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Willie wagtail: pp 200-201.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* (Latham 1802), Vagrant (1)
27/10/1999 Mangere Island, Chatham Islands

Tertia Thurley, John Neilsen, Brenda Oldfield and Helen Gummer found this bird on Mangere Island, 800 km east of the South Island. This is an unusual record as it had overshot the main islands, probably being carried by the 'jet stream'. The 'wagtail' (actually a terrestrial fantail) was found at 0900h, and watched intensively in the morning, and later at dusk. It perched on boulders and driftwood at the base of a steep cliff on the western side of the island (Gummer 2002).

It was extremely active, feeding on insects in the kelp on the high-tide line. It had distinctive black and white plumage and jizz, especially the long laterally wagging tail, which made identification simple. It was thought that the bird may have been a first-year, blown off course on its way south on migration from Queensland to south-east Australia.

Buller (1905) mentions it, a specimen from the Auckland Province, but was doubtful as to its true origin (Hutton (1871). Hutton thought it had come from Australia. W. Swainson told Buller he had seen it near Wellington.

