

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL (*C. melanops*) NEAR PALMERSTON NORTH

By IAN G. ANDREW

On 25/8/55 I saw a Black-fronted Dotterel (*Charadrius melanops*) at Longburn, where it was feeding in a small paddock by the Manawatu River.

I watched the bird for fifty minutes at a distance of 22 yards, through a telescope of 15x, with a tree trunk as rest. There was bright sunshine coming from behind me. The dotterel moved within a radius of only a few yards and permitted views from all angles. I identified it almost immediately from memory of the description given by D. H. Brathwaite in the account of the first record of the species for New Zealand (*Notornis*, 6, p. 146). I took down notes on the spot, observing it from 10.30 a.m. to 11.20 a.m., and on returning home I found that the complete description and some of its actions tallied exactly with those given by Mr Brathwaite for the Napier bird. I also noted, when it raised its wings, that the underwing was white with black expanses on the wing tips. Sometimes the dotterel bobbed its head vigorously, but much of the time it remained still. At 11.30 a.m. it flew up and circled around, calling, and landed nearby but out of sight, and I did not follow. In flight it seemed to have a quicker downstroke of its wings than does a Banded Dotterel (*C. binctus*), with which I am familiar, and its call note was a sharp 'tink, tink' of a considerably higher pitch than that of a Banded Dotterel.

[Field notes and sketches made on the spot were submitted by I.G.A. and leave no doubt about the correctness of the identification.—Ed.]

BULBULS IN AUCKLAND

By E. G. TURBOTT, Auckland Museum

The following are notes to date on the distribution of the red-vented bulbul, *Pycnonotus cafer* (Linn.), in the Auckland city area. The introduction of this species by some unknown means appears to have been made in about 1952, but it was not until 1954 that its establishment at several points in the suburbs of Auckland was recognised. Efforts under the control of the New Zealand Department of Agriculture are in progress to exterminate bulbuls at these points of establishment and, as the species is present in only small numbers, its future is still doubtful.

General — Distribution and Field Characters

The red-vented bulbul (also termed 'common bulbul' in older works) is widely distributed in Asia — throughout India, from the extreme North-west, and the Himalayas, to southern India and Ceylon; and to the east as far as eastern Burma.* It has been introduced into Fiji, where it is now common.

This species is also probably established in Melbourne, according to Lendon (1952), who says that: 'It has been stated on occasions that bulbuls have become established in the suburbs of Melbourne, and it has generally been assumed that the species in question is the red-whiskered bulbul (*Otocompsa emeria*), which is common around Sydney.' Lendon records a single observation of a red-vented bulbul, which he saw closely in a garden in Melbourne in October 1942, and the presence of a skin in the South

*This is the range of *P. cafer* according to the recent revision by Deignan (1949), but other authors include under *P. cafer* the bulbuls with under tail-coverts yellowish and light grey, extending to China and Java (Delacour, 1943).