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Red-necked avocet: p 132.

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* Vieillot 1816, Vagrant (18)
1859/60 Ashburton River, Canterbury

It was supposedly shot in early 1854 on Norfolk Island (Downing 1859; Moore 1999). Turbott (1990) dated this record as 1859. The Checklist Committee (OSNZ) (2010) also mentioned this bird. However, Marchant & Higgins (1999) stated that no trace can be found of this record.

An invasion occurred in the late 1850's onwards on mainland New Zealand. Buller (1873) recorded a small flock on the Ashburton River, and at a lagoon near Timaru (Washdyke Lagoon) in the summer of 1859/60. Ellman (1861) noted that the Avocet was local and "confined to the southern portions of the Island". Buller recorded a bird in 1892, and said that was the only record since the few records he had listed in 1888.

The other records are Kaiapoi estuary 1859-60; Wellington coast 1862; southwest Wellington 1863; Christchurch 1864; Waimate; Rakaia estuary; Methven; Ashley River; Dunedin; Lake Whakatipu; Jacksons Bay; Ninety-mile Beach; Whangarei all <1888; Invercargill 1892; and Lake Ellesmere 1912.

The most recent record, and only the second in the 20th century, was found at Westport on 26/2/1968. This bird stayed until 1970, and was widely twitched (by New Zealand standards).