



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

New Zealand Comprehensive II Trip Report

31st October to 16th November 2016 (17 days)



The Critically Endangered South Island Takahe by Erik Forsyth

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Erik Forsyth



Tour Summary



Salvin's Albatross by Erik Forsyth

New Zealand is a must for the serious seabird enthusiast. Not only will you see a variety of albatross, petrels and shearwaters, there are 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: kiwis - terrestrial nocturnal inhabitants, the huge swamp hen-like Takahe - prehistoric in its looks and movements, and wattlebirds, the saddlebacks and Kokako - poor flyers with short wings which bound along the branches and on the ground. On

this tour we had so many highlights, including close encounters with North Island, South Island and Little Spotted Kiwi, Wandering, Northern and Southern Royal, Black-browed, Shy, Salvin's and Chatham Albatrosses, Mottled and Black Petrels, Buller's and Hutton's Shearwater and South Island Takahe, North Island Kokako, the tiny Rifleman and the very cute New Zealand (South Island wren) Rockwren.

With a few members of the group already at the hotel (the afternoon before the tour started), we jumped into our van and drove to the nearby Puketutu Island. Here we had a good introduction to New Zealand birding. Arriving at a bay, the canals were teeming with Black Swans, Australasian Shovelers, Mallard and several White-faced Herons. Several Little Pied and Little Black Shags were noted and, best of all, a pair of the scarce Black-fronted Dotterel were found feeding among the rocks. We also had looks at several Common Blackbird, Song Thrush, Common Starling and House Sparrows en route.

Heading out from our airport hotel the following morning, we had a quick stop at Puketutu Island where a couple of thousand Bar-tailed Godwits were seen nearby, as well as smaller numbers of Red Knots. Not far from the godwits were several White-headed (Pied) Stilts and, best of all, a feeding group of fifteen endemic Wrybill. We scoped the birds, enjoying great looks as they fed mechanically on the sandflats. This species breeds only on the South Island and these were either late leavers or young birds. From here, we headed north to the Muriwai Gannet Colony, arriving mid-morning. The breeding season had just started and many Australasian Gannets were attending nests and several birds were sitting on eggs. Nearby, White-fronted Terns and Red-billed Gulls were also nesting, 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 mudflats, where a short stroll to the shoreline produced several Variable Oystercatchers and Caspian Terns but, best of all, several endemic New Zealand (Red-breasted Dotterel) Plovers - some in fine breeding plumage and allowing great scope looks. It was a joy to see several of these endangered birds and no doubt they must have been breeding nearby in the grassy dunes. Scanning, we picked up a small tern roosting a few hundred metres from us, which proved to be our other target, the



Mount Tongariro by Erik Forsyth

endangered Fairy Tern, the sub-species of which is unique to New Zealand. Another tern was seen distantly feeding over the lagoon. Three Ruddy Turnstone and several Bar-tailed Godwit were also noted. With a fair drive ahead, we continued to Kerikeri, our destination for the night.

Arriving in the late afternoon at our lodge, 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. Heading down into the valley bottom we heard several calling pairs, the male with his high-pitched whistle followed by the female's, guttural reply. After a fair walk, we eventually tracked down a kiwi feeding in a meadow at about 30m. Wow! Creeping forward, we managed to get much closer for great looks before it sped off. If that wasn't enough, a second kiwi was found in tall grass, allowing close looks as it bounded away in tall grass. On our drive out of the area we spotted a third bird feeding in a paddock. We had been very lucky and a happy group of birders slept well that night.

On our second morning in Aotearoa we headed south, stopping at Helena/Teal Bay, where we enjoyed very good looks at twenty endemic Brown Teal at a small wooded stream. Arriving at our hotel in the late afternoon, we checked in before heading to a local nature reserve. This visit proved successful, with great looks at Tui, New Zealand Bellbird, three Brown Teal along a stream with Buff-banded Rail, Grey Gerygone, New Zealand Fantail and, best of all, a pair of the endangered (South Island) Takahe feeding on seeding plants on a hillside while we stood nearby relishing this sighting. This is one of New Zealand's rarest birds, with a population of less than three hundred. Incredibly, while watching the Takahe, a pair of (North Island) Saddlebacks began calling. They were feeding in some *Flax* bushes nearby and allowed great looks. A very impressive start to the tour.





