



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## **New Zealand**

### **Comprehensive I**

*5 - 21 Feb 2017 (17 Days)*

### **Trip Report**



The Critically Endangered South Island Takahe, by Erik Forsyth

**Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader, Erik Forsyth**



## Tour Summary

*New Zealand is a must for the serious seabird enthusiast. Not only will you see a variety of albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters, there are also multiple chances of getting out on the high seas and finding something unusual. Seabirds dominate this tour, and views of most birds are alongside the boat. There are also several land birds which are unique to these islands: terrestrial, nocturnal inhabitants, the kiwis, the huge, swampphen-like Takahe, prehistoric in its looks and movements, and then the wattlebirds: saddlebacks and Kokako – poor flyers, with short wings, who bound along the branches and the ground. On this tour we had so many highlights, including close encounters with*



**Southern Royal, White-capped and Salvin's Albatross by Erik Forsyth**

*North Island, South Island and Little Spotted Kiwi. With many boat trips, the pelagic list was long and included Wandering, Antipodean, Northern and Southern Royal, Buller's, Salvin's and Shy (White-capped) Albatrosses, Westland, Cook's and White-chinned Petrels, Buller's, Flesh-footed and Hutton's Shearwaters, Common Diving Petrel and the highly sought-after New Zealand Storm-petrel. Other major highlights included South Island Takahe, North Island Kokako, Kaka, the entertaining Kea, Long-tailed Cuckoo, North and South Island Saddlebacks, the tiny Rifleman and the striking Yellowhead, to name a few.*

With the whole group already at the Auckland hotel, we jumped into our van and started our tour with a drive to nearby Puketutu Island. Here, we had a good introduction to New Zealand birding. Arriving at the bay, the canals were teeming with Black Swans, Grey Teal, Mallard, White-faced Herons, and Little Pied and Little Black Shags. Best of all was the endemic New Zealand Grebe, of which three birds were seen. We also had looks at several Common Blackbird, Song Thrush, Common Starling, Yellowhammer and House Sparrows. The main reason for the afternoon visit, though, was to look for waders on the high tide. We were not disappointed, as thousands of Bar-tailed Godwits were seen, along with smaller numbers of Red Knots. Not far from the godwits were several White-headed (Pied) Stilts and a feeding group of endemic Wrybill. We scoped the birds, enjoying great looks as they fed mechanically on the sandflats. As we waited, the incoming tide pushed the Wrybill closer so we could see their unusual bill shape. *This species breeds only on the braided rivers of the South Island, and these were returning or wintering birds.* Other good finds were a trio of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and a less obliging Curlew Sandpiper.

The next day, we headed north to the Muriwai Gannet Colony, arriving mid-morning. The breeding season was in full swing, with many Australasian Gannets feeding large chicks. Nearby, White-fronted Terns and Red-billed Gulls were also nesting in small numbers, while Kelp Gulls patrolled overhead. After a quick stop for lunch, we continued to Waipu Cove and visited a local reserve. Here, we walked out onto the



**New Zealand Plover by Erik Forsyth**





mudflats, where a short stroll to the shoreline produced several Variable Oystercatchers, Caspian Terns and, best of all, several endemic New Zealand Plovers (Red-breasted Dotterel) – *some in fine breeding plumage and allowing great scope looks*. Five Ruddy Turnstone, several Bar-tailed Godwit and a lone Wrybill were also seen very well, the latter at a much closer range than the previous day. Just before we left, a group of six endemic Double-banded Plover landed and after we



**Wrybill by Jeffrey Gordon**

secured a quick look, they headed off down the lagoon. With a fair drive ahead, we continued to Kerikeri, our destination for the night. Arriving at our lodge in the late afternoon, we had time to rest and prepare for our night walk. After dinner, we headed out after dark to a nearby valley to look for North Island Brown Kiwi. Near the carpark, we found a calling Morepork and enjoyed fabulous close looks – *a good start to our evening tour*. Heading down into the valley bottom, we heard several calling pairs of kiwi, the male with his high-pitched whistle followed by the female's guttural reply. After a fair walk along several tracks, we eventually tracked down a kiwi feeding in a dense thicket. Standing quietly, we managed great looks as it fed only a few metres away. *Wow!* However, on our drive out of the area, we spotted two birds feeding in an open paddock, and enjoyed even better looks as they had nowhere to hide. *We had been very lucky and a happy group of birders slept well that night.*

The next morning, after a late breakfast, we headed south, stopping at Paihia, in the Bay of Islands, where Waitangi Day celebrations were being held. We enjoyed the scenery, with many traditional Maori paddle boats (waka) seen in the bay. We then headed south and popped back into Waipu Cove to look for Fairy Tern, which was still eluding us. After an hour of scanning with no luck, we tried another section of the lagoon a few kilometres downstream. Scanning the lagoon, we picked up our target bird, although it was rather distant. We decided to get better looks and managed to sneak a few hundred metres closer before the mud became too soft. We now had much better looks and noticed a second bird hiding behind a huge Caspian Tern. Our effort had paid off and we had found the endangered Fairy Tern, the sub-species of which is unique to New Zealand, with less than 20 pairs. Arriving at our hotel in the late afternoon, we checked in for an early evening.

Early the following morning, we drove to nearby Sandspit Harbour for our Hauraki Gulf Pelagic. The weather was clear and sunny; but with no swell or wind, we feared few birds would be flying. We first motored towards Little Barrier Island, picking up our first Fluttering and Buller's Shearwaters and Cook's Petrels. We continued until we were at the ideal depth and territory to encounter the widest variety of seabirds possible. Here, we set anchor and proceeded to "chum", throwing pieces of fish into the water to attract seabirds from miles around, made possible by their incredible sense of smell. A short while later, several Flesh-footed Shearwaters arrived,



**Brown Teal by Erik Forsyth**



along with a few Buller's. Then, several dainty White-faced Storm-Petrels “danced” over the water near the boat and Cook's Petrels made several fly-bys, with one or two landing on the water. There was also a good candidate for a lone Pycroft's Petrel. While we were watching, a shout for “storm-petrel” went up on our starboard side and a dark bird with a white rump was seen moving around the boat. To our delight, we had just found the endemic and highly sought-after New Zealand Storm-Petrel – *a species rediscovered in 2003 and found to be breeding in January 2013*. Soon afterwards, another two to three birds joined in and we watched them for long periods, often close to the boat! *It had been a slow but ultimately successful day for pelagics*. With still no wind and



Stitchbird on Tiritiri Matangi by Erik Forsyth

most of our targets seen, we headed back to shore. With plenty of daylight ahead, we drove to a local nature reserve where we had great looks at a Buff-banded Rail near the entrance. Along a forested stream, we spotted many Tui, New Zealand Bellbird, several Brown Teal, Grey Gerygone, groups of vocal Whiteheads, several Red-crowned Parakeets, New Zealand Fantail as well as a few fly-by Kaka. Best of all was an endangered South Island Takahe, feeding on seeding plants while we stood ecstatic nearby. This is one of New Zealand's rarest birds, with a population of less than 300. *A very impressive day*.

