

Piwakawaka or Piwakawaka Fantail

Fantails use their broad tails to change direction quickly while hunting insects. They can make near vertical take offs.

They have up to 5 clutches of eggs a year with 2 - 5 eggs laid each time. The eggs hatch in about 14 days. When the female starts building a new nest the male takes over feeding the chicks. They are fed about every 10 minutes, that's about 100 meals a day!

Piwakawaka can live for 3 years but one year is more likely.

They often follow people moving through the bush, catching the insects that have been disturbed.



Rats are the worst enemy of the fantails. Before rats etc. came to NZ, fantails had very few predators.

Can you think what they might be?