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Abstracts

BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS

NEST MONITORING AND PREDATOR VISITATION AT NESTS OF BANDED DOTTERELS

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Abstract. We used videocameras to monitor 39 nests of the Banded Dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*), a ground-nesting plover endemic to New Zealand that suffers from predation by introduced mammals. To test whether monitoring nests increased the chances of nests being visited by predators, 22 of the video-monitored nests were approached on foot daily to simulate conventional monitoring and 17 unapproached nests were monitored using video cameras only. The proportions of approached nests (46%) and unapproached nests (41%) that were visited by predators did not differ significantly, nor was there any evidence that predators used human scent trails to locate nests. This study provides some evidence that monitoring Banded Dotterel nests by regularly checking them does not influence their risk of predation.

Key words: Banded Dotterel, *Charadrius bicinctus*, investigator disturbance, nest monitoring, predation, videocameras.