Gulf Harbour was our destination early the following day, where we were to catch a ferry over to Tiritiri Matangi Island. After arriving at the jetty, we soon boarded our large ferry and headed to the Island, where a conservation officer briefed us. Several Tui and New Zealand Bellbirds were seen on our walk to the forest. On the forest trail, we soon found a group of New Zealand Bellbirds and two female Stitchbirds feeding at a supplementary feeder. Stitchbirds are very rare endemics, occurring on a few islands and only at this site on the tour, so we were thrilled to get great looks. Further up the trail, we stopped and rested at some benches where a water tray was situated and where we recorded several species, including fabulous close looks at North Island Saddlebacks hunting for grubs on the ground among the leaves and ferns. Several stunning male Stitchbirds and North Island Robins were feeding on the paths; while Grey Gerygone, huge New Zealand Pigeons and Red-crowned Parakeets were numerous. We endured a long, tense wait, but eventually, a pair of endangered North Island Kokako appeared nearby. After a careful approach, they continued feeding quietly at close range, much to our delight. They hung around, giving great looks and, interestingly, ate leaves while we observed them. *This is a very rare species which occurs at only a handful of sites. They are numbered at less than 2000 birds*. We celebrated, having seen all of our target birds, especially the latter, as this species was very difficult to find elsewhere.



New Zealand Pigeon by Erik Forsyth

The following day, we headed south to Turangi, first stopping at Lake Taupo for lunch. A flock of endemic Black-billed Gull greeted us at the carpark and a nearby lagoon produced a flock of New





Zealand Scaup. After enjoying good looks and a welcome stretch, we drove on to Turangi, where we headed to the Tongariro River. Here, we searched in earnest for the endemic Blue Duck – *a resident of fast-flowing streams*. It took most of the afternoon but we eventually found our target. Excellent scope looks were had and relief was felt all round that we had nailed our target bird.

Early the next morning, we headed to Tokaanu Wharf and, scanning the reed beds, we came across a pair of the endemic Fernbird, which showed well. A short while later, we heard a Spotless Crake; but this shy, reed bed bird stayed hidden. In the open water alongside the reed beds, we spotted

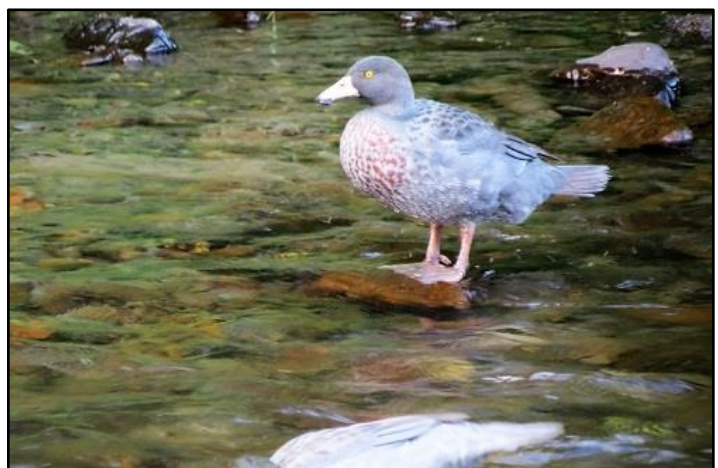


Mount Tongariro by Erik Forsyth

New Zealand Grebe, Royal Spoonbill, a few Little Black Cormorants, New Zealand Scaup, and Californian Quails; while Common Redpolls and Common Goldfinches called as they flew overhead. The much hoped for Australasian Bittern was not seen.

After breakfast, we packed the vehicle and drove to Paraparaumu, where we would catch our ferry over to Kapiti Island for a night's stay. We arrived at the dock in the early afternoon. Several flocks of Spotted Shag were seen flying offshore and a group of Red-billed Gulls

and White-fronted Terns were roosting on the beach. The ferry crossing was calm and after a short walk to the lodge, we settled into our rooms. While enjoying a cup of tea and some biscuits at the lodge, a resident Weka approached us for titbits, and a pair of South Island Takahe was found feeding nearby. A little later, we took a walk into the valley behind our rooms. The Island was busy with birdsong and soon we were watching New Zealand Bellbird, Tui, and flocks of Whitehead; while several New Zealand Kakas were seen and heard overhead. After hearing a Long-tailed Cuckoo calling, we were very lucky to see two birds flying over the woodland. *Wow!* At a nearby freshwater lake, we found Black Swan, Paradise Shelduck and a nice surprise in the form of five Brown Teal. After our walk, we enjoyed close looks at Kaka on the deck, before noticing a New Zealand (Australasian) Pipit feeding on the lawn. Another highlight was a fly-by New Zealand Falcon, affording good looks as it glided by. *The latter was a great pickup as they can be difficult to find.* After a lovely dinner, we took our guided walk in search of Little Spotted Kiwi. Several Morepork were heard and we could also hear a few distant Little Spotted Kiwi calling. It took a while and a fair bit of walking but eventually, half the group bumped into our main target, the Little Spotted Kiwi, and had good looks. Unfortunately, half the group did not see the bird and so we continued searching. Although we tried for several hours, and heard several birds nearby, we managed only brief looks at a bird wandering off.



Blue Duck by Erik Forsyth



The following morning, we packed up after breakfast and headed to the ferry for the interisland crossing from Wellington to Picton. A search along a rocky coastline before we boarded failed to find the endangered Shore Plover. The ferry crossing was pleasant as the ship was large and even though the winds were high, the ship was stable. On the crossing, we recorded Shy (White-capped) Albatross, Sooty Shearwater and several Westland Petrels. We arrived at our hotel in Picton in the late afternoon and settled in for the night. The following morning, we went out by boat with E-Ko Tours, heading into the Marlborough Sounds, past several flocks of Fluttering Shearwaters and Little Penguins. Further into the sounds, we stopped at an exposed headland and were soon delighted to be watching seven of the very localised Rough-faced (New Zealand King) Shag. *This is a threatened species, with a recent survey estimating the population at 830 birds.* We then ventured over to nearby Blumine Reserve, where a search proved successful for Orange-fronted Parakeet, which we found within a few minutes of leaving the jetty. The bird was flighty, but we did get fair looks. Other birds found on our walk here were several Weka, Tui, New Zealand Bellbirds and we



Weka by Adam Riley

managed good looks at the South Island form of Tomtit, with its yellow breast. In the afternoon, we drove to Kaikoura, further south along the coast. This took us most of the day as much of the road had been damaged by the earthquake in November 2016. On arrival, we headed straight for a beach at the far end of town, where we quickly found a vagrant Erect-crested Penguin that was reported a few days earlier. This was a lifer for all, including me. We also saw a few New Zealand Fur Seals before heading to our motel and settling in for the evening. It had been a long day, but we had seen several great birds.

