



Northland Conservation Board
Te Runanga Papa Atawhai O Te Taitokerau



SAVE THE KŪKUPA



Photo: Donald Laing

Kūkupa, our taonga (treasure), are under threat and need our help. Their disappearance would be a disaster for our native forests as only kākūka can swallow and disperse large fruit such as karaka, tawa and taraire.

Kūkupa:

- Are large birds – up to 51 cm long and weighing up to 650g
- Are long-lived birds – they can live up to 20 years
- ‘Build’ native forests by dispersing seeds
- Are slow breeders – usually one egg per year
- Eat mostly fruit
- Chicks feed on ‘pigeon milk’ and fruit pulp
- There are two species: New Zealand pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) known as kākūka, kākū or kererū, and Chatham Islands pigeon (*Hemiphaga chathamensis*) known as parea.

Food/kai:



Threats to kākūka

- Predators – rats, possums, stoats, and cats eat kākūka eggs and young
- Illegal hunting – hunting of kākūka is prohibited and has a high impact on this slow breeding species
- Competition – possums and rats eat fruit and leaves that kākūka eat
- Grazing – stock and feral goats prevent regeneration of food trees for kākūka
- Habitat loss



Photo: southstar, Flickr (CC BY 2.0)

Photo: Herb Christophers

You can help kākūka

- Control predators in your bush by trapping or poisoning
 - It is illegal to hunt kākūka
- Plant native trees (miro, tītoki, tawa, tree fuchsia/kōtukutuku, kōwhai, five-finger, patē, pigeonwood, taraire, pūriri, nīkau, wineberry/makomako) to support native animals including kākūka.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai
New Zealand Government