



The whio, or blue duck, is at home in alpine and sub-alpine regions, where pairs are often found feeding in fast flowing mountain streams. However, this confiding bird with its distinctive whistle — hence the Maori name whio — is becoming more and more rare as developments threaten its precarious existence. An article on page 11 of this issue describes how attempts are being made to preserve Tongariro State Forest from large scale development, and so help protect such magnificent endemic species.

Photo: Craig Potton