

PŪKAHA

NATIONAL WILDLIFE CENTRE

**SCHOOL
FACT SHEETS &
WORKSHEETS**



FACT SHEET 1

The Kākā

What is it?

- Parrot, native to New Zealand

What are the facts?

- They are large birds that can weigh up to 500g when mature.
- There are two species, North Island Kākā and South Island Kākā (South Island are a little larger).
- Both species have brown / green feathers with bright orange or red under their wings.
- They are omnivores - they eat bugs and worms as well as seeds, berries and all kinds of fruits and flowers.
- They have a special brush tongue so they can get all the lovely nectar from flowers. They particularly like rata, kowhai and flax nectar.
- Their beak is so strong they can open the tough cone of the kauri to obtain seeds.
- They also use their very strong bill as a 'third leg' to assist them when climbing trees to reach for food.
- They use their feet to hold food and to hang from branches to reach fruit and flowers.
- They play a very important role in the forest by pollinating flowers.
- They are very intelligent and adaptable, playful and noisy.
- They are very sociable and like to gather together and 'chatter' in the mornings and evenings.
- Kākā had been absent from Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre for over 50 years before re-introduction in 1996.
- Eggs take three weeks to incubate with nestlings remaining in the nest for two months.
- Young birds leave the nest before they can fly, making them vulnerable to predators such as rats, stoats and cats.



Find out more on

- Pūkaha.org.nz
- teara.govt.nz
- doc.govt.nz
- forestandbird.org.nz
- nzbirdsonline.org.nz

FACT SHEET 2

The Kōkako

What is it?

- Wattlebird, native to New Zealand
- Related to the extinct huia

What are the facts?

- They are a medium sized bird that can weigh approximately 230g when mature.
- There are two species - North Island Kōkako and South Island Kōkako (potentially extinct).
- They have very short wings which they use to glide through the forest. They are not very good fliers.
- Their long legs allow them to bound through the forest canopy. They are very agile.
- They have blue wattles on the side of their face, young chicks have pink wattles that turn blue as they develop.
- The South Island Kōkako has orange wattles.
- They are omnivores - they eat moths as well as leaves, fern fronds and fruits.
- They form strong bonded pairs. This is to protect their territory, they do this by singing and chasing predators away.
- They can protect an area as large as 8 hectares - about 26 rugby fields. Very large for a bird that cannot fly!
- They are famous for their dawn chorus, morning song. A pair can be heard singing for over 30 minutes.
- Many form their own unique song. They use this to determine who are their neighbours, and who is a potential intruder.
- The cause of this birds decline in numbers is due to the loss of habitat and introduced predators, such as cats, rats, stoats and ferrets.



FACT SHEET 3



The Takahē

What is it?

- Largest living member of the rail family.
- Thought to be extinct until 1948.

What are the facts?

- They are large flightless birds that can weigh over 3kg when mature.
- They are originally from the South Island and reside in tussock country.
- They are cousins of the pukeko.
- They have blue/ purple and green feathers, with a red beak and legs.
- They are herbivores and feast on shoots of grass.
- They were once believed to be extinct as only 4 were sighted in the 19th century.

