

## SHORT NOTE

### First wrybill (*Anarhynchus frontalis*) record from the Chatham Islands

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On 13 June 1999, a wrybill (*Anarhynchus frontalis*) was seen on the Hapupu Flats, Te Whanga Lagoon, Chatham Islands (43°48'S, 176°22'W). The Hapupu/Wairua Flats are a low salt meadow with scattered clumps of rushes, interspersed with muddy channels draining into the lagoon. It is one of the best areas of wader habitat in the Chatham Islands. Although banded dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*) were common along the Flats the solitary wrybill remained separate. The bird fed along muddy channels and the shore of the lagoon.

Wrybill breed on the braided rivers of the central South Island, with most birds migrating to the large tidal harbours of the northern North Island following breeding (Heather & Robertson 1996). Presumably this wrybill had been blown eastward during the annual northward migration of the species.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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#### LITERATURE CITED

Heather, B. D.; Robertson, H. A. 1996. *The field guide to the birds of New Zealand*. Auckland, Viking. 432 p.

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