



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

New Zealand

Comprehensive I

5th – 21st January 2018 (17 Days)

Trip Report



Juvenile Wandering Albatross off Stewart Island by Bengt Rönde

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 right alongside the boat. There are also several land birds which are unique to these islands: the kiwis – terrestrial nocturnal inhabitants; the huge swamp-hen like Takahe – prehistoric in its looks and movements; and then the 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 Brown Kiwi, walk away views of a North Island Kokako, both North and South Island Saddlebacks and a pair of the impressive South Island Takahe. With many boat trips the pelagic list was long, with Wandering, Northern and Southern Royal, Salvin's, Black-browed, Buller's and White-capped Albatrosses, Westland, Cook's and White-chinned Petrels, Buller's, Flesh-footed and Hutton's Shearwaters, and Common Diving Petrel being highlights. Other major highlights included Twelve New Zealand King Shag, a pair of Blue Duck with one chick and another pair with three chicks, 6 of the critically endangered Black Stilt, the rare Stitchbird, New Zealand Kaka, the entertaining Kea, range-restricted New Zealand Rockwren, the tiny Rifleman and, lastly, the striking Yellowhead, to name a few.



The tiny Rifleman, an endemic family by Bengt Rönde

From our hotel near Auckland Airport, with rain and high winds, we headed north to the Muriwai Gannet Colony, arriving mid-morning. The end of the breeding season was in full swing with many Australasian Gannets feeding large chicks. Nearby, White-fronted Terns and Silver Gulls were also feeding well-developed chicks; while Kelp Gulls patrolling overhead. We did not spend too much time here as the wind was gusty, and the rain was pelting down. We continued on to Waipu Cove and visited

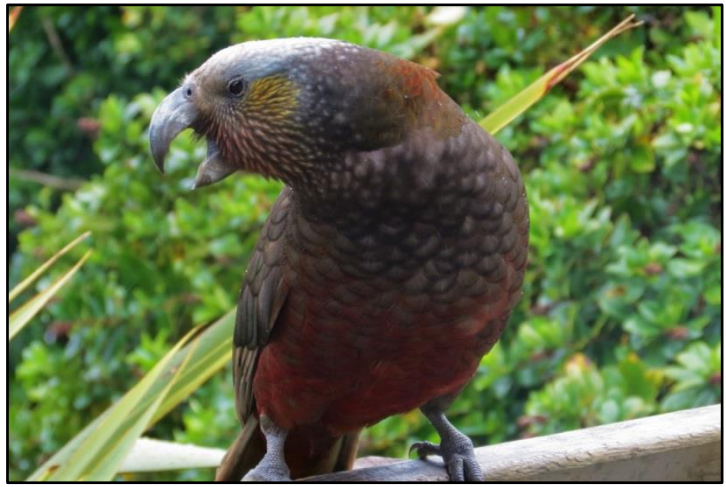


The impressive Tui by Erik Forsyth

a local reserve. Here we walked out onto the mudflats, where 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, allowing great scope looks. Our search for the much hoped for Fairy Tern proved fruitless, and only White-fronted was seen. 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 of kiwi – *the male with his high-pitched whistle followed by the female's*

guttural reply. After a couple of hours of searching, we had excellent looks at a bird running along a ridge and a second bird in an open paddock. We returned to our hotel after midnight but were happy with the endemic kiwi in the bag!

The following morning, after a late breakfast (we got back from the kiwi excursion after midnight), we headed south, stopping at Hokianga Reserve, where we added the endemic New Zealand Grebe, and Australasian Swamphen. From here we returned to Waipu Cove for lunch and another search for the Fairy Terns. Again, we could not find them and had to settle for better views of New Zealand Plover. After lunch, we drove to a regional park near our hotel, first stopping at a wetland, which produced great looks at a Buff-banded Rail. Further into the park, we walked along a forested nature trail, where we added Tui, New Zealand Bellbird, Whitehead, Grey Warbler, New Zealand Fantail, flight views of New Zealand Kaka, Eastern Rosella and close looks at the impressive North Island Saddleback and small numbers of Brown Teal. After all these fantastic birds, we headed to our hotel for an early dinner.



