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Silvereye: pp 213-214.

Silvereye (Tauhou) *Zosterops lateralis lateralis* (Latham 1801), Coloniser
1832 Milford Sound, Fiordland
1904 Norfolk Island

The earliest record appears to be that of a Mr Howell, who first noticed them about Milford Sound in 1832 in flocks of thirty or forty.

“Mr. Newton Watt, R.M., of Campbell Town (Southland), writes as follows:—“Paitu, a chief here, and I believe the oldest man in the tribe, says it was always here. Howell says that he first noticed them on the west coast, about Milford Sound, in the year 1832, in flocks of thirty or forty, but never noticed them here (River-ton) till about 1863, when he saw them inland and in smaller flocks.

The history of the species, however, from a North Island point of view is very interesting and suggestive. It appeared on the north side of Cook's Strait, for the first time within the memory of the oldest native inhabitants, in the winter of 1856. In the early part of June of that year I first heard of its occurrence at Waikanae, a native settlement on the west coast, about forty miles from Wellington. The native mailman brought in word that a new bird had been seen, and that it was a Migrant from some other land. A week later he brought intelligence that large flocks had appeared, and that the “tau-hou” (stranger) swarmed in the brush-wood near the coast; reporting further that they seemed weary after their journey, and that the natives had caught many of them alive.

Since the year 1862, when it commenced to breed with us, it has been a permanent resident in the North Island, and from that time it continued to advance northwards. Mr. Colenso, of Napier, reports that it was first seen at Ahuriri in 1862.

They penetrated to Waikato in the following year, and pushed their way as far as Auckland in 1865. Captain Hutton reports that in the winter of 1867 they had spread all over the province, as far north as the Bay of Islands, and in 1868 he writes,—“They are now in the most northerly parts of this island” (Buller 1870).

