

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
Dunlin: p 150.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (Linnaeus 1758), Vagrant (5)
24/2/1974 Tapora, Kaipara, Northland

The previous first record, by J.P. Croxall at Puketutu, Manukau on 19/11/1969 is now rejected (Marchant & Higgins 1996). The first confirmed occurrence was five years later in Kaipara Harbour. Beth Brown (1975) and four others found a stranger amongst New Zealand Dotterel on Large Sand Island in February 1974. Observations were made for a ten-minute period from 30m distance. First impressions were of “a snipe-like bird in a squatting position”. Identification was confirmed by the black belly patch and dark-centered rump.