

Grey Teal



COMMON NAME:	GREY TEAL – Buller, 1869
LATIN NAME:	<i>Anas gibberifrons gracilis</i>
LATIN MEANING:	Anas L. <i>anas</i> , a duck. Gibberifrons L. <i>gibber</i> , a hump; <i>frons</i> , the forehead. Gracilis L. <i>gracilis</i> , slender.
MAORI NAME:	Tete
CLASS:	Avis
ORDER:	Anseriformes
FAMILY:	Anatidae
GENUS:	<i>Anas</i>
SPECIES/SUB SPECIES:	<i>Gibberifrons / Gracilis</i>

DESCRIPTION:

New Zealand's smallest flying duck, overall grey with the head and back of the neck a dark brown. Throat, chin and side of head are almost white. Back and flank feathers are dark brown with pale edges. The speculum is green with a narrow white band. The mandible is blue/grey, the feet black and iris a bright red.

HABITAT / DISTRIBUTION:

Tete prefer shallow freshwater lakes, lagoons and swamps with extensive marginal cover. They are found throughout South Auckland, Waikato, Hawkes Bay and Otago. The species is also found throughout Australia, New Guinea and New Caledonia. The New Zealand population is subject to periodic influxes from Australia, as birds are driven out by drought.

BREEDING:

Nesting occurs from June to January with nest sites in tree hollows, rabbit burrows, beneath tussocks, sedges and rocks. Grey Teal readily take to nest boxes. The clutch size varies from 5–9 cream coloured eggs with incubation carried out by the female alone. Incubation period is 24–26 days.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

A flock bird, Tete is also remarkably mobile. Movements within New Zealand are apparently random with birds dispersing in all directions.

DIET:

Insects, worms and snails, plus shoots and the succulent roots of vegetation.

PRINCIPAL THREATS:

- Introduced predators
- Illegal hunting
- Loss of habitat.

CONSERVATION STATUS:

Uncommon, but the range is increasing.



Best place in NZ
to see a kiwi

OTOROHANGA KIWI HOUSE & NATIVE BIRD PARK

PO Box 222, Otorohanga 3940, New Zealand

Telephone: +64 (7) 873 7391

www.kiwihouse.org.nz