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Little stint: p 146.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* (Leisler 1812), Vagrant (2)
18/2/1993 Lake Ellesmere, Canterbury

Colin Hill observed an unusual stint on 30/11/1992 at Lake Ellesmere, which was possibly a Little Stint, but no description was taken. The first definite sighting was on 18/2/1993 when Sheila Petch and Kathleen Harrison found one amongst 61 Red-necked Stints (Crocker et al. 2002). The orange-rufous plumage was distinctly different to the reddish plumage of the accompanying Red-necked Stints. A very tame bird, it was seen by various observers until 25/4/1993.

A second Little Stint was seen in January 1995 at Lake Ellesmere. As Lake Ellesmere is the most important wintering site in New Zealand for Red-necked Stints, it is perhaps not too surprising other “peeps” have been found here.