

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Australian little grebe: pp 15-16.



### AUSTRALIAN LITTLE GREBE

**Family** Podicipedidae

**Species** *Tachybaptus novae-hollandiae*

**Common name** Little Grebe

**Status** Native

**Abundance** Common in a few selected areas

**Size** 250 mm (cf sparrow 145, Dabchick 280 mm)

**Discussion** This bird is a recent arrival to New Zealand from Australia and is now breeding in some locations.

**Habitat** Clean water and sand-dune lakes.

**Range** Found in limited areas in both North and South Islands.

#### **Description – breeding**

**Head and neck** Black. **Face and sides of fore-neck** Chestnut, with yellow teardrop in front of eye and sloping to bill. **Upperparts** Blackish, with flanks browner. **Breast** Rufous over brown. **Wings** Greyish-brown with white on secondary feathers. **Underparts** Silvery-white. **Eye** Light yellow iris with black pupil. **Bill** Black.

#### **Description – non-breeding**

**Crown, hindneck and upperparts:** Dark olive-brown. **Sides of face and neck**

Light brown. **Underparts** Pale grey. **Eye and tear drop** Pale yellow.

### **Conspicuous features**

- Slightly smaller than the Dabchick.
- Has a yellow tear drop of naked skin just in front of eye.
- Has chestnut face and neck markings.
- Bill is shorter than the Dabchick.

**Conspicuous characteristics** As for Dabchick.

### **Where to find – North Island**

**Northland** – Karikari, Lake Waiparora. P. 279.

**Northland** – Awanui lakes. P. 280.

**Northland** – Lake Omapere. P. 283.

**Northland** – Lake Owhareiti. P. 283.

**Northland** – Lake Waro. This is an easy place to see this bird. P. 285.

**Northland** – Kaiwi Lakes. P. 284.

**Northland** – Waipu. P. 285.

**North Auckland** – Lake Kereta. P. 295.

**North Auckland** – Lake Kaipara. P. 294.

### **Where to find – South Island**

**Marlborough** – Lake Elterwater. P. 345.

**North Canterbury** – St Annes Lagoon. P. 347.

**South Canterbury** – Timaru. P. 356.