

Do kiwi live around here?

How to recognise kiwi signs so you know when kiwi are about

Kiwi live in many places. They are nocturnal so hard to see. Keep an eye and ear out for these signs to show that kiwi are nearby:



Dark skies and kiwi cries

- Kiwi call throughout the year, but more over winter
- The male call is shrill and has 8-25 repetitions
- The female call is guttural and has 10-20 repetitions
- Some birds sound similar to kiwi, like weka and ruru (morepork)
- Scan the QR code to hear some kiwi calls

Furry feathers?

- Kiwi feathers have a downy appearance with no barbs holding each segment together. They are hair-like on the ends
- Feathers are often seen in summer caught in hook grass or other vegetation along tracks



Puddle prints

- Look out for footprints in the mud or sand with only three front toes (the fourth toe doesn't usually leave a print)
- The fourth toe is easily seen in footprints left by other birds such as pukeko, weka, chickens, and pheasants

Feeding forensics

- Kiwi probe the ground for food with their long beak, leaving conical holes the shape of an old-fashioned ice cream cone
- If there are cobwebs in a possible probe hole, it could be a tunnel web spider den



Smell some scat

- Kiwi scat (poo) is quite difficult to tell apart from other birds and even the experts get fooled
- Look for a brown and white scat on the ground, with the brown part looking quite thick
- Kiwi scat has a distinctive musty smell, so if you are game give it the sniff test!

Looking and listening for kiwi signs is a great way to get involved