

All birds seen were in apparent good health and had bright plumage with a sheen in the feathers, which is of particular interest since daylight appearance of species regarded as nocturnal is often indicative of poor health amongst other things. None of us has previously seen such numerous signs of kiwis and the population was considered to be prolific in our experience. The importance of keeping predators, dogs in particular, from such areas is obvious. If worms form a major part of the birds' diet, then this food is abundant also judging from the numbers of casts seen. Contrary to popular opinion, it would appear that the kiwi is not solely nocturnal. Hearing and smell, rather than sight, were used to identify intruders. No calls were heard during our observations but only occurred at night.

This area would provide an excellent study ground for investigations into the ecology of kiwis and it certainly appears that such a study for zoological and park captivity purposes is desirable.

REFERENCE

HORGAN, K. P. 1970. Notes on calling and behaviour of the Stewart Island Kiwi. *Notornis* 17 (2): 132.

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MARSH SANDPIPER AT NAPIER

On 22 January 1972, two OSNZ members and I were checking mixed birds at Ahuriri, Napier, when we noticed a small, slender, grey and white wader feeding amongst a group of Pied Stilts in shallow water. It was noticeably smaller than its companions and its method of feeding was a sweeping movement as well as quick prods. After being chased out of the water by a stilt, the little wader stood on the sand-flat for a short time when we were able to take some details down.

Predominantly white from the face down through the underparts, it had a grey head, with the grey extending down over the back and had a dark line along the shoulders. Olive-green long legs and a slender $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long black bill were other features of this wader. At a second attempt to feed in the water it was again chased by a stilt and put to flight, and this time we were able to see the white rump with the white extending up the back, and the legs beyond the tail.

We identified this bird as a Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) and this identification was confirmed next day by Mr N. B. MacKenzie and Mr B. A. Ellis. This is the first occasion that this species has been recorded at Ahuriri, and only six sight records for the whole of New Zealand are listed in the OSNZ Annotated Checklist (1970). Also seen at Ahuriri during the same period were 12 White-winged Black Terns (*Chlidonias leucopterus*). Although generally hawking after insects one was seen to break the water and take a small fish.

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