

seen behind Parliament Building at Apia were 15 Black-naped Tern (*Sterna sumatrana*) and one stint (*Calidris* sp.) on 7 September 1979.

This report is compiled from lists given by members each day and from remarks in notebooks and personal comments. I would like to thank all members of the group for their help and co-operation in adding and commenting.

## ENTOMOLOGICAL FOOTNOTE

*By Derek Russell*

The insect fauna is of no great distinction and the major groups are familiar to New Zealand entomologists. Because Samoa lies at the eastern end of a great island chain, the insects now present are derived almost entirely by island-hopping from the west. Also, since the trade winds blow from east to west in general, only the hardier and more widespread species are to be found.

Nevertheless, among the 300 or so specimens collected for DSIR and Auckland Museum (say, 8% of the known insect fauna) several species were new to science or had not before been recorded on Savai'i.

In these islands there is plenty of work for the amateur entomologist.

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## SHORT NOTE

### NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL TAKES FISH

At Karaka, south Manukau Harbour, on 13 May 1979, I noted a group of three New Zealand Dotterel (*Charadrius obscurus*). One noticed a movement in the very shallow water, flew over, and chased a small fish. A second bird flew over but showed little interest, and then the third took up the pursuit. The fish dodged, but was caught. It must have been killed immediately because it was dropped in the water but did not try to escape. The dotterel picked it up, went on to the sand, put it down, picked it up, shuffled it about in its bill, manoeuvring it into position, and swallowed it. The fish was about twice the length of the bird's bill, c. 60 mm, and about 5-6 mm wide.

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