Early the next morning, we assembled at the Albatross Encounter office. The weather was looking good. We met our guide and captain, Gary, and quickly assembled at the boat before heading out. Loads of albatrosses and giant petrels could be seen riding the wind behind our boat. Gary found a spot and threw out the chum bag, and scores of seabirds soon appeared. Numerous and argumentative Northern Giant Petrels made their presence known as they squabbled with huge Gibson's Wandering, smaller Shy (White-capped) and a few Salvin's Albatrosses. A few Southern Royal Albatross also arrived and then a single Northern Royal Albatross made a fly past before settling within a short distance from our boat. An exciting find was an albatross with a dark cap and smudges around the breast, identified as an Antipodean Albatross because of its much smaller size compared to the huge Gibson's Wandering that fed alongside it. We were a very happy group of birders, as we had left the harbour only 20 minutes earlier and were watching six species of albatross! Other species recorded were the range-restricted Westland Petrel, smart Cape and White-chinned Petrels and constant fly-bys of highly sought-after Hutton's Shearwaters, the latter at its only breeding area in New Zealand. Before we knew it, our time was up and we headed back to shore, very pleased with ourselves. After a quick lunch, we headed further south, our destination: Arthur's Pass.



Southern Royal Albatross by Erik Forsyth





We arrived in the late afternoon, checked into our motel and then drove through the small town looking for our target bird, the endemic and Alpine-dwelling Kea, a large parrot which lives in the mountains. No birds were found, so we would try again in the morning.

The following morning, after a short search, we located a Kea within the village. We had excellent looks at this huge parrot as it scratched for food around a local house. Further along the road, we took a trail through Beach Forest and after careful scanning and listening, we found groups of tiny



**Juvenile Kea by Erik Forsyth**

Rifleman and Pipipi, as well as a New Zealand Robin on a trail on our way back to the car. From here, we continued south to Franz Joseph, our destination for the night, first stopping in the town of Hokitika, famous for its pounamu stone (jade), for lunch. After a bit of shopping, we arrived at our hotel in Franz Joseph in the afternoon and walked out to the Franz Joseph Glacier, enjoying good views of the glacier on a beautiful sunny day.

We kicked off the next morning with a long drive to Omarama, via the Haast Pass. During the drive, we enjoyed fabulous looks at the scenery through the Pass, Lakes Wanaka and Hawea, and eventually

over the desolate Lindis Pass. En route to our hotel, we stopped briefly at Ahuriri River to enjoy a small flock of Black-fronted Terns hawking insects over the braided riverbed. These are stunning birds and their orange bills glowed in the sun. We arrived in Twizel in the late afternoon to begin our search for the critically endangered Black Stilt. At some wetlands, we found several Double-banded Plovers as well as a few Grey Teal and several White-headed (Pied) Stilts but, alas, no Black Stilts. We were about to leave when Dick shouted he had a bird. Panic ensued as the bird disappeared out of view before everybody could see it, but luckily, it reappeared a short while later. We decided to check another pan nearby and came up trumps with another two birds. All three were near-adults and good looks were had through the scope. *This is one of New Zealand's rarest waders, with a population of fewer than 300 birds!*

After breakfast, we packed up and headed north to Mount Cook, stopping briefly en route for a Little Owl perched near the road. Fabulous looks were had, while another New Zealand Pipit and Rifleman were added to the list. A brief stop at a series of lakes south of the town produced Black Swan, New Zealand Scaup and a stunning pair of Great Crested Grebe. Great looks at Common Redpoll were also appreciated. It was time to head south and west and we navigated the car towards Te Anua. It was a fair drive, with only a few Black-billed Gulls and Black-fronted Terns noted, before we arrived in the late afternoon.

The following morning, we drove from Te Anua to Milford to join a ferry cruise through the beautiful Milford Sound. We were full of anticipation as we pulled over next to the Homer Tunnel – *our first stop en route to the sound*. Here, we would search for the New Zealand Rockwren (South Island Wren) on a boulder-strewn hillside. This was our only possible site on the tour and with the weather



**Black Stilt by Erik Forsyth**



warm, and calm, we had a great chance of finding this little gem. Interestingly, the conditions were the same as on my last tour and this boded well in finding our target. Unfortunately, no wren was found and we had to drive on to Milford to catch our cruise boat. While waiting to board, we found a Great Egret – *a good find, as there is only one breeding colony in New Zealand*. We soon boarded our cruise boat and enjoyed the beautiful scenery on this sunny, warm day. After the ferry cruise, we drove back through the tunnel for another search for New Zealand Rockwren (South Island Wren). Although we tried really hard, no wren was found, but several playful Kea in the carpark were our consolation prize.



Fiordland Penguin by Erik Forsyth

Early the following morning, we packed up and headed to Stewart Island. At the ferry terminal at Bluff, we watched our first dark-phase Bronze Shag. The ferry crossing was calm and so only a few birds were noted, such as Shy (White-capped) and Salvin's Albatross, Cape Petrel, Bronze Shag and Sooty Shearwater. After lunch, we caught a water taxi to Ulva Island, a predator-free conservation area a few kilometres off the coast. We had a fabulous walk here and enjoyed the plentiful birds and plants. We soon enjoyed multiple views of Pipipi, South Island Saddleback, the South Island form of New Zealand Robin, Tui, New Zealand Bellbird and brief looks at the highly sought-after Yellowhead, which sang nearby. We also saw many Red-crowned (-fronted) and two Yellow-crowned (-fronted) Parakeet. On the beach, we found many confiding Weka before catching our water taxi and heading back to the mainland. Around the town of Oban, several New Zealand Kakas were seen flying and heard

calling overhead. Our day wasn't over, as we had reserved places with Real Journeys for the kiwi night tour. After dinner, we climbed aboard a boat at the Oban jetty and travelled out to Ocean Beach. After arriving, we walked through the forest with headlamps and soon arrived at the beach, where we scanned with a torch. After 15 minutes with no luck, we turned around and walked back. Suddenly, there was a Southern Brown Kiwi feeding among the Bull Kelp on the beach. *Awesome!* It was feeding on sand-hoppers, a small bug that lives under the washed-up kelp. We enjoyed excellent looks for a few minutes and moved on, allowing a second group to view. After this success, an ecstatic group of birders sailed back to Oban.

