



There must be a Wrybill in there somewhere! A huge flock of shorebirds takes flight at Miranda, one of NZ's premier shorebird sites. (Photo by guide George Armistead)

Kia Ora, one and all! Our New Zealand 2011 adventure went off without a hitch. We arrived in Auckland fresh on the heels of the All Blacks victory in the Rugby World Cup, and found the kiwis in high spirits. This in spite of some anxiety over an upcoming national election, and an oil spill that had spoiled the shores of the Bay of Plenty. Combine these events with the recent earthquakes that had rocked Christchurch violently, and it indeed seemed a momentous time for those in New Zealand; residents and visitors alike. Perhaps blissfully oblivious to it all, the birds, thankfully, cooperated marvelously. New Zealand lived up to its reputation as a place harboring incredible, breath-taking scenery, and we enjoyed beautiful backdrops while soaking up sightings of unique strange landbirds, some of the world's rarest shorebirds, and of course a boatload of seabirds.

Around Auckland, after tallying our first New Zealand Dotterels and Fernbirds, we went a-sea to visit the incomparable island of Tiritiri Matangi. We had many targets on this unique reserve, and were thankful to connect with nearly all of them. Nothing could top "Greg" the Takahe, but seeing some baby Blue (Little) Penguins in a nest and tallying a fantastic pair of Kokako, while being overrun with Tuis, Bellbirds, Stitchbirds and Saddlebacks was simply exhilarating. The density of native birds at this site was even more inspiring considering the short history of this important reserve.

South of Auckland we made a stop at the famed shorebird/wader wintering area of Miranda. It came through both with serious numbers of shorebirds, and also some nice diversity. In addition to such scarce shorebirds as Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Siberian Whimbrel, and Marsh Sandpiper, we also enjoyed seeing our first Black-billed Gulls, and a couple of Gull-billed Terns. But, our most satisfying birds there were the expected ones, as we took in thousands of Bar-tailed Godwits and Red Knots, and most treasured of all, a couple dozen Wrybills. We entered a gorgeous patch of native forest at Puerora finding

our first Rifleman, Long-tailed Cuckoos, more Whiteheads, a New Zealand Falcon, and our first Kaka. After a shockingly cooperative Blue Duck, we were on to Wellington, but just before arriving there we were to receive our best surprise bird of the trip in a Shore Plover!!! A huge bonus bird thanks to some local intel.

We arrived in style on the South Island, greeted at Taiaroa Head by soaring and nesting Northern Royal Albatrosses, amid a raucous colony of Red-billed Gulls, with Royal Spoonbills and Stewart Island Shags hustling around, over the lounging New Zealand Fur Seals. That afternoon we enjoyed views of one the world's rarest penguins in the Yellow-eyed at Penguin Place. From Dunedin, we made our way north, where we kept an appointment with a single Black Stilt en route to Christchurch. The damage from the earthquakes in Christchurch was sobering indeed. Andrew took us through several ravaged neighborhoods of his home town, and provided a narrative of the events that left us all with an improved perspective, and also hopeful for the folks in Christchurch. In Kaikoura it was all about the sea. The sub-surface structure of canyons there makes for some great sealife activity just offshore. A half-day pelagic yielded a bounty of seabirds, many of which were just beyond arm's reach, and species included the endemic Hutton's Shearwater, White-chinned and Westland petrels, Gray-faced (Great-winged ssp. *gouldii*) Petrel, and plenty of Salvin's Albatrosses. The Sperm Whales and Hector's Dolphins added a nice element as well.

Next we moved west towards Fiordland, with some of us snagging sightings of Okarito Brown Kiwi en route. After an afternoon where we found ourselves up Ship Creek, we ascended to Haast Pass. Here we found our first Yellowhead in the gorgeous vast Nothofagus beech forest. Outside of Queenstown we were to find yet more Yellowheads, and our first Australasian Pipits, and added nice views of Black-fronted Terns and Double-banded Plovers. We headed for Milford Sound, a place so magically scenic that Rudyard Kipling dubbed it the eighth wonder of the world. During the drive, the weather held for us and we managed good views of the unpredictable South Island (Rock) Wren, while the Keas put on a show worthy of an Oscar. We spent the night on the Sound, finding about ten Fiordland Penguins, and admiring some simply stunning scenery. We finished our trip on fantastic and charming Stewart Island. Almost everyone we met there seemed a character out of a movie or a novel, and the gaggle of high-wheel bicyclists certainly added to this feeling. Stewart Island was a great place to finish up, and seeing a couple of spectacular Stewart Island Brown Kiwis ("Wekas with walking sticks") made it all the sweeter.

All in all it was a pretty good haul. Kapai! (Not cow pie). We feasted and shopped the whole way through; many of us have our holiday shopping completely secured. Andrew and I want to thank you all for not only making this trip possible, but also for your collegiality, your good cheer, and for your patience (especially when it came to sorting out the various bird names!).

Thanks again, and we hope to see you in the field again soon.

--George

We have more information about this itinerary and future departures on our web page for [New Zealand](#).

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Apterygidae (Kiwis)

SOUTHERN BROWN KIWI (*Apteryx australis lawryi*) – The favorite bird of the trip was of course this kiwi. To have two birds nearly at our feet gulping down sandhoppers was delicious for all involved. Seeing any kiwi is of course far from a certain thing, so to have these birds perform in such a cooperative manner was truly exhilarating. [E]

OKARITO BROWN KIWI (*Apteryx rowi*) – A lucky few managed views of this secretive bird during our evening prowls around Okarito. [E]

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*) [I]

CAPE BARREN GOOSE (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*) – Mostly a bird of southeast Australia, some in New Zealand were established by human introductions. Yet, others appear to have been established as natural wanderers. Which are which is

not always clear. We enjoyed seeing several around St. Ann's Lagoon. [I]

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*) – Long believed a resident due only to their introduction by man, fossil remains have been found on the island that pre-date Europeans, indicating that at one time they were a native species. Seen nearly daily.

PARADISE SHELDUCK (*Tadorna variegata*) – A common endemic seen nearly daily. They even breed in downtown Christchurch. [E]

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*) – Yes! Luck is a big factor with this species, and it can be one of the tougher endemics to locate. There are only about 2000-4000 estimated remaining in the wild. Happily for us we found one at close range after only about 10 mins of searching! The species is featured on the \$10 bill.

[E]

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*) [I]

PACIFIC BLACK DUCK (*Anas superciliosa*) – Most dabblers we saw were mongrels between this species and the previous but we saw what appeared to be some genuine *superciliosa* on the North Island.

AUSTRALIAN SHOVELER (*Anas rhynchos*)

GRAY TEAL (*Anas gracilis*) – I don't believe research supports this, but a pet theory of mine is that this species is related to (and certainly is similar in appearance to) South America's Crested Duck. We saw Grey Teal on 5/15 days.

BROWN TEAL (*Anas chlorotis*) – A lone bird at Tiritiri Mantengi. One of the rarest ducks in the world. [E]

NEW ZEALAND SCAUP (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*) – Seen 9/16 days afield. [E]

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

CALIFORNIA QUAIL (*Callipepla californica*) [I]

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

BROWN QUAIL (*Coturnix ypsilophora*) – Seen well on Tiri. [I]

RING-NECKED PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*) [I]

WILD TURKEY (*Meleagris gallopavo*) [I]

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

NEW ZEALAND GREBE (*Poliiocephalus rufopectus*) – Seen only at Tokaanu, but several were seen wonderfully there, at close range, including several youngsters. Extinct on the South Island near 2000 remain on the North Island. [E]

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*) – Handsome, elegant birds, and the ones in New Zealand retain their crests and a breeding-type plumage all year long.

Spheniscidae (Penguins)

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*) – With just 4000 or so total, this is one of the world's rarest penguin species. We saw them very well on the Otago Peninsula. [E]

LITTLE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*) – A couple of nestlings in a nestbox provided us our first views, and then the adults seen swimming around Stewart Island were a treat as well. Few birds rank as cuter than this one.

FIORDLAND PENGUIN (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*) – Splendid experiences this year with this species. A zodiac cruise around the Milford Sound netted us at least 10 birds, several seen stunningly. [E]

Diomedidae (Albatrosses)

BULLER'S ALBATROSS (*Thalassarche bulleri*) – One of the more handsome albatrosses around, and we had them at point blank range, right off the stern of our boat off of Stewart Island.

