

Blue Duck Identification

The Blue Duck is a protected species which is present in this forest. Ernslaw One Ltd is currently undertaking to reduce impacts of our operations on this species and ultimately protect and enhance our populations of this species.

The Blue Duck is classified as being Nationally Endangered, which is the second highest category of threat.



Figure 1 Blue Duck



Figure 2: A Blue Duck family in rapids

Blue ducks establish exclusive territories of up to a kilometre long.

Nests are shallow, twig, grass and down-lined scrapes in caves, under river-side vegetation or in log-jams.

About six narrow cream-coloured eggs are laid in holes in banks, logs, or under thick vegetation at the stream's edge.

Blue ducks have unique features such as streamlined head and large webbed feet to enable them to feed in fast moving water.

The upper bill has a thick semicircular, fleshy 'lip' that overlaps the lower bill allowing them to scrape off insect larvae that cling to rocks, without wear and tear.

The male makes a distinctive high-pitched aspirate sound – “whio”, contrasting with the guttural and rattle-like call of the female.

They are mainly active during early morning and late evening periods, hiding during the day in log-jams, caves and other such places – some populations have adopted an almost nocturnal existence.

Blue Duck Management

The main threat posed to Blue Duck by our operations is the disruption of nests during the **August to December** breeding season of these birds.

If workers or staff find a Blue Duck nest or bird.

- Do not approach any closer
- Notify Ernslaw staff

Subsequent Management by Ernslaw

- Stock should be excluded from all compartments of known Blue Duck populations.
- Dogs should be excluded from known sites.
- Machinery/vehicles should be excluded from Blue Duck riparian zones.
- Harvesting operations, in compartments containing known Blue Duck nesting areas, should only take place in the months of December to August each year.
- Best management practises should always be followed to ensure trees are directionally felled away and not dragged through Blue Duck populations and buffer zones.