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Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Large sand dotterel: pp 156-157.



### LARGE SAND DOTTEREL

**Family** Charadriidae

**Species** *Charadrius leschenaulti*

**Common names** Large Sand Dotterel, Greater Sand Plover

**Status** Vagrant

**Abundance** Uncommon

**Size** 240 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Banded Dotterel 200mm)

**Habitat** A bird of estuaries and harbours.

**Worldwide range** Breeds in highland areas in a belt from the Caspian Sea through to Mongolia. It winters around the coasts of East Africa, southern Asia, through Malaysia and Indonesia to Australia. A few birds come to New Zealand.

**New Zealand range** Likely to be found in the traditional wader haunts of the northern harbours, but can be expected from any estuary.

## **Description – non breeding plumage**

**Forehead** White extending to above eye. **Upperparts including shoulder tabs** Grey-brown. **Underparts** White. **Bill and legs** Black.

## **Description – breeding plumage**

**Crown nape and breast** Reddish-orange. **Forehead** White, edged with black. **Eye-stripe** A black marking extends from bill through eye to back of head. **Upperparts** Brownish. **Chin** White. **Underparts** White. **Eye** Black.

## **Conspicuous feature**

- Look for the dark eye.

## **Conspicuous characteristics**

- Has a tendency to stand motionless.
- Runs and pauses like all plovers when feeding.

## **Differences between Large Sand Dotterels and Mongolian Dotterels**

- Large Sand Dotterels appear leggy and stand taller than Mongolian.
- Large Sand Dotterels have a more horizontal posture.
- Large Sand Dotterels have white on chin and throat lacks black edge.
- Breast-band in breeding plumage has more orange than the Mongolian.

## **Where to find – North Island**

**North Auckland** – Kaipara Harbour at Manukapua Island. P. 287.

**South Auckland** – Miranda. P. 302.

## **Where to find – South Island**

**Canterbury** – Lake Ellesmere. P. 351.

**Southland** – Waituna Lagoon. P. 364.