

Task: Bird Book

Approach: One to one

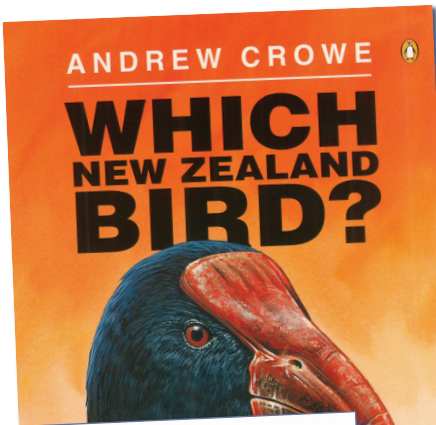
Focus: Finding information in a reference book

Resources: Book: *Which New Zealand Bird?*, picture of egg, bird name card, recording book

Year: 8

Questions / instructions:

% responses
y8



Here is a book on New Zealand birds. Have a good look at the way the information in this book has been set out to help you find different birds.

Flip through the book and hand it to the student.

- Use the book to show me where you can find information on mountain birds.

Record if student found the mountain birds section.

found the mountain bird section

95

Turn to page 89 in book. Hand student picture of an egg.

Here is a picture of a bird's egg.

- Use the egg chart to find the bird it belongs to. Then show me a picture of that bird in the book.

Record student's choice.

egg identified as Tui

used the index

found a picture of the correct bird

96

42

93

The White Heron, Kōtuku is a special New Zealand bird.

Hand student *White Heron / Kōtuku* card.

- Use the book to show me where you can find information on the White Heron, Kōtuku.

Record if student found the White Heron/ Kōtuku section.

located correct section

68

Show student page 81 if not found. Point to map in top right hand corner.

- Why have they included a New Zealand map here?

showed where bird is found

90

- Tell me how the book has been organised to make it helpful for finding information.

Mentioned: section on types of birds (page 3)

colour coding of sections

"key" passages at the start of most sections (e.g. pp6-7, 34-35)

index

Total score: 9-10

68

21

11

32

3

38

47

10

2

Bird Eggs

This guide is designed to help people identify abandoned eggs. Note that touching an egg or chick in its nest may make the parent bird desert the nest. To identify these eggs, simply hide nearby and watch for the parent to return. The weights of the birds must come first. Note too that collecting eggs of native or game birds is illegal. New Zealand's most commonly found bird eggs are shown here at exactly life size, arranged from the smallest to the largest.



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White Heron / Kōtuku

Ardea alba (Ardeidae)

Native

Not common (N)

Body 150cm

Wing 180cm

Obvious link in its very long neck

Bill yellow (black on banding birds)

NZ's tallest white heron-like bird

Arrives at the coast from its breeding site near Ōhāriu in autumn & winter

The white heron nests in trees, but only near Ōhāriu on the West Coast of the South Island. In late summer, the birds appear to coast inland some freshwater wetlands throughout New Zealand, returning to Ōhāriu in August. In some years, a few extra birds appear, having flown across the Tasman Sea from Australia. It eats fish, frogs, crickets, insects, mice and small birds. Most kept cages birds for plucking, for the larger white-wing feathers were worn by Māori men in their traditional dances and by sailors as a sign of status. In the 1870s white heron feathers proved so popular among European women for their hats, that the birds almost disappeared but the white heron was given legal protection in 1885. It can live to 22 years old. White herons are found worldwide, but this subspecies is seen only in India, China, Japan, Australia and here. Two much smaller, visitors from Australia are also sometimes seen here the little egret and cattle egret.

Seashore Birds: Spoonbills

Tall Birds with Long Legs

Wide spoon-shaped bill for scooping food from the water surface

IN FLIGHT: Fast wingbeats, neck extended (unlike blue herons)

Royal Spoonbill / Kōtuku Ngutupapa

Plegadis falcinellus

Native

Rare (R)

Body 110cm

Wing 170cm

Swings its bill from side to side when feeding

For its huge bill alone, the spoonbill is an unforgettable bird. It breeds in a few coastal sites in both North and South Islands like at Ōhāriu, building its nest of sticks, high in the trees. At the end of summer it feeds in tidal mudflats around the country, where it is seen swimming in bill from side to side, scooping food from the water. It feeds day and night, eating small insects, fish and frogs. It is found only in Australia and appears to have bred here for the first time in 1946. Good spots to find them include the Mangrove Swamps, Pōhaka, Manawatu Estuary (Foxton), Waikanae Lagoon and Estuary, and the Area-Huakona Estuary (Christchurch). Do take care near nesting sites in summer, as scared birds are likely to desert their nests.

Commentary:

About 40 percent of the year 8 students showed considerable skill in using and understanding reference features of this non-fiction book. Another 47 percent performed quite well but did not identify or use a key feature.