

New Zealand Birds In Your Garden

Chaffinch

Chaffinches are not native to New Zealand. They are very common in both islands. Chaffinches eat seeds. They have white feathers on their shoulders and on parts of their wings and tails.



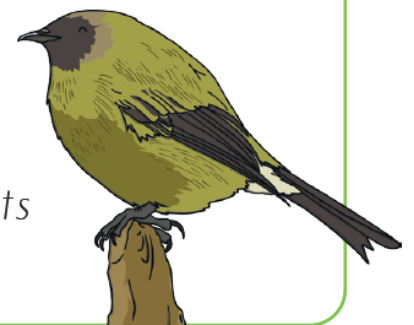
Fantail/Piwakawaka

Fantails get their name from their beautiful tail because it is shaped like a fan. They are called piwakawaka in Māori. They weigh about the same as two teaspoons of sugar. Piwakawaka are common all around New Zealand. They are able to live in many different habitats. Fantails like to eat small insects, such as flies and beetles. They sometimes eat fruit.



Bellbird/Korimako

Bellbirds have red eyes. They are mainly found south of Hamilton. Bellbirds eat nectar. They sometimes eat fruit or berries. They also pick insects and spiders from tree trunks and leaves.



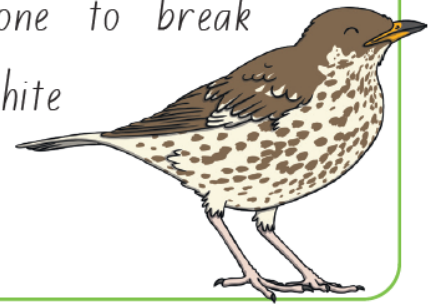
Tūi

Tūi only live in New Zealand. They have shiny green and blue-purple feathers. They have two white tufts and some white feathers around their necks. They eat nectar and honeydew from flowering trees, such as kōwhai and flax. Tūi have a beautiful song.



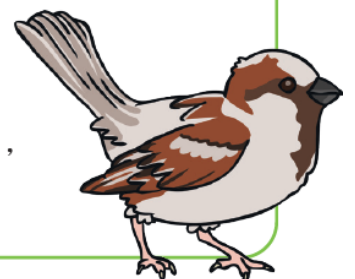
Song Thrush

Thrushes were brought to New Zealand in the late 1800s. They are now common in most habitats. Thrushes eat snails, slugs, worms and some fruits. They often use a stone to break snail shells. Thrushes have brown backs and white spotted underbellies. Their beak is yellow and their legs are pink.



House Sparrow

House sparrows were brought to New Zealand to eat the insects that were destroying crops. They quickly grew in numbers and did more damage than the insects. Sparrows are now very common. They eat grains and seeds, including crops.



New Zealand Birds in Your Garden Questions

1. What colour are tūi? Tick **one**.

- grey and black
- green and blue-purple
- blue and yellow

2. How do song thrushes break snail shells? Tick **one**.

- They use a stone.
- They use their strong beak.
- They drop them.

3. Which two things are **true** about house sparrows? Tick **two**.

- Sparrows are now very common.
- House sparrows were brought to New Zealand to eat the insects that were destroying crops.
- Sparrows eat strawberries.

4. What is the Māori name for a fantail? Tick **one**.

- tūi
- pīwakawaka
- kea

5. What do bellbirds/korimako eat? Tick **one**.

- eggs from other birds
- worms
- nectar, fruit and berries

6. Which of these facts are **false** about New Zealand chaffinch?

- Chaffinches are native to New Zealand.
- Chaffinches eat seeds.