

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

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

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Cooks petrel: pp 58-59.



COOKS PETREL

Family Procellariidae

Species *Pterodroma cookii*

Common name Cooks Petrel, Titi

Status Endemic

Abundance Uncommon

Size 300 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm)

Breeding islands close to New Zealand Little Barrier Island, Great Barrier Island and Codfish Island. Cooks Petrel is confined to one major breeding population on Little Barrier Island with smaller colonies on nearby Great Barrier Island and

on Codfish Island off the north-west coast of Stewart Island.

Breeding months November to April. Codfish Island birds lay about one month later than Little Barrier Island birds. Birds lay 1 white egg in burrows high up on Little Barrier Island in close colonies.

Range worldwide Central and eastern Pacific from latitude 19° north to Alaska.

New Zealand range Around New Zealand. Most readily found in the Hauraki Gulf north of Auckland and around Stewart Island.

Description

Head Dark grey crown with white forehead, leading to grey feather scalation before the crown. **Face, throat and around bill** White, with dark grey stripe through eye. **Upperparts** Light grey. **Upperwings** A dark grey M marking extends across wings and rump. **Underparts** White. **Underwings** White, with dark grey edges and a dark tag at the leading edge wing-joint. **Tail** Light grey with dark grey tip. **Bill** Black.

Conspicuous features

- The grey scalation on the crown is distinctive.
- The open M wing markings on flying birds is very noticeable.
- Look for the black, slender and longish bill.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Birds have a habit of sitting in small rafts on the sea.
- In flight, birds tip and toss showing white underparts and wing markings consecutively.

Call A distinctive “ti ti ti” often heard after dark over North Auckland by birds returning to Little Barrier Island probably after feeding in the Tasman Sea.

Where to find – North Island

North Auckland – Towards Little Barrier Island. P. 289.

Where to find – Stewart Island

Oban – Can be heard here at night. P. 367.