

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Great knot: pp 144-145.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* (Horsfield 1821), Migrant (45)
15/10/1967 Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu

I.G. Andrew (1968) found three Great Knots at the Manawatu estuary on a bitterly cold spring day, in a strong north-westerly. The use of a telescope assisted in identification, in that era, a very rare aid. Andrew had spotted a squat grayish bird amongst the Godwit flock. After the biting cold had driven him to seek shelter, he returned and found a group of three Great Knots amongst Lesser Knots.

Of the eleven people in the party, only three actually saw the Great Knots: I.G.A., Miss S. Quin and an anonymous other, as eight members had to return home. Andrew's excellent description and previous experience of the species in Australia meant the record was readily accepted. It has since been recorded over 40 times, with the original site being the most favoured locality in New Zealand.