

Date.	Time of Departure.	Approx. time of High Tide.
May 2	9.30 a.m.	6.00 a.m.
May 3	9.50 a.m.	6.50 a.m.
May 6	11.20 a.m.	9.10 a.m.
May 8	2.30 p.m.	10.45 a.m.

iii. **P. C. Bull at Whangapoua.**

Whangapoua Har. (Coromandel Peninsula) May 11: 5 in eclipse in paddock of young grass where they were reported regularly (up to 30 in wet weather). They apparently make regular trips from the paddock to sea (2 miles away) as observed at Mangere.

May 13: 3 dotterel on the ocean side of Matarangi Peninsula. 30 on the sandy mud of the gently shelving harbour side at low tide. All in eclipse, though Mangere birds had in some cases good bands by this date. Possibly the Matarangi Peninsula is a breeding place.

7. **NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Pluviorhynchus obscurus*).**

Counted meticulously. 50-60 would seem to be the population. A few were donning breeding plumage. They were usually in small scattered parties, e.g., 3, 4, 7, 9. Fed busily on sand exposed by receding tide. Also sleeping high and dry on the beach when the tide was low. Distributed over the whole beach from Ahipara-Scott Point; though it was noted that there were hardly any where the beach is backed by vegetation-covered dunes. [May 9-15, 1940 (R.B.S.)]

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8. **WRYBILL PLOVER (*Anarhynchus frontalis*).**

Still breeding as elsewhere recorded on beds of Rakaia, Waimakariri and Ashley Rivers (E.F.S.).

Winter range and distribution indicated in following observations from Muriwai (C.A.F.):—

Date	Wrybill
Dec., 1939	Nil
Feb. 21., 1940	3
Mar. 10, 1940	5
Mar. 23, 1940	(15)
Mar. 31, 1940	None seen
Apr. 7, 1940	(1)
Apr. 21, 1940	23
May 5, 1940	8 (strong west gale, no small waders in afternoon)
May 11, 1940	(4)
May 24, 1940	26
June 9, 1940	82

In previous years small flocks of up to 30 birds have been seen in the Manukau, viz: 1/2/39, March 1937, 24/3/36, April 1937.

Manukau Harbour: 25 May, 1940, flock of 15, very tame, dark breast bands just beginning to show. 5 July, flock of 15, breast bands well developed (P.C.B.).

9. **GODWIT (*Limosa baueri*).**

From the year's reports it is proposed only to list the numbers recorded in various localities on various dates.

Ninety Mile Beach: Only 36 seen, none in breeding plumage 9-15th May, 1940 (R.B.S.).

Whangarei Harbour: About 300 remained winter, 1939 (W.S.).

Manukau Harbour: (particularly the mudflats lying between Puketutu I. and Ihumatao Peninsula).

Feb. 27, 1940: 500 flying over Puketutu—the last large flock seen and migration must have occurred soon after.

Mar. 20: 200 on mudflats.

May 25: 150 on mudflats. Since March 10th the numbers have been fairly constant at about 120. All are in "eclipse," and apparently non-migratory. (P.C.B.)

Whangapoua Harbour:

May 13: About 30 on harbour side of Matarangi Peninsula; all seemed in eclipse and apparently non-migratory. (P.C.B.)

Muriwai:

March 10: 140 birds; a few in red plumage, apparently migration not yet occurred.

May 24: 25, all in eclipse. (P.C.B.)

Muriwai to South Kaipara: (Figures in brackets indicate that only part of the beach was covered.)

21 Feb.	350	7 April	Nil
10 March	228	21 April	35
23 March	(11)	5 May	35
31 March, 100 (many in red breeding plumage)		24 May	37
		9 June	41
			(C.A.F.)

Okarito Lagoon: Some hundreds present Dec.-Jan., 1939-40. (R.B.S.)

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10. WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*).

The following observations were made by C. A. Fleming:

The tradition that Chatham Island population of this species leaves the group in winter was the incentive to counting and observation of mainland birds in winter of 1939. After breeding season, young and old congregate on sandy coasts often some miles from breeding ground, and spend time at high tide sitting on shell banks. This behaviour apparently covers moulting. Waikanae R.: January 1939, mob of about 200 birds—young and old (Kapiti breeders?). A single Arctic tern was with them—see elsewhere. 8th April, 1939, between Milford and Waiwera (N. Akld.) several mobs (200, 250, and smaller numbers). Fair percentage of young. No adults had streamers.

15/4/39—Tapu, Coromandel, 240 birds on beach—only 4 showed dark backs of immature birds—some in adult plumage (judged young already moulted—very doubtful). None with streamers; all with broad white foreheads—a few with flecks on black heads. Flock joined by parties of few birds from sea, with fish. Others left periodically. General habit of preening and dropping moulted feathers.

3/6/39.—75 birds only present; still moulting. 2 or 3 showing juvenal backs. No streamers.

(In July, 1936, an adult was washed up with streamers fully grown.)

7/7/39. 12 birds present.

29/7/39. No flocks present; a few seen at sea and a dead bird (wounded at breast) found near creek with moulted feathers and droppings indicating that flock was present at some time of day (night). The dead bird had small but adult testes (male), fine fish bones in proventriculus; moult conspicuous on breast, where new feathers were suffused with pink glow. Streamers were quite conspicuous (new feathers). Head with few white flecks.

18/8/39. No flock on beach.

16/9/39. Again no flock on beach but a dead bird—immature male with adult plumage except for slight brownish mottling on wing border, and dark tail without streamers. Testes small but light coloured as if developing. No flocks in October.

Two birds found dead in June, 1937, had already developed streamers and one had lost the white-flecked head. Apparently casualties are due to cats or dogs which catch the birds, gorged or resting at night, but do not maul the bodies.