

# GREY TEAL

*Anas gracilis*

309



IMG 320

The Māori name for Grey Teal is Tete. They are a vocal duck, especially at night. The male gives a soft preep, and the female has a loud quack. Grey teal are protected, but some are shot accidentally when misidentified by hunters. They can be distinguished from larger grey ducks by their dark head and pale cheeks.

## Description

This is a mottled brown duck with each feather of the body edged with white except the rump. The chin and throat are white, the bill is dark green and the eye is red. In flight, a white triangle is visible on the wing.

## Food

Food consists of plants, seeds, crustaceans, insects and their larvae. Feeding methods are varied. Birds may dabble (sieve water or mud through the bill), topple and feed from the muddy bottom, or eat seed heads from standing plants.

## Breeding

Grey Teal breed around waterways, and nests can be found on the ground, in rabbit burrows or in tree hollows. They normally lay their eggs on the bare floor of the nest site, then cover them with down (feathers).



IMG 321



IMG 319