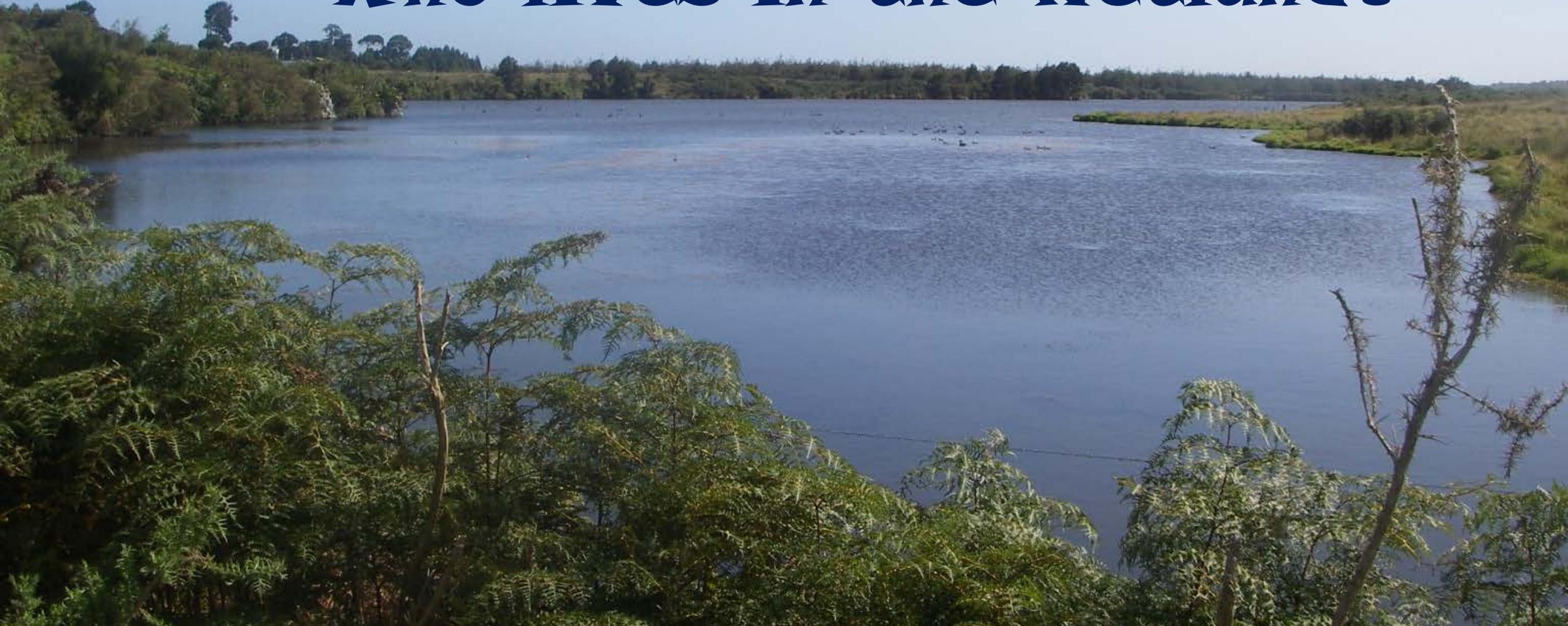


Who lives in the wetland?



You will find endangered birds like the Australasian bittern



Australasian bittern. Adult in surveillance/camouflage posture. Image © Adam Clarke by Adam Clarke as sourced from nzbirdsonline

Strange looking birds like the spoonbill



Swans and Canadian geese



the weka and pukeko



Image © Peter Reese by Peter Reese as sourced from: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/pukeko>

