

This new form of Sea Eagle was collected on the Chatham Islands in beach deposits of Quaternary age by H. O. Forbes in February, 1892, and it is quite unlike either the White-bellied Sea Eagle (*H. leucogaster*) ranging into Australia and western Polynesia or the Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus audax*) of Australia, and is very different, in size at least, from the other New Zealand Extinct Eagle (*Harpagornis moorei*), a bird as big as the gigantic fossil *Teratornis* of California.

LITERATURE CITED

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ELLIOT W. DAWSON



GREY PLOVER AT LAKE GRASSMERE

On 20/1/61 I travelled to Blenheim with Messrs. E. K. S. Rowe and F. C. Kinsky, en route to the Farewell Spit Field-study Course. We stopped at Lake Grassmere, in order to visit the colonies of terns and gulls which breed there. As we drove along one of the embankments, several Godwits and some smaller waders flew away from a low island about 60-80 yards from us. On our way back we stopped at the same spot to see if they had returned. There was no sign of the Godwits, but we could see several smaller waders feeding, of which all except one proved to be Turnstones. The other bird was of a kind which none of us had ever seen.

In colour it was a nondescript grey, too long in the leg to be a Knot and in build not unlike a Golden Plover. This, together with the stoutness of the short bill, led me to suspect that it might be a Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), so I warned my companions to watch for the black axillaries if the bird flew. A few minutes later it took off, flying towards our right and displaying clearly to all three of us the black axillaries, which were even more conspicuous than I had expected them to be. Although the bird seemed to lack the speckled appearance shown in various field-guides, and looked greyer on the breast, the missing of such minor details of plumage could be attributed to the poor light. The heavy bill and the black axillaries left no doubt in my mind as to the identification.

This is the second acceptable record of the Grey Plover in New Zealand and the first for the South Island.

D. H. BRATHWAITE



GREY-BACKED STORM PETREL AT MILFORD SOUND

On 17/2/61, during one of the breaks at Milford Sound between work in the Tutoko Valley on Kakapo investigation, a small sea-bird was brought to me for identification. This bird had flown against the lighted window of the radio hut near the Milford Hotel. The bird was a Grey-backed Storm Petrel (*Garrodia nereis*) and as it was uninjured it was released down the Sound the following day.

The general plumage was sooty black with a large extent of grey down the back. The lower breast and abdomen were white. The bill and legs including the feet were black. It was considerably smaller than the more widely known White-faced Storm Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*).

BRIAN D. BELL