

Conservation In Action : *Counting Kōkako*



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Time: 07.03 minutes | **Reminder:** turn on captions

1. What are kōkako known as?
Why were they given this name?
2. What is the 'Ark in the Park'?
3. Why do the team do a 'kōkako census'?
4. How often do they survey while walking the track in the bush?
5. How do the team draw the kōkako in so they can be counted?
6. How long does the annual kōkako census go for?
7. What tool does Erin use to help her look for a kōkako that might be in a far away tree?
8. How do they know that the kōkako they have spotted is an adult?
9. What does it mean if the kōkako is 'un-banded'?
10. Would you like to take part in a kōkako census one day? Why or why not?

Interesting vocabulary to learn more about:

Elusive, eerie, annual, census, duration, determine, original, territory, contributing, cause, volunteer, binoculars, endemic, thrive, enable, manu.

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Ka pai! (Well done!)

Now it's time to check your answers.

1. They are known as 'ngā kehua o te wao nui' or 'ghosts of the forest' because they are elusive and difficult to find.
2. It is a part of 'Te wao nui o Tiriwā' or 'The Waitākere Ranges' that is a pest controlled area.
3. To determine the number of kōkako birds in the area. This is so they know if the population is growing or declining or remaining stable.
4. Every 200 metres.
5. They use 'playback' which is playing kōkako calls out loud on a speaker. This works because Kōkako are territorial. They don't want other kōkako in their area so will come and investigate the call.
6. The team and volunteers go out daily for 8-10 weeks.
7. Erin uses binoculars to help her see manu (birds) that are far away.
8. They know it is an adult bird because it is singing a full song.
9. It means that the kōkako doesn't have coloured ID bands on its legs. This means that the kōkako was born in the wild in the Ark in the Park area!
10. Would you like to take part in a kōkako census one day? Why or why not?

Challenge:

Try doing your own bird count. Keep a tally of all the birds you see in your backyard or on a walk to the park. You could create a graph of your findings!