

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)
Greylag goose: p 225.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (Linnaeus 1758)
1996 New Zealand
2001 Norfolk Island

Cook (1777) released five geese at Dusky Sound in April 1773.

“Having five geese left out of those we brought from the Cape of Good Hope, I went with them next morning to Goose Cove (named so on this account,) where I left them. I chose this place for two reasons; first, here are no inhabitants to disturb them; and, secondly, here being the most food, I make no doubt but that they will breed, and may in time spread over the whole country, and fully answer my intention in leaving them.”

In 1892 the Otago Society hatched out goose eggs in wild Black Swan nests on Lakes Kaitangata and Waiholo, Lake Onslow, and in the Upper Taieri (Long 1981). They were shot out in 1905. In 1887 a flock of c20 geese (?this species) were present on Ruapuke Island in Foveaux Strait.

They were first mentioned in Classified Summarised Notes (CSN) in 1992: a flock of 5-13 geese at Hamilton Lake, Waikato between October 1990 and April 1991. Heather & Robertson (1996) accepted them as established in their Field Guide. They are now widely distributed throughout New Zealand, occurring in 729 squares (24%) (Robertson et al. 2007). An introduced feral flock of 30 birds was reported on Norfolk Island in 2001. They were common at Kingston and Mission Swamp in 2009.

