Banded dotterel Pohowera

Otago Regional Council

Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus



Conservation status

Regional | Threatened: Vulnerable National | At Risk: Declining



Main threats

Habitat loss and degradation, introduced mammalian predators





Length: 20 cm



Weight: 60 g





Breeding range



Migratory range



Breeds on riverbeds and mountaintops in spring, moving to coastal estuaries for the rest of the year. Also found in other parts of Te Waipounamu / South Island and Te Ika-a-Māui / North Island, with some birds migrating to Australia.

Key Otago sites:

- Te Awa Whakatipu / Dart River
- Karitane
- Aramoana
- Puketuroto / Hooper's Inlet
- Pounawea / Catlins Lake

New Zealand endemic

A small plover with two bold breast bands while in breeding plumage, one in the form of a reddish bib. Males have darker crown, eye and band feathers. Juveniles have mottled tawny upperparts. Common calls are 'peeps' and

Similar bird:



Wrybill / ngutu pare

'chips'. Big eyes help them pursue small invertebrates by sight.