The Critically Endangered Stitchbird on Tiritiri Matangi Island by Erik Forsyth

Early on morning three we drove to nearby Sandspit harbour for our Hauraki Gulf pelagic. The weather was perfect, with 2m swells, light winds and sunshine. We first motored towards Little Barrier Island, picking up our first Fluttering and Buller's Shearwaters, Common Diving Petrels and Fairy Prions. We continued until we were in 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, Fairy Prions, several of the rare Black Petrels, Buller's, and surprisingly only a few Flesh-footed Shearwaters, arrived. They were soon joined by many dainty White-faced Storm-Petrels, dancing over the water. Interestingly, two Shy (White-capped) Albatross were also seen well and hung around the boat, while Cook's Petrels made several fly-bys. While we were watching, a shout for 'storm-petrel' went up on our starboard side. 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, a further four others joined in and we watched them for long periods. On our return journey, we stopped alongside Kawau Island and after a bit of a scan a Weka was seen feeding along the shoreline. After all our successes, we headed back to shore, rounding off a great day.

On morning four, an excited group headed to Gulf Harbour to catch our ferry over to Tiritiri Matangi Island. After arriving at the jetty, we boarded our large ferry and were headed to the Island. After a quick briefing, we then headed up a hill, seeing several Tui and New Zealand Bellbirds and, to top it all, a pair and chick, Brown Teal were found at a small pond. We continued on the trail and soon found a group of New Zealand Bellbirds and two male Stitchbirds feeding at a supplementary feeder. Here we enjoyed fabulous looks at several male and one female Stitchbird; occasionally the males would erect their ornamental ear-tufts while displaying to a passing female.

During our stay here, we recorded many great species, including wonderful close looks of North Island Saddlebacks hunting for grubs on the ground among the leaves and ferns, North Island Robins feeding on the paths, Grey Gerygone, New Zealand Pigeons, Brown Quail scurrying around and numerous Red-crowned Parakeets. A new endemic family for us was the Whitehead, seen in small, noisy, moving flocks throughout our stay on the island. Positioning ourselves at a water drinking trough, we endured a



long tense wait, but eventually a pair of North Island Kokako appeared, showing very well and at close range, much to our joy. 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. Their numbers are 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. On our return journey to the ferry, we checked a few nest boxes, one of which held a Little Penguin.

The following day, we headed south to Turangi, first stopping at Miranda Shorebird centre. Unfortunately, the tide was on its way out but we did find four Wrybill showing well through the scope. Many Bar-tailed Godwits and Red Knot were present. We then headed back to the reserve centre, where we had our lunch. After buying several Christmas presents and enjoying our packed lunch at the centre, we drove to Lake Taupo, arriving in the late afternoon. A flock of endemic Black-billed Gulls greeted us at the carpark. After enjoying good looks and a welcome stretch, we



New Zealand Pigeon by Erik Forsyth

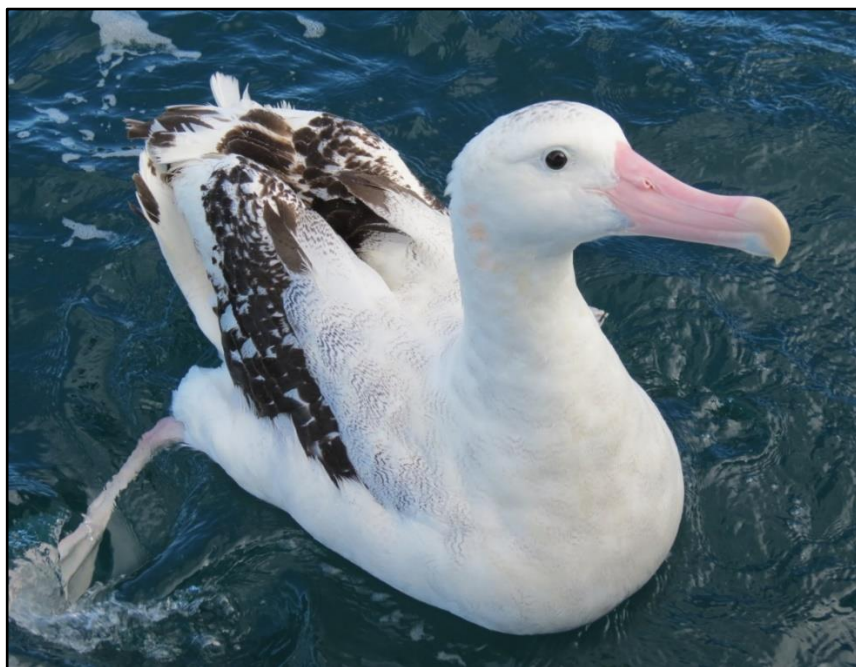
drove on to Turangi, where we drove straight to the Tongariro River. We searched in earnest for the endemic Blue Duck - a resident of fast-flowing streams – and within ten minutes located a pair resting on the river edge. Awesome! A quick dash to the Tokaanu wharf for some produced New Zealand Scaup, New Zealand Dabchick, Eurasian Coot and we heard the calls of Australasian Bittern.

