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BIRD BEHAVIOUR



Birds do not always behave in the same way. Each kind of bird has its own pattern of behaviour.

There are many features of birds that help to distinguish between the different species. Some of the features are physical and some behavioural. They are: the size of the bird, the shape of its body, the shape of its beak, kind of legs it has, its colour, how it move and what it is doing.

A behaviour that most birds have, and which differs depending on the type of bird is that of the flight distance. This behaviour is used for protection. If another bird or animal comes within a certain distance the bird moves or flies away.

Test this behaviour with birds at Nga Manu, especially the ducks. Find out which birds are tamer depending on what distance from you they move away when you walk slowly towards them.

A FIELD NOTEBOOK OF BIRD BEHAVIOUR AT NGA MANU NATURE RESERVE

Look closely at the different birds at Nga Manu. Choose four birds and fill out the chart below. Remember, to get the best results you must be quiet and still and observe carefully the behaviour of the birds!

Name of bird	Time of day	What was the bird doing?	Was the bird alone?	Size of bird	Colour

DRAW HERE ANY SPECIAL FEATURES OF
THE BIRDS YOU SAW

BIRD CALLS AND SONGS

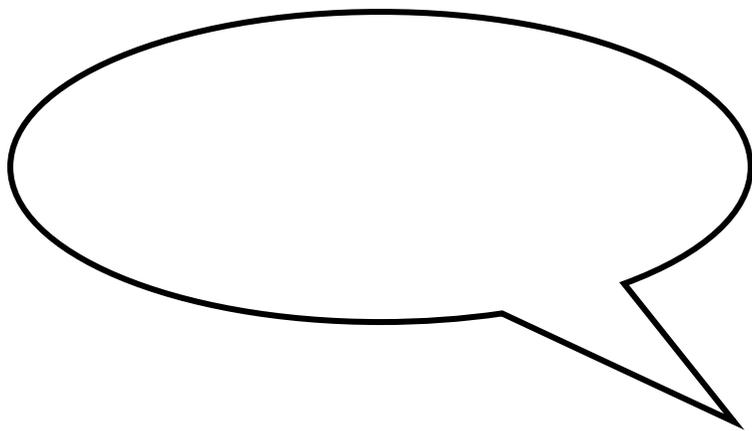
Many birds species are social which means they need a language – a means of communication.

For a bird, like most animals, food is very important and most birds have a call that is related to food.

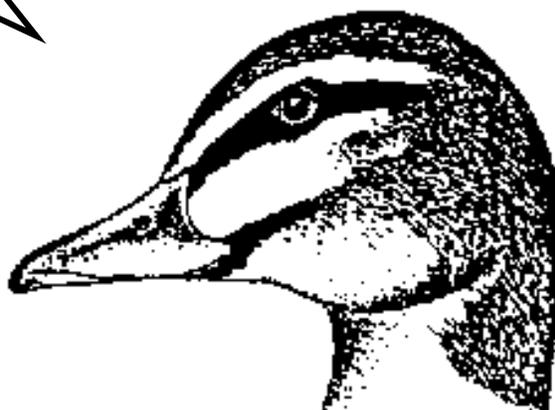
Watch the birds at the reserve closely.

Do ducks make more noise when you feed them?

If one duck quacks, do others quack back?



Write down what you think the ducks might be saying to one another.



Name: _____