



Who am I? Birds



Who am I?

Help Fantail find his friends.

Can you figure out what bird Fantail is looking for from the clues below? Fantail's friend:



- Is mainly a bush bird but will visit gardens and parks to feed
- Wins the 'sweetest singer' award, with a song resembling the chiming of bells
- Has different songs depending on where he lives – called dialects
- Feeds on nectar from flowers, berries and small insects
- Is very well camouflaged

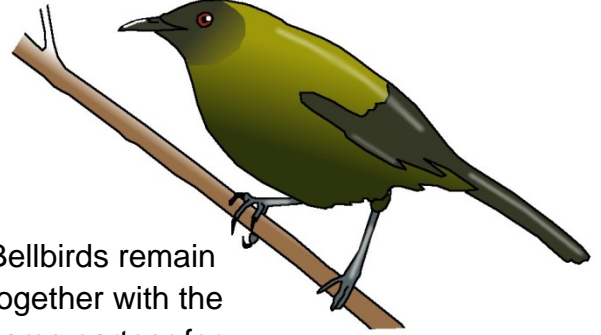


Answer: Bellbird (korimako)

Find out more about me below:

Look for my nests from September to January – but they are well hidden.

- Nests are loosely constructed from twigs and ferns
- They are lined with moss, fine grass, feathers or wool
- 3-4 eggs, ranging in colour from pink-white to deep pink
- Only the female looks after the eggs.
- Eggs take 14 days to hatch
- Adult bellbirds are about 20 cm long from tip of beak to tip of tail



Bellbirds remain together with the same partner for many years.

Threats to bellbirds:

Stoats, possums, rats, cats

You can help:

- Plant trees in your garden with flowers bellbird like to feed from
- Trap predators

Find out more:

www.whatbird.co.nz

Who am I?

Help Fantail find his friends.

Can you figure out what bird Fantail is looking for from the clues below? Fantail's friend:



- Lives almost anywhere there are trees or shrubs
- Is often found in gardens
- Will only feed on insects – usually caught while flying
- Has a long fanned tail to help with aerobatic flying
- Is very friendly and will often follow walkers, eating the insects they disturb
- Has a distinct 'chattering' song
- Usually brown above and orange-yellow below
- Sometimes all black

Answer: Fantail (piwakawaka)

Find out more about me below:

Look for my solidly built nests from September to January.

- Nests are tightly woven with moss, grass, twigs and bark and bound together with cobwebs
- They are firmly attached to small branches
- Found about 3-10 metres above the ground
- 3-4 white eggs with light brown splotches take about 15 days to hatch
- Adult fantails are about 16 cm long from tip of beak to tip of tail

Fantails can raise 3 – 4 broods each year. They usually build a new nest for each brood.



Threats to fantails:

Stoats, possums, rats, cats

You can help:

- Plant native trees and shrubs in your garden
- Trap predators

Find out more:

www.whatbird.co.nz

www.kcc.org.nz

Who am I?

Help Fantail find his friends.

Can you figure out what bird Fantail is looking for from the clues below? Fantail's friend:



- Lives almost anywhere there are trees or shrubs
- Often found in gardens
- Feeds on spiders, beetles and caterpillars
- Is a small bird that's often heard rather than seen
- Has a very distinct song that's fast and 'trill' and sounds a bit like a squeaky wheel
- Has brownish-grey feathers and distinctive red eyes



Answer: Grey warbler (riroriro)

Find out more about me below:

Look for my distinctive nests from August to January.

- Nests are often in shrubs within 3 metres of the ground
- The nest is small and is unusual as it hangs
- There is a 3 cm entrance hole in the side of the nest
- 4 white eggs with reddish brown spots take about 18 days to hatch
- Adult grey warblers are only 11 cm long from tip of beak to tip of tail



Grey warbler nests are amazing constructions!

The tops are woven around overhead branches. Lichen and spiderwebs help to bind the nest together.



Grey warblers have distinctive red eyes.

Threats to grey warblers:

Stoats, possums, rats, cats

You can help:

- Plant native trees and shrubs in your garden
- Trap predators

Find out more:

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Who am I?

Help Fantail find his friends.

Can you figure out what bird Fantail is looking for from the clues below? Fantail's friend:



- Lives in native forests, parks and gardens
- Likes to eat fruit, flowers and the new buds and leaves of native plants (and some introduced ones too)
- Is the most important disperser of large seeds left in our forests
- Is quite large and makes a 'whoosh' sound when he flies
- Looks like he is wearing a white singlet
- Has a red beak and red feet



Answer: Kereru (wood pigeon)

Find out more about me below:



Look for my nests in native trees from October to January.

