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Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Mute swan: pp 99-100.



MUTE SWAN

Family Anatidae

Species *Cygnus olor*

Common name Mute Swan

Status Introduced

Abundance Rare

Size 1500 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Black Swan 1200 mm)

Habitat Fresh-water lakes and ponds.

New Zealand range A bird which was introduced from Europe but has not managed to survive in the wild. It is found in waterfowl collections and on park lakes. A feral population struggles to survive on Lake Ellesmere.

Description

Face Facial skin in front of eye is black. **Upperparts and underparts** White. **Bill** Orange with black base and a black knob on the forehead. **Legs and feet** Black.

Conspicuous features

- Orange bill with black knob at base.
- The long S curved neck separates it from a feral goose.

Conspicuous characteristic

- Has a stately manner about it when sitting on the water.

Call Usually silent but it occasionally trumpets and often hisses.

Nest A mound of reeds, raupo and rushes, usually floating among the vegetation of the lake edge. Up to 7 white eggs are laid.

Where to find – North Island

Hawkes Bay – Havelock North Follow the road to Ocean and Waimarama Beaches. A roadside pond before Maraetotara Road has several pairs. P. 332.

Wanganui – Virginia Lake park is located on the Wanganui, New Plymouth road and has maintained two pairs of birds for some years. P. 336.

Palmerston North – Horowhitu Lagoon off Fitzherbert Avenue has birds. P. 352.

Where to find – South Island

Canterbury – Lake Ellesmere at Timberyard Road which leads to the Aquatic Centre. Expect from wetland areas around Christchurch. P. 352.