OYSTERCATCHERS

7 species worldwide; 3 breed in New Zealand, including one native species.

Oystercatchers are all black, or black and white, divers which feed on hard or soft-shell clams, mussels, oysters, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, crabs, and fish. They are found along the coasts, in estuaries, and in large numbers foraging on rocky shores. Their diet consists of a variety of marine gastropods and crustaceans. They are easily distinguished from other seabirds by their distinctive call, which is a rapid, trilled “kree-kree-kree-kree.”

Distribution

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