



Australasian crested grebe. Pair reuniting. Lake Wanaka, January 2015.



BIRDS
NEW ZEALAND
Te Kāhui Mātai Manu o Aotearoa

Australasian crested grebe

Podiceps cristatus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Length: 55 cm

Weight: 1100 g

New Zealand status: Native

Conservation status: Nationally Vulnerable

The Australasian crested grebe is a distinctive diving bird that, within New Zealand, is confined to South Island lakes. It has a slender neck and sharp black bill. The distinctive black double crest and bright chestnut and black cheek frills are used in complex mating displays. Like other grebes, it is unusual for the way it carries its young on its back while swimming.

The Australasian crested grebe occurs in New Zealand and Australia, but it is threatened in both countries. The New Zealand population probably numbers fewer than 600 birds.

© Text New Zealand Birds Online.

© Photography by Oscar Thomas (New Zealand Birds Online)