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Chatham Island taiko: pp 59-60.

Chatham Island Taiko (Taiko/Tchaik) *Pterodroma magentae* (Giglioli & Salvadori 1868), Endemic
1/1/1978 Chatham Island

The first specimen was collected in the South Pacific on 22/7/1867, and described as the Magenta Petrel (Crockett 1994). The species was not seen again until its dramatic re-discovery in 1978 by D.E. Crockett, who had established a link between the mysterious Taiko and the enigmatic Magenta Petrel. Crockett began his search in 1969, after becoming intrigued by reports of a mystery bird on Chatham Island. In 1952, H.G. Blyth wrote to Crockett describing the legendary "Taiko Hill", where the Taiko was reputed to nest.

Sightings of supposed Taiko were first made on 6/1/1973, but these remained inconclusive, as specimens were not examined. Crockett (1990) was certain that these were the first sightings since 1867. However, in a more recent paper, Crockett says that these sightings were unconfirmed, although they matched the descriptions of Magenta Petrel. On 1/1/1978, two birds were caught, measured, photographed and released. The first breeding burrows were discovered in 1987 in the Tuku Valley. The population was estimated at 50-120 birds in 1999.

A specimen has been recently found in the Canterbury Museum, which was taken in the Pacific Ocean in c.1910, but had been misidentified.