

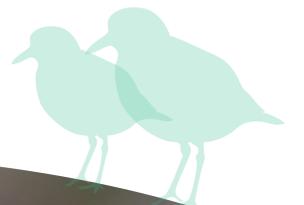
Protecting our River birds

Protecting their whānau

When threats are near, such as human, dogs, and predators, adults run away from the nest and make loud noises, pretending they are injured to attract the threat away from the nest. The chicks know that this call means to 'freeze' at the spot, making them very vulnerable to predation and trampling.

Hawke's Bay braided rivers and coastal beaches are home for birds that are only found in Aotearoa.

Predators, human activity, and weeds are killing these birds and making it harder for them to breed. To help these birds please watch out for them, and take care especially when they're raising their chicks in spring and summer.



Banded dotterel
Charadrius bicinctus



Black-fronted dotterel
Elsayornis melanops

Breeding:

From August each year they breed on clean, weed-free braided riverbeds, creating well camouflaged nests that are hard to spot. Eggs and chicks both look like and are the size of cobbles. This makes it easy for them to avoid native predators, but makes them defenceless against predators such as hedgehogs, cats, rats, and humans.

Spot the eggs

Banded dotterel eggs and chicks look like stones and are hard to spot.

How you can help

River and coastal birds are particularly vulnerable when they are incubating eggs and raising chicks. You can help these birds by:



Keeping dogs on leads



Keeping an eye out for hard-to-spot nests



Driving slowly on riverbeds or beaches and sticking to well formed tracks



Staying at least 30m away from nests



Spreading the word

Photo Credit: All photography by Adam Clarke

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