

3. Extreme Families

Nowhere is this more obvious than during reproduction. Birds, it seems, will go to any lengths to get their genes passed on, be it by rape, decision or parasitism, and sometimes by all three within the same species. Yet while the young may be cosseted inside nests with exceptional insulating properties, they may also be summarily abandoned when conditions for breeding go awry. Young Birds some deliberately kill their siblings, and others may fire lazy parents. Acts of desperate survival are everywhere. This chapter deals with few specific bird families with unique aspects like, their courtship patterns, nesting, parenting etc. To name few of them are Huia, Kingfishers, Storks, Pelicans, Hammerkop, Flamingos etc.

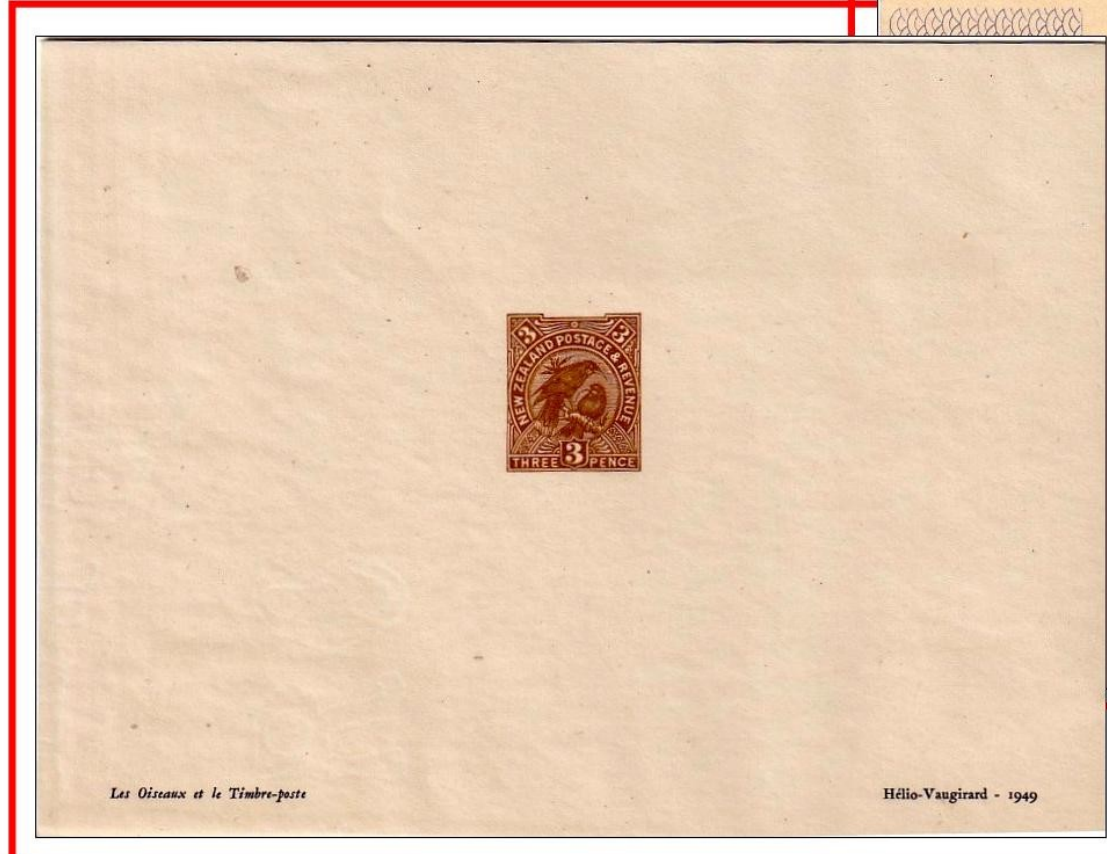


↑ Ostrich Bird, EMAMeter stamp franking.
Test Strip Supplier, Netherlands

Huia bird was the largest N. Zealand wattlebird species endemic to the Northern Island of the country. This species went extinct in the early 20th century. Conservation efforts to save this species started in the 1890s, but they were not properly enforced. Huias had no fear of humans and the Maori people reportedly captured them with hands. In fact, the Maoris also kept them as pets.



→ A pair of Storks in COA, on cover flap (Reverse side).
Princely state under British Raj, founded 1785 .Chhatarpur



1949 New Zealand Helió-Vaugirard Proof of the 1898 3d Hula bird with inscription, Surface Paper, 'Les Oiseaux et le Timbre-poste' at left and "Hélio-Vaugirard - 1949" at bottom right



↑ 1963. Malachite Kingfisher Composite Marginal progressive color trials.

← 1898. Huia (*Heteralocha acutirostris*) Definitive-Issue Design