

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
White heron: pp 101-102.

White Heron (Kotuku) *Ardea modesta* J.E. Gray 1831, Native
23/4/1773 Dusky Sound, Fiordland
May 1892 Norfolk Island

It was first observed by Cook (1777) on his second voyage: "One of the party shot a white heron, which agreed exactly with Mr Pennant's description, in his British Zoology, of the white herons that either now are, or were formerly, in England".

The only New Zealand breeding colony was discovered by Mueller at Okarito, on the banks of the Watangiroto River, in December 1865.