

**Listen:** [Listen](#) [1]

[Listen](#) [2]

Ō Tū Wharekai contains a range of threatened wildlife.

There is a range of threatened wildlife in Ō Tū Wharekai.

### Wildlife

Ō Tū Wharekai has been shaped by glaciers and provides a variety of habitats. Because the landscape is so varied it is able to support a large amount of wildlife.

There are over 30 bird species that regularly use the lakes and wetlands. Ō Tū Wharekai contains the upper Rangitata River, which includes one of the most important breeding sites for the threatened wrybill/ngutu pare.

Other birds such as the Australian bittern/mātuku, and the Australian crested grebe/kāmana can be found at Ō Tū Wharekai.

As well as birds and fish, Ō Tū Wharekai is also home to minute animals called zooplankton, that live in the water.

### Plant life

Ō Tū Wharekai is also an important site for kettle holes which support rare ephemeral turf vegetation. The swamps of Ō Tū Wharekai include a threatened sedge.

Plants aren't just restricted to above water, Ō Tū Wharekai has a huge diversity of macrophytes or aquatic plants, including freshwater algae.

There are many threatened animals and plants living in Ō Tū Wharekai.

### Threatened native fish

- longfin eel/tuna
- upland longjaw galaxias (small, freshwater fish).
- Threatened bird species
- Australasian bittern/Mātuku
- black-fronted tern/Tarāpirohe
- black-billed gull/Tarāpuka
- wrybill/Ngutu pare
- banded dotterel/Turiwhatu
- Australasian crested grebe/Kāmana

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- Caspian tern/Tārā nui.

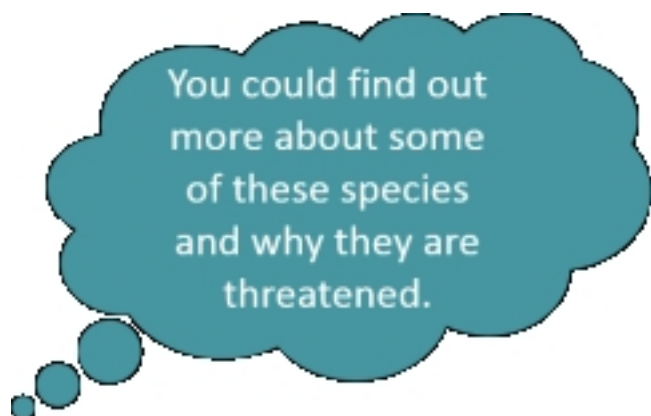
### Threatened lizard species

- scree skink/mokomoko
- long-toed skink.

### Threatened plant species

- marsh arrowrush
- pygmy forget-me-not
- pygmy clubrush
- native lily
- water brome
- rare grasses.

These wetlands also contain some of the best examples of red tussock and pūkio wetlands in Canterbury.



- [Ready for a quiz?](#) [3]

Welcome to this interactive activity for the LEARNZ *Wetland Biodiversity* virtual field trip.

Before trying this activity you may wish to view the web page "[Wetland Treasures](#)".

Good luck and have fun!



Image: LEARNZ

[3]

Ō Tū Wharekai has been shaped by glaciers and has a variety of habitats which support a large amount of wildlife.

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Animals and plants living in Ō Tū Wharekai have special adaptations to help them live through cold winters and hot summers.

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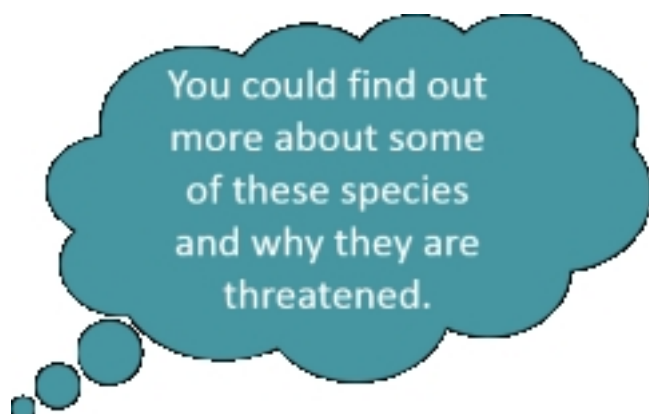
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- [Ready for a quiz?](#)



[3]

[3]

Māori keywords:


Audio Māori keywords:

- [manu - birds](#) [4]
- [huata - plants](#) [5]
- [ika - fish](#) [6]
- [toi - native](#) [7]
- [momo - species](#) [8]
- [ngarawa - insects](#) [9]
- [hira - important](#) [10]

**A good reason to treasure:** Saving endangered plants and animals from becoming extinct and protecting their wild places is important for our health and our future.

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## Wetland Treasures

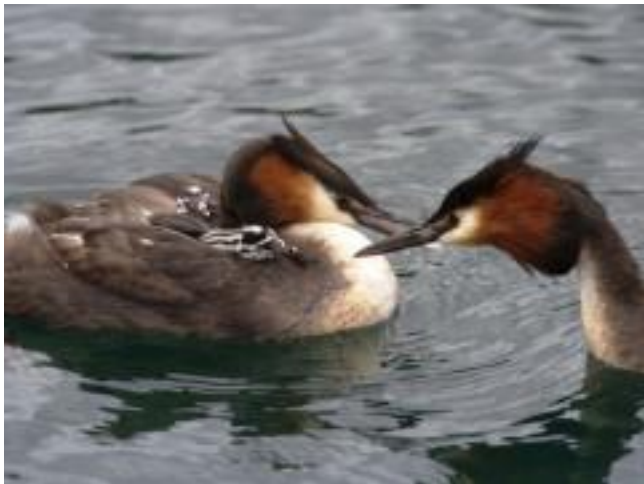
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[11]

Ō Tū Wharekai is home to threatened native fish. What animal is pictured here? Image: LEARNZ.



[12]

This is an Australasian crested grebe/Kāmana. What other threatened bird species might you see at Ō Tū Wharekai? Image: LEARNZ.



[13]

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A small scree skink, one of two threatened lizards that can be found at Ō Tū Wharekai. What is the other one called? Image: LEARNZ.



[14]

Special plants can be found in these wetlands. This is a pygmy forget-me-not from an ephemeral tarn. Why do you think it grows so small? Image: LEARNZ.

**Source URL:** <http://www.learnz.org.nz/node/2235>

### Links

- [1] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/std-wetland-treasures.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75a572>
- [2] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/easy-wetland-treasures.mp3?uid=5bceb9d759fd8>
- [3] <http://activities.learnz.org.nz/wb181/wb181-a06-wetland-treasures/quiz.html>
- [4] [http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/manu\\_3.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75a6ad](http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/manu_3.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75a6ad)
- [5] [http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/huata\\_3.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75a7ac](http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/huata_3.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75a7ac)
- [6] [http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/ika\\_2.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75a89c](http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/ika_2.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75a89c)
- [7] [http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/toi\\_1.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75a987](http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/toi_1.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75a987)
- [8] [http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/momo\\_2.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75aa70](http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/momo_2.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75aa70)
- [9] [http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/ngarawa\\_1.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75ab58](http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/ngarawa_1.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75ab58)
- [10] [http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/hira\\_0.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75ac41](http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/hira_0.mp3?uid=5bceb9d75ac41)
- [11] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/b-wetland-treasures-01.jpg>
- [12] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/b-wetland-treasures-02.jpg>
- [13] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/b-wetland-treasures-03.jpg>

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[14] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/b-wetland-treasures-04.jpg>