


Native birds

This task is about interpreting text to identify risk factors for survival.


Here are some patterns that scientists have observed about the fantail and black robin.
Read the information and answer the questions below.

The Fantail (Piwakawaka)



The fantail is a native bird that is commonly found in bush, farmland and in gardens in towns. It mainly eats flying insects but also eats caterpillars and spiders. Fantails are very agile in the air and seldom feed on the ground. They build their nests in trees. The nests are often hanging from supporting twigs, sometimes over water. The fantail starts breeding in its first year of life and usually lays 2 to 5 eggs at a time. It takes about 14 days for the eggs to hatch and the babies stay in the nest for about 13 days. A pair of fantails can raise up to five families in a summer. In the Chatham Islands, though, where the summers are shorter it only raises up to 2 families.

The Black Robin



In 1976 there were only 7 black robins in the whole world. It was one of the world's rarest birds. The black robin is slightly larger than a fantail. Black robins prefer to build their nests in hollow trees or in stumps on the ground. They do not start breeding before they are two years old and usually stay with the same mate for life. They lay between one and three eggs each season. The eggs take about 18 days to hatch and the babies stay in the nest for about 22 days. If the first brood does not survive black robins will sometimes have a successful second brood. The breeding season is very short. Black robins eat insects buried in forest leaf litter and hunt by making frequent short flights between low perches, and onto the ground.

a) Complete the table to compare **five** different features that affect the survival chances of fantails and black robins.
(Two features have been started for you)

Features affecting survival		Fantail	Black robin
i)	What they eat		
ii)	When they start breeding		
iii)			
iv)			
v)			

b) Describe **two** types of changes to the New Zealand environment in the past 100 years that could have impacted on the survival of both black robins and fantails.

Change 1:

Change 2:

c) Why have these changes had more effect on black robins than on fantails?
Give **three** reasons.

Reason 1:

Reason 2:

Reason 3:

d) Imagine that you have found a way to travel back in time to when the first European settlers were arriving in New Zealand.

Imagine that you have also been granted the power to persuade them to do one thing differently, to prevent an aspect of environmental damage on the islands where the black robins live.

What would you persuade them to do differently, and why?