

# SUMMARY OF APPEARANCES OF CHARADRIUS LESCHENAUTI.

Season.	Locality.	Dates.	Remarks
1943-44	Manukau. Puke-tutu causeway	20 Aug. and 5 Sept.	With wrybills. Not seen later.
1945-46	Manukau. Puhinui	30 Sept. and 10 Oct.	Alone on fringe of big pack of godwits. Not seen again.
1947-48	(a) Manukau, Kāraka (b) Firth of Thames. Miranda Coast.	19 July—6 Sept. 20 Dec.—15 Feb.	Identity of this bird now believed certain. (D.A.U.) Mainly in association with banded dotterels.
1948-49	Ditto	22 Oct.—6 Mar.	Usually associating with wrybills or banded dotterels.
1949-50	(a) Ditto  (b) Manukau. Kāraka.	15 Oct. (2)—26 Feb (1)  18 Dec.—7 Apr.	The two separated, only one, a moulting adult being seen subsequently. Possibly the second Miranda bird.
1950-51	Firth of Thames. Miranda coast	11 Nov. (2)—10 Feb. (1)	The two again separated. First with three red-breasted dotterels. Later once located on arable with Pacific golden plover.
1951-51	Ditto	26 Aug.—13 Jan.	
1952-53	Ditto	28 Sept.—7 Dec.	An adult moulting out of breeding plumage.

## LITTLE WHIMBREL AT NAPIER.

By D. H. Brathwaite, Napier.

To my previous account (Notornis, Vol. 5, p. 117) of a bird seen at Napier and identified as the little whimbrel (*Numenius minutus*) I am able to add further details. On October 26, 1952, Mr. G. Crawford and I saw what was presumably the same bird on the margin of a small marshy pool, about a quarter of a mile from the place where previously seen. The light was less favourable this time, but the striped crown was clearly to be seen. It was possible to observe the bird against a background of water and the decurved bill could also be seen, confirming my previous impression. When the bird flew away it was again seen to have no perceptible pattern.

On Sunday, April 12, 1953, in company with Miss C. Saxby, of Napier, I saw a smallish wader alight in a pool. We were able to approach to within twenty yards or so and watch the bird through binoculars. It was facing away from us, but, as it turned its head the striped crown and decurved, slender bill, came into view and I realized that it was a little whimbrel, the third occurrence within ten months.

So far as I can ascertain, there are only two waders whose descriptions fit the bird seen, these being the little whimbrel (*Numenius minutus*) and the Eskimo curlew (*Numenius borealis*). As the latter appears to be so rare as to be possibly extinct, its occurrence in New Zealand is hardly to be expected, but in any case descriptions of its call notes do not fit those heard from the bird being discussed. Stead (1923, p. 492) remarked of the little whimbrel that "It is very like a golden plover in its winter plumage, and, excepting for its larger size and its longer and curved bill, might easily be mistaken for that bird at a distance." I was not, at first, in agreement with this statement, but the bird seen in April was standing in rather a hunched attitude, and its resemblance to a golden plover was so striking that until I saw the striped crown and curved bill I thought it was that species, one of which had been seen about half an hour earlier.

The little whimbrel has previously been recorded in New Zealand on only four occasions, all at Lake Ellesmere. One of these was in June (1900, two birds) and the other three in March (1921, 1922 and 1925). It is interesting that, after a lapse of twenty-seven years, the species should be seen three times within one year.

## REFERENCE.

Stead, 1923.—Trans. N.Z. Inst., Vol. 54, pp. 490-495.