

Text and images extracted from Aikman, H. & Miskelly, C. (2004).
Birds of the Chatham Islands. Department of Conservation, Wellington.
Page 57.



Lesser knot *Calidris canutus*

24 cm

The lesser knot is a plump, short-legged, grey-and-white wader with a heavy, straight black bill. The head, neck and breast become rusty red when in breeding plumage. The lesser knots that migrate to New Zealand (including the Chatham Islands) breed at high latitudes in northeast Siberia. Up to 1800 knots visit Chatham Island during the summer months, occurring in small flocks around Te Whanga Lagoon, especially along the eastern shore.



Lesser knots in non-breeding plumage, with one in partial breeding plumage.

Photo: Brian Chudleigh.