

between the two types. It has been stated that *ornatus* usually utters a double note while *substriatus* gives a triple note. There is also a suspicion that *ornatus* is more common in the hills and mountains and *substriatus* in the more open and drier lowland country. Such general impressions are not worth very much without careful census data to back them up. Cooper's study has established an excellent basis for further studies.

Until the facts are fully known, it would be futile to speculate on the origin of the various types. *P. ornatus* is often interpreted as a stabilized hybrid population between *striatus* and *substriatus*. As Hindwood and Mayr point out (*l.c.*, p. 65): "such a hypothesis faces many difficulties, the greatest of which is the necessity to explain how sexual isolation could have developed between the former 'hybrid population' *ornatus* and the two parental populations when they themselves freely interbreed." This objection is as valid now as it was when first made.

The problem of the Red-tipped Pardalotes gives the field observer a splendid opportunity to contribute to the solution of a biological puzzle. We must be aware, however, that the differences between the two types are slight and that it would be far worse than useless to publish casual observations that are not completely reliable.

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**Double-banded Dotterel in breeding plumage.**—While at Black Rocks, near Barwon Heads, on November 1, 1959, a single Double-banded Dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*) was noticed in full breeding plumage, with very distinctive upper black, and lower chestnut breast-bands.

The bird was easily approached, and was constantly resting with its body on the sand, the reason for which was soon evident: the left leg, being deformed, was being held up against the side of the body.

It kept constant company with 11 Hooded Dotterels (*Charadrius cucullatus*), and, when hopping on the right leg, made no attempt to lower the left leg. Later visits revealed no trace of the bird.

My latest record for this species in Victoria is at Ercildoune, near Ballarat, on August 18, 1957. — J. R. WHEELER, Belmont, Vic., 15/6/60.