

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)
Black-tailed native-hen: p 118.

Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis* Gould 1837, Vagrant (5)
June 1923 Oraki, Southland

A Mr Cook shot the first specimen at Oraki, near Colac Bay, west of Riverton (the oldest town in the South Island), in June 1923 (Oliver 1955). It was forwarded to the Otago Museum. Professor William Benham was the curator at this time, a position he held for 39 years.

Other records are: "Otago" undated <1955 in Canterbury Museum; Tukituki River, Hawkes Bay, May 1957; Karamea, August-November 1984; Opuatia swamp, Waikato, 16/5/1986 and Lake Hood, August 2002.

Buller (1874) was the subject of a hoax concerning the closely-related Tasmanian Native Waterhen *G. mortierii*. One was reported from Lake Waihora, Otago, which Buller accepted in good faith as a genuine record. However, it had been brought from Hobart to Otago by a taxidermist, who sold it to Buller. Buller's acceptance of the record is all the more surprising for the fact that it is flightless.