Early the next morning, we headed back to Tokaanu Wharf and, scanning the reed beds, we came across a pair of Fernbirds scurrying about. A short while later we heard the booming calls of Australasian Bitterns as well as Spotless Crake. After a fairly long wait, we were thrilled when an Australasian Bittern was seen in flight high over the reed bed. We watched it for a couple of minutes before it disappeared out of view. In open water alongside the reed beds we saw New Zealand Grebe, Royal Spoonbill, a few Little Black Cormorants and New Zealand Scaup, while Common Redpolls called as they flew overhead.

After breakfast, we packed up the vehicle. Dave and Erik were lucky, while standing at the vehicle they saw a New Zealand Falcon fly past. From here we drove to Paraparaumu, where we would catch our ferry to Kapiti Island for a night's stay. The journey was enlivened by four New Zealand Pipits on the Desert Road and a pair of Rook flying overhead. We arrived at the dock in the early afternoon and caught our ferry across to Kapiti Island. After settling in, we took a walk into the valley behind our



rooms. The island was busy with birds and soon we were watching Weka, New Zealand Bellbird, Tui, Whitehead, while several New Zealand Kaka were seen flying and heard calling overhead. After hearing a Long-tailed Cuckoo calling, we were very lucky to see a bird flying over the woodland being chased by a Tui. Great stuff! Later, we found a New Zealand Pipit feeding on the wooden deck around the building. After dinner, we took our guided walk for Little Spotted Kiwi. First, we spotlighted a Morepork calling high up in a tree after hearing several. It took a while and a fair bit of walking but eventually we bumped into our main target, the Little Spotted Kiwi. We were very happy to see this endangered species and we even managed to find a very close bird on our return walk, which ran through the middle of the group. After this success, we headed back to our rooms. The following morning, we packed up after breakfast and headed for the ferry. A search along a rocky coastline failed to find the endangered Shore Plover, before we headed to our ferry for the inter-island crossing from Wellington to Picton.



Gibson's Wandering Albatross off Kaikoura by Erik Forsyth

The ferry crossing was pleasant as the ship was large and even though the winds were high the ship was stable. Shy (White-capped) and Salvin's Albatross, Sooty Shearwater, Fairy Prion and several Westland Petrels kept us entertained on the journey.

We arrived at Picton in the early evening and settled into our hotel. The following morning, we went out by boat with E-Ko Tours (previously Dolphin watch). We headed out into the Marlborough Sound past several flocks of Fluttering Shearwaters and Little Penguins. Arriving later at an exposed headland we were soon watching three of the localised

Rough-faced (King) Shag. Apart from being a large bird, their large pink feet were very noticeable. This is a threatened species with a small population; a survey recently estimated the population at 830 birds, a fair increase on the earlier estimated 550 birds. We then ventured over to Blumine Reserve, where a search proved successful for Orange-fronted Parakeet, which we found within a few minutes after leaving the jetty. They were flighty but we did get good looks. Other birds found on our walk here were several Weka, Tui and New Zealand Bellbirds. On our return to Picton harbour we saw a further three Rough-faced (King) Shags fishing, which may have been the three we saw earlier. In the afternoon, we drove to Kaikoura, site of the 7.8 earthquake at midnight on November 14, further south along the coast. Along this road, a short stop gave us delightful breeding-plumaged Double-banded Plovers and many Hutton's Shearwaters offshore. We also saw many New Zealand Fur Seals and arrived in the late afternoon and settled in for the evening.



Early the next morning, we assembled at the Albatross Encounter office. The weather was looking perfect. We met our guide Tracey and quickly assembled at the boat before heading out. Loads of albatrosses and giant petrels could be seen riding the wind. Tracey found a spot and threw out the chum bag. Fairly numerous and argumentative were the Northern Giant Petrels, squabbling with numerous Shy (White-capped) and Salvin's Albatrosses. Two [Northern Royal] Albatross came in and then our most wanted target, a huge Wandering Albatross towering over all the other birds. Within a short while we had



A juvenile Kea by Erik Forsyth

eight of these large, regal birds around the boat. We were very delighted to see this species as this was our best chance of the tour. Other species recorded were the range-restricted Westland Petrel, Fairy Prion, smart Cape Petrels and a constant flyby of the highly sought-after Hutton's Shearwaters, the latter at its only breeding area. Before we knew it, time was up and we headed back to shore a happy group of birders.

