

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

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

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Terek sandpiper: pp 182-183.



#### TEREK SANDPIPER

**Family** Scolopacidae

**Species** *Xenus cinereus*

**Common name** Terek Sandpiper

**Status** Migrant

**Abundance** Rare

**Size** 230 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Wrybill 200 mm)

**Habitat** A bird of muddy estuaries and harbours.

**Worldwide range** It breeds in northern Europe and migrates to areas which include East Africa, India and the countries of the western Pacific rim including Australia. A few straggle on to New Zealand to become a regular migrant.

**New Zealand range** Recorded in places such as the Manukau Harbour, Miranda, Kaituna Estuary, Ahuriri, Manawatu Estuary, Waituna Lagoon and Awarua Bay.

### **Description – non-breeding**

**Upperparts** Brownish-grey. **Eyebrow** White. **Breast** Grey with darker shoulder-tabs. **Abdomen** White. **Bill** Brown with a yellow base and longish and up-curved.

**Legs** Yellow.

### **Conspicuous features**

- Long up-curved bill.
- Yellow legs.
- Has a squat posture standing on short legs.

### **Conspicuous characteristics**

- When the bird lands it tends to bob both its head and its tail.
- Feeds with agile running movements sometimes very fast.
- Will wade through shallow water when feeding.
- Tends to associate with flocks of Wrybill roosting on the flock edge.
- At high tide it usually roosts along the waterline.
- When with Wrybills it looks a more solid bird.
- Sometimes it winters over, staying in close contact with Wrybill flocks.

**Call** A trilling “turloop too”.

### **Where to find – North Island**

**South Auckland** – Miranda at the “Stilt Ponds”. P. 302.

**Manukau Harbour** – Te Hihi and Clarks Beach. P. 301.

**Hawkes Bay** – Ahuriri wetlands. P. 330.

**Manawatu** – Manawatu Estuary. P. 336.

### **Where to find – South Island**

**Southland** – Waituna Lagoon and Awarua Bay. P. 364.