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South Island pied oystercatcher: p 129.

South Island Pied Oystercatcher (*Torea*) *Haematopus finschi* Martens 1897, Endemic
1939 New Zealand
March 1988 Norfolk Island

It was possibly first noted in 1773 on Cook's second voyage. Latham recorded a specimen as the "Pied Oystercatcher", and Oliver thought it probably belonged to this species. The painting of a "Pied Oystercatcher" in Latham's "A General Synopsis of Birds" resembles this species. Gray (1843) mentioned it in "Dieffenbach's Travels". It was not described as different until 1897, because it was thought to be the same as the Australian *H. longirostris* (e.g. Gray 1846; Buller 1888). The type specimen came from Saltwater Creek, near Timaru.

This oystercatcher was not distinguished from the pied Variable Oystercatcher until 1939, when Falla (1939) showed that the South Island inland breeding oystercatchers were different birds from the coastal Variables. On Norfolk Island it was first definitely recorded in March 1988, and probably earlier in December 1960, when a flock of 30 pied oystercatchers were seen.

