

# Healthy Habitat, Healthy Kōkako

**Kōkako require healthy habitat to thrive. Habitat is generally mixed indigenous forest and 'healthy' means minimal impacts from introduced predators, and browsers. Kōkako require access to a wide variety of plants and insects, from the tops of the canopy trees to the smallest of shrubs, and all the layers and lianas in between.**

Kōkako have a varied diet which can change with the seasons. Depending on the time of year their diet can comprise of a mix of leaves, buds, flowers, nectar, fern fronds, fruit (berries) and invertebrates.

Predators and browsers can severely impact on the availability of these food sources making control vital to maintaining a healthy habitat for kōkako.

Take a look at our other factsheets if you want to learn more about healthy habitats and threats facing kōkako.

## Some favourite kōkako foods

### Porokaiwhiri, Pigeonwood *Hedycarea arborea*

It's not just kererū who go nuts for the fruit of the porokaiwhiri. Kōkako also love to eat the bright orange berries, and it is considered a very important, energy rich food source when raising chicks.



### Sixpenny Scale *Ctenochiton spp.*

The sixpenny scale insect lives on the underside of leaves of many of our native shrub hardwoods. They are considered an important source of protein for kōkako, being especially important for egg development, and as a food for chicks.



### Nga Makawe ō Raukatauri, Hanging Spleenwort *Asplenium flaccidum*

Kōkako have been observed eating the fronds of a number of ferns, but they seem to have a particular fondness for hanging spleenwort. The fronds are a valuable source of food through winter and early spring when fruit and invertebrates are not so plentiful.