New Zealand Kaka on Stewart Island by Erik Forsyth

Early the next morning, we drove to the 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, and many 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



The Critically Endangered Stitchbird on Tiritiri Matangi Island by Bengt Rönde

miles around, made possible by their incredible sense of smell. A short while later, good numbers of Flesh-footed Shearwaters and Fairy Prions arrived, as well as many dainty White-faced Storm Petrels, dancing over the water. Cook's Petrels made several fly-byes. 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 2-3 others joined in and we watched them for long periods. After this success, we motored further out to a rocky outcrop, where we found up to

thirty of the localised Grey Noddys, a late summer breeder to this area. *These are delightful, dainty and elegant birds only seen on our January tours*. Nearby, large numbers of Fairy Prions and Buller's Shearwaters were seen feeding on the surface, and so we decided to chum in this area. This proved

successful, as we had soon attracted the scarce Black (Parkinson's) Petrels, one of our major targets. In the end, we had at least five of these petrels. After seeing all our target species, we headed back to the harbour and an early dinner. After dinner, we returned to the regional park, where after a fair search we located our target – a pair of South Island Takahe. These large, flightless swamphens showed really well and we were delighted to find them early in the tour. A short while later, just before dark, we located a calling Morepork and enjoyed great looks. A happy group of birders returned home for a well-earned rest.



Blue Duck on the fast flowing Tongariro River by Bengt Rönde

Early the following morning, an excited group headed to Gulf Harbour to catch our ferry over to Tiritiri Matangi Island. After arriving at the jetty, we soon boarded our large ferry and headed to the island. After a quick briefing by a conservation officer, we walked to the forest, seeing several Tui, Red-fronted Parakeets and New Zealand Bellbirds. A high-pitched call drew us over to a wooded area and soon we were watching a fine male Stitchbird. Very happy with our views, we continued on the trail and soon found a group of New Zealand Bellbirds and several more 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 happy to get fantastic looks. Further up the trail, we stopped and rested at some benches, where a water tray was situated. Our target here was North Island Kokako, a rare endemic wattlebird. After a fair wait, we decided to search for another pair further along the trail. We did not find them, but located several North Island Robins, Brown Quail and North Island Saddlebacks. After a quick lunch, we headed back to our original stakeout for the North Island Kokako. I heard the bird calling briefly on three occasions and after an hour, James spotted a bird feeding quietly in a tree above us, much to our delight. This is a very rare species which occurs at only a handful of sites. Their numbers are less than 2,000 birds. We celebrated having seen our target birds, especially the latter, as this species was very difficult to find elsewhere.



Wandering Albatross off Kaikoura by Bengt Rönde

The following day, we headed south to Turangi, first stopping at Miranda Shorebird Centre, where we enjoyed fabulous scope looks at the endemic Wrybill – *up to fifty or so were feeding in a tidal lagoon near the hides*. This increased as the tide came in and soon we estimated that 200 birds were in the area. Many hundreds of Bar-tailed Godwits and Red Knots were also seen. After lunch, we drove down to Lake Taupo. A flock of endemic Black-billed Gull greeted us at the carpark and a nearby lagoon had a flock of New Zealand Scaup. After enjoying good looks and a welcome stretch, we drove

on to Turangi, briefly stopping at Lake Taupo to admire some close New Zealand Scaup. Arriving at our destination in the late afternoon, we drove straight to the Tongariro River, where we searched in earnest for the endemic Blue Duck – a resident of fast-flowing streams. After a bit of a runaround, visiting two sites, I spotted a bird on the bank hidden amongst over-hanging branches. We enjoyed good scope looks and realised it was a pair with a chick and eventually the birds swam in the river, allowing fab looks, a huge relief all round. Early the following morning, we headed to Tokaanu Wharf and after a long search, we flushed an Australasian Bittern, which flew over the reedbed for some time, giving brilliant views. In the open water, we saw New Zealand Grebe, a few Little Black Cormorants, New Zealand Scaup, Australasian Shoveler, Californian Quails and Grey Warblers; while Common Redpolls and Common Goldfinches called as they flew overhead. Unfortunately, no Fernbirds were found, we would have to try other sites.



The Critically Endangered Malherb's (Orange-fronted) Parakeet on Blumine Island by Bengt Rönde

After breakfast, we packed the vehicle up and from here we drove to Paraparaumu, where we would catch our ferry over to Kapiti Island for a night's stay. After a fairly uneventful drive, we arrived at the dock in the early afternoon. Several Spotted Shags were seen flying off-shore and a group of Silver 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, the resident Weka, a new bird for us, approached us for handouts. 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, flocks of Whitehead, and New Zealand Pigeon all over the place; 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 on two occasions. *Wow!* A New Zealand Falcon was seen by some of our group as it glided along a ridge nearby on two occasions. It was a great pickup, as they can be very difficult to find. At a nearby,



The critically endangered Black Stilt at the Tasman River Delta, by Bengt Rönde

freshwater lake, we found Paradise Shelduck and Pied Stilts. A little further on at a rocky beach, we found our only New Zealand Pipit of the tour, catching insects. Later, we enjoyed close looks at New Zealand Kaka on the deck while having a glass of wine.

