Chatham Island Pigeon *Hemiphaga chathamensis* (Rothschild 1891), Endemic
1891 Chatham Island

It was recorded several times in the 19th century; by Dieffenbach in 1840, Buller in 1855 and Travers in 1863, who later gave a specimen to Hutton. Rothschild received a specimen about 1890, and described it as a new species *Carpophaga chathamensis*. Forbes had recognized it as distinct when Hawkins shot a bird in front of him on 31/1/1892, but Rothschild (1891) had by then described it. Forbes (1893) commented on the fact that good ornithologists before him had missed its distinctness. Oliver contended it was a good species in 1955, but it was not until 2001 that Millener & Powlesland published a paper agreeing with Oliver’s diagnosis.