

Trappers and kiwi

How trappers can protect kiwi while maintaining their traps

Trappers make a huge positive contribution to wildlife, including kiwi. Reducing predators in the system gives kiwi a chance to thrive. There are some things that can go wrong when trapping though, so follow these top trapping tips to keep kiwi safe:



Trapping guidelines

- One of the best ways to protect kiwi while trapping is to ensure your traps have the best chance of a successful catch
- Follow best practice guidelines for all aspects of your trapping, including maintenance and lures
- Visit Predator Free NZ (predatorfreenz.org) for trapping support.

Keep traps on target

- Don't use ground-set leghold traps if there are kiwi or weka around.
- Ground-set traps like DOC200s need to be in an approved wooden box
- Cat or possum traps like SA2s and Timms need to be at least 70cm above the ground to protect kiwi, and at least 130cm above the ground if there are weka about



Dogs and trapping

- A dog can be a very useful tool to assist with predator control
- If you use a dog make sure it is well trained and target specific
- If you don't specifically need it for the work you are doing, consider leaving it at home. A bored or frustrated dog is more likely to want to investigate interesting smells like kiwi
- Keep your dog under control at all times
- Have regular Kiwi Avoidance Training with an endorsed trainer

Be vigilant with vegetation

- Kiwi use almost all vegetation types, including rank grass, weeds like pampas, and regenerating scrub
- If you are controlling vegetation to access traps please be mindful that kiwi could be present. Make plenty of noise, leave areas for the kiwi to escape to, and watch for flushing kiwi
- Where possible, avoid controlling vegetation during the peak kiwi egg incubation season (August - January)



The best way to protect kiwi is to keep dogs under control

Do kiwi live around here?

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

Kiwi live in many places, but are nocturnal and 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 pūkeko, 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 pungent, sharp, earthy and 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



I've seen a kiwi, what shall I do?

Please follow these steps if you see a kiwi anywhere

North Island brown kiwi are in a state of recovery. As their populations grow it will become more likely to see them. If you see a kiwi there are ways you can help:



If you see a kiwi, report it using this QR code.

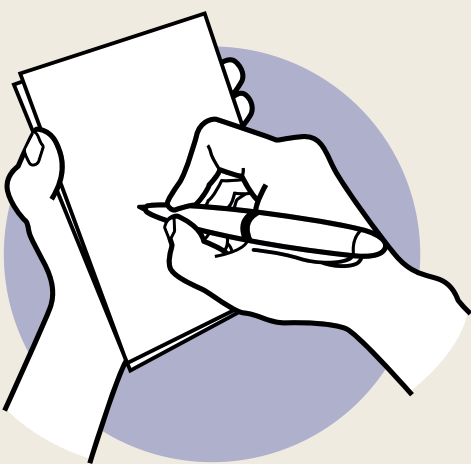
- When sharing your data, please include as much information as you can and include any supporting photos.
- Once you submit your observation, Save the Kiwi will review it then upload it to the map where you'll be able to see it too

Sick or injured kiwi?

- Seeing a kiwi out during the day doesn't necessarily mean it is sick or injured. It could just be feeding, especially during summer when the nights are short
- 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468) is the 24-hour emergency hotline for the Department of Conservation (DOC), which can be used for wildlife emergencies
- Contact Save the Kiwi or your local kiwi project for further advice on next steps



Dead kiwi



- Under the Wildlife Act 1953 protected wildlife (including kiwi) are the responsibility of DOC
- If you find a dead kiwi it needs to be reported to DOC, even if it looks like it's been dead for a while
- Contact your local DOC office and they will guide you through the steps
- Try not to disturb the kiwi or the area until you have spoken to DOC, as there could be key information about how the kiwi died. Taking photos and notes is helpful
- Any dead bird could carry disease, so it's important to practice good hygiene to keep yourself safe

Your reports help us to learn more about kiwi