

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Chatham Island rail: p 114.

Chatham Rail (Matirakahu) *Cabalus modestus* (Hutton 1872), Endemic
1871 Mangere Island, Chatham Islands

According to Hutton (1872), H. H. Travers collected the first three specimens (an adult in March 1871, and an adult female and a chick in January 1872) on Mangere Island. However, the chick specimen in the National Museum is labeled "5 January 1871".

C. Miskelly (in litt.) states that the published record of Travers's time on the Chathams is inaccurate. Travers was actually present on the Chathams for six months from October 1863; and again for six months from July 1871. Further research is required to determine the actual collecting dates.

Hutton described it in 1872, and later erected a new genus *Cabalus* for it. It was extinct by 1900, exterminated by collectors and cats. This rail was nocturnal, blackbird-sized, and had a long down-curved bill like the other Chatham rails. Forbes (1893) thought it was the young of *G. dieffenbachii*.