

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

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

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Chukor: pp 127-128.



CHUKOR

Family Phasianidae

Species *Alectoris chukar*

Common name Chukor

Status Introduced

Abundance Uncommon

Size 310 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, California Quail 250 mm)

Habitat Lives in rocky areas of low rainfall up to the snow line.

Worldwide range A native of India introduced into New Zealand in 1926 as a game bird where it has established itself on the dry hills and mountains of Central Otago in the South Island.

New Zealand range Well spread from Queenstown through Central Otago and north to the Rolleston Range west of Christchurch.

Description

Head and nape Grey tinged with red, with a faint white stripe above eye. **Face and chin** White, the white ringed with a narrow black band. **Upperparts** Grey. **Underparts** Grey tinged with brown. **Sides and flanks** Vertically barred with alternate black, white and chestnut lines. **Bill** Red. **Legs and feet** Pink.

Conspicuous features

- Black, white and chestnut vertical barring on sides and flanks.
- White face with frame of black.

Call A carrying, high-pitched “chuck chuck chuck – chukar”.

Nest A hollow in grasses or tussock on the ground. Up to 14 cream, brown-blotched eggs are laid.

Where to find – South Island

South Canterbury – Lake Alexandrina on the dry hills that overlook the lake. P. 354.

South Canterbury – Lake Tekapo at Mount John Observatory. P. 354.

South Canterbury – Lake Pukaki on the road to Mount Cook. P. 354.

Central Otago – The Crown Range road which links Wanaka with Arrowtown. Stop anywhere. P. 358.