

## 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  
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  
Fan-tailed cuckoo  
Shining cuckoo  
Long-tailed cuckoo  
Channel-billed cuckoo  
White-throated needletail (spine-tailed swift)

### Reportable areas and exceptions

except Kapiti and reintroduction sites

except North Island and South Island

Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands

except Nelson

except central North Island, Nelson, Southern Alps

south of Hamilton, other than within 30km of  
re-introduction sites

South Island

Nelson region or North Island

except South Island

except North Island, Marlborough, Nelson, Golden Bay and  
Canterbury

south of Hamilton

Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands,  
subantarctic islands

Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands,  
subantarctic islands

south of Taupo, except for Central Canterbury (between  
Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers)

Kermadec Islands, Three Kings Islands, Chatham Islands,  
subantarctic islands

Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands

Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands

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, subantarctic islands
North Island weka	west of Whakatane and south of Gisborne, other than re- introduction sites
Other weka	east of the Southern Alps and south of Blenheim
Australian crake	
Spotless crake	Stewart Island, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Marsh crake	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, 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, subantarctic islands
Brolga/Sarus crane	
Variable oystercatcher	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
South Island pied oystercatcher	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Pied stilt	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands
Kakī (black stilt)	except Canterbury, Nelson, Kawhia, Kaipara, Firth of Thames, 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	south of the Firth of Thames
Oriental plover (dotterel)	
Wrybill	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Black-fronted dotterel	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Shore plover	except Chatham Islands and within 50 km of re- introduction sites
Red-kneed dotterel	
Spur-winged plover	subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)
Painted snipe	
Upland sandpiper	
Eastern curlew	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Asiatic whimbrel	Stewart Island, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
American whimbrel	
Little whimbrel	

Bristle-thighed curlew	Bounty and Antipodes Islands
Bar-tailed godwit	
Black-tailed Godwit	
Hudsonian Godwit	
Ruddy turnstone	subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)
Great knot	
Lesser knot	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands
Ruff	
Broad-billed sandpiper	
Sharp-tailed sandpiper	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, subantarctic islands
Stilt sandpiper	
Curlew sandpiper	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Long-toed stint	
Red-necked stint	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Sanderling	
Dunlin	
Baird's sandpiper	
Little stint	
Least sandpiper	
White-rumped sandpiper	
Buff-breasted sandpiper	
Pectoral sandpiper	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Semipalmated sandpiper	
Western sandpiper	
Asiatic dowitcher	
Chatham Island snipe	Chatham Island and Pitt Island
Japanese snipe	
Grey phalarope	
Red-necked phalarope	
Wilson's phalarope	
Terek sandpiper	
Common sandpiper	
Grey-tailed tattler	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Wandering tattler	
Lesser yellowlegs	
Greenshank	
Marsh sandpiper	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Oriental pratincole	
South Polar skua	
Pomarine skua	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Arctic skua	south of Foveaux Strait
Long-tailed skua	
Brown (= common) noddy	
Black (= white-capped) noddy	except Kermadec Islands
Grey noddy (= ternlet)	except Kermadec, Three Kings and Mokohinau Islands
White tern	except Raoul Island
Red-billed gull	Kermadec Islands, Bounty Islands, Antipodes Island
Black-billed gull	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Laughing gull	

Franklin's gull	
Southern black-backed gull	Kermadec Islands
Sooty tern	except Kermadec Islands
Grey-backed tern	
Bridled tern	
Little tern	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham islands, and subantarctic islands
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, 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 sub-Antarctic 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 Fiordland crested, erect-crested and little)	except their respective breeding grounds
Fiordland crested	
Erect-crested penguin	Except South Island south of Karamea and Kaikoura Except subantarctic islands, Chatham Islands and eastern South Island
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 Kermadec Islands
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, subantarctic islands
Little black shag	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, 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

Auckland Island shag	south of Banks Peninsula
Campbell Island shag	except Auckland Islands
Macquarie Island shag	except Campbell Island
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, subantarctic islands
Plumed (= intermediate) egret	
White-faced heron	Bounty, Antipodes and Campbell Islands
Little egret	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Reef heron	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
Nankeen night heron	except Whanganui River
Australasian bittern	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, 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	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Yellow-billed spoonbill	
Black kite	
Any species of eagle	
Barn owl	except Kaitaia
Ruru (morepork)	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, 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, subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)
Tūi	subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)
Red wattlebird	
Grey warbler	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, subantarctic islands
North Island kokako	Great Barrier I., 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, 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, 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 Islands, 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, offshore islands
Dunnock	Kermadec Islands
New Zealand pipit	Kermadec Islands, Snares Islands and Bounty Islands
Chaffinch	Kermadec Islands, 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* (6th edition, 2024) should be reported to the Records Appraisal Committee as it may constitute the first recorded sighting for the species in New Zealand.

*Updated 10 March 2025*