

# Brown Teal



COMMON NAME: **BROWN TEAL** – Gray, 1845

LATIN NAME: ***Anas aucklandica chlorotis***

LATIN MEANING: L. *anas*, a duck.  
Aucklandica; after the Auckland Islands, south of New Zealand  
*Chlorotis*; Gr. *khloros*, green. *Otis*; Gr. *bustard*.

MAORI NAME: Pateke

CLASS: Aves

ORDER: Apterygiformes

FAMILY: Apterygidae

GENUS: *Anas*

SPECIES/SUB SPECIES: *Aucklandica / Chlorotis*

## DESCRIPTION:

A small brown duck related to the Chestnut Teal of Australia; around 48cm in size. Males have dark brown heads with a greenish bloom on nape, a white collar on the front part of neck and a green speculum. The female is uniformly brown with a bluish/black bill and slate grey feet.

## HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Restricted mainly to Great Barrier Island and Northland. Captive bred ducks have been released into protected reserves throughout the North Island and into Fiordland National Park.

## BREEDING:

July–December. Nests are constructed in well-concealed situations near water. 5–7 cream coloured eggs are laid.

## SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

A semi-nocturnal, small, dabbling duck of lowland wetlands and coastal areas, it forms large communal daytime roosts. During the breeding season it becomes very territorial.

## DIET:

Pateke feed in the evening and at night on invertebrates and plant material in damp or flooded pastures, lawns, drains, shallow wetlands and estuaries.

## PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Habitat loss
- Introduced predators like ferrets, stoats, cats and dogs.  
(Pukeko and Australian harrier hawks will also prey on ducklings)
- Shooting
- Increased coastal subdivision of land.

## CONSERVATION STATUS:

DoC Status: Category B (Molloy & Davis 1994)

IUCN Status: Endangered (IUCN 1994).



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