

Birds

Approach: Station

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Focus: Recognise from prior knowledge a selection of birds, define the term “native bird,” and identify those that fit in this category.

Resources: Pictures numbered 1–8.

Questions/instructions:

1. Look at the bird pictures. Match the birds in the pictures with their names on the chart. Write the number of the bird beside its name.

bird names	number	✓native birds
fantail (pīwakawaka)	4	
thrush (tiutiu, koroheka)	6	
shag (kawau)	2	
sparrow (tiu)	3	
waxeye (tauhou)	8	
pukeko (pūkeko)	5	
woodpigeon (kererū)	1	
kingfisher (kōtare)	7	

% responses
y4 y8

80	94
30	45
46	63
43	63
36	50
62	80
42	64
51	68

2. Some of these birds are native to New Zealand.

What do we mean by “native” birds?

not introduced to NZ 2 19

found only in NZ 14 28

3. Tick the birds that you think are native to New Zealand.

Put your ticks in the “native birds” column.

Results not recorded here.



Commentary:

With the exception of the fantail and the pukeko, students struggled to match the bird names and pictures. The meaning of “native” proved challenging for NEMP staff and markers, as well as students, with the most common misconception being that native birds were originally or currently found only in New Zealand.