

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Grey heron: pp 261-262.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Linnaeus, 1758

First record 1898, New Zealand

This is a mysterious record which was removed from the New Zealand list in 1970 because the specimen was thought to have disappeared.

Buller wrote: "We have now to include New Zealand in the range of this noble bird, Mr. A. Waley having obtained in Auckland the skin of one which was caught on board a schooner off the east coast, about the authenticity of which there can be no doubt" (Buller 1898).

It was stuffed locally by Mr Spencer of Queen Street. Waley's collection was then dispersed, and Buller bought the skin in London.

The skin is a first-year bird, of the eastern race *A. c. jouyi*. Parkes rediscovered the skin in the Carnegie Museum, U.S.A. in 1974. The record was not reinstated by Turbott (1990), presumably because the provenance of the skin was uncertain.