

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)  
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North Island snipe: p 133.

**North Island Snipe** *Coenocorypha barrierensis* Oliver 1955, Endemic  
1955 Little Barrier Island

Captain Bennett captured a snipe on Little Barrier Island in 1870 (Oliver 1955). Two specimens were seen; one escaped, but the other was captured alive and subsequently died. Captain F.W. Hutton exhibited the bird on 10/10/1870 at a meeting of the Auckland Institute. Hutton (1871b) considered it to belong to the same species as the recently described Chatham Island Snipe, with only “trivial” discrepancies separating this specimen. It was “rather larger... and somewhat different in colour”, which in hindsight seem more than minor differences. This snipe was mentioned in several writings up until 1893, and referred to the Chatham Island species.

In 1953, Oliver enquired about the Little Barrier Island Snipe and asked to borrow the specimen. He realised it was different from other described forms, and named it in 1955. This snipe disappeared soon after 1870, probably as a result of predation by kiore and cats. A specimen of the Auckland Island Snipe was also in the Auckland Museum, but mysteriously labelled “Little Barrier Island”.