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J. P. CROXALL, *British Antarctic Survey, Natural Environment Research Council, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET, United Kingdom*



## SHORT NOTE

### TUI FEEDING ON SANDHOPPERS

On 6 December 1981 at the mouth of Sealers Creek on Codfish Island, northwest of Stewart Island, I saw a Tui fly from the adjacent muttonbird scrub and land on the wet sand beside the creek at low tide. The Tui moved around on the sand catching sandhoppers both on the surface and also by probing into the firm sand. This unusual behaviour lasted for about 3 minutes before the Tui flew to a stand of flax which was not then in flower. Inspection of the area where the Tui had been feeding revealed footprints and shallow probe holes over an area of about 4 m<sup>2</sup>. Unidentified sandhoppers were numerous both on the surface and in the wet sand. The same feeding behaviour was observed again at low tide on the following day, but on this occasion the Tui, possibly the same bird, fed only briefly on surface sandhoppers before flying off. Tuis, like Bellbirds, have a broad diet of insects, fruits and nectar, but the taking of small marine crustacea from sand below high water is surprising and demonstrates the adaptability of this New Zealand honey-eater.

M. J. DANIEL, *Ecology Division, DSIR, Lower Hutt*