

## Spotless crane *Porzana tabuensis*

20 cm

NEW ZEALAND NATIVE, SPARSE

Spotless crakes are tiny sooty-coloured rails with a chestnut back, and a bright red eye and eye-ring. The under-tail is barred black and white. Crakes are rarely seen but occasionally heard, particularly in response to taped 'mook' and 'purrrrr' calls. They are distributed throughout New Zealand, including the Chatham Islands, mostly in dense sedge-dominated swamps. Estimates of numbers and distribution are difficult because of their secretive nature.



Spotless crane on nest.  
Photo: Geoff Moon (DOC).