



Rook



Poisoning rook nest

DESCRIPTION

Rooks are large, totally black birds with a violet-blue glossy sheen, up to 45 cm high.

Extremely rare in Taranaki, most birds spotted will be juvenile birds. Generally they build their nests in pine or eucalyptus trees, but oak, poplar and walnut trees may also be used. They are active in the day and have a large home range.

Rooks are social birds. Where established, large rook colonies (called rookeries) are conspicuous and may approach several hundred birds.

Almost 75% of a rook's diet is insects. Although they play a role in controlling insect pests, they also pose a threat to cropping and horticultural production.

VALUES AT RISK

Agricultural, horticultural and cropping production.

Newly grassed or planted areas are particularly at risk.

Ecological values.

Rooks harass native birds and restrict their range.

STRATEGY RULES

Please contact the Taranaki Regional Council if you have any information about the location or presence of rooks. The Council will act on your information and take eradication action.



HOW TO CONTROL ROOKS

Due to the wariness of these birds, it is generally not recommended that you attempt to carry out the control, particularly in and around their nest. Unsuccessful control efforts will result in the birds dispersing and becoming much harder to eliminate.

In accordance with the 'Pest Management Strategy for Taranaki: Animals', rooks have been targeted for eradication and the Council will undertake that control

For further advice or information about pest animal management contact:

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL
Pest Animal Management Section
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