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SHORT NOTE

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER ON N.I. EAST COAST

In May 1973 a duck shooter reported to me the sighting of a strange bird on the Mata River, a tributary of the Waiapu, which flows into the sea 15 km south of East Cape. He saw a similar bird on two successive mornings, some 3 km apart, and from his description it was obviously a Spur-winged Plover, *Lobibyx novaehollandiae*. On 20 November 1973 J. C. Henley recorded one at the Waiapu River estuary; and then on 27 July 1974, I heard a bird call briefly from a coastal valley 8 km north of Gisborne, and moments later another flew overhead, calling vigorously, to join the first bird. From these records it would appear that the Spur-winged Plover is widely prospecting new territory up the East Coast, and perhaps now breeding, if the last two were a pair.

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