

ARCTIC WADERS IN NORTHERN NEW ZEALAND SUMMER 1968 - 69

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Of the thirty-two or so migratory arctic waders now on the New Zealand list, twenty were recorded in the northern harbours during the summer of 1968-69; and three other species were identified much further south, Grey Plover and Sanderling near Bluff (*Notornis* 16: 134), and Snipe at Taieri Lake. For this season no report from Farewell Spit has come to hand — a regrettable gap.

In the far north A.T.E. paid eight visits to Parengarenga Harbour between September 1968 and April 1969; and four more during the winter of 1969, so that information on this rewarding locality is fuller than ever before. The conversion of scratchy scrub-clad gumland into green pastures between Paua and Te Pua Pt. seems to have benefited rather than discouraged the waders, c.f. *Notornis* X, 92. Not only plovers and dotterels but also stints, sandpipers and the bigger long-legged waders have taken to frequenting the grassy paddocks.

Unfortunately no observations were made in Mid-Kaipara; but Jordan's farm, a few miles north of Kaukapakapa, well repaid the attention which it received. The Firth of Thames and Manukau Harbour were as usual under frequent scrutiny and produced their expected quota of rare visitors.

In this summary, no details are given for the two dominant migrants, Bar-tailed Godwits and Knots. As a matter of interest, summer census figures for the Firth of Thames and Manukau respectively were:—

Bartailed Godwit 12700 and 20641

Knot 4803 and 3981

To numerous contributors who supplied notes to supplement or verify our own, we gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness.

P. = Parengarenga in the vicinity of Paua and Te Pua Pt.

K. = Kaipara Harbour in the vicinity of Jordan's Farm.

B.O.I. = Bay of Islands.

M. = Manukau Harbour.

F.O.T. = Firth of Thames.

SPECIES LIST

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (*P. dominica fulva*)

P. 12 on 27/9/68; 57 on 13/10/68; c. 150 on 22/1/69; c. 200 on 23/3/69 and 7/4/69.

B.O.I. Parties visit Kerikeri Inlet on passage throughout the season, e.g. 8 in October; 16 in April, max. 25 in November.

M. (a) 7 11 from at least 7/1/69 - 22/3/69 at A.M.D.B. No. 4.
(b) Kidds Bay. 45 on 5/1/69 and 23/3/69; 84 on 19/3/69.

ORIENTAL DOTTEREL (*C. veredus*)

- P. 31/8/69, 1 in fading plumage, either an early migrant or had overwintered.

LARGE SAND DOTTEREL (*C. leschenaulti*)

- M. 1 at Kidd's seen often between 25/11/68 and 19/3/69.
F.O.T. 1 from 12/10/68 to 27/10/68; but not seen later.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*N. madagascariensis*)

- P. 1 on 24/3/69; 5 over-wintering on 5/7/69; 4 on 20/7/69, 31/8/69 and 4/9/69.
B.O.I. Kerikeri Inlet. 1 on 7/9/68, 12/9/68, 13/1/69, 3/4/69.
K. 1 at Jordan's on 11/1/69.
M. 1 at A.M.D.B. No. 4 on 7/1/69.
F.O.T. 17 on 28/12/68. 27 on 23/2/69, the biggest flock recorded in the North Island; but bigger flocks occur at Farewell Spit. 25 on 9/3/69. Only 3 are known to have overwintered, viz. 3 on 6/7/69, 3/8/69.

ASIATIC WHIMBREL (*N. phaeopus variegatus*)

- P. 9 on 27/9/68; 1 on 22/1/69; 2 on 9/3/69, most likely of this form.
K. 16 at Jordan's on 11/1/69, the biggest flock so far recorded in the North Island.
M. 1 at Tararata Ck. on 15/10/68; 1 at A.M.D.B. on 27/10/68 (sub sp. ?)

AMERICAN WHIMBREL (*N. phaeopus hudsonicus*)

- P. 2 on 13/10/68 and 25/11/68. 1 on 23/3/69.
Clevedon. 1 at Mataitai on 29/9/68 (Notornis 16: 64).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*L. haemastica*)

- P. 1 on 25/3/69.
M. 1 at A.M.D.B. No. 4 at least from 1/10/68, when it was very tired, to 27/10/68. 1 over-wintering on 19/8/69.
F.O.T. 1 at White Bridge on 13/10/68 (S.C.).

ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*L. limosa melanuroides*)

- P. 2 on 5/7/69, over-wintering. 3 on 20/7/69. 2 still present on 4/9/69.
F.O.T. Miranda 2 from 22/10/68 to 7/4/69; also 2 on 6/7/69 over-wintering.

GREENSHANK (*T. nebularia*)

- P. 2 on 27/9/68, 13/10/68, 25/11/68; 1 on 22/1/69; 3 on 24/3/69; 4 on 7/4/69. 3 at Houhora on 2/3/69, possibly the same birds.

MARSH SANDPIPER (*T. stagnatilis*)

- M. 1 at A.M.D.B. No. 4 at least from 11/2/69 to 18/9/69.

SIBERIAN TATTLER (*T. brevipes*)

- P. 1 on 25/11/68. 5 on 24/3/69, probably of this species; and again on 25/3/69; 3 in a tight bunch, length of nasal groove seen; but 2 were not closely observed (A.B.). 1 on 5/7/69 over-wintering.

COMMON SANDPIPER (*T. hypoleucos*)

B.O.I. 1 appeared and fed at a wader roost in Kerikeri Inlet on 20/3/69 (Notornis 16: 202-203).

TEREK SANDPIPER (*Xenus cinereus*)

P. 1 on 25/11/68.

K. Jordan's. 1 on 11/1/69 and 5/4/69.

M. (a) Kidds. 1 on 5/1/69.

(b) 1 at A.M.D.B. at least from 8/3/69 to 4/4/69.

F.O.T. 1 from 12/10/68 to 26/11/68; 2 from at least 29/12/68 to 9/3/69.

TURNSTONE (*A. interpres*)

P. c. 150 in Sept.; c. 300 in Oct.; Dec. c. 50; Jan. c. 265; c. 450 on 9/3/69; c. 600 on 23/3/69; c. 700 on 7/4/69; 8 on 5/7/69 and 20/7/69.

M. Karaka. 50+ on 28/10/68; 200+ on 25/11/68; 145 on 22/12/68; 260 on 19/3/69; 120 on 22/3/69; 10 on 1/6/69 over-wintering.

F.O.T. 20 on 9/10/68; 25 on 12/10/68; c. 60 on 10/11/68; 25+ on 23/2/69.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*C. acuminata*)

P. 1 on 25/10/68; 6 on 25/11/68; 15 on 26/12/68. 1 on 22/1/69. 6 on 9/3/69. 11 on 24/3/69. 3 on 7/4/69.

M. (a) A.M.D.B. No. 4. 1 from 11/2/69 to 8/3/69; 3 on 22/3/69 and 4/4/69.

(b) Kidds. 1 on 29/11/68; 1 on 23/3/69.

F.O.T. 2 on 10/11/68. 14 on 24/11/68. 4 on 29/12/68. 2 on 23/2/69 and 9/3/69.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotos*)

M. 1 at A.M.D.B. on 13/11/68.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*C. ferruginea*)

P. 3 on 27/9/68; 4 on 26/12/68; 2 on 9/3/69, 24/3/69 and 7/4/69.

F.O.T. 3 on 24/11/68. 9+ on 10/1/69. 6+ on 23/2/69. 5+ on 9/3/69.

RED-NECKED STINT (*C. ruficollis*)

P. 5 on 27/9/68; 20 on 25/10/68; 18 on 9/3/69; 54 on 23/3/69; 31 on 7/4/69; 10 on 20/7/69, over-wintering.

M. At Kidds. 8 on 28/10/68; 13 on 25/11/68; 11+ on 5/1/69; 17 on 1/2/69 and 9/2/69; 10 on 23/3/69; 8+ on 27/3/69. (If a reported count of 41 on 9/11/68 is correct, it may mean that a southbound flock paused as it passed through. No such numbers were found on any other date.)

F.O.T. 4 on 9/10/68; 12 on 27/10/68; 15 on 10/11/68; 19 on 14/12/68; 16+ on 23/2/69; 13+ on 9/3/69.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER (*Limicola falcinellus*)

F.O.T. 2 on 10/1/69 and 23/2/69; 1 on 9/3/69.