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New Zealand musk duck: pp. 252-253.

New Zealand Musk Duck *Biziura delautouri* Forbes 1892

Henry Ogg Forbes reported this species in a paper communicated to the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury on 1 October 1891. A valid description (of a right tarsometatarsus) was later published in *Nature* in March 1892. The description was minimal, even for those days, stating “a *Biziura* somewhat larger than *Biziura lobata*, the musk duck of Australia, an interesting species”. Forbes (1892b) was notorious for his inability to finish projects and his inadequate species descriptions (Worthy & Holdaway 2002). A second paper sent to the Transactions of the New Zealand Institute referred to the taxon as *lautouri*, which was later considered a junior synonym.

The species was lost for many years, until Scarlett described some bones in 1969. Scarlett, however, considered these indistinguishable from the Musk Duck, and so the species was considered a synonym of the Australian form by Kinsky (1970). Olson (1977) then noted differences in shape, and the New Zealand form was resurrected as a good species.

SUB-FOSSIL SPECIES

These species are considered to have become extinct since human settlement in the 14th century.