After dinner, we took our guided walk to search for Little Spotted Kiwi. We could hear a few birds calling. We walked for several hours but, unfortunately, no sighting. Ivan and Maribel were lucky as they saw a bird briefly later that night. The following morning, we packed up after breakfast and caught our ferry over to the

mainland, where we visited a coastal lagoon for general birding. Here we found a Parasitic Jaeger harassing a gull, New Zealand Plover, and Little Pied and Little Black Shags before heading to our ferry for the inter-island crossing from Wellington to Picton. The ferry crossing was pleasant, as the ship was large and we recorded several Shy (White-capped) and a single Salvin's Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, Flesh-footed Shearwater, Fairy Prion and several Cape Pigeons.

We arrived at our hotel in Picton in the early evening and settled into our hotel for the night. The following morning, we went out by boat with E-Ko Tours and headed into the Marlborough Sound, stopping for good looks at flocks of Fluttering Shearwaters and Little Penguins. Further into the sound, we approached an exposed headland slowly and were soon delighted to be watching twelve of the very localised New Zealand King Shag. This is a threatened species with a small population estimated at 800 birds. From here we headed over to Blumine Island, where we struck gold with a close pair of the endangered Malherb's Parakeets and South Island Saddlebacks. Weka and New Zealand Pigeons were also numerous. An amazing sighting was had on the way back, when we found a group of the rare Hector's Dolphins, allowing good looks as they swam nearby. After lunch, we drove further south along the coast to Kaikoura. Arriving in the afternoon, we settled into our hotel for the night. Early the next morning, we assembled at the Albatross Encounter office and met our skipper, Gary, a well-known seabird expert. Soon we were off, and not far from the harbour, loads of albatrosses and giant petrels could be seen riding the wind following our boat. Gary found a spot and threw out the chum bag and many seabirds soon appeared. Fairly numerous and argumentative were the many Northern Giant Petrels, squabbling with huge and impressive Gibson's Wandering Albatross; while many smaller Shy (White-capped) and a few Salvin's Albatrosses joined in. A few Southern Royal Albatross also arrived and then a single Northern Royal Albatross made a flypast before settling a distance from our boat. *We were very happy group of birders as we had only left the harbour 30 minutes ago and were watching*



White-faced Storm-Petrel at Hauraki Gulf by Bengt Rönde

five species of albatross! Other species recorded were the range-restricted Westland Petrel, smart Cape and White-chinned Petrels and a constant flyby of the 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 a happy group of birders.



South Island Saddleback on Blumine Island by Bengt Rönde

After a late breakfast, we headed further south, our destination was Arthur's Pass. We arrived in the late afternoon and checked into our motel. Here we found a pair of Riflemen feeding fledgelings,

allowing great looks at these tiny creatures! We 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. It took a bit of tracking, but we eventually found a bird visiting a house, for food, in the area. The following morning, after a short search, we located a further four Kea within the village. We enjoyed excellent looks at this huge playful parrot as it scratched for food around a local house, and even on top of the post boxes and calling as they flew overhead. Further along the road, we took a trail through some Beach Forest and after careful scanning and listening, we found a group of the tiny Riflemen, South Island Robin and a single Pipipi – a member of the endemic Mohua family. After a good morning's birding, we started our long drive to Omarama in the Mackenzie Country, stopping en route at Lake Tekapo and then the nearby Mt John Observatory for Chukor Partridge. The view of the surrounding lakes and mountains was spectacular, and we did see eight Chukor fly across a road and land on a rocky ridge. The following morning, we headed straight for Twizel, arriving in the late afternoon to begin our search of the critically endangered Black Stilt. At some wetlands, we found several Double-banded Plovers, as well as a few Grey Teal. We decided to check another pan nearby, but no birds were found.



The Endangered Yellow-eyed Penguin at Bench Island, Stewart Islands by Bengt Rönde

We then headed north to Mount Cook, where we entered a Nature Reserve and after scanning, we saw a distant juvenile Black Stilt! At last, heading in their direction, we got close enough for brilliant looks and excellent photo opportunities. After some more scanning, we found a distant adult and could see the all-black body through the scope, a couple of our group went to photograph the adult. While we were enjoying the scenery of Mt Cook, we noticed the arrival of a group from the Department of



Buller's Albatross, off Stewart Island by Erik Forsyth

Conservation with release boxes. We got chatting to them and soon were helping in the release of fourteen captive-bred Black Stilts. It was an awesome occasion and we got to meet the recovery team who were single-handedly keeping this species from the brink of extinction!

It was also a bittersweet moment to see these highly endangered young birds going about their daily activities. Here's hoping they can boost the population and eventually move out of the endangered zone! After helping with the release, we also wandered over to where the adult was seen and were very lucky to find it had moved closer to where the first

juvenile was feeding. Fabulous close looks were had of both birds, often within a few metres of us. Also in this area were smartly plumaged Double-banded Plovers and Black-fronted Terns. 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, and we enjoyed great looks at Common Redpoll. Later that evening we visited a site where we were very lucky to find an adult and juvenile New Zealand Falcon, and enjoyed fabulous scope looks and some flight views. Everyone was delighted as we had all caught up with this rare endemic raptor.

Today, having seen all our target birds and primarily a travel day, we navigated the car towards Te Anau. It was a fair drive, with more Swamp Harriers, White-faced Herons, Black-billed Gulls and Black-fronted Terns noted on the drive. We also enjoyed the scenery over the Lewis Pass and through the Kawarau Gorge before we arrived in the late afternoon. Here we had time to relax or go for a walk around the lakeshore or in the town before settling in for an early dinner. Early the following morning, we drove from Te Anau to the Milford Sound to join a ferry cruise through this beautiful area.

Our first stop, however, on route to the ferry was full of anticipation as we pulled over next to the Homer Tunnel. The scenery was very dramatic as we were surrounded by sheer cliff face and numerous waterfalls. Snow could be seen at the crest of the mountains. Our trail was fairly easy, meandering through large rocks with Alpine plants in full bloom. Here we would search for the New Zealand (South Island Wren) Rockwren on a boulder-strewn hillside. The weather was not great, as light rain and wind looked like it would ruin our chances. But it wasn't long before Stavros had nailed the birds a mere 10 metres from us. Soon we were enjoying fabulous looks at a male killing a bug on a rock and we enjoyed our views of this tiny little mite with no tail! After enjoying several looks and getting pics of several confiding Kea, we headed through the Homer Tunnel down to the ferry, boarded our cruise boat and headed out. Visibility was



South Island Takahe by Erik Forsyth



Grey-backed Storm Petrel off Stewart Island by Bengt Rönne

not so good, with heavy mist and rain, but what made up for it was the vast number of new waterfalls that had appeared with the recent rains. The skipper even took us under a waterfall for those at the front of the boat that wanted this experience. After our boat cruise, we headed back to the Homer tunnel, where we had brief views of a pair of New Zealand Rockwren bounding away. We headed back to Te Anau happy, enjoying an early dinner and welcome early evening.

Early the following morning, we packed up and headed to Stewart Island. The ferry crossing was calm and so only a few birds were noted, such as Shy (White-capped)

Albatross, Cape Petrel, Foveaux Shag (recently split from Bronze/Stewart Island) and Sooty Shearwater. After lunch, we caught a water taxi to Ulva Island, a predator-free conservation area a few kilometres off the coast. It was here that we had several White-capped and, best of all, a Buller's Albatross fly close by the boat. *Wow!* On Ulva, we had a fabulous walk and enjoyed the plentiful birds, plants and ferns. We soon enjoyed multiple views of Pipipi, South Island Saddleback, the South Island Robin, Tui, New Zealand Bellbird, and fabulous looks at the highly sought-after Yellowhead, which sang in close proximity. We also saw many Red-crowned (-fronted) but could not locate Yellow-crowned (-fronted) Parakeet. On the beach, we found several confiding Weka before catching our water taxi and heading back to the mainland. Around the town of Oban, several New Zealand Kaka were seen flying and calling overhead.



Southern Royal Albatross by Bengt Rönde

The following morning saw us out at sea on a pelagic tour. We soon set sail and followed the rocky shoreline out of the bay scanning for Yellow-eyed Penguin. It wasn't long before we spotted four birds on the rocky beach, enjoying the early morning sun. We then headed further out to sea and stopped and chummed at several places, which produced many Shy (White-capped) and smaller numbers of Salvin's Albatross, Cape and White-chinned Petrels and several, (I counted 14 birds) huge Southern Royal Albatross. After searching carefully through the masses of birds, shouts rang out for the scarce Buller's Albatross, which came flying past and flew around the boat before landing right alongside. Later, we had at least three Buller's Albatross together. Shortly afterwards, more excitement came in the form of two tiny Grey-backed Storm Petrels, which hung around the boat for half an hour, allowing everybody close looks. If that wasn't enough, we had great views of up to five Mottled Petrels! *Wow!* Other seabirds noted included numbers of Sooty Shearwaters, Northern Giant Petrel, Little Penguin, very good looks at many 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.

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 Ocean Beach, first stopping at some nearby rocks at Bench Island, where we saw seven of the endangered Yellow-eyed Penguins. Also noted were a colony of Foveaux Shag and a pair of Brown Skua. Arriving at Ocean Beach, we walked through the forest with headlamps, hearing the calls of Southern Brown Kiwi which was very exciting. We did not find any birds on the beach and so headed into the forest to search, and we had one call very loudly nearby. Suddenly, a bird appeared alongside the group and everyone enjoyed really good, close looks as it sauntered along and fed. We even managed to video it. *Amazing! What a sighting.* A second bird was seen a little later. After a long day, a happy and content group of birders headed back to the hotel for a welcome sleep.

The following morning, we had a leisurely breakfast and enjoyed the attention 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 Cape Petrels, Fairy Prions and a few Shy (White-capped) and Common

Diving Petrels 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. After a quick break at the hotel, we drove on the beautiful coastal road to Taiaroa Head on the Otago Peninsular. Silver 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 huge Northern Royal Albatross gliding majestically along the headland and out at sea. This is New Zealand's only mainland site where albatross breed, with about twenty pairs. Nearby, we had excellent close looks at Spotted Shags at their nests and several fly-by Otago Shags. 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.

Annotated List of species recorded

Birds (138: 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

Top 5 Birds as voted by the participants:

- 1) Southern Brown Kiwi
- 2) Wandering Albatross
- 3) Southern Royal Albatross
- 4) Buller's Albatross
- 5) Black Stilt/Kaka/Kea/NZ Rockwren

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 sailed out to some nearby offshore islands, where a pair of Brown Skua, flew around our boat looking for scraps. After enjoying close looks at Yellow-eyed and Little Penguins, we cruised out to Ocean beach arriving at dusk. We then adorned flashlights and walked along a muddy forest track, eventually leading to a beach. Walking along the beach we did not find any birds, and so we headed into a nearby patch of forest, where we enjoyed fabulous views of a bird walking through the forest. A second bird was seen a little later and seen by half the group. A fantastic experience.

North Island Brown Kiwi (E) (TH)

Apteryx mantelli

Several pairs were heard calling in the valley near Kerikeri. After a fair search, we enjoyed good looks at a bird running along a grassy ridge and later, a second bird in an open paddock was seen well.

Little Spotted Kiwi (E) (TH)

Apteryx owenii

Although, we heard several birds calling only Ivan and Maribela saw 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)

Apteryx haasti

Ivan and Maribel heard a bird calling in the forest nearby our lodge.

DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS: Anatidae**Canada Goose (I)***Branta canadensis maxima*

Widespread and recorded on the North and South Islands. Introduced to New Zealand in the early nineteenth hundred's.

Black Swan*Cygnus atratus*

Recorded throughout the tour. Introduced in 1864, but it is believed that the species has migrated to New Zealand from Australia.

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

After a bit of a search, a pair with one chick, was located roosting under trees on a riverbank, on the Tongariro River at Turangi, allowing fabulous scope looks. We were also delighted to find a pair with three large chicks at a stream at Monkey Creek in Fiordland NP, allowing close looks. This is a threatened species, with less than 3000 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 pair or two were recorded on the South Island. Several hybrids between this and Mallard were observed.

Grey Teal*Anas Gracilis*

We had several sightings throughout the tour.

Australasian Shoveler*Anas rhynchos variegata*

First recorded in Auckland, with further sightings throughout.

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

Small numbers seen well at Tawharanui Regional Park on two visits. Found only on the North Island, where the population is around 3000 birds. There have been some introductions to the South Island.

New Zealand Scaup (E)*Anas Novaeseelandiae*

First recorded at Lake Taupo, later at Twizel and we had several other sightings on the South Island.

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

Excellent views were had of this stunner at Tokaanu Wharf, Turangi.

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

Recorded in small groups in farmland on the North Island.

Chukar Partridge (I)*Alectoris Chukar*

Up to eight birds were seen in flight and then landing on a rocky ridge at Mt John Observatory.

Brown Quail (I)*Synoicus ypsilophorus*

Recorded at Tawharanui Regional Park and on Tiritiri Matangi Island.

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

Recorded at scattered sites throughout the North Island.

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

Great looks at several birds around their breeding grounds on Bench Island, Stewart Island. A rapidly declining species with less than 4000 birds remaining.

Little Penguin*Eudyptula minor*

Recorded on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic, in the Marlborough Sound, and around Stewart Island.

STORM PETRELS: Hydrobatidae

Grey-backed Storm (-) Petrel

Pelagodroma nereis

Fabulous views were had of two birds that hung around the boat for 30 minutes, during our Stewart Island pelagic.

White-faced Storm (-) Petrel

Pelagodroma marina

Good numbers were recorded on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic, allowing fabulous looks alongside the boat. We also saw 2-3 birds during our Stewart Island pelagic.

New Zealand Storm (-) Petrel (E) (CE)

Pealeaornis maoriana

We enjoyed repeated good looks at between 4-6 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 1850's, 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 January 2013 on Little Barrier Island, in the Hauraki Gulf!

ALBATROSSES: Diomedidae

Wandering Albatross

Diomedea antipodensis gibsoni

We enjoyed fabulous looks at up to fourteen birds alongside the boat at Kaikoura. An incredible sight that supports Kaikoura's reputation as a world-class pelagic destination! A further sighting was of a juvenile bird seen in flight off Stewart Island.

