

Gaps in genetic knowledge affect kiwi conservation efforts

April 21 2021



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

Kiwi are iconic birds that have been severely impacted by deforestation and predation from invasive mammals since the arrival of humans in New Zealand. The remaining kiwi can be split into 14 clusters that are

now treated as separate conservation management units. A review published in *Ibis* examines the latest information on kiwi genetics to investigate the legitimacy for maintaining these differences.

Although studies indicate that kiwi differ genetically between areas, there is little understanding of the extent of local adaptations and breeding changes on populations. The work highlights the need for a more detailed understanding of the genetics of different species for [wildlife conservation](#).

"Using [kiwi](#) as an example, we hope to convey that results from any [genetic studies](#) cannot be easily translated into genetic management policy. On the contrary, studies using informative markers and strategic sample regimes are required if the goal is diverse and long-term successful populations," said lead author Malin Undin, Ph.D., of Massey University, in New Zealand.

More information: *Ibis*, [DOI: 10.1111/ibi.12951](https://doi.org/10.1111/ibi.12951)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Gaps in genetic knowledge affect kiwi conservation efforts (2021, April 21) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2021-04-gaps-genetic-knowledge-affect-kiwi.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--