

# Royal spoonbill Kōtuku ngutupapa

*Platalea regia*



## Conservation status

Regional | Coloniser  
National | Naturally Uncommon



## Main threats

None

A bit about me...



**Length:**  
74–81 cm



**Weight:**  
1.4–2 kg



Range

## Range:

Widespread throughout Aotearoa New Zealand on bodies of freshwater. Colonised from Australia, first breeding at Ōkārito Lagoon in 1950, and in Otago since 1983.

## Key Otago sites:

- Matainaka / Hawksbury Lagoon
- Te Awa Ōtākou / Otago Harbour
- Pukekura / Taiaaroa Head
- Tokatā / Nugget Point



## New Zealand native

A large white waterbird with yellow and red face markings, long black legs and a spoon-shaped bill. Breeding adults gain buff breasts and a crown of head plumes. Young birds have shorter bills and black wingtips. Rarely vocalises. Sweeps bill side to side underwater to catch fish and invertebrates.

## Similar birds:



Kōtuku / White heron



Cattle egret