After a quick lunch, we headed further south - our destination Arthur's Pass. 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. We had a fly-by here but it was at our dinner stop where we enjoyed close looks at a confiding bird just outside the restaurant window. Later that night, a Great Spotted Kiwi was heard calling opposite our hotel. The following morning, we found the tiny Rifleman and New Zealand Robin on a trail near the village, where several Kea were also seen.

We continued south to Franz Joseph, our destination for the night, first stopping in the Jade/Greenstone area of Hokitika for lunch. After a bit of shopping we arrived at our hotel in Franz Joseph in the afternoon and walked out to the glacier, enjoying good views of the South Island sub-species of Tomtit, with its yellow chest, on the way. Later that evening a New Zealand Falcon was seen sitting on a tree opposite the lodge. Its calling caught the attention of some of our group. A good find! The following morning, after another search for the New Zealand Falcon without luck, we started our long drive to Omarama via the Haast Pass. During the drive, we enjoyed fabulous looks at scenery through the Haast Pass, Lakes Wanaka and Hawea, and eventually over the desolate Lindis Pass. En route to our hotel, we stopped briefly at the 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 breeding-plumaged Double-banded Plovers – which were stunning to say



the least, as well as a few Grey Teal and several White-headed (Pied) Stilts but, alas, no Black Stilts. A search at a few other wetlands produced the same results. A visit to Lake Benmore did the trick as a distant Black Stilt was found and good looks were had through the scope. This is one of New Zealand's rarest waders, with a population of less than 300 birds!



The critically endangered Black Stilt at Twizel by Erik Forsyth

The following morning after breakfast we packed up and headed south. 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, the latter new for our tour. 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. A search at a nearby forest gave us Grey Warbler, New Zealand Fantail and, amazingly, a few flighty Yellow-crowned Parakeets.

The following morning, we drove from Te Anua to Milford to join a ferry cruise through the beautiful Milford Sound. Our first stop en route was full of anticipation as we pulled over next to the Homer Tunnel. Here we would search for the enigmatic New Zealand (South Island Wren) Rockwren on a boulder-strewn hillside. This was our only possible site on the tour and, with the weather warm, with no wind, 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. We weren't long into our walk, and suddenly, we heard the call of our target - the faintest of squeaks. Everybody was alert and the bird called again. We were all looking in an area that I felt the call was coming from, the tiny mite was bobbing up and down on a rock in front of us and then disappeared into a thick bush in the rocks where it may have had a nest. Brilliant! Fabulous views were had and we all watched a single bird for a few minutes before it was seen bounding over the rocks and eventually out of sight. With this success, we continued on to Milford. We soon boarded our ferry. On the cruise, we enjoyed beautiful scenery, Unfortunately, only one off our group saw a lone Fiordland Penguin on the water. After the ferry cruise, we drove back through the tunnel and had fabulous views of a New Zealand (South Island wren) Rockwren. A short walk at Cascade Creek gave us good looks at New Zealand Robin and a couple of Riflemen.

Early the following morning we packed up and headed to Stewart Island. At the ferry terminal at Bluff we watched our first Bronze Shag of the dark phase. A Fiordland Crested Penguin found by another birder was seen briefly among rocks as we headed out. The ferry crossing was calm and so only a few birds were noted, such as Shy (White-capped) Albatross, Cape Bronze Shag, Sooty Shearwater and Common Diving Petrels. After lunch, we caught a water taxi to Ulva Island, a predator-free



conservation area a few kilometres off the coast. We had a great walk and enjoyed the plentiful birds, and flocks produced multiple views of Pipipi, South Island Saddleback, New Zealand Robin, Tui, New Zealand Bellbird and great close looks at the highly sought-after Yellowhead, which sang and performed wonderfully in close proximity. We also saw many Red-crowned (-fronted) and several pairs of Yellow-crowned (-fronted) Parakeet, while a roosting Morepork was much appreciated. On the beach, we found a few confiding Weka, before catching our water taxi and heading back to the mainland. Around the town of Oban, several friendly New Zealand Kaka 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 on a boat at the Oban jetty and travelled out to several small islands just off Stewart Island. Here we saw many New Zealand Fur Seals, breeding Bronze Shags on a rocky stack and Little Penguins bobbing around in the water, before we headed to Ocean Beach and moored at the jetty as it was getting dark. After a briefing from our local



Fiordland Crested Penguin, Stewart Island by Erik Forsyth

guides, we walked through a forest in a long line. We hadn't gone far when word was passed back that a kiwi was feeding on the trail up front. Amazingly with a constant rotation of the line, we all had two great looks at a very confiding bird. We were all super delighted and could relax and enjoy the rest of our adventure. We carried on walking through the forest and soon arrived at the beach, where we scanned with a torch. No other birds were found and so we headed back to the boat. After this success, a content group of birders sailed back to Oban.

