

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-04002-0 - The Animals of New Zealand: An Account of the Dominion's  
Air-Breathing Vertebrates  
Frederick Wollaston Hutton and James Drummond  
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### The Animals of New Zealand

Frederick Wollaston Hutton (1836–1905) was a geologist and a supporter of Darwinian theory. He emigrated to New Zealand in 1866, became Professor of Biology at Canterbury College, and won awards both in Britain and Australasia for his work on the natural history of New Zealand. He published scientific papers on biology and zoology as well as geology and, with James Drummond, wrote two popular works, *Nature in New Zealand* (1902) and *The Animals of New Zealand* (1904). The latter was extremely successful. It was revised and expanded the following year, and this fourth edition was published in 1923. The book focuses on native vertebrates, so the bulk of the content relates to birds, of which Hutton had published a catalogue in 1871. It also describes marine mammals, reptiles, and bats, and gives brief coverage to introduced species. There are 154 illustrations, and indexes of Maori, English and scientific names.

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FREDERICK WOLLASTON HUTTON  
JAMES DRUMMOND



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FREDERICK WOLLASTON HUTTON

Born 16th November, 1836.

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THE  
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VERTEBRATES

BY

Captain F. W. HUTTON, F.R.S.

AND

JAMES DRUMMOND, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

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## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

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In this work we have endeavoured to combine popular information with the purely scientific, and have intermingled stories of quaint habits and characteristics with accurate descriptions of all the animals dealt with.

Our object has been to publish a volume that will be useful to naturalists, and at the same time interesting to the general public. The first consideration has been accuracy; the second, sufficient information in small space. To attain this end, we have drawn largely on the works of others. Chief among these is the late Mr. T. H. Potts. He knew our fauna before its destruction had been fairly begun, and he devoted stupendous energy to the study of the habits of our native birds. As a result of his labour of love, New Zealand possesses unique records in its literature on natural history. The main part of his observations is embodied in stray articles in the Christchurch newspapers, in the *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute*, and in a little book entitled *Out in the Open*. No work dealing adequately with the natural history of this colony would be complete without quotations from Mr. Potts's writings; and as Mrs. Potts has kindly placed all his publications at our disposal, we have introduced into this volume some of the best of them. Where large and important collations have been made, we have indicated the source or the writer; but we have found it impracticable to do so in regard to all quotations, as we have had to take a few lines here and a few there, and to weld them together in order to make a connected whole. We have exercised much care in taking extracts. A portion of the popular part of the information was published as a series of copyright articles in *The Lyttelton Times* in 1903; but these have been revised and added to.

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On the scientific side, the present volume may be considered as the third edition of the *Descriptive Catalogue of the Birds of New Zealand*,\* much enlarged, with an account of the dominion's mammals and reptiles, as well as its birds. It was first published in 1871, and, in 1888, a second edition, with illustrations, was edited by Sir Walter Buller. Both editions have been out of print for many years.

A large portion of the volume represents original research, and a great deal of the information is now published for the first time.

We have supplied as many illustrations as possible. Most of them are reproductions of photographs of coloured plates, and it is necessary to state that blue colours appear white, and yellow dark. This is noticeable in the wattles of the crows and the skin on the faces of the cormorants, in the blue feathers on the wings of the parrakeets, on the head of the bell-bird, and in the yellow on the bills of the mollymawks and the crests of the penguins. In connection with the illustrations, we have to thank Mrs. Potts for the excellent portrait of Mr. Potts. Also the Director of the British Museum, the Council of the Zoological Society of London, the British Ornithologists' Union, the proprietors of *Nature*, Sir Walter Buller, Dr. R. B. Sharpe, Dr. P. L. Selater, the Hon. W. Rothschild,† Professor J. H. Scott, and Mr. F. E. Beddard, for permission to reproduce illustrations published by them, and also Dr. L. Cockayne for the photograph of the nesting albatross on page 271. All the nests are from specimens in the Christchurch Museum. These, as well as almost all the other illustrations, have been reproduced from photographs taken by Mr. W. Sparkes, Taxidermist to the Museum. As far as possible, we have gone to classical works for illustrations, thinking that this will add to the value of the book.

In dealing with the birds, we have omitted the wanderers; but every bird that belongs to New Zealand is described. The list of the dominion's avifauna, probably, is now closed, the

\*By F. W. Hutton, published by the Government Printer, Wellington, New Zealand, 1871.  
†Now Lord Rothschild (1921).

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last named being that of the Bounty Islands shag, which was added in 1901, and makes a total of about 190 species.

In the measurements, the length of the wing means the length from the flexure at the wrist-joint to the tip of the longest feather. The tarsus is what is ordinarily called the leg; it lies between the drumstick and the foot.

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## PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

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The first edition of this work was published in 1904. It was much more successful than Captain Hutton or I, or even the publishers, had anticipated, and a second edition was found to be necessary in the following year, 1905. Captain Hutton was then suffering from a serious illness. He went to England for a change, and was not able to take any part in the work of seeing the second edition through the press. Before he left New Zealand, however, we discussed several alterations to the first edition and decided to make some additions. A copy of the second edition reached him in England on September 19th, 1905, and he wrote to me on that date expressing his appreciation of the work. About five weeks later, October 27th, he died at sea on his way back to New Zealand.

