

## Spur-winged plover

*Vanellus miles novaehollandiae*

38 cm

NEW ZEALAND NATIVE, NOT THREATENED

Also known as masked lapwing, this is a large olive-brown, white and black plover with distinctive yellow wattles on the face, and a sharp spur protruding from the carpal joint on the wing. Self-introduced to New Zealand from Australia in the 1930s, the spur-



winged plover has spread widely through New Zealand. Breeding was first recorded on Chatham Island in 1981, and they have since become well established there and on Pitt Island. Adults aggressively defend their nests and young, and are often seen chasing harriers.



Spur-winged plover on nest.  
Photo: (DOC).