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Australian pelican: p 86.

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus conspicillatus* Temminck 1824, Vagrant (6)
1890 Hiruharama, Wanganui
July 1977 Norfolk Island

The first record was in 1890, when a Maori shot a bird on the Whanganui River, a mile above Hiruharama (= Jerusalem), 66 km inland from Wanganui. Buller wrote – “I have in my possession the head and neck of an Australian Pelican which was shot by the Maoris on the Wanganui River bank about a mile above Hiruharama. This was in 1890. The bird was first observed in the early morning, and, being entirely strange to them, the Maoris brought the head and neck to Wanganui (in the flesh) for identification, but unfortunately left the body, which was soon devoured by the pigs” (Buller 1892).

Subsequently there was a small flurry of records between August 1976 and June 1978.

The first subfossil record was a skeleton found at Waikaremoana on 30/11/1930 by Gilbert Archey and others. Scarlett gave subspecific status to New Zealand bones in 1966, and later Rich & van Tets (1981) raised it to specific status. Worthy (1998) referred all fossil records to the Australian Pelican, as there were no differences in bones, and the few records were indicative of vagrants, rather than a breeding resident population. It has been recorded from Marfells Beach, Lake Grassmere (1947); Karikari Peninsula, Motutapu Island, Lake Waikaremoana and Lake Poukawa.

There was a record in July 1977 from Norfolk Island.