



Sunrise Birding LLC
**NEW ZEALAND
TRIP REPORT**
November 5 – 25, 2019



Photos: Takahe, South Island Saddleback, New Zealand Storm Petrel, Group on Tiritiri Matangi Island



Sunrise Birding LLC

NEW ZEALAND TRIP REPORT

November 5 – 25, 2019

Report and photos by Gina Nichol & Steve Bird

Sunrise Birding's inaugural journey to New Zealand, one of the most remote places on earth was a triumph to say the least! We set out to explore the fascinating and unique fauna of this isolated country and found many of the world's rarest endemic bird species. Our exploration took us to the North, South and Stewart Islands against the backdrop of the breathtaking scenery of the majestic glaciers, rushing rivers, rolling grasslands, and rugged coastlines of this stunning country. Our results were record setting, according to our incredibly knowledgeable local guide, with a stunning 164 species seen (plus one heard, the Great Spotted Kiwi). We recorded all 5 species of the emblematic Kiwi, seeing four out of the five, saw all three penguin species, saw throngs of seabirds and shorebirds, had great views of the unique forest birds of New Zealand, and found a handful of rare vagrants. Below are highlights and the report for our epic tour of New Zealand.



We'll be heading back to New Zealand in 2021. Don't miss this bucket list tour! Black Stilt by Steve Bird

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Staying on Tiritiri Matangi
- The delightful BBQ on Tiritiri
- Kiwis & strategies for finding them
- Seeing Little Penguins at night
- Kaikoura Pelagic
- Stewart Island Pelagic
- Hauraki Gulf Pelagic
- Ulva Island
- Stewart Island
- Mount Cook area scenery
- Dusky Dolphins
- Blumine Island
- The native forest at Boundary Stream
- Sheffield's Pies
- Blueberry Pie
- The Stein (yes, a large beer stein)
- Dunnock !!!!
- Stitchbird
- Kokako
- Rifleman
- Kaka
- Yellowhead
- Bellbird
- Tui
- Whitehead
- Fairy Tern
- Takahe
- Blue Duck
- Weka
- Kea
- Wrybill
- King Shag
- Morepork
- Pipipi
- Spotless Crake
- Black Stilt
- Great Spotted Kiwi (heard)
- North Island Brown Kiwi
- Little Spotted Kiwi
- Okarito Brown Kiwi
- Southern Brown Kiwi
- Fiordland Penguin
- Yellow-eyed Penguin
- Blue Penguin
- Northern Royal Albatross
- Cook's Petrel
- Hutton's Shearwater
- New Zealand Storm Petrel
- Royal Spoonbill
- Banded Dotterel
- New Zealand Falcon
- Malherbe's Parakeet

Day 1: Early arrivals in Auckland, New Zealand- Nov 4

By the end of the day, everyone had arrived at the hotel in Auckland.

Day 2: Start of tour in Auckland - Nov 5

This morning we all gathered in the parking lot to pack the van and introduce ourselves to each other and our local guide Matt. It was a stunningly clear day with blue skies and bright sunshine as we

assembled. Birding began immediately with a colorful Eastern Rosella that flew over and perched in the trees above us. A Tui then appeared and perched atop another tree preening in the morning sun.

We left Auckland driving north and on the way saw our first Australasian Swamphens (Pukekos), Masked Lapwings, White-faced Herons, Kelp Gulls, New Zealand Pigeon and got close looks at Spotted Doves. Our first stop was along the rugged west coast at one of New Zealand's three mainland Australasian Gannet colonies. We got out of the van, admired the scenery and walked to the trail where we had great views of our first Sacred Kingfisher and New Zealand Fantail.



We walked down the trail to 90 mile beach where surfers were already out in the waves. There were Silver Gull and Kelp Gulls on the beach and a few White-fronted Terns flying over. We reached the colony where 1,500 **Australasian Gannets** were already on nests each spaced apart perfectly to be out of bill striking distance. It was an incredible spectacle of birds! Some of the Gannets lifted up enough to reveal their eggs, while others were displaying and pair bonding. Gannets were flying in and out and if they landed in the wrong space, a flap ensued until they moved to their proper spot. Also on the high banks were White-fronted Terns, not quite as far along in their nesting cycle but definitely pairing up. Tuis provided some background song and perched up on the New Zealand Flax which made a picturesque scene with the backdrop of the ocean waves. European Goldfinch and Sacred Kingfishers added their sounds to the morning chorus as well. We had a hard time tearing ourselves away from this beautiful spot but it was now time to move on.



In town, we stopped to pick up lunch and continued our journey. Matt spotted a Laughing Kookaburra along the road and we stopped to take in this rare sight.



Next stop was the sewage ponds at Waiwara where we had New Zealand Scaup, White-faced Heron, Pacific Black Duck, Pied Stilts and our first Paradise Shelducks. At Waiwara Beach, we saw our first **New Zealand Plovers** and had good close views of these plus Variable Oystercatchers and a Caspian Tern bathing. We had lunch here and were soon joined by some Silver Gulls which managed to get half of Matt's sandwich left unattended for a few seconds.

After lunch, we stopped at Waipu River Mouth Wildlife Refuge and before we got out of the van, Bob spotted a white bird across the inlet.

We lined up on the edge of the inlet and soon Steve spotted a Fairy Tern sat on the beach across the water. We scoped it for a while until Matt yelled "Fairy Tern, close!" and our attention was turned to a bird fluttering above the water just in front of us. For the next several minutes we watched this bird fluttering from place to place, diving into the water and fluttering again. Steve managed some great pictures of the bird and we noted that the original bird was still in its spot on the beach. The show bird departed and our attention turned to a Little Pied Cormorant in the water.



There was a flock of Bar-tailed Godwits on a distant sandbar that repositioned themselves several times as the tide came in. There were Ruddy Turnstones with them as well and a New Zealand Plover chick which was scoped on the beach across the water. Then, a **Fairy Tern** made a second appearance and performed for us again before going to the far shore where it landed next to the original bird.

Pleased with our sightings, we moved on to a new site at Kama called Vinegar Pond (according to eBird). It was a freshwater pond near a new housing development and it was a magnet for birds. There were several New Zealand Grebes, Paradise Shelducks, New Zealand Plovers and Black Swans nesting. Pukekos foraged in the grasses around the pond and some Greenfinches bathed along the edge. The highlight here were several Australasian Grebes, some with nests and the show here was a Pokeko being chased off by two Australasian Grebes. All at once a Swamp Harrier appeared and was chased off by a group of noisy Pied Stilts.

After that we went to Kerikeri and checked into our accommodation noting several Chaffinches just outside in the back. We had dinner at a great restaurant in Kerikeri and then went out to look for our first Kiwi. It was a clear, starry night with a half moon and we noted fireworks for Guy Fawkes Day as we drove out of town.

We arrived at the Kiwi site and almost immediately heard Kiwis calling, an encouraging sign. Finding them in the tall grass in the dark though was another story. We checked an area close to the car park but no luck. We decided to walk a track into a valley and Matt checked all around using a red torch. A

little way down the track we could hear rustling in the scrub near us as a Kiwi emerged and moved along the bank in the direction we had just come. With perfect instructions from Matt we moved into position and stood quietly for a long time. There was more rustling and we could see parts of the bird. Matt turned the light off and we stood quietly (hearing a Morepork calling behind us) until the North Island Brown Kiwi came out and gave us a show! To see this bird so well, so close was a real victory!

We continued walking down the track noting some shooting stars (nature's fireworks) and ended up at a small beach. There were some noisy Masked Lapwings and a few more Kiwis calling as we returned to the bus. As we drove back we saw a Hedgehog in the road and a Morepork hunting moths at a street light just outside of town. We got back to our accommodation after midnight and it had been a long day but a truly amazing one!

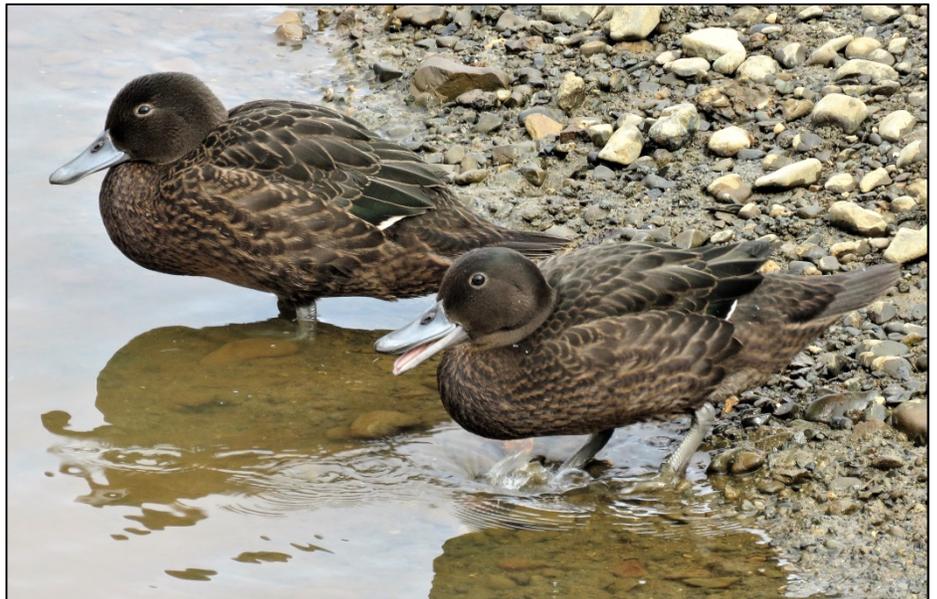
Day 3: Kerikeri to Warkworth - Nov 6

"This morning everyone has happy Kiwi faces!" noted Tom as we had our alfresco breakfast. And he was right. Although it was a long day yesterday it was absolutely worth it. We reviewed our checklist for November 5 and then packed up and headed south. We stopped at Waipu for lunch supplies and then went to the Waipu River mouth where there were some distant Royal Spoonbills, Variable Oystercatcher, New Zealand Plover, Caspian Tern, Ruddy Turnstone and a displaying Skylark.

