

weighing between 10 and 14% of their body weight. Next come the Cracidae (Curassows) with eggs weighing from 7 to 10%, then the Laridae (gulls and terns) with eggs weighing between 6 and 9% of the adult weight.

All Apterygiformes (Kiwis) lay exceptionally large eggs but only a few of the smallest-sized Procellariiformes and Charadriiformes lay eggs that are of comparable relative proportions.

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SHORT NOTE

A SANDERLING AT OPOUTERE

While checking waders on 8/1/71 at Opoitere, on the East Coast at the base of the Coromandel Peninsula, my husband and I found a Sanderling *Calidris alba*, feeding near a flock of Banded Dotterels *Charadrius bicinctus*. The bird was racing back and forth at the crest of the steep ocean beach and pecking rapidly along the line of weed thrown up by the rolling surf. Twice it was seen to run on the same spot, apparently using its feet to disturb sandhoppers and small flies, and once to run down towards the water. It had a tip-toed look, no doubt because this species lacks a hind toe and moved at an accelerated pace when compared with the run-and-stop action of the Banded Dotterels. This bird was part way into breeding plumage with a brownish tone starting to show on the pale grey back. The dark shoulder patch was well marked and there was some brownish mottling descending from the shoulder area onto the breast. Underparts were white as was the face, particularly around the bill, with a few brownish feathers on the cheeks. The straight black bill and black legs were noted and the bird was put up. If it called we did not hear it over the roar of the surf but a short flight showed its strong white wing-bar and white sided dark tail.

A Sanderling seen at Taramaire, Firth of Thames, by South Auckland members on 11/4/70 was very well coloured with scaly patterned back, well spotted breast and "roughed" cheeks but retained the white ring around the bill. Another seen at Rangiputa Bank, Rangaunu Harbour, on 16/1/71, during the Far North Field Study Course, was completely pale and a perfect example of a bird in eclipse plumage. This bird, in calm conditions, fed at the edge of and just into the water and it was of great interest to me to see that this bird also ran about on the same spot, as the Opoitere bird had done.

— BETH BROWN