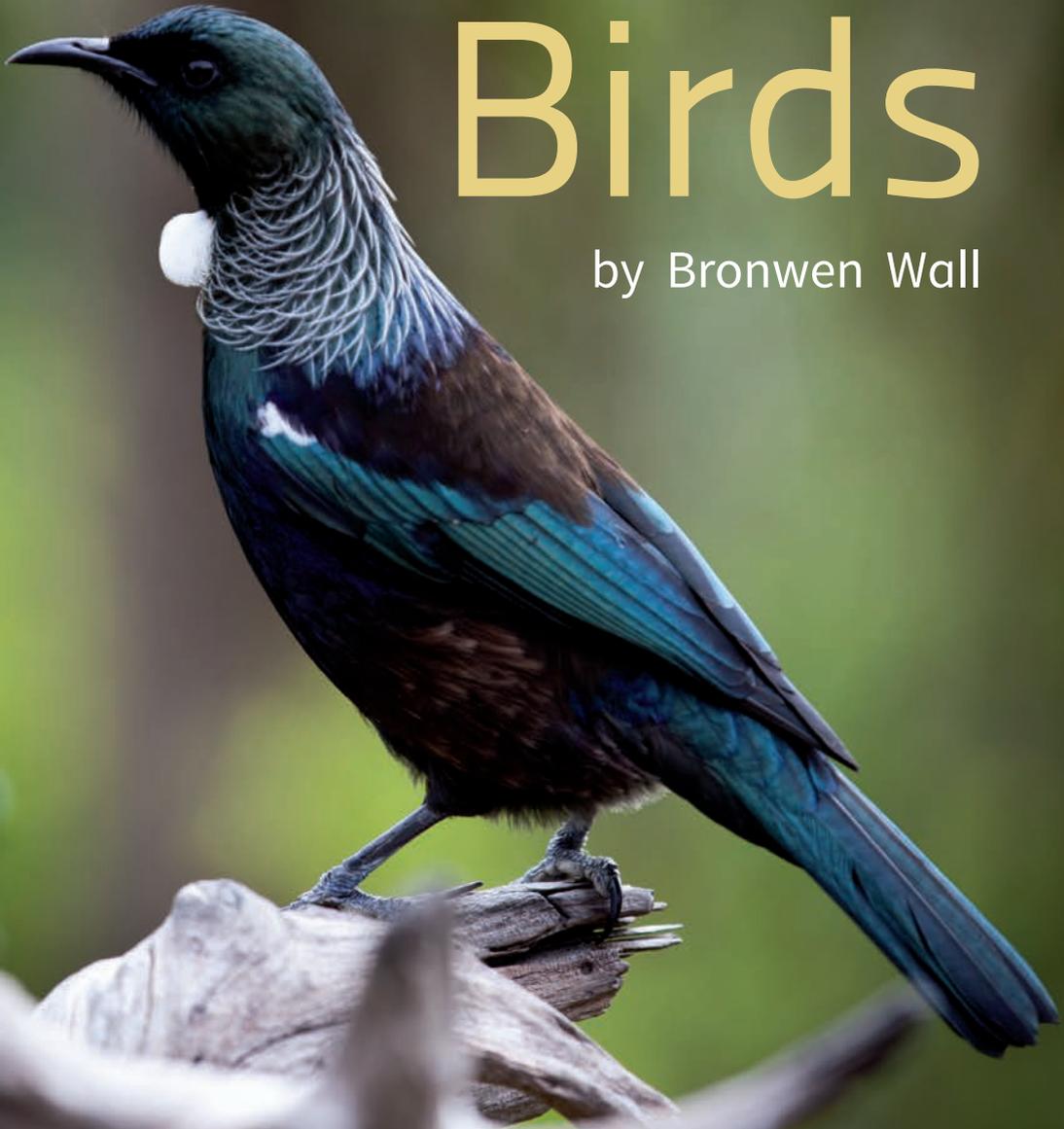




New Zealand Birds

by Bronwen Wall



*Ready
to Read*

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pīwakawaka (pee-wah-kah-wah-kah): fantail
kererū (keh-reh-roo): New Zealand pigeon
kārearea (car-reh-ah-reh-ah): New Zealand falcon
kea (keh-ah): mountain parrot
tūi (too-ee): parson bird or songbird
ruru (roo-roo): morepork or owl
kiwi (kee-wee)
takahē (tah-kah-heh): swamp hen

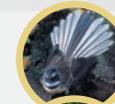
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New Zealand birds

Some of the birds we see in New Zealand can also be found in other countries, but some of our birds are **endemic**. That means they are found *only* in New Zealand.