The following day saw us out at sea most of the day on a pelagic tour. We followed the rocky shoreline out of the bay, scanning for Fiordland Penguins, and it didn't take long before three birds were found. We relished great looks and even watched them swimming in the tidal pools. After this success, we headed further out to sea, noting a few Little Penguins en route, before stopping at a breeding site for Yellow-eyed Penguin. It wasn't long before we spotted a sub-adult bird enjoying the early morning sun. *Fabulous; three penguin species in half an hour!* We then headed further out to



Buller's Albatross by Erik Forsyth





sea and stopped to chum at several places, which produced many Shy (White-capped) and smaller numbers of Buller's and Salvin's Albatross, Cape and White-chinned Petrels and seven huge Southern Royal Albatross. Other seabirds noted included small numbers of Buller's and many Sooty Shearwaters, Little Blue Penguins and two pairs of Brown Skua, which put on a performance around the boat. After a hugely successful and enjoyable day at sea, we headed back to port. Suddenly, all hell broke loose as a shout went up for Common Diving Petrel, seen in flight as it 'whirred on fast wings, low over the sea'. *A highly desirable bird and a new family for most on board!* We even had a second bird a short while later. This was a huge relief as we had missed them on our two previous pelagics, even though good numbers are often seen. With a fair amount of light left, we decided to head back to Ulva Island as half our group had had poor or brief looks at Yellowhead on our previous visit. We soon located several calling birds and everyone was delighted with the great looks. A Yellow-crowned Parakeet was also seen, as were all the species seen on the previous day.



Yellow-eyed Penguin by Erik Forsyth

A leisurely breakfast was savoured the following morning and we enjoyed the attentions of a group of New Zealand Kaka feeding across the road from our hotel. We then caught the ferry back to Bluff, on the South Island, noting several Cape Petrels and a few Shy (White-capped) and a lone Buller's Albatross on the Foveaux Strait. We collected our vehicle and drove to Dunedin, stopping for lunch and then at our hotel to drop off our bags and enjoy a quick break, before driving the beautiful coastal road to Taiaroa Head on the Otago Peninsular. Red-billed and Kelp Gulls, as

well as a few Little Pied Shags and Great Cormorants, were seen en route. In the carpark at the Northern Royal Albatross centre, we walked down to the cliff-face where, after a short scan, we saw four huge Northern Royal Albatross gliding majestically along the headland and out to sea. This is New Zealand's only mainland site where albatross breed, with about 20 pairs recorded. Nearby, we had excellent close looks at Spotted Shag and several fly-by Bronze Shag. (Interestingly, the latter has been proposed as a new species, Otago Shag, after research on the population showed that they are genetically different to the birds on Stewart Island, which will be called Foveaux Shag). After this excitement, we drove to Penguin Place, a nature reserve, where there is a breeding Yellow-eyed Penguin colony. After a briefing, we hopped onto our bus and set off into a valley. From here, we ventured down to the beach, finding a bird on the hillside on its way back to the nest after a day's fishing. After great looks, we entered a trench which led to a hide and just on the other side, we stood face-to-face with a Yellow-eyed Penguin. *Fantastic!* We were watching New Zealand's rarest breeding Penguin, with less than 4000 birds. In the evening, we headed back to our hotel for our final dinner.

It had been a highly successful and fun-filled tour, and I would like to thank all our guests for making it so memorable.



## Annotated List of species recorded

### Birds (134 in total: 133 seen, 1 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2015. IOC World Bird List (v 5.3). Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

#### KIWIS: Apterygidae

##### **Southern Brown Kiwi (E) (TH)**

*Apteryx australis*

Our night tour for Southern Brown Kiwi on Stewart Island was a real adventure. First, we hopped onto a boat at dusk and cruised out to Ocean beach. We then donned flashlights and walked along a muddy forest track, eventually leading to a beach. We walked along the beach to the end and returned along the same route. Our luck was in, as a kiwi was found feeding among Bull Kelp. Fabulous close looks were had by all, with the kiwi unconcerned by our presence. Magic!

##### **North Island Brown Kiwi (E) (TH)**

*Apteryx mantelli*

Fabulous close views were enjoyed on two occasions (of our first kiwi), and several other pairs were heard calling in the valley near Kerikeri. A further two birds were seen running in paddocks near the road on our way out of the valley.

##### **Little Spotted Kiwi (E) (TH)**

*Apteryx owenii*

Half our group had good close looks at New Zealand's smallest kiwi on Kapiti Island during our overnight stay. Several others were heard calling. Occurs mainly on offshore islands, with one population living in the predator-free Karori Bird Sanctuary in Wellington.

#### DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS: Anatidae

##### **Canada Goose (I)**

*Branta canadensis maxima*

Widespread and recorded on the North and South Islands. Introduced to New Zealand in 1905.

##### **Black Swan**

*Cygnus atratus*

First recorded at Puketutu Island, Auckland, with regular sightings throughout the tour. Introduced in 1864, but it is also believed that the species migrated to New Zealand from Australia.

##### **Blue Duck (E) (EN)**

*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*

A single bird was located on the shoreline in the late afternoon on Tongariro River at Turangi, allowing fabulous scope looks. This is a threatened species, with less than 2500 birds remaining in the wild.

##### **Paradise Shelduck (E)**

*Tadorna variegata*

This striking endemic was seen almost daily throughout the tour.

##### **Mallard (I)**

*Anas platyrhynchos*

Commonly seen at all wetland sites.

##### **Pacific Black Duck**

*Anas Superciliosa*

A few pairs were recorded. Several hybrids between this and Mallard were observed.

##### **Grey Teal**

*Anas Gracilis*

Our only sighting was at Puketutu Island.

##### **Australasian Shoveler**

*Anas rhynchosotis variegata*

First recorded in Auckland, with further sightings on the South Island at Invercargill.

##### **Brown Teal (E) (EN)**

*Anas aucklandica chlorotis*





Nine birds were seen well at Tawharanui Regional Park and on Kapiti Island off Wellington. Found only on the North Island, where the population is around 2500 birds. There have been some introductions to the South Island.

**New Zealand Scaup (E)***Anas Novaeseelandiae*

First recorded at Puketutu Island, with further sightings around Lake Taupo and Twizel, as well as several other sightings on the South Island.

**NEW WORLD QUAILS: Odontophoridae****California Quail (I)**

Excellent views were had of this beauty at Turangi while searching for Blue Duck.