At lunch, we heard Tom's second quote of the day, "Oh no, I got hangover pie in my bins!" Don't ask!

We added more birds to our day list including White-faced Heron, Bar-tailed Godwit, Welcome Swallows, and a pair of critically endangered Fairy Terns. We walked a trail along the edge of the water and found a Pacific Reef Heron distant under a "v-shaped" tree. We scoped it and viewed it as best we could and then got much better views later when it came around into the channel and showed right in front of us.

From here we moved south to Tawharanui Reserve overlooking the Hauraki Gulf. We entered through the predator proof gate and birded the entrance road which produced our first **Brown Teal**, plus Paradise Shelducks with chicks, fields full of Pukeko, a pair of California Quail on a fence, and then a close New Zealand Pipit. A track to the forest offered Whitehead, New Zealand Bellbird, New Zealand Fantail and three Brown Quail. We had close views of North Island Saddlebacks and then had three flyover New Zealand Kaka. A Shining Bronze Cuckoo was heard then seen on the open branch of a tree. It flew down to a more open area and eventually everyone got views.



We walked up to an overlook and saw rafts of Fluttering Shearwaters out on the Gulf,

and then on the way out of the reserve Bob and Brenda spotted a Buff-banded Rail. Driving toward our accommodation for the night, Matt stopped to look at another Laughing Kookaburra a bird often very difficult to connect with. We enjoyed another great dinner and reviewed our sightings for the day.

Day 4: Warkworth to Hauraki Gulf Pelagic - Nov 7

Excitement was evident as we gathered after breakfast to embark on our first pelagic of the trip, a full day on a boat in the **Hauraki** Gulf. It was a lovely, sunny morning as we made our way to the port in

Sandspit to board the boat. We arrived a few minutes early so walked a verge and trail around some mangroves where we found a Grey Gerygone.



We boarded the “Norma Jean” and headed out of the harbor passing an Australian Pied Cormorant colony in some trees along the Coast. A South Island Pied Oystercatcher was seen on a sand bar and we noted its field marks differentiating it from the many Variable Oystercatchers we’d seen.

As we cruised out of the harbor, a couple of pods of Bottle-nose Dolphins noticed us and headed toward our boat. Several of them play with the boat by getting into the bow wave and also jumping over our wake. It was a sensational start to the trip. In the meantime, our first small group of Blue Penguins were seen not far from the boat.

We cruised further out to where Fluttering Shearwaters were feeding with Flesh-footed Shearwaters. Here we saw our first of many **White-faced Storm Petrels** and Fairy Prions and a few Buller’s Shearwaters. Even further out, we entered a patch of sea fog which limited distant viewing. Despite the closed in atmosphere, we saw Common Diving Petrels and Cook’s Petrels to enjoy.

We started to chum and in a few minutes a nice oily slick had developed off the stern. It didn’t take long for the Fairy Prions to find it and the dancing White-faced Storm Petrels to join in. We enjoyed very close views of these species as they circled the boat and vied for photographs.





Then Matt called “**New Zealand Storm Petrel** coming down the slick!” and we all focused on our main target. The tiny bird crossed behind us and circled closer allowing great views as cameras clicked in earnest. The bird came around several more times giving us many opportunities to fine tune our identification and get photos of this bird only rediscovered in 2003.

As we steamed onward toward Simons Rock, a Little Shearwater crossed our bow. Kelp Gulls commanded the rock and just as Matt said watch for Black Petrel, one appeared behind the boat! This rare bird came in close for chum allowing excellent views.

On the way back we spotted a large white form bouncing in the waves. As we got closer, we found it to be an adult Shy Albatross.

As we headed back to port, Peirs our captain told us it was his last cruise as captain of the “Norma Jean”. At 74, he was retiring. He regaled us with a story about some amazing dolphin antics that he saw when some Tuataras were being released onto one of the islands. We thanked him for an outstanding day, and left very happy with our first New Zealand Pelagic!

Day 5: Tiritiri Matangi Island - Nov 8

This morning we departed Warkworth for Tiritiri Matangi Island, a gem in New Zealand's conservation crown. It was another gorgeous day and we enjoyed breakfast at a local café before heading to the ferry. We made a quick stop at a marsh to watch a Buff-banded Rail family with 3 chicks. The cuteness of it all drew a chorus of coos from the van.

We boarded the ferry to Tiritiri Matangi which was a fast, stable catamaran full of school kids on a class trip. After we landed, Emma gave us an orientation about the island and incredible work that has occurred there. In just a few years, volunteers, including school groups, transformed this island from a grassy, treeless paddock used to graze sheep into a native forest now home to some of New Zealand's rarest birds. More than 200,000 native plants were planted to restore a variety of habitats on the island making Tiritiri a model of what can be done with a good plan and dedicated people.

From the dock, we headed up the track toward the lighthouse. As we started on the Wattle Trail, a noise alerted us to our first bird on the island, North Island Kokako, one of New Zealand's hardest endemics to see. The bird worked its way up a branch and out into the open before flying across the trail in front of us. Fantastic!



Moving along the trail we had a close **Rifleman**, followed by North Island Robin, and many North Island Saddlebacks. We stopped at a feeder that was attracting Bellbirds by the dozen and every once in a while a Stitchbird came in. Continuing on we found a female Saddleback dispatching a Weta (New Zealand's largest insect), a North Island Robin was seen feeding a chick and a few Red-crowned Parakeets were spotted. We marvelled at the island's vegetation which had all been planted by volunteers in a remarkable restoration project.



We arrived at the bunkhouse and settled in and had another short briefing by Emma. Then we had lunch and a quick visit to the gift shop before heading out to explore the island. We walked out by the lighthouse and over the hill to a small pond tucked in a hollow. A **New Zealand Fernbird** called and eventually showed for most of us and we had good views of Spotless Crake. We were watching for the Crake to come back out and noticed that the shallow back of the pond was a bathing area for Tui and Red-crowned Parakeet. The Spotless Crake emerged briefly a few times but the real show was a Fernbird that came out and perched on top of a bush and sang for us. Wow!

We moved on to another track where Matt showed us a Tuatara, a large, prehistoric, endemic lizard related to the dinosaurs. It sat motionless in the forest under a large tree.

There were plenty of Brown Quail feeding in the track and further on Red-crowned Parakeets in the track as well. A traiside feeder held more Stitchbirds and noisy Bellbirds and we had great views of another Spotless Crake at a pond on the other end of the island.

As we made it back to the Lighthouse the group had stretched out a bit so some saw a South Island Takahe in the garden of one of the buildings, but it ran off quickly.

Back at the bunkhouse dinner preparations started with Matt on the grill, Ruth on the salmon and Mark and Steve, Gina and Tom on the accompaniments. Brenda was on Takahe watch and when it appeared she returned to the bunkhouse and made a calm announcement that one was in view.



Dinner preparations immediately stopped and we all ran up to see this large rare bird stood in the open. Victory!

We celebrated with an epic dinner of lamb, salmon, potatoes, salad, cooked greens, wine and beer. Some said it was our best meal yet. Another Victory!

As the clean-up crew was finishing in the kitchen, we heard a Kiwi call and quickly prepared for our night walk. Out on the trail we had superb views of two Little Spotted Kiwis, plus eight Tuataras, and a Little Penguin. We checked two Little (Blue) Penguin nest boxes and saw one egg and one with an adult on an egg. We could hear Cook's Petrels flying over at the beach and on the way back a Morepork called right in front of us and was well seen. It was indeed a night to remember and capped off an incredible day in Tiritiri Matangi.



Day 6: Tiritiri Matangi Island - Miranda - Nov 9

We awoke to the dawn chorus and some of us managed to get out for an early walk for last looks at some endemic birds. The Takahe was out in the same place and we had Saddlebacks, Whiteheads, plenty of Tuis and great views of a pair of Kokakos.

Back for breakfast, we packed up and then had one last look at the **Takahe** before heading down to the water taxi and back to Gulf Harbor.

While waiting on the dock, Steve spotted a Parasitic Jaeger offshore and on the crossing we had Fluttering Shearwaters, and a close, flyby Northern Giant Petrel.



Back on the mainland, we began our journey south past Auckland to Miranda Shorebird Centre, New Zealand's premier shorebird site in the Firth of Thames. We went directly to the visitor center checking along the roadside pools which held Grey Teal, many Pied Stilts, Black Swan and White-faced Heron. Swamp Harriers were seen coursing over the open fields as well.

We checked into our accommodation and headed back out to the Miranda hides for high tide. From the hides we saw many Black-billed Gulls on the shingle bar across the mudflat, as well as a few Caspian Terns and South Island Oystercatchers. White-fronted Terns were present and Bar-tailed Godwit numbers were building. We found a few distant Wrybill and scoped them as well as three Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, a vagrant Broad-billed Sandpiper, three Far Eastern Curlew, some Ruddy Turnstones, New Zealand Plovers and about 3000 Bar-tailed Godwits. Other birds around included Little Pied Cormorant, Parasitic Jaeger, Red Knot and Great Cormorant. At the end of the day we enjoyed a delicious dinner in a local fish & chip shop.

