

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Redpoll: pp 239-240.

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* (Linnaeus 1758)
1862 Nelson

Nelson again was the first province to release this species (Thomson 1922). Over 600 were released up until 1875. The British Ornithologists Union (B.O.U.) published their acceptance of *C. cabaret* and Mealy (Common) Redpoll *A. flammea* as good species in 2001. This was based on sympatric breeding, morphological, behavioural, vocal and molecular differences. Both forms appear to be present in New Zealand, but further research is required.

Sibson also recorded "Mealies" at the Firth of Thames in August 1948 and on Great Mercury Island in September 1962. It may be that the B.O.U. have been premature, as a recent paper by Ottvall et al. (2003) recommends that they again be lumped, as there are no genetic differences.