



**B**ut where is its pack and ice axe? Pukeko are known to be extremely adaptable, colonising areas cleared by man with alacrity, so perhaps it should come as no surprise to discover one at 2350 metres, near the Tasman Saddle hut.

Geoffrey Tunnicliffe of the Canterbury Museum reports in the March *Notornis* magazine that famous explorer Charles Douglas had commented: pukeko . . . “can cross the main range, but many must perish on the journey as I have often found them dead on glacier and snowfield.” However, most pukeko are less adventurous than the one pictured, living in the main from 366 metres to sea level.

Photo: Dave McNulty, Mount Cook National Park guide