**PHEASANTS & ALLIES: Phasianidae****Wild Turkey (I)***Meleagris gallopavo*

Recorded in small groups on farmland on the North Island.

**Brown Quail (I)***Synoicus ypsilophorus*

Two birds were seen at Tawharanui Regional Park.

**Common (Ring-necked) Pheasant (I)***Phasianus colchicus*

Our only sighting was by Judy on our drive from Muriwai to Wellsford.

**PENGUINS: Spheniscidae****Yellow-eyed Penguin (E) (EN)***Megadyptes antipodes*

A lone bird was seen well on a breeding island off Stewart Island during our pelagic boat trip. We also enjoyed fabulous close looks at a male wandering up a hill and a female bird at Penguin Place Nature Reserve on the Otago Peninsula. A rapidly declining species with less than 4000 birds remaining.

**Little Penguin***Eudyptula minor*

Recorded on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic, en route to Kapiti Island in the Marlborough Sounds, off Stewart Island and at nesting boxes at Penguin Place on the Otago Peninsula.

**Fiordland Penguin (E) (TH)***Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*

Three birds were found in caves on the rocky shoreline during our Stewart Island stay.

**Erect-crested Penguin (EN)***Eudyptes sclateri*

We heard about a moulting bird at Kaikoura on the South Island while we were travelling on tour in the North Island. Three days later we located it on the shoreline enjoying the afternoon sun. A lifer for all including Erik!

**STORM-PETRELS: Hydrobatidae****White-faced Storm (-) Petrel***Pelagodroma marina*

Small numbers were recorded on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic, allowing fabulous looks alongside the boat. A brief sighting was also had off Stewart Island.

**New Zealand Storm (-) Petrel (E) (CE)***Pealeaornis maoriana*

We enjoyed repeated good looks at between two and four of these mythical birds, often close to the back of the boat, following the chum line on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic. This species was thought to be extinct as there were only three specimens collected in the 1850s, and it was not sighted for the past 150 years. It was then rediscovered in 2003, which made big news in the birding world.

Recently, breeding sites were discovered for the first time in February 2013 on Little Barrier Island, in the Hauraki Gulf!



**ALBATROSSES: Diomedidae****Wandering Albatross***Diomedea antipodensis gibsoni*

We enjoyed fabulous looks at up to five birds alongside the boat at Kaikoura. An incredible sight that supports Kaikoura's reputation as a world-class pelagic destination!

*Note: We saw Gibson's Albatross D. antipodensis gibsoni. at Kaikoura. Two other species are recognised Antipodean Albatross D. antipodensis and Snowy D. exulans.*

**Antipodean Albatross***Diomedea antipodensis*

A single bird was found among the Wandering albatross at Kaikoura. Its smaller size and plumage details pointed to this species.

*Note: three species are recognised: Gibson's Albatross D. Antipodensis gibsoni, Antipodean Albatross D. antipodensis antipodensis and Snowy D. exulans.*

**(Southern) Royal Albatross***Diomedea epomophora epomoph*

Two were seen at Kaikoura, but later a further seven were seen alongside our boat on our pelagic off Stewart Island for all to admire.

*Note: The IOC and many other authorities accept that there are two species of Royal Albatross. Clements accepts only one species: D.e.epomoph.*

**(Northern) Royal Albatross***Diomedea epomophora sanfordi*

Two were seen on our Stewart Island Pelagic and two pairs were seen flying at the breeding colony at Taiaroa Head, Otago Peninsula in Dunedin.

*Note: This species is accepted by most authorities including the IOC. Not accepted by Clements as yet.*

**White-capped Albatross (E)***Thalassarche cauta steadi*

First recorded on our ferry crossing from the North to the South Islands, with further sightings at Kaikoura and on Stewart Island where we saw 150+. Most birds breed on Auckland and Campbell Islands.

*Note: Most Authorities split this species into NZ White-capped Albatross T. cauta steadi and Shy Albatross T. cauta cauta. We saw the latter.*

**Salvin's Albatross (BE)***Thalassarche salvini*

Our first sighting was on our Kaikoura pelagic, where we had four birds, and a further two were seen on our Stewart Island pelagic. This species breeds on the Snares Islands.

**Buller's Albatross (BE)***Thalassarche eremita*

We enjoyed fabulous looks around Stewart Island. These birds breed on the Snares Islands.

**SHEARWATERS & PETRELS: Procellariidae****Northern Giant (-) Petrel***Macronectis halli*

Eight were seen on our Kaikoura pelagic, often very close to the boat, and a singleton was noted off Stewart Island.

**Cape Petrel***Daption capense capense*

Very good looks were had off Kaikoura and 30+ were seen off Stewart Island.

**Cook's Petrel (BE)***Pterodroma macroptera*

Good numbers were seen on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic and a single bird was seen off Stewart Island.

**White-chinned Petrel***Puffinus Aequinoctialis*

Two were found at Kaikoura and five were seen on our Stewart Island pelagic.

**Westland Petrel (BE)***Procellaria westlandica*

Two were seen on our interisland ferry crossing and a further two were noted on our Kaikoura pelagic. This species breeds on the West Coast of the South Island.

**Buller's Shearwater (BE)***Puffinus Bulleri*

Common on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic, with smaller numbers recorded at Kaikoura and at Stewart Island.

**Sooty Shearwater***Puffinus Griseus*

Recorded on our interisland ferry crossing and good numbers were seen off Stewart Island.

**Flesh-footed Shearwater***Puffinus carneipes*



Recorded on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic, where it was common.

**Fluttering Shearwater (E)** *Puffinus Gavial*

Very common off the Hauraki Gulf and on our trip to Moturua Island in the Marlborough Sounds.

**Hutton's Shearwater (BE)** *Puffinus huttoni*

Up to 20 were seen on our Kaikoura pelagic, often flying close to the boat, where we had fabulous looks. This is the only site where this species breeds in the surrounding mountains.

### **DIVING PETRELS: Pelecanoididae**

**Common Diving-Petrel** *Pelecanoides urinatrix*

This was a highly desired species on this tour (new family) and it wasn't looking good as the seas were calm in the Hauraki Gulf and around Kaikoura and no sightings were had. Our last chance was the seas around Stewart Island, although the skipper had not seen this species in this area for a week or so. We were returning to Stewart Island when, unexpectedly, a bird was seen lifting out of the water and motoring across the waves. Shortly afterwards a second bird was spotted. Wow! We had pulled it back at the eleventh hour and at last, we could celebrate a new family and lifer for most. A bonus was another sighting en route from Stewart Island to Bluff on the ferry.