The following day saw us out at sea all day on a pelagic. We set sail and followed the rocky shoreline out of the bay, where we located seven Fiordland Penguins with two large juveniles. Further out at sea, we stopped and chummed at several places, which produced many Shy (White-capped) and Salvin's Albatross and four huge Southern Royal Albatross, Cape and White-chinned Petrels. Other species that were high on our wanted list that made an appearance included singletons of Black-browed Albatross, which came close to the boat, while two Grey-backed Storm Petrels were a real treat. Suddenly, all hell broke loose as Erik shouted 'look at this albatross'. It turned out to be the much-wanted Chatham Albatross, a highly desirable bird and a lifer for all including Erik. A short while later two distant Mottled Petrels were called, although most of us missed them due to the speed at which they zoomed passed. Several other birds were noted at a distance and we decided to head in that direction and see if we could get closer looks. This worked wonders as we had a few birds fly by near the boat, allowing us



to see plumage details, including the grey chest. Other seabirds noted included good numbers of Buller's and many Sooty Shearwaters, Common Diving Petrels and two pairs of Brown Skua, which put in a performance around the boat. After a hugely successful and enjoyable day at sea, we headed back to port.



Southern Royal Albatross by Erik Forsyth

The following morning, we had a leisurely breakfast and enjoyed the attentions of a group of New Zealand Kaka feeding across the road from our hotel. Next, we caught the ferry back to Bluff, on the South Island, noting several Common Diving Petrels, Cape Petrels and a few Shy (White-capped) Albatross on the Foveaux

Strait. We then collected our vehicle and drove to Dunedin, stopping for lunch and then at our hotel to drop off our bags.

After a quick break at the hotel, we drove on the beautiful coastal road to Taiaroa Head on the Otago Peninsula. 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 two Northern Royal Albatross gliding majestically along the headland. This is New Zealand's only mainland site where albatross breed. Nearby, we had excellent close looks at Spotted Shag at their nests. Several Bronze Shags were seen flying past the headland. (Interestingly, the latter has been proposed as a new species, Otago Shag, after research on the population showed they are genetically different from the birds on Stewart Island, 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 headed 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, stood face-to-face with a Yellow-eyed Penguin with two chicks in a nest box. 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 this tour memorable.



Top 10 Birds as voted by the participants for this tour

- 1) Tui
- 2) Yellowhead
- 3) Kea
- 4) North Island Kokako
- 5) South Island Takahe
- 6) Chatham Albatross
- 7) Wrybill
- 8) North Island Saddleback
- 9) Northern Brown Kiwi
- 10) Southern Brown Kiwi



Yellow-eyed Penguin at nest box by Erik Forsyth

Annotated List of species recorded

Birds (138 in total: 135 seen, 3 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 was a real adventure. First, we hopped onto a boat at dusk and cruised out to a few nearby islands, observing New Zealand Fur seals, Bronze and Australian Pied Shags and a few stunning Fiordland Crested Penguins were seen among the rocks. A little later, we arrived at Ocean beach. With flashlights we walked along a muddy forest track. Not too long into this walk, a kiwi was found feeding on the trail. One by one, we all rotated to the front of the line, and we all connected with the kiwi feeding unconcerned on the trail, a brilliant job by our local guide. Magic!

North Island Brown Kiwi (E) (TH)

Apteryx mantelli

Fabulous close views were enjoyed on three separate occasions at a roadside forest near Kerikeri: two close sightings of birds feeding down in the valley and, lastly, a bird was seen running near the road on our way out. Several other pairs, were heard calling in the valley.

Little Spotted Kiwi (E) (TH)

Apteryx owenii

We had good close looks at two of New Zealand's smallest kiwi on Kapiti Island during our overnight stay. Occurs mainly on offshore islands with one population living in the predator-free Karori Bird Sanctuary in Wellington.

Great Spotted Kiwi (E) (TH) (H)

Apteryx haastii

Roland heard this species calling opposite our lodge at Arthur's Pass.



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 believed that the species migrated to New Zealand from Australia.

Blue Duck (E) (EN)*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*

A pair were located on the shoreline on the 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 a wetland in the Twizel area.

