

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)  
Based on: Watola, G. 2009. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (2nd Edition)  
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.  
Updated and amended text supplied by George Watola, October, 2011.  
Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)  
New Zealand dotterel: p 122.

**(Southern) New Zealand Dotterel** (*Tuturiwhatu*) *Charadrius obscurus obscurus* Gmelin 1789, Endemic  
4/4/1773 Dusky Sound, Fiordland

It was first collected on Cook's second voyage at Dusky Sound in April 1773 (Hoare 1982). Johann Forster said it was "found on gravelly shores in the South Island". The usual trio of Forster, Latham and then Gmelin described the species (the "Dusky Plover" of Latham). The name was based on George Forster's painting, as no specimen exists (Medway 2005).

**(Northern) New Zealand Dotterel** *Charadrius obscurus aquilonius* Dowding 1994, Endemic  
1994 Mangere, Auckland

Falla (1969) noted that the southern form was "well worth following up. It is so different in behaviour to the northern race". Falla (1940b) had also previously wondered if two races were involved because of their different breeding and migratory habits.

Dowding described the northern race in 1994, based on differences in plumage, body and egg measurements, and ecological and behavioural distinctions. The division between the two populations may have been in the central North Island, rather than Cook Strait. The southern (nominate) race only numbered c. 65 birds in 1994. The holotype was collected at Mangere.

Most plovers of the genus *Charadrius* are called dotterels in New Zealand. Potts (1872) called the New Zealand Dotterel the Red-breasted Plover, and the Banded Dotterel the Dotterel. Hamilton (1885) similarly referred to these species. Certainly by 1888 both species were called dotterels (Buller 1888). *Thinornis novaeseelandiae* has always been called the Shore Plover.

