PECTORAL SANDPIPER.

**Family** Scolopacidae  
**Species** *Calidris melanotos*  
**Common name** Pectoral Sandpiper  
**Status** Migrant  
**Abundance** Rare  
**Size** 230 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 220 mm)  
**Habitat** Muddy estuaries and harbours.  
**Worldwide range** Both a Siberian and North American breeding species. The North American birds migrate to winter on the western shores of South America, while the Siberian birds migrate down the western Pacific with a few birds arriving in Australia and New Zealand.  
**New Zealand range** Can be expected in regular shore-bird haunts October
onwards in very small numbers.

**Description – non-breeding**

**Head, throat and breast** Brown streaked with dark brown. The brown of the breast ends abruptly in a clean line at the start of white. **Upperparts and wings** Dark brown with buff edges to feathers, with a thin white line across the middle of the wings. **Abdomen** Whitish. **Bill** Brown with yellow base. **Legs** Yellow.

**Description – breeding**

**Upperparts** Feathers become dark brown when in breeding plumage with some chestnut and buff feather edges. **Breast** Brown, heavily streaked with dark brown.

**Conspicuous feature**

- Sharp cut-off line between the brown of the breast and the white of the abdomen.

**Conspicuous characteristics**

- Usually found among flocks of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers.
- Feeds at high-tide roosts while other species are resting.
- Found on the edges of roosting Wrybill flocks.
- Has a habit of stretching its neck forward while holding wings back.

**Where to find – North Island**

**South Auckland** – Miranda at the “Stilt Ponds” among vegetated verges. P. 302.

**Other areas** – Kaituna, Maketu, Matata, Ahuriri, and Manawatu Estuary.

**Where to find – South Island**

**Marlborough** – Motueka at the sandspit. P. 344.
**Marlborough** – Nelson at Waimea Estuary. P. 343.
**South Canterbury** – Lake Wainono. P. 356.
**Southland** – Waituna Lagoon and Awarua Bay. P. 364.