

Beaks have various functions and these include defending themselves, grooming their feathers, attracting other manu, regulating their body temperature, building nests and feeding themselves and their young.



tūi

The tūi has a curved, long beak with a fine brush-tipped tongue. This allows them to extract nectar from the putiputi/ flowers in the ngahere as well as pollinating the flowers.



kererū

Out of all of the manu in the Aotearoa ngahere/ forest the beak of the kererū opens the widest. This enables them to swallow, digest and distribute large fruit and seeds of the karaka and other trees.



**pāteke/
brown teal**

The pāteke has special strong lamellae that help them sieve through material quickly for food. Lamellae are small, comb-like structures along the inside of the bill. They act as a sieve and can look like teeth.



**pīwakawaka/
fantail**

The pīwakawaka has small bristles around its beak to help direct the insects in for dinner. They also use their beaks to search for insects that hide in cracks in the bark of trees. They will hang upside down, on the underside of tree fern fronds, looking for moths that might be hiding there.



**kiwi pukupuku/
little spotted
kiwi**

The kiwi pukupuku has nostrils at the end of its beak to enable it to search for food. It does this by probing its beak into the soil in search of insects.



kōtare/ kingfisher

The kōtare has a broad, long and pointed beak which helps them to catch their prey by entering the water without creating a wave or noise. In grassland they can be seen perching on high vantage points searching for prey such as insects and skinks.



kākārīki

The kākārīki use their beak for climbing, as well as crushing and cutting objects for food. They are responsible for chopping up flax flowers that can be seen on Tiritiri Matangi. They chew the flower to get the nectar, giving nothing back to the plant unlike the tūi and korimako who pollinate as they eat.



takahē

The takahē have very strong beaks and use them to snip softer grasses and herbs. They hold a blade of grass down with their foot and expose the inner core by removing the tough outer sheaf. This is the most nutritious part. They graze from the side so that the growing shoots are not damaged.