

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Pectoral sandpiper: pp 170-171.



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.