

SAVING OUR NATIVE BIRDS

New Zealand is a world leader in the techniques required to bring severely endangered bird species back from the brink of extinction. While 33% of NZ birds are extinct - lost forever - it is not too late to help the 200 species remaining.

In the 1970s the protection of threatened species was led by the Wildlife Service of the Department of Internal Affairs, and since 1987 by the Department of Conservation. Their approach has been to:

- improve the birds' natural habitats
- remove predators in areas where threatened species live naturally
- transfer threatened species to predator-free islands
- breed threatened species in captivity

Hamilton Zoo is involved in Recovery Programmes that involve captive breeding and breeding for release. The Zoo holds adults and breeds juveniles which are then released to boost wild populations, or start new populations in areas where the animals have become extinct locally.

Kokako - Hamilton Zoo has been involved in hand raising kokako since 2002 and has been helping save a remnant blood line of kokako from Puketi Forest.

Pateke - Hamilton has been breeding brown teal (pateke) for over 20 years and in the last ten years has released over 150 Zoo-bred birds to the wild as part of the Pateke Recovery Programme.

