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

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Wandering tattler: pp 178-179.



### WANDERING TATTLER

**Family** Scolopacidae

**Species** *Tringa incana*

**Common name** Wandering Tattler

**Status** Migrant

**Abundance** Rare

**Size** 270 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Bar-tailed Godwit 390 mm)

**Habitat** Coastal and estuaries.

**Worldwide range** Breeds in coastal Alaska and migrates south across the tropical islands of the Pacific where it is regularly seen.

**New Zealand range** Turns up in shore bird localities from time to time.

**Description** (See Siberian Tattler article)

## **Differences between Siberian and Wandering Tattlers**

- Very hard to separate if you can't hear the song.
- Wandering Tattlers are bigger than Siberian Tattlers.
- In the hand the length of the nasal groove can be seen to be slightly longer in the Wandering Tattler.
- In breeding plumage the Wandering Tattler has undertail barring and barring on the abdomen and lower breast. The Siberian Tattler has indistinct barring undertail and lighter barring on breast and abdomen. Birds seen in New Zealand usually show only traces of barring.
- The Wandering Tattler has a very narrow white eye-stripe behind the eye and less white in front of the eye than the bolder stripe of the Siberian Tattler.
- The Wandering Tattler has longer wings, making its tail appear shorter.
- The Wandering Tattler is an overall darker bird.
- The Wandering Tattler has a distinctive call, a trill of "tew tew tew tew tew teeew" notes which differ greatly from the less musical Siberian Tattler whose call is a two syllable "two-eet two-eet", the second note being of higher pitch than the first.

### **Where to find**

**Northland** – It occasionally turns up at Manukapua Island . P. 287.

**South Auckland** – It occasionally is seen at Miranda as is the Siberian Tattler. They are very difficult to separate if you can't hear their calls. Here expect them on the shellbanks. P. 302.

**Pacific Islands** – This bird is easiest seen in such places as Tahiti, Rarotonga, Vanuatu and Fiji. Here it is a conspicuous bird which sits on shoreline rocks about the lagoons. It regularly calls as it flies from one roost to another. Often it can be seen feeding side by side with Pacific Golden Plover.