



## ***Squishy Squashy Birds* by Carl van Wijk illustrated by Alicia Munday**

**Publisher: potton & burton**

**RRP \$19.99**

This vibrantly-illustrated publication takes an original approach to a picture book about endangered New Zealand birds. The rhyming text flows well for reading aloud to a young audience.

*“Endangered Birds of New Zealand”  
was Sammy’s favourite book  
He kept it in his backpack  
tucked safely in a nook.*

Young Sammy zips the book into his jacket and takes it to school for Show-and-Tell. Squashed between the pages, the birds mutter about their squished up wings and beaks. They stop talking when they hear the sounds of children all around them.

The big ‘tah-dah’ reveal is well-timed when Sammy holds the book open for the students in his class and says, “These are all my favourite birds.”

*The birds burst from the pages, like a rainbow-feathered sea.  
They were screeching, squawking, flapping - an amazing sight to see.*

Free at last, the birds delight the children with their antics in the classroom.

The superb design features vivid, A4-size illustrations. Close-up views allow readers to see the detail of the birds’ beaks, eyes, feet, and plumage. Some pictures are double spread with the birds’ wings outstretched and displayed to great effect. The pages are a riot of colour.

A final “Bird Facts” page gives a brief synopsis of each bird’s particular features. The reviewed book is a softcover publication with quality paper - plus a hardcover edition is available for \$29.99.

**Reviewed by children’s book author, Jean Bennett**

