

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Galah: p 207.



GALAH

Family Cacatuidae

Species *Cacatua roseicapilla*

Common name Galah

Status Introduced

Abundance Rare

Size 360 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Kaka 450 mm)

Habitat Pastureland, maize stubble, hedgerows and eucalypt trees.

Worldwide range Probably an Australian cage-bird escape but birds might have straggled across the Tasman Sea from Australia.

New Zealand range Establishing itself in the South Auckland areas of Clevedon, Kawakawa Bay, Mangatangi, Mangatawhiri and Waitakaruru. Also on Ponui Island off Kawakawa Bay east to the Firth of Thames. Generally, though, a difficult species to find. It is found by chance as the numbers in New Zealand

are yet very small.

Description

Crown White. **Upperwings** Grey. **Neck, abdomen and underwing coverts** Pink. **Underwing** Grey with dark primary feathers. **Rump** White. **Undertail** Grey. **Bill** Off-white.

Conspicuous features

- Pink abdomen extending to underwing coverts and neck.
- White crown is conspicuous on ground feeding birds.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Often in fast moving flocks outside of breeding season.
- Noisy when in flocks.
- Feeds among maize stubble.

Call A high pitched “chi chi chi”.

Nest It usually nests in a hole in an old tree. Up to 5 white eggs are laid.

Where to find – North Island

Auckland – Ponui Island and Pakihi Island off the coast near Kawakawa Bay, east of Clevedon.

South Auckland – Clevedon towards Kawakawa Bay. P. 302.

South Auckland – Pokeno along Highway 2 in the Mangatawhiri district and on Lyons Road.

South Auckland – Mangatawhiri on Bell Road.