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# TUI

## *Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*

Tui are considered to be very intelligent, much like parrots. They are the main pollinators of flax, kowhai, kaka beak and some other plants. Do you think it is a coincidence that the flowers of these plants are similar in shape to the tui's beak?

### Description

Tui have a multicoloured coat that changes with the angle from which the light strikes them. They have small, white feathers on the back and sides of the neck that look like a lacy collar.

### Food

Nectar is the normal diet but fruit, insects, pollen and seeds are frequently eaten. Particularly popular is the New Zealand flax, whose nectar sometimes ferments, resulting in the tui flying in a fashion that suggests that they might be drunk!

### Breeding

The breeding season is early spring (September and October). Females build nests of twigs, grasses and mosses. Tui sometimes have 2 broods a year and lay 3-4 pinky eggs. Only the female will sit on them.



Tui have two voiceboxes



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