Australasian Shoveler*Anas rhynchos variegata*

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

Brown Teal (E) (EN)*Anas aucklandica chlorotis*

We found up to thirty birds at Helena (Teal) Bay and three birds at Tawharanui Regional Park. 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 Lake Taupo, with further sightings around Twizel, plus we had several other sightings on the South Island.

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

Excellent views were had of this beauty on our first few days in the North Island.

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

Recorded in small groups on farmland on the North and South Islands.

Brown Quail (I)*Synoicus ypsilophorus*

Great views at Tawharanui Regional Park and on Tiritiri Matangi Island.

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

This introduced species was seen only in the North Island on several dates.

Indian Peafowl (I) (H)*Pavo cristatus*

A male was seen and heard calling on our drive from Muriwai to Wellsford.

PENGUINS: Spheniscidae**Fiordland Penguin (E) (TH)***Eudyptula pachyrhynchus*

Roland had a good sighting of a single bird on our boat tour of the Milford Sound. A further twelve birds, including juveniles, were found in caves on the rocky shoreline during our Stewart Island stay.



Yellow-eyed Penguin (E) (EN)*Megadyptes antipodes*

Two birds were seen very well on our crossing to Ulva Island and three birds were seen well on a breeding island of Stewart Island during our pelagic boat trip. We enjoyed fabulous close looks at a male wandering up a hill and a female with two chicks at a nest box at Penguin Place Nature Reserve on the Otago Peninsular. A rapidly declining species, with less than 4000 birds remaining.

Little Penguin*Eudyptula minor*

Recorded on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic, in nest boxes on Tiritiri Matangi Island, in the Marlborough Sound, off Stewart Island and at nesting boxes at Penguin Place.

STORM PETRELS: Hydrobatidae**Grey-backed Storm (-) Petrel***Garrodia nereis*

Two of these scarce birds were seen on our Stewart Island Pelagic, giving good fly-by views.

White-faced Storm (-) Petrel*Pelagodroma marina*

Small numbers were recorded on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic, allowing fabulous looks alongside the boat.

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

We enjoyed repeated good looks at between five and eight of these mythical birds, often close to the back of the boat and 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 re-discovered 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 exulans(gibsoni)*

We enjoyed fabulous looks at up to eight 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.

(Southern) Royal Albatross*Diomedea epomophora epomoph*

A single bird was seen rather briefly at Kaikoura, but later a further four were seen alongside our boat for all to admire, on our pelagic off Stewart Island.

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

[Northern Royal Albatross]*Diomedea epomophora sanfordi*

A singleton showed well on our Kaikoura pelagic and two were seen flying at the breeding colony at Taiaroa Head in Dunedin.

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

Black-browed Albatross*Thalassarche melanophris*

A single sub-adult was seen at close range on our Kaikoura pelagic and an adult was seen on our Stewart Island pelagic.

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

First recorded on our pelagic in the Hauraki Gulf, where we saw three birds. Also on our ferry crossing from the North to the South Islands, with further sightings at Kaikoura and on Stewart Island, where we saw 150+.

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



Salvin's Albatross*Thalassarche salvini*

Our first sighting was on our ferry crossing from the North to the South Islands on the Cook Strait. Up to four of these range-restricted birds were seen on our Kaikoura pelagic and a further thirty on our Stewart Island pelagic. This species breeds on Snares Island.

Chatham Albatross (BE)*Thalassarche eremita*

We enjoyed fabulous looks at a singleton alongside the boat off Stewart Island. A lifer for all including Erik; much celebrating after this find. This species tends to feed to the east of the Chatham Islands and is infrequently recorded along the New Zealand mainland coast.

SHEARWATERS & PETRELS: Procellariidae**Southern Giant (-) Petrel***Macronectes giganteus*

A single bird was found alongside the boat on our Stewart Island pelagic. A great find!

Northern Giant (-) Petrel*Macronectis halli*

Singletons seen off the Hauraki Gulf, the inter-island ferry, up to thirty were seen on our Kaikoura pelagic, often very close to the boat, and three off Stewart Island.

Cape Petrel*Daption capense*

Very good looks were had off Kaikoura and fifty-plus were seen off Stewart Island.

Broad-billed Prion*Pachyptila vittata*

Singletons were seen well on the crossing from Bluff to Oban and on our Stewart Island pelagic the next day.

Fairy Prion*Pachyptila turtur*

Recorded in good numbers on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic, inter-island crossing and around Stewart Island.

Great-winged Petrel*Pterodroma macroptera*

A single bird was seen well following the boat on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic.

Mottled Petrel (BE)*Pterodroma inexpectata*

We had excellent looks at several flying past our boat. Up to forty birds were seen over a couple of hours off Stewart Island.