Day 7: Miranda - Turangi - Nov 10

This morning we headed back to Miranda pre-breakfast for high tide. At the entrance gate there was a family of Buff-banded Rails that once again drew coos from the van. At the hide the high water was a little closer and the same cast of characters was seen. We had better views of the Broad-billed Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, and Wrybill. We took shelter in the hide as a rain storm came through. When it passed we got better views of Red Knot, seven Royal Spoonbills and Whimbrel.

We packed up and departed Miranda and made a quick stop to check the flats at Panko. There wasn't much there but we did add Pacific Golden Plover and Common Pheasant plus Yellowhammer on a fence on the way out.

Driving was a challenge but Matt prevailed and incredibly the rain stopped as we arrived at Pureora Forest west of Lake Taupo. The Pureora Forest is often referred to as the 'dinosaur



forest' because it is dominated by ancient conifers in the Podocarp family. Podocarps were the dominant trees in Gondwana 100 million years ago and are still dominant in some of New Zealand's rainforest and no more so than at Pureora. We birded around Ngaherenga Campground and found North Island Tomtit, Chaffinch, New Zealand Fantail, Greenfinch and a fairly close Yellow-crowned Parakeet. Kakas were also around as were Bellbirds and New Zealand Pigeons. We walked a forest trail to a fire tower but it was quiet. Later on we continued to Turangi and settled in to our accommodation.

Day 8: Whitianga - Turangi - Nov 11

We gathered at 6 am for our pre-breakfast excursion to look for the iconic **Blue Duck**. The rain had subsided but there were still large puddles everywhere. We set off and in 5 minutes arrived at the Major Jones bridge. Looking down the Tongariro River we spotted a female Blue Duck on the rocks and all got quick views. We then repositioned ourselves closer and got great views, photos and videos over the next half hour. Score! There were Silvereyes around, the ubiquitous New Zealand Pigeons, Great Cormorant, and Little Pied Cormorant, but the Blue Duck was the star of the show. On the way back toward the bus, a Dunnock showed well. Enough said about that!



We moved to the south end of Tarangi Lake and just as we arrived the rain started. We scoped the lake where there were nice looking New Zealand Scaup, many Black Swans, New Zealand Grebes, Little Black Cormorant, and Eurasian Coot. We could hear Australasian Bittern "booming" in the marsh behind us so we walked the road to try and catch a glimpse of it. A few trees along the road held New Zealand Fantail and Silvereye. The wind picked up and we decided to move to another spot around the corner. Up on a berm overlooking the marsh, Matt Spotted a Bittern and then it flew out over the lake and out of sight.

In the grass up from the parking lot, there were Common Redpolls feeding on the ground with some Chaffinches, Song Thrushes and Blackbirds. The sky was brightening a bit and we drew our attention to the active volcanic steam vents on the hills around the lake. Then Gina spotted another Bittern in the marsh and it flew over in front of some yellow flowers and disappeared.



After breakfast we headed back to Pureora Forest with the hopes of finding New Zealand Falcon and Pacific Long-tailed Cuckoo. We ate lunch on arrival and setup in an open area to watch the sky. Pretty soon a New Zealand Falcon appeared above the trees. It circled around the tree tops a few times offering decent flight views before disappearing. Closer, a Kaka flew into a low tree giving great views. We gave it a few more minutes but the falcon did not reappear so we set off on a forest road to look for the cuckoo. After a few minutes, a Pacific Long-tailed Cuckoo flew over calling, shortly followed by a second bird. The distinctive shape of this unique bird in flight was seen well and try as we may we could not locate it perched.

Later in the afternoon, we headed back to Turangi to the marsh at the south end of the lake. After some scanning Steve spotted a Bittern and we had great views of Redpolls preening in the sun making them look very bright.

As we were loading the bus, a Little Black Cormorant flew in and landed near some docks so we went to see the bird and get good looks at its gorgeous blue eyes. From the dock, we had close looks at New Zealand Scaup, **New Zealand Grebe** and a pair of Coots feeding a chick (another register on the cuteness factor!).





Day 9: Turangi - Napier - Nov 12

This morning after breakfast at “Chef Matt’s” room, we packed up to leave Turangi. We stopped at the Tongariro River for one last look for Blue Duck. There were Fishermen already in the river and no duck to be seen. As we walked back toward the bridge a female Blue Duck was spotted perched on rocks at the edge of the river right below the bridge. While watching that, a Dunnock appeared in our sights. We had a stop at the local pie shop and then headed out of town. Next stop was along the lake shore to see a small group of very friendly **Black-billed Gulls** and get a view of the enormous lake back dropped by three of the central north island volcanoes Ruapehu, Ngaruhoe, and Tongariro.

Our destination today was Boundary Stream, a reserve in the Mangaharuru range. We walked the Tumanako Loop and found our last North Island Robins, Whitehead, North Island Tomtit and Kokakos. After lunch we continued down to Napier stopping at Anderson Park for Plumed Whistling Duck and got a bonus Cattle Egret in full breeding plumage among a rookery of Little Pied Cormorants. Dark gray clouds were approaching and just as we reached the van, the skies opened up.

In a few minutes, the storm had passed and we moved to the airport lagoons at Westshore Wildlife Refuge where there were Royal Spoonbills, Kelp Gulls on nests and the usual Pied Stilts. Matt then spotted a Black-fronted Dotterel which was seen well.

On the other side of the waterway we had Double-banded Plover and several very cute Pied Stilt chicks of varying ages.

Day 10: Napier - Foxton - Nov 13

We awoke to clear blue skies and sparkling sunshine this morning. Our first stop out of town was a marshy area near the Tutaekuri Bridge where we got great views of Royal Spoonbills and Australasian Bittern. Then we drove up to **Te Mata peak** and took in the spectacular views in all directions. At the top, we found a New Zealand Pipit and had a group photo taken by a local cyclist.

We then headed toward Foxton making a special stop to see Peafowl in some farm fields. We had lunch at Mumma Gs in Waipawa and then continued to Foxton where we stopped at the Manawatu Estuary to check the shorebirds. The tide was low but we had good views of Wrybill and Double-banded Plover. After

checking in to our hotel, we freshened up and went into town for a nice dinner and update of our checklist.



Day 11: Foxton - Picton - Nov 14

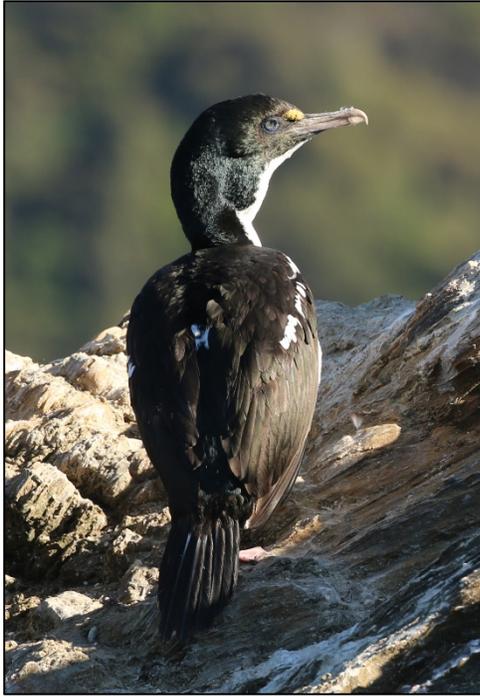
It was raining when we woke up this morning, raining hard, sideways even. But by the time we packed the van, the skies had started to clear. We checked the Manawatu Estuary again and with the tide coming in had close looks at Pacific Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot and **Wrybill**.

Then we headed south along the Kapiti coast towards Wellington. Stopping briefly to pick up lunch and do some very brief possum shopping, we continued on and boarded the ferry to the South Island. The sun was out but there was a brisk wind as we waited for the inter-island ferry, Kaiarahi, to depart. From the upper deck of the ship we could see Fluttering Shearwaters, Silver Gulls, our first Spotted Shag, plus Australasian Gannet and White-fronted Tern.



We headed across the Cook Strait toward South Island. On the crossing, we saw several Shy Albatross, Fairy Prions, a Sooty Shearwater, Westland Petrels, a Northern Giant Petrel, a Gray-faced Petrel and a juvenile Antipodean Albatross. We entered the Tory Channel and took in the lovely scenery as we continued toward Picton. There were several Spotted Shags, more Fluttering Shearwaters and Gannets. But the show was two Parasitic Jaegers double-teaming some White-fronted Terns presumably to get them to give up their recent meal. After the journey of 52 nautical miles (60 miles) we docked in Picton and checked in to our hotel for the night right on the main streets.





Day 12: Picton - Kaikoura - Nov 15

The skies had cleared once again and this morning we boarded a boat in Picton harbor under clear blue skies. Gina spotted a large Short-tailed Stingray under the dock. We headed out in Queen Charlotte Sound and it wasn't long before we found a shoal of fish with Fluttering Shearwaters voraciously feeding. The Dusky Dolphins with them approached the boat and circled around us close giving great views! We cruised out to a rock where two **New Zealand King Shags** were perched with several Spotted Shags. Our captain approached carefully so as not to flush the birds allowing great views of the King which is confined to the Marlborough Sounds with a population of just 650 birds. As we cruised on we saw several Blue Penguins in the water and some Parasitic Jaegers around, again chasing the White-fronted Terns in the hopes of stealing their catch.

