



# Who am I? Lizards and frogs



# 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 cold blooded
- Was introduced from Tasmania to Greymouth in 1875 – then spread to other parts of NZ
- Is a carnivore - hunting invertebrates
- Hides during the day and is active at night
- Lays eggs in water - often small pools of water
- Is brown in colour
- Grows to about 5cm long

**Answer: Brown Tree Frog**  
(Sometimes called **Whistling Frog**)



Find out more about me below:

- Brown tree frogs are native to South-east Australia and Tasmania
- They are not a NZ native species – but are the most common frog in Southland
- They can live in a range of habitats, including bush, farmland and urban areas
- Tadpoles can be found in small temporary pools, or larger more permanent ponds
- Tadpoles reach a length of about 5cm
- This species can tolerate cold conditions

Listen for the calls of brown tree frogs in the evening and at night. Their calls consist of a set of many shrill, cricket-like “creeee” sounds

**Introduced threats to brown tree frogs:**

Stoats, ferrets, weasels, rats, mice, cats

You can help:

- Plant low growing plants
- Provide pools or ponds for breeding
- Trap predators

Find out more about ponds and pond plantings:

[www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz](http://www.southlandcommunitynursery.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:



- Is cold blooded
- Likes to eat beetles, flies, caterpillars, spiders and moths
- Will occasionally eat berries and nectar
- Hides in cracks in the ground, under rocks or logs, in dense vegetation, under bark and in holes in trees
- Gives birth to live young (doesn't lay eggs)
- Likes to bask in the sun for several hours a day
- Hibernates from mid April until the end of August
- Is a type of lizard

## Answer: Common Skink

Find out more about me below:

- Common skinks grow to about 8 cm long from nose to base of tail
- Skinks can shed their tails when attacked
- The tail continues to wriggle - attracting the attention of the predator while the skink escapes
- Skinks will re-grow a new tail but it will be smaller than original
- Common skinks give birth to 5-6 young in summer
- Young are only about 2.5 cm long when born
- NZ skinks are usual - most skinks in warmer parts of the world lay eggs



Encourage skinks at your place by planting plenty of low growing plants. Give them places to hide under and sunbathe on, such as stones or logs.

### **Introduced threats to common skinks:**

Stoats, ferrets, weasels, rats, mice, cats

You can help:

- Plant low growing plants
- Provide hiding places
- Provide places for sunbathing
- Trap predators

Find out more about what to plant:

[www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz](http://www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz)