

WAI AU

The total of birds seen on hunting trips for parts of 47 months (from 1 to 24 days per month) was 1772 (37,212).

Count days per month averaged 5; days seen 4.4; days not seen 0.6.

Daily counts of birds ranged from 0 to 11.

Count days totalled 234 and the total birds seen 1772, giving an average of 7.6 (38) per count day.

Notes an Analysis

The Robin, as with the Whitehead and the Pied Tit, was readily seen owing to the bush being unspoiled and to my being on the move so much. However, the count of 7.6 per day while Tihoi had 1.7 and Minginui 0.98 indicates a much larger population for Waiau.

LITERATURE CITED

- ST. PAUL, R. 1975. A Bushman's seventeen years of noting birds Part B — New Zealand Pipit, Grey Warbler, North Island Fantail and Silvereye. *Notornis* 22 (4): 273-282.
STIDOLFH, R. H. D. 1971. The birds around us. Masterton: Hedley's Bookshop.



SHORT NOTE

LITTLE WHIMBREL IN THE BAY OF PLENTY

When visiting Maketu Harbour on 6 January 1976, I spotted an unusual bird being chased by godwits which were coming onto a small island to roost, approximately 50 m off-shore. When the godwits settled down the bird quietly mixed among some Pied Stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*). The bird seemed very nervous since it was continually standing up and sitting down. At that distance with a 25 x telescope I could not see the bill, but the light was good and the colour, shape and size of the bird seemed similar to that of a Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) except the neck which appeared longer.

Having rowed out to the opposite side of the island I managed to crawl close to the bird and had excellent views of the important features. The beak was about 30-50 mm long, down-curved and pinkish at the base. The legs were bluish-grey and there was a buff coloured eye stripe. The crown was dark brown with a buff median stripe. Underparts were pale with brown streaks on the breast. After exhaustively studying the bird on the ground, I made it take flight to observe the rump which was brownish with a barred tail.

Later that day I saw the bird feeding on the mud, but it has not been seen since. I believe this to be the first record for the Bay of Plenty. Other notable waders seen here this season are: 6 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*), 6 Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius madagascariensis*), 7 Knot (*C. canutus*), 2 Wrybilled Plovers (*Anarhynchus frontalis*) and 2 Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*.)

TONY PALLISER, 12 Russel Crescent, Rotorua.