Cook's Petrel (BE)*Pterodroma macroptera*

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

White-chinned Petrel*Puffinus Aequinoctialis*

Up to ten birds were seen on our Stewart Island pelagic.

Black (Parkinson's) Petrel (BE)*Puffinus Parkinsoni*

Eight birds were found on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic allowing close looks alongside the boat.

Westland Petrel (BE)*Procellaria westlandica*

Up to fifteen were seen on our inter-island ferry crossing and around six to ten on our Kaikoura pelagic. This species breeds on the West Coast off the South Island.

Buller's Shearwater (BE)*Puffinus Bulleri*

Commonly seen on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic.

Sooty Shearwater*Puffinus Griseus*

Recorded on our inter-island crossing and good numbers 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 Sound.

Hutton's Shearwater (BE)*Puffinus huttoni*

Good numbers were seen off the Kaikoura coastline as well as on our pelagic boat tour the next day.



DIVING PETRELS: Pelecanoididae**Common Diving-Petrel***Pelecanoides urinatrix*

Excellent looks were had on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic around Stewart Island.

GREBES: Podicipedidae**New Zealand Grebe (E)***Poliocephalus rufopectus*

Recorded at Puketutu Island, Auckland and at Tokaanu Wharf, Lake Taupo. This species occurs only on the North Island.

Great Crested Grebe*Podiceps cristatus*

A pair were 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, at Lake Taupo, and four at the Royal Albatross colony at Taiaroa Head, Dunedin.

HERONS & BITTERNS: Ardeidae**Australasian Bittern***Boataraua poiciloptilus*

After hearing two to three birds calling in reed beds at Tokaanu Wharf, we were overjoyed when a bird was seen in flight over the reed bed, giving prolonged flight views!

White-faced Heron*Egretta novaehollandiae*

A common species recorded throughout the tour.

Pacific Reef Heron*Egretta sacra*

A single bird was found at Puketutu Island, Auckland.

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, in the Marlborough Sounds and Kaikoura.

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 through the Cook Strait, on our Marlborough Sound boat trip, at 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.

(Australian) Pied Cormorant*Phalacrocorax 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 five dates.

Rough-faced Shag (E)*Phalacrocorax. carunculatus*

We enjoyed great looks of at least six birds (on a rocky stack and some fishing) on our boat trip in the Marlborough Sound. 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) 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*

A single bird was seen at Tawharanui Regional Park on our visit.

Spotless Crake (H)*Porzana tabuensis*

Heard calling in the reed bed at Tokaanu Wharf, 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 as yet 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 single bird on Kapiti Island. South Island Takahe have been introduced to several island sanctuaries, where they are safe from introduced predators. A wild population of about 200 birds occurs wild 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 thirty, 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 visiting several pans and scanning braided riverbeds we eventually found a single bird at Lake Benmore 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 less than 300 birds, this species is critically endangered because of a lack of predator-free wetlands.



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

Recorded on 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 twenty birds at Puketutu Island, Auckland. A further four birds were seen at Miranda. 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 six 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 sub-species 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 of stunning breeding-plumaged birds at a stream at Kekerengu and at wetlands near Twizel.

Black-fronted Dotterel*Elsayornis melanops*

Two birds were found at Puketutu Island on the arrival day.

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

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

Ruddy Turnstone*Arenaria interpres*

Three birds were seen at Waipu Cove and six on a rocky island on our boat trip, Stewart Island.

Red Knot*Calidris canutus*

Good numbers among the Bar-tailed Godwits at Puketutu Island and at Miranda.

Sharp-tailed sandpiper*Calidris ruficollis*

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

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

First recorded at Puketutu Island and at Miranda where we had distant but poor views. At Lake Taupo, we enjoyed close views of several confiding birds and thereafter sightings of many birds seen 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 New Zealand.

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 twenty pairs of this rare sub-species breed in New Zealand.



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

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

Black-fronted Tern (E)*Chlidonias albostratus*

Up to fifty birds were found on rivers near Omarama, with further sightings at Twizel, en route to Te Anua, and, lastly, 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, large predators were seen on three 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.

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 at the Whangaparoa Peninsular.

Spotted Dove*Streptopelia chinensis*

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

New Zealand Pigeon (E)*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*

First seen at Kerikeri and then at Tiritiri Matangi Island where we had fantastic looks at several confiding birds, and down on Ulva Island. Recorded on 14 days.

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

Fantastic looks at a flying bird being chased by a Tui on Kapiti Island. Also heard calling at Arthur's Pass, Franz Joseph and at Fiordland NP.