WHITE-CAPPED ALBATROSS (*Thalassarche cauta cauta*) – Two of the four albatross groups were on display on this trip. Those in the genus *Thalassarche* are called Mollymawks. Though less showy than some of the other mollymawks, but still quite dapper, this was the most common albatross off of Stewart Island.



Other than a few colonies in the Bass Strait islands, the elegant White-fronted Tern is a NZ breeding endemic. (Photo by guide George Armistead)

SALVIN'S ALBATROSS (*Thalassarche salvini*) – Good numbers off of Kaikoura. This and White-capped, along with Chatham Albatross were formerly lumped under the name Shy Albatross. [E]

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS (CAMPBELL) (*Thalassarche melanophris impavida*) – From Taiaroa Head a couple of very distant birds were likely this endemic form of Black-browed Albatross. [E]

ROYAL ALBATROSS (SOUTHERN) (*Diomedea epomophora epomophora*) – The genus *Diomedea* comprises the "Great albatrosses", and they exhibit the largest wingspan of any birds living today. This species was seen well from our boat trips, and nice comparisons were enjoyed with the other great albatrosses.

ROYAL ALBATROSS (NORTHERN) (*Diomedea epomophora sanfordi*) – Seen well especially at Taiaroa Head, where nests were being prospected. [E]

WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*) – We saw a number of the gibsoni subspecies well while offshore of Kaikoura. These birds breeds mostly in Aucklands Islands.

Procellariidae (Shearwaters and Petrels)

SOUTHERN GIANT-PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*)

NORTHERN GIANT-PETREL (*Macronectes halli*)

CAPE PETREL (*Daption capense*) – A.k.a Pintado Petrel, Cape Pigeon, whatever you call them, they are among the most dapper of the tubenoses. We saw plenty and all were of the endemic form australe.

GREAT-WINGED PETREL (GOULDI) (*Pterodroma macroptera gouldi*) – Several seen fairly well from our whale-watching excursion. [E]

FAIRY PRION (*Pachyptila turtur*) – Just a handful were enjoyed from the Stewart Island ferry.

WHITE-CHINNED PETREL (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) – Good studies of this species from Kaikoura and off Stewart Island.

WESTLAND PETREL (*Procellaria westlandica*) – Great views off Kaikoura, along side the previous species, offering nice comparisons. One bird seen off of Stewart Island was unusual as well. We had hoped it might even be a Parkinson's (Black) Petrel, but judging from the proportions of the head, bill, and wings (nicely visible in Linda's photos) the bird was indeed a Westland. [E]

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*) – On the ferry to Tiri a number were visible in the distance.

BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus bulleri*) – Just one was seen briefly off of Kaikoura. [E]

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*) – Big numbers, offshore Stewart Island especially. One of the most abundant seabirds in the world. Over 20 million breed in New Zealand, with over a 1/4 of those breeding at the Snares Island.

HUTTON'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus huttoni*) – A happily abundant endemic that is sort of omnipresent at the coast around Kaikoura. [E]

LITTLE SHEARWATER (SUBANTARCTIC) (*Puffinus assimilis elegans*) – One bird was observed by Mark and George from the Stewart Island Ferry.

Hydrobatidae (Storm-Petrels)

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (*Oceanites oceanicus*) – A couple off of Stewart Island were unusual.

Pelecanoididae (Diving-Petrels)

COMMON DIVING-PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*) – Quite common off Stewart Island. Despite their similarity to alcid, the diving-petrels are actually in a family of their own, and in the tubenose order, Procellariiformes.

Sulidae (Boobies and Gannets)

AUSTRALASIAN GANNET (*Morus serrator*)

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) – Just a couple seen. There were some at Tokaanu, and a vagrant pair on Stewart Island on the beach at Oban, that have apparently been there for several years now.

GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – Common.



Brown Quail are introduced from Australia, and now occupy the niche left vacant by the extinct New Zealand Quail. (Photo by guide George Armistead)

PIED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax varius*) – Seen 11/16 days.

ROUGH-FACED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carunculatus*) – A.k.a. King Shag, New Zealand King Shag, this bird was a newly arrived vagrant in Kaikoura that we were fortunate to see.

