

NORTH ISLAND KOKAKO *Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*

Otanewainuku, 2 on 2/5 seen from Mountain Road summit track (PCML). Te Matai SF, 1 on 23/5 feeding on hinau leaves (GAT). Upper Waitara River, North Taranaki (Rerekapa area), 1 in Feb, seen being chased from miro tree by a Bellbird (JMC).

BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Longburn, Palmerston North, 1 on 22/12 (JM, MM). Kaikoura, occasionally seen among White-backed Magpies (BE).

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE *G. tibicen hypoleuca*

Massey Golf Course, Auckland, 6 on 15/2 (AMac). Mt Maunganui Reserve, 2 on 26/2. Well established at Matakana Island (KICF). Ashley Clinton-Tikotiko, 120 on 15/3 (KVT). Foxton Beach, c.70 on 6/9 feeding in paddock (JM, MM).

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

FoT census, 60 on 6/7 at Access Bay (BB). Kaiti Hill, Gisborne, 16 on 15/3 (BRK). Te Hauke, 20 on 12/7 (KVT). Brunswick, Wanganui, 3 on 31/5 (LC). Kaikoura, 3 on 23/8 (BE).



SHORT NOTES

A TURNSTONE-BANDED DOTTEREL RELATIONSHIP

Banded Dotterels (*Charadrius bicinctus*) are always at the Ashley River estuary in numbers varying from tens to several hundreds. One day in late August, we found a newly arrived Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), still with traces of breeding plumage, resting on a gravel bank near full tide in company with some ducks, terns and gulls. As we watched, the Turnstone flew off to join a male Banded Dotterel in full breeding plumage, which had arrived on a nearby gravel spit. The two birds then began to feed in company, and for an hour they were never more than a few metres apart, flying from island to island and working their way around the perimeters. Sometimes one bird, sometimes the other would lead on the short flights between exposed islands.

Each was obviously seeking the company of the other deliberately. This was clearly illustrated on one occasion when the Turnstone moved out of an area suitable to the dotterel on to coarse muddied pebbles. The dotterel became agitated, running back and forth between the mudbank and the Turnstone, and eventually it induced the Turnstone to follow it back to a place that suited both to feed. This behaviour was in striking contrast to the aggression normally shown between one Banded Dotterel and another on their feeding patches or between Banded Dotterels and Wrybills (*Anarhynchus frontalis*), when conduct ranges from evident irritation to extreme pugnacity. Turnstone, however, seem much more gregarious and often feed in tightly bunched groups.

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