

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Haasts eagle: pp 253-254.

Haast's Eagle *Aquila moorei* (Haast 1872)

The type material was collected by F. R. Fuller from Glenmark, North Canterbury on Sunday, 26 March 1871. Fuller recognised it to be a giant bird that preyed on the moa. Haast (1872) described it, naming it after the landowner of Glenmark Swamp. He later also described *Harpagornis assimilis* in 1874. The latter is a male of *H. moorei*, and hence a synonym.

This giant eagle, which weighed 10-14 kg, was closely related to the small Little Eagle *Aquila morphnoides* of Australia, which weighs only 1 kg. The two species diverged less than one million years ago, and the rapid size change which occurred during this period is unprecedented in vertebrates. It is only known from the South Island.

SUB-FOSSIL SPECIES

This species is considered to have become extinct since human settlement in the 14th century.