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

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Brown creeper: pp 240-241.



BROWN CREEPER.

Family Pachycephalidae

Species *Mohoua novaeseelandiae*

Common name Brown Creeper

Status Endemic

Abundance Common in the South Island only

Size 130 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm)

Habitat Found in any type of forest and even small remnants, from mid-storey to canopy. Occasionally in scrubland and roadside verges.

Range Found over much of the South Island but not the Canterbury Plains. Also on Stewart Island and its outlying islands including Codfish Island. Absent from the North Island.

Discussion The Brown Creeper is closely related to the Whitehead and the Yellowhead and grouped with the Whistlers in the family Pachycephalidae.

Description

Crown Bluish-grey colouring to below eye. **Face and neck** Ash-grey with white eyebrow behind eye. **Upperparts** Cinnamon-brown. **Underparts** Buff.

Conspicuous features

- A distinct line, well below the eye, separates the bluish-grey eye surround from the buff underparts.
- The eye is hard to see.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Outside of the breeding season birds congregate in large noisy feeding flocks.
- Moves secretively through low vegetation.

Call A rapid “ddee did dee dee”, of fragile quality. It is not unlike the Yellowhead’s song. This can confuse where these two species overlap.

Nest A cup-shaped nest of bark, twigs and mosses, bound with cobwebs and lined with feathers, wool or grass is made. Up to 4 white, speckled reddish-brown eggs are laid.

Where to find – South Island

Marlborough – Pelorus Bridge. P. 343.

Marlborough – Lake Rotoiti from the tracks around the lake. P. 344.

Canterbury – Banks Peninsula at Hinewai Reserve. P. 351.

Otago – Glenorchy and Routeburn track. P. 358.

Fiordland – Cascade Creek and Lake Gunn track. P. 370.

Southland – Catlins State Forest Park. P. 362.

Southland – Invercargill at Greenhills and Omaui Bush. P. 365.

Southland – Invercargill at Otatara Bush. P. 366.

Where to find – Stewart Island

Ackers Point P. 367.

Ulva Island on the Boulder Beach track. P. 367.