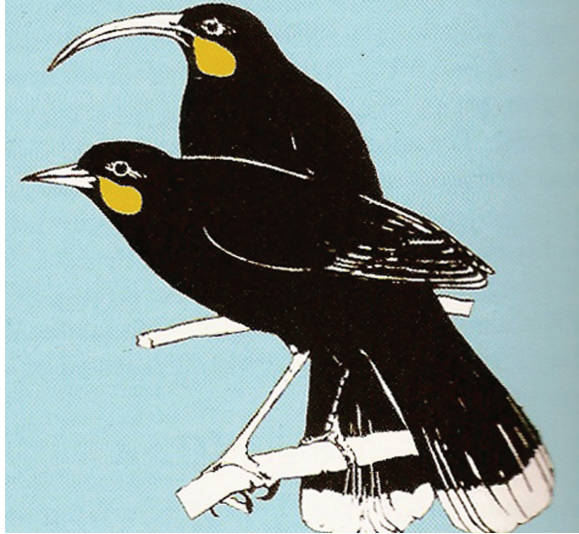


CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

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

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Huia: pp 270-271.



HUIA

**Family** Callaeidae

**Species** *Heteralocha acutirostris*

**Common name** Huia

**Status** Endemic

**Abundance** Extinct

**Size** 450 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Saddleback 250 mm)

**Discussion** This now extinct bird is included here in the hope that some birder in some remote corner of the North Island may come across an unknown pair. It has, though, not been seen since 1907. The Huia was distinctive by way of its dimorphism, not as to plumage colouration as in most birds, but as to sexual differences in bill shape. The male Huia had a short heavy bill very like the Saddleback while the female bird had a slender curved bill. Current thinking suggests that the two different shaped bills evolved to expand the Huia's feeding niches and therefore survival chances.

**General** It is worth visiting a museum to see a mounted specimen. Try the Auckland Museum.