

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Kookaburra: pp 222-223.



KOOKABURRA

Family Alcedinidae

Species *Dacelo novaeguineae*

Common name Kookaburra

Status Introduced

Abundance Uncommon

Size 450 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Kingfisher 240 mm)

Habitat Lives in areas of scattered vegetation and light forest.

Worldwide range In Australia this bird is widespread in the eastern states, and south of Perth in the west. Also it is found in northern Tasmania. Note that the

Blue-winged Kookaburra (*Dacelo leachii*) was not introduced to New Zealand.

New Zealand range Mainly found in the Waiwera district of North Auckland and surrounding areas, and on Kawau Island.

Discussion The Kookaburra was introduced from Australia in the 1860s. It failed to establish itself throughout the country but a small colony has persisted in the Waiwera district just north of the Whangaparaoa Peninsula.

Description

Head and underparts Whitish with darker on crown. **Wings** Dark brown with some blue-grey flecking. **Tail** Brown, with darker brown barring. **Bill** Large, with black above and yellow below.

Conspicuous features

- Larger than the Kingfisher in size.
- Similar to the Kingfisher in shape and habit.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Commonly sits on power wires or exposed branches of tall trees.
- Regularly feeds on the ground.

Call Is a raucous laugh “kuk kuk kuk and a he and a ho and a haw haw haw”. Heard mainly in the early morning and at sunset, these being the best viewing times, but also through the day.

Nest A hole or cavity in an old tree. Up to 3 white eggs are laid.

Where to find – North Island

Northland – Whangarei in the Glenbervie district, north-east of the city.

North Auckland – Kawau Island. P. 288.

North Auckland – Puhoi district north of Waiwera.

North Auckland – Waiwera at Wenderholm Park. P. 291.

North Auckland – Wainui and Waitoki west of Silverdale.