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Australian white-eyed duck p. 27.

Australian White-eyed Duck (Karakahia), *Aythya australis* (Eyton 1838), Vagrant (17+)
1867 Lake Whangape, Waikato

Frederick W. Hutton (1869) found the first one at Lake Whangape.

“I first noticed this bird, about two years ago (1867), on the Whangape Lake, Lower Waikato, and since, on the Waikare Lake, near Rangiriri, and on Rotomahana Lake, where it was abundant in March, 1868. On the lakes of the Lower Waikato it is not uncommon, but is so wary that as yet I have only been able to obtain three specimens, the first of which was kindly procured for me by A. M. Sheppard, Esq., of Ahiruna.

This bird is known to the natives, both of Tarawera and Waikato, by the name of Karakahia. Like all the Pochards, it frequents the lakes only, and is rarely, if ever, seen in the rivers and creeks”.

The Maori name karakahia suggests it was reasonably common during this period. This period of abundance ended in 1895, since when there have only been eight records, the last at Christchurch in December 2005. There was an unconfirmed record from Norfolk Island in winter 1971.