

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)  
Grey duck p. 23.

**Grey Duck** (Parera), *Anas superciliosa* Gmelin 1789, Native  
April 1773 Dusky Sound, Fiordland  
1804/05 Norfolk Island

Numerous “grey” ducks were seen at Poverty Bay on Cook’s first landing in October 1769 (Hoare 1982). Cook later described Grey Ducks at Dusky Sound “The second sort have a brown plumage, with bright green feathers in their wings, and are about the size of an English tame duck”. The younger Forster also wrote about the Grey Duck in Dusky Sound. The elder Forster painted and described the Grey Duck as *Anas leucophrys*. As usual, Gmelin bestowed the binomial from Latham’s and the Forster’s accounts.

Rhymer et al. (2004) found that there were two strongly separated genetic lineages (“haplotypes”) in New Zealand, one found mainly in the North Island (Group 1), and the other found throughout New Zealand and Australia (Group 2). The traditional subspecies (*superciliosa* & *rogersi*) do not hold up, but Group 1 birds should be conserved as they are so distinct genetically. Due to interbreeding with the introduced Mallard, the Grey Duck may be extinct in New Zealand by 2020. Australian Black Ducks have been found in New Zealand (a banded bird in Otago).