

including the statement "I have a considerable number of skins from all parts of this country"

Although there are 5 only South Island snipe skins labelled as from Jacky Lee I and collected by Travers (Table 1), it is probable that he obtained at least 15 snipe skins from the island. There are another 5 South Island snipe skins labelled as Travers specimens but with incorrect or no locality data...

A likely causative factor of incorrect labelling by Travers was the long time that elapsed between 1893 and 1927 (see above), and a further 25 snipe skins (including at least 7 with incorrect locality data) were sold to the Dominion...

and it was probably acquired as part of a bulk lot by the Dominion Museum in 1936 (Dell 1965). The Robert Falla (Director of the Dominion Museum) while researching this paper in May 2011: (vide dated catalogue card annotations made by Sandy Bartle, former Curator of Birds).

A specimen of c.1900 vintage in Canterbury Museum (AV1817) was originally in the collection of Dr Benjamin Moorhouse. The Moorhouse collection was loaned to the museum following the outbreak of World War I, then acquired by the museum following...

Stewart I region specimen labels undertaken by Trish Hemphill (Hemiphaga novaeselandiae), Jacky Lee I, 14 original label, although 2 have subsequently had his name added as the collector.

Travers or his collector apparently labelled most specimens with their date and sex at the time of collection or preparation, and so the dates should be more reliable than the localities, which in some cases appear to have been added years later. The accuracy of date data was checked with 2 South Island snipe that are labelled as having been collected on Jacky Lee I on 18 Mar 1897 and 24 Apr 1901. Based on snipe moult their primary feathers in Mar and Apr, soon after their chicks become independent: 20 of partially grown outer primaries, corroborating labels as collected in Jun and Jul have completed their primary moult. The specimens are too fragile for further moult analysis.

If the dates on snipe, fernbird and pigeon specimens supposedly collected on Jacky Lee I by Travers are correct, they represent at least 8 occasions between 1897 and 1905; 15 snipe specimens were collected, with apparently few collected on any 1 visit (8 specimens lack complete dates and 4 are undated).

Herbert Guthrie-Smith and John McLean on Jacky Lee Island, 1911

Guthrie-Smith and McLean (1911) were ornithologists who visited the islands around Stewart Island in 1911, 1925, and 1936. These fascinating accounts make it clear that the islands were visited on several occasions. Guthrie-Smith (1911) wrote: "I had seen specimens of them during former visits to the islands, and I had seen specimens of them during former visits to the islands, and I had seen specimens of them during former visits to the islands." The text continues with a detailed account of their observations and collections on the islands, mentioning various bird species and the challenges of fieldwork in such a remote location.

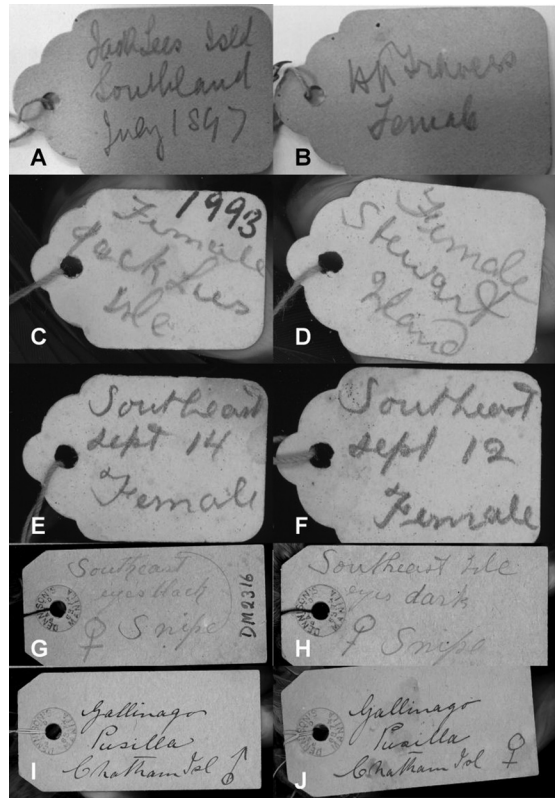


Fig. 1. Handwritten labels for bird specimens, including dates and sex (e.g., '1993', 'Female', 'Stewart Island', 'Southeast', 'Sept 14', 'Sept 12', 'South coast', 'DM2316', 'Gallinago pusilla', 'Chatham Is. I').

Travers or his collector apparently labelled most specimens with their date and sex at the time of collection or preparation, and so the dates should be more reliable than the localities, which in some cases appear to have been added years later. The accuracy of date data was checked with 2 South Island snipe that are labelled as having been collected on Jacky Lee I on 18 Mar 1897 and 24 Apr 1901. Based on snipe moult their primary feathers in Mar and Apr, soon after their chicks become independent: 20 of partially grown outer primaries, corroborating labels as collected in Jun and Jul have completed their primary moult. The specimens are too fragile for further moult analysis.

about 3 hours each time. They were unaware of the presence of snipe on islands around Stewart I until but subsequently learnt more about the birds from Truill, and Mr Bragg (probably Tom Bragg; Cockayne (NZ Truth 26 Apr 1928, p.4). The chicks of sooty shearwater [#, ±, ♀^aµ♀, ♀ harvested for food] for the 1st time the previous weka being present (Vol. 1, p.24; Vol. 3, p.78).

Bill 2/3 slightly curved (sketch taken [Fig. 2] towards tip (lower 3rd) Legs heavy. Climbed careful walk or quick run of Rail, but a run like a plover. Did not appear frightened or try to hide but fed along dodging the side of head when facing" I may say I was thinking of the "Mioweka" [banded rail *Gallirallus philippensis*] something of the sort has been seen by a friend of Leasks lately climbing about the branches of the trees on this same island. It was described as like a small weka. So I surprised to see a snipe in the bush! back again shortly after we lost it the second tallies with mine. I heard no note of any sort. As said before, the bird shewed no concern at my presence except that it kept amid the Chestnut with black longitudinal markings. & side of head when facing" I may say I was thinking of the "Mioweka" [banded rail *Gallirallus philippensis*] something of the sort has been seen by a friend of Leasks lately climbing about the branches of the trees on this same island. It was described as like a small weka. So I surprised to see a snipe in the bush!

Bill 2/3 slightly curved. It was I should say of a rusty colour marked with large black splashes to back feathers. A light band ran above the eye from the bill to the back of the eye. These stripes appeared to be greyish. Feeding, was greyish striped with black. The was longish comparatively. Bill dark brown. Chestnut with black splashes, legs yellow. This work to take any more heed of us than to keep just out of our way.

The snipe was mentioned again in Vol. 3, p.68 as part of a summary of birds seen during "3 hours on islands around Stewart I".

The snipe was mentioned again in Vol. 3, p.68 as part of a summary of birds seen during "3 hours on islands around Stewart I".

The snipe was mentioned again in Vol. 3, p.68 as part of a summary of birds seen during "3 hours on islands around Stewart I".

The snipe was mentioned again in Vol. 3, p.68 as part of a summary of birds seen during "3 hours on islands around Stewart I".

The snipe was mentioned again in Vol. 3, p.68 as part of a summary of birds seen during "3 hours on islands around Stewart I".

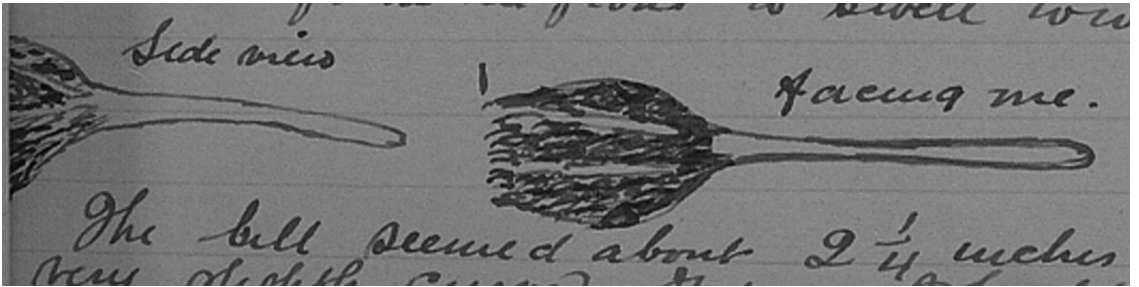


Fig. 2. Bill of a snipe. The bill seemed about 2 1/4 inches long. (Wilson 1959)

australis is a 2nd penguin nest. Right in the bush on top of the Island. For full particulars see the yellow sheet of this date.

It is doubtful more likely an undescribed one. Strange it should have escaped observation. It is a very common bird on the island. It is a very common bird on the island. It is a very common bird on the island.

It is a very common bird on the island. It is a very common bird on the island. It is a very common bird on the island. It is a very common bird on the island. It is a very common bird on the island.

Wilson (1959) encountered the South Island snipe for the 1st and only time on Big South Cape I in 1931 (see below).

Wilson (1959) encountered the South Island snipe for the 1st and only time on Big South Cape I in 1931 (see below). Wilson (1959) encountered the South Island snipe for the 1st and only time on Big South Cape I in 1931 (see below).

Wilson (1959) encountered the South Island snipe for the 1st and only time on Big South Cape I in 1931 (see below).

Wilson (1959) encountered the South Island snipe for the 1st and only time on Big South Cape I in 1931 (see below). Wilson (1959) encountered the South Island snipe for the 1st and only time on Big South Cape I in 1931 (see below).

Edgar Stead and Major Robert Wilson on Jacky Lee Island, 1932

Wilson (1959) encountered the South Island snipe for the 1st and only time on Big South Cape I in 1931 (see below). Wilson (1959) encountered the South Island snipe for the 1st and only time on Big South Cape I in 1931 (see below).

Edgar Stead and Robert Wilson on Big South Cape Island, 1931

Wilson (1959) encountered the South Island snipe for the 1st and only time on Big South Cape I in 1931 (see below). Wilson (1959) encountered the South Island snipe for the 1st and only time on Big South Cape I in 1931 (see below).

« "S ¥¼«-¶ S ¼ a.« "µfi-¼µ¼fi ¼¼² |® ¼.« "¶ ¼¼¼¼
* -¼² ± «²º "Z "« ±¼ ± « "¶

Stead and Wilson stayed on Solomon I, just ±² µ «²º «² & « " «³ " fi ¶ºº ! 21 .2 "¶ | 1931. Snipe were encountered on Big South Cape I only, which they visited on 13 days (mostly in Dec) using a small boat. Stead and Wilson saw snipe on 6 days between 2 Dec and 10 Dec 1931, plus their |²º ³ ¼± ¼± & µ ¼² «± fi ¼± «²º ¶ºº ¼ ¶¼± ¼³ " 2±º «² & « " «³ " fi² ± ! 21

Stead collected 7 snipe specimens during the expedition (Table 2); 6 are in the Canterbury Museum, and he gifted 1 to the British Museum during a visit in 1932. Stead had taken snipe ¶ºº |ºº " ±¶ | .2 ¼ ± a ¼± S .2 |²º ³ ¼µ |ºº « Z² ¶ S %ºº « ¶ | «-S ¶ | ¶ | @¼ Z " " fi ¶ºº |ºº " ±¶ | " »³ 2 µ 3 " µ ¶ - ¶¶ |, " S ž ¼µ " 3 ¼µº " ± .2 ¶ ft. " µ ± ¼ " ¼¶¶ ¼± S « "º ¶ ¶ S -¶ | ¼³ 3 2 ± " S .2 ± S « ¼ %ºº « ¶ | «-S ¶ | ¶ S |²º | . ¼ ± « ¼ S -¶ | ¶ " ± ¶ S .2 « " |ºº " µ ¶ ¼± ž , ¶ |ºº 2º ¶ ¼ , µ ¶ fi -¶ | 2 µ¼ ¼ " 1 " µ ¼² S ¼ « " µ ¶ -¶ | ¶ ¼ « , ¼º ¼º -S ¼² , - S a ¼µ & " ¼ S " µ to Robert Wilson, 26 May 1932; Letheny archive).

! 2± " 2º « " & " ¼ S ¶ºº |ºº " ±¶ | « ¼ S |²º | . ¼ ± S " ¼¶ ¼ « » S 21 " µ ¶ , ¶¶ | , " ± ¼ ¼¶¶ ¼ " ¼ " ¥ " ± assigned incorrect locality data, and the only date ¼¶¶ ¼ ± S -¶ | ¼²º ¼ µ² ± a ' ¼² , & " ¼ S ¶ S -¼µ¼ ¼ , 2 , " S " » " ± ¶ | -¼¼¼¼ Z " ¶ | @¼¼ S " Z ¼± a "

described the collection of 4 clutches of snipe eggs, but made no mention of adult or juvenile snipe ¥ ± a |²º | . S * -¶ S ± ¶ S -¼µ¼ S " ¶ | µ ¥ ¶ | ¶ | ¼³ " ¶ºº |ºº " ±¶ | ¥ ± a |²º | . S ¥ .º " ± ± " |

all on Big South Cape I. Based on the opportunities Wilson described, it is likely that the 2 remaining specimens were collected on 4 Dec and/or 7 Dec:

Wednesday 2nd Dec. After lunch about 3 2 |² |® ¼º " ¶ | . 2 . © µ & « " «³ " fi | ± « " ¥² ¼ a 2 . « " µ ¶ ¼² , . fi ¼± «²º

I went on up to the top. Shortly after we µ ¶ | « " S « " 23 " ± |² , ± µ¼ fi ¼± «²º " ¶ | « S ¼ ¶ | ¼³ " " » | ¼ºº " S fi " µ ¶ -¶ | ± " ¶ |ºº « - S -¶ | ¼³ 3 ¼µ S ¶ºº " " © « " ± " ¶ |ºº " ± . on. We saw some burrows high up which fi « ± ® ¼º " µ ¶ " " ¶ | µ ¶ ¼ ¼º 2 " S 3 " µ ¶ - Pterodroma inexpectata ¥ . ± 2 ¶ 2 µ ¶ 3 " µ ¶ | & 2 ± ¼º µ ¶ ¼ S ¶ | fi , ¶ | « S ¼ ¶ | ¼³ "ºº « ¼ ± " ¶ | of two eggs but failed to catch it. The eggs were just chipping but I brought them in © µ ¶ S a ¼µ " 2º ± a ¥ ¼ |® ¼º " « ¼ S S - | , -¼¼ ± S ± a « " ± " ¶ | 2º « " ¶ | ¼³ " ± ¼µ |¼ |ºº " ±º «² , . a " ± a - ¼¶ | -º ¼¶ | a " ± a ¼ " * " « ¼ S ± 2 .º ¼µ ¶ S - ¼ ¼ºº " fi 2º " 1 " µ " 1 " ± , ¼¼¼ fi © , ± S -º « " ¥ ¶ S 2 ± killed it with a stick when she rose from the ground...The snipe eggs were a beautiful ¥ µº ± |²º 2 , µ ¶ S a ¼µ ¶ |¼ ¶ | « " ¼¼ µ ¶ | « " 2 ± ¼¼ eggs collected.

Thursday 3rd "¶ | ¶ºº " µ ¶ , µ ¶ S "ºº ± on to South Cape landing where we pulled « " ¥² ¼ , 3 "ºº ± , 3 ¼º µ ¶ | ¼³ " * " « " ± ¶º µ ¶ S 2 , . ± ¼ ± " ¥ " ¼ ± ¼µ |¼ µ ¶ | ¼³ " ~ S a ¼µ , ¶ | « S 2 ± " ¶ | «² . - - ¼³ µ ¶ 1 " S . 2 ¥ ¼ºº ¼ºº " µ ¶ | . © µ ¶ ¼² . ¼± «² , µ ¶ | , ¶ | « S ¼ ¥ ¶ S 2 « " µ ± " ¶ |ºº « .º 2 " aa ¶ | @¼µ |¼ ¶ | ¶ | fi "ºº ¼ºº ¼¼ ¶ S ¶ | « " ± ¶ | 233 " S ¶ | , " ¼º S ± ¼ protecting manner. We left the eggs with the intention of photographing it tomorrow... We saw a good many (about 8 or 10) woodhens "ºº ¼ºº ¼ºº ± a ¼² , . ± « " ¶ | µ ¶ |² , ± µ¼¼ we were looking for snipe in.

Friday 4th Dec. " ¥ ¼ , - © - ± "º 2 µ ± aºº « - ¼ ¶ | « " ¥ µ | ½ ¶ºº . « " ! * " a 2 . 3 ¥ © µ ¶ | 1 " ± ¼± S a 2 . ¼º ¼¼¼ ¼² , . 2 |² |® µ ¶ | « " S © µ & « " «³ " fi | * " ¼± S " S ¼ « " ± ¼µ ¼± S ± a " ¼º ¼µ | -ºº ¥ S . 3ºº « - S a ¼µ |¼ºº " µ ¶ , 3 . « µ² , a « " ¥ , ¶ | « . 2º « " µ ¶ "ºº « ¼ S © , ± S « " ¶ | ¼³ " ¶ | ± " ¶ | . « " day before. We approached it carefully and - ¼ºº S , ¶ | . 2 3 2 . 2 a µ ¶ 3 « - 2 ± « " ± " ¶ | ~ S a ¼µ " 1 " ± | , ± a ¼º ¼¼ « " ¶ | µ ¶ ¼² , ± S - . 2 a . ¼² " µ ¶ 3 2 . 2 a µ ¶ 3 « 1 ± ¼¼ " 3 " ¶ | « S - 2 "ºº 3 « 2 . 2 a µ ¶ 3 " S . « " aa ¶ | * " . « " ±ºº " ± . 2 ± © µ « " µ © , ± S ¼ |² , 3 " 2º ¶ | ¼³ " about 2 miles further on after a lot of beating « " ¥ , ¶ | « " ¶ | " ±ºº ¼ ¶ | ¼¼ , ± a 2 ± " . « " ¼¼ ¼¶¶ ¥ ¶ S ~ S a ¼µ ¶ | «² . ¥² . 2º « "ºº "ºº µ ¶ , µ ¶ S «²º " a " ± a ± ¼² , .

Monday 7th Dec. ...we decided to turn back a 2 . 2 |ºº ¼µ "ºº µ ¶ "ºº ¼± S " S 3 , - S « " ¥² ¼ , 3 * " « " ± " ¶ | ¼µ " S . 3 « " « - 2 2 © S © µ " " ¶ | µ ¶ ¼ ¼ ± 1 ¼µ² , ¶ | ¥ , µ ¶ºº ¶ | ¥ , . 2 ± ¼¼ © , ± Sºº 2 ± ¥ ¶ S ¶ | 2 ± « " µ " aa ¶ | * " a 2 . 2 . « " 23 2º « " ¥ , ¶ | ~ S a ¼µ ~ ¥ ¥ « ¼ S a 2 ± " 2 ± ¼ºº ¼ Sºº « " ± ¶ | S S " ± ¼¼ ¶ | ¼³ "ºº "ºº 3 ¼ .º ¼¼ © . fi |ºº ¶ | « " ¶ | µ ± a ¶ºº ¼ ± " ¶ | with two eggs. These were not so dark as the ¶ | " aa ¶ | fi © , ± S 2 µ ¶ 2 3 " ¼¶ | . « " ¶ | |² ± S lot being rather intermediate...We went on © µ « " µ ~ S a ¼µ © , ± S ¼² . « " µ ¶ | ¼³ " ± " ¶ |ºº « - S ¼µ " aa ¶ | ' , - " ¶ | ¶ | « " ± " ¶ | fi found was partly incubated.

Wednesday 9th Dec. It rained for about an «² , µ ¼² , . ¶ | 1 " ± ¼º µ ¶ ¼ S © µ ¼± . « " µ «² , µ ¼² .ºº . « " ± |ºº ¼µ S . 3 " » | . 3 . © µ ¼ ¶ | -¼ « . ¶ | «²º " µ ¶ | © µ ¶ | ± | « ¼² , .ºº 2 2 |² |® we went over to South Cape Island taking |ºº " µ ¶ | " ± « "ºº ¼¼ , 3 fi |ºº ¼ ¶ | ¼³ " 2 ± « " . µ ¶ |® « - | « ~ S a ¼µ ¶ | «² .

Thursday 10th Dec. Today broke with a moderate W. wind which was favourable © µ ž , ¶ S " µ ¶ | " 21 " &ºº " ¶ | . 2 ¼º µ breakfast after mending the boat which was ¶ | 21 " ± ¼¼ ¶ | ¼ S ¼¼ * " µ ¶ | « " S « " µ ¶ ¼

±"µ¼«-²« .-§" ²²², . ² |²|® ³, -"§
the boat up on the same spot as before. We
¶. ² ©µ. «. .²³ " ± µ¼«±ª . «" ¶µ¼ ¶
-±" ° ° ¶"µ ²²², . ©µ¼±³" " §ªµ¼¶²² ±"
but we did not get a chance at it...We walked
over a good deal of scrub country but saw
no more snipe.

A thorough search of the David Macmillan archive in
Canterbury Museum located additional pages
¶² ° &"²§ ¶ §-µ¼±|, §±ª ±². ¶²± ¶±³"
²¹ " µ²² © §¼½ ¶®-¼ § " Z±ª"

4th Dec...Took more side view of the Snipe
ª±ªª ¶ | ~»³² ¶ µ ² 1 ± µ±±
' « " ³µ"µ, ²± ° &" ¶ |²¹ "µ§ |«-¼
by windswept Manuka, interspersed with
Dracophyllum longifolium. It is all peat,
with odd rocky outcrops; open places being
covered with lichens or moss. The Snipe nest
± ¶«² µ ž ±±, ®µ ²± . «" " §ª" ² ©µ" µ ¶,
and the ones we have found were not in thick
cover. There are a good many weka, robins
[*Petroica australis* ±±§ ž ²|®¶ ¶ ¶-¶¶§¶
Anthornis melanura , ³ . «" µ ¶ ¶ ¶ ° " ¶ ¶ µ
few Fernbirds [*Bowdleria punctata* ' «" µ.
varies from about 600 to 1000 feet.

7th " | ' «" ¶±³" µ¶ ¶±§ ¼µ²², . ° " ± ¼
yards, if pursued, but, for the most part run
among the heavy scrub and stand watching
¼, ' «" µ ¶ «. ¶ | µ¼-® . «µ ² ©µ ²²§ |² |®
[*Scolopax rusticola* ²±¼±². ¶ ¶µ±ª . ². «
sexes take their turn at incubating the eggs.

&"²§ ¶ ²¶¶ µ µ-²±² ©¶±³" ¼±ª ° «" ±³, ¶¶, " §
° ¶¶ ³ µ² ¶µ¼¼. «" ¶¶¶¶ ¶ µ / , «µ ¶ & ¶ « ¶
p.186) footnote, referring to the South Island snipe:
"That *Gallinago aucklandica* |±± ¼ ¶ ¶ ¶ "¹"
the experience of a friend whose ornithological
abilities cannot be gainsaid. What, however, each
" § ±µ, µ-¶¶ «² ¶ " ©² ¶¶ µ ¶ ¶ . «µ «" ¶ ¶², ±§
to declare. My particular cronies did not use their
wings and I leave it at that."

&"²§ ±±§ / , «µ ¶ & ¶ « ©±° " ¶¶ ². «" µ
well, and were regarded as "old colleagues" even
before they travelled together to the Auckland Is
on the government steamship *Tutanekai* in 1929
fi"²§ ±±§ ¶ ± ± %¶¶¶, ±³, ¶-¶¶¶ § ° ¶³ µ³ ¶¶
1500, folder 22, Alexander Turnbull Library). They
° µ ¶ ¶ " ± |² µµ ¶³ ²±§ ±. ¶ , ³, ±- / , «µ ¶
& ¶ « ¶ § " µ ± , µ¹-§ ž µ¹ - ¶± µ¶ «-
Canterbury Museum, and note the photograph of
. «" ² ©µ. " ° . ²ª . «" µ ± &"²§ ¶ ¶ µ±± ±
published in *Notornis* vol. 20, p.89, 1973).

Lance Richdale on Big South Cape Island, 1945
The depredations of Stead, Wilson and weka
notwithstanding, snipe persisted in low numbers
on Big South Cape I for another 33 years. Lance

Richdale and William Denham visited Big South
" µ³ " fl ¶² ° ¶± %¶¶ § µ" ' «" ¼
observed 4 snipe, including 1 pair (probably an adult
µ±§ © -¼ª µ² ° ± | «-¶ªª ± " . " ° ² ©¼ µµ

We saw only four individuals. After
spending a day on the tops we were
«²° " ° µ¶ § ² § § ±ª ², µ ° " µ¼¼ ° µ¼ ±². µ
great distance above the bush, we observed
two birds feeding together in soft mud under
some Manuka about six feet high. Four days
later we found another on top of one of the
peaks. Returning that afternoon, and when
in the bush, Mr. Denham nearly trod on one,
| µ, ¶±ªª . ² ¼ ¶² ° " © " ± © . . «µ ,ª « . «"
trees and about two feet above the ground.

Richdale expressed concern at the presence of
weka on the island, stating "The gravest danger to
its existence is the Weka, which eats the eggs and
young...In 1945, we found few Wekas and few
Snipe; we also saw one Weka well above the bush
-±" ' «" ¶¶ - | ¶ ¶ ±³" ¶ - " » ¶ ¶² ± . « ¶ ¶ ± ± §
but obviously all the elements for the loss of the
valuable bird are present. Because the Wekas are
not plentiful and are largely in the bush, the Snipe
are experiencing a temporary respite only."

* - § - © & µ ¶ - " ¶ µ ² ± ° ¶ & , « " µ³ ¶ ¶ µ ± §
. «" ± µ ¶ « µ³ . µ
° µ ± ± " µ ± § ° " ² ± ž " µ² ± ² © . «" ! " ° - " µ ± ± §
Wildlife Service saw a single snipe only during
µ ° ² ± . « ² ±ª ¹ ¶ - ± ³ µ ¶ . § - § « " µ µ . «"
hawaii (*Weekly news* 8 Aug 1962; Miskelly 1987).
Three years later they were shocked into action
¶¼µ³ ² µ ¶ ¶² ° ° . ² ± ¶ ¶ § " ¶¶ . «µ . «" ¶ ¶ ± § ° ¶ ¶
²¹ " µ µ ± ¶¼ µ ¶ ¶ " ° " ° µ ± ± | " ' «"
devastation caused by recently colonised ship rats
on the South Cape islands (Big South Cape, Solomon
µ±§ #, ® ° " µ ° ¶ ¶² ± " ² © «" µ µ µ " ¶ . µª " § - ¶ ±
° ² § " µ ± ! " ° - " µ ± ± § |² ± ¶ µ µ-² ± « ¶ ¶ µ¼ ž ² µ ¶ ¶
& ¶ « " | « µ³ . µ , ² , ±ª ° µ ± ± | "

Although South Island saddlebacks (*Philesturnus
carunculatus*) were saved, the last remaining
populations of 3 vertebrate species were wiped out:
µ µ µ µ ¶ «² µ . µ - § ¶ µ *Mysticina robusta*), bush
wren (*Xenicus longipes*), and South Island snipe.

A Wildlife Service team spent 5 weeks on Big
& , « " µ³ ¶ ± ± ,ª & ³ µ " ° ³ . ±ª . ² ¶ µ " °
saddlebacks, snipe and wrens. Three snipe were
caught by the team beating in a line through scrubby
¹ª . µ-² ± , ± - ¶ µ ¶ ±³" . ¶ « " § . «" ± ¶ , µ ¶ , ± § ±ª -
µ ± § | µ | « ±ª - ° - « ² © ¶ µ " µ ± ± . ¶ " ± " ¶ ¶ §
escaped after capture; the 2 others (both male) were
placed in an aviary on 30 Aug (Fig. 3), but the team
was unable to supply them with enough live food
µ ± § . « " ¶ µ² . « § - § ± ± & ³ µ ¶ " ž ² µ ¶ ¶ & ¶ «
° µ ± ± | " ' «" µ µ µ " ¶ " ± ± ² |² ± µ " §
sightings of South Island snipe since.



Fig. 3. A photograph of a snipe bird, likely a New Zealand snipe (*Coenocorypha australis*), standing in a field of green grass. The bird has mottled brown and black feathers, a long straight bill, and a dark eye.

DISCUSSION

Who collected snipe on Jacky Lee Island?

It is assumed that all specimens bearing his name were personally collected by him. Based on Jacky Lee Island snipe specimens, it appears to have visited the Stewart I region at least 14 times between 1895 and 1905, with Jacky Lee I visited on at least 7 of these trips. This is unlikely, as Travers was based in Wellington and was a man of insubstantial means: he was declared bankrupt in 1888 (*Evening Post* 23 Sep 1888) and he often (and unsuccessfully) sought

Travers signalled his intention to travel to Stewart I in Dec 1895 and 13 May 1896 (Tring archive), however, other than bird specimen labels, there is no evidence Travers in the *Southland Times* viewed 27 May 2011), but this absence of evidence

Stewart I at least 6 times between 1910 and 1923 / mention in the *Southland Times* (*op. cit.*).

There is some evidence that Travers already had a collector active around Stewart I before he told shortly to proceed to Stewart's island, for the purpose of Island shag *Leucocarbo chalconotus* only locality where there is a chance of obtaining Travers referred to "a man who is collecting for me on the Southern west coast", and there is a

McLean was convinced that they had made a new discovery. Stewart I then as now had a small community, and it seems unlikely that anyone

«²±², μ±^a · ±±· ž · ±· μ «^a± · %· «¹ | «-S ± fi μ± μ · « · ¼ · ¶³ · | · ±² · ©G. *tristrami* was labelled as collected by Dannefaerd, yet Dannefaerd ±· 1 · μ · μ^a · S · 2 · « · ¶ · ±± · μ · | · ¶ · ±± S ¶ fi ± μ ± ¼ · μ^a · ¶ · μ · 2 · Z² S % · «¹ | «-S ž ¼ · μ±^a archives; D. Dannefaerd, *pers. comm.*). All the snipe specimens associated with Dannefaerd (other than Chatham Island snipe collected in 1894 or 1895) were collected by someone else.

Dannefaerd took umbrage at the suggestion that the snipe he forwarded to Rothschild were incorrectly labelled, writing in his idiosyncratic style ± ± ± · μ ±³ ± μ ± · ¼ ¶ ± · ± · μ ± · ± · μ ±^a archives): "...as to the doubt of correct Labeling of · « · ± · ± · fi ± · ¶ · S · « · ¼ ¶ ± |² μ ± · ± ± S · « · μ · ¶ ± further variety of Snipe in the collection I send you now as you will see from the three diferent Island and the are corectly Labeled and should form a very interesting series. Ther must be Thre or Four diferent kinds."