- Nests are quite large and look like a twiggy mess!
- Only one egg is laid – about the size of a hen's egg
- Both parents look after the egg, which takes 28 days to hatch
- Adult birds are about 50 cm long from tip of beak to tip of tail

Threats to kereru:

Stoats, possums, rats, cats

You can help:

- Plant trees in your garden that kereru like to eat
- Trap predators



Find out more:

www.projectkereru.org.nz

www.kcc.org.nz

www.wildaboutnz.co.nz

www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz

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Can you figure out what bird Fantail is looking for from the clues below? Fantail's friend:



- Is NZ's only surviving native owl
- Sleeps in roosts during the day
- Feeds on insects (particularly flying insects attracted to lights), spiders, birds, rats and mice
- Has large eyes that are sensitive to light
- Uses his sharp talons (claws) to catch or stun his prey
- Is known for its haunting, melancholic call
- Can turn his head 270 degrees



Answer: Morepork (ruru)

Find out more about me below:

Look for my nests from October to November.

- Nests are usually found in tree hollows, but also in dense cabbage trees, tree forks, caves or even burrows in river banks
- 2 dull white eggs are incubated by the female – who is fed by the male
- Eggs take up to 30 days to hatch
- Chicks are mainly fed on birds
- Adult moreporks are about 29 cm long from tip of beak to tip of tail

Moreporks have soft fringes on the edge of their feathers, so they can fly almost silently and not alert potential prey.



Threats to moreporks:

Stoats, possums, rats

You can help:

- Plant native trees and shrubs in your garden
- Trap predators

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Can you figure out what bird Fantail is looking for from the clues below? Fantail's friend:



- Only spends warmer months in NZ – migrates here from the Solomon Islands and neighbouring islands
- In summer it lives throughout NZ, almost anywhere there are trees or shrubs
- Is about the size of sparrow, but with striking metallic colours above and bronze stripes below
- Feeds on insects and their larvae, such as caterpillars
- Doesn't build its own nest but uses those of native birds, mostly the grey warbler



Answer: Shining cuckoo (pīpiwharauoa)

Find out more about me below:

You won't find any nests of mine, I prefer to use those of grey warblers.

- From November to January, shining cuckoo lay a single egg in a grey warbler nest (sometimes other nests are used too).
- Eggs are dull olive green – only one is laid per nest.
- After the chick hatches it will remove other chicks from the nest
- The 'host' or 'foster' parents will then rear the shining cuckoo chick as their own even though it is much larger!

Adult shining cuckoo are about 16 cm long from tip of beak to tip of tail.



Threats to shining cuckoos:

Mostly cats, as cuckoos often feed on the ground

You can help:

- Encourage insects at your place
- Plant native trees and shrubs in your garden
- Put a bell on your cat

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Can you figure out what bird Fantail is looking for from the clues below? Fantail's friend:



- Lives almost anywhere there are trees or shrubs
- Often found in gardens
- Feeds on nectar, fruit and insects
- Is often found in small flocks or family groups
- Has a distinctive white circle around each eye



Answer: Silvereye or waxeye (tauhou)

Find out more about me below:



Look for my nests from October to December.

- Nests are usually only about 2m from the ground, suspended among outer branches of trees, shrubs and vines
- The nest is small cup shape, only about 5cm wide inside
- Nests are finely woven from grass, fibre, hairs, wool and spider webs
- 3-4 pale blue eggs take about 11 days to hatch
- Adult silvereyes are only 12 cm long from tip of beak to tip of tail

The Māori name tauhou means “stranger” as silvereyes self-introduced themselves from Australia in 1856.

Threats to silvereyes:

Stoats, possums, rats, cats

You can help:

- Plant native trees and shrubs in your garden
- Trap predators

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Can you figure out what bird Fantail is looking for from the clues below? Fantail's friend:



- Mainly lives in forests but will visit parks and gardens to look for food
- Has a brush-like tongue for feeding on nectar from flowers
- Pollinates native forest flowers
- Likes to sing from the tops of trees, making bell-like notes mixed with harsher sounds
- Is about the size of a blackbird
- Has a tuft of white feathers under his chin

Answer: Tui or parson bird

Find out more about me below:

Look for my nests in native trees from November to January.

- Nests are quite bulky, made of twigs loosely woven together
- The female (mother bird) builds the nest by herself
- 3-4 eggs, white or pink with reddish brown splotches
- Eggs take about 14 days to hatch
- Adult male tui are about 32 cm long and females smaller, at about 29 cm long from tip of beak to tip of tail



Tui are sometimes known as the 'parson bird' because of the white feathers on its throat.

Threats to tui:

Stoats, possums, rats, cats

You can help:

- Plant trees in your garden with flowers tui like to feed from
- Trap predators

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