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Pectoral sandpiper: p 148.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* (Viellot 1819), Migrant
1903 Lake Ellesmere, Canterbury
31/10/1981 Norfolk Island

The first record was one collected unknowingly by E.F. Stead (1923) at Lake Ellesmere in 1903. He and Archey recognised this specimen in his collection much later in 1923, after he had obtained others.

“In 1903 I shot a sandpiper at Lake Ellesmere, and put it in my Collection as *Heteropygia acuminata*, and it was not until a few days ago, when I was going through some of my birds with Mr. Archey, that we discovered the bird was *Pisobia maculata*. This is the first specimen of which we have any record for New Zealand. Since then I have secured several more specimens, one of which is mounted in the Canterbury Museum, and three of which I have in my own collection. All of these birds are in their winter plumage.

There is not a great deal of difference between the marsh ((sic) =sharp-tailed) and pectoral sandpipers, and what there is would be almost impossible of detection in the field. The pectoral sandpiper breeds in Arctic America and migrates south through the American continent in the winter even so far as Patagonia and the Falkland Islands. It also occurs in eastern Asia, and it is doubtless from there that these birds have come to New Zealand, joining up with the flocks of knots and godwits” (Stead 1923).

Oliver (1930) said that the first record was in 1909 from Lake Ellesmere, so was not then aware of this earlier record.