

Transform your backyard into a Native Bird Café!

KEEPING BIRDS SAFE

Before you start encouraging native birds into your backyard, it is important to make sure it is a safe place for them to visit...

- Set traps to control introduced predators like rats, stoats, and possums.
- Keep your cat inside, particularly at night.
- Put any feed stations well out of reach of predators.
- Clean your feeder regularly to avoid the spread of disease.
- Provide water, particularly in summer, so birds stay hydrated.

Get the Menu Right!

NZ native birds like to eat different things – some prefer nectar and fruit while others prefer insects and leaves. Keep your bird café fully stocked in winter and early spring when natural food sources are more limited.

SPECIES	Nectar	Fruit	Leaves	Insects
Kākā	✓	✓		✓
Kukupa (wood pigeon)		✓	✓	
Korimako (bellbird)	✓	✓		
Kōtare (kingfisher)				✓
Miromiro (tomtit)		✓		✓
Pīwakawaka (fantail)				✓
Riroriro (grey warbler)				✓
Tauhou (silvereeye)	✓	✓		✓
Tūi	✓	✓		✓

Keep your customers happy and leave these foods off the menu...

- **NO Seeds or grains.**
They attract introduced birds that out-compete natives.
- **NO Bread.**
Birds are likely to become malnourished.
- **NO Milk.**
It can't be digested by birds and causes stomach upsets.
- **NO Honey or honey water.**
Birds love it, so do bees. This can spread bee diseases.
- **NO Cooked oats or porridge.**
Can harden around a bird's beak.



Choose the right plants

Native plants and shrubs are the best way to attract native birds to your garden. They can provide shelter, food, and nesting places in your backyard. Any garden can be made more attractive to wildlife, even if it is only small.

Native jasmine, putaputaweta, and hebe's will attract insects and smaller forest birds such as grey warblers and fantails.

Finely branched shrubs such as matipo and kohuhu provide nesting sites for fantails, grey warblers and tomtits.

Tui cannot resist the nectar of kowhai, kotukutuku, and flax!

Kukupa love to eat the fresh new shoots of kowhai and lacebark/houhere and feast on the big berries of taraire, tawa, karaka and pigeonwood – be sure you have enough space for these big trees before planting!

Don't be a tidy kiwi

When leaves fall off your plants and shrubs, let them build up to a thick mulch to boost insect populations and provide a great food source.

Fun Activities!

Make a Sugar Feeder

Sugar water is a great supplementary food for nectar-loving birds like tūī, korimako (bellbirds), and kākā.

- Take a 1L milk bottle and attach the lid to a shallow dish or jar lid.
- Make a few small holes about half a centimetre from the top of the bottle near the lid.
- Fill the bottle with sugar water - dissolve half a cup of sugar in four cups of water. The best sugar to water ratio is 1:8. Anything higher may attract bees and wasps or start to ferment more quickly.
- Screw it into the lid and turn the dish upside down. The sugar solution will come out of the bottle and fill the dish to the height of the holes.
- Hang it in a tree or somewhere high for the birds out of the reach of cats.

FRUIT FEAST!

Simply hammer nails into a board and secure pieces of fruit.

Half-cut oranges, apples, and pears can attract tauhou (silvereyes) and tūī as well as korimako (bellbird) and kākā if they are present.

Keep it clean and change the fruit regularly – mould isn't good for birds!

FRUIT strings



Can you identify these birds?

Tick the ones that visit your native bird café



Chop fruit into large chunks – apple, orange and grapefruit work well.

Take a needle and some strong thread or wool.

Thread the needle, and begin to pass the thread through the fruit chunks.

Hang fruit strings in trees around the garden (or on washing line).

Once the birds have told their friends about your backyard bird café, you can sit back and enjoy the birdsong...

KIWI COAST

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