Shining Bronze Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx lucidus*

A male was found by Brian at Teal Bay and a female was seen a few minutes later in flight.

OWLS: Stigidae**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 of a calling bird spotlighted on Kapiti Island and, lastly, a roosting bird on Ulva Island. Stewart Island was our best looks.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**Sacred Kingfisher***Halcyon sancta*

Recorded on most days on the North Island and at a few sites on the South Island.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS - Falconidae**New Zealand Falcon***Falco novaeseelandiae*

A bird was heard and then seen late evening at Franz Joseph



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 a pair at Franz Joseph and ten birds were seen at various sites in Milford Sound. This threatened species occurs in mountainous areas only on the South Island, where the population is estimated to be as low as 3000 birds!

New Zealand Kaka (E)*Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*

Our first sighting was of three birds in flight at Tawharanui Regional Park. Further sightings included up to twenty birds on Kapiti Island, three at the bridge at Lake Moeraki Lodge, a few at Milford Sound and, lastly, small groups daily while staying on Stewart Island.

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

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 but brief looks at two birds at Milford Sound and up to twenty birds seen very well on Ulva Island, Stewart Island.

Malherbe's Parakeet (E)*Cyanoramphus malherbi*

Good looks at two flighty birds 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 Tiritiri Matangi Island and Ulva Islands.

NEW ZEALAND WRENS: Acanthisitiidae**Rifleman (E)***Acanthisitta chloris granti*

We enjoyed multiple views of two of these tiny birds at Arthur's Pass and several at Cascade Creek, Milford Sound.

New Zealand (South Island Wren) Rockwren (E) (TH)*Xenicus gilviventris*

We enjoyed fabulously close looks at a pair of these tiny mites at the Homer Tunnel, Milford Sound. This species occurs on the rocky Sub-Alpine belt of the South Island.

HONEYEATERS: Meliphagidae**Tui (E)***Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*

This colourful and showy species was first seen feeding on flax flowers at Muriwai Gannet Colony. It was seen throughout the tour and its wide range of calls heard daily thereafter.

New Zealand Bellbird (E)*Anthornis melanura*

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

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

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

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

Fabulous close looks at a few small flocks 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 secure its future.

Whitehead (E) *Mohoua albigilla*

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 novaeseelandiae*

Heard only at Milford Sound carpark before we boarded the cruise. Very good looks at several confiding flocks were had on Ulva Island, Stewart Island. Occurs only on the South Island.

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, situated offshore the North Island. 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 only recognises Kokako.C.c wilsoni.

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

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

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

Excellent close looks were had of several pairs on Ulva Island. This is a much rarer subspecies 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 birds including a male displaying his white ear tufts. A couple of female birds were also noted. This is a rare and highly threatened species, with less than 2000 birds remaining on offshore, predator-free Islands.

FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae

New Zealand Fantail (E) *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

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

CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES - Corvidae

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

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

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Two birds were seen in flight in the Taupo area.

AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS: Petroicidae

Tomtit (E) *Petroica macrocephala*

Our first sighting was at Arthur's Pass, 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 three birds on Tiritiri Matangi Island.

[South Island Robin (E) (TH)] *Petroica australis*

Singletons were seen at Arthur's Pass and a pair were found at Cascade Creek in the Milford Sound.

Lastly, a further six confiding birds on Ulva Island.

Note: Only New Zealand 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 on almost every day on tour. 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, including several attending nests.

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: 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 on all days of the New Zealand tour. Its beautiful song was heard on several days.

SPARROWS: Passeridae

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus*

Commonly seen daily.

ACCENTORS: Prunellidae

Dunnock (I) *Prunella modularis*

First record was of a singing bird at Lake Taupo. Thereafter, at Zealandia Reserve and was



seen almost daily, on the South Island.

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae

New Zealand Pipit (E) *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

We had good looks at four birds on the Desert Road, Turangi and another bird was seen feeding on a wooden deck on Kapiti Island.

FINCHES: Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch (I) *Fringilla coelebs*

This attractive finch was commonly seen on 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 commonly seen throughout our tour.

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae

Yellowhammer (I) *Emberiza citronella*

This beautiful bunting with its catchy song was seen and heard almost daily throughout New Zealand.

Mammals

European Rabbit (I) *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Seen on at least twelve dates.

New Zealand Fur Seal *Arctocephalus forsteri*

Seen at Kaikoura and off Stewart Island.

Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

Up to twenty five were seen on our Hauraki Gulf Pelagic.

Dusky Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus obscurus*

Recorded in the Marlborough Sound and off Kaikoura.

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