We landed on Blumine Island and were greeted by some very curious **Weka**. We watched as the Weka worked up and down the beach and inspected us from time to time even jumping up on to the

picnic table at the landing site to investigate our gear. We walked a short way up the trail as Matt had heard our target, a Malherbe's Parakeet. Soon Bob spotted the bird and for the next half hour we watched a pair moving quietly in the treetops and feeding.

On the way back we saw more Spotted Shags and some New Zealand Fur Seals hauled out on the rocky shores of the islands. We cruised close to shore and flushed 4 Pacific Reef Herons which flew around and landed on rocks and trees in good view. A Swamp Harrier was also flushed but continued flying along the shore.



We returned to port, picked up lunch and set out for Kaikoura driving through wine country. We stopped for lunch at a vineyard and then at Blenheim Sewage Treatment Ponds and walked the adjacent Wairau Lagoon Trails to find Cirl Bunting, Glossy Ibis and a Dunnock belting out its spring song. There were several Royal Spoonbills on nests, some Kelp Gulls trying to get some ducklings and a few Eurasian Coot.



The next stop was at Lake Elterwater Wildlife Refuge where we saw several Australasian Shoveler, a rare vagrant (for New Zealand) Northern Shoveler and a Hoary-headed Grebe which quickly disappeared into the fallen trees of a flooded forest. Out in the open water were two Great Crested Grebes and a New Zealand Grebe. Ruth relocated the **Hoary-headed Grebe** through the branches of the flooded forest and using a sleeping duck as a point of reference we saw it quite well.



We moved around to another viewing point and, using the same sleeping duck, located the Grebe again. From yet another viewpoint, Steve found that there were indeed two individuals and they were vocalizing.

We continued our picturesque journey to Kaikoura along the shore with great views of the jewel green and blue sea. Matt told us about the 2017 Kaikoura earthquake that had decimated this part of the road and there was still road construction going on.

Our last stop of the day was at Ohau Point where we watched the antics of several **New Zealand Fur Seals** and

Silver Gulls. In the distance we could see Dusky Dolphins jumping out of the water.

We had dinner at a pub in town and then went out to look for Little Owl. It was an absolutely stunning sunset as we drove back roads outside Kaikoura and it wasn't long until we found a Little Owl perched on a large tree stump. We had good views but it flew back into an evergreen and disappeared. We continued our search along the road and when we came back by, the owl was on a dark stump in front of the original stump. We once again had good views though it was getting dark. Another Great day!

Day 13: Kaikoura Pelagic - Nov 16

This morning we drove out to the point of Kaikoura peninsula and scanned out over the water where there were hundreds of Hutton's Shearwaters passing by just offshore. And then a Northern Giant Petrel came into view briefly as if to beckon us out onto the sea. It was a beautiful, calm morning as we proceeded to South Harbor for our pelagic trip.

At the harbor, we met Gary and boarded the Albatross Encounter boat still on the trailer. We were then launched with the help of a tractor. As we cruised out of the harbor, Igor, a **Northern Giant Petrel** was sat on the water waiting for us; he then took flight and followed us out.





We made three main stops where we threw out the chum basket. Almost immediately the Northern Giant Petrels arrived growling, squealing and fighting each other as more arrived. The Cape Petrels stayed just outside the affray picking up scraps that floated away from the basket. Then the albatrosses began to arrive. First up was the massive Antipodean Albatross (Gibson's) which took control of the basket snapping at others of their kind and the petrels as frenzy for food continued. Both Northern and Southern Royal Albatross came in giving us a chance to see the field marks that differentiate them. Salvin's Albatrosses came in too and perhaps due to their smaller size, stayed on the sidelines getting scraps. Westland Petrels were around as were a few White-chinned Petrels and a Gray-faced Petrel that flew by a few times.

We picked up the chum and changed position noting that several of the birds were now following the boat. Each time we stopped, the Northern Giant Petrels came in close and aggressive, and postured for their position around the chum basket. A Short-tailed Shearwater came by but never close and a Black-browed Albatross was seen. It really was an epic trip and we looked forward to our afternoon session.

After lunch in town, we went back to South Harbor for our second pelagic trip. As we cruised out Boris and Igor (two known Northern Giant Petrels) followed us and when we stopped they jockeyed for position behind the boat. The little Cape Petrel approached cautiously as we put in the chum basket which elicited growls and posturing from the larger petrels. As in the morning, birds gathered quickly and the Antipodean Albatross soon showed up and pushed off the fighting giant petrels. Salvin's Albatross and Westland Petrels came in as well. Gary received a report of the wind kicking up so we moved a little closer to shore. As we were moving, we spotted some **Dusky Dolphins** jumping out of the water and moved toward them to enjoy the show of about 200 dolphins swimming and jumping in all directions. Some were





very close to our delight and some had quite small pups. One cheeky dolphin came up close and looked at us and then twisted its tail to splash us which was quite effective in getting us wet!

We continued closer to shore and found a raft of **Hutton's Shearwaters** swimming tight together. This gathering allowed the best views we had of these birds. In the evening we celebrated our fantastic day in Kaikoura with a nice dinner in town.

Day 14: Kaikoura - Arthur's Pass - Nov 17

This morning we woke up to sunny skies and warm temperatures as we prepared to continue south toward Arthur's Pass. We stopped at the Kowhai Bush and walked a track lined with Manuka bushes and found Gray Gerygone, a black morph of Gray Fantail and a Yellowhammer. We drove to St. Anne's Lagoon where Steve spotted a pair of Cape Barren Geese with a gosling and then we headed toward Ashley Estuary. We arrived late morning as the tide on the estuary was falling. It was quite windy and the bright sunny conditions made for difficult viewing. We scoped from the edge of the parking lot and found Black-fronted Terns flying around. Then we moved out to the open sand flats where we found a pair of Double-banded Plovers with a chick, a few Wrybill and a vagrant Greater Sand Plover (previously reported). There were also Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone and Caspian Tern in the estuary and we could have stayed there all day if Sheffield's Famous Pies wasn't in our future.



We enjoyed lunch at Sheffield's and then continued toward Arthur's Pass.

We tried to go into the Haddon Valley for better looks at Black-fronted Tern but the road was washed out blocking access to valley. We scanned the river and found some terns while taking in the amazing landscape of the Southern Alps.



We drove through the village of Arthur's Pass to the Otira Viaduct Overlook where there was a Kea on the ground in the parking lot when we arrived. There were photographers and spectators already there and the bird flew off as we got out of the van.

While we scanned the hills for the Kea, Steve spotted a New Zealand Falcon. We got on the flying bird, a female, and watched it fly over the ridge and down behind some bushes. Then a Kea took flight toward where the falcon had landed and the falcon came up and chased it, hitting it a few times before the two separated and went down to the ground. A second Kea flew toward the first one and was also



attacked by the falcon. The two Keas ended up on the same perch and were allo-preening while the falcon returned to its spot, which was presumably a nest. The aerial show was amazing! We left the birds to sort themselves out and headed back through Arthur's Pass to our lovely accommodation overlooking the Waimakariri River.

We headed up to dinner in the evening light which lit up the valley beautifully under clear skies. A **Kea** soon appeared on the veranda of the restaurant and entertained us all within arm's reach views. After dinner a few of us ventured out to search for Great Spotted Kiwi under starry skies. At the first stop, we found a Brushtail Possum and then walked a track through the forest to an overlook. Nothing was seen and nothing was heard. We moved to



another spot across the road and walked in. Still nothing. Back to the parking lot where we found another **Possom** in a tree next to the van. Then we heard a Great Spotted Kiwi calling from the far hillside. This was as much as we expected and so we headed back to the hotel around midnight.

Day 15: Arthur's Pass – Franz Joseph - Nov 18

This morning's rain made us really appreciate the sun and views we had of the valley yesterday. The rain started to subside as we packed the van and a pair of very friendly Pipipi showed in the bushes beside us. We set off toward Franz Joseph and after a quick scenic photo stop we drove into Arthur's Pass village and called in at the visitor center. We then walked the Devil's Punchbowl Trail and marvelled at the moss covered trees of this stunning forest. Here we found South Island Tomtit and South Island Robin and had great views of a pair of Rifleman.

We continued down toward the coast making a stop for Wekas we had spotted in a farm field and then carried on to have lunch in Ross. We drove over to the west

coast and checked in with Ian Cooper, the Okarito Kiwi man, for a briefing about this evening's activities. Ian told us that we were going to attempt the near impossible, to see an Okarito Brown Kiwi, a relatively new split from the South Island Brown Kiwi, and the rarest of all kiwis with an estimated 400 wild birds remaining. Ian explained the territories and life stories of a few of the birds he had been working with and told us his plan and how we should prepare, what to wear and what to expect. Tonight we hoped to see a particular bird he called, "BZ" and perhaps BZ's son who seemed to be hanging around in the same territory.

