

Hermitage on 30 November, but no Fantails were seen. On the other hand, a report from Mount Algidus claimed that there were many fewer Tomtits, Fantails and Riflemen since the storm.

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SHORT NOTE

PUMICE COLLECTING BY A BANDED DOTTEREL

While staying at Port Waikato for ten days in November 1968, I discovered a nest of a Banded Dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*) early on the morning of 14/11/68. During that day a hide was moved in stages to a final position of some 10 feet from the nest. When my companion had left, the female immediately returned and settled onto the eggs. She seemed restless though, and after some minutes stood up and moved slowly away picking up chips of pumice and 'throwing them over her shoulder' as it were, in the direction of the nest. She went for a distance of some 6-9 feet and then immediately returned to the nest where she sat; and stretching out, picked up all the chips that had fallen near the nest. These she tucked under her. When she had collected all she could reach without actually getting up, she then repeated the process. At no time did she pick up pumice chips on her way back but would collect only those within reach from a sitting position. The nest at this stage had only two eggs and a third had been added by 16/11/68.

During my stay at Port Waikato I also observed a Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) feeding on the estuary near two Banded Dotterels. From a perusal of the literature it would appear that this is the first record for Port Waikato.

— DON. W. HADDEN