

p. 218, this is a "right tarso-metatarsus, imperfect at the extremities and somewhat weathered; from a superficial deposit in New Zealand. This specimen, which has a length of 0.061, shows all the characteristic features."

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A FIRST RECORD OF THE EXTINCT NEW ZEALAND COOT FROM THE NORTH ISLAND

The Extinct New Zealand Coots, hitherto known as *Palaeolimnas chathamensis* and *P. prisca*, have been recorded from fifteen localities in the South Island as well as in the Chatham Islands (Brodkorb & Dawson, 1961).

In the British Museum (Natural History), there is a collection of bird bones made "in the notorious Rauparaha's kitchen middens by Mr. A. Hamilton" (Forbes, 1892), and amongst these I have identified a tarsometatarsus and a coracoid of "*Palaeolimnas*." The location of these middens was probably the Taupo *pa* on the present site of Plimmerton beach, Wellington west coast (Dawson, 1961). One or more deposits may be represented in the collection since the bird remains found range from those of the Kakapo (*Strigops habroptilus*) to various kinds of fowl (*Gallus* sp.).

Although remains of Extinct Coots are really only abundant in the Chatham Islands, there are sufficient records to show that a species, identical with or closely allied to the Chatham bird, was once widespread throughout the South Island. In the North Island bones of small subfossil birds have been mainly found in limestone caves, probably isolated from the former habitat of coots, and it may be that further remains of these coots will be found when coastal sand dunes, early middens, and swamps are investigated in closer detail.

Meanwhile, the bones in the British Museum (Natural History), under the temporary registration numbers R6346 and R6404, appear to be the only records of "*Palaeolimnas*" in the North Island of New Zealand.

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AN EARLY SPECIMEN OF THE KAKAPO (*STRIGOPS HABROPTILUS*) FROM STEWART ISLAND

According to Williams (1956: 39), evidence has been produced from time to time of the occurrence of the Kakapo in Stewart Island but, since birds from the fiordland region of the South Island are said to have been liberated on the island, it is not clear "whether the birds that have been reported since are descendants of these, or whether . . . there has always been a resident population . . ." Later, Williams (1960: 219) stated: "Though Kakapo have recently been recorded from Stewart Island, only two museum specimens appear to exist. However, if it is confirmed that these, now at Leiden, are indeed from the Temminch Collection . . . then the question as to whether the