



**CURIOUS  
MINDS**  
HE HIHIRI I TE MAHARA



Dotterel Defenders

Stay below the high tide mark between August and March to avoid disturbing nesting shorebirds

# MAMMAL FOOTPRINTS: AT A GLANCE

Footprints shown at actual size

Variable length



Dog

4cm



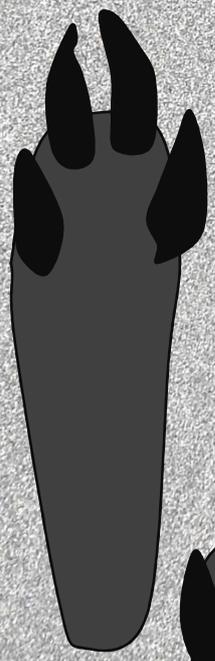
Cat

7cm



Possum

8cm



Rabbit

4cm



Stoat

4.5cm



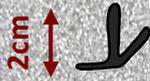
Hedgehog

# BIRD FOOTPRINTS: AT A GLANCE

Footprints shown at half actual size



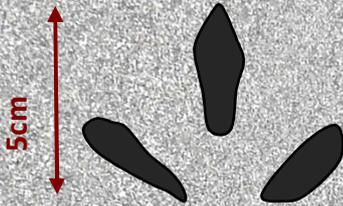
NZ dotterel



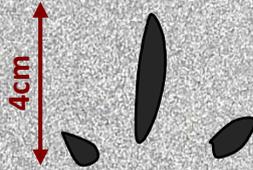
Banded dotterel



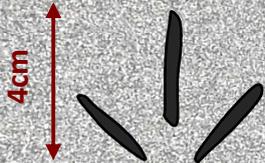
Black shag



Variable oystercatcher



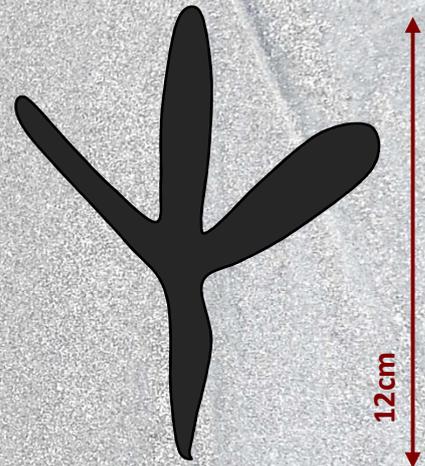
Spur-winged plover



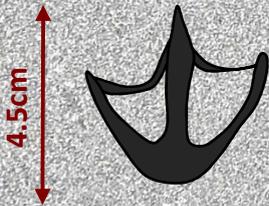
Pied stilt



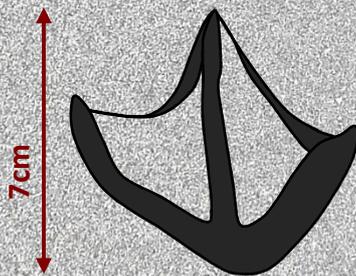
White-fronted tern



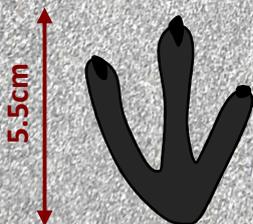
Reef heron



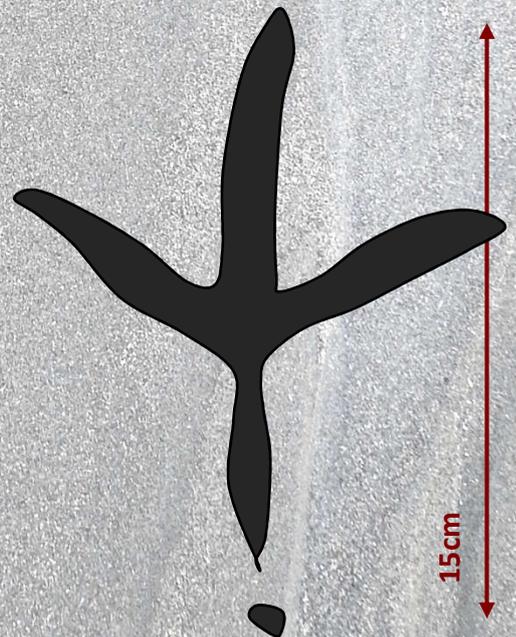
Red-billed gull



Black-backed gull



Little blue penguin

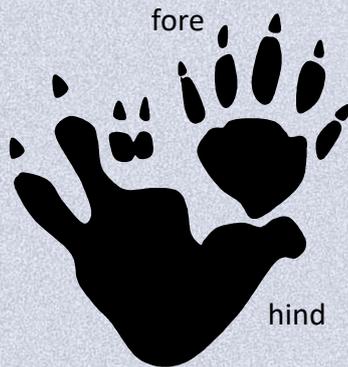


White-faced heron

# MAMMAL FOOTPRINTS



**DOG/KURI:** Large pads and claws visible. Variable in length.

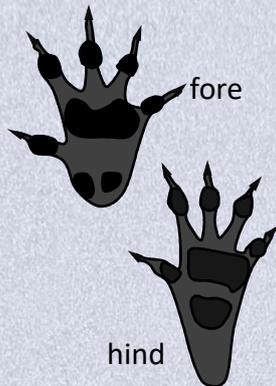


**POSSUM/PAIHAMU:** Large pads. Front and back footprints close together.

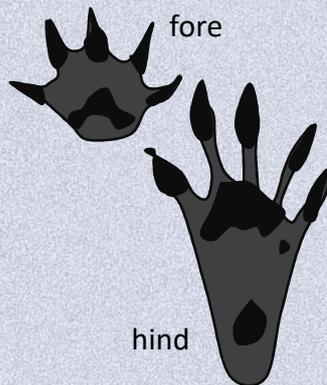


