

Goldfinch 13cm long





A small finch, slightly smaller than a sparrow. Easily identified by a gold band on black wings, and brilliant red face. Can often be seen in flocks feeding on seeds of thistles or other weeds. Male song is a pleasant twittering "tsitt, tsitt, tsitt".



Photo by Tony Hisgett/flickr

Dunnock **Hedge Sparrow** 14cm long



Similar to a house sparrow but with a grey breast and fine black bill. Often seen on the side of paths, feeding on the ground close to cover. Flies a short distance when approached. Seen throughout the Botanic Garden, often along the hydrangea and herb garden paths.



Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā

Ōtari-Wilton's Bush

Bolton Street Cemetery ki Paekākā

Truby King Park

Wellington is one of the few cities in the world where native biodiversity is increasing. Nature is returning to our eco-city thanks to restoration action by the Council and community volunteers.

For more information visit nzbirdsonline.org.nz or speak to a staff member. You can also share your observations online via ebird.org or inaturalist.nz.

Thank you for not feeding the birds beyond the Duck Pond at Wellington Botanic Garden.

wellingtongardens.nz



Wellington Gardens Bird Watcher's Guide





Photo by JJ Harrison/Wikimedia Commons

Eastern Rosella 32cm long

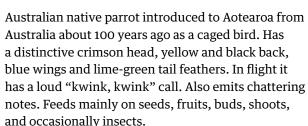




Photo by Garaldina Posa/piyabay

Australian Magpie 41cm long

Introduced from Australia to control pests such as grass grubs, they can be fiercely territorial during the breeding season. The poet Denis Glover described their mellifluous song as "Quardle oodle ardle wardle doodle". Often seen in the pines around the Magpie Lawn.



Photo by Alain Carpentier/Wikimedia Commons

Mallard 58cm long

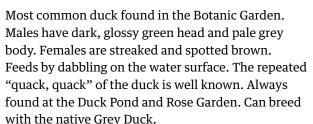




Photo by Andreas Trepte/Wikimedia Commons

Yellowhammer 16cm long

Introduced in the 19th century and are now widespread. Adult males have a bright yellow head, while females are a paler yellow. Feeds on seeds and invertebrates, and often forms large flocks in autumn and winter.

Other birds seen in Wellington



Blackbird



Starling



Song Thrush



House Sparrow



Rock Pigeon



Black-backed Gull

Blackbird. Photo by Andreas Trepte/Wikimedia Commons. Starling. Photo by Pierre Selim/Wikimedia Commons. Song Thrush. Photo by Tony Hisgett/Wikimedia Commons. House Sparrow. Photo by Adamo/Wikimedia Commons. Rock Pigeon. Photo by Mindaugas Urbonas/Wikimedia Commons. Black-backed Gull. Photo by Andreas Trepte/Wikimedia Commons.

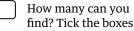
Due to the diversity of life here, Aotearoa is recognised as a global biodiversity hotspot. Some birds only occur in Aotearoa and nowhere else in the world - they are **endemic**. Some birds also naturally occur in other places as well as Aotearoa - they are **native** here but not endemic. Many birds have been **introduced** to Aotearoa by humans in the last few hundred years.

Key



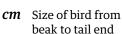
Endemic to Aotearoa

Native to Aotearoa



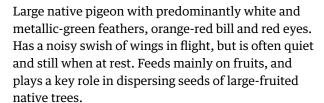


Introduced to Aotearoa





Kererū **New Zealand Pigeon** 51cm long





Tauhou Silvereye 12cm long

Small green bird easily identifiable by white circles around its eyes. Is active and noisy, often seen in the gardens in flocks feeding on insects, fruit and nectar. Call in fight is a chirping "cli, cli, cli".



Korimako Bellbird 20cm long

Named for its liquid bell-like song, which can be distinguished from the tūī by its lack of grunts and wheezes. Like the tūī, it feeds on insects, fruits, nuts and nectar. The male has soft olive-green plumage; the female is brown.



Ruru Morepork 29cm long

A dark mottled-brown nocturnal owl. Rarely seen in the gardens, but occasionally heard at night making a double hoot or "more pork".



Kākāriki **Red-Crowned Parakeet** 28cm long

Small native parrot found in the gardens in increasing numbers, thanks to nearby Zealandia. Often heard chattering and cackling in the forest canopy, and occasionally seen feeding cautiously on bush paths. Mostly green with a red blotch above the beak.



Pūtangitangi **Paradise Shelduck** 63cm long

A large duck sometimes seen near the Duck Pond or Lady Norwood Rose Garden in summer. The female has a white head, the male black. The male makes a deep honking noise.

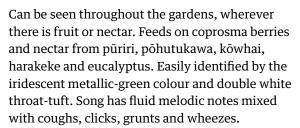








Tūī 30cm long





Riroriro **Grey Warbler** 10cm long

Very small grey native commonly heard in the gardens by way of its distinctive long, musical, wavering trill. Feeds mostly on invertebrates by flitting and hovering on outer foliage of trees or catching prey while in mid-air.



Kōtare **New Zealand Kingfisher** 24cm long

Small green-blue native kingfisher with a long straight bill. Sometimes seen perched on power lines and branches around the Soundshell Lawn. Has distinctive loud "keck, keck, keck" call repeated at length. Diet is small crabs, fresh water crayfish and small fish, as well as insects, lizards, mice and worms.



Kākā 45cm long

A large forest parrot often seen in the gardens as a result of successful reintroduction to Zealandia. A rowdy, boisterous bird with calls ranging from whistling to harsh grating. As sap is a part of its diet, kākā often pries bark off trees with its brush-like tongue.



Pīwakawaka Fantail 16cm long



Small, abundant native recognisable by its fanned tail and erratic movements as it seizes flying insects. Often seen feeding with silvereyes on the forest remnants. Its two distinctive calls are a penetrating "cheet" and the rhythmical song of the male "tweet-a-tweet".



Kārearea **New Zealand Falcon** 43cm long

Occasionally seen in the gardens, this brown raptor is endemic to Aotearoa. It flies fast with rapid wing beats, and often perches high in trees. Has been seen swooping down on prey such as rock pigeons.