These are some of our endemic New Zealand birds.

Pīwakawaka



Kererū



Kārearea



Kea



Tūī



Ruru



Takahē



Kiwi



Pīwakawaka

Pīwakawaka are small, but they have long tail feathers. Pīwakawaka spread their tails into a fan. This helps them balance and turn quickly when they fly.

We also call these birds fantails. Can you see why?





Kererū

Kererū are big and heavy. They swoop through the trees looking for berries, fruit, flowers, and leaves to eat.

Sometimes kererū eat too much, and they get too heavy to fly properly.

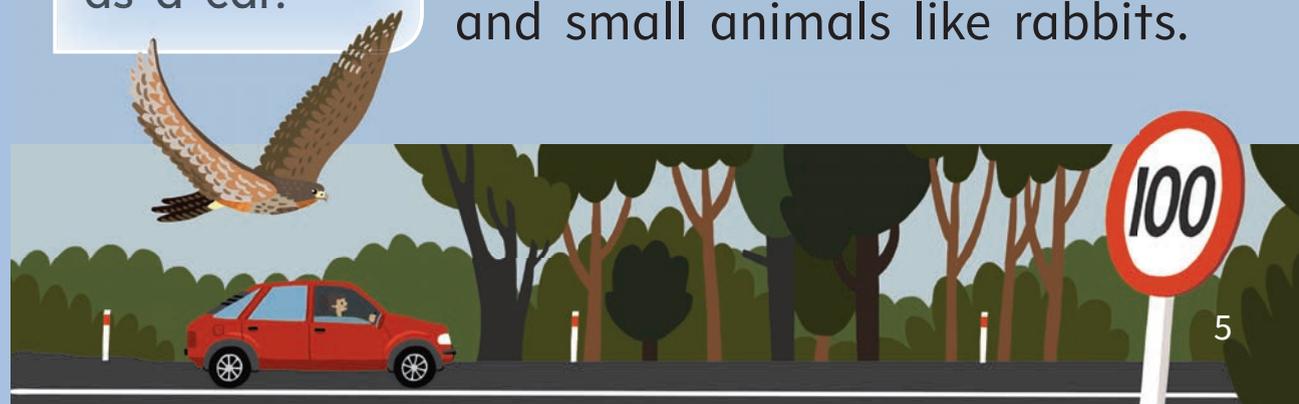
Sometimes kererū get confused by reflections and they crash into windows!



Kārearea

Kārearea are fierce hunters. They have powerful claws. Sometimes they catch **prey** that is bigger than they are! They hunt mostly birds, even big, fat birds like kererū. They also catch lizards, big insects like grasshoppers, and small animals like rabbits.

Kārearea can fly as fast as a car.



Kea

Kea are parrots.

They live in the mountains and play in the snow.

Kea use their toes and beaks to hold things and climb trees.

Kea have four toes on each foot. Two toes point forwards, and two toes point backwards.



Kea are clever and curious.

They like to explore and try new things.

But kea can be a big nuisance because they can rip tents and damage cars.

Sometimes kea hang upside down to look in windows.





Tūi

Tūi are clever birds, too. They can copy sounds, like the songs of other birds, the ringtones of phones, and even the words that people say.

You can often see and hear tūi in kōwhai trees.

Adult tūi have a tuft of white feathers on their throats.



Ruru

Ruru are owls. They are **nocturnal**. They sleep in the day and hunt at night. Ruru have big eyes that help them see in the dark. They fly silently, looking and listening for prey.

Ruru mostly eat big insects like wētā and beetles. They also eat mice and small birds.



Kiwi

Kiwi can't fly at all. They have wings, but their wings are too short to help them fly.

Kiwi are nocturnal, like ruru. At night, they hunt for food like worms, crickets, and wētā.



Kiwi feathers look like hair.



Kiwi use the **nostrils** at the end of their long beaks to smell their prey.



Takahē

Takahē have wings, but they can't fly. They live on the ground.

Takahē mostly eat tussock grass. They use their strong red beaks to cut into the bottom juicy part of the grass.

Living on the ground is dangerous for takahē. They are hunted by animals like stoats. There are not many takahē left. They are **endangered**.



Many different birds

In New Zealand,
we have big birds and small birds,
night birds and day birds,
birds that eat fruit
and birds that eat meat.
We have brightly coloured birds,
cheeky birds, and clever birds.



Look around you.
What birds can you see?



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New Zealand Birds

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