

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)  
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Eastern curlew: p 140.

**Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis* (Linnaeus 1766), Migrant  
1874 Wairau Rivermouth, Marlborough  
November 1968 Norfolk Island

S. C. Liardet shot the first near the Wairau River-mouth in the summer of 1874/75 (Buller 1874d). The second was shot at Kaiapoi Bar on 2/4/1876, and the third at Ashley Rivermouth on 27/6/1876.

“FOR years past I have repeatedly been informed by several sportsmen in this Province, that they had observed specimens of a large Curlew in the estuaries of some of our rivers, and although every attempt was made to secure a specimen for the Canterbury Museum, for a long time it proved unsuccessful. Thus Mr. Alexander Barnes, of Saltwater Creek, told me that he had seen about six years ago as many as five together, which were so shy that he could never get near enough to fire at them. In the last four years he has seen, however, only one solitary bird, the others having disappeared. Similar accounts have reached me from the South.

Mr. Robert Day at last obtained one on the Kaiapoi Bar on the 2nd of April of this year, where it was found by him together with a mob of *Limosa uropygialis*, the Godwit, usually called the New Zealand Snipe.

On examination it proved to be a very fine male bird, which as to size agrees more with the Australian than the European species. Mr. Gould has already pointed out that the Australian Curlew, although in many respects resembling the common Curlew of Europe, is distinguished from it, amongst several differences in the plumage, by a much longer bill.” (Haast 1876).

Numbers visiting New Zealand have declined since the 1960s.