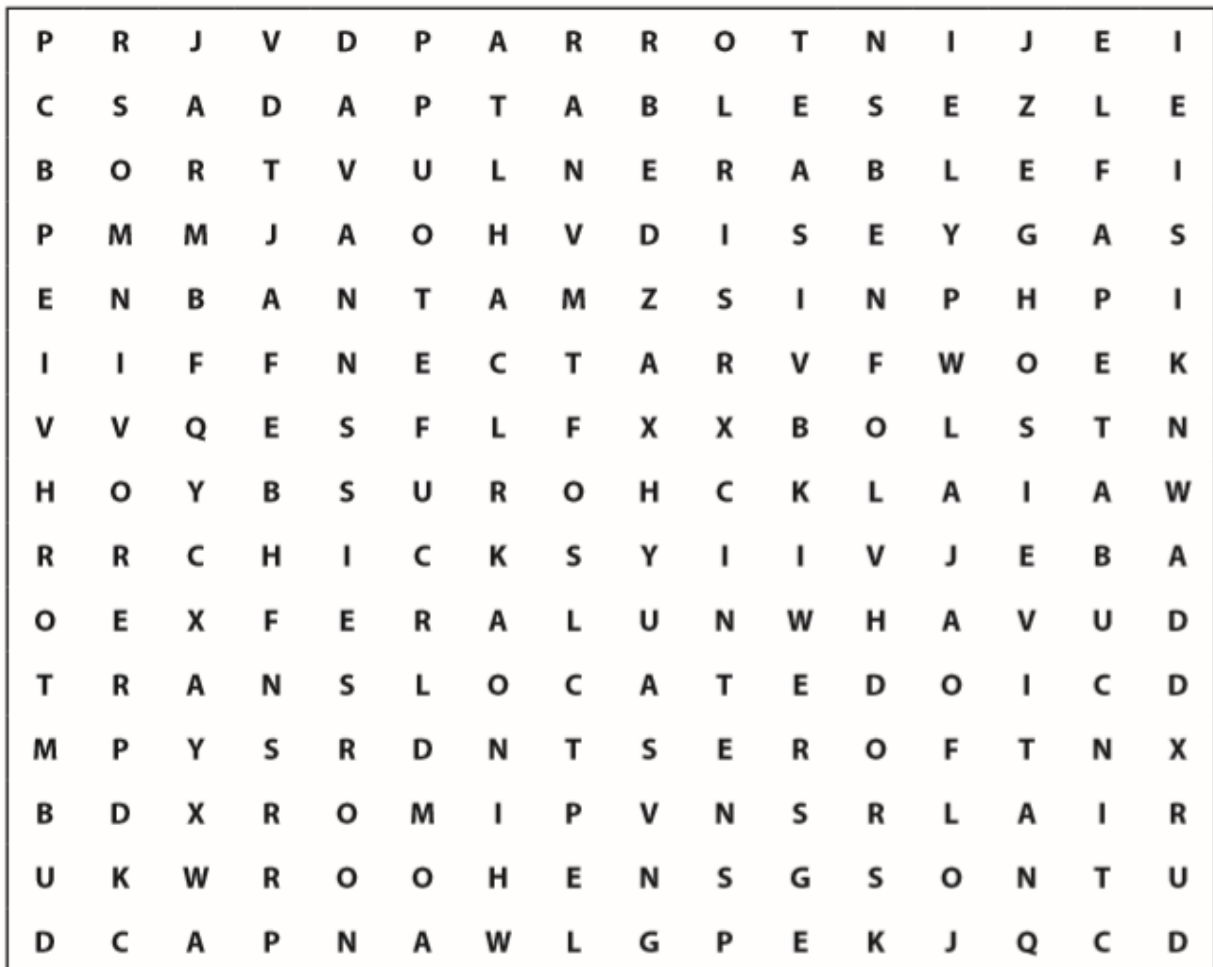
Takahē at Pūkaha

- In 1948 they were sighted by Dr Geoffrey Orbell
- Lots of people were excited by the rediscovery of this bird and wanted to do something to help.
- A local farmer, Elwyn Welch was part of a team dedicated to help save the takahē from extinction.
- Using his bantam chickens, he successfully incubated the first takahē in a captive breeding programme.
- His farm later became home to many other rare and endangered native wildlife, and the National Wildlife Centre, Pūkaha became established.
- Pūkaha is now home to two takahē, Natural and Fomi from Mana Island, where there is a wild population successfully breeding.

WORK SHEET 1

Word Find: Kākā, Kōkako and Takahē

Can you find them all?



FOREST
OMNIVORE
CHICKS
BANTAM HENS
FERAL

NATIVE PARROT
KOWHAI
RATA
ADAPTABLE
DAWN

NECTAR
TRANSLOCATED
POLLINATION
VULNERABLE
INCUBATE



WORK SHEET 2


Colouring Sheet : Kākā



WORK SHEET 3

Drawing Sheet

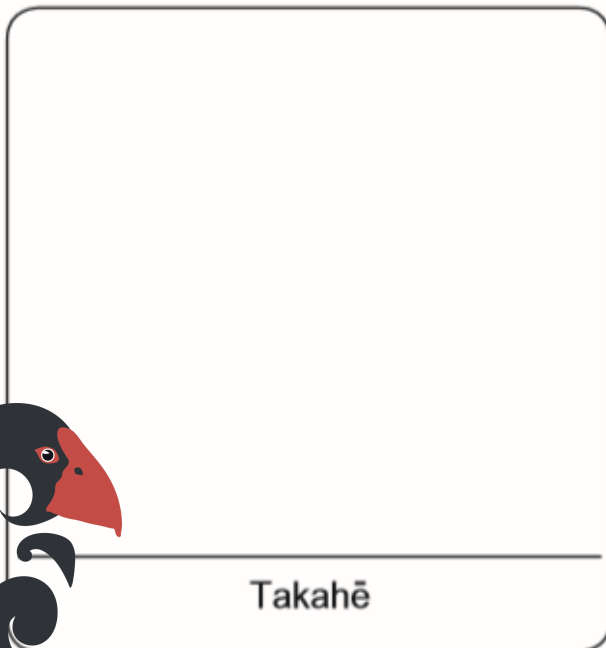
Draw a picture of the words in each box.



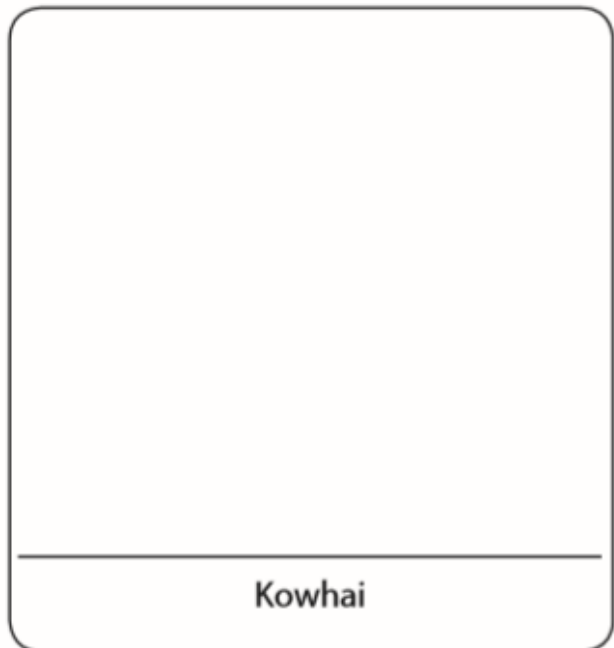
Kōkako



Kākā



Takahē



Kowhai

