

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Crane sp.: p 119.

Crane Sp. *Grus sp.* vagrant (3)

First record March 1947, Clevedon, South Auckland

Cranes have been recorded three times in New Zealand. However, details have been insufficient to rule out the Sarus Crane *G. antigone* from the similar Brolga *G. rubicundus*. From early March 1947 to 10/05/1947 a large bird was seen by over 80 people near Clevedon. A feather was identified as coming from this species. If still extant, DNA analysis may confirm its identity.

Full details were published in the Weekly News, July 18, 1951, by Ross McKenzie and J. M. Cunningham. K. E. Westerskov was the observer of the second bird, which flew over him at the famous Pancake Rocks in Westland. A photograph confirmed it as a Crane, and his description ruled out any other species (except for Sarus Crane, as pointed out by Jim Moore in July 2004). A Crane sp. was seen flying in the Marlborough Sounds on June 4 2006 by Niall Mugan and another observer. It was last seen flying south.