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New Zealand pigeon: p 167.

New Zealand Pigeon (Kereru) *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae* (Gmelin 1789), Endemic
December 1769 Doubtless Bay, Northland

First Officer G. Labe aboard the *St Jean Baptiste* recorded New Zealand Pigeon at Doubtless Bay in late December 1769, according to Andrews (1987). In January 1770, Parkinson wrote that “The woods abound with divers kinds of birds, such as parrots, wood-pigeons, water-hens; three sorts of birds having wattles; hawks; with a variety of birds that sing all night.”

Crozet in the Bay of Islands in 1772 noted “very beautiful wood pigeons about the size of a pullet, their sparkling blue and gold plumage is magnificent”. The Forsters then collected it in April 1773 at Dusky Sound, and painted it on April 3rd. Latham described it and Gmelin formalised the description in 1789. The Pigeon on Raoul Island, Kermadec Islands was abundant in 1836, but had disappeared by 1870 (Merton 1970).