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### A 1973 record of Chestnut-breasted Shelducks

While going back through my notes of field observations recently, I came across one dated 20 January 1973 about what were at the time two puzzling shelducks, seen on the bed of the Hokitika River downstream of the Kaniere township bridge. My notebook has notes and a sketch of one bird, plus a comment that both birds had similar plumage.

Having knowledge now of the Chestnut-breasted Shelduck (*Tadorna tadornoides*), I submitted the record to the Rare Birds Committee, which has accepted the record as the first sighting for New Zealand. The sketch and description show that one bird was a male, and the other may have been also.

This note should be read in relation to the article by Heather (1987; The Chestnut-breasted Shelduck in New Zealand 1983-1986, *Notornis* 34: 71-77), as it brings to light a record that was not available to him.

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