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Western sandpiper: p 146.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* (Cabanis 1856), Vagrant (6)
October 1964 Farewell Spit, Nelson

A. Blackburn & B. D. Bell (Barlow et al. 1965) found the first Western Sandpiper in early October, amongst a flock of 31 Red-necked Stints. The distinctive long bill marked it out as unusual. The short description does not altogether rule out Semi-palmated Sandpiper, and may not be acceptable nowadays. Indeed, Falla et al.(1965) drew attention to the difficulties of stint identification, with particular reference to this sighting. Blackburn & Bell (Falla et al. 1965) however refuted Falla's arguments, saying that bill characteristics and rufous in the plumage confirmed their initial identification. Sandy Edgar found a second Western Sandpiper at Rangiputa Bank, Rangaunu Bay in November 1970.