BRONZE SHAG (*Phalacrocorax chalconotus*) – Most everyone else calls this species Stewart Island Shag, but it is found on either side of the Foveaux Strait. The total population is near 4000, and we saw many around the south end of the South Island. [E]

SPOTTED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax punctatus*) – A handsomely-marked, slender shag with peculiar rich green facial skin. We saw them well on the South Island and off Stewart Island. Nominant birds were well observed on the South Island and Andrew pointed out the "Blue" Shag form, *S. p. steadi*, on Stewart Island. [E]

LITTLE PIED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*) – Nearly daily.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

AUSTRALASIAN BITTERN (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) [*]

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Egretta novaehollandiae*) – Nearly daily.

PACIFIC REEF-HERON (*Egretta sacra*) – As is often the case, just a few were seen. Our first was at the ferry terminal for the ferry to Stewart Island.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*) – One group of 8 were our only ones.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

ROYAL SPOONBILL (*Platalea regia*) – Seen 4 days, and all were on the North Island, except for the ones we saw around the cliffs at Taiaroa Head.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

SWAMP HARRIER (*Circus approximans*) – Remarkably abundant. They have been incredibly successful in New Zealand.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

NEW ZEALAND FALCON (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) – Always a tough bird, but most folks managed at least a fleeting view of this elusive species. We saw them on three different days. [E]

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*) – It's not everyday you get to see a flightless rail, and indeed this was only the 2nd for many of us. There are only about 20 flightless rails left in the world (formerly there were over 50 species), and nearly all evolved on remote predator-free islands. Our first came a few days before at Tiri. [E]

BUFF-BANDED RAIL (*Gallirallus philippensis*) – A couple seen rather fleetingly around Omaha Beach.

SPOTLESS CRAKE (*Porzana tabuensis*) – One seen briefly on Tiri.

PURPLE SWAMPHEN (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) – The Pukeko is common species in New Zealand. They are sort of fantastically awkward and ungraceful, which sort of lends them a certain charm.

TAKAHE (*Porphyrio mantelli*) – Yes! It was great to see this species as well as we did at Tiri. One of the great stories of rediscovery in New Zealand, and the world's largest rail. Old Greg had seen better days. [E]

EURASIAN COOT (*Fulica atra*)

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

MASKED LAPWING (*Vanellus miles novaehollandiae*) – Abundant.

PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis fulva*)

RED-BREASTED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius obscurus*) – A.k.a. New Zealand Dotterel, this was one of the first endemics that we found, just outside of Auckland. [E]

DOUBLE-BANDED PLOVER (*Charadrius bicinctus*) – Nice views along a couple shingle creeks. [E]

SHORE PLOVER (*Thinornis novaeseelandiae*) – Our biggest bonus bird of the trip was seeing one of these birds north of



New Zealand's only native pigeon, the handsome New Zealand Pigeon is common throughout the country. (Photo by guide George Armistead)

Wellington. We got a tip that a few of them had been frequenting a patch of coast, and went to the spot and located one before even setting foot outside the bus! A handsome, unique shorebird and one of the world's rarest species as well, with only about 200 individuals remaining.

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL (*Elseornis melanops*) – Another dapper little shorebird, we saw them well on the North Island.

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*) – Of course a major target for us all, it was great to get good studies of this unique bird on a couple occasions. [E]

Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)

SOUTH ISLAND OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus finschi*) [E]

VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus unicolor*) [E]

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

PIED STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus*)

BLACK STILT (*Himantopus novaezelandiae*) – By the skin of our teeth! George spotted one in a tarn, but just as it was spotted it flew up and out of sight. We were persistent, but eventually loaded up to leave, only to have Doug relocate it. Then the snow rolled in, and it was suddenly near-blizzard conditions. All in all we felt pretty lucky to see this bird, which is one of the rarest birds in the world. They were down to just 23 adults in 1981, and today near 100 birds. [E]

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

MARSH SANDPIPER (*Tringa stagnatilis*) – One at Miranda was a nice surprise.

WHIMBREL (SIBERIAN) (*Numenius phaeopus variegatus*) – One at Miranda was a nice surprise.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*) – The Kuaka is one of the most storied species in New Zealand. The birds that "winter" here breed in Alaska, performing the longest known non-stop migration of any bird in the world. An old legend has this species guiding the Polynesians to the discovery of these islands; though today most believe it was the huge lines of Sooty Shearwaters that led them to the New Zealand shores.