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

(Southern) Royal Albatross

Diomedea epomophora epomoph

Four birds were seen at Kaikoura but later a further fifteen were seen alongside our boat for all to admire, on our Stewart Island pelagic tour.

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

[Northern Royal Albatross]

Diomedea epomophora sanfordi

A single bird was seen well in flight at Kaikoura. A further two pairs were seen flying at the breeding colony at Taiaroa Head, Otago Peninsular in Dunedin.

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

Black-browed Albatross (BE)

Thalassarche melanophris

A singleton was found on our pelagic tour at Kaikoura. The closest breeding colony is at the Snares Island.

White-capped Albatross (E)

Thalassarche cauta stadi

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 stadi and Shy Albatross T. cauta cauta. We saw the latter.

Salvin's Albatross (BE)

Thalassarche salvini

Our first sighting was while crossing the Cook Strait heading to the South Island with further sightings on our Kaikoura and Stewart Island pelagics. This species breeds on the Snares Island.

Buller's Albatross (BE)

Thalassarche bulleri

We were very happy to find 2-3 birds on boat trips around Stewart Island. This species breeds on the Snares Island.

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

Sightings included: Hauraki Gulf, on our interisland ferry crossing on the Cook Strait, at Kaikoura and around Stewart Island.

Cape Petrel*Daption capense capense*

Very good looks were had on our interisland ferry, off Kaikoura and off Stewart Island.

Fairy Prion*Pachyptila turtur*

Great looks on the Hauraki Gulf, from the Interisland ferry on the Cook Strait and several off - Stewart Island which showed really well.

Mottled Petrel*Pterodroma inexpectata*

We had great views of at least five birds passing the boat off Stewart Island.

Cook's Petrel (BE)*Pterodroma macroptera*

Fairly common and showing well on our Hauraki Gulf pelagic and small numbers were seen very well on our Stewart Island pelagic.

White-chinned Petrel*Puffinus Aequinoctialis*

Good views at Kaikoura and several off, Stewart Island.

Westland Petrel (BE)*Procellaria westlandica*

Excellent close looks on our Kaikoura pelagic. This species breeds at three sites on the West Coast off the South Island.

Sooty Shearwater*Puffinus Griseus*

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

Flesh-footed Shearwater*Puffinus carneipes*

Good numbers in the Hauraki Gulf and several birds were seen on our Cook Strait crossing.

Fluttering Shearwater (E)*Puffinus Gavial*

Good numbers were seen well in the Hauraki Gulf, on our way to Tiritiri Matangi Island and on our trip in the Marlborough Sound. A least two birds were also seen off Stewart Island.

Hutton's Shearwater (BE)*Puffinus huttoni*

Good numbers 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 high up in the surrounding mountains.

Common Diving-Petrel*Pelecanoides urinatrix*

Fabulous looks on our crossing to Stewart Island, as well as on our pelagic trip the next day.

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

Recorded at Hokianga Nature Reserve, where we saw four birds and later at Tokaanu Wharf, Lake Taupo. This species only occurs on the North Island.

Great Crested Grebe*Podiceps cristatus*

A spectacular looking pair were seen daily on freshwater lakes at Twizel and two were recorded at the Lakefront Te Anua. This species occurs only on the South Island.

IBISES, SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae**Royal Spoonbill***Platalea regia*

Great scope views at Miranda, Tokaanu Wharf and at the Royal Albatross colony at Taiaroa Head, Dunedin.

HERONS & BITTERNS: Ardeidae**Australasian Bittern (EN)***Botaurus poiciloptilus*

We were delighted to watch a single bird in flight across reedbeds at Tokaanu Wharf, Lake Taupo.

White-faced Heron*Egretta novaehollandiae*

A common species recorded throughout the tour.

GANNETS & BOOBIES: Sulidae**Australasian Gannet***Morus serrator*

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

CORMORANTS & SHAGS: Phalacrocoracidae**Little Pied Cormorant***Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris*

Common throughout the tour and recorded at many waterbodies.

Spotted Shag (E)*Phalacrocorax. Punctatus*

Great looks on our ferry crossing to Kapiti Island, on our Marlborough Sound boat tour, around Stewart Island and at Taiaroa Head.

Little Black Cormorant*Phalacrocorax Sulcirostris*

Small numbers were recorded throughout the north island and at Invercargill on the South Island.

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 five dates.

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

We enjoyed great looks, on a rocky stack, of at least twelve birds 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.

Otago Shag (E)*Leucocarbo chalconotus*

Good views were had from the viewpoint at the Northern Royal Albatross Colony at Taiaroa Head.

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 accepted by the IOC but not accepted by Clements as yet.

Foveaux Shag (E)*Leucocarbo stewarti*

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 accepted by the IOC but not accepted by Clements.

