

Tuke/rock wren

Of the seven wren species that lived in New Zealand when humans first arrived, the tuke/rock wren and titipounamu/rifleman are the only two species surviving today.

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At around 10cm long and weighing only 14-20g it is one of our smallest birds.

Tuke come from one of the most ancient bird species in the world (Acanthisittidae family).

No-one really knows how they survive through the freezing winter. Maybe they feed on bluffs where there is no snow or maybe they go into semi-hibernation (like bears).

They line their nests with feathers (sometimes several hundred) so the nests can be over 30 degrees Celsius inside when it's below freezing outside.

They are poor fliers—they tend to bounce and hop on rocks.

The tiny tuke/rock wren is a small insect-eating bird that lives high above the tree line along the Southern Alps and Kahurangi National Park. It is New Zealand's only true alpine bird.

Their habit of nesting in holes in the ground and rocky crevices make them easy dinner for predators like stoats. This means they can become extinct quite quickly, site by site.

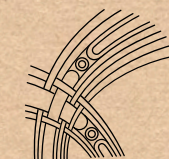
Surveys have found tuke high in the mountains of Te Manahuna Aoraki so along with DOC and Predator Free Aoraki we are working to protect them. Volunteers look after a trapping network that was put in the back country in 2020 in places like Wakefield Ridge and Sefton Biv walking track.

Tuke mainly eat spiders and insects (especially moths, flies and caterpillars).

About Te Manahuna Aoraki

Te Manahuna Aoraki is a conservation project protecting the landscapes and threatened species over 310,000ha of the upper Mackenzie Basin and Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park (that's nearly three times the size of Auckland, and twice the size of Stewart Island/Rakiura).

Find out more on www.temanahunaoraki.org



TE MANAHUNA
AORAKI
Ohu te ora hou - Breath stirs new life

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