

MEKA MANU

# Kōtuku

(White heron)

*Ardea alba modesta*



Sparklers

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# Characteristics

Kōtuku are considered a very rare and special sight here in Aotearoa!

There is only one colony of kōtuku in Aotearoa — a spot near Whataroa, South Westland.

Kōtuku use their long beak to feed on small fish, wading through the water with their long, featherless legs!

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Tīpuna Māori noticed that kōtuku eat very elegantly and carefully.

"He kōtuku kai whakaata" is a whakataukī that compares someone with good manners to the kōtuku.

**Do you have good manners like a kōtuku?**



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**What can we learn  
from kōtuku?**

**How might we apply  
this in our classroom?**