KITE, HAWKS: Accipitridae**Swamp Harrier***Circus approximans*

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

RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS: Rallidae**Weka (E)***Gallirallus australis*

First recorded on Kapiti Island with further sightings 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*Gallirallus australis*

We enjoyed cracking looks at a bird running along a stream bank in a regional park.

Spotless Crake (H)*Porzana tabuensis*

Heard briefly in a reedbed at Lake Taupo.

Australasian Swamphen*Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*

Commonly seen in farmlands and forest edge 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, two of these enigmatic birds were found at Tawharanui Regional Park, much to our relief. We also enjoyed great looks at 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 180 birds occur on the Murchison Mountains at Milford Sound. Total population estimate is 280-300 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 Miranda where there were hundreds and then seen on farmlands almost daily 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

On our first afternoon in this area, we failed to find a bird. The next morning, we drove up to the Tasman River Delta, Mt Cook. Walking and scanning out over the floodplain, we eventually located a juvenile bird. Fabulous scope views were obtained of one of the rarest waders in the world, with a population of fewer than 200 birds. Several other juveniles were seen in the distance, but best of all, an adult bird flew in and joined the juvenile close to where we were standing, allowing great looks! We were also privileged to join the Department of Conservation's Black Stilt Recovery Team, who just happened to be nearby and were releasing 14 captive-bred chicks. We enjoyed chatting to their team and congratulated them on their effort to save this species.

PLOVERS: Charadriidae

Masked Lapwing

Vanellus miles

Recorded on most days 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 200 birds on the mudflats at Miranda Shorebird Centre. 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 4000 birds!

Pacific Golden Plover

Pluvialis fulva

Thirty, were seen on the mudflats at Miranda Shorebird Centre.

Gray Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

James saw a single bird in a flock of Pacific Golden Plovers at Miranda. A rare visitor to NZ.

New Zealand (Red-breasted Dotterel) Plover (E) (EN)

Charadrius obscurus

We had great looks at several birds in breeding plumage on the mud flats at Waipu Cove. 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 around 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 had great looks at several birds at Miranda Shorebird Center, with further sightings at wetlands around Twizel. Some birds were in stunning breeding plumage.

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

A small flock were seen feeding on mudflats at Waipu Cove and a huge flock at Miranda Shorebird Centre. Our final sighting was several birds on a beach, seen from our boat off Stewart Island.

Ruddy Turnstone*Arenaria interpres*

A few were seen on the sandflats at Waipu Cove on our second visit.

Red Knot*Calidris canutus*

Good numbers amongst the Bar-tailed Godwits at Miranda.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper*Calidris ruficollis*

Five birds were scoped and seen well at Miranda Shorebird centre.

GULLS & TERNS: Laridae**Silver (Red-billed) Gull (E)***Larus Scopulinus*

Commonly seen in coastal areas throughout New Zealand.

Black-billed Gull (E)*Larus Bulleri*

First recorded at Miranda, with further sightings at Lake Taupo, Lake Tekapo and at Te Anua, where we enjoyed close views. Many birds were seen congregating in cultivated fields in the Twizel-Omarama area. Regarded as one of the rarest gulls in the world!

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.

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

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

Black-fronted Tern (E)*Chlidonias albobstriatus*

First recorded on our drive to Arthur's Pass, where we enjoyed fab views as the birds fed over the river. We had further sightings of birds, found on rivers near Omarama, at Twizel, en route to Te Anua, hunting over grasslands adjoining the river in Fiordland National Park and several birds around Bluff and Stewart Island. This species breeds on rivers only on the South Island.

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

These burly, large 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*

Three birds were seen in the Hauraki Gulf, and a single bird was seen on our Marlborough Sound boat tour.

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 at Sandspit

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 en route to Kerikeri then at Tiritiri Matangi and Kapiti Islands, where we had fantastic looks at several confiding birds and lastly down on Ulva Island. Recorded on fourteen days.

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae

Pacific Long-tailed Cuckoo (BE)

Urodynamis taitensis

We enjoyed fabulous looks at a bird calling in flight on Kapiti Island. At least three birds were heard the following morning.

OWLS: Strigidae

Morepork (Southern Boobook) (E)

Ninox novaeseelandiae

Brilliant views of a calling bird spot-lighted at Tawharanui.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Sacred Kingfisher

Halcyon sancta

Great views were had on ten days of the tour.

FALCONS & CARACARAS: Falconidae

New Zealand Falcon

Falco novaeseelandiae

Very good looks on Kapiti Island Lodge, as it flew over a ridge on several occasions. We also enjoyed views of two birds at Omarama, and lastly, Ivan and Maribel saw a bird at Te Anua.

NEW ZEALAND PARROTS: Strigopidae

Kea (E) (TH)

Nestor notabilis

Up to six of these colourful, playful characters were enjoyed at Arthur's Pass Village, a further four at the Homer Tunnel, Fiordland NP. This threatened species occurs in mountainous areas only on the South Island, where the population is estimated to be as low as 2000 birds!

New Zealand Kaka (E)

Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis

Our first sighting was of a bird Stavros found flying alongside the vehicle at Snells Beach. Further sightings included, three birds in flight at Tawharanui Regional Park, up to twenty birds on Kapiti Island, and lastly, small groups daily while visiting Ulva Island and on Stewart Island.

Note: South Island sub-species, Nestor meridionalis meridionalis, was seen on three 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) (H)

Cyanoramphus auriceps

Heard only on Ulva Island.

Malherb's Parakeet (E) (CE)

Cyanoramphus. malherbi

Fabulous looks at a pair on Blumine Island.

Red-crowned (-fronted) Parakeet (E)

Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae

Great views on our day trips to Tiritiri Matangi, Kapiti and Ulva Islands.

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

We enjoyed multiple views of a pair of these tiny birds feeding chicks at our lodge in Arthur's Pass. Also seen well on two trails in Arthur's Pass, in bushes at Glentanner Airfield and shop, in Fiordland NP and on Ulva Island.

New Zealand Rockwren (E) (EN)*Xenicus gilviventris*

We had fabulous looks, firstly at a male killing a bug on a rock and later at a pair bouncing over the rocks at the Homer Tunnel, Fiordland NP.

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

This colourful and showy species 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, several duetting birds on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island. We had further sightings on Kapiti Island, Milford Sound and on Stewart Island.

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

Seen and heard on six days of the tour.

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

After a tense wait at a comfortable bench, James spotted a single bird feeding just above our heads on Tiritiri Matangi Island. We had great views for five minutes before the bird vanished! 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 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 Blumine and Ulva Islands. This is a much rarer and restricted species 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. 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 had fabulous close looks at several small groups feeding and in song on several occasions at Ulva Island, Stewart Island. Occurs only on the South Island, where it is declining rapidly due to introduced predators. This species has been translocated to several predator-free islands to try and secure its future.

Whitehead (E) *Mohoua albigilla*

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

Pipipi (E) *Mohoua novaeseelandiae*

First seen at Arthur's Pass, where we had a good view, 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 ten dates.

WOODSWALLOWS, BUTCHERBIRDS and ALLIES: Artamidae

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

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

AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS: Petroicidae

Tomtit (E) *Petroica macrocephala macrocephala*

Our first sighting was at Arthur's Pass with further sightings at Milford Sound and lastly on Ulva Island.

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 Tawharanui Regional Park, on Tiritiri Matangi Island and on Kapiti Island.

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

Confiding birds were seen at Arthur's Pass and 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 frequently on the tour. Its beautiful song and display flights were enjoyed by all.

SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

We recorded this species on almost every day on tour.

GRASSBIRDS: Locustellidae

New Zealand Fernbird (E) *Megalurus punctatus vealeae*

We enjoyed very close looks at two calling birds at the Sinclair Wetlands, near Dunedin.

WHITE-EYES and ALLIES: Zosteropidae

Silver-eye *Zosterops lateralis*

This common native was seen on eleven 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 on a daily basis 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 most days of the NZ tour. Its beautiful song was heard on several days.

SPARROWS: Passeridae

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus*

Commonly seen on a daily basis.

ACCENTORS: Prunellidae

Dunnock (I) *Prunella modularis*

Commonly seen on the South Island.

WAGTAILS & PIPITS: Motacillidae

New Zealand Pipit (E) *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

A singleton was found on a rocky beach on Kapiti Island. Our only sighting of the tour!

FINCHES: Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch (I) *Fringilla coelebs*

This attractive finch was commonly seen on most days.

Eurasian Greenfinch (I) *Carduelis chloris*

Recorded on 10 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 regularly throughout NZ.

Mammals:

European Rabbit (I) *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Seen on at least twelve dates.

NZ Fur Seal *Arctocephalus forsteri*

Seen at Kaikoura and off Stewart Island.

NZ Sea – Lion *Phocarctos hookeri*

Recorded on Stewart Island.

Hector's Dolphin *Cephalorhynchus hectori*

Fabulous looks at a pod on our boat cruise of the Marlborough Sound

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

Up to fourteen were seen Wellington Harbour.

Dusky Dolphin*Lagenorhynchus obscurus*

Great views off Kaikoura.

Common Ringtail Possum (I)*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*

Bengt saw one at night at our hotel in Snell's Beach.

Miscellaneous:**Long-finned Eel** -Kapiti Island**Common Gecko**- Kapiti Island**Tree Weta** – Kapiti Island**Monarch Butterfly****White Cabbage Butterfly**

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