

K-BIRDS OF NEW ZEALAND

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The letter K occupies fewer pages in the *Oxford English Dictionary* (2nd ed., 1989) than any other letter except J, Q, X, Y and Z. New Zealand (NZ) English is a bit different because of the influence of the Maori language, particularly in the names of birds, fish, insects and plants. NZ has the highest percentage of endangered birds in the world, and more birds start with the letter K here than just about any other letter. Some of them are common names used by most people, and others are alternative (often Maori) names.

The list following contains over 60 names of birds that either live in or visit NZ. Not all of them have a Maori name. Unfortunately we have no **kittiwake**, **kingbird**, **killdeer**, **kiskadee**, **kurrawong**, **karoo korhaan** or **knock-kneed kaka-beak** (the kaka-beak is actually a NZ shrub).

References used are *The NZ Oxford Dictionary* (2005), *Dictionary of NZ English* (1997) and *The Digital Encyclopaedia of NZ Birds* (nzbirdsonline.org.nz), a website appropriately created by Tony Whitehead, whose surname is a NZ bird found only in the North Island.

kahawai bird white-fronted tern
kahu Australasian harrier hawk
kaiaia = **karearea**
Kaikoura titi Hutton's shearwater
kaireka common skylark
kairuku giant penguin (extinct)
kaka olive-brown forest parrot
kakapo nocturnal flightless green parrot
kakariki green parakeet
kakariki karaka orange-fronted parakeet
kaki black stilt
kakianau
black swan
kamana Australasian crested grebe
karakahia white-eyed duck
karearea NZ falcon
karoro southern black-backed gull
karuhiruhi pied shag
kataitai pipit, ground lark
kawau black shag
kawau tikitiki spotted shag
kawekawea = **koekoea**
kea NZ mountain parrot
kelp gull
= **karoro**

kelp-hen South Island weka, flightless rail
kereru NZ wood pigeon
Kerguelen petrel migrant seabird, rare in NZ
Kermadec petrel migrant seabird, rare in NZ
kestrel small falcon
Kimberley kite black kite (hawk)
kingfisher iridescent blue-green fishing bird
king penguin large seabird
king shag endangered cormorant
kite black kite (hawk), an occasional visitor
kiwi flightless nocturnal emblem of NZ
kiwi pukupuku little spotted kiwi
knot small sandpiper, regular visitor to NZ
koekoea long-tailed cuckoo
koel = **koekoea**
kohoperoa = **koekoea**
koitareke marsh crane
koka South Island kokako
kokako bluish-grey wattle-bird
koko tui, parson-bird
konini banded rail
kookaburra Australian laughing jackass
koreke NZ quail
korimako bellbird
koroatito fernbird
korohea North Island thrush (extinct)
korora blue penguin
korure mottled petrel
kotare kingfisher
kotuku white heron
kotuku ngutupapa royal spoonbill
koukou morepork, small owl
kuaka eastern bar-tailed godwit
kuera brown quail
kuia grey petrel
kuihi greylag goose
kuku = **kereru**
kukupu = **kereru**
kukuruata shore plover
kuruwengi Australasian shoveler duck