

probably suffer less predation than those in farmland, where they generally nest with several other species in small isolated patches of vegetation.

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SHORT NOTE

Hutton's descriptive catalogue of New Zealand birds (1871)

Since I published (*Notornis* 30: 7-14) letters by Hutton and Buller documenting the latter's irritation at the publication of Hutton's *Catalogue* just before the appearance of his own *History of New Zealand Birds* (1872-73), I have come across a letter from Dr James Hector to the Colonial Secretary, in the National Museum letter book, dated 3 August 1871.

Hector forwards "a descriptive catalogue of the native and introduced birds of New Zealand which has been drawn up by Capt'n. Hutton in compliance with my instructions. As it forms a report on the Collection recently purchased for the Colony from Mr Buller and embodies in a form available for general use the chief advantage by that purchase, together with all the other information that can be obtained on the subject, I beg to recommend that it should be printed for distribution".

This clearly confirms that Hector was responsible for publishing the catalogue in the form in which it appeared, despite Buller's suggestion that he was absent overseas during its production and the omission of his name as Director from the title page.

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