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North Island takahe: p 255.

**North Island Takahe** (Moho) *Porphyrio mantelli* (Owen 1848)  
1894 Ruahine Ranges, Wellington

Originally described by Richard Owen (1848) in the new genus *Notornis*, from sub-fossil bones found at Waingororo, North Island in 1847 by W.B.D. Mantell. Owen believed it was closely related to *Porphyrio*, and eventually *Notornis* was subsumed into the swamphens by Ripley (1977).

The two forms were later treated as subspecies on informal rationalisations (e.g. Kinsky 1970), although Oliver had treated them as good species. Recently, their specific status has been restored (Trewick 1996). Holdaway et al. (2002) believe that it survived until 1894 (Philips 1959).

The story goes that Morgan Carkeek, a surveyor, obtained a Moho while working in the north Ruahine ranges in the autumn of 1894. It was taken to Horowhenua, where many elders of the Ngati Muaupoko tribe saw it. The skin and feathers were kept at the McDonald homestead for many years.