

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
Red-kneed dotterel: p 120.

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus* Gould 1838, Vagrant (1)
14/3/1976 Manawatu Estuary, Manawatu

H.A. Robertson, M.D. Dennison and S. Quin discovered New Zealand's first and so far only Red-kneed Dotterel at the well-watched Manawatu estuary (Robertson & Dennison 1977). It was first seen at 0900h, near to a mixed group of waders which included Knot, Wrybill and two Terek Sandpipers. It was very active, and resembled a Black-fronted Dotterel at first glance.

This small estuary has the local reputation of being the best birding site in New Zealand. This claim is perhaps backed up by it being outshone only by the far larger areas of the Manukau Harbour and the Firth of Thames in terms of firsts discovered since 1940.

