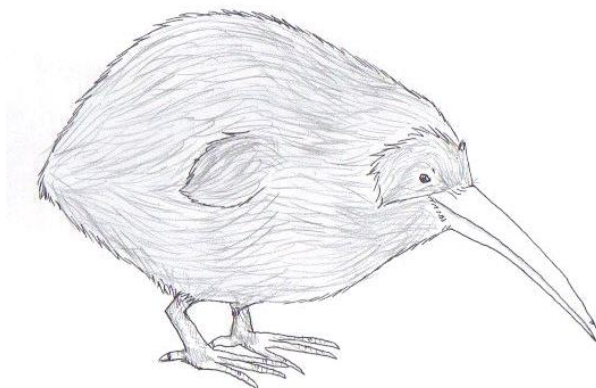


Brown Kiwi

Apteryx mantelli

Animal Description:

The brown kiwi is covered in thick, hair-like feathers. It has wings (although it cannot fly) but their feathers hide these wings. They have no tail, but they have sharp, claw like legs. Normally, these birds are around 18 inches tall, and the females weigh considerably more than the males. Their long bills have nostrils located at the end.



Habitat:

This bird is found primarily in New Zealand. Usually they are found closer to sea level. Moist coniferous forests dominated by fern trees are their primary habitat. The largest remaining group of these birds can be found on a pine plantation on the North Island of New Zealand. Their homes are typically underground burrows with one entrance, and a chamber large enough to accommodate two birds. Also, these birds can be very territorial and even if their forest is being cut down around them, they will try and stay and utilize the hollow logs and cut down trees.

Diet:

Their diets are extremely varied; they eat a huge number of things. Some things in their diet include earthworms, beetles, snails, crayfish, insects, fruits, and berries. It will repeatedly push its bill into the litter of the forest floor to sniff out food. As they are plunging their bills into the dirt, there is a valve behind their nostrils that prevents the bird from inhaling dirt and debris. They look for food from dusk until dawn.

Reproduction:

Female kiwis usually lay 1 egg at a time. These eggs are about 20% of their body weight. The eggs are laid in their burrows, where they are hidden from sight. Laying an egg is very exhausting and physically draining and these birds usually lose some of their body weight during the process. The male stays in the burrow for the 70-80 day incubation period. Chicks kick their way out of the egg, and are 1/8th of their adult size. The chicks are able to forage for themselves and independent by 2 weeks of age. Adult size is reached by the time they reach 2 years of age.

Lifespan:

The lifespan for a kiwi is believed to be around 60 years.

Did You Know?

The brown kiwi can only see about 2 feet in front of them during the day, and 6 feet at night. Their overly keen sense of smell makes up for this though.

Source used: Smithsonian National Zoological Park
<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/Birds/Facts/FactSheets/fact-browнкиwi.cfm>