The Dannefaerd/Rothschild correspondence also contains a tantalising but incorrect suggestion that snipe were known from Stewart I before 1897. fi ± ± · μ ± S · ž ¼ · ± ± · ¶ · S · μ ± · ¶ · I have mentioned before the Snipe from Stewards ¶ · ¶ ±² S² · a · S · ± · μ ± · ¶ · « · | · ¶ · ± ± S ¶ · « · & μ ±² S · μ ± ± ± ± S · 2 μ ± ¼ · 2 · ¼ · ± · 1 · μ ± S ± · « · | · ¶ · ± ± S ¶ · ¶ · ¶ · ± ± S · 0 2 2 · ¶ · 1 · μ ± S ¶ · ± · ¼ · μ ± S · « · μ ±^a · ± · ¶ · μ ± ±² · ¶ · ¶ · ± S · 0 2 ¼ · ± · ¶ · | · ¶ · ± ± S ¶ · ¶ · « · ¶ · should be interesting..." The mention of "Stewards Isl" was apparently meant to be "Snares Isl", as the ¶ |² · 3 ± ± ¼ · ¶ · ¶ · S / ± ± ±² · | · ¶ · ± ± S · ¶ / ± ± ±² & ± μ ¶ · ¶ · 3 · ¶ · , ± ± ¶ ± · , | · ¶ · ± S Isl".

The fact that Travers mislabelled at least 6 (and probably as many as 10) of the snipe specimens thought to have come from Jacky Lee I argues against him being the person who collected them. (³ · ± · ± · « · μ ± · ¶ · ±² · 3 · ¶ · S μ ±² S² · ¶ ±² · ± · ¶ · ± ± S ¶ · & · ¶ · fi | « · μ ± · 0 2 · S · « · ¶ · been much interest in birds that would prove to be a new species, and it is unlikely that Travers deliberately reduced the cachet of these specimens by labelling them as being from an island already known to have snipe. It is equally unlikely that ' μ ± · ¶ · 0 2 · S · ¶ · · « · « · ¶ · S |² · ¶ · S · 2 μ more snipe over at least 8 visits to Jacky Lee I over at least 9 years. As only 5 of the specimens ended up labelled as being from Jacky Lee I, this points to Travers being confused by a large number of poorly labelled snipe specimens sourced from multiple locations.

(¶ ±^a a ± · | · ¶ · ± ± · ¶ · 0 2 ¶ ± ±² · et al. S · ¼ · 2 · ¼ S³ ±^a , ± *Megadyptes antipodes*) specimens sourced from Travers as having erroneous locality data. They were unable to determine whether the errors were mistakes or

S · ¶ · μ · ¶ · ¶ · | · ¶ · ± ± S ¶ · « · ¶ · · « · 2 1 · μ · 2 · © the snipe specimens likely to have been sourced from Jacky Lee I (belonging to a then unnamed taxon) ended up being labelled by Travers as from the Snares Is or Auckland Is strongly suggests that his labelling errors were inadvertent due to the specimens being collected by another party, poor record keeping, and the passage of time between |² · ¶ · ± ± S² ± ¶ · ±^a · 2 · % · «¹ | «-S ± S | · 0 · ± · ¶ · S · , ¶ · , ¶ · ± S |² · ¶ · 2 · ¶ ·

The poor data associated with the 7 snipe |² · ¶ · S ¼ S^a ¶ & S ± · ¶ · S² · ¶ · ¶ · μ ±^a as it is apparent that these data were lost as opposed to never being recorded. Robert Wilson (1959, p.4) 0 μ ± · · « · « ± & · S² ± ± S ¶ ¶ · | · ¶ · ± · « spent great care on skinning and preserving it. When it was arranged to his satisfaction he tied a label on it, giving date and locality and sex." It is unknown 0 « ± 2 μ 0 « ¼ & · S ¶ · ¶ · ± · ¶ · ± · ¶ · separated from their collection data. Much of the Stead bird collection was unlabelled at the time of S² ± ± S² ± ! 2 1 ¼ · « · ¶ · 0 · μ ± · , 2 · ¶ · ¼ labelled. "All the information was in his head apparently. Robert Falla had made an appointment · 2 1 · ¶ · « · ± 1 · ¶ · · 2 · a · · S ± ± # & 2 · S · *pers. comm* · ± · μ · ± · ¼ & · S · S · 2 ± 7 Feb before Falla could visit. The incorrect locality data on the Stead snipe specimens were apparently 0 μ ± ± ¼ ¶ · *pers. obs.*).

McLean's description of a South Island snipe

E² ± ž | Z² ± S · S · S · ¶ · μ ± · 2 · © · « · behaviour of the snipe he saw on Jacky Lee I on 26 " | · 0 · μ ± ± ± · « · ± ¼ ± · 0 « 2 · ¶ · ¶ · ¶ · privilege to observe a *Coenocorypha* snipe foraging: « · | · μ · μ S³ · μ ± · ¼ · « · μ ±² S ¶ · μ ± · 2 · ± · 0 · « frequent probing, constantly on the move, but unconcerned about the presence of an observer , ± · ¶ · 3 μ ¶ · S · 2 2 · ¶ · ž | Z² ± S² μ ± ± ± · 2 · © the bird being "Chestnut with black longitudinal 0 μ ± ± ¶ · 0 · ¶ · ¶ · 0 · « · % · «¹ | «-S ¶ type description made 10 years later, but based on ¶ · S |² · ¶ · S ¼ ¶ ¶ · ¶ · ž | Z² ± S² μ ± ± ±^a South Island snipe had richer and darker dorsal plumage than other *Coenocorypha* snipe; Rothschild S · ¶ · μ ± S · « · S² ¶ · 3 · , 0 · ¶ · | · « · ± S ± | · ¶ interscapular region, and back have the centres of the feathers black, not brown, and the pale borders 0 · | · μ S, | S · « · 0 ±^a |² 1 · μ ¶ μ ¶ ¶ · ± · 3 · ¶ · cinnamon brown...The tertials are black narrowly " S^a S 0 · « 3 · ¶ · ¶ · 0 · « · ± S ¶ · ± · | · S ¶ rufous bars..."

