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 STOUT, G. D., MATTHIESSEN, P., CLEM, R. V., and PALMER, R. S., 1967: The Shorebirds of North America, Viking Press, New York. *Calidris bairdii*.
 WITHERBY, H. F., JOURDAIN, F. C. R., TICEHURST, N. F., and TUCKER, W. T., 1940: The Handbook of British Birds, Vol. 4, H. F. & G. Witherby Ltd., London. *Calidris bairdii*.

[When the original account of the discovery of this small sandpiper was submitted to the Rare Birds Committee, some misgivings were felt about the identification, mainly because the legs were described as "indefinitely yellowish brown." However, since either this or another Baird's Sandpiper has now been found, studied and photographed in the Firth of Thames, the Convener of the Rare Birds Committee is of the opinion that this claim to the first sighting of Baird's Sandpiper in New Zealand should be published. — Ed.]



SHORT NOTE

WHITE NELLY ASHORE ALIVE IN HAURAKI GULF

On 8/8/70 a White Nelly *Macronectes giganteus* was found ashore at Orere Pt., Clevedon, by Mr. and Mrs. H. Volk of Manurewa. It appeared to be hungry and somewhat exhausted. Some bread was accepted, but strangely enough, mussel was refused. The bird was then taken to Mr. T. A. Jenkins, taxidermist, was reported to me and identified. A plan to revive the bird with a view to liberation was decided upon. T.A.J. made a pen for it on his lawn and cared for it till August 25. Mr. Volk met all expenses; the Rosses of Kawakawa Bay provided fish offal; my wife and I kept up a supply of seawater for drinking. Codliver oil was used. Improvement was rapid and the Nelly began climbing the wire-netting of its pen and trying to escape.

An added interest was that the bird carried a band reading "5033461 British Museum S.W.7." This was not removed. But a report to the British Museum was answered by the B.T.O. to the effect that the banding had been done at Signey Island in the South Orkneys on 5/3/70 when it was still non-flying. Thus when it came ashore it was only five months out of the nest.

The plumage was not entirely white. There were scattered spots of black and a few two-inch black feathers except on head and tail. The webs of the feet had pale spots. The bill was light tan white. Measurements in m.m. were:— Bill 100; wing 520; tarsus 100; tail c. 200; mid-toe 145.

Arrangements to release the bird well out to sea were made with the very helpful officers of M.V. Pukeko at Onehunga. This was done at 0010 hours on August 26 about 36 miles north of New Plymouth. The wind was light, S.W., 3 knots and the sea was slight with a low swell. The Nelly slowly came out of its carton and wandered around for a few minutes before flying about fifty yards and settling quietly on the sea. Further observation was impossible because of the darkness.

Sibson (Notornis 16, 46) has shown that white Nellies rarely come as far north as the Auckland coast and Capt. John Jenkins tells me that during his many voyages in New Zealand waters he has not yet seen a white specimen among the hundreds, even thousands, of brown Nellies which have followed his ships.

— H. R. McKENZIE