**CAT/NGERU:** Large pads. Claws not visible (retracted).

# MAMMAL FOOTPRINTS



**HEDGEHOG/TUATETE:** Front feet are broader and shorter than back feet. Claws visible.

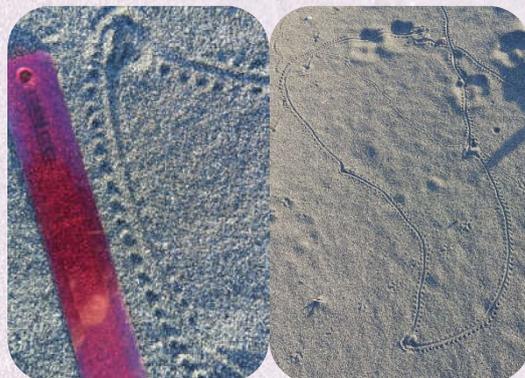


**STOAT/TORIURA:** Tricky to identify in sand. Claws visible.



**RABBIT & HARE/RĀPETI :** Back feet much longer than front feet. Length of back feet not always obvious in sand if running.

## INSECT PRINTS

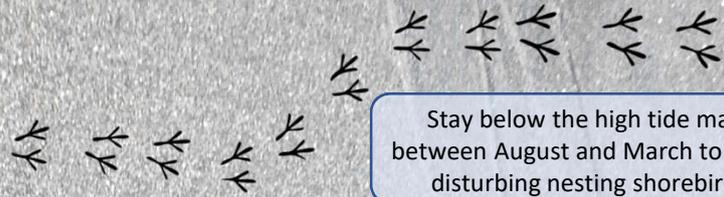


**LARGE SAND SCARAB/NGUNGUTAWA:** Leaves distinctive trails at night. Look out for the large grubs at the end of the tracks.



**HUHU BEETLE/TUNGA RERE:** Most active at night. Beetles will bite if mishandled.

# BIRD FOOTPRINTS



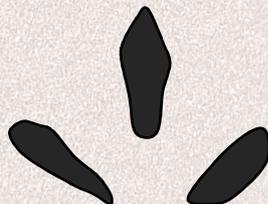
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**NZ DOTTEREL/TŪTURIWHATU:** 3cm in length with asymmetric toes. Dotterels walk on their toes so heel often not visible.

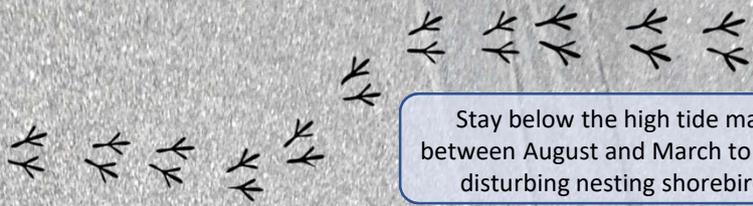


**BANDED DOTTEREL/TŪTURIWHATU :** 2cm in length with asymmetric toes. Similar to NZ dotterel footprints only smaller.



**VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER/TŌREA PANGO:** 5cm in length. Oystercatchers walk on their toes so heel not always visible. Toes more chunky than spur-winged plover.

