Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
Based on: Watola, G. 2009. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (2nd Edition)
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.
Updated and amended text supplied by George Watola, October, 2011.
Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
Cape Barren goose p. 20.

Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*, Latham 1801, Vagrant (4) March 1947 L. Maree, Fiordland

Several records have been considered of wild origin (Turbott 1990). It was introduced unsuccessfully in c.1869 (two birds - Riverhead, Auckland), and two were received at Canterbury in 1871. The history of this species in New Zealand is extremely confusing. Four birds were liberated in 1915 at Lake Hawea (Thomson 1922), and bred there in 1916. This population persisted until 1946 (Williams 1968).

Two were seen at Lake Thomson in 1934, a hundred miles from the liberation area. Sightings of birds considered to be vagrants were made in Fiordland (L. Maree & L. Hankinson in March 1947, Sutherland Sound in early 1967), the Ahuriri R. near Benmore (May 1966) and South Auckland (1986). The 1947 records may be related to the 1914 liberation. Loch (= Lake) Maree is a tiny waterbody inland from Dusky Sound. It is possible that all South I records refer to remnants of the introduced population.

It was recorded in 32 squares (1%) in the Atlas (Robertson et al. 2007), particularly around the Kaipara, Northland and in Canterbury. These birds most likely originated from wildfowl collections. In Australia it is dispersive and locally migratory.