

# Matariki



**Ka rere a Matariki, ka wera te hinu –  
when Matariki rises the fat is heated.**

Matariki was associated not only with planting and harvesting, but also with the plentiful supply of game. Often birds would be preserved in their own fat in a gourd. Kererū (wood pigeon), having feasted on native berries, were snared and preserved in fat during Matariki. This practice gave rise to the proverb.