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FANTAIL

Rhipidura fuliginosa

The Māori name for Fantail is Piwakawaka. In some Māori mythology the piwakawaka is a messenger, bringing death or news of death from the gods to the people. Known for its friendly 'cheet cheet' call and energetic flying antics, the aptly named fantail is one of the most common and widely distributed native birds in New Zealand.

Description

Fantails have mid to dark grey or grey-brown above, yellowish orange below, with a white throat. They have white markings over the eye, and either white-edged or entirely white outer tail feathers.

Food

Their diet is mainly insects however they do also eat fruit and berries occasionally. They either; perch to spot swarms of insects; fly around to disturb insects, flushing them out; or follow another bird, animal (or person!) to capture insects disturbed by their movements.

Breeding

Fantails form small, cup-shaped nests made from moss, bark and fibre, and sometimes spider's web. The usually have three to four cream eggs which are spotted grey and brown.

NZ
Fantails
only
live
for 3 years!



The male feeds the chicks every 10 minutes which is about 100 times a day!