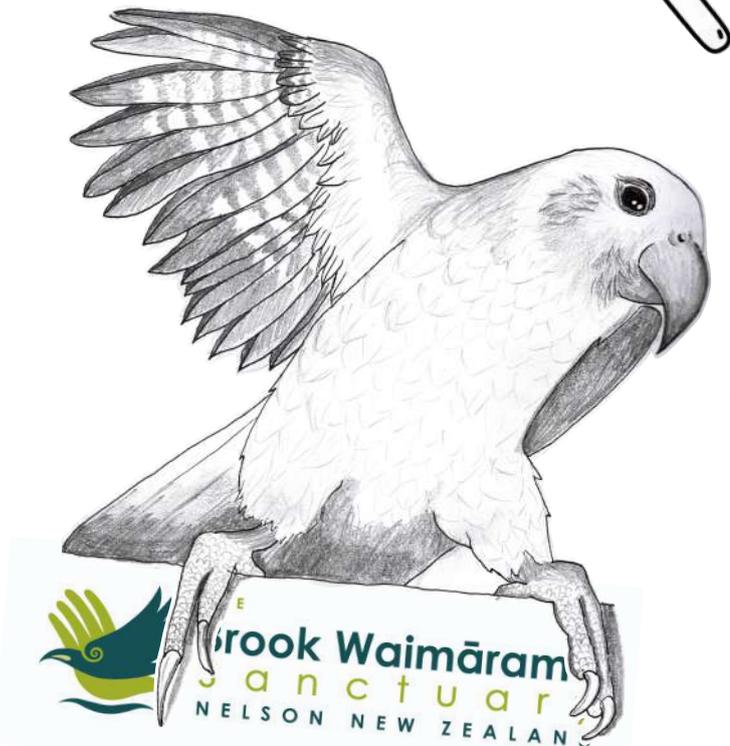


THE

WAIMĀRAMA KIDS CHRONICLE



Kia Ora Kids!

I'm Kākā, the most beautiful... the most brave... the most bold... the most boastful bird of the ngāhere (if I do say so myself).

My two friends and I recently moved into the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary. We are excited to get to explore our new home and to meet some of the locals.

Why don't you come down to the Brook Waimārama sanctuary to meet us soon!

We arrived by airplane on Tuesday the 10th of March, it was a bit of a scary journey, we had to get on two different planes and we much prefer it when we get to fly ourselves- I mean, who could trust a HUMAN pilot?! Humans flying, what next.

I'm a young female Kākā, and along with me, two male Kākā made the big trip here too. They're brothers, real comedians. They are young as well, we're all teenagers in the bird world, not long out of the nest and not yet ready to breed. The three of us come from Dunedin Botanic Gardens. We were raised in captivity, which means we have never really known what it's like to fly through a wild space like the Brook Sanctuary, our new home. We are so excited to explore, but to begin with, we feel a

lot safer inside of our new aviary within the sanctuary. In here, the rangers can make sure we stay healthy after our big journey, and they even bring us fresh food every day! We love to eat lots of different types of forest foods... seeds, fruit, nectar, sap, honeydew, and even bugs.

Our kind used to be abundant in Nelson area, there are stories of great flocks of Kākā darkening the sky and waking everyone up with our beautiful "ka-aa" call. I've heard from the Sanctuary Rangers that hopefully some more of our kind will be introduced to the sanctuary soon, so keep an ear to the sky... see you soon!

— *Kākā*

KĀKĀ: THE TALKATIVE PARROT OF THE NGĀHERE

Aotearoa is home to 9 different native species of parrots, all of which are endemic (can only be found in NZ). The Kākā is the king of the forest, soaring high in the tree tops as it sings it's song, telling tales of it's heroics. Let's learn a little more...

KĀKĀ FACT FILE

Conservation Status



Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Aves
Order: Psittaciformes
Family: Nestoridae
Genus: Nestor
Species: *Nestor meridionalis*

Range of Kākā in New Zealand



WHAT DOES THE KĀKĀ LOOK LIKE?

Kākā are a medium-sized parrot—about 45cm long and weighing around 450g. Their feathers range from greyish-white on their heads to reddish-brown on their wings and bellies. They also have bright orange and red flashes under their wings. Sometimes, you might even see Kākā with red or yellow feathers!



KĀKĀ BEHAVIOUR

Kākā live mostly in trees. They spend their time in the middle and upper parts of the forest canopy, searching for tasty food and talking to one another. Kākā are very social birds. They often fly in large groups, and can be quite playful, exploring their environment with their large, strong beak and claws.

KĀKĀ BREEDING

Kākā build their nests inside hollow trees, and breed between September and March. They can have up to two broods a year, each of around 4 eggs. The female alone incubates the eggs, but the male will return to the nest to bring her food. Both parents feed the chicks before they fledge at around 2-5 months.

