

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)
Finsch's duck: p 252.

Finsch's Duck *Chenonetta finschi* (Van Beneden 1875)

Finsch's duck was described by Van Beneden (1875) after bones from Earnscleugh Cave, Otago were studied. He named it after Dr Otto Finsch, with whom he studied the bones. It was originally placed in *Anas*, and then in the monotypic genus *Euryanas* by Oliver in 1955. It is a very common fossil in eastern districts of the main islands.

This duck is closely related to the Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*, and should be re-united in the same genus. It was possibly flightless, and may have been driven to extinction by the kiore, which apparently arrived before the first Polynesians (Holdaway, Jones & Beavan Athfield 2002).

Worthy & Holdaway (2002) mentioned a possible record that may refer to this species, of a rufous goose-like bird, unable to fly, that was caught in the hills behind Opotiki in the early 1870s (Cockburn-Hood 1875).

SUB-FOSSIL SPECIES

This species is considered to have become extinct since human settlement in the 14th century.