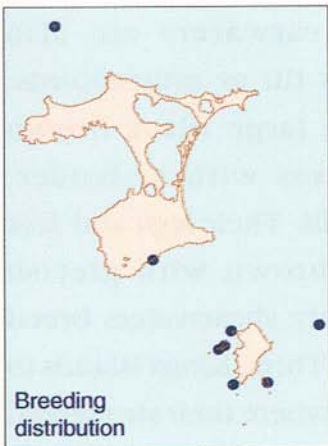


Southern diving petrel

Pelecanoides urinatrix chathamensis 20 cm

NEW ZEALAND ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES, NOT THREATENED



Adult southern diving petrel, Rangatira.

Photo: Colin Miskelly.

Southern diving petrels, also called common diving petrels or kuaka, are small stocky seabirds with bright blue legs. The upper plumage is black, with white underneath and greyish underwings. In the Chatham Islands, they breed on Rangatira, Mangere, Tapuaenuku, the Murumurus, Star Keys, Little

Sister Island, Rabbit Island, Houruakopara, and possibly on cliff ledges on Chatham and Pitt Islands. On Rangatira, it has been estimated that there are 164,000 pairs breeding in the forest, but more recent information on the distribution of breeding colonies suggests that there may only be a few tens of thousands of pairs there. Diving petrels are summer breeders; in the Chatham Islands, laying takes place in September–October, in burrows under vegetation.