# BIRD FOOTPRINTS



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**PIED STILT/POAKA:** 4cm in length. Slimmer toes than oystercatcher and plover.

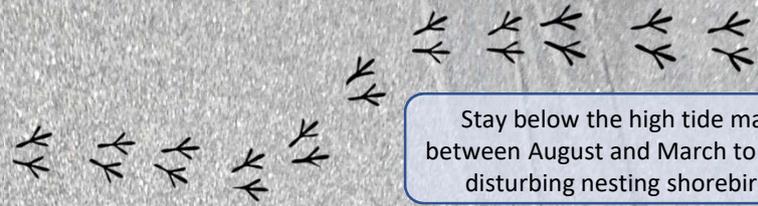


**SPUR-WINGED PLOVER:** 4cm in length. Toes slightly slimmer than oystercatcher. Walk on their toes so heel not always visible.



**LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN/KORORĀ:** 5.5cm in length with chunky toes and visible heel. Note narrow angle of toes compared to the oystercatcher. Angle of all toes always less than 75°.

# BIRD FOOTPRINTS



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**BLACK-BACKED GULL/KARORO:** 7cm in length with webbing on feet noticeable in soft sand.

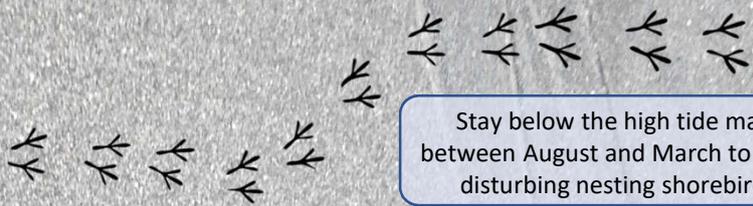


**RED-BILLED GULL/TARĀPUNGA:** 4.5cm in length with webbing visible in soft sand. Smaller prints than black-backed gull.

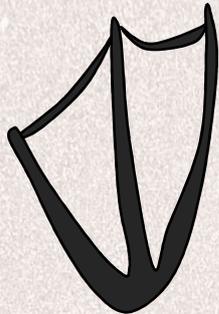


**WHITE FRONTED TERN/TARA:** 2cm in length. Webbing visible. Middle toe elongated.

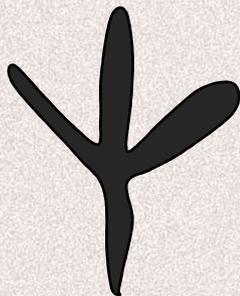
# BIRD FOOTPRINTS



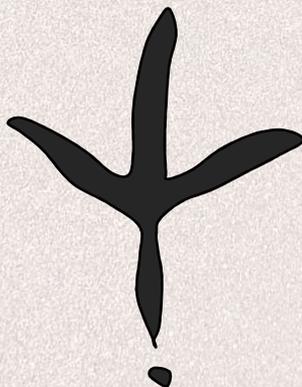
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**BLACK SHAG/KAWAU:** 13cm in length with webbing visible.



**REEF HERON/MATUKU MOANA:** 12cm in length.



**WHITE-FACED HERON/MATUKU MOANA:** 15cm in length.  
Similar to reef heron.

## Other New Zealand footprint guides

Pest detectives website:

<http://www.pestdetective.org.nz/clues/footprints-and-tracks/>

Landcare Research: How to read prints from tracking tunnels:

[https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/127472/22\\_How-to-read-prints-from-tracking-tunnels.pdf](https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/127472/22_How-to-read-prints-from-tracking-tunnels.pdf)

DOC tracking tunnel guide: using tracking tunnels to monitor rodents and mustelids:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/science-and-technical/inventory-monitoring/im-toolbox-animal-pests-using-tracking-tunnels-to-monitor-rodents-and-mustelids.pdf>

What made these tracks? A guide to assist in interpreting the tracks of small mammals, lizards and insects. By Warren Agnew:

<https://www.visitzealandia.com/Portals/0/Resources/Identifying-animal-tracks.pdf>