ž | Z² ± S / · « · μ ± & · « 0 · μ ± · « 2 ± ¼ · S² ¶ μ ± ¶ · 2 S · ¶ · μ ± · « · ¶ · |² 2 · μ 2 · © & · « Island snipe (yellow and pale yellow, respectively). ' « · μ S · ¶ · μ ± · ¶ · |² ± · μ ¶ · 0 · « 3 · ± · ¶ · 0 ± a · ± ± ¼ ¶ · a ± ¶ · ¶ · ¶ · S² ± ± · ¶ · μ Johns photograph of 1 of the 2 birds in the aviary on

... author, unpubl.) and has a more yellow tone than the Don Merton photograph of possibly the same bird reproduced here (Fig. 3), where the legs appear grey.

The bird in Fig. 3 is an adult, based on the deeply grooved upper mandible (see Barker et al. 2005). It is very unlikely that snipe could have bred ... arrived on Big South Cape I in Mar 1964 (Bell 1978), supporting the supposition that the 2 birds captured 4 months later were adult. The leg colour in other *Coenocorypha* snipe varies with locality (taxon), sex and individual, ranging from rich yellow in some adult males of Chatham Island snipe and Snares Island snipe (though typically paler yellow), through pale yellow (female Chatham Island snipe, both sexes of Auckland Island snipe and Campbell Island snipe *C. aucklandica perseverance* ... yellow (female Snares Island snipe), olive green (immature Snares Island and Chatham Island snipes) to grey (Antipodes Island snipe, immature Auckland Island and Campbell Island snipes) ... description of leg colour from Jacky Lee I does not conform with the leg colour of the adult bird photographed 53 years later on Big South Cape I.

... Lee and Big South Cape Is, as he presented a paper entitled "A new race of island snipe" to the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society on 5 Jun 1940 (Anon. 1942); unfortunately the paper was never published, and no such text has been found among the Stead papers in the David Macmillan archive in Canterbury Museum. Stead in the 1930s had no way of knowing that most of the Jacky Lee I snipe ... were the bulk of them labelled as from the Snares Is (Table 2), but due to the Dominion Museum shifting premises and the intervention of World War II, the 546 bird skins (including 25 snipe) purchased from ... the 1950s (Sandy Bartle, pers. comm.).

... between snipe from Jacky Lee I and those from Big ... window for the introduction of weka to Jacky Lee I. They were not there in 1911, and are likely to ... c.1929. These same dates tragically bookend the extinction of snipe on Jacky Lee I.

Scarcity of snipe on Jacky Lee and Big South Cape Islands

Snipe were apparently uncommon on both Jacky ...

evident both from the multiple visits (at least 8) needed to collect 15 specimens between 1897 and ... only during 3 visits in 1911, despite looking for ... encounter rate was apparent on Big South Cape ... 1987). The obvious explanation for low encounter rates on Big South Cape I was the presence of ... Richdale 1945; Miskelly 1987; this paper). Weka ... kept in check by regular harvest for consumption, meaning that weka on Big South Cape were never likely to reach the densities considered responsible for eradicating snipe on Jacky Lee I (Wilson 1959). The low encounter rate for snipe on Jacky Lee I is likely to have been largely due to the notoriously impenetrable vegetation of supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*) and *Muehlenbeckia* ... another factor in the apparently low density of snipe on Jacky Lee I may have been the presence of banded rails (McLean diary 1911), as the rails ... islands (Wilson 1959). As for the snipe, banded rails have not been recorded from Jacky Lee I since weka were introduced.

Collection of specimens of the South Island snipe in 1931

... makes it clear that all 5 clutches of eggs found on ... although only 4 of these are known to exist (all ... 2006). The clutch not accounted for was the 2nd clutch found on 2 Dec, which was "just hatching" ... (2006) presumed (or hoped) that these 2 eggs were left to hatch; their whereabouts is unknown, and it is plausible that they were unable to be blown ... diary is abhorrent to modern conservationist ... private collectors of bird eggs and skins in the ... (and publicly) concerned by increasing restrictions on their activities imposed by the Department of ... *Dominion* ... *The Press*, 14

Jun 1938; *New Zealand Herald*, 15 Jun 1938). It is unlikely that Wilson intended the quoted sections of his diary to be published; his 1959 book (p.49) made no reference to collection of snipe or their to bird preservation. Stead, in contrast, apparently expected or intended his unedited diary to be read by others; he chose to make no reference to the 7 snipe specimens collected, and his references to collection of their eggs were concealed by the use

2006). & 2006. Stead's snipe specimens were protected a period when most native birds were protected

22. Stead was issued 40 bird collecting permits by Act, including one to collect "Jacques Island snipe" (author, *unpubl.*). Technically this permit was ultra vires, as by a quirk of legislation, the South Island species to be protected, including Antipodes Island snipe, Auckland Island snipe, Chatham Island snipe and Snares Island snipe. As the "Jacques Island snipe" was not described until 1921, it was missed by the legislation, and so it was not given Wildlife Act, 1953, was passed.

1890s. All these men were seeking to make a living, or at least supplement their income, in an era when few native bird species were protected. In contrast, Stead did not sell specimens, and his collecting in the 1930s was typically targeted at addressing particular taxonomic questions (author, *unpubl.*). The snipe specimens that he collected on Big South Cape I. in 1931 were evidently intended to be used as the basis for describing a new taxon (Anon. 1942), although the paper was never published.

The real villains in the extinction of the South Island snipe were the introduced weka and rats, or, more precisely, the people who chose or allowed them to be introduced. Were it not for the specimens collected by (or for) Travers, Stead and Wilson, the only physical evidence that would remain of de Lange 2006; Ballance 2007; this paper) and 2 sad

Consequences of snipe extinction, and restorative actions

evolutionary tragedy, but some losses are felt more

struggle to name more than 3 (author, *pers. obs.*). The ecological role of snipe is poorly known (Miskelly *et al.* 2012), but their alter ego, the hakawai, remains community (Miskelly 1987). The extinction of tutukiwi (snipe) and hakawai (nocturnal aerial displaying by snipe) from islands around Stewart alongside Big South Cape I, in Apr 2005 (Miskelly *et al.* 2012). Two of the birds released had the broken tail feathers characteristic of birds that had been performing hakawai aerial displaying (Miskelly 2005), thereby restoring the potential for hakawai to west of Stewart I.