We still had some daylight after Ian's orientation so we took a short walk through a marshy area behind the small village and had good views of New Zealand Fernbird. Later in the afternoon we headed to town to check in and have dinner at Alice May (Parkinsons) restaurant. After dinner we

returned to Okarito, checked the estuary and found a distant Great Egret. We then met Ian at the arranged spot and he further explained his strategy for finding the Kiwi. We lined up shoulder to shoulder as instructed and moved up and down the track when Ian signalled us. As darkness fell, we could hear Moreporks calling and see the stars lighting up the sky. The night chill took hold and we patiently waited. At one point, Matt called us up the road and was sure a bird (perhaps BZs son) was just inside the bush but it never appeared. Ian had walked back down the road and began flashing his



light toward us. We lined up as instructed and soon Ian illuminated BZ with his red light as he came out of the bush. We all got on the bird immediately and had great views. BZ ran quickly up the verge and we moved as quietly as possible to try and keep up. We stopped again, and watched as he probed the ground with his bill and gave excellent views before eventually going back into the bush. We had done the near impossible. We had seen an Okarito Brown Kiwi!

Day 16: Franz Joseph - Wanaka - Nov 19

Today we awoke to heavy rain which persisted as we headed down the West Coast towards Haast. The deluge continued as we did our bush walk to the beach for Fiordland Penguin but we had our just reward with 3 birds up on the nesting area including one grown chick. Soaking wet we stopped in the village for lunch and to dry off before continuing to Haast Pass (1875 feet) where the gorgeous forest offered South Island Tomtit and our first endangered Yellowheads. From here we headed to the lake side town of Wanaka for the night.

Day 17: Wanaka - Te Anau - Nov 20



This morning we left Wanaka noting the gorgeous views of the New Zealand Alps as the backdrop to the lake. We made a quick stop at Bradrona to see the breast cancer fundraiser display and noted the Cardrona distillery in the background. Then we travelled across the vast expanse of the tussock grasslands through farmland and hills toward Te Anau another town on a beautiful deep lake. On the way, we stopped at the Crown Range Summit at 1076 meters. In Te Anau, we picked up our lunch pies and then devoured them immediately. (What is it about New Zealand pies that you have to eat them immediately rather than wait until lunch time?)

We drove around to a nearby marina where there was a Great Crested Grebe on a nest platform near some boats. As we were standing watching the bird, its mate swam in. The two greeted each other at the nest with head shakes and then they exchanged places to our delight.



We left town and drove toward the mountains, stopping to admire some **Black-fronted Terns** hawking insects over a field. A stop at an overlook found us a seemingly very desperate South Island Robin singing its head off. Next up was a walk through a Beech forest where everything seemed to be covered in moss. Here we found Rifleman, Pipipi, Yellow-crowned Parakeets and a very confiding South Island Robin family feeding a chick.

Heading back, we stopped at Knob Flats for the improved landscape views (the sun had come out) and the Black-fronted Terns were hawking insects over the stream. It was an incredible show watching each bird chase and catch the insects and then dip

into the stream for a drink. Some Chaffinches joined in the hawking as well and a Skylark was displaying, singing its cheery song.

In the evening we enjoyed a great meal at the Fat Duck and reviewed our list and plans for Stewart Island.

Day 18: Te Anau - Stewart Island - Nov 21

Today we headed for the third main island of New Zealand– Stewart Island. On the way to catch the ferry we stopped in at Invercargill Estuary (Tip Lagoon) where Steve found two Chestnut-breasted Shelduck, a vagrant and new for the trip.

We caught the early ferry from Bluff to Stewart Island and had an exhilarating ride with heavy wind and waves on the crossing. We sat out on the back deck and experienced the full brunt of the blow. The seabirds gliding over the waves in the wind made it look like a cake walk, but we had all we could do to hold ourselves in place on the boat. The birds were definitely around and we hoped for better views on our pelagic tomorrow.



At the dock we were greeted by Matt's wife, Jules and their dog. After settling in to the South Sea Motel, we gathered to catch a water taxi to the nearby Ulva Island. On the way, we stopped to look at some Fiordland Penguins that nest on the islands just outside of Oban. A pair was out on the rocks and another one or two inside a cave.

We landed on Ulva Island and Matt told us about the important work being done there and the success in restoring breeding populations of some of New Zealand's most endangered birds. Ulva Island is a predator free sanctuary and home to some of the South Island specialties like Yellowhead, South Island Saddleback, Weka, as well as Pipipi, both **Red** and **Yellow-crowned Parakeet**, New Zealand Kaka and Rifleman. And we found them all. We marvelled at the mature forest in comparison to Tiritiri and Matt told us about the history of the island and pointed out some of the special plants and orchids in between bird sightings. It was clearly a very special place and again the result of a lot of hard working, conservation-minded people.





We went back to Oban and reconvened for dinner before heading out to look for Southern Brown Kiwi. While we gathered outside the hotel, a Morepork was seen hawking insects around the street lights, a very cool sign! We drove up to our site and before we even stopped the cars, a female Kiwi was seen on the verge of the road. Incredible! We walked out on an open track under clearing, starry skies and listened for our quarry. Matt checked the regular spots and we finally found one working in the grasses close to a bush. We watched it quietly and then Matt noticed another one not far away and noted that this was a male Kiwi with its partly grown son. At one point, the male came over to its son and frolicked with it making for entertaining watching.

At the end of the track we had a possum standing up on its back legs looking at us. On the way back we had a few more Kiwis making a total of 6 within about 1 hour! It was an amazing night!

Day 19: Stewart Island Pelagic - Nov 22

Today's excitement was our pelagic trip on the "Aurora" a large and very stable catamaran. Right after breakfast we went to the dock and met Captain Ian who said the morning's weather looked good but the wind was likely to kick up in the afternoon. The boat was fantastic, what you would hope for on a pelagic with a very comfortable interior and lots of open exterior space with a few seats in the back.

We set off, checking the **Fiordland Penguins** on our way out. Today there were seven on show.

Pretty much from the beginning, the Shy Albatrosses followed us, likely recognizing the "Aurora" and the potential smorgasbord that it would eventually offer. There were two large vats of the remains of filleted fish and the Albatrosses were spying them for sure.



Our first stop was near one of the islands. Pretty quickly a troupe of Brown Skuas showed up and started catching food that Matt was throwing out, and I mean actually catching it on the wing! The Fur Seals with young on the island barely seemed to stir at the performance and Matt could have continued longer but we had more birds to see.

We cruised out to open sea followed by birds, mostly Shy Albatross but others species were now joining in. We stopped at Wreck Reef and threw out some more fish and soon the huge Southern Royal Albatrosses showed up dwarfing the Shy and Salvin's. Numbers of birds were building. We estimated a total of 200 Shy Albatrosses over the course of the day, and sometimes you could look and see 150 birds just off

the boat. It was incredible! A few Northern Giant Petrels arrived and there were also about 75 Salvin's Albatross. Cape Petrels were darting in and out (20 for the day) and Fairy Prions started to show up, over (100). At one point a Buller's Albatross came in and joined the fracas, the only one seen! White-chinned Petrels (20) were around and we studied the only Westland Petrel to see its distinguishing characteristics. Common Diving Petrels were seen and Sooty Shearwaters were present in numbers. We got to grips with the few (4) Short-tailed Shearwaters that appeared and came in close briefly. The birds were coming fast and furious, "Gray-backed Storm Petrel!" (3), "Broad-billed Prion!" (1), "White-faced Storm Petrel!" (1), "Mottled Petrel!" (1), "Cooks Petrel!" (1). This day was nothing short of epic!



Gray-backed Storm Petrel



Buller's Albatross

After an amazing morning we headed into a cove on the east side of an island for lunch. The wind was starting to kick up and we appreciated a short break in calm seas.

Soon we were back out into the wind with many of the same cast of characters, many of them awaiting our return it seemed. The new bird in the afternoon was a Black-bellied Storm Petrel, worth the trip out into the worsening conditions. There were large numbers of Sooty Shearwater in the distance as we travelled and it was a rough, wet ride. On the way back, we were heading straight into the waves and wind making for a booming ride which Captain Ian handled with finesse. Back at the coast, we looked for Yellow-eyed Penguins but all we could find were Fiordlands.

It was another memorable day and we celebrated our survival and sightings over dinner at the local pub!

Day 20: Stewart Island - Oamaru - Nov 23

After a smooth night's sleep, we got up and caught the early ferry from Stewart Island this morning. The crossing was much calmer and not far out of the harbor we saw five Fiordland Penguins porpoising in the water. Cool!

Back on the South Island, we made a quick stop at Tip Lagoon and then to a local store in Bluff for supplies. On our way out of town, we saw a farm tractor tilling a field and in the wake of the tractor there must have been about 200 Black-billed Gulls. We had lunch at Cannibal Beach and then headed for Katiki Historic Reserve at the southern point of Moeraki Peninsula.

Our target here was the rare Yellow-eyed Penguin which nests in the bushes just above the beach here. We walked out on a track past the historic lighthouse and down to the water. There were nesting Silver Gulls and White-fronted Terns, and we found a Blue Penguin in burrow very close to the trail. But no Yellow-eyed Penguins. Matt took most of the group to get situated on a particular lookout and said we'd just have to wait. Gina had lagged a little behind looking at the Blue Penguin and as she came around the corner she spotted a **Yellow-eyed Penguin** coming up the beach. She ran to where the group was sitting and called their attention to it but it had already moved across the beach



toward the bush. Fortunately, these birds like to preen before disappearing into the bush and we were able to find it just beyond a rock ledge. We could hear young penguins calling and soon Matt spotted another Yellow-eyed Penguin coming out of the water heading up the beach. This time we all got to see it in full view. It worked its way up into the bush and we could hear more calling and had better views as the bird moved between the vegetation. We waited around for a while and noticed a bird descending from the bush toward the sea. We surmised that there had been an exchange of nesting duties and this was another bird heading out to sea to fish. We watched it make its way into the sea and disappear and in a few minutes, another bird did the same!
Awesome!

