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I am also personally indebted to M. J. Imber and M. P. Kearns for information they have supplied and to B. D. Bell and R. B. Sibson for their helpful comments during the preparation of this paper.

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SHORT NOTE

GLOSSY IBIS AMONG SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHERS

During a beach patrol along Ward Beach on 18 January 1980 (part of the field work of OSNZ summer school), I became separated from the rest of the party and, while fossicking on the beach opposite Chancet Rocks, saw about 50 Pied Oystercatchers (*Haematopus finschi*) flying north in a fairly tight flock just offshore at about 5 m high above sea level. Among them was a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) whose long curved bill was clear and unmistakable. The ibis was completely integrated in the flock, near the front but not in the lead. The flock flew steadily north as though on migration.

Previous to this I have not seen any other species flying with SIPO except the occasional Variable Oystercatcher (*H. unicolor*). Pied Stilt will often fly adjacently but not on a migration flight.

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