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Morepork: pp 179- 180.

Morepork (Ruru) *Ninox novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae* (Gmelin 1788), Endemic
30/5/1773 Queen Charlotte Sound, Marlborough

Forster discovered the Morepork at Queen Charlotte Sound in May 1773 (Hoare 1982). A painting of a Morepork *Strix fulva* painted by Forster is dated 30th May 1773 (Lysaght 1959). However, Banks mentioned "owls differing but little at first sight from those in Europe", which may have been Moreporks that he saw in 1769-1770.

The Australian form had been split as *N. boobook* until DNA evidence showed it was closely related to the Morepork (Penhallurick 2002). More recently König & Weick (2008) have split *N. boobook* into *N. lurida* Red Boobook (north Australia) and *N. leucopsis* Tasmanian Boobook. This is still controversial though and Christidis & Boles (2008) treat all the boobooks/moreporks as one species, as does the Checklist Committee (OSNZ) (2010).

Norfolk Island Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata* (Latham 1802), Endemic
October 1788 Norfolk Island

John Hunter recorded owls between April-October 1788. "The owls, which have very handsome plumage, make a noise like one man calling to another, and they pronounce the word "yaho" very distinctly" (Hunter 1793).

This owl was also recorded by King (1980) before 1790. He supplied the details for Latham to describe the species. The population had been reduced to one female by 1996, which was bred with introduced New Zealand Moreporks, producing a hybrid population of at least 15 birds. Norman et al. (1998) found that *N. n. undulata* was more closely related to *N. n. novaeseelandiae* than the Tasmanian Boobook *N. n. leucopsis*. So Norfolk Island Moreporks originally came from New Zealand, rather than Australia.