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

GREAT KNOT (*Calidris tenuirostris*) – A rare vagrant to New Zealand, we were lucky to see a nice adult still in breeding plumage.

RED KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*) – At least three were among the many shorebirds at Miranda.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*Chroicocephalus bulleri*) – A handsome endemic species, we found our first at Miranda, and then saw them at a number of inland sites. [E]

RED-BILLED GULL (*Chroicocephalus scopulinus*) – Nearly daily. [E]

KELP GULL (*Larus dominicanus*) – A.k.a. Southern Black-backed Gull, Dominican Gull, though certainly the name Kelp Gull is most efficient. Daily.

GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – Two at Miranda were unusual.

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias albobristatus*) – One of only 4 species of marsh tern in the genus, and like the others it is a decidedly attractive bird. The carrot-colored bill gives it an unusual appearance. Seen 6/16 days. [E]

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*) – A close relative of the Roseate Tern and the Black-naped Tern, this species is similar to those in structure, seeming elongate, with a long bill and tail. Seen 10/16 days.



Known locally as the Parsonbird, for its white collar, the unique Tui is one of the most numerous of NZ's remaining native Passerines. (Photo by guide George Armistead)

Stercorariidae (Skuas and Jaegers)

BROWN SKUA (SUBANTARCTIC) (*Stercorarius antarcticus lonnbergi*) – A couple off Stewart Island.

PARASITIC JAEGER (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) – Chris, Tim and George saw one on the return trip from Stewart Island.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [I]

AFRICAN COLLARED-DOVE (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*) – A couple of introduced doves seen in the Auckland area were Ring-necked Turtle-Dove/Barbary Dove types. The taxonomy of such birds (commonly introduced in many areas around the world) are debated. Formerly they were given the scientific name *S. risoria*, but today most authorities treat them as a domesticated form of African Collared-Dove. [I]

SPOTTED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis*) [I]

NEW ZEALAND PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) – Massive, impressive and beautiful things, we saw them 10/16 days. [E]

Strigopidae (New Zealand Parrots)

KEA (*Nestor notabilis*) – Yes! How could you not be charmed by these things. Naomi especially got to know them well and had them literally at her feet. It is the world's only alpine parrot species. Though endangered, even today the species faces occasional pressure from people that shoot them, believing them still a threat to their sheep. [E]

NEW ZEALAND KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis*) – Another impressive New Zealand parrot that shares the endemic family Strigopidae with the Kea, and the Kakapo. [E]

Psittacidae (Parrots)

RED-FRONTED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*) – Seen 4/16 days. [E]

YELLOW-FRONTED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus auriceps*) – Small and sleek compared to the previous species, we detected them 5/16 days. [E]

EASTERN ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*) – Seen three days in a row in the Auckland area. [I]

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

SHINING BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*) – This one took us a while. We saw a couple fleetingly, then finally on Stewart Island, on our final morning there, we had one beautifully. It sat and sang right in front of us for prolonged viewing.

LONG-TAILED KOEL (*Eudynamys taitensis*) – A.k.a. Long-tailed Cuckoo. We heard many and saw only 1-2 fleetingly. A tough bird to see well, but Linda managed to spot one perched, while the rest of us had to settle for in-flight views. [E]

Strigidae (Owls)

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*) – One seen briefly road-side. [I]

SOUTHERN BOOBOOK (MOREPORK) (*Ninox novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*) – Great views near Waitomo Caves, after a memorable parade of some 20 cars rolled into the parking lot behind us. That was the moment we realized Halloween was celebrated in New Zealand. [E]

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

SACRED KINGFISHER (*Todiramphus sanctus*) – Seen 9/16.

Acanthisittidae (New Zealand Wrens)

RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*) – A charming endemic in an endemic family. Seen well on several occasions. 5/16 days. [E]

SOUTH ISLAND WREN (*Xenicus gilviventris*) – This is one we always sweat. Weather is a big factor in one's chances of seeing this species, and lucky for us the sun smiled, and we managed good views. [E]

Meliphagidae (Honeyeaters)



Like