KĀKĀ CONSERVATION

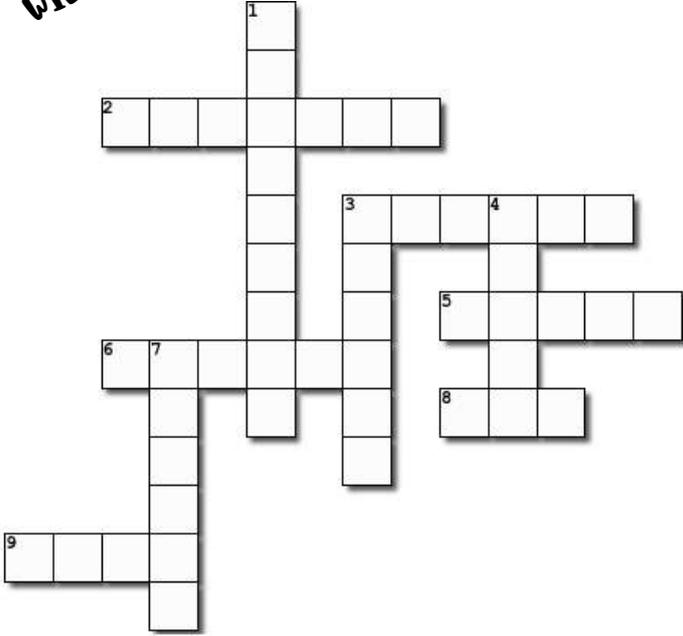
Kākā are an endangered species. This is because of habitat loss, along with predators like cats, rats, possums and stoats. Kākā nest in holes in trees, and the mother Kākā has to stay on the nest for around 90 days. This makes her very vulnerable to predators. Within the sanctuary they will be safe, hopefully meaning their population will increase quickly.

EXTRA FOR EXPERTS...

The name Kākā comes from Te Reo Māori, and simply means “parrot”. It is probably linked to the sound “Kā”, which means ‘to screech’. There are two subtypes of Kākā- the North Island Kākā (*Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*) and the South Island Kākā (*N. m. meridionalis*). Our three in the sanctuary are from the South Island variety.

The Kākā belongs to a group of parrots called *Nestor*:

This group includes four species: The New Zealand Kākā, the Kea, the extinct Norfolk kākā, and the extinct Chatham Kākā. The closest living relative of the *Nestor* parrots is the Kākāpo (*Strigops habroptilus*), the heavy, flightless, nocturnal parrot that we all love so much!



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

Down

- 2. The name of the city where the Kākā came from.
- 3. A Kākā's favourite food.
- 5. Kaka live mostly in ...
- 6. 'Kākā' translated into English means ...
- 8. The Kākā's mountain relative.
- 9. How many eggs does a female typically lay?

- 1. The sanctuary fence will keep the Kākā safe from...
- 3. The group of parrots that Kākā belong to.
- 4. The number of Kaka first introduced into the Sanctuary.
- 7. The Kākā will stay safe in here to begin with.

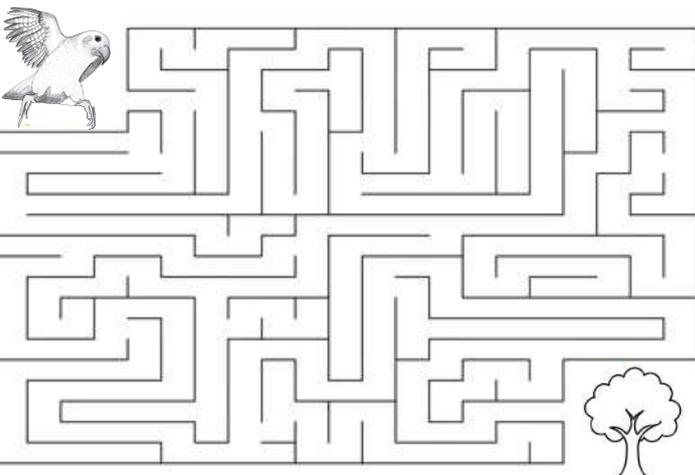
Look at a photo of a kākā. What colours are their body parts usually?

- Beak:
- Head:
- Cheeks:
- Chest:
- Back:
- Wings:
- Underwings:
- Tail:
- Undertail:

Kākā are camouflaged from above so that they can hide from the Haast eagle. Now they have to protect themselves from mammal predators such as rats, possums and stoats.

COLOUR THE KĀKĀ IN AND GIVE IT SOME ANTI-PREDATOR DEFENSE FEATURES!

Kaka picture: <https://www.michellecarltonart.com>



JUNIOR RANGER'S IN ACTION!

Protecting our native birds from introduced predators and habitat loss is something we can all help with.

- * Kākā are forest birds, and they need native trees for food and shelter. Why don't you and your whānau plan to plant a tree this autumn or winter? Planting native trees in NZ is best between April-May or August-September to ensure the soil is nice and moist. Prepare your site by clearing weeds, digging a hole twice the root ball size, adding some compost, and mulching to retain moisture. Some nectar rich trees that Kākā love include: Kowhai, Pohutukawa, Puriri and Rewarewa. They also love Flax, Kākābeak, and Kawakawa.
- * You could also use your detective skills to track down pests like rats, stoats and mice by building a tracking tunnel. Find easy instructions here: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-activities/build-a-backyard-tracking-tunnel/>
- * Send in a picture of your actions for conservation to info@brooksanctuary.org.nz to feature in our next newsletter!

I WONDER..?



THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST... WHAT DO YOU WONDER?

- Kākā were introduced into an aviary within the sanctuary, and they will stay there for the first couple of months. Why do you think this was necessary for the Kākā but not some of our other birds (like the Kiwi Pukupuku)?
- Kākā are well camouflaged with the forest canopy (only the underside of their wings tends to be bright). Why do you think this is?

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is the South Island's largest fully fenced eco-sanctuary—690 hectares of protected native forest alive with rare and threatened species. This is a place where you can reconnect with nature, breathe deeply, and experience the mauri (life force) of Aotearoa's unique environment.

Alongside the Junior Ranger Program, we offer individual, household and business memberships. Become a Brook Sanctuary supporter – in doing so you help to build and maintain sustainable Sanctuary operations for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Find out more information on our website, <https://www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/>



Become a
Junior Ranger



Annual Membership

Individual	- \$24
Two children	- \$44
Three children	- \$60
Four children	- \$75

For five or more children, please contact us for discounted pricing



Brook Waimārama
Sanctuary
NELSON NEW ZEALAND

Explore. Learn. Protect