

Marsh crake *Porzana pusilla*

18 cm

NEW ZEALAND NATIVE, SPARSE

Marsh crakes are tiny rails with brown upperparts spotted with white and streaked with black. The breast is grey and the abdomen barred black and white. They occur in swamps and thick reedy lake margins on mainland New Zealand. Rarely seen and quieter than spotless crakes, most records are of cat-killed birds or birds flushed out of vegetation by dogs. They were last reported on Chatham Island in the early 1900s, but may still be present.



Marsh crake.

Photo: Peter Moore (DOC).