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Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Mongolian dotterel: pp 157-158.



### MONGOLIAN DOTTEREL.

**Family** Charadriidae

**Species** *Charadrius mongolus*

**Common names** Mongolian Dotterel, Lesser Sand Plover.

**Status** Vagrant

**Abundance** Rare

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

**Worldwide range** Two races of the Mongolian Dotterel are recognised. One breeds in central Asia and migrates south to India and East Africa, while the other race breeds in eastern Siberia and migrates down the coastline of the Pacific rim countries to Australia. From Australia, birds consistently straggle to New Zealand. Because of its similarity to the Banded Dotterel when not in breeding plumage it presents an identification challenge.

**Habitat** Found in muddy estuaries and harbours.

**Range** Consistently found at such places as Te Hihi on the Manukau Harbour, Miranda in the Firth of Thames, Ahuriri near Napier, Embankment Road and Kaitorete Spit at Lake Ellesmere and Farewell Spit at the northern most point of the South Island.

### **Description – non-breeding plumage**

**Forehead** White extending to a white eyebrow. **Upperparts** Greyish-brown.

**Shoulder tabs** Greyish-brown. **Underparts** White. **Eye** Black, with dark surrounding feathers. **Bill** Black. **Legs** Grey.

### **Description – breeding plumage**

**Forehead** White, edged with black. **Face and chin** White, with a black line through eye to behind eye. **Upperparts** Greyish-brown. **Chin** White, faintly edged with black. **Head, breast-band and nape** Chestnut. **Underparts** White.

**Bill** Black. **Legs** Grey.

### **Conspicuous feature**

- Look for the dark eye in breeding and non-breeding plumage birds.

### **Conspicuous characteristics**

- When feeding it runs, pauses and then dips its bill forward.
- Associates with Banded Dotterel and Wrybill.

### **Differences between Mongolian Dotterels and Banded Dotterels when not in breeding plumage**

- The Mongolian Dotterel has a brownish crown and head. The Banded Dotterel has tawny tonings.
- The Mongolian Dotterel has dark brownish eye surrounds. The Banded Dotterel is tawny around the eye.
- The Mongolian Dotterel is darkish brown on the upperparts. The Banded Dotterel tends to tawny colouring.

### **Difference between Mongolian Dotterels and Banded Dotterels when in breeding plumage**

- The Banded Dotterel lacks the dark eye.
- The Banded Dotterel has double bands on its breast with a clean white barrier between. The Mongolian has a single wide band.

### **From P. 156.**

### **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.

**Auckland** – Puketutu Island causeway Mangere Sewage Plant. P. 298.

**South Auckland** – Miranda with Banded Dotterels. P. 302.

**Hawkes Bay** – Ahuriri near Napier. P. 331.

### **Where to find – South Island**

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

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



