

BIRD NOTES

LARGE SAND DOTTEREL AT ALDINGA REEF — At 18.30 on January 1, 1975, on the shore bordering Aldinga Reef, 35 kilometres south of Adelaide on St. Vincent Gulf, a larger dotterel was found amongst a substantial group of other waders. These included Red-capped

Dotterels, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, Red-necked Stints, *Calidris ruficollis*, four American Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*, three Grey-tailed Tattlers, *Tringa brevipes*, one Sanderling *Calidris alba*, and a large wader which was possibly a Great Knot, *Calidris tenuirostris*.

The following observations were made of the larger dotterel. Size approximately equal to the tattlers, perhaps taller; generally pale brown on the upper parts; dark incomplete breast band; no dark patch through eye. Frontal region pale, supercilium barely continuous. Bill long, dark and thick. Thin wing stripe and edges of rump white.

On the following evening I returned with John Cox, and the following points were noted, allowing identification as a Large Sand Dotterel, *Charadrius leschenaultii*.

Legs ashy to greenish grey, long and often bent when the bird was alert. Bill thick and blackish, length equal to the length of the head. Breast band placed high, very well demarcated from the white underparts but failing to meet anteriorly by 15-25 mm. Crown only slightly darker than the back, forehead and the nearly incomplete supercilium white. Eye large and dark. After alighting from flight it stood very tall, approximating the outline of the Golden Plover, but differed by infrequent, though vigorous bobbing actions.

The Large Sand Dotterel may spend the northern Winter in coastal northern, western and eastern Australia. The first record for South Australia was in 1967 when J. Eckert secured a specimen at Langhorne Creek (S. Aust. Orn. 25, 21. 1968). Since that time further specimens have been taken from a group of birds at Baird Bay, Eyre Peninsula (Eckert, J., S. Aust. Orn. 26, 140. 1974) and other sightings have been near Mannum (Cox, J. B., S. Aust. Orn. 26, 107. 1973), Point Turton, Yorke Peninsula on September 5-12, 1970, and at Beachport on March 6-8, 1971 (S. Aust. Orn. 26, 92). The present sighting is believed to be the first ~~from St-~~ Vincent's Gulf.

— A. B. BLACK.

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