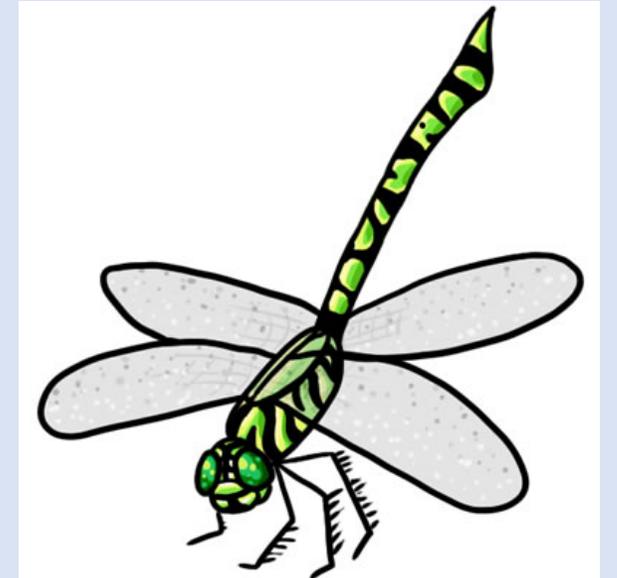
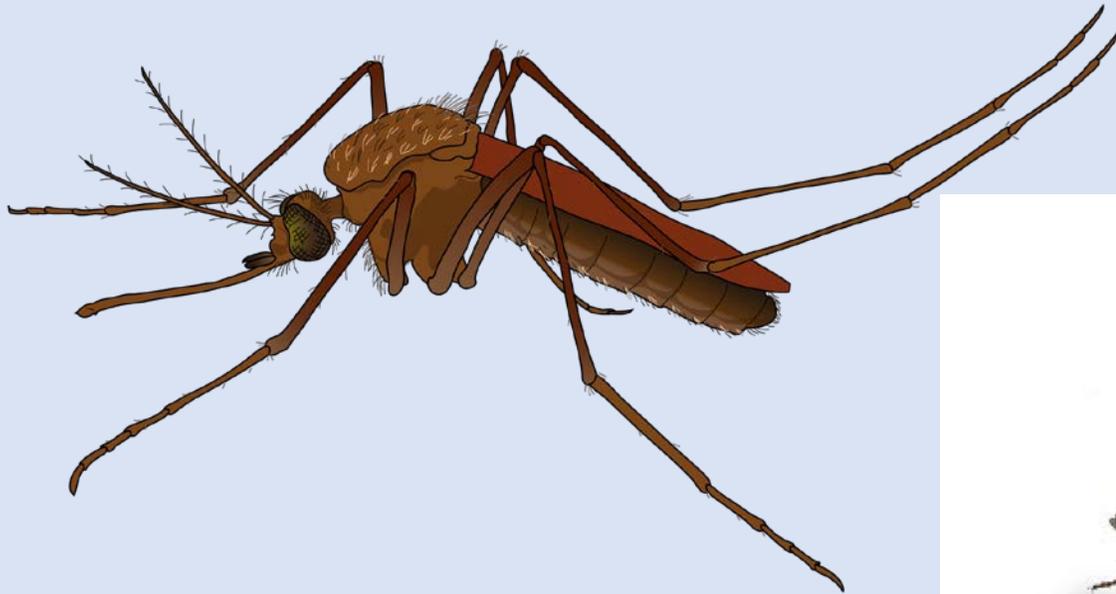
Fish like whitebait, eels and mudfish



Brown mudfish - Photo courtesy of Stella McQueen



Insects like moths, mayflies, sandflies, mosquitos and dragonflies

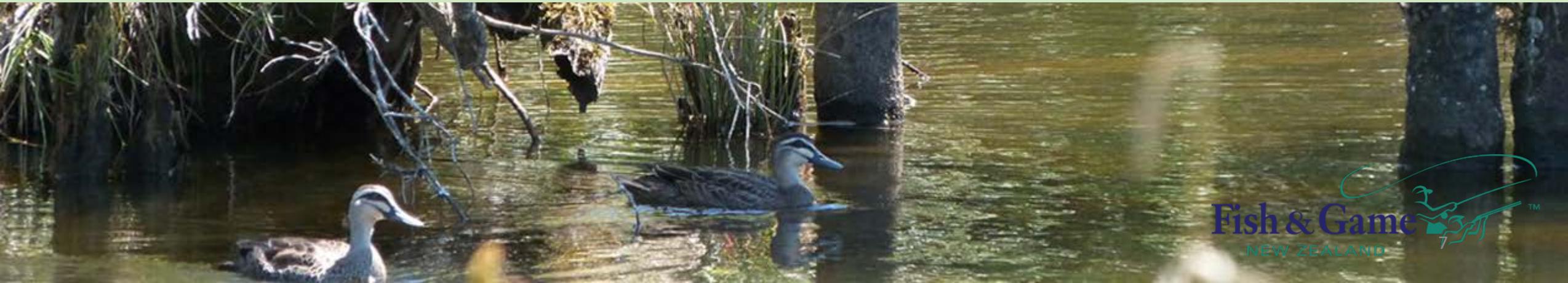


[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Weeleus_acutus_\(Walker,_1853\)_AMNZ75867.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Weeleus_acutus_(Walker,_1853)_AMNZ75867.jpg)



Activity time

Activity 5: Who lives in the wetland



A large flock of ducks is gathered in a pond. Some ducks are swimming in the water, while others are on the grassy bank. The background is filled with dense green foliage, including ferns and trees. The scene is bright and sunny.

And lots of ducks

Lets meet them ...

Mallard Duck

- The mallard is the most common duck in New Zealand.
- in the 1930s and 40s, eggs from San Francisco came in wicker baskets onboard flying boat and mallards rapidly spread throughout the country.
- Today there are about 4.5 million mallards
- is the mainstay of the duck hunter's bag.
- You will find them on shallow bodies of fresh water such as wetlands and ponds, on lakes and even flooded fields.
- They are a medium-to-large dabbling duck
- the male has glossy green head and white collar around the neck.
- The female is a mottled brown with a brown bill.
- Both sexes have orange feet and a purple-blue speculum with both sides outlined in white.



