

## How can you help?

Bellbirds prefer to breed in forest, or shrubland, that has five or more preferred plant food species. For the bellbird population on the Port Hills the loss of forest has meant a reduction in the size and amount of their prime habitat, both for breeding and gathering food. Although bellbirds nest on the Port Hills, many of them visit Christchurch City and other areas of the Canterbury Plains in winter.

## How to help the bellbird population

There are a number of native plants that you can have in your garden as food sources for bellbirds and other birds, such as silvereyes. Flax, kowhai and pohutukawa are rich sources for nectar, while coprosmas, fivefinger and cabbage trees provide fruits for the birds. There are also a number of exotic plants that bellbirds use as nectar sources, such as eucalypts, grevilleas, proteas and red hot poker.

Plant a variety of plants so there is continuation of food supply throughout the year. Existing tall trees, both native and exotic, can also provide essential roosting and nesting sites. By improving the habitat in your garden and neighbourhood you can enhance bellbird survival.



**Lemonwood provides nectar and fruit for bellbirds**

## What is the council doing?

Parks and gardens can provide new habitat for bellbirds, as well as other native birds. The Christchurch City Council (CCC) has a number of revegetation programmes underway. There are replanting programmes on the Port Hills and riparian strips along rivers and in wetland areas. The Port Hills CCC Rangers and volunteers annually plant around 8000 native seedlings on the Port Hills, and have been doing so since the 1980s.

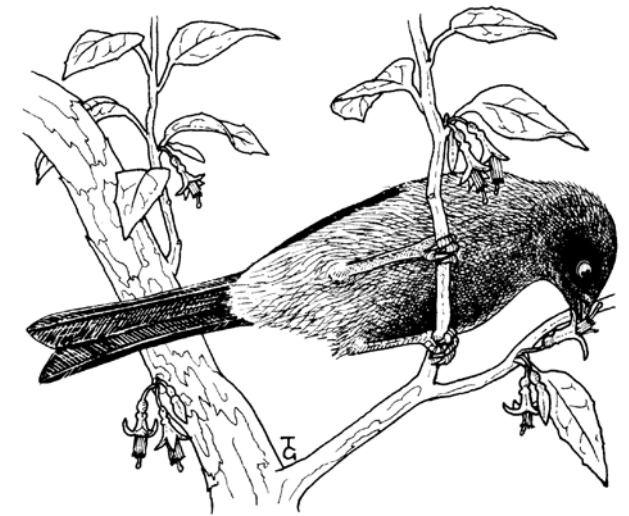
If you would like to know more about volunteering for planting days on the Port Hills contact Anne Liggett, Beckenham Service Centre, Ph 337 4513.



**Eucalypt flowers provide nectar for bellbirds**

# Bellbird (Korimako)

## Food Sources



**Bellbird visiting fuchsia flowers**

Pamphlets in this series are:

1. Bellbird identification
2. Bellbird in Canterbury
3. Bellbird predation
4. Bellbird food sources

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