

FEEDING NATIVE BIRDS



YOU CAN ATTRACT NATIVE BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN BY SETTING UP A FEEDING STATION.

Many of our native birds eat nectar, fruit, and insects. You can help supplement their food by setting up a bird feeder in your garden.

WHAT SHOULD I FEED NATIVE BIRDS?

Native birds that you are likely to attract to your garden prefer to eat fruit, nectar, insects, and foliage. Common species and their preferred food are:

SPECIES	NECTAR	FRUIT	FOLIAGE	INSECTS
KĀKĀ	✓	✓	✓	
KERERŪ (wood pigeon)		✓	✓	
KORIMAKO (bellbird)	✓	✓	✓	
KŌTARE (kingfisher)				✓
PĪWAKAWAKA (fantail)				✓
RIRORIRO (grey warbler)				✓
TAUHOU (silvereye)	✓	✓	✓	
TŪĪ	✓	✓	✓	

FOODS TO AVOID

- ▶ **SEEDS AND GRAIN.** They attract introduced birds that out-compete natives.
- ▶ **BREAD.** Birds are likely to become malnourished.
- ▶ **MILK.** It can't be digested by birds and causes stomach upsets. Fermented dairy products such as cheese are okay.
- ▶ **HONEY OR HONEY WATER.** Never put out honey or honey/water for birds. Birds love it, so do bees, so this practice can spread bee diseases.
- ▶ **COOKED OATS OR PORRIDGE.** This can harden around a bird's beak. Uncooked oats are okay.

SUGAR WATER

Sugar water is a great supplementary food for nectar-loving birds.

PLEASE NOTE: To make sugar solution, dissolve half a cup of sugar in four cups of water. **The best sugar to water ratio is 1:8.** Anything higher may attract bees and wasps or start to ferment more quickly. Do not use honey.

Native plants and shrubs are the best way to attract native birds to your garden. Try growing species that provide nectar, seeds, and berries all year-round so birds always have food available to them.

Allowing leaf litter to break down into mulch boost insect population, which also provides a great food source for insectivorous birds.