Grey Duck

- The grey duck is native
- draining wetlands caused loss of habitat, resulting in less birds.
- In areas where there are still large natural wetlands you will still find Grey Duck and Westland is one of them.
- A distinguishing feature of the grey duck is a pattern of stripes extending from the bill back onto the head,
- Males and females are alike in appearance, and similar to plumage of the female mallard.
- Grey duck have a white underwing and an iridescent turquoise green speculum on their wing



Shoveler Duck

- Is nick-named The “spoonie”
- It has comb-like openings in the side of its spoon shaped bill
- This bill lets it sift fine insect life from the surface of the water in a wetland
- there are now around 150,000 in New Zealand.
- Because of it’s specialised habits it is not a very common bird
- birds have moved into wetlands designed for them by Fish & Game NZ.
- The male shoveler is New Zealand's most handsome duck, with variegated plumage, blue-grey head with a white vertical stripe between the eye and bill, a striking reddish-brown breast, and blue wings.
- The female is more plainly embellished with cryptic brown. This may be nature's way of providing camouflage when she is nesting.



Paradise Duck

- is New Zealand's only shelduck, which means it is a rather gooselike duck.
- Paradise ducks are nick named "parries"
- They are a conservation success story. When the country was first settled, paradise ducks were rare. The conversion of bush to pasture, and the creation of many stock ponds, has caused numbers to explode.
- Sometimes paradise ducks cause damage to farm paddocks with their grazing.
- females have a pure white head and chestnut-coloured body,
- males have a dark grey body and black head.
- Paradise shelducks are commonly observed flying in pairs or grazing on pasture.
- males give a characteristic 'zonk zonk', while females make a more shrill 'zeek zeek' while flying or as a warning to intruders.



Grey teal

- This was an Australian duck arriving before European settlement
- They nest near freshwater lakes and marshes, usually on the ground, but also in tree holes or rabbit burrows.
- nesting boxes are put out to help increase in numbers.
- Grey Teal are a mottled brown duck with white and green flashes on their wings.
- They are a vocal duck, especially at night. The male gives a soft preep, and the female has a loud quack.



Photo courtesy of J Dyer Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game

Scaup (black teal)

- New Zealand's only diving species
- the native scaup is also known as the black teal
- It is a dumpy little duck common on clear water.
- scaup are commonly known as papango,
- scaup are found throughout both North and South islands of New Zealand in deep freshwater lakes and ponds
- farm sediment has clouded many lakes, causing scaup to abandon them.
- They have been protected since the 1930s.
- Overall scaup are dark brown/black coloured.
- The male has a striking yellow eye and a dark coloured (greenish) head.
- The female is similar to the male, but without the yellow eye and has a white face patch during breeding season.
- A white wing bar can be seen in both sexes when in flight.



Whio (blue duck)

- The Blue Duck is also called Whio
- It lives in clean, fast flowing streams in the forested upper catchments of New Zealand rivers.
- They are only found in NZ
- They have a streamlined head and large webbed feet to enable them to feed in fast moving water.
- Blue duck establish exclusive territories.
- Strong pair bonding results in individual pairs occupying the same stretch of river year after year which they aggressively defend against other blue duck
- Blue duck are Endangered because of the affects of introduced predators.
- They are a diving duck and may stay down for twenty to thirty seconds and go down three metres to look for aquatic plants, small fish, water snails, mussels and insects.



Blue duck. Adults. South Westland, November 2007. Image © Craig McKenzie by Craig McKenzie as sourced from: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/blue-duck>

Brown teal

- Pāteke or brown teal are a small dabbling duck endemic to New Zealand.
- They are mottled brown in colour, with a white ring around the eye.
- Males are easily distinguishable from females in their breeding plumage (during the autumn and winter months) with their iridescent green heads and chestnut-coloured breasts.
- They do most of their feeding at night in seeps, swamps, damp pasture and the shallows of drains, streams, ponds and estuaries.
- They eat a variety of grasses, seeds, insects, molluscs, worms and many other invertebrates.
- Their numbers declined during from the 19th century due to habitat loss, predation and probably excessive hunting in some areas.
- By the 1990s, less than 1000 birds existed.
- Intensive predator control and a strong captive breeding programme now means there is 2500 birds around New Zealand.
- Pateke fly low and faster over the water and are sometimes mistaken for a shoveler.



Brown teal. Adult male flapping wings. Mana Island, June 2017. Image © Leon Berard by Leon Berard as sourced from: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/brown-teal>



Activity time

Activity 6: Quack Quack Quiz

