

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)
Chatham Island pigeon: p 168.

Chatham Island Pigeon *Hemiphaga chathamensis* (Rothschild 1891), Endemic
1891 Chatham Island

It was recorded several times in the 19th century; by Dieffenbach in 1840, Buller in 1855 and Travers in 1863, who later gave a specimen to Hutton. Rothschild received a specimen about 1890, and described it as a new species *Carpophaga chathamensis*. Forbes had recognized it as distinct when Hawkins shot a bird in front of him on 31/1/1892, but Rothschild (1891) had by then described it. Forbes (1893) commented on the fact that good ornithologists before him had missed its distinctness. Oliver contended it was a good species in 1955, but it was not until 2001 that Millener & Powlesland published a paper agreeing with Oliver's diagnosis.