

Tūi feeding on kōwhai. Photo: Shellie Evans



Habitat

Tūi are common in native forests and areas nearby. They can live in a wide range of habitats as long as there is food available (nectar and insects from native trees).



Foods

Tūi are from the honeyeater family. Nectar is their favourite food. They drink nectar from flax, kōwhai, pōhutukawa, rata and other native flowers, using their long curved beaks and 'brush' tongues.

Tūi. Photo: Andrew Walmsley



They also eat invertebrates such as stick insects, cicadas and wētā, usually taken off trees.

Tūi will also eat fruit from trees such as kahikatea and mahoe.

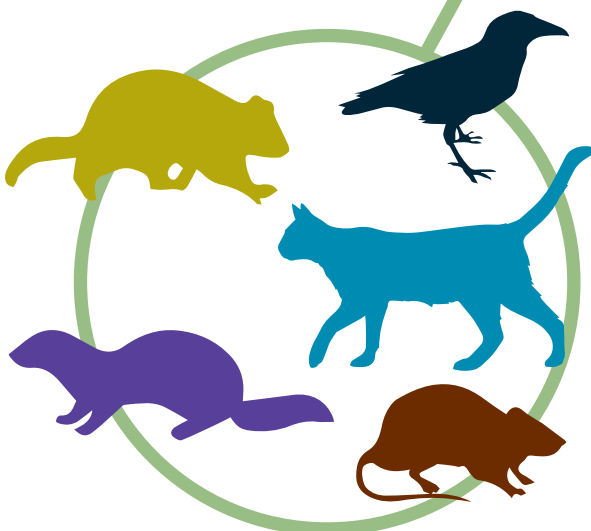
They spend their time visiting food trees, which they will defend from other birds.

Tūi/koko connections

Nesting

Female tūi build nests in native trees using mosses, grasses and twigs. They have two to four chicks at a time.

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Predators / threats

Since their introductions, possums, cats, rats, stoats, magpies and ferrets have affected tūi. These animals will eat tūi eggs, chicks and sometimes adults.