

**Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc.**

**­­­­­­Unusual/Rare Bird Reporting Form**

**Please consult the list of rare birds to ensure the bird is on the list of** [**reportable species**](https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/schemes/rare-bird-sightings/reportable-species/) **before filling out this form.**

Fields marked with \* are compulsory.

**Bird Identification**

**Species\***

[Species name of the bird(s)]

**Sub-species/race**

[If evident]

**Number of birds**

**Observer Details**

**Observer’s name\***

**Email\***

**Phone number**

**Address**

**Other observers**

[List the names of anyone else who observed the bird(s)]

**Observation Details**

**Date of observation\***

**Comments on date**

[Please add details about the date(s) of observation, i.e. if bird(s) seen over a number of days or months]

**Location\***

[Please provide an accurate written location of where you saw the bird(s). If you are unable to provide map or GPS coordinates, please provided enough written detail to allow us to map the precise location. Let us know if you require the precise location to be confidential.]

**GPS Coordinates**

[Decimal degrees are the preferred format, otherwise explain the format used]

**Habitat**

**Viewing distance**

[Approximate distance from the bird in metres]

**Optical aids used**

[Did you use binoculars/telescope and if so what magnification]

**Duration of observation(s)**

[In hours and minutes]

**Books, websites or other information consulted**

[List any books, websites or other sources that you consulted to verify your identification]

**Consultation/discussion with other birders**

[If this has been discussed on [www.birdingnz.net](http://www.birdingnz.net) or other online forums, please add links]

**How well do you know the species (list previous experience)?**

[List any previous experience with this bird(s)]

**How confident are you about the identification?**

⃝ <25% ⃝ 25-50% ⃝ 50-75% ⃝ 75-100% ⃝ 100%

**State any relevant weather or sea conditions that helped or hindered the observation**

**State weather conditions in the days before first observation that may explain the bird’s presence**

**Description of the bird(s)**

Please give a full description of the bird(s) from your field notes and impressions gained at the time of the sighting. Please start with an account of how the bird was discovered and what other birds it was with. If you easily identified the bird to family level, e.g. albatross, penguin, duck, tern, etc, you can start your description by saying so. Then lead into a detailed description and produce evidence for the elimination of similar species. Use sketches throughout, wherever possible (the notes at the sides of the following pages are prompts, if you need them). If the bird was caught, banded, photographed or tape-recorded please provide measurements, photographs or recordings in support.

Please note that the more detail provided will assist the Records Appraisal Committee make their assessment of the sighting.

Whenever you make comments that have been prompted by books you consulted, state clearly that you have done so.

**First impressions/discovery**

**Size**

**Shape**

**Plumage colour**

**Bare parts**

[E.g. colour of eyes, bill and legs; shape and length of bill and legs, etc.]

**Behaviour**

**Elimination from other species**

**Reaction to other birds**

**Reaction to humans**

**Photos**

Have you provided any images?

**⃝ Yes ⃝ No**

[Please attach photos or anything else which may make confirmation easier]

**Sharing**

Are you willing for your images/videos/audio to be uploaded on eBird and NZ Birds Online should your record be accepted?

**⃝ Yes ⃝ No**

**Please return this form to the RAC Secretary by email:** [**rac.secretary@birdsnz.org.nz**](mailto:rac.secretary@birdsnz.org.nz)

or post: 35 Selmes Road, Rapaura, RD3, Blenheim 7273