In this edition I have made many alterations and additions. Archdeacon Williams, of Gisborne, has kindly revised the list of Maori names of birds, and, on his advice, I have changed a large number, giving some names that are more generally accepted than those previously assigned to birds in this book. Unfortunately, I could not find space for Archdeacon Williams's complete list of Maori names. He has published an excellent paper on the subject in *The Journal of the Polynesian Society* for December, 1906, No. 4, volume xv. It supplies all the names the Maoris are known to have applied to native birds. In one case, the bell-bird (*Anthornis melanura*), he gives no fewer than twenty-six names.

For many years ornithologists were under the impression that New Zealand's birds were rushing headlong to destruction, and that they would soon pass completely away. The utter extermination, in a flash of time, as I may say, of one of God's brightest and most harmless beings, which has been represented in this life for ages, is a regrettable incident in the world's history, and it is not

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surprising that naturalists and scientists should commiserate with New Zealand in the loss that seemed to be impending. I am glad to be able to sound a brighter note. Some time ago, by the courtesy of the Agricultural Department, I had thousands of circulars sent to all parts of the dominion. These circulars contained questions in regard to our birds' present position. When they were returned to me, I found that almost all the birds had been accounted for except one. The missing bird is the native quail (*Coturnix novae-zealandiae*), which fell in thousands before the great grass fires that swept through the land as settlement advanced.

There is no convincing evidence that any New Zealand bird, except the Stephen's Island wren and the native quail, has been exterminated by the European inhabitants of this country. Although we regret the needless destruction that has taken place, we may find some satisfaction in the knowledge that the position is not nearly as bad as we thought it was. Our birds may still be seen wherever the ancient forests stand. As long as large tracts of forests are left as sanctuaries and scenic reserves, we need not have much fear that our avifauna will be completely lost. Mr. H. G. Ell, for many years a member of the House of Representatives, has done New Zealand a great service in urging that the forests should be preserved and the birds protected, and all that he asked was willingly done by Sir Joseph Ward, the Hon. W. F. Massey, and other Ministers. Naturalists in all parts of the world will be grateful for a Scenery Preservation Commission, which went through the country and reported upon sites that ought to be preserved, and also to Mr. S. Percy Smith, chairman of the Commission, and Mr. W. W. Smith, the secretary, and other members for the enthusiasm with which they undertook their congenial duties.

In the second edition, "Pelorus Jack," the famous cetacean that followed steamers through Pelorus Sound, was classified as a goose-beak whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*). As he was protected by the Legislature as a Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), I took him out of the former species. The first Order-in-Council

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under which he was protected was signed by His Excellency the Governor, Lord Plunket, on September 26th, 1904, and was published in the official "Gazette." The order was issued under the Sea-fisheries Act of 1894, which empowers the Governor in Council to make regulations protecting any fish. The last report of "Pelorus Jack" was in November, 1916. He has not been seen from that date up to the present time, April, 1922.

It is with deep regret that I have prepared later editions without Captain Hutton's assistance. We spent many hours of hard work studying natural history, and I feel that if he had lived longer we would have done more together. Many years of his life were devoted to scientific research, for which he was splendidly equipped by his powers of observation and judgment and his great industry.

He was the second son of the Rev. H. F. Hutton, and was born at Gate Burton, Lincolnshire, on November 16th, 1836. He was educated at Southwell and at the Naval Academy at Gosport. As he was over age at the time of his nomination, he could not enter the Royal Navy, but he served for three years in the India mercantile marine. He then entered King's College, London. He became an ensign in the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1855, and was made lieutenant in 1857 and captain in 1862. After serving in the Crimea in 1855 and 1856, he went to India, and was present at the capture and relief of Lucknow and at other engagements. In 1860, he returned to England, and six years later he came to New Zealand with his family. He was appointed Assistant Geologist to the New Zealand Geological Survey in 1871, Provincial Geologist of Otago and curator of the Otago Museum in 1873, and Professor of Natural Science at the Otago University in 1877. In 1880 he was appointed Professor of Biology and Geology at Canterbury College, Christchurch, and in 1893 he became curator of Canterbury Museum, a position which he held until his death.

His services to his country have been recognised by the erection of a tablet in Canterbury College, and by the "Hutton Memorial Medal," which was struck by

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the Governor of the New Zealand Institute, with the assistance of the New Zealand Government. His most lasting memorial, however, will be found in his literary work. He edited the *Index Faunae Novae Zealandiae* for the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, wrote *A Class-book of Elementary Geology, Darwinism and Lamarckism Old and New*, and *The Lesson of Evolution*, contributed largely to scientific journals in different parts of the British Empire, prepared thirteen descriptive catalogues and geological reports for the New Zealand Government, and published more than a hundred papers in the *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute* and other periodicals in Australasia. He had studied many branches of science in New Zealand, and investigators in the future will be grateful to him for the work he did.

J. D.

Christchurch, New Zealand.  
April, 1922.