



The Ultimate Takahē Quiz

Can you tell the difference between the endangered takahē and the common pūkeko? Do you know what takahē use their wings for? Or how much they poo?

Test your knowledge on one of the most famous conservation icons!

Q1

Whose beak is this? Decide which one is a takahē and which is a pūkeko imposter.



Photo: Anne Thornley

a. _____



Photo: Helen Dodson

b. _____

Q2

After being thought extinct for 50 years, what year were takahē famously rediscovered by Geoffrey Orbell and his party?

- a. 1958
- b. 1948
- c. 1944
- d. 1942



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Fulton Hogan



Q3

True or false – Takahē parents take shifts sitting on the nest.

- a. True
- b. False

Q4

Which introduced mammals pose a threat to wild takahē populations?

- a. Deer
- b. Stoats
- c. Cats
- d. All of the above

Q5

Whose legs are these? Decide which one is a takahē and which is a pūkeko imposter.



Photo: DOC

a. _____



Photo: DOC

b. _____

Q6

Takahē's native habitat is...

- a. Rocky alpine terrain
- b. Native grasslands
- c. Coastal dunes
- d. Swamps

Q7

Look at these cute chicks. Which one is a takahē and which one is a pūkeko?



Photo: DOC

a. _____



Photo: Stewart Baird

b. _____

Q8

Which of these is not a place where you can go to see a takahē currently?

- a. Orokonui EcoSanctuary
- b. ZEALANDIA
- c. Tiritiri Matangi Island
- d. Rakiura/Stewart Island

Q9

What do takahē use their wings for?

- a. Flying, duh
- b. Nothing – they're a leftover evolutionary feature
- c. Insulation
- d. Display during courtship

Q10

Why do takahē have such big beaks?

- a. To crush hard seed shells
- b. To pull out deep-rooted tussock
- c. To show off to potential mates
- d. To help them regulate their body heat

Q11

Due to their fibrous diet how much do takahē poo per day?

- a. 3 to 5 metres
- b. 7 to 9 metres
- c. 1 to 2 metres
- d. 4 to 7 metres

Q12

Whose feathers are these? Decide which one is a takahē and which is a pūkeko imposter.



Photo: DOC

a. _____



Photo: DOC

b. _____

Head to the next page for your answers...



Answers

Q1 – a. Pūkeko, b. takahē

Q2 – b. 1948. Takahē were thought to be extinct for over 50 years.

Q3 – a. True. Takahē pairs on average lay two eggs.

Q4 – c. Stoats are the main predators of takahē. In 2007 there was a stoat plague that halved the takahē population in the Murchison Mountains. Deer also compete with takahē for food.

Q5 – a. Takahē, b. pūkeko

Q6 – b. Takahē were historically found throughout the native grassland environments of the South Island. Although the last population was found in the alpine tussocks of the Murchison Mountains, takahē have higher survival rates in less harsher grassland environments.

Q7 – a. Takahē, b. pūkeko

Q8 – d. Rakiura/Stewart Island does not have takahē, but many other places do!

Q9 – d. Takahē use their wings for courtship displays, and also as a sign of aggression

Q10 – b. – Takahē need strong beaks to pull out their favourite food: tussock tillers and seeds.

Q11 - b. An impressive 7 to 9 metres.

Q12 - a. Pūkeko, b. takahē

How can you support Takahē Awareness Month?

- Learn about takahē (tick!)
- Donate to the [Takahē Recovery Programme](#)

