



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 Convener](#).

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
Tasmanian mollymawk
Chatham Island mollymawk
Sooty albatross
Antarctic petrel
Snow petrel
Providence petrel
Chatham Island taiko (Magenta petrel)
Kermadec petrel
Phoenix petrel
Soft-plumaged petrel
Juan Fernandez petrel
White-naped petrel
Chatham petrel
Stejneger's petrel
Pycroft's petrel
Gould's petrel (including New Caledonian petrel)
Blue petrel
Fulmar prion

Reportable areas and exceptions

except Kapiti and reintroduction sites

Nelson region or North Island

South Island

except Canterbury and Kaipara regions

except central North Island, 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
except Chatham Islands

except Hauraki Gulf and east of Coromandel Peninsula

except beach-wrecked
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 | |
| White-faced heron | Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands except Snares Is |
| Little egret | except Hawke's Bay |
| Reef heron | Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands |
| Nankeen night heron | except Whanganui River |
| Australasian bittern | Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands |
| Australian little bittern | |
| New Zealand little bittern | |
| Glossy ibis | except Wairau Lagoons and Travis wetland |
| Australian white ibis | |
| Straw-necked ibis | |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Yellow-billed spoonbill | |
| Black kite | Except Waihopai Valley |
| 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 Island south of Kawhia and East Cape, South Island except Nelson and Marlborough, Stewart Island, 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 | |
| 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 | south of the Firth of Thames |
| 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 and Tauranga |
| Red-necked avocet | |
| Pacific golden plover | Stewart Island and subantarctic islands |
| American golden plover | |
| Grey plover | |
| New Zealand dotterel | South Island except Southland, North Island south of Whanganui, 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 and subantarctic islands |
| Black-fronted dotterel | Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands |
| Shore plover | except Chatham Islands and within 50 km of re-introduction sites (Portland Island and Mana Island) |
| Red-kneed dotterel | |
| Spur-winged plover | subantarctic islands |
| Oriental pratincole | |
| Southern skua | north of Otago Peninsula |
| South Polar skua | |
| Pomarine skua | Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands |
| Arctic skua | south of Foveaux Strait |
| Long-tailed skua | |
| Pacific gull | |
| Southern black-backed gull | Kermadec Islands |
| Franklin's gull | |
| Red-billed gull | Kermadec Islands, Bounty Islands, Antipodes Island |

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Black-billed gull | Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands |
| 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 |
| Sooty tern | except Kermadecs |
| 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 | |
| Caspian tern | Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands |
| White-winged black tern | except Canterbury |
| 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) |
| Antarctic tern | except Stewart Island and sub-Antarctic Islands |
| Arctic tern | |
| Common tern | |
| Crested tern | |
| Rock pigeon | Stewart Island, Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands |
| Barbary dove | except North Island |
| Spotted dove | south of Rotorua |
| New Zealand pigeon | Kermadec Islands, Three Kings Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands |
| Kakapo | except Codfish, Anchor and Chalky Islands |
| Kaka | 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 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 |
| 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), Mayor, Maud and Chalky Islands) |
| Forbes' parakeet | Except Mangere Islands |
| 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 |
| Laughing owl | |
| Little owl | except Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago and Southland |
| Barn owl | except Kaitaia |

| | |
|--|---|
| 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 Island, 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 Karori and Orokonui Sanctuaries |
| Stitchbird | except Little Barrier and introductions |
| Grey warbler | Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands |
| Bellbird | Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands) |
| Tui | subantarctic islands (except Auckland Islands) |
| Red wattlebird | |
| Black-faced cuckoo-shrike | |
| White-winged triller | |
| Whitehead | Northland, Coromandel Peninsula, Great Barrier Island and the South Island |
| 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 |
| Australian magpie | Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands and subantarctic islands |
| Masked woodswallow | |
| White-browed woodswallow | |
| New Zealand fantail | Kermadec Islands and subantarctic islands (except Snares Islands) |
| Willie wagtail | |
| Rook | Northland, Nelson, West Coast and all offshore and outlying islands |
| Satin flycatcher | |
| Black-faced monarch | |
| Tomtit | Kermadec Islands, Chatham Island, Antipodes Island and Campbell Island |
| Black robin | except Mangere and Rangatira Islands and re-introduction sites |
| Eurasian skylark | subantarctic islands |
| Australian reed-warbler | |
| Fernbird | Wairarapa, Wellington (south of Manawatu River) and Canterbury |
| Welcome swallow | subantarctic islands (except Snares Islands) |
| Fairy martin | |
| Tree martin | |
| Red-vented bulbul | |
| Common myna | except Three Kings Islands, North Island and offshore islands |
| New Zealand pipit | Kermadec Islands and Snares Islands |
| Dunnock | Kermadec Islands |
| Chaffinch | Kermadec Islands and Antipodes Island |
| Greenfinch | subantarctic islands (except Snares Islands) |
| Yellowhammer | subantarctic islands (except Snares Islands) |
| Cirl bunting | except eastern South Island |

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.