

# SPOTLESS CRAKE

## *Porzana tabuensis plumbea*

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The Māori name for Spotless Crake is Puweto. Spotless crake are more often heard than seen and have a wide variety of calls which are usually heard at dawn and dusk. There are sharp 'pit-pit' calls, a single or repeated 'book' and a distinctive rolling 'purr' call.



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### Description

The head and underside are dark blue with a brown topside earning its 'spotless' name. Their short bill is black and they have a distinctive red eye and eye ring with reddish legs.

### Food

The spotless crake eats worms, snails, spiders, tadpoles, insect larvae and seeds of aquatic plants and fallen fruits.

### Breeding

Breeding is from August to February. Nests are composed of grasses and sedges within dense vegetated cover. A clutch of 2-4 eggs is incubated for 20-22 days by both parents. The black downy chicks are looked after until they reach an adult size at 4 - 5 months old.



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