



Title: Remote, Grand and Dramatic

Description: Lake Poteriteri, Fiordland in a nor-westerly

Photographer: Rod Hay

Where, when: Lake Poteriteri, Fiordland, November 2015

Sustainability? Lake Poteriteri is in the southern part of Fiordland, Aotearoa New Zealand's largest National Park. At 43 km², it is our 18th largest lake and, more importantly, it is by far our largest lake without road access. It is a two-day walk to reach the tiny Poteriteri Hut and, once there, the remoteness is palpable, particularly given that my companions and I are likely the only people in the entire catchment of several hundred km². Oriented north-south amongst steep mountains in the far south-west of the country, the lake is subject to dramatic northwesterly storms, blowing water off its surface in swirling sheets.

I've been privileged over a number of years to visit Lake Poteriteri to help with Department of Conservation bird counts (we cheat somewhat, flying in by helicopter). These counts have been undertaken before, during and after major pest control operations across Waitutu Forest, which have led to significant recovery of populations of threatened birds, particularly kākā, which had been dwindling in number as a result of the assaults of stoats, weasels, rats and possums. These pest operations are the only way we have currently to control the populations of these pests and sustain populations of our birds as well as threatened plants such as mistletoe in such remote areas.

Photo notes: 1/320s, 300mm, f8, ISO 200, Olympus M.12-50mm F3.5-6.3 OM-D E-M5 m4/3.

Just a matter of being there and trying to keep my lens dry over the course of frequent squalls.

Digital specs: 4608 x 3456 pixels (16 MP)

Key words: Lake Poteriteri, Fiordland National Park, Waitutu, Forest, Wilderness, Weather, Rainbow, Biodiversity, Rod Hay, Ecosystems Photography, Sustainability

Price: \$200 (incl. GST) for use of the digital image

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Donation: The price includes a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for the *Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society*

We recommend that the donation goes to the *Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society* because it is a not-for-profit and nationwide conservation organisation that plays a significant role in conservation advocacy and policy, as well as supporting practical and local community projects.

Image Ref: RH#006 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)

Rod Hay

6 December 2021