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- Keywords** banded dotterel, *Charadrius bicinctus*, Vanuatu.

Notornis, 2003, Vol. 50: 235

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SHORT NOTE

A longevity record for whitehead *Mohoua albicilla*, Pachycephalidae

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On 22 January 2001, IS saw a colour-banded whitehead (*Mohoua albicilla*) in the south-west of Little Barrier Island near the main landing site. It was on the flats, about 300 m east of the "Bunkhouse" and about 80 m from the shore. It had a metal band (M) and 3 colour-bands in the combination red/metal (left), red/white (right). The bird was clearly the dominant male of a 3-bird group. It had a bright white head and sang frequently.

Nearly 200 whiteheads were colour-banded between 1984 and 1989 by BJG and co-workers (Gill & McLean 1992). All were marked in the south-west of the island within c. 1 km of the "Bunkhouse". Since then, no other whiteheads have been colour-banded on the island (K. Da Vanzo, N.Z. National Bird Banding Scheme, pers. com.).

The colour-bands used proved to be prone to fading, especially yellow which faded to off-white, so the bird in question may have been either :

- (1) Male B-41125, red/metal, red/white, banded as an adult in January 1985.
- (2) Male B-41131, red/metal, red/yellow, banded as a juvenile in March 1985.

The second bird would not have hatched after January 1985. Therefore, the bird seen in January 2001 was at least 16 years and 0 months old. The previous longevity record for this species was 8 years and 7 months (Gill 1993). The yellowhead (*M. ochrocephala*) is also known to reach at least 16 years, in the Eglinton Valley, Fiordland (Dilks 1999).

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Keywords Whitehead; *Mohoua albicilla*; Pachycephalidae; New Zealand; banding; longevity