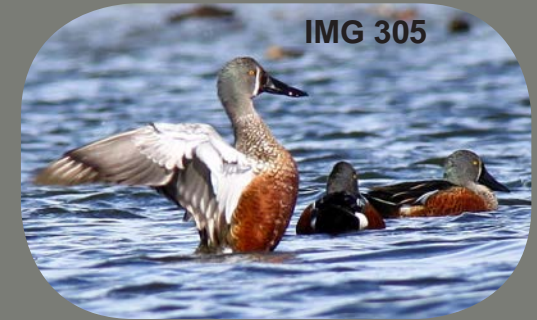


NZ SHOVELER

Anas rhynchosotis variegata

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The Moari Name for the NZ Shoveler is Kuruwhengi. They are one of the few native birds that are not protected during the duck hunting season each year. Shovelers are the fastest flyers of all waterfowl, so their swift flight at the first sound of a shotgun during hunting season helps their survival.



IMG 305

Description

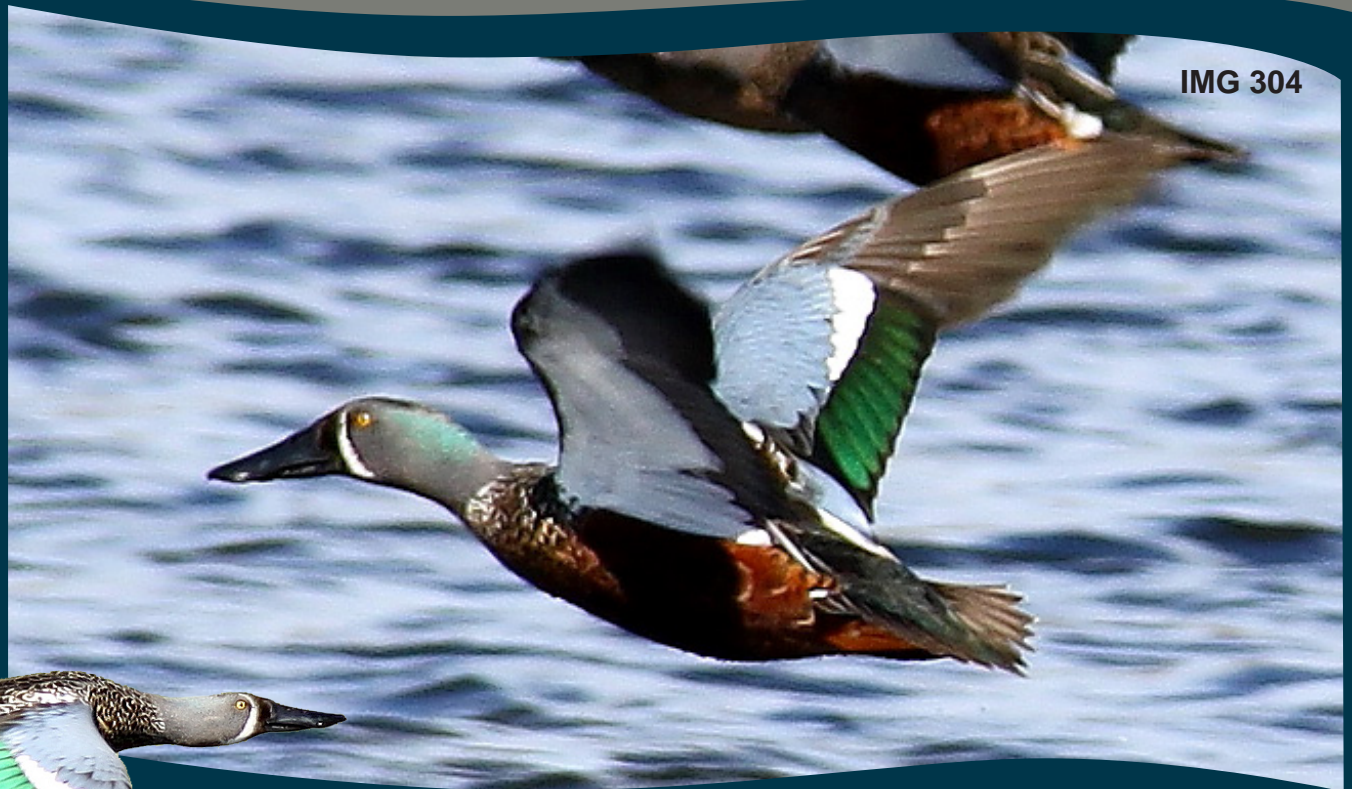
The male shoveler has a blue-grey head with a white vertical stripe between the eye and bill. They have a bright reddish-brown breast, and blue wings. Females are not as brightly coloured.

Food

Shovelers swim with their bill submerged, sieving food from the water surface, or through mud. They eat primarily fresh water invertebrates and the seeds of aquatic plants.

Breeding

Grass nests are lined with down, and well hidden in vegetation. Six to ten cream-coloured eggs with a blue tint are laid between August and December.



IMG 304



IMG 306