



## Reportable rare/unusual birds in New Zealand

This list is constantly under review. The Records Appraisal Committee expects to receive reports of sightings of any species beyond their normal ranges (as depicted in Robertson et al. 2007. *Atlas of bird distribution in New Zealand 1999-2004*. Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Wellington). The list below is a general summary only. Sightings of escaped or released cage birds should not be submitted unless the observer believes them to have bred in the wild.

If you have any queries or comments regarding the species listed here, please email Birds New Zealand [Records Appraisal Committee Convenor](#).

### Species

Little spotted kiwi  
 Plumed whistling-duck  
 Cape Barren goose  
 Pink-eared duck  
 Paradise shelduck  
  
 Chestnut-breasted shelduck  
 Australian wood duck  
 Whio (blue duck)  
  
 Chestnut teal  
 Brown teal  
  
 Northern pintail  
 Northern shoveler  
 Australian white-eyed duck  
 Brown quail  
 Chukor  
 Great crested grebe  
 New Zealand dabchick  
  
 Hoary-headed grebe  
 Australasian little grebe  
 Rock pigeon  
  
 Barbary dove  
  
 Spotted dove  
 Rose-crowned fruit-dove  
 Kererū (New Zealand pigeon)  
  
 Oriental cuckoo  
 Pallid cuckoo

### Reportable areas and exceptions

except Kapiti and reintroduction sites  
  
 except North Island and South Island  
  
 Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands  
  
 except Nelson  
 except central North Island, Nelson, and Southern Alps  
  
 south of Hamilton, other than within 30 km of re-introduction sites  
  
  
 South Island  
 Nelson region or North Island  
 except South Island  
 except North Island, Marlborough, Nelson and Golden Bay  
  
 south of Hamilton  
 Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands  
 Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands  
 south of Taupo  
  
 Kermadec Islands, Three Kings Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands

Fan-tailed cuckoo	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands
Shining cuckoo	Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Long-tailed cuckoo	
Channel-billed cuckoo	
White-throated needletail (spine-tailed swift)	
Fork-tailed swift	
Corncrake	
Auckland Island rail	except Adams Island and Disappointment Island
Banded rail	North Island south of Kawhia and East Cape, South Island except Nelson and Marlborough, Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
	West of Whakatane and south of Gisborne, other than re-introduction sites
North Island weka	east of the Southern Alps and south of Blenheim
Other weka	
Australian crane	
Spotless crane	Stewart Island, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Marsh crane	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Common moorhen	
Dusky moorhen	
Black-tailed native-hen	
Pukeko	subantarctic islands
Takahe	except Fiordland and introduction sites
Australian coot	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Brolga/Sarus crane	
Variable oystercatcher	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
South Island pied oystercatcher	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Pied stilt	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands
Kakī (black stilt)	except Canterbury, Nelson, Kawhia, Kaipara, Firth of Thames, and Tauranga
Red-necked avocet	
Pacific golden plover	Stewart Island and subantarctic islands
American golden plover	
Grey plover	
New Zealand dotterel	South Island except Southland, plus Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Ringed plover	
Semipalmated plover	
Red-capped plover	
Banded dotterel	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands (except Auckland Island subspecies on Auckland Islands)
Lesser sand plover (Mongolian dotterel)	
Large sand dotterel	
Oriental plover (dotterel)	
Wrybill	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Black-fronted dotterel	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Shore plover	except Chatham Islands and within 50 km of re-

Red-kneed dotterel  
Spur-winged plover  
Painted snipe  
Upland sandpiper  
Eastern curlew

Asiatic whimbrel

American whimbrel  
Little whimbrel  
Bristle-thighed curlew  
Bar-tailed godwit  
Black-tailed Godwit  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Ruddy turnstone  
Great knot  
Lesser knot

Ruff  
Broad-billed sandpiper  
Sharp-tailed sandpiper

Stilt sandpiper  
Curlew sandpiper

Long-toed stint  
Red-necked stint

Sanderling  
Dunlin  
Baird's sandpiper  
Little stint  
Least sandpiper  
White-rumped sandpiper  
Buff-breasted sandpiper  
Pectoral sandpiper

Semipalmated sandpiper  
Western sandpiper  
Asiatic dowitcher  
Chatham Island snipe  
Japanese snipe  
Grey phalarope  
Red-necked phalarope  
Wilson's phalarope  
Terek sandpiper  
Common sandpiper  
Grey-tailed tattler

Wandering tattler  
Lesser yellowlegs  
Greenshank  
Marsh sandpiper

introduction sites

subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)

Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands,  
and subantarctic islands  
Stewart Island, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic  
islands

Bounty and Antipodes Islands

subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)

Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands (except  
for Auckland Islands)

Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, and subantarctic  
islands

Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands,  
and subantarctic islands

Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands,  
and subantarctic islands

Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands,  
and subantarctic islands

Chatham Island and Pitt Island

Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands,  
and subantarctic islands

Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands,

Oriental pratincole	and subantarctic islands
South Polar skua	
Pomarine skua	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Arctic skua	south of Foveaux Strait
Long-tailed skua	
Brown (= common) noddy	except Kermadec Islands
Black (= white-capped) noddy	except Kermadec, Three Kings, Poor Knights, and Mokohinau Islands
Grey noddy (= ternlet)	except Raoul Island
White tern	Kermadec Islands, Bounty Islands, Antipodes Island
Red-billed gull	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Black-billed gull	
Laughing gull	
Franklin's gull	
Southern black-backed gull	Kermadec Islands
Sooty tern	except Kermadec Islands
Grey-backed tern	
Bridled tern	
Little tern	south of Cook Strait
Fairy tern	north of Waipu and south of Kaipara Harbour
Gull-billed tern	except South Island (all breeding records should be reported, including South Island)
Caspian tern	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Black tern	
White-winged black tern	all breeding records should be reported, and any records from outlying islands
Whiskered tern	
Black-fronted tern	north of Bay of Plenty, plus Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
White-fronted tern	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)
Black-naped tern	
Antarctic tern	except Stewart Island and subantarctic Islands
Arctic tern	
Common tern	
Crested tern	
Red-tailed tropicbird	except Kermadec Islands
White-tailed tropicbird	
Penguins (all taxa as per <i>Checklist</i> except Little)	except their respective breeding grounds
Little penguin	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands
Black-footed albatross	
Laysan albatross	
Yellow-nosed mollymawk (both species)	
Tasmanian mollymawk	
Chatham Island mollymawk	except Chatham Islands
Sooty albatross	
Grey-backed storm petrel	north of Cook Strait
White-faced storm petrel	south of Snares Islands; any records of Australian subspecies
Kermadec storm petrel	except Kermadec Islands

White-bellied storm petrel	except Kermadec Islands
Black-bellied storm petrel	north of Banks Peninsula
New Zealand storm petrel	south of Bay of Plenty
Leach's storm petrel	
Northern fulmar	
Antarctic fulmar	north of Cook Strait
Antarctic petrel	except beach-wrecked
Snow petrel	
Kerguelen petrel	except beach-wrecked
Grey-faced petrel	south of Foveaux Strait
Providence petrel	
Chatham Island taiko (Magenta petrel)	except Chatham Island (main island)
Kermadec petrel	except north of North Cape
Herald petrel	
Phoenix petrel	
Soft-plumaged petrel	north of Cook Strait
Juan Fernandez petrel	
White-naped petrel	south of Bay of Plenty
Chatham petrel	except Chatham Islands
Cook's petrel	south of Snares Islands
Stejneger's petrel	
Pycroft's petrel	south of Bay of Plenty
Gould's petrel (including New Caledonian petrel)	
Collared petrel	
Blue petrel	except beach-wrecked
Broad-billed prion	north of Banks Peninsula (except beach-wrecked)
Salvin's prion	except beach-wrecked
Antarctic prion	north of Banks Peninsula (except beach-wrecked)
Thin-billed prion	except beach-wrecked
Fulmar prion	away from breeding locations
Bulwer's petrel	
Black petrel	Chatham Islands and south of Cook Strait
Tahiti petrel	
Cory's shearwater	
Streaked shearwater	
Wedge-tailed shearwater	except north of North Cape
Buller's shearwater	south of Stewart Island
Great shearwater	
Pink-footed shearwater	
Flesh-footed shearwater	south of Stewart Island
Christmas Island shearwater	
Newell's shearwater	
Manx shearwater	
Fluttering shearwater	south of Stewart Island
Hutton's shearwater	south of Stewart Island
Little shearwater	south of Gisborne
Subantarctic little shearwater	except Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Common diving petrel	Kermadec Islands
South Georgian diving petrel	except Codfish Island
Great frigatebird	
Lesser frigatebird	
Cape gannet	
Red-footed booby	
Brown booby	

