

Community Involvement

Communities are making significant contribution to the conservation of the species through:

- Building pest proof fences, trapping programmes or leading restoration and recovery at pest free sites.
- Volunteering on hihi management projects.



Patricia Brekke



Eric Wilson

Hihi need your help

Support your local hihi population



Find out more information at:

Kapiti Island

(DOC & local Hihi Heroes programme)

<http://doc.govt.nz/get-involved-volunteer>

Tiritiri Matangi Island

(DOC & Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc.)

<http://www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz>

Zealandia

(Karori Sanctuary Trust)

<http://www.visitzealandia.com>

Maungatautari

(Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust)

<http://www.sanctuarymountain.co.nz>

Bushy Park Sanctuary

(Bushy Park Trust)

<http://www.bushyparksanctuary.org.nz>

Pukaha Mt Bruce (captive)

(DOC & Pukaha Mt Bruce Board)

<http://www.pukaha.org.nz>

Hihi/Stitchbird

Notiomystis cincta

New Zealand's ray of sunshine

How our hihi are the symbol of challenge and hope for conservation.



Brent Stephenson

Website: www.hihiconservation.com

Twitter: [@hihinews](https://twitter.com/hihinews)

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How much do you know about hihi?

Here are 10 reasons why they are New Zealand's best kept secret.

Maori Tradition

- Hihi means "ray of sunshine"
- Into the fire! In Maori folklore the hihi refused to fetch water for Maui after he had tamed the sun. Maui threw the hihi aside and it landed in the fire, burning its feathers. Thus the black and yellow feathers are its permanent reminder of the lesson learned.

Unique

- They are the only representatives of an endemic (only found in New Zealand) bird Family (Family: Notiomystidae). Not many other New Zealand birds can claim such evolutionary uniqueness.
- Hihi are not honeyeaters.

Rare

- Hihi are more rare than brown kiwi!
- Currently only a few thousand hihi remain globally.
- Hihi were found in northern New Zealand but they became restricted to Little Barrier/Hauturu by about 1890.
- Reintroductions started in 1980 and there are currently five small reintroduced populations, each with fewer than 200 adult birds.

We Need Them

- Hihi are important indicators of the health of New Zealand's northern forests.
- Without hihi pollination some native plants are reduced to lower densities.

Colourful & Curious

- Male hihi are one of the most strikingly colourful of New Zealand's bush birds.
- What you wear counts. Bright and striking male plumage often acts as a signal of reproductive ability.
- Hihi are very curious and charismatic. Look for their distinctive pose with tail tilted up.



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Colourful Sex Lives

- Hihi hold the world record for the number of illegitimate young among song birds.
- Only bird known to copulate face-to-face.
- Size matters. Male hihi testes swell during breeding season, to about 4% of their body mass. At this time the testes are bigger than the males brain!

Cute Babies

- Hihi can have up to five fluffy babies in a nest.
- Hihi nestlings stay a long time in the nest – about 2.5 times longer than other NZ bird species of the same size.
- Hihi nests are found in natural cavities but in places without mature trees they happily use artificial nest boxes.



Rose Thorogood

Global Conservation Research

- Hihi have become a globally renowned model species in conservation biology.
- Hihi conservation is informed by scientific research.

Challenging To Save

- All reintroduced populations of hihi are fed with sugar water which is important for their survival.
- Hihi are regarded as the acid test for restoration ecology in northern New Zealand due to their sensitivity to habitat quality.
- Hihi are extremely vulnerable to all predators and competitors.
- Hihi require complex habitats with high diversity of invertebrates and nectar producing plants - very little of this left in New Zealand.