RAIL'S, GALLINULES and COOTS

Rail and Coots

About 150 species, of which 8 are common. This group is represented by three species in New Zealand, and one in the Chatham Islands. One species is not common. This group has a distinct and specialized breeding system, where the parents are not monogamous. The adults are primarily found in inland, freshwater and coastal areas. They are designated as Near Threatened (NT) or of Least Concern (LC). They are migratory, sometimes flying over the water in groups. Their presence is often accompanied by a loud, shrill call. They are not common in the region and are often seen in the water. They feed on small aquatic organisms and plants. Their picture shows their distinctive appearance and their behavior. Their size is not very large, and they are mostly found in groups. Their presence indicates a healthy ecosystem.

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Plate 17

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