remind them of home!



## CHALLENGE 1 – How many different birds can you find?

Visit [www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz](http://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz) to help you identify birds.  
 Listen to birdcalls here: [www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds](http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds)  
 Some of the common birds found in urban areas are listed below.  
 Tick them off if you spot them and note down any others overleaf.  
 Use the back of this page for your other bird watching notes...  
 You could draw the birds you see and write down what they are doing.

### NATIVE BIRDS

- kererū (wood pigeon)
- kōtare (kingfisher)
- pīwakawaka (fantail)
- pūkeko
- ruru (morepork)
- tauhou (silveryeye)
- tūī
- warou (welcome swallow)



### INTRODUCED BIRDS

- eastern rosella
- manu pango (blackbird)
- maina (myna)
- rakiraki (duck)
- rock pigeon
- song thrush
- tāringi (starling)
- tiu (sparrow)

## Did you know?

Feathers are made of keratin – the same protein that makes our fingernails and hair.  
 Small birds have about 1000 feathers!

## CHALLENGE 2 – Start a feather collection

Decorate an empty egg box to take on your next walk and collect as many feathers as you can. Can you tell which birds they might be from? Remember to wash your hands after picking up your feathery treasures.



## CHALLENGE 3 – Find a plant that native birds like to feed on.

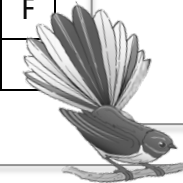
- Tūī and tauhou use their brush-like tongues to drink flower nectar.
  - Pīwakawaka flutter around plants looking for insects and spiders.
  - Pūriri trees provide kererū and tūī with fruit and nectar in the winter months.
- Use the 'Wildlife and your backyard' leaflet to see if you can find any native plants that birds like to feed on growing in your garden or neighbourhood.



D	R	I	B	K	C	A	L	B	L
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K	E	R	E	R	U	S	R	S	T
O	S	U	I	W	R	R	Y	Z	N
M	A	N	U	B	U	T	O	D	A
E	S	E	T	H	R	U	S	H	F
I	K	A	R	I	K	A	R		

## CHALLENGE 4 – Word Search

See if you can find all the birds that are underlined on this page and the Māori name for bird - manu. Maybe you could make your own word search to include some other bird names and words.



## CHALLENGE 5 – Learn more about birds.

Visit [www.sciencelearn.org.nz](http://www.sciencelearn.org.nz) or [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).  
 Search 'Birds' for lots more information and activity ideas.