### **GREBES: Podicipedidae**

**New Zealand Grebe (E)** *Poliocephalus rufopectus*

Recorded at Puketutu Island, Auckland, where we saw four birds, and at Tokaanu Wharf, Lake Taupo. This species occurs only on the North Island.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

A pair was seen on freshwater lakes at Twizel. This species occurs only on the South Island.

### **IBISES, SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae**

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia*

First recorded at Puketutu Island, Auckland, where we saw 20+, albeit at a distance, two at Kapiti Island, a further 37 at a wetland near Invercargill and two at the Royal Albatross colony at Taiaroa Head, Dunedin.

### **HERONS & BITTERNS: Ardeidae**

**White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae*

A common species recorded throughout the tour.

**Pacific Reef Heron** *Egretta sacra*

Singletons were seen at Waipu Cove, at Kaikoura and at Taiaroa Head, Dunedin.

### **GANNETS & BOOBIES: Sulidae**

**Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator*

First recorded at a breeding colony at Muriwai Beach, where we enjoyed fabulous close looks, with further sightings on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic and on our boat tour of the Marlborough Sounds.

### **CORMORANTS & SHAGS: Phalacrocoracidae**

**Little Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris*

Common throughout the tour at many waterbodies.

**Spotted Shag (E)** *Phalacrocorax. Punctatus*

Great looks on our ferry crossing to Kapiti Island, across the Cook Strait, our Marlborough Sounds boat trip, Taiaroa Head and around Stewart Island. This included some spectacular adults in breeding plumage with superb crests.

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax Sulcirostris*



Small numbers were recorded throughout the North Island and at Invercargill.

**Australian Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax varius varius*

Common at many sites, including breeding colonies at Sandspit, which were seen from our boat.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax Carbo*

This large species was seen on four dates.

**New Zealand King Shag (E)** *Phalacrocorax. carunculatus*

We enjoyed great looks (on a rocky stack, and some fishing) of at least eight birds on our boat trip in the Marlborough Sounds. The whole population occurs only in this area and a recent survey estimated an increase from 550 to around 800 birds.

**Bronze Shag (E)** *Leucocarbo chalconotus*

First recorded on our Bluff to Stewart Island ferry. We had many other good sightings of dark- and pied-phase birds around Stewart Island.

*Note: Recent taxonomic work has shown that the birds at Taiaroa Head in Dunedin are a separate species (Otago Shag) from the birds on Stewart Island (Foveaux Shag) This is accepted by the IOC but not accepted by Clements as yet.*

### KITE, HAWKS: Accipitridae

**Australasian Harrier** *Circus approximans*

A majestic and commonly seen species recorded daily in all habitats throughout New Zealand.

### RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS: Rallidae

**Weka (E)** *Gallirallus australis*

First recorded at Kawau Island on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic tour, with further sightings at Blumine Reserve in the Marlborough Sounds, at Arthur's Pass and on Stewart Island.

*Note: Four sub-species are noted. We saw G. a. australis at Blumine Reserve and at Arthur's Pass; G. a. scotti was recorded on Stewart Island.*

**Buff-banded Rail** *Rallus philipensis assimilis*

Two adults and two juveniles were seen at Tawharanui Regional Park on our visit.

**Spotless Crake (H)** *Porzana tabuensis*

Heard calling in the forest at Tiritiri Matangi Island, but would not show.

**Australasian Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*

Commonly seen in farmlands and on forest edges throughout the tour.

*Note: Recently split four ways by the IOC. Not accepted by Clements.*

**South Island Takahe (E)** *Porphyrio. Mantelli hochstetteri*

After a fair search, three of these enigmatic birds were found at Tawharanui Regional Park, much to our relief. A female bird was seen well on Tiritiri Matangi Island and our last sighting was of a pair on Kapiti Island. South Island Takahe have been introduced to several island sanctuaries, where they are safe from introduced predators. A wild population of around 200 birds occurs on the Murchison Mountains at Milford Sound. Total population estimate is 320+ birds.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*

Recorded at Lake Taupo and at lakes around the Twizel area.

### OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae

**South Island Pied Oystercatcher (E)** *Haematopus ostralegus*

First recorded at Puketutu Island, where we saw 30+, and then seen in pasturelands throughout the South Island.

**Variable Oystercatcher (E)** *Haematopus. Unicolor*

Recorded in good numbers at coastal areas throughout the tour.





**STILTS & AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae****White-headed (Pied) Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

Recorded at many wetland locations throughout the tour.

**Black Stilt (E) (CE)***Himantopus novaeseelandiae*

After a desperate search at several pans and scanning braided riverbeds, we eventually found three sub-adults in the Twizel area. What a relief! Fabulous scope views were obtained of one of the rarest waders in the world, with a population of fewer than 280 birds. This species is critically endangered because of a lack of predator-free wetlands and disturbance at their breeding sites.

**PLOVERS: Charadriidae****Masked Lapwing***Vanellus miles*

Recorded every day of our tour. A species that colonised New Zealand as recently as 1938 and spread from the South to the North Island.

**Wrybill (E) (EN)***Anarhynchus frontalis*

We had great scope looks at 15 to 20 birds at Puketutu Island, Mangere, Auckland. The tip of the bill is curved to the right, which helps it feed on invertebrates under rocks. The Wrybill breeds only on a handful of braided rivers on the South Island, where the total population is estimated at 5000 birds!

**New Zealand (Red-breasted Dotterel) Plover (E) (EN)** *Charadrius obscurus*

We had great looks at 35 birds in breeding plumage on the mud flats at Waipu Cove while looking for Fairy Terns. A couple of birds were seen the next day at a beach in Auckland. Another threatened species, with most of the population on the North Island and a small population in the far south, which breeds in the hills of Stewart Island.

*Note: The South Island subspecies occurs only on Stewart Island, with a population of 250 birds, and is often treated as a full species by many authors.*

**Double-banded Plover (E)***Charadrius bicinctus*

We enjoyed fabulous sightings at Waipu Cove and at Twizel while searching for Black Stilt. Some birds were in stunning breeding plumage.

**SANDPIPERS & SNIPES: Scolopaciidae****Bar-tailed Godwit***Limosa lapponica*

Recorded at Puketutu Island, where we saw 2000+ birds and a further 40 at Waipu Cove. Our final sighting was of a huge flock at Miranda Shorebird Centre.

**Ruddy Turnstone***Arenaria interpres*

Five birds were seen at Waipu Cove and 25 on the beach at Kaikoura.

**Red Knot***Calidris canutus*

Good numbers were seen among the Bar-tailed Godwits at Puketutu Island and at Waipu Cove.