Masked booby	except Kermadec Islands
Darter	
Little shag	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands; any records of Australian subspecies
Black shag	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands
Pied shag	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Little black shag	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Spotted shag	north of Auckland and south of Stewart Island
Pitt Island shag	except Chatham Islands
Bounty Island shag	except Bounty Islands
New Zealand king shag	except Marlborough Sounds
Chatham Island shag	except Chatham Islands
Otago & Foveaux shag	except Stewart Island, Southland, Otago and Canterbury south of Banks Peninsula
Auckland Island shag	except Auckland Islands
Campbell Island shag	except Campbell Island
Macquarie Island shag	
Australian pelican	
Cattle egret	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands except Snares Islands
Grey heron	
Pacific (= white-necked) heron	
Kōtuku (white heron)	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Plumed (= intermediate) egret	
White-faced heron	Bounty, Antipodes and Campbell Islands
Little egret	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Reef heron	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Nankeen night heron	except Whanganui River
Australasian bittern	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Little bittern	
Glossy ibis	Breeding records (other than Blenheim), plus Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
White ibis	
Straw-necked ibis	
Royal spoonbill	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Yellow-billed spoonbill	
Black kite	
Swamp harrier	Bounty, Antipodes, and Campbell Islands
Any species of eagle	
Barn owl	except Kaitaia
Ruru (morepork)	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Little owl	except Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago, and Southland

Dollarbird	
Kookaburra	except between Auckland and Whangarei cities
New Zealand kingfisher	Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Nankeen kestrel	
New Zealand falcon	Northland, Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)
Kākāpō	except islands where they have been introduced
Kākā	South Island east of the Southern Alps (except Orokonui), plus Kermadec Islands, Three Kings Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
Kea	except Southern Alps, Kaikoura Ranges, Nelson, West Coast, and western Southland
Sulphur-crested cockatoo	except North Island, Banks Peninsula, and Catlins
Galah	except Ponui Island and near Hunua Ranges
Rainbow lorikeet	
Crimson rosella	
Eastern rosella	except North Island and Otago
Red-crowned parakeet	on the mainland except Northland and Wellington, also Snares and Campbell Islands
Yellow-crowned parakeet	North Island north of Rotorua, plus all outlying island groups except Auckland Islands
Orange-fronted parakeet	except Hurunui, Poulter and Hawdon Valleys (Canterbury), and island release sites
Forbes' parakeet	except Mangere Islands
Rock wren	except Southern Alps and north-west Nelson ranges
Bellbird	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)
Tūī	subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)
Red wattlebird	
Grey warbler	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
North Island kokako	Great Barrier Island, Coromandel Peninsula and south of Taupo, except for Boundary Stream, Mt Bruce, Kapiti Island, and other introduction sites
South Island kokako	
Saddleback	on the mainland except for reintroduction sites and contiguous areas
Hihi (stitchbird)	except Little Barrier and introduction sites
Whitehead	Northland, Coromandel Peninsula, Great Barrier Island and South Island
Mohua (yellowhead)	except Arthurs Pass, south Westland, Fiordland, western Southland, Catlins, Blue Mountains and introduction sites
Brown creeper	except South Island, Stewart Island, and their inshore islands
Black-faced cuckoo-shrike	
White-winged triller	
Masked woodswallow	
White-browed woodswallow	
Dusky woodswallow	
Australian magpie	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, and subantarctic islands
New Zealand fantail	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands (except

	Snares Islands)
Willie wagtail	
Satin flycatcher	
Black-faced monarch	
Magpie-lark	
Rook	Northland, Nelson, West Coast, and all offshore and outlying islands
Tomtit	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Island, Antipodes Island and Campbell Island
Black robin	except Mangere and Rangatira Islands and re-introduction sites
Eurasian skylark	subantarctic islands
Australian reed-warbler	
Fernbird	Wairarapa, and Canterbury north of Ki-Wainono
Welcome swallow	subantarctic islands (except Snares Islands)
Fairy martin	
Tree martin	
Red-vented bulbul	
Common myna	except Three Kings Islands, North Island, and offshore islands
Dunnock	Kermadec Islands
New Zealand pipit	Kermadec Islands, Snares Islands and Bounty Islands
Chaffinch	Kermadec, Antipodes and Bounty Islands
Greenfinch	subantarctic islands (except Snares Islands)
Redpoll	Bounty Islands
Goldfinch	Bounty, Antipodes, and Campbell Islands
Yellowhammer	subantarctic islands (except Snares Islands)
Cirl bunting	except Wellington south coast and eastern South Island

Any species not on this list and not in the *Checklist of the birds of New Zealand* (4th edition, 2010) should be reported to the Records Appraisal Committee as it may constitute the first recorded sighting for the species in New Zealand.