

sterno-abdominal tracts erupted from their sheaths on about the 7th day, soon followed by feathers of the spinal, humeral, alar and pectoral tracts. Nestlings gripped the nest's lining from 9 days old.

Table 2 gives average weights and tarsal lengths of nestlings 0-9 days old. All older nestlings under observation were preyed upon, probably by introduced rodents and mustelids. Tarsal length was taken with vernier calipers laterally from the ankle joint to the articulation of the folded toes.

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### SHORT NOTES

#### GODWITS SHOW CURIOSITY

At Mataitai, Clevedon, on 14 October 1978, I found a New Zealand Dotterel (*Charadrius obscurus*) with two day-old chicks. Its broken-wing display attracted a nearby flock of 50+ Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica*), which marched towards it with great curiosity and chattering. When they were some 75 cm away, the dotterel ran and then flew, followed by the godwits. The godwits lost interest only when the dotterel ceased displaying.

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#### GREY TERNLET

At 1330hrs on 14 March 1980, two Grey Ternlets (*Procelsterna cerulea*) were seen at 34°19'S 172°08'E, which is just south of the Three Kings Islands.

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