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Laughing owl: p 180.

North Island Laughing Owl *Sceloglaux albifacies rufifacies* Buller 1904, Endemic
1904 Wairarapa

Only two specimens of this form have been recorded, one taken on Mount Egmont by a taxidermist named Martin, and the second in the Wairarapa (“about fifty miles from Wellington”) in 1868. Buller (1904) described the taxon from the second bird. Buller sold Lord Rothschild rare birds, and offered this specimen to Rothschild for a large sum of money (Fuller 1987). Buller had been aware of this specimen for thirty years. Rothschild thought he was being taken advantage of, as he was aware that Laughing Owls varied in their coloration. He pointed out that the tail belonged to another species and humiliated Buller. Rothschild continued to be derogatory about Buller after this episode.

Both specimens have disappeared. There are only three field records: Waikohu near Te Karaka (1889) and near Porirua (before 1892). The last record was one that Blackburn heard in Easter 1927 at Lake Waikaremoana. Worthy (1997) considered it should be synonymised with *albifacies*.

South Island Laughing Owl (Whekau) *Sceloglaux albifacies albifacies* (G.R. Gray 1844), Endemic
1843 Waikouaiti, Otago

The type specimen was collected by Percy Earl, and described by G.R. Gray (1845) in 1844. The last specimen was found dead on a road near Bluecliffs Station, South Canterbury in 1914. It was probably last seen between 1922 and 1924 at “The Owl Rock”, Raincliff, South Canterbury by Oliver Parr (Worthy 1998).