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Spur-winged plover: pp 119-120.

Spur-winged Plover *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae* Stephens 1819, Coloniser
4/8/1886 Kai Iwi, Wanganui
February 1980 Norfolk Island

The first record was of one found at Kai-iwi (sic), 15 km west of Wanganui in August 1886 (Kirk 1887).

“I am indebted to Mr. S. H. Drew, of Wanganui, for a notice of the recent occurrence of this Australian species in New Zealand. Writing to me on the 4th August, 1886, he says:—“I have just received a bird that I take to be a Plover, and as I do not see it mentioned in your ‘Manual’. I hasten to let you have a description. The bird was alive when I took the measurements, so was not distorted by stuffing. It is a beautiful bird, and as I let it lie on my hand it does not peck or even attempt to get away. But it is very emaciated and I cannot induce it to eat anything. It was taken at Kai-iwi by Mr. George Peake, who found it in one of his paddocks” (Buller 1888).

Another was seen by C.A. Burton at the Hokitika River in 1892. Breeding occurred near Invercargill in c. 1932, after which it rapidly colonised the North and South Islands. The remarkable spread in the North Island since the 1970s has been particularly noteworthy (Robertson et al. 2007).

