

Kārearea

Troy Kingi



**Forest
& Bird**

TE REO O TE TĀIAO
Giving Nature a Voice

**Waiata
Manu** 

Resource Pack

Bird of the Year ²⁰²⁵

Kārearea

By Troy Kingi

Verse:

Up high searching down below
Anything moves I'm the first to
know
Destined to be great
Take a leap of faith
Fly into the burning sun

Chorus:

Kārearea
We see the king that you are
Kārearea
Chase the morning star

Verse:

Taniwha o te ngahere
E Tiro Kau ana i to turanga ra
Kua oho nei te wao
Ko Tēnei ko to ao
E rere Manu e
Auē!

Chorus:

Kārearea
We see the queen that you are
Auē!
Kārearea
Chase the morning star

Bridge:

Chocolate and cream
(High in the morning)
Yellow and shining bright
(I hide in the sky)
Watching for predators
Giving the tohu for rain
Climb to the sky again

Dive bomb!
200 kilometres
Dive bomb!
Scratching my nest
Dive bomb!
Guarding my eggs
Dive bomb!
Never eat off the road
I'll rip you apart
Rip you apart

Chorus:

Kārearea
We see the king you are
Kārearea
Chase the morning star
Auē!
Kārearea
Be the queen you are
Auē!
Kārearea
Riding the rain from afar

Kārearea

By Troy Kingi

Intro:

C, Gm, Gm, Dm (x2)

Verse:

FMaj7 Em
Up high searching down below
Dm CMaj7
Anything moves I'm the first to know
FMaj7 Em
Destined to be great,
Dm
Take a leap of faith
G7
Fly into the burning sun

Chorus:

C
Kārearea
Gm Dm
We see the king that you are
C
Kārearea
Gm Dm
Chase the morning star

Verse:

FMaj7 Em
Taniwha o te ngahere
Dm CMaj7
E Tiro Kau ana i to turanga ra
FMaj7 Em
Kia oho nei te wao
Dm
Ko Tēnei ko to ao
G7
E rere Manu e

Auē!

Chorus:

C
Kārearea
Gm Dm
We see the queen that you are
C
Kārearea
Gm Dm
Chase the morning star

Bridge:

D# F#
Chocolate and cream (High in the morning)
D# F#
Yellow and shining bright (I hide in the sky)
D# F#
Watching for predators
A#m G#
Giving the tohu for rain
F#
Climb to the sky again

F
Dive bomb!
F#
200 kilometres
F
Dive bomb!
F#
Scratching my nest
F
Dive bomb!
F#
Guarding my eggs
F
Dive bomb!
F#
Never eat off the road
A# C# G#m Ebm
I'll rip you apart
C# G#m Ebm
Rip you apart

LYRICS & CHORDS

Chorus:

C#

Kārearea

Abm

Ebm

We see the king that you are

C#

Kārearea

Abm

Ebm

Chase the morning star

Auē!

C#

Kārearea

Abm

Ebm

Be the queen that you are

Auē!

C#

Kārearea

Abm

(stop)

Ebm

Riding the rain from afar



MINI LESSON PLANS

(30–40 mins, adaptable for Years 3–6)



Lesson 1 – Meet the manu

Focus: Science / Inquiry Learning

Curriculum links: Living World

Objective: Students can describe key features and habitat of the kārearea.

Warm-up: Play the Waiata Manu - Kārearea video* once. Ask: “What kind of bird do you think this is?”

Explore facts: Read the factsheet aloud or share it on your screen.

Mini research task: In pairs, find one new fact about kārearea (predator, prey, flight, nesting, habitat, forms, diet etc.).

Reflect: Write one sentence: “The kārearea is special because...” Share all your sentences with Forest & Bird (birdoftheyear@forestandbird.org.nz).

Lesson 2 – Sing for nature

Focus: Music / Te reo Māori / Performance

Curriculum links: The Arts - Music & Dance / Learning Languages

Objective: Students learn and perform the Waiata Manu - Kārearea.

Warm-up: Listen and follow lyrics (on screen or print)

Translate: Explore together key te reo Māori kupu words and kīanga phrases, e.g. manu = bird; taniwha o te ngahere = guardian of the forest; auē = wow!

Create actions: Explore how movement can add to the performance and settle on actions to accompany different lyrics, e.g. arms outstretched for “rere manu e (fly bird fly)”.

Perform together: As small groups, or as a whole group.

Record performance/s and send to Forest & Bird to support celebrations of the kārearea as Bird of the Year (birdoftheyear@forestandbird.org.nz).

Optional extra: Incorporate percussion or other classroom instruments into performance.

MINI LESSON PLANS

(30–40 mins, adaptable for Years 3–6)



Lesson 3 – Guardians of the sky

Focus: Art / Citizenship / Conservation Action

Curriculum links: The Arts - Visual Arts / Social Studies / English - Writing & Presenting

Objective: Students express understanding of environmental kaitiakitanga guardianship through creative work.

Discuss: What risks/dangers do kārearea face?

Brainstorm solutions: Ask: “How can people help?”

(e.g. predator-free projects, keeping cats indoors, planting natives, habitat restoration, climate action).

Make: Create posters or digital slides designed to inform and inspire with the slogan “Protect our manu”.

Optional extension: Write a class pledge, “We will... ”, and share it with your whānau and wider community in your school newsletter. Make sure to share with Forest & Bird too! (birdoftheyear@forestandbird.org.nz).

Kārearea New Zealand Falcon

Factsheet



Scientific name: *Falco novaeseelandiae*

Conservation status: In serious trouble

Length: 40–50 cm (females are larger than males)

Wingspan: 60–80 cm

Speed: Can exceed 200 km/h in a dive.

Found: Throughout Aotearoa – native forest, tussock lands, hill country, pine plantations and urban fringes (e.g., Wellington town belt).

Diet: Mainly birds (blackbirds, finches, silvereyes), plus insects, lizards and small mammals. Can hunt prey bigger than itself.

Nesting: Simple ground scrape or ledge nest, 2–4 eggs, incubation shared between male and female.

Why they're amazing

- Aerial acrobat - Shorter, rounded wings + long tail = incredible control in tight turns. Only falcon in the world who can manoeuvre through dense forests at speed.
- Power hunter - Snatches prey mid-air with razor-sharp talons and a swift neck bite.
- Playful too - Falcons sunbathe and “pretend fight” in the air to practice skills.
- Taonga species - Symbol of strength, agility and mana; messenger between the spiritual and human realms and a tohu sign for coming rain.

Threats

- Eggs and chicks attacked by cats, stoats, rats, and hedgehogs.
- Collisions with powerlines and vehicles.
- Habitat loss from land clearance.

How to help kārearea

- Keep cats indoors.
- Support predator-free projects and native planting.
- Learn and share the Waiata Manu – Kārearea.
- Spot and report kārearea sightings to your local DOC office.

A C T I V I T I E S

Draw it! What colours can you see in kārearea feathers?

Imagine it! If you could fly 200 km/h, where would you go?

Act it! Spread your wings – mimic the dive-bomb!

Sing it! Learn the final chorus

*Kārearea / We see the king that you are /
Kārearea / Chase the morning star / Auē! /
Kārearea / Be the queen that you are / Auē! /
Kārearea / Riding the rain from afar*

Watch the music video at forestandbird.org.nz/waiata-manu

