

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)  
Based on: Watola, G. 2009. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (2nd Edition)  
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.  
Updated and amended text supplied by George Watola, October, 2011.  
Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)  
Yellow-billed spoonbill: p 106.

**Yellow-billed Spoonbill** *Platalea flavipes* Gould 1838, Vagrant (3)  
23/8/1976 Raungaunu Bay, Northland  
20/04/1987 Norfolk Island

Owen and Beryl Evans apparently recorded one on Norfolk Island in the late 1960's (Hermes et al. 1986). However, no description is given, and the vagueness of the date is not acceptable for a first record. One was then seen on 20/4/1987 on Norfolk Island (Moore 1999).

The first mainland New Zealand bird stayed for more than two years in Raungaunu Bay, after being discovered by A.E. Billing (1977) in August 1976. A White Ibis and two Royal Spoonbills accompanied it. A Wildlife Service trainee photographed it in company with the other birds.

The importance of the photo was not apparently realised at the time, and the circumstances of the find were not alluded to in the write-up. This bird stayed for at least two years. A second was found in December 1980 at Te Whiti, Wairarapa, but in contrast to the first bird, was only seen once.