

The Editor,
Sir,

NORTHERN SHOVELER IN NEW ZEALAND

In regard to Northern Shovelers (*Anas clypeata*) obtained recently in New Zealand (Howard 1968; Kinsky & Jones 1972), no reference was made in recording these occurrences to the statement by Buller in his Supplement (1905: 15) of "one of the partial albinos (of N.Z. Shoveler) in my collection is almost exactly like *Spatula clypeata* of Europe in the extent and distribution of the white plumage." He gave a detailed description of the plumage of two of these so-called partial albinos from Lake Ellesmere. Is it possible that *clypeata* occurred in New Zealand in Buller's day?

REFERENCES

- BULLER, W. L. 1905. A Supplement of the Birds of New Zealand. Vol. II.
HOWARD, P. J. 1968. A New Zealand record of the Northern Shoveler. *Notornis* 15 (4): 253.
KINSKY, F. C.; JONES, E. B. 1972. Northern Shovelers (*Anas clypeata*) in New Zealand. *Notornis* 19 (2): 105-110, 1 fig.

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120 Cole Street,
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14 May 1974



The Editor,
Sir,

PECCAVI

I am surprised and a little perturbed that no sharp-eyed critic has pounced upon an error which I made some two years ago and ten thousand miles away when I wrote a review (*Notornis* 19: 281-282) on "The Swans." The name of Buller's lake is of course Papaitonga, not Puponga. I cannot even lay the blame on a printer's imp. Distance and happy memories of Puponga at the base of Farewell Spit may have dulled my wits. Mea culpa.

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