CONCLUSIONS

The South Island snipe was discovered on Jacky Lee three study skins, 1 mounted skin and 1 alcohol specimen (24 birds), and 4 clutches of this species Travers ever visited Stewart I or Jacky Lee I (the type locality for the species). The person who collected at least 15 snipe specimens from Jacky Lee I between 1897 and 1905 (including the type series for what is now known as *Coenocorypha iredalei*) is unknown, although it is now known that he also probably collected birds on Rangatira I in the Chatham Is in 1899 and 1900. The specimens were apparently all Rothschild (5 specimens), the Dominion Museum (9 specimens), and Dr Benjamin Moorhouse (1 specimen, now in Canterbury Museum). The long time period that elapsed between collection and the low likelihood that Travers collected the specimens himself, are the likely explanation for why only a third of these specimens were correctly labelled to locality.

here, is the only known account of a South Island snipe being observed at the type locality. They were extirpated there by introduced weka between 1911 and 1929.

Snipe were 1st recorded on Big South Cape I in 1913. Seven specimens were collected there in 1931.

Ž "±"μ «±±"± " μ¹±° ²©.«" ¶¶ ¶¶ ¼
Scolopacinae. #μ ' «" ¶±³"¶ ±±§ ¶° ° ²²§ |² |¶¶
Ibis (12th series) 2

Miskelly, C.M. 1987. The identity of the hakawai. *Notornis* 34

ž ¶@¼ " ž "¹±"± |" ¶μ «±±± ± ± μ±
 displaying by Snares Island snipe (*Coenocorypha aucklandica huegeli*). *Notornis* 52

ž ¶@¼ " #²³ ° «² ° ±§" ±§ " μ± |" #³
 172 in C. Miskelly (ed.) *Chatham Islands: heritage and conservation* " «μ¶ |« , μ |« " ±±. " μ±, μ¼ (±± " μ¶¼ #μ ¶¶

Miskelly, C.M.; Baker, A.J. 2010. Description of a new subspecies of *Coenocorypha* snipe from subantarctic " ±³ ¶- f¶±§ | ° - " ±±±§ *Notornis* 56

Miskelly, C.M.; Charteris, M.R.; Fraser, J.R. 2012. Successful translocation of Snares Island snipe (*Coenocorypha huegeli*) to replace the extinct South Island snipe (*C. iredalei*). *Notornis* 59

ž ¶@¼ " ž §" Ž±±" #L ! ². " ¶ ²± . «" breeding ecology of the extinct Stewart Island snipe (*Coenocorypha aucklandica iredalei*). *Notornis* 53 352.

ž ² μ¶ ¶ % & ¶ « fi *Wild south: saving New Zealand's endangered birds* , |@±§ ') ! - " ± , μ¼ fi , | « ± ¶±

! μ , ¶ | « & *The natural world of the Trails: an investigation into some of the nineteenth century naturalists of a particular family in Scotland and the colonies* * " ± a, ² ± ! " ¶ " aa

! μ , ¶ | « & *A naturalist and a gentleman: Charles Traill of Ulva, 1826–1891* * " ± a, ² ± ! " ¶ " aa

! " ¶ ± " " « ± fi ° ±¼ " ± ± ± ± fi ± ±¼ fi ° ° " ¶¼ ' μ± " ¶¶ ± ± § . «" % ¼ ± ° ². ± ± / ± ± ± / ± ± ± ± ± , ¶ ± *Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture annual journal* 16:

" ± " μ * % ° ' «" ¶ ± § ¶ ² © & ° ° μ ¶ ± § *The New Zealand journal of science and technology* 8(6)

" ± " μ * % ° *New Zealand birds*. Wellington: Fine Arts.

New Zealand birds. 2nd edn. Wellington: Reed.

° ± « § ± " Ž *Vanishing New Zealand birds* ! ² ² © « ¶¶ μ ¶¶ , ± " § ± " . ± a, ² . ± ¼ " ¶ ¶ ± § * ± " ¶¶ ! ° ¶ ± ± " ¶ " ²

Robin, L. 2001. ' «" ¶ . ² © . «" ° , ± § μ § ¼ ¶ ¶ ² © *Australian ornithology 1901-2001*. Carlton South: ž " ¶ , μ ± (± " ¶¼ #μ ¶¶

Rothschild, M. 1883. " μ Ž ² § % ² . ¶¶ «-§ ¶ ± § ¶ ¶ " μ ¶¶ and history # « ± § " ³ « ± ° ± ± ± ±

Rothschild, W. 1894a. [*Gallinago tristrami* ¶ ± *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 3(13)

° ± « ¶¶ «-§ * ¶ " ± ¶ ± ± ¶ ¶ ¶ ° . «" ! ° ° - " ± ± § μ ± a ± ± *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 3(14):

Rothschild, W. 1921. *Coenocorypha aucklandica iredalei*, subsp. nov. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 41: 63.

" ± ± ¼ ¶ ± " ž μ ± ¶ ± # *Extinct birds of New Zealand* % ¹ ¶ § " § ± ± * " ± a, ² ± " # ± ± # μ ¶¶

' μ ± " ¶¶ fi fi " ± . «" " « ± ° ¶¶ ± § ¶¶ *Transactions and proceedings of the New Zealand Institute* 1

' μ ± " ¶¶ fi fi ' μ ± " ¶¶ * ' Ž " ± . «" ¶ ± § ¶ ² © . «" Chatham Islands, with introductory remarks on the ± ± ± ± ± ± § ² μ ± ² © . «" ¶¶ ± § ¶ ± . «" μ ± ± ± ± . ² . « ² ¶ " ² © ! ° ° - " ± ± § *Transactions and proceedings of the New Zealand Institute* 5

' , μ ± ² " / ± μ ± ± « % ¶ « ± " « ± ¶ ¶ ž ž ± ± In: ° L / ± ± § ° . fi " « " μ § ¶ A ¼ ± a ¶ μ | ² ° ° ° ² μ ± ± a @¼ ¶ ¶ ² © «" " μ ± « ² ² a ± ± *Society of New Zealand 1940-1990*. Auckland: Random Century.

Warham, J. 1967. Snares Island birds. *Notornis* 14

Warham, J.; Bell, B.D. 1979. The birds of Antipodes Island, ! ° ° - " ± ± § *Notornis* 26

Wilson, R.A. 1959. *Bird islands of New Zealand*. Christchurch: * « ± ² ° ¶ " ² ° ¶¶

, ² , ± a . *Our islands, our selves: a history of conservation in New Zealand* , ± " § ± (± " ¶¼ ¼ ² © " . ± a # μ ¶¶