

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)  
Chestnut teal p. 24.

**Chestnut Teal** *Anas castanea* (Eyton 1838), Vagrant (27)

3/6/1991 Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu

J. L. Moore found an unusual teal amongst c.115 Grey Teal in June 1991, at the Manawatu Estuary (Moore & Moore 1992). It was at the time assumed to be a Brown Teal. On the 15th and 16th June, it was more closely examined, in a search for bands. Features were noted that were inconsistent with the original identification, including dark brown breast spotting, a red eye without an eye-ring, and a broad white bar bordering the green speculum. A possible Chestnut Teal was seen here earlier on 31/1/1991. It is now considered a regular migrant to the Manawatu estuary, and is possibly breeding in the adjacent wetlands.

Stidolph (1926) sorted out the confusion relating to the occurrence of this species and Grey Teal in New Zealand. Buller (1882) had recorded Grey Teal correctly, and called it *A. gibberifrons*, Little Teal. Hutton thought it was actually *A. castanea*. In 1888 Buller called *A. gibberifrons* the Wood-Teal. Hutton now thought that *A. gracilis* was distinct from *A. gibberifrons*, but this was not widely accepted. Buller (1905) accepted *A. castanea* on the New Zealand list on the basis of two birds shot at Nelson, but these specimens were never examined by any competent authority. A female in the British Museum recorded by Buller at the same time may have been incorrectly identified. Later, Hutton & Drummond (1909) referred to *A. castanea* Grey Teal (sic). Mathews & Iredale (1913) thought that only *A. castanea* had been recorded in New Zealand, but later (1920) admitted both species.

Stidolph said there were no valid records of *A. castanea*, and accepted only Grey Teal. Muller's name *A. gibberifrons* was now used as Buller's *A. gracilis* had been synonymised by Finsch (1869). The Australian *A. gracilis* was considered to be a subspecies of the Sunda Teal *A. gibberifrons* for many years.