**Sharp-tailed sandpiper***Calidris ruficollis*

Three birds were seen at Puketutu Island the day before the tour started.

**Curlew Sandpiper***Calidris ferruginea*

A singleton was seen briefly among a flock of waders at Puketutu Island.

**GULLS & TERNS: Laridae****Black-billed Gull (E)***Larus Bulleri*

First recorded at Puketutu Island, where we had distant views. At Lake Taupo, we enjoyed close views of several confiding birds and, thereafter, sightings of many birds congregating in fields in the Twizel-Omarama area.

**Red-billed Gull (E)***Larus Scopulinus*

Commonly seen at coastal areas throughout New Zealand.



**Kelp Gull***Larus dominicanus*

Commonly seen throughout NZ.

**Caspian Tern***Sterna. Caspia*

This huge tern was seen at Waipu Cove and at Sandspit Wharf.

**Fairy Tern (CE)***Sterna Nereis davisae*

We were ecstatic to find a pair of these rare breeding birds at Waipu Cove, on the North Island. Only about 15 to 20 of this rare subspecies breed in NZ.

**White-fronted Tern (BE)***Sterna. Striata*

First recorded at Puketutu Island, with further sightings at Muriwai Gannet colony, where we enjoyed great looks of many birds attending their nests. We saw this species several more times on the coast as far as Stewart Island.

**Black-fronted Tern (E)***Chlidonias albostratus*

Two winter-plumaged birds were found alongside the boat at Kaikoura. Up to 50 birds were found on rivers near Omarama, with further sightings at Twizel, en route to Te Anua and hunting over grasslands adjoining the river in Fiordland National Park. This species breeds on rivers only on the South Island.

**SKUAS: Stercorariidae****Brown Skua***Stercorarius antarcticus*

These burly predators were seen on smaller islands off Stewart Island. We enjoyed fantastic looks on our pelagic of three different pairs, which would fly around the boat looking for scraps.

**Parasitic Jaeger***Stercorarius parasiticus*

A single bird was seen harassing a White-fronted Tern while we were on the Interisland Ferry between Wellington and Picton.

**PIGEONS & DOVES: Columbidae****Rock Pigeon***Columba livia*

Small numbers recorded in urban environments.

**African Collared (Barbary) Dove***Streptopelia roseogrisea*

Good views on both days at Kerikeri and further sightings in a garden on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula.

**Spotted Dove***Streptopelia chinensis*

A couple of birds were seen around Auckland, en route to Muriwai and near Snells Beach, Warkworth.

**New Zealand Pigeon (E)***Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*

First seen at Tawharanui Regional Park, then at Tiritiri Matangi Island, where we had fantastic looks at several confiding birds, and on Ulva Island. Recorded on 12 days.

**CUCKOOS: Cuculidae****Pacific Long-tailed Cuckoo (BE)***Urodynamis taitensis*

Fantastic looks at two birds in flight on Kapiti Island. Also heard calling the next day on Kapiti Island and at Milford Sound, Fiordland NP.

**OWLS: Strigidae****Little Owl (I)***Athene noctua*

We were very lucky to find a bird sitting on a woodpile in the early morning sun near Twizel.

**Morepork (Southern Boobook) (E)***Ninox novaeseelandiae*

We first heard several calling near Kerikeri on our night walk, but failed to see any. Our first sighting was a calling bird spotlighted on Kapiti Island and a roosting bird on Ulva Island. Stewart Island was our best looks.

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**

#### **Sacred Kingfisher**

*Halcyon sancta*

Recorded only on the first three days of the tour.

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae**

#### **New Zealand Falcon**

*Falco novaeseelandiae*

An adult female flew past us while we were sitting on the patio at Kapiti Island Lodge. Wow!

### **NEW ZEALAND PARROTS: Strigopidae**

#### **Kea (E) (TH)**

*Nestor notabilis*

Up to three of these colourful, playful characters were enjoyed at Arthur's Pass Village. Further sightings included up to 10 birds seen at various sites in the Milford Sound, Fiordland NP. This threatened species occurs in mountainous areas only on the South Island, where the population is estimated to be as low as 2500 birds!

#### **New Zealand Kaka (E)**

*Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*

Our first sighting was of four birds in flight at Tawharanui Regional Park. Further sightings included up to 20 birds on Kapiti Island, small groups daily while visiting Ulva Island, and on Stewart Island.

*Note: South Island sub-species, Nestor meridionalis. was seen on four dates.*

### **OLD WORLD PARROTS: Psittacidae**

#### **Eastern Rosella (I)**

*Platycercus eximius*

Regular sightings of this introduced species were had on the first few days of our tour on the North Island.

#### **Yellow-crowned (-fronted) Parakeet (E)**

*Cyanoramphus. auriceps*

Good views of three birds on Ulva Island, Stewart Island.

#### **Malherbe's Parakeet (E)**

*Cyanoramphus malherbi*

Good but brief looks within a few minutes of us landing on Blumine Island. This is a highly threatened species occurring at a few sites on the South Island.

#### **Red-crowned (-fronted) Parakeet (E)**

*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*

Great views on our day trips to Tawharanui RP, Tiritiri Matangi Island and Ulva Island.

### **NEW ZEALAND WRENS: Acanthisittidae**

#### **Rifleman (E)**

*Acanthisitta chloris granti*

We enjoyed multiple views of three of these tiny birds at Arthur's Pass and a surprise find was a female bird in scrub at Glentanner, near Mt Cook.

### **HONEYEATERS: Meliphagidae**

#### **Tui (E)**

*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*

This colourful and showy species was first seen at Tawharanui Regional Park. It was seen throughout the tour and its wide range of calls heard daily.

#### **New Zealand Bellbird (E)**

*Anthornis melanura*

We enjoyed great looks at Tawharanui Regional Park and several duetting birds on Tiritiri Matangi Island. We had further sightings on Kapiti Island, Milford Sound and on Stewart Island.





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**AUSTRALASIAN WARBLERS: Acanthizidae****Gray Gerygone (E)***Gerygone igata*

Seen and heard on six days of the tour. Our first sighting was of a pair at Tawharanui Regional Park.

**NEW ZEALAND WATTLEBIRDS: Callaeidae****North Island Kokako (E) (EN)***Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*

After a long, tense wait we enjoyed fabulous close looks at a pair feeding just above our heads on Tiritiri Matangi Island. A third bird was seen at another territory. This is a rare and endangered species occurring only on the North Island and with a population estimated at 2000+ birds.

