



The kiwi is New Zealand's national icon and part of our image world-wide. New Zealanders have been "Kiwis" since the days of the First World War. It's a nickname bestowed by fellow Australian soldiers, and it stuck. Today our identity as Kiwis is based around our national bird.



## The Kiwi in New Zealand

More than any other native animal, they are entwined in our identity as New Zealanders. Kiwis are birds that cannot fly. It's a curious bird, the kiwi, it cannot fly, has loose, hair-like feathers and long whiskers. Largely nocturnal, it burrows in the ground, is the only bird known to have nostrils at the end of its bill and literally sniffs out food. It also has one of the largest egg-to-body weight ratios of any bird - the egg averages 15 per cent of the female's body weight, (compared to two per cent for the ostrich).

Kiwi chicks emerge as fully feathered mini adults, and can live for 60 years. Find out about the kiwi life cycle.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/birds/land-birds/kiwi/kiwi/facts/>