Notornis and Birds New Zealand



# A survey of Fiordland crested penguins / tawaki (Eudyptes pachyrhynchu from Cascade River to Martins Bay, South Westland, New Zealand, 201

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| **Abstract** | A survey of Fiordland crested penguin/tawaki, Eudyptes pachyrhynchus, breeding colonies between Casca and Martins Bay, South Westland, was undertaken from August to September 2014 to obtain an accurate po estimate for the area. A total of 835 nests was found, making this one of the major breeding locations for the This total represents a minimum estimate as tawaki nests are spread through large areas of dense forest very difficult to locate, and so count accurately. A total of 150 nests was observed in previous surveys of t location. This dramatic difference in results (835 vs. 150) is attributed to a difference in survey methods surveyor's familiarity with the breeding area, not a population increase. Given these results and the difficulty in locating tawaki, it is likely that the species' overall population size has been significantly underestimated. |

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