Pleased with our views of this seriously declining bird, we headed to Oamaru where we would spend the night. We had one last stop though, to see a nesting colony of Otago Shags on an old pier just outside of town. The colony was buzzing with hundreds of bronze and black and white forms as well as juvenile birds. A few Spotted Shags were perched around the edges but it was mostly Otagos and guano covered nests.

We headed for our accommodation and then dinner to celebrate our three penguin day and our six shag day!

Day 21: Oamara - Twizel - Nov 24

This morning we left Oamara, stopping at the Fairlie Bakery for lunch supplies before heading inland to one of the driest parts of South Island. The scenery today was dry sprawling grasslands with red tussock around stunning glacial lakes, and snow-capped mountains. Our first stop was at Lake Tekapo to take in the scenery of mountains over an aqua blue lake and multiple colors of flowering lupines in front. Stunning!



We continued on to Mount John Observatory, run by the University of Canterbury. As we ascended the road toward the observatory, Bob spotted a Chukar in a field and we all had great views. We looked around the observatory and took in the view and then drove back down to try and find our target for today, the rarest bird in New Zealand, the Kaki or **Black Stilt**. We stopped the van at Murray Pond and walked out toward the pond. The sheep were noisy and anxious and as we neared the pond, one adult Black Stilt flew up and moved further down the shore. We soon found a second adult and settled ourselves in to observe these exceptionally rare birds. They moved along the shore toward us only to be flushed by some crazed sheep but they settled again giving us the best views ever.



We at lunch at the pond, watching Black Stilts with the snow covered mountains behind us. It was amazing to be in this beautiful spot with this bird whose future is so uncertain (only around 100 wild birds). After lunch we drove back toward the Observatory spotting a very handsome Great Crested Grebe on another small pond. A little further on, Bob spotted two more Black Stilts tucked back along a pond edge, both adults.

We stopped along the road to take in Mount Cook and the vista over Lake Pukaki, a turquoise lake made that way by "glacial flour", very fine rock particles from the surrounding glaciers. There was a small colony of Black-fronted Terns feeding chicks along the edge of the lake. It was an extraordinarily beautiful scene under sparkling blue skies.



Our next stop was Glentanner further up on the shore of Lake Pukaki and an important glacial braided river ecosystem feeding into the lake from Mount Cook and the southern alps. As we entered the area, we found 5 Juvenile Black Stilts foraging in a marshy area beside the road. There were also Double-banded Plovers, Wrybill, South Island Pied Oystercatchers, more Black-fronted Terns fishing in the rivers, and a New Zealand Pipit.

We spent some time in Glentanner to take in its magic and then moved to Ohau to look for Baillon's Crake. That wasn't so magical. There was plenty of habitat and we heard perhaps some calls but this bird did not want to show.

As we were ready to leave, Matt said that the Black Stilt would have to be the icing on the cake. Not a bad cake! Just then an adult Black Stilt flew in calling and landed just ahead of us in a small pool of water. Another followed and we watched the birds foraging around a shallow pool just a few feet away

in the sun. These were our best views and having seen 16 individuals of the world's rarest wader, it was a remarkable way to end our trip!

Day 22: Twizel - Christchurch - End of Tour - Nov 25

This morning after our last breakfast at Chef Matt's, we packed up and left Twizel for Christchurch. We drove by Cooper's Lagoon and ticked four Mute Swans (a drive by tick) before heading to Lincoln Wetlands which is part of the expansive Ellesmere Wetlands. We walked a track and found where the water had dried up but persevered on until we found some Wrybill, Double-banded Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones and Bar-tailed Godwits. It was quite windy with a lot of heat haze making it difficult to see the smaller shorebirds. We moved closer toward the open water and soon found several Red-necked Stints facing the wind and us! We scoped them noting the reddish color on some of them. Then Gina spotted a bright, all golden bird and Matt jumped on the scope and shouted, "Little Stint!" This rarity had been reported here in previous weeks but with the retraction of the water, it seemed as though it could be impossible to find. But it was a spring bird, in full breeding plumage and we all got great views of it. It was also a New Zealand tick for Matt and our 165 bird of the tour, so he was extremely pleased.

It was time to get to the airport so we loaded up and drove toward Christchurch. A field full of South Island Pied Oystercatchers and White-faced Herons saw us out and closer to the city we crossed a bridge where a large number of Black-billed Gulls were roosting.

We arrived in Christchurch and said our goodbyes. This particular group had enjoyed wonderful camaraderie throughout our three week journey. We had traveled together by road more than 3000 miles and by boat a few hundred more and were taking with us many wonderful memories, birds, laughs, meals and landscapes that we had shared. Thanks to our wonderful guides Matt and Steve. This will be a trip long remembered!

Gina & Steve



Kokako



Morepork



New Zealand Pipit

BIRDLIST FOR NEW ZEALAND 2019

STATUS

E = Endemic
 Eb = breeding Endemic
 H = Heard Only
 N/C = No Count
 C= Common
 i = introduced
 N = Native
 C = Recent Coloniser
 M = Migrant
 V= Rare Vagrant

LOCATION

NI = Number of days out of 10 recorded in North Island
 SI = Number of days out of 10 recorded in South Island
 ST = Number of days out of 3 recorded in Stewart Island
 hc = Highest daily count for each island

This list follows IOC WORLD BIRD LIST v(9.2) and as such names may be different than some of the field guides and other taxonomies.
 For additional notes see appendix *

#	BIRDS	Status	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NI	hc	SI	hc	ST	hc
1	Southern Brown Kiwi	E	<i>Apteryx australis lawryi</i>					1	6
2	Okarito Brown Kiwi	E	<i>Apteryx rowi</i>			1	1+2H		
3	Northern Brown Kiwi	E	<i>Apteryx mantelli</i>	1	1+7H				
	Great Spotted Kiwi *	E	<i>Apteryx haastii</i>			1	H		
4	Little Spotted Kiwi	E	<i>Apteryx owenii</i>	1	2				
5	Feral (Wild) Turkey	i	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	7	30+	1	20		
6	Indian Peafowl	i	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	1	20	1	1		
7	Common (Ring-necked) Pheasant	i	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	8	4				
8	Chukar	i	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			1	3		
9	Brown Quail	i	<i>Coturnix ypsilophora australis</i>	3	20				
10	California Quail	i	<i>Lophortyx californicus</i>	6	6	3	2		
11	Mute Swan	i	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			1	4		
12	Black Swan	i	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	7	400	8	2000		
13	Cape Barren Goose	i	<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>			1	3		
14	Greylag (feral) Goose	i	<i>Anser anser</i>	3	20+	1	20		
15	Canada Goose	i	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	5	20+	6	15		
16	Plumed Whistling Duck *	V	<i>Dendrocygna eytoni</i>	1	1				
17	Australian Shelduck *	V	<i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>			1	2		
18	Paradise Shelduck	E	<i>Tadorna variegata</i>	9	40	10	30+	3	10
19	Blue Duck	E	<i>Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos</i>	2	1	1	1		
20	Grey Teal	N	<i>Anas gracilis</i>	5	60	5	500		
21	Brown Teal	E	<i>Anas chlorotis</i>	4	30				
22	Mallard	i	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	9	50	10	10		
23	Pacific Black Duck *	N	<i>Anas superciliosa superciliosa</i>	2	1	2	3		
24	Australasian Shoveler	N	<i>Anas rhynchos</i>	6	200	70	50+		
25	Northern Shoveler *	V	<i>Anas clypeata</i>			1	1		
26	New Zealand Scaup	E	<i>Aythya novaeseelandiae</i>	5	50+	7	60+		
27	Great Crested Grebe *	C	<i>Podiceps cristatus australis</i>			3	3		
28	Hoary-headed Grebe *	C	<i>Poliocephalus poliocephalus</i>			1	2		
29	New Zealand Grebe	E	<i>Poliocephalus rufopectus</i>	3	4	1	2		

