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SHORT NOTE

THE BANDED DOTTEREL IN NEW CALEDONIA

The winter distribution of the Banded Dotterel (*Charadrius bicincta*) to the north of New Zealand is not well defined. The species has been recorded at Norfolk Island (Wakelin 1968), the Fiji Islands (Morgan & Morgan 1965, Smart 1971) and the New Hebrides (OSNZ 1970: 45). However, in his authoritative monograph on the birds of New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands, Delacour (1966: 76) did not include the Banded Dotterel but commented that it is very likely that waders other than the nine he listed may occur there from time to time.

On 24 August 1974 at 1600h we observed a party of six Banded Dotterels in breeding plumage at Magenta, Noumea. They were feeding at low tide on a small sandbank 40 metres from the shore near the end of a light aircraft aerodrome runway. The Dotterels were accompanied by one Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) in breeding plumage, three Eastern Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica*) and seven Pacific Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*) one of which was in breeding plumage. The birds were disturbed from time to time by light aircraft taking off over the sandbank on which they were feeding. No waders were seen on visits to the area on 22 August and 1 September.

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