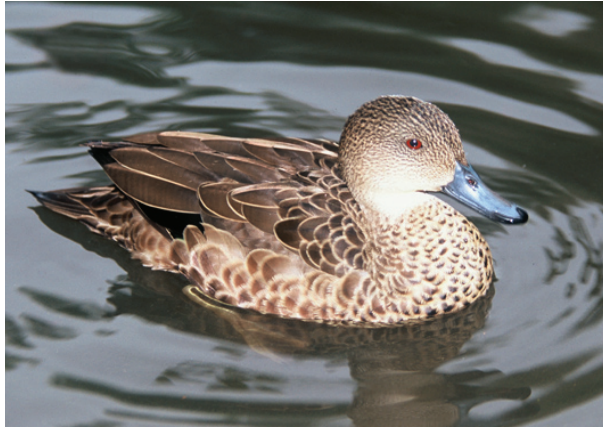


CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Grey teal: pp 112-113.



GREY TEAL.

Family Anatidae

Species *Anas gracilis*

Common name Grey Teal

Status Native

Abundance Common

Size 430 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Mallard 580 mm)

Habitat A bird of both fresh-water lakes and lagoons.

Worldwide range Found in Indonesia, New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Australia where it is considered the most common of Australia's waterfowl. In New Zealand it is less common but increasing.

New Zealand range Found throughout New Zealand with concentrations in areas such as the Waikato, Rotorua district, Otago and Southland.

Description

Head Top of head is dark brown. **Face and under neck** Pale yellow. **Upperparts and underparts** Overall of grey-brown appearance with feathers having dark brown centres and buff edges. **Upperwings** Brown with a large black speculum which has a metallic green sheen and which is edged with white the leading white edge being triangular in shape. **Underwings** Brownish-grey. **Eyes** Iris red.

Bill Blue-grey upper mandible and yellowish lower mandible. **Legs and feet** Greyish-brown.

Conspicuous features

- Considerably smaller than the Mallard.
- Sexes are alike.
- The pale yellow face lacks the heavy black eye-stripe of the Grey Duck.
- The bird looks smaller, neater and softer in colouring than the Grey Duck.
- The white on upperwings in-flight birds.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Roosting birds sometimes show the white markings of their wings. This appears as a white flank marking.
- When flying in flocks they have an immaculate and coordinated group flight pattern with individual wing beats appearing to be in unison.
- The wing beats of Grey Teal are faster than either Mallard or Grey Duck.

Call A rapid “cuck cuck cuck”, and also a sharp whistle.

Nest A bowl of grass lined with down, usually in clumps of rushes or tall grasses. Up to 7 cream coloured eggs are laid.

Artificial nest boxes In recent years Ducks Unlimited have placed wooden nesting boxes along many waterways. These have increased the population.

Where to find – North Island

North Auckland – Waiwera at Strakas Refuge. P. 291.

South Auckland – Miranda regularly seen in good sized flocks on roadside Stilt Ponds. P. 302.

Hauraki Plains – Lake Patetonga. P. 308.

Bay of Plenty – Matata Lagoon P. 320.

Rotorua lakes – Behind Centennial Gardens. P. 324.

Where to find – South Island

North Canterbury – Lake Grasmere near Arthurs Pass. P. 348.

North Canterbury – St Annes Lagoon, Cheviot. P. 347.

Otago – Hoopers Inlet. P. 360.

Southland – Awarua Estuary. P. 365.

Southland – Lake Manapouri and Lake Te Anau. P. 369.