

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

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

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Turnstone: pp 165-166.



## TURNSTONE

**Family** Scolopacidae

**Species** *Arenaria interpres*

**Common name** Turnstone, Ruddy Turnstone.

**Status** Migrant

**Abundance** Uncommon

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

**Habitat** Muddy estuaries and harbours.

**Worldwide range** An Arctic nesting migrant which arrives in October. Over the last forty years its numbers have increased to become the third most common migrant. Common in Australia and on the islands of the Pacific.

**New Zealand range** Can be expected from all shore-bird localities in New Zealand.

**Description – breeding**

**Crown** Brown, lightly flecked with white. **Face** Black and white. **Upperparts** Neck brown with a white V on back extending to rump. **Wings** Brown inner leading edge, black outer leading edge with white primaries. **Chin** White. **Breast** Black. **Abdomen** Clean white. **Tail** Black uppertail then white with broad black tip. **Bill** Black. **Legs** Orange.

### **Description – non-breeding**

**Upperparts and underparts** A dull version of the breeding plumage.

### **Conspicuous features**

- Black and white colours around head and breast.
- White upperwing primary feathers when bird is in flight.
- Black, white and black tail.

### **Conspicuous characteristics**

- Enjoys washing and preening in fresh water at river-mouths.
- At high-tide roosts, seldom mixes with other species.
- Busily fossicks and flips stones when feeding.

### **Where to find – North Island**

**South Auckland** – Manukau Harbour at Clarks Beach. P. 301.

**South Auckland** – Miranda on high tide roosts. P. 302.

**Bay of Plenty** – Kaituna Estuary. P. 320.

**Bay of Plenty** – Matata. P. 320.

**Manawatu** – At the Manawatu Estuary. P. 336.

### **Where to find – South Island**

**Marlborough** – Motueka estuary at the sandspit. P. 344.

**Marlborough** – Lake Grassmere from Hauwai Road on the south side. P. 345.

**North Canterbury** – Kaikoura Peninsula east of the town. P. 345.

**Southland** – Take Tiwai Smelter Road and turn left at the Awarua Bay sign. P. 365.