



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 the *Atlas of bird distribution in New Zealand 1999-2004*; Robertson, CJR, Hyvönen, P, Fraser, MJ, Pickard, CR, 2007, Wellington, Ornithological Society of New Zealand). 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 the Ornithological Society of New Zealand's [Records Appraisal Committee Convenor](#).

Species

Little spotted kiwi
Bobwhite quail
Grey partridge
Chukor
Red-legged partridge
Brown quail
Plumed whistling-duck
Cape Barren goose
Pink-eared duck
Chestnut-breasted shelduck
Australian wood duck
Blue duck
Chestnut teal
Brown teal
Northern pintail
Northern shoveler
White-eyed duck
Great crested grebe
New Zealand dabchick
Hoary-headed grebe
Australasian little grebe
Penguins (all taxa as per *Checklist* except Little)
Little penguin
Black-footed albatross
Laysan albatross
Yellow-nosed mollymawk (both species)
Tasmanian mollymawk
Chatham Island mollymawk
Sooty albatross
Northern fulmar
Antarctic petrel
Snow petrel
Providence petrel
Chatham Island taiko (Magenta petrel)
Kermadec petrel
Phoenix petrel
Soft-plumaged petrel
Juan Fernandez petrel
White-naped petrel

Reportable areas and exceptions

except Kapiti and reintroduction sites

Nelson region or North Island
Except South Auckland, Waikato and Hawke's Bay
South Island

except Canterbury and Kaipara regions

except central North I., Nelson and Southern Alps

south of Hamilton, other than re-introduction sites

north of Kaikoura, including the North Island
South Island

south of Hamilton
except their respective breeding grounds
Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands

except Chatham Islands and Snares Islands

except beach-wrecked

except Chatham Island (main island)
except Kermadec Islands

north of Cook Strait

except Kermadec Islands

Chatham petrel	except Chatham Islands
Stejneger's petrel	
Pycroft's petrel	except Hauraki Gulf and east of Coromandel Peninsula
Gould's petrel (including New Caledonian petrel)	
Blue petrel	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
Pink-footed shearwater	
Great shearwater	
Christmas Island shearwater	
Newell's shearwater	
Manx shearwater	
Kermadec storm petrel	except Kermadec Islands
New Zealand storm petrel	except Hauraki Gulf through to North Cape
Black-bellied storm petrel	north of Banks Peninsula
White-bellied storm petrel	except Kermadec Islands
Leach's storm petrel	
Common diving petrel	Kermadec Islands
South Georgian diving petrel	except Codfish Island
Red-tailed tropicbird	except Kermadec Islands
White-tailed tropicbird	
Australian pelican	
Cape gannet	
Brown booby	
Masked booby	except Kermadec Islands
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
New Zealand king shag	except Marlborough Sounds
Stewart Island shag	except Stewart Island, Southland and Otago
Chatham Island shag	except Chatham Islands
Bounty Island shag	except Bounty Islands
Auckland Island shag	except Auckland Islands
Campbell Island shag	except Campbell Island
Spotted shag	north of Auckland and south of Stewart Island
Pitt Island shag	except Chatham Islands
Darter	
Great frigatebird	
Lesser frigatebird	
Grey heron	
Pacific (= white-necked) heron	
White heron	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Cattle egret	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands except Snares Islands

Plumed (= intermediate) egret	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands except Snares Is
White-faced heron	except Hawke's Bay
Little egret	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Reef heron	except Whanganui River
Nankeen night heron	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Australasian bittern	
Australian little bittern	Breeding records only
New Zealand little bittern	
Glossy ibis	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Australian white ibis	
Royal spoonbill	
Yellow-billed spoonbill	Except Waihopai Valley
Black kite	
Any species of eagle	
Nankeen kestrel	
Black falcon	
New Zealand falcon	Northland, Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)
Brolga	
Corncrake	
Auckland Island rail	except Adams Island and Disappointment Island
Banded rail	North I. south of Kawhia and East Cape, South I. except Nelson and Marlborough, Stewart I., Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and 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
Spotless crake	Stewart Island, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Marsh crake	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Australian crake	
Black-tailed native-hen	
Common moorhen	
Dusky moorhen	
Pukeko	subantarctic islands
Takahe	except Fiordland and introductions
Australian coot	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
South Island (= Stewart Island) snipe	
Chatham Island snipe	Chatham Island and Pitt Island
Japanese snipe	
Lesser knot	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands
Great knot	
Sanderling	
Dunlin	
Curlew sandpiper	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Stilt sandpiper	
Sharp-tailed sandpiper	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands

Pectoral sandpiper	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Baird's Sandpiper	
White-rumped Sandpiper	
Little stint	
Red-necked stint	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Long-toed stint	
Least sandpiper	
Semipalmated sandpiper	
Western sandpiper	
Broad-billed sandpiper	
Buff-breasted sandpiper	
Ruff	
Asiatic dowitcher	
Eastern curlew	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Asiatic whimbrel	Stewart Island, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
American whimbrel	
Little whimbrel	
Bristle-thighed curlew	
Bar-tailed godwit	Bounty and Antipodes Islands
Black-tailed Godwit	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Hudsonian Godwit	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Upland sandpiper	
Wandering tattler	except Kermadec Islands
Siberian tattler	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Common sandpiper	
Greenshank	
Marsh sandpiper	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Lesser yellowlegs	
Terek sandpiper	
Ruddy turnstone	subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)
Grey phalarope	
Red-necked phalarope	
Wilson's phalarope	
Painted snipe	
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
Black stilt	except Canterbury, Nelson, Kawhia, Kaipara, Tauranga
Red-necked avocet	
Pacific golden plover	Stewart Island and subantarctic islands
American golden plover	
Grey plover	
New Zealand dotterel	North Island west coast south of Whanganui, South Island except Southland, plus Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands

Ringed plover	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands (except Auckland Island subspecies on Auckland Islands)	
Semipalmated plover		
Red-capped plover		
Banded dotterel		
Lesser sand plover (Mongolian dotterel)	south of the Firth of Thames	
Large sand dotterel		
Oriental plover (dotterel)	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands	
Wrybill		
Black-fronted dotterel		
Shore plover	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands except Chatham Islands and within 50 km of re-introduction sites	
Red-kneed dotterel	subantarctic islands	
Spur-winged plover		
Oriental pratincole	north of Otago Peninsula	
Southern skua		
South Polar skua		
Pomarine skua		
Arctic skua		
Long-tailed skua	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands south of Foveaux Strait	
Pacific gull		
Southern black-backed gull	Kermadec Islands	
Franklin's gull		
Red-billed gull		
Black-billed gull		
Brown (= common) noddy		Kermadec Islands, Bounty Islands, Antipodes Island
Black (= white-capped) noddy		
Grey noddy (= ternlet)	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands	
White tern	except Kermadec Islands	
Sooty tern		
Grey-backed tern	except Kermadec, Three Kings and Mokohinau Islands except Raoul Island	
Bridled tern		
Little tern		
Fairy tern	except Kermadecs	
Gull-billed tern		
Caspian tern	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands	
White-winged black tern	north of Waipu and south of Kaipara Harbour	
Whiskered tern	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands	
Black-fronted tern		
White-fronted tern	except Marlborough and Canterbury (all breeding records should be reported)	
Antarctic tern	north of Bay of Plenty, plus Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands	
Arctic tern		
Common tern	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)	
Crested tern		
Rock pigeon	except Stewart Island and sub-Antarctic Islands	
	Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and	

Barbary dove	subantarctic islands
Spotted dove	except North Island
New Zealand pigeon	south of Rotorua
	Kermadec Islands, Three Kings Islands, Chatham Islands
	and subantarctic islands
Kakapo	except islands where they have been introduced
Kaka	South Island east of the Southern Alps (except Orokonui), plus Kermadec Islands, Three Kings Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
	except Southern Alps, Kaikoura Ranges, Nelson, West Coast and western Southland
Sulphur-crested cockatoo	except North Island and Banks Peninsula
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
	North Island north of Rotorua, plus all outlying island groups except Auckland Islands
Yellow-crowned parakeet	except Hurunui, Poulter and Hawdon Valleys (Canterbury), and island release sites
Orange-fronted parakeet	Except Mangere Islands
Forbes' parakeet	
Oriental cuckoo	
Pallid cuckoo	
Fan-tailed cuckoo	
Shining cuckoo	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands
Long-tailed cuckoo	Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Channel-billed cuckoo	
Morepork	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
	islands
Laughing owl	
Little owl	except Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago and Southland
	except Kaitia
Barn owl	
White-throated needletail (spine-tailed swift)	
Fork-tailed swift	
Kookaburra	except between Auckland and Whangarei cities
New Zealand kingfisher	Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Dollarbird	
Bush wren	
Rock wren	except Southern Alps and north-west Nelson ranges
North Island kokako	Great Barrier I., Coromandel Peninsula and south of Taupo, except for Boundary Stream, Mt Bruce, Kapiti Island, Secretary Island and other introduction sites
South Island kokako	
Saddleback	on the mainland except for reintroduction sites and contiguous areas
	except Little Barrier and introductions
Stitchbird	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Grey warbler	islands
	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)
Bellbird	subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands)
Tui	

Red wattlebird	Northland, Coromandel Peninsula, Great Barrier I. and South I.
Black-faced cuckoo-shrike	
White-winged triller	except Arthurs Pass, south Westland, Fiordland, western Southland, Catlins, Blue Mountains and introduction sites
Whitehead	
Yellowhead	except South I., Stewart I. and their inshore islands
Brown creeper	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands
Australian magpie	
Masked woodswallow	Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands (except Snares Islands)
White-browed woodswallow	
Dusky woodswallow	
New Zealand fantail	
Willie wagtail	Northland, Nelson, West Coast and all offshore and outlying islands
Rook	
Satin flycatcher	Kermadec Islands, Chatham Island, Antipodes I. and Campbell Island
Black-faced monarch	
Magpie-lark	
Tomtit	
Black robin	except Mangere and Rangatira Islands and re-introduction sites
Eurasian skylark	subantarctic islands
Australian reed-warbler	Wairarapa, Wellington (south of Waikanae) and Canterbury
Fernbird	
Welcome swallow	subantarctic islands (except Snares Islands)
Fairy martin	except Three Kings Islands, North I. and offshore islands
Tree martin	
Red-vented bulbul	Kermadec Islands and Snares Islands
Common myna	Kermadec Islands
New Zealand pipit	Kermadec Islands and Antipodes Island
Dunnock	subantarctic islands (except Snares Islands)
Chaffinch	subantarctic islands (except Snares Islands)
Greenfinch	except Wellington south coast and eastern South Island
Yellowhammer	
Cirl bunting	

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.