



This is the smallest of all the birds that cannot fly. (The ostrich is the largest.) Although it is a true bird, it looks something like an animal without a tail and even has cat-like whiskers. It is about the size of a chicken and is covered with pretty, soft, grey and brown feathers. (Some people used to make beautiful robes from these feathers, but this is now forbidden.) It has strong legs and feet and can run quickly through the undergrowth. It moves silently, except for a little hissing noise when hunting, and occasionally giving its piercing cry, 'kee wee, kee wee'.

Although God did not give the kiwi the ability to fly, He gave it special ability to live on the ground.

*"But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him . . . All flesh is not the same flesh"* (1 Corinthians 15:38-39). Since worms and underground insects are its main food, it has been given an unusually long, rough bill to dig with. It hunts mostly in wet or swampy ground, where the digging is easiest. Every other bird has nostrils at the base of its bill, but the kiwi's nostrils are out on the end of its bill. What do you think is the reason for this? Those who have studied this bird believe it smells the food for which it is searching through these openings in its bill. Its small dark eyes do not see much

in the dark, but its keen sense of smell lets it find all its food, including snails, berries and some plants.

If the kiwi was able to think and talk, it would tell us, "God did not leave out any necessary thing. He has given me all I need to thrive and prosper." And it does prosper. Burrowing under the roots of a tree, it builds a nest lined with leaves and grass. It usually lays just one very large white egg which weighs as much as a quarter of the kiwi itself! The kiwi egg is the largest in comparison to its size of any bird on earth.

After laying her egg the female lets the male hatch it. For over two months he stays on the nest, only eating and drinking on quick trips outside, while waiting for the chick to hatch. The hatched chick is covered with soft, dark fuzz called *down*. After only a few days the chick wanders off to make its own way, and the parents forget all about it.

God watches over these strange birds, just as He does over all His creatures. We too are part of His wonderful creation, but unlike the birds and animals, we are responsible to Him for what we do with our lives. He says to you in His Word, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). Also, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). Are you doing these things?