*Note: The IOC recognises two species: North Island Kokako and South Island Kokako. Clements recognises only Kokako. C.c wilsoni.*

**North Island Saddleback (E) (EN)***Philisternus carunculatus rufusater*

Great looks at Tawharanui Regional Park, on Tiritiri Matangi Island, and heard on Kapiti Island. This is a rare and threatened species, with a population of fewer than 3000 individuals!

**South Island Saddleback (E) (EN)***Philisternus carunculatus carunculatus*

Excellent close looks were had of several pairs on Ulva Island. This is a much rarer species restricted to offshore islands on the South Island, with an estimated population at around 1500+ birds.

*Note: The IOC recognises both North and South Island Saddlebacks. Clements recognises only one species, Saddleback P.c rufasater.*

**STITCHBIRDS: Notiomystidae****Stitchbird (E) (CE)***Notiomystis cincta*

This very rare endemic was seen on Tiritiri Matangi Island, where we enjoyed great looks at several confiding birds, including a male displaying his white ear tufts. A couple of female birds were also noted on Tiritiri and a female bird was seen on Kapiti Island. This is a rare and highly threatened species, with less than 2000 birds remaining on offshore, predator-free islands.

**NEW ZEALAND CREEPERS: Mohouidae****Yellowhead (E) (EN)***Mohoua ochrocephala*

We struggled with this endemic on our first visit to Ulva Island, where we heard it regularly, but only a few of us got a good look. On our second visit, we had fabulous close looks at a few birds feeding and in song on several occasions at Ulva Island, Stewart Island. Occurs only on the South Island where it is declining rapidly because of introduced predators. This species has been translocated to several predator-free islands to try to secure its future.

**Whitehead (E)***Mohoua albicilla*

First seen at Tawharanui Regional Park, with further good sightings on Tiritiri Matangi Island. This species occurs only on the North Island.

**Pipipi (E)***Mohoua novaeseelandidae*

First seen at Arthur's Pass, where we had reasonable looks, and then very good looks at several confiding flocks on Ulva Island, Stewart Island. Occurs only on the South Island.

**FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae****New Zealand Fantail (E)***Rhipidura fuliginosa*

This delightful species was enjoyed as it often approached very close. Recorded on nine dates.

**WOODSWALLOWS, BUTCHERBIRDS and ALLIES: Artamidae****Australian Magpie***Gymnorhina tibicen*

Good numbers recorded throughout the tour, especially in open fields.

### **AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS: Petroicidae**

#### **Tomtit (E)**

*Petroica macrocephala*

Our first sighting was at Warkworth, with further sightings at Franz Joseph Glacier and at Milford Sound.

*Note: Only Tomtit is recognised by the IOC and Clements. Some authorities split this species as North Island Tomtit P.m. toitoi and South Island Tomtits P.m. macrocephala.*

#### **New Zealand Robin (E) (TH)**

*Petroica australis longipes*

We had good looks at six birds at Tawharanui Regional Park, 10 birds on Tiritiri Matangi Island and two on Kapiti Island.

#### **[South Island Robin (E) (TH)]**

*Petroica australis australis*

Confiding birds were seen on two visits to Ulva Island.

*Note: Only NZ Robin is recognised by the IOC and Clements. Most authorities split this species as North and South Island Robins.*

### **LARKS: Alaudidae**

#### **Eurasian Skylark (I)**

*Alauda arvensis*

Recorded infrequently on the tour. However, its beautiful song and display flights were enjoyed by all.

### **SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae**

#### **Welcome Swallow**

*Hirundo tahitica*

We recorded this species almost every day on tour.

### **GRASSBIRDS: Locustellidae**

#### **New Zealand Fernbird (E)**

*Megalurus punctatus vealeae*

We enjoyed very close looks at two calling birds at Tokaanu Wharf, Lake Taupo.

### **WHITE-EYES and ALLIES: Zosteropidae**

#### **Silver-eye**

*Zosterops lateralis*

This common native was seen on nine days of the tour.

### **STARLINGS Sturnidae**

#### **Common (European) Starling (I)**

*Sternus vulgaris*

Very commonly recorded on all days throughout the tour.

#### **Common Myna (I)**

*Acridotheres tristis*

Recorded daily in the far north of the North Island.

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae**

#### **Common (Eurasian) Blackbird (I)**

*Turdus merula*

Seen daily throughout the tour and one of New Zealand's most common species.

#### **Song Thrush (I)**

*T. Philomelos*

This attractive and common species was recorded most days of the NZ tour. Its beautiful song was heard on several days.

### **SPARROWS: Passeridae**

#### **House Sparrow (I)**

*Passer domesticus*

Seen daily.



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**ACCENTORS: Prunellidae****Dunnock (I)***Prunella modularis*

Incredibly, only one sighting was had at our lodge at Franz Joseph.

**WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae****New Zealand Pipit (E)***Anthus novaeseelandiae*

A pair was found feeding on the wooden deck on Kapiti Island and another sighting was in grassland near Mt Cook.

**FINCHES: Fringillidae****Common Chaffinch (I)***Fringilla coelebs*

This attractive finch was seen most days.

**Eurasian Greenfinch (I)***Carduelis chloris*

Recorded on five dates.

**Common Redpoll (I)***Carduelis (Acanthis) flammea*

More commonly seen on the South Island, where it had a preference for pine forests.

**Eurasian Goldfinch (I)***Carduelis carduelis*

Fairly common throughout our tour.

**BUNTINGS: Emberizidae****Yellowhammer (I)***Emberiza citronella*

This beautiful bunting with its catchy song was seen and heard regularly throughout NZ.

**Mammals:****European Rabbit (I)***Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Seen on at least 12 dates.

**NZ Fur Seal***Arctocephalus forsteri*

Seen at Kaikoura and off Stewart Island.

**Bottle-nosed Dolphin***Delphinus delphis*

Up to 14 were seen on our Milford Sound boat cruise.

**Dusky Dolphin***Lagenorhynchus obscurus*

Great views off Kaikoura.

**Common Ringtail Possum (I)***Pseudocheirus peregrinus*

Seen on our kiwi tour on Stewart Island.

**Miscellaneous:**

**Blue Shark** – Hauraki Gulf pelagic

**Long-finned Eel** – Kapiti Island

**Common Gecko** – Kapiti Island

**Tree Weta**

**Monarch Butterfly**

**White Cabbage Butterfly**





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**Rockjumper Birding Ltd  
Labourdonnais Village  
Mapou  
Mauritius**

**Tel (USA & Canada) toll free: 1-888-990-5552**

**Email: [info@rockjumperbirding.com](mailto:info@rockjumperbirding.com)**

**Alternative email: [rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com](mailto:rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com)**

**Website: [www.rockjumperbirding.com](http://www.rockjumperbirding.com)**

