

These results are far from conclusive and a mere beginning has been made in what could develop into a most useful and interesting ecological study. Many more observations taken throughout the year are needed before clear patterns can be expected to emerge.

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SHORT NOTE

FIRST RECORD OF A TEREK SANDPIPER FROM THE SOUTH ISLAND

It is with a pleasant anticipation of excitement one always approaches the seal colony at Kaikoura. The scene is beautiful: at low tide the great rocky outcrop on which the seals peer at intruders; the rocky shelf covered with pools where herons probe and little flocks of Turnstones fossick; the blue lagoon fringed with sunlit yellow cotula, contrasting with the pink-legged nesting Stilts; the narrow ridge of salt-washed and startlingly white pebbles; and finally across the breaking surf, the snow-clad Kaikoura Mountains. Such was the scene on 5/10/66, and as usual the area did not fail me. While I was examining a flock of 40 or 50 Turnstones (*A. interpres*) in all plumages roosting on the white pebbles, a slightly smaller and slimmer bird caught my eye by the incessant bobbing of its tail, indeed the hind part of its body. Its overall greyness, white below, immediately marked it as different. As its strongly upcurved black bill came into view its rarity was confirmed and eventually its full beauty was revealed as the golden-yellow legs, with no trace of green, became visible.

It is clear the bird was a Terek Sandpiper (*T. cinerea*), the record extending its known southern range considerably. A very full description was taken on the spot. This was later compared with Witherby *et al.* (Handbook of British Birds) and other books and found to agree in all respects with that of a bird in winter plumage.

— J. M. CUNNINGHAM