

Shining cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus* 16 cm

NEW ZEALAND NATIVE, NOT THREATENED

Known as pipiwharaua by Maori, the arrival of the shining cuckoo from the Pacific in September heralds the spring. This small but striking bird, with metallic green upperparts with bronze tones, and barred white and green underparts, is more often heard than seen. Shining cuckoos come to New Zealand to breed, in usual cuckoo fashion, by laying their eggs in other birds' nests to be reared by the host. They are uncommon in the Chatham Islands, where they lay in nests of the Chatham Island warbler.



Shining cuckoo. Photo: John
Kendrick (DOC).