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South Island takahe: p 117.

South Island Takahe *Porphyrio hochstetteri* (A.B. Meyer 1883), Endemic
1849 Dusky Sound, Fiordland

W. B. D. Mantell (1850) recorded the first live specimen of the South Island Takahe at Dusky Sound in 1849. It was reportedly “caught in the gully of a sound behind Resolution Island” (Williams 1960). Mantell refers to snow-covered ground, indicating it may have been in the winter that it was caught. It was caught by sealer's dogs, then killed and eaten by the crew. However, there is some doubt surrounding this version of events: C. J. Lindsay (1961) considered that it was certainly obtained by a competent collector and taxidermist.

The next two specimens (1851 & 1879) also appeared to have been professionally mounted. The species was not described until 1883 by Meyer, who studied the third specimen and found that it differed from the fossil species from the North Island.