



www.hotspot.org.nz

Orca Kera wēra

- NZ Threat Classification: Nationally critical.
- NZ Population: Less than 200.
- Behaviour: Typically seen in family groups or pods.
- Habitat: Prefer deeper water but can be found in shallow water when feeding.
- Food: Diverse diet. NZ orcas most commonly feed on rays.
- Main threats: Boat strikes and pollution (including noise).
- ID Tip: Adult males have massive dorsal fins up to 2m high. Adult females have smaller, more curved dorsal fins.
- ID Tip: Orca can have distinctive marks which are useful for ID.
- More info: www.orcaresearch.org

Adult male
dorsal fin



Ian Steele, Ngā Motu/Sugar Loaf Islands

Adult female dorsal fin



Brody Denton, Fitzroy Beach

Ian Steele, Ngā Motu/Sugar Loaf Islands

Adult male
dorsal fin



Ian Steele, Ngā Motu/Sugar Loaf Islands





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Penguin footprints often track straight up or down the beach with little deviation



Penguin footprint

Dog footprint

Emily Roberts, Wai-iti Beach

Little blue penguin Kororā

- NZ Threat Classification: At risk, declining.
- NZ Population: 50,000 to 100,000 birds.
- Behaviour: Return to nest areas at dusk. In burrows or out at sea fishing by day.
- Habitat: Bays with suitable shelter/burrows.
- Food: Small fish, crustaceans and squid.
- Lay eggs: July to November.
- Moulting: January to March (penguins can't swim when moulting, making them vulnerable to attack)
- Main threats: Predators (dogs, cats, stoats) and coastal development.
- ID Tip: Little blue penguins are rarely seen on land during the day but they do leave footprints in the sand. Check local beaches for footprints.
- ID Tip: When taking photos of footprints also include an object to provide scale e.g. phone, pencil, coin.
- More info: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/little-penguin>

Adult out at sea

Callum Lilley

Chick

Halema Jamieson

Adult with injured eye
from dog attack

Callum Lilley



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Reef heron Matuku moana

- NZ Threat Classification: Nationally endangered.
- NZ Population: Only 300 to 500 birds.
- Habitat: Rocky shoreline and estuaries.
- Food: Small fish, crustaceans and worms.
- Nest: September to December.
- Main threats: Coastal development and disturbance by people/dogs.
- ID Tip: Looks like white-faced heron. Reef heron has yellow eyes and bill. White-faced heron has black eyes and bill.
- More info: <http://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/reef-heron>

**Tip: Don't confuse
with the white-faced
heron shown here!**



*Reef heron photos taken at the
Waiwhakaiho Estuary by Sharyn
Smart (Smart Shots by Sharyn -
www.smartwritingnz.com)*



Feeding



Flying





Project
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New Zealand fur seal Kekeno

- NZ Threat Classification: Not threatened (regionally distinctive).
- NZ Population: Approximately 100,000.
- Numbers thought to be increasing nationally, though local data is scarce.
- Habitat: Important breeding colony and haul out areas on the Ngā Motu/Sugar Loaf Islands.
- Food: Mainly fish and squid.
- Breeding season: Mate and give birth to pups November to January.
- Main threats: Human activities including entanglement.
- More info: www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals



Denise Goodman, New Plymouth

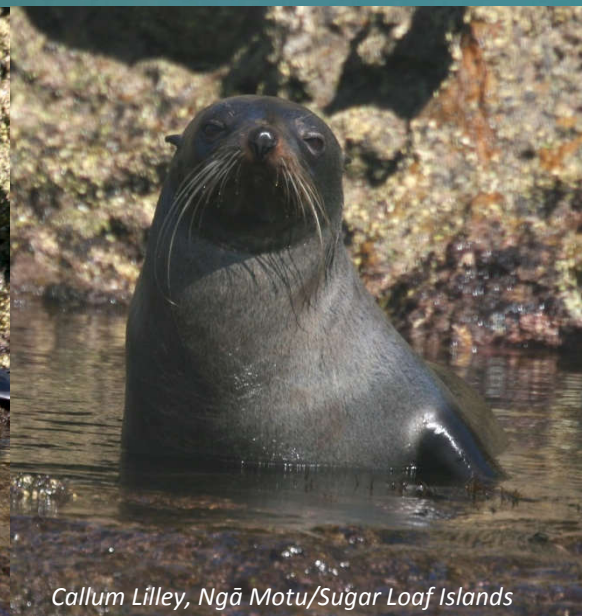
Lisa Dennis



Mother

Pup

Callum Lilley, Ngā Motu/Sugar Loaf Islands



Callum Lilley, Ngā Motu/Sugar Loaf Islands