

tree. Grass and moss often form the basis, interlaced with sprays of tough manuka. Feathers are much sought after for the lining. The interior may be a symphony in colour, the scarlet of the kaka mingling with the green of the parrakeet and the ultramarine of the kingfisher. Three or four eggs are laid of the most delicate white, but sometimes with the faintest glow of a pink tinge. They are marked, principally towards the larger end, with a profusion of reddish-brown spots. The young are fed by the parents long after they are full fledged.

The song of the bellbird has much in common with that of the tui, even to the whisper songs, jangles, sneezes, gutturals, and chuckles. "It is at the grey break of dawn and in the still hour that closes the day that its chimes strike clearest on the ear. It is comparatively silent during the noontide heat, unless some few individuals meet on a tree or shrub that offers a tempting show of honey-bearing blossoms. A note or two is briefly sounded, the numbers rapidly increase, and after much noisy fluttering of wings a gush of clanging melody bursts forth from a score of quivering throats forming a concert of unharmonious yet most pleasing sounds." Towards dusk bellbirds utter a succession of notes like the tolling of some distant bell.

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FRILLED SHAGS AT HOME.