



The breeding season for our endangered NZ dotterels at Onemana Beach is here.

In nature's accounting, every dotterel should see 30 years of tides. However in reality, DOC tell us most dotterels don't make it to their 5th birthday and most chicks are killed in the first few days and weeks of life.

Last year on our beach, 21 chicks hatched, but only 7 fledged, fledged meaning they made it to flying at around 6 weeks of age.

We saw on our wildlife camera, these chicks were easy prey for feral cats but also sadly domestic cats allowed to roam at night, dogs running unrestrained on the beach, stoats, black back gulls and a harrier hawk.

The dotterel team do their best to cover nests from gulls and hawks and to trap stoats, rats and hedgehogs. But please, we need your help with keeping cats and dogs away from the nests during the breeding season - September to December.

Also if you happen to see an adult dotterel pretending to be injured it will likely be trying to lead you away from a nest or chicks.

You may also come across an unfenced nest on the beach with up to 3 surprisingly large, speckled, wet sand coloured eggs.

If so, please contact

Les 021790459
Chris 021620448
or Dean 0274903957

Thanks so much for your efforts to help these vulnerable birds breed successfully.

Chris McDonald and the Dotterel team.

