

LETTERS

The Editor,
Sir,

CREDIT TO THE BARD

I have read with great interest and pleasure the paper in your March issue entitled "The Snares Western Chain," by C. A. Fleming and A. N. Baker.

Could I presume to take them up on a very small literary point? In the final paragraph they offer an apology to John Milton. Might I suggest that in the first paragraph they should do likewise to John Keats, whose casements opened on perilous, not magic, seas?

G. FENWICK

17 Mount Street,
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26 April 1973



The Editor,
Sir,

CALLS OF BANDED DOTTEREL

Regarding the comment of J. M. Cunningham (1973: 22) on the call of the Banded Dotterel, in which, referring to the quickly repeated notes "chair-kik-kiker," he stated: "It is curious that . . . he [Stidolph] does not mention that this is a territorial call which in my experience is used only when one bird is chasing another from its territory."

The reason is this: A March entry in my diary some years ago relating to a Wairarapa Lake area states that about forty Banded Dotterel in winter plumage were feeding along the water's edge. On several occasions one was seen chasing another and uttering the notes referred to above. The diary entry at the time added — "just like they do in the breeding season."

R. H. D. STIDOLPH

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REFERENCE

CUNNINGHAM, J. M. 1973. The Banded Dotterel, *Charadrius bicinctus*: Pohowera or Tuturiwhatu? Call notes and behaviour. *Notornis* 20 (1): 21-27.

The authors of the article referred to comment: "The apology to Milton was for an intentional misquotation, but the misquotation of Keats and the mis-spelling of forlorn were unintentional and deeply regretted since we knew the quotation (who does not?) and Subantarctic seas are as perilous as any. No proofs were seen and the lapse was not picked up till too late. Apologies to the Gentle Reader as well as to Keats." C. A. Fleming & A. N. Baker, 15 May 1973.