

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)  
Black-faced cuckoo-shrike: pp 198-199.

**Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae* (Gmelin 1789), Vagrant (19)  
1870 Motueka, Nelson

The first record was one shot at Motueka in 1869 or 1870 by Mr Giblin. Hutton (1871) described this as a new species. He later reported one at Invercargill in April 1870.

“IN the “Catalogue of the Birds of New Zealand,” which was published last year I described a bird in the Nelson Museum under the name of *Colluricincla concinna*. Further inquiry led me to think that I had made a mistake, and that the bird in question was identical with *Graucalus melanops* of Australia. A short time ago another specimen that had been shot near Invercargill on April 8th, 1870, was received at the Colonial Museum, and I was thus enabled to compare this New Zealand bird with two specimens of *Graucalus melanops* from Australia. . . . . These differences are, I think, quite sufficient to warrant its being kept as a distinct species (Hutton 1872).

“ON the 11th June last the Museum received a specimen in the flesh of the shrike-thrush from Mr. E. A. Radford, of Gebbie's Valley, who stated that he had picked it up dead on Rabbit Island. The bird is in the young plumage, and proved to be a male.

The first recorded occurrence of the species in New Zealand was a specimen in the Nelson Athenæum, which had been shot in an apple-tree at Motueka in 1869 or 1870. I was also informed by the Hon. W. Mantell that he had seen one at Port Chalmers in 1842. Mr. W. T. L. Travers also told me that he had seen the bird at his run at Lake Guyon, and Captain Fraser told me that he had seen it at Lake Hawea. In all these instances the birds appear to have been in immature plumage also. This seems very remarkable” (Hutton 1904)

