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### AUSTRALIAN SIGHT RECOVERY OF A COLOUR-BANDED BANDED DOTTEREL

During and since the 1977-78 breeding season, many Banded Dotterels (*Charadrius bicinctus*) have been colour-banded by Mary Bomford and Ray Pierce on the Cass River delta, Lake Tekapo, as part of their behavioural and population studies. On 25 November 1977, a nesting adult female was trapped and colour-banded with its own colour combination. In 1978, this bird returned to nest at the same part of the delta, where on 11 November 1978 Peter Dann found it with two chicks, at least one of which later fledged. The last sighting in the 1978-79 season was on 27 November.

While cannon-netting waders in southern Victoria with the Victorian Wader Study Group, Peter Dann saw this colour-banded female on 17 June 1979. It was in a flock of 150 Banded Dotterels and several Red-capped Dotterels (*C. alexandrinus ruficapillus*) roosting during high tide in a saltmarsh at Point Wilson, 46 km south-west of Melbourne and about 2000 km from the place of banding in New Zealand. The bird showed noticeably paler bands than most of the other adults in the flock. At this time, the juveniles had not acquired breeding plumage. The flock remained in the area for several days, but the female was not seen again.

During the 1979 winter and early spring, Ray Pierce kept a close check on Banded Dotterels returning to the Cass Delta. At that time of year all dotterels foraged either at the rivermouth or at a nearby muddy inlet of Lake Tekapo, and so they were easily checked for colour bands. The colour-banded female was not present on all dates leading up to and including 18 July. The next check was on 21 July when the bird (with the unusually pale breast and neck bands retained throughout the breeding season) was found at the rivermouth actively defending a small feeding territory. Three further sightings up to 21 August involved the bird at the rivermouth (once) and at the muddy inlet (twice). By 9 September, it had occupied a territory in the same area as the previous two years.

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