

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)

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Great spotted kiwi - p. 19.

Great Spotted Kiwi (Roa) *Apteryx haastii*, Potts 1872, Endemic
1861 South Island

Palma et al. (2003) drew attention to the fact that the Great Spotted Kiwi had been validly named *A. maxima* by Sclater & Hochstetter in 1861. It was read in a 'Report on the Present State of our Knowledge of the Species of Apteryx' at a meeting of the British Association in September 1861, and published for general information in the New Zealand Gazette in May 1862. Palma et al. (2003) proposed that *A. maxima* should be regarded as invalid, as it had not been used for many years.

Specimens collected by T.R. Hacket were previously thought to be the earliest records. Hacket worked for Sir James Hector as a field assistant. He forwarded specimens and eggs to the Colonial Museum in Wellington from Westland, but none of these arrived in a fit condition. A "Rohi" sent on 28/9/1867 was alive, and "eats worms most ravenously". T.H. Potts described the Great Spotted Kiwi in 1872, from two female specimens, one from "in the bush far up the Okarita [o] river", and the other from "dense bush between the eastern shore of L. Mapourika and the snowy range of which Mt. Cook is monarch". These specimens were collected in the summer of 1870/71 by William Docherty.

Potts also referred to a "collector, who has literally slain thousands of Apterygidae", which indicates the impact museum collecting must have had on kiwi populations in the 19th century.