

PUKEKO

Porphyrio porphyrio

300

Unlike many other native birds, the pukeko has adapted well to new habitats, such as grassed paddocks, croplands and even city parks. They have needed to do this because of the disappearing wetlands. However, the pukeko is really a bird of swampy ground, lagoons, rushes and swamps.



IMG 301

Description

Pukeko are around 51 cm long with a deep blue colour, a black head and upperparts, white feathers under their tail, and a red bill and legs.

Food

They are mostly vegetarian, but also eat invertebrates, eggs, frogs, small fish, chicks and mammals, especially in breeding season where chicks are fed protein-rich animals. Pukeko are very widespread as they have adapted well to urbanisation and are as at home in pasture and farmland as they are in wetlands.

Breeding

Pukeko are cooperative breeders, with multiple male and female birds often sharing a nest and responsibility for the incubation of eggs and the guarding and feeding of chicks.

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pukeko fun fact

Pukeko's are from the same family as the Takahe