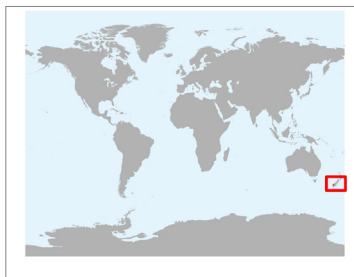




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Stitchbird

The **Stitchbird** (or locally named Hihi), *Notiomystis cincta*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The only representative of a New Zealand endemic bird family, the last natural population of this forest-dwelling species is now restricted to a single small offshore island.

This charismatic bird was once found throughout the northern regions of New Zealand, but declined rapidly following European arrival probably linked to forest clearance and the introduction of non-native mammalian predators. One remnant population has remained on the isolated Little Barrier (Hauturu) Island since the late 1800's, with a population recently estimated between 500 to 2000 individuals. The Stitchbird is particularly vulnerable to predation due to their cavity-nesting habits.

A national recovery programme, started in 1980, has been using reintroduction methods to increase the range and numbers of Stitchbirds. To date there have been 21 reintroductions to 8 different locations. However, success of reintroductions has been variable and often requires intensive supportive management to maintain viable populations. Currently there are five reintroduced populations.

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