



OUR NOCTURNAL, FLIGHTLESS BIRD



KNOW YOUR KIWI

KEY FACTS

A *Common name*
Kiwi

En Vu *Status*
Vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered

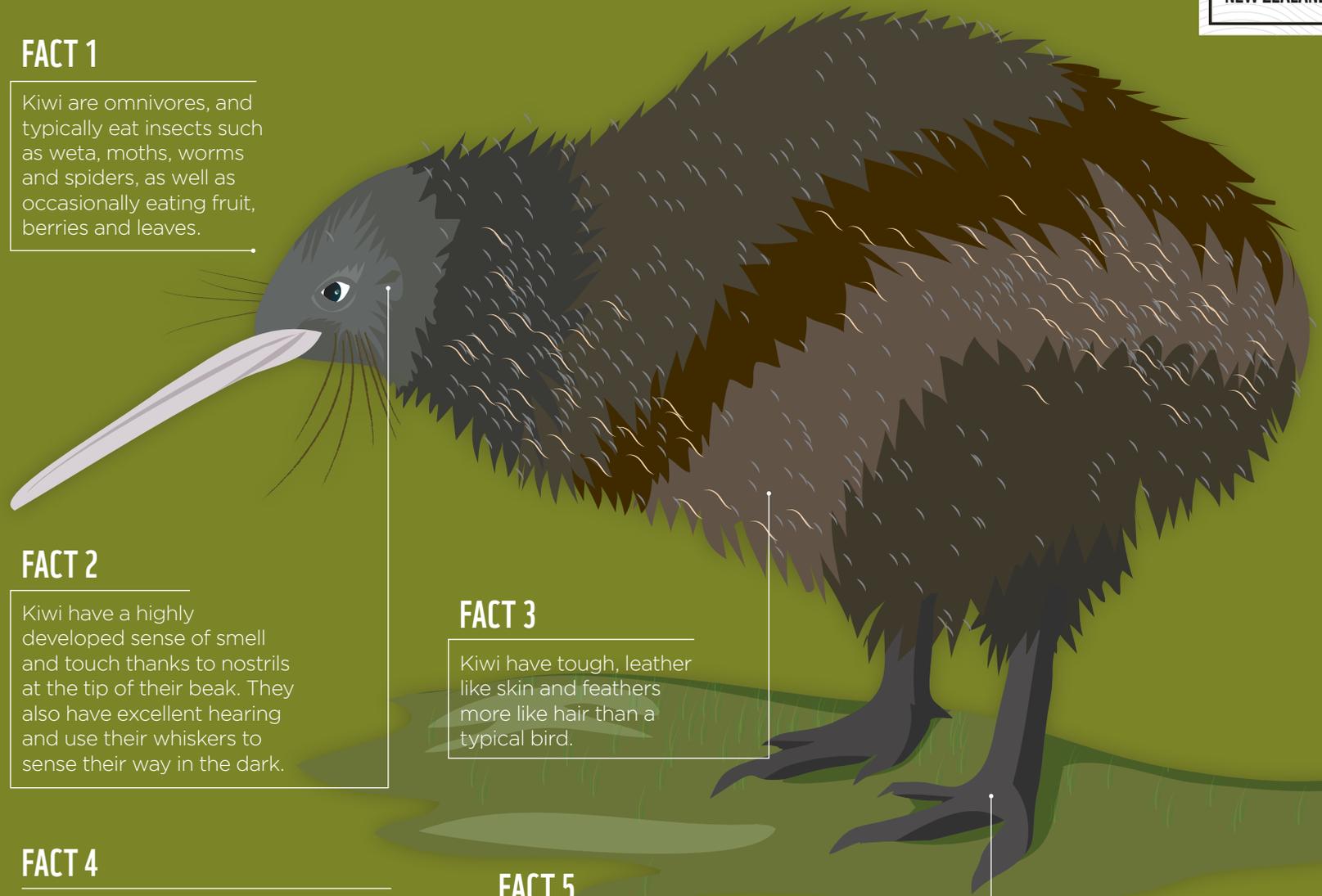
Aa *Scientific name*
Apteryx

 *Five distinct species*
Brown Kiwi, Rowi, Tokoeka, Great Spotted Kiwi/Roroa, Little Spotted Kiwi

 *Total population*
<70,000

FACT 1

Kiwi are omnivores, and typically eat insects such as weta, moths, worms and spiders, as well as occasionally eating fruit, berries and leaves.



FACT 2

Kiwi have a highly developed sense of smell and touch thanks to nostrils at the tip of their beak. They also have excellent hearing and use their whiskers to sense their way in the dark.

FACT 3

Kiwi have tough, leather like skin and feathers more like hair than a typical bird.

FACT 4

Kiwi lay enormous eggs, almost one fifth of their body weight. In proportion to their body size, their egg is one of the largest in the world.

FACT 5

Kiwi have heavy, muscular legs, used for running and defending against predators. They're perfect for a life spent on the ground.



KNOW YOUR KIWI

LIFE CYCLE OF THE KIWI

STAGE 1: EGG

The egg is incubated for 70-80 days, more than twice as long as most birds.



STAGE 2: CHICK

Kiwi chicks hatch with full plumage and their eyes open. After a week, they are independent from their parents.



STAGE 3: ADULT

Adult kiwi will establish a territory, which can be up to 100 hectares.



STAGE 4: MATING

Kiwi are usually monogamous – and typically mate for life.



THE THREATS



Rodents such as rats and mice compete for food with kiwi.



Stoats and ferrets are effective predators, and are particularly deadly to kiwi.



Kiwi have a strong, musky smell that dogs are drawn to – putting them at risk.

OTHER THREATS

The arrival of humans in New Zealand led to dramatic changes for kiwi. Before humans arrived, there were estimated to be millions of kiwi in New Zealand. Habitat loss has fragmented many kiwi populations, and introduced predators have had a disastrous effect. The kiwi population is now estimated to be less than 70,000.