30	Australasian Grebe *	C	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>	1	8				
31	Fiordland Penguin *	E	<i>Eudyptes pachyrhynchus</i>			1	3	3	15
32	Yellow-eyed Penguin	E	<i>Megadyptes antipodes</i>			1	4		
33	Little Penguin *	N	<i>Eudyptula minor iredalei</i>	3	6				
	Little Penguin	N	<i>Eudyptula minor variabilis</i>			1	8		
	Little Penguin	N	<i>Eudyptula minor minor</i>					1	2
	Little Penguin	N	<i>Eudyptula minor albosignata</i>			1	1		
34	Southern Royal Albatross	Eb	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>			1	1	1	40+
35	Northern Royal Albatross	Eb	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>			1	2		
36	Antipodean Albatross *	Eb	<i>Diomedea antipodensis gibsoni</i>	1	1	1	10		
37	Black-browed Albatross	N	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>			1	1		
38	Shy Albatross *	N	<i>Thalassarche cauta steadi</i>	2	6	3	10	1	200
39	Salvin's Albatross	N	<i>Thalassarche salvini</i>			1	8	1	45
40	Buller's Albatross	Eb	<i>Thalassarche bulleri bulleri</i>			1	1	1	1
41	Northern Giant Petrel	N	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	3	1	2	20	1	6
42	Cape Petrel *	N	<i>Daption capense capense</i>			2	10	1	20
43	Grey-faced Petrel	N	<i>Pterodroma gouldi</i>	1	1	1	2		
44	Mottled Petrel	Eb	<i>Pterodroma inexpectata</i>					1	1
45	Cook's Petrel	Eb	<i>Pterodroma cookii</i>	1	500			1	2
46	Broad-billed Prion	N	<i>Pachyptila vittata</i>					1	1
47	Fairy Prion	N	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	2	500	1	50	1	150
48	White-chinned Petrel	N	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>			1	1	1	30+
49	Westland Petrel	Eb	<i>Procellaria westlandica</i>	1	6	1	12	1	1
50	Black Petrel *	E	<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>	1	1				
51	Buller's Shearwater	Eb	<i>Puffinus bulleri</i>	3	150	1	2		
52	Flesh-footed Shearwater	N	<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	2	40				
53	Sooty Shearwater	N	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	1	1	2	20	1	1500
54	Short-tailed Shearwater	N	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>			1	1	1	4
55	Fluttering Shearwater	Eb	<i>Puffinus gavia</i>	4	400	1	150		
56	Hutton's Shearwater	Eb	<i>Puffinus huttoni</i>			1	5000		
57	Little Shearwater	N	<i>Puffinus assimilis haurakiensis</i>	1	1				
58	Grey-backed Storm Petrel	N	<i>Garrodia nereis</i>					1	4
59	White-faced Storm Petrel	Eb	<i>Pelagodroma marina maoriana</i>	1	80			1	1
60	Black-bellied Storm Petrel	N	<i>Fregetta tropica tropica</i>					1	1
61	New Zealand Storm Petrel *	Eb	<i>Fregetta maoriana</i>	1	3				
62	Common Diving Petrel	N	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix urinatrix</i>	1	250	2	10	1	30
63	Australasian Gannet	N	<i>Morus serrator</i>	7	1500	3	2		
64	Little Pied Cormorant *	N	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris</i>	7	30+	8	60+		
65	Great Cormorant	N	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae</i>	6	6	6	2		

66	Australian Pied Cormorant *	N	<i>Phalacrocorax varius varius</i>	6	30+	5	20	1	6
67	Little Black Cormorant *	N	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	3	12				
68	New Zealand King Shag *	E	<i>Leucocarbo carunculatus</i>			1	18		
69	Otago Shag *	E	<i>Leucocarbo chalconotus</i>			1	500		
70	Foveaux Shag *	E	<i>Leucocarbo stewarti</i>			2	10	3	20
71	Spotted Shag	N	<i>Stictocarbo punctatus punctatus</i>	2	150	3	20	3	10
72	Great Egret	N	<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>			1	2		
73	Eastern Cattle Egret *	V	<i>Ardea coromandus</i>	1	1				
74	White-faced Heron	N	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>	10	25+	10	40+	2	2
75	Pacific Reef Heron	N	<i>Egretta sacra sacra</i>	1	1	2	5		
76	Australasian Bittern	N	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	2	3				
77	Glossy Ibis *	V	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			1	4		
78	Royal Spoonbill	N	<i>Platalea regia</i>	5	25	5	10+		
79	Swamp Harrier *	C	<i>Circus approximans</i>	9	7	10	4		
80	New Zealand Falcon	E	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>	1	1	2	1		
81	Buff-banded Rail *	N	<i>Gallirallus philippensis assimilis</i>	3	5				
82	Weka	E	<i>Gallirallus australis australis</i>			2	6		
	Weka	E	<i>Gallirallus australis scotti</i>			1	6		
83	Spotless Crake	N	<i>Porzana tabuensis</i>	1	6+1h				
84	Pukeko *	N	<i>Porphyrio melanotus</i>	10	C	8	C		
85	South Island Takahe	E	<i>Porphyrio hochstetteri</i>	2	2				
86	Eurasian Coot	C	<i>Fulica atra</i>	2	100	4	6+		
87	Red Knot	M	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	4	350	1	10		
88	Broad-billed Sandpiper *	V	<i>Calidris falcinellus sibirica</i>	2	1				
89	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	M	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	2	3				
90	Red-necked Stint	M	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>			1	12		
91	Little Stint *	V	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			1	1		
92	Whimbrel *	V	<i>Phaeopus variegatus</i>	1	2				
93	Far Eastern Curlew *	V	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	2	3				
94	Bar-tailed Godwit	M	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	7	3600	1	40		
95	Ruddy Turnstone	M	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	4	10	2	2		
96	Variable Oystercatcher	E	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	8	30+	6	50+	3	8
97	South Island Pied Oystercatcher	E	<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	4	350	8	40+		
98	Pied Stilt	N	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	9	291	8	30+		
99	Black Stilt *	E	<i>Himantopus novaezelandiae</i>			1	16		
100	Pacific Golden Plover	M	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	3	24				
101	New Zealand Plover *	E	<i>Charadrius obscurus aquilonius</i>	5	25				
102	Greater Sand Plover *	V	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>			1	1		
103	Double-banded Plover	Eb	<i>Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus</i>	2	2	3	30+		
104	Wrybill	E	<i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i>	4	40	3	10		
105	Black-fronted Dotterel	N	<i>Elseyonis melanops</i>	1	3				

106	Masked Lapwing	C	<i>Vanellus miles novaehollandiae</i>	10	75+	9	50+		
107	Brown Skua	N	<i>Catharacta antarctica lonnbergi</i>					2	3
108	Parasitic Jaeger	N	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	2	4	2	2		
109	Kelp Gull	N	<i>Larus dominicanus dominicanus</i>	10	C	10	C	3	C
110	Silver Gull	E	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i>	10	C	7	C	3	C
111	Black-billed Gull	E	<i>Chroicocephalus bulleri</i>	7	600	8	1000		
112	Fairy Tern *	E	<i>Sternula nereis davisae</i>	2	2				
113	Caspian Tern	N	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	7	4	1	1		
114	Black-fronted Tern	E	<i>Chlidonias albostratus</i>	5	40				
115	White-fronted Tern	Eb	<i>Sterna striata</i>	9	60+	5	30	1	4
116	Rock (feral) Pigeon	i	<i>Columba livia</i>	9	N/C	8	N/C		
117	African Collared Dove	i	<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i>	4	6				
118	Spotted Dove	i	<i>Streptopelia chinensis tigrina</i>	3	10				
119	New Zealand Pigeon	E	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae</i>	9	10+	7	6+	3	2
120	New Zealand Kaka	E	<i>Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis</i>	3	6				
	<i>New Zealand Kaka</i>	E	<i>Nestor meridionalis meridionalis</i>			1	1	3	4
121	Kea	E	<i>Nestor notabilis</i>			2	3		
122	Eastern Rosella	i	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>	3	4				
123	Red-crowned Parakeet	E	<i>Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae</i>	2	20			1	6
124	Yellow-crowned Parakeet	E	<i>Cyanoramphus auriceps</i>	2	6	3	3		
125	Malherbe's Parakeet *	E	<i>Cyanoramphus malherbi</i>			1	4		
126	Shining Bronze Cuckoo	N	<i>Chalcites lucidus lucidus</i>	5	1+4H	1	1H		
127	Pacific Long-tailed Cuckoo	E	<i>Eudynamys taitensis</i>	1	2				
128	Morepork	Eb	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i>	2	1	1	H	1	1
129	Little Owl	i	<i>Athene noctua</i>			1	1		
130	Laughing Kookaburra	i	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	2	2				
131	Sacred Kingfisher	N	<i>Todiramphus sanctus vagans</i>	10	20+	1	1		
132	Rifleman	E	<i>Acanthisitta chloris granti</i>	3	1+2H				
	<i>Rifleman</i>	E	<i>Acanthisitta chloris chloris</i>			3	3	1	2
133	North Island Kokako	E	<i>Callaeas wilsoni</i>	3	3				
134	North Island Saddleback	E	<i>Philesturnus rufusater</i>	3	20				
135	South Island Saddleback *	E	<i>Philesturnus carunculatus</i>					1	4
136	Stitchbird	E	<i>Notiomystis cincta</i>	2	10				
137	Grey Gerygone	E	<i>Gerygone igata</i>	9	6	5	4	2	1
138	New Zealand Bellbird	E	<i>Anthornis melanura melanura</i>	6	100	5	4	2	2
139	Tui	E	<i>Prothemadera novaeseelandiae</i>	10	40+	6	6	3	6+
140	Whitehead	E	<i>Mohoua albicilla</i>	6	10				

