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BROWN KIWI (NORTH ISLAND)

North Island Brown Kiwi (*Apteryx mantelli*) Bartlett, 1852; Endemic

Record: 1850 North Island

The Brown Kiwi consists of four geographically and genetically distinct forms: Northland, Coromandel, eastern North Island and western North Island (Shepherd & Lambert 2008). These taxons have not yet been formally recognized. The Eastern Brown Kiwi may have *A. bulleri*, Sharpe 1888, available as a name. This name was apparently given to a pair of small blackish adult kiwis in Buller's collection, presumably from the Gisborne area.

The French explorer D'Urville saw kiwi-skin cloaks of this species in February 1827. Quoy & Gaimard (1830) wrote about kiwi at Tolaga Bay, Gisborne. Mathews (1937) replaced *A. a. mantelli* with *A. a. no-vaezealandiae* (Lesson 1828), indicating that Lesson had previously described the North Island Kiwi, but this appears to have been a nomen nudum.

The Reverend Yate sent a kiwi skin from the Bay of Islands to the New South Wales Colonial Secretary, Alex Macleay, in March 1834 (Andrews 1987). The kiwi had been alive six weeks previously. This skin was then forwarded to Bennett, the Secretary of the Zoological Society in London, in 1835, the first Brown Kiwi to be known.

Kiwis from both islands arrived in Britain from the 1830s onwards, but this species was not distinguished from Tokoeka until 1850. Abraham Dee Bartlett pointed out the differences on 10 December 1850 at a meeting of the Zoological Society of London, and described it. The description was published later, in 1852. Bowdler Sharpe (1889) was of the opinion, however, that *mantelli* was a synonym of *australis*, and accordingly gave the Brown Kiwi a new name *bulleri*. Recently Shepherd et al (2009) nominated a specimen from Ohakune as the neotype, so that other forms may be formally named if need be.