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Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)  
Semipalmated plover: pp 122-123.

**Semipalmated Plover** *Charadrius semipalmatus* Bonaparte 1825, Vagrant (3)  
9/11/1983 Taramaire, South Auckland

A strange dotterel, as New Zealanders call the smaller *Charadrius* plovers, was found by John & Beth Brown, Ross McKenzie and R.B. Sibson (1971) at Taramaire, Firth of Thames on 6/12/1970. The striking head pattern, orange-yellow legs and other features marked it out as either Ringed or Little Ringed Plover. The possibility of it being a Semipalmated Plover was disregarded, it being considered as a Ringed Plover seemingly because Australia had recorded three of this species previously. Interestingly, published photos show a hunched head, a short, stubby bill, and a dark loreal line meeting the bill high up, all features of Semipalmated Plover (Cottridge & Vinicombe 1996). The bird continued to be seen until at least 20/5/1971.

A second "Ringed Plover" was recorded at Access Bay on 9/11/1983, which remained until 10/6/1985. It was an immature, and seen and photographed subsequently. The second bird has now been accepted as New Zealand's first Semipalmated Plover, while the first record is considered indeterminate.

Supposedly there is a zone of hybridization between Ringed and Semi-palmated Plover (Smith 1969), but in reality this is a tiny area on Baffin Island where mixed pairs are reported (Hayman et al. 1986). Smith's research has been discredited in relation to his gull studies, and this work may be also doubtful.

Another Semipalmated Plover was found at Kidd's Beach, Manukau on 5/12/2009.