141	Yellowhead	E	<i>Mohoua ochrocephala</i>			1	2	1	6
142	Pipipi *	E	<i>Mohoua novaeseelandiae</i>	2	2	1	1		
143	Australian Magpie	i	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen hypoleuca</i>	10	C	9	30+	3	6
144	New Zealand Fantail	E	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa fuliginosa</i>	8	3				
	<i>New Zealand Fantail</i>	E	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa placabilis</i>			4	10	1	2
145	Tomtit	E	<i>Petroica macrocephala toitoi</i>	3	3				
	<i>Tomtit</i>	E	<i>Petroica macrocephala macrocephala</i>			4	2	1	2
146	North Island Robin	E	<i>Petroica longipes</i>	4	3				
147	South Island Robin	E	<i>Petroica australis australis</i>			3	4		
	<i>South Island Robin</i>	E	<i>Petroica australis rakiura</i>					1	5
148	Eurasian Skylark	i	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>						
149	New Zealand Fernbird	E	<i>Bowdleria punctata vealeae</i>	3	1+2H				
	<i>New Zealand Fernbird</i>	E	<i>Bowdleria punctata punctatus</i>			1	1		
150	Silvereye	C	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	8	20	9	6		
151	Welcome Swallow	C	<i>Hirundo neoxena neoxena</i>	10	10	9	20+		
152	Eurasian Blackbird	i	<i>Turdus merula merula</i>	10	20+	10	20	3	4
153	Song Thrush	i	<i>Turdus philomelos clarkei</i>	10	20	10	10	3	4
154	Common Starling	i	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	10	50+	10	50+	3	10
155	Common Myna	i	<i>Acridotheres tristis tristis</i>	9	50				
156	House Sparrow	i	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	10	C	10	C	2	10
157	New Zealand Pipit	E	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	2	2				
158	Dunnock	i	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	3	2	8	3	3	2
159	Common Chaffinch	i	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	6	4	8	4	2	2
160	European Goldfinch	i	<i>Carduelis carduelis britannica</i>	9	20+	9	20	2	4
161	European Greenfinch	i	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	8	30	7	60+		
162	Common Redpoll	i	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	2	10	9	200		
163	Yellowhammer	i	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	5	4	9	6		
164	Cirl Bunting	i	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			1	2		
	Mammals								
1	New Zealand Fur Seal	N	<i>Arctocephalus forsteri</i>	1	1	3	40+	2	50+
2	Bottle-nose Dolphin	N	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	2	10				
3	Common Dolphin	N	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	1	2				
4	Dusky Dolphin	N	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>			2	200		
5	European Rabbit	i	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	6	20+	3	20+		
6	European Hare	i	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	1	2	2	1		
7	Stoat	i	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	1	1				
8	European Hedgehog	i	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	1	1				
9	House Mouse	i	<i>Mus musculus</i>			1	30+		

10	Common Brushtail Possum	i	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>			2	1	1	1
	Butterflies								
1	Monarch	C	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	2	1	1	1		
2	Bolder Copper	E	<i>Lycaena boldenarum</i>			1	3		
3	New Zealand Red Admiral	E	<i>Vanessa gonerilla</i>	1	1				
4	Common Copper	E	<i>Lycaena salustius</i>	1	3				
5	Tussock Ringlet	E	<i>Argyrophenga antipodum</i>			1	2		
5	Black Mountain Ringlet	E	<i>Percnodaimon merula</i>			1	2		
7	Common Grass Blue	N	<i>Zizina labradus</i>	1	1	2	2		
8	Large White	N	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	4	4	5	6		
	Reptiles & Amphibians								
1	Plague Skink	N	<i>Lampropholis delicata</i>	1	1				
2	Northern Tuatara	E	<i>Phenodon punctatus punctatus</i>	1	9				
3	Red-eared Slider	i	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	1					
	Dragonflies								
1	Common Redcoat Damselfly	E	<i>Xanthocnemis zealandica</i>			1	2		
2	Blue Damselfly	E	<i>Austrolestes colensonis</i>	1	2				
3	Aurora Bluetail	N	<i>Ischnura aurora</i>	1	2				
4	Gray's (Yellow-spotted) Dragonfly	E	<i>Procordulia grayi</i>			1	4		
5	Australian Emerald	C	<i>Hemicordulia australiae</i>			1	2		
	Other Sightings								
1	Tree Weta	E	<i>Hemideina spp</i>	2	20+				
2	Giant Weta	E	<i>Deinacrida mahoenui</i>	1	1				
3	Short-tailed Stingray	N	<i>Dasyatis brevicaudata</i>			1	1		
4	Trevally	N	<i>Pseudocaranx dentex</i>	1	10,000				
5	Dancing Spider Orchid	E	<i>Corybas acuminatus</i>					1	10+
6	Greenhood Orchid	E	<i>Pterostylis auriculata</i>					1	20+
7	Bamboo Orchid	E	<i>Earina mucronata</i>					1	1

* Appendix

Great Spotted Kiwi – this is the only species on our list that was heard only.

Plumed Whistling Duck – a vagrant from Australia there have been just 7 or more records of small flocks since 2000 with a group of 3 in Anderson Park, Napier since 2017. We found just 1 bird here.

Australian Shelduck – also known as Chestnut-breasted Shelduck it is a regular vagrant with records most years of individual birds and occasionally up to 3. We found 2 at Tip Lagoon, Invercargill.

Pacific Black Duck – very few pure ducks as many are now hybrids with Mallard. We only found 4.

Northern Shoveler – a long distant migrant of the northern hemisphere. There have been between 10-14 records for New Zealand with most of these being single males. We had a single male at Lake Elterwater.

Great Crested Grebe – the subspecies *australis* is sometimes called Australasian Crested Grebe.

Hoary-headed Grebe – a vagrant from Australia it has been regularly recorded since 1975 and several birds have been seen at Lake Elterwater since 2014. We had 2 birds here.

Australasian Grebe – since its first breeding record in 1977 it has established a small breeding population. We were the second people to visit a newly dug pond called Vinegar Pond, Kama where we saw up to 8 birds.

Blue Penguin – there are 5 subspecies of Blue Penguin found on New Zealand and we managed to see 4 of these.

Antipodean Albatross – is one of 4 races of Wandering Albatross that has now been split. Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*), Amsterdam Albatross (*D. amsterdamensis*), Tristan Albatross (*D. dabbenena*) and Antipodean Albatross which has 2 subspecies (*D. antipodensis* & *D. gibsoni*). Quite a complex taxa it is believed that all the ones we saw were of the subspecies (*D. gibsoni*) sometimes referred to as Gibson's Albatross. These birds are generally smaller than other races and often show a dark cap on the head and darker plumage.

Shy Albatross – the subspecies *cauta* is often referred to as White-capped Albatross and this was far the commonest albatross we saw.

Cape Petrel – these used to be referred to as Cape Pigeon but have no relation to pigeons at all.

Black Petrel – this endangered species only breeds on Little Barrier Island and used to be called Parkinson's Petrel but ioc agreed to the change of English name to Black Petrel. We only saw 1 bird.

New Zealand Storm Petrel – this species was thought to be extinct until its re-discovery in 2003. In 2013 the breeding site on Little Barrier Island was discovered. We were very excited to see 3 birds very well.

Little Pied Cormorant – also referred to as Little Pied Shag.

Australian Pied Cormorant – also known as Pied Cormorant or Pied Shag.

Little Black Cormorant – also known as Little Black Shag.

New Zealand King Shag – was once referred to as Rough-faced Shag.

Otago Shag – formerly known as Stewart Island Shag.

Foveaux Shag – split from Otago Shag and only found between Otago and Stewart Island.

Eastern Cattle Egret – first recorded in New Zealand in 1963 it is now an annual migrant from Australia. We found one bird in full breeding plumage.

Glossy Ibis – a frequent vagrant to New Zealand with over 50 records it occurs in small numbers most years.

Swamp Harrier – also known as Australasian Harrier.

Buff-banded Rail – sometimes referred to as Banded Rail.

Australasian Swamphen – is split from Western [Purple] Swamphen and is known locally in New Zealand as Pukeko.

Broad-billed Sandpiper – a vagrant with just over 20 records with most from Miranda where we saw one.

Little Stint – there are three accepted records of Little Stint in New Zealand, all from Lake Ellesmere: November 1992 - April 1993, January-April 1995, and March 2010. We were privileged to see a breeding plumage adult on Lake Ellesmere on 25th Nov. It was a New Zealand tick for our guide Matt.

Whimbrel – small numbers arrive as uncommon migrants each year. We saw 2 at Miranda.

Far Eastern Curlew – a rare vagrant with fewer than 10 occurring annually, probably from Australia. WE had nice views of 3 birds at Miranda.

Black Stilt – one of the rarest shorebirds in the world with around 100 wild birds. We had superb views of around 8 birds up close and some others further away. A real highlight of our tour.

New Zealand Plover – also known as New Zealand Dotterel.

Greater Sand Plover – a rare vagrant with one or two recorded in New Zealand most summers. In non-breeding plumage it can be a difficult bird to identify and we were lucky to twitch one at Ashley Estuary.

Fairy Tern – this dainty bird is New Zealand's most endangered endemic. The Fairy Tern has 3 subspecies with 2 of these (*nereis* & *exsul*) found in Australia and New Caledonia. The third subspecies *davisae* is only found in New Zealand and thus endemic with a population of fewer than 20 birds. We had great looks at a pair of birds on two different days.

Malherbe's Parakeet – also known as Orange-fronted Parakeet, is a very difficult bird to observe due to its quiet and secretive nature. Critically endangered it is confined to just a few patches of Beech Forest including 4 small islands where birds have been translocated. Fewer than 100 mature parakeets survive on the mainland, and perhaps 200-300 on islands following translocations. We had super views of 4 birds on Blumine Island in the Marlborough Sound.

South Island Saddleback – famous for being the first bird saved from extinction in 1964, when 36 birds were translocated to predator free island such as Ulva on Stewart Island. There are now some 2,000 birds in the wild on predator free islands. We enjoyed good views of several birds on Ulva Island.

Pipipi – also called Brown Creeper which is a bit misleading as we all know creepers to be a very different family. The Pipipi is in the family Mohoua which has three species including Whitehead and Yellowhead.

Please note the names above follow the IOC v9.2.

New Zealand Fur Seal



Gray's Dragonfly



Dancing Spider Orchid

