



— D. H. Brathwaite

RED-NECKED AVOCET IN WESTLAND

My wife and I were on a visit to New Zealand. On 26/2/68 we found a Red-necked or Australian Avocet (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*) in the Orowaiti Lagoon, Westport. Somewhat larger than the Pied Stilts with which it was feeding, it had a white body with a black stripe along the mantle on each side, chestnut head and neck, slim black upcurved bill and greenish legs. It fed by means of a back and forth sideways sweeping motion of its bill in the shallows of the tidal flat. The first observation was from about 4 to 4.30 p.m. at a distance of 75 yards or less. The weather was clear and the tide was low. A later check was made at dusk after 6 p.m. We found the Avocet in the same locality and all points were confirmed.

— C. G. KAIGLER

[This is the first acceptable report of the sighting of an Australian Avocet in New Zealand since 1912, when a specimen, now in the Canterbury Museum, was shot at Lake Ellesmere. Further observations were made during April and May by B. A. Ellis, T. Hartley-Smith, R. Veitch, P. Grant, H. C. Hooper and G. Harrow. — Ed.]



A GOOD SUMMER FOR TEREK SANDPIPERS

Reports from three separate localities and overlapping dates show that at least six Terek Sandpipers (*Tringa cinerea*) spent the summer of 1967-68 in New Zealand.

In the Firth of Thames, where H. R. McKenzie added the species to the New Zealand list in 1951 and where it is now recorded almost annually, three were found together on 23/12/67. (H.R.McK., R.B.S.) At full tide they were resting conspicuously on the top of a tangle of driftwood a little apart from other small waders, on the shellbank near the old limeworks. On 25/2/68 three were seen again, but not together; two being near the Miranda limeworks again; and one south of Kairito Creek on the edge of a big flock of