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Golden plover: pp 120-121.

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* (Gmelin 1789), Migrant  
1840 New Zealand  
November 1908 Norfolk Island

J.E. Gray (1843) recorded *C. xanthocheilus* = *P. fulva* in his list of New Zealand birds, and gave Miss Stone, Yate, and Dieffenbach as authorities. Yate (1835) gave a description of the Takahikahi, a bird that may have been the Golden Plover.

“The Takahikahi is nearly of the same size as the Tuturiwatu, with beak and legs precisely the same. It differs from it, however, in its plumage, and in its general habits. It has most beautifully spotted feathers--gold, light brown, and purple; lives upon the sea-shore; builds its nests among the thick branches of the lowest shrubs; and feeds upon the seeds of sea-weeds, and of shrubs that grow near the beach. It has no song: but makes a noise somewhat like that of the pewit”.

The first specimen was obtained in 1840 by Miss R. Stone, from an unknown locality (Gray 1843). It was unknown for much of the 19th century, with only the odd specimen being recorded (e.g. one in the Auckland Museum in 1855). In December 1880, 10-12 were seen at Penrose, Manukau.

On Norfolk Island, Ensign Best recorded shooting “plover” on 18/09/1838, but no description was given. A. Von Pelzeln recorded Pacific Golden Plover in the early 19th century (Iredale 1911), according to Schodde et al. (1985), but only the name *Charadrius xaiithocheilus* Wagler (= *P. fulva*) is mentioned.

Bassett-Hull (1910) said: “This Plover visits both groups in large flocks during the months from September to December. It feeds along the beaches and over the cultivated and grassed paddocks, generally accompanied by a few Whimbrels”. He would have seen these in October or November 1908.