After flying a few chains it settled on a patch of ooze where I was able to watch it feeding near some Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. It was interesting to note that as it feeds in very shallow water its long legs cause it to tip its back and tail sharply upwards in what might almost be called a diagnostic attitude. In deeper water it does not hesitate to wade up to its belly in order to feed off the small organisms which are swimming near the surface. I was specially struck by the whiteness of the face, throat and underparts; and from the lack of spotting on the throat which an adult should have at this season, I am inclined to believe that this bird is a juvenile, about nine months old. The real darkness of the wings is best seen in flight, when the downbeat of the wings is strong and incisive and there is a marked pause between strokes.

It was an alert bird. Once it jumped and flew a few yards alone, revealing the white up the back and bobbing nervously with its head when it landed. Though the Marsh Sandpiper is perhaps the most elegant of the smaller waders, for a moment just before settling it has an angular, gangling appearance.

During the ensuing week this bird was generally found in the shallows at the head of the pool among Stilts, which were evidently the company it preferred, though it barely reached up to their bellies. When the Stilts flew in alarm, it went with them, sometimes leading the flight. Only once was it seen to go off on a longish flight independently, but it soon returned. The Marsh Sandpiper is essentially a wader of fresh and brackish pools, not of the tideline.

Not surprisingly, this rare visitor attracted much attention and was well seen by Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Heather, Mr. and Mrs. J. Prickett, Mrs. R. B. Sibson and Peter Skegg, on March 27th and 28th. On Easter Sunday, March 29th, Mr. H. R. McKenzie studied it under most favourable conditions and was able to confirm all the points of identification mentioned above and to add that the colour of the legs was greenish. On April 5th it was under observation for a considerable time by Messrs. E. F. Dodson, J. C. Davenport, A. Ringer, Tim Ledgard and several boys from King's College.

On April 25th, the Marsh Sandpiper was at first a little difficult to find, as it was in deep water on the outer fringe of a multitude of Stilts, but it was eventually well seen by Mrs. L. Fooks, Miss M. C. R. McIntyre, A. C. Hipwell, N. M. Gleeson and myself. It was still present on May 13th, when Peter Skegg and I approached within a chain of it. In the meanwhile photographs had been obtained by Messrs. J. Prickett and D. A. Urquhart.

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PRATINCOLE RECORDS IN NEW ZEALAND

By. R. A. FALLA

On 14th May, 1959, Mrs. P. Moncrieff, of Nelson, forwarded to the Dominion Museum the body of a Pratincole which had been shot near Appleby and later forwarded to Mrs. Moncrieff by Mr. E. Rogers. Mrs. Moncrieff's tentative identification of the bird as an Oriental Pratincole *(Glareola maldivarum)* is confirmed by an examination of the specimen. It is an adult male in good plumage, the dimensions in

the flesh being: Wing 180 mm., Tail 66 (total), Tarsus 32, Middle toe and claw 25, Culmen 14.5.

On first consideration this appears to be a new record for New Zealand, but it has prompted a re-examination of the evidence for the inclusion of the Australian Pratincole *(Stiltia isabella)*, first recorded by Buller (1898), with further elaboration in 1905, and since repeated in all published lists of New Zealand birds. Buller was advised of the securing of the specimen at Westport by Mr. William Townson, and it is clear from the text of Townson's letter quoted by Buller that the bird was in fact *Glareola maldivarum* and not *Stiltia isabella*. "Black line bordering the buff-coloured throat" and the "scarlet margin to the gape" are clear enough to be completely diagnostic. This means that the Australian Pratincole must be expunged from the New Zealand list and the Oriental Pratincole substituted with two records as far apart as 1898 and 1959. It is interesting, however, to note the additional comment by Townson that he heard of a party of five being seen on the beach at Westport a few days after the shooting of the 1898 specimen.

These occurrences are another interesting example of the drift to New Zealand of Asiatic breeding birds migrating regularly to Australia. Most of the high-flying insect-hawking forms common in Australia during the southern summer have now been recorded intermittently in New Zealand.

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NARRATIVE OF A VISIT TO THE NEWLY-DISCOVERED EMPEROR PENGUIN ROOKERY AT COULMAN ISLAND, ROSS SEA, ANARCTICA

By H. J. HARRINGTON

DISCOVERY OF THE ROOKERY

The New Zealand Geological and Survey Antarctic Expedition of twelve men left Port Lyttelton on the heavily-laden ice-breaker U.S.S. *Staten Island* on 22nd November, 1958. After a very stormy passage and slow progress in difficult pack-ice a rendezvous was made with the ice-breaker U.S.S. *Glacier* near the south end of Coulman Island on 6th December.

It was planned that the New Zealand expedition would be landed in two parties in the vicinity of Terra Nova Bay and Wood Bay. The ice-breaker U.S.S. *Glacier,* carrying Captain E. S. McDonald, Deputy-Commander, U.S. Naval Support Force, Antarctica, was to assist in the landing operation. The *Glacier,* which was already in Antarctic waters, left McMurdo Sound a day after the *Staten Island* left Lyttelton to reconnoitre landing sites and helicopter flying conditions in the Terra Nova Bay district. At Terra Nova Bay a wide lead was found extending northwards and was followed to Coulman Island, where the ship waited several days for the *Staten Island.* During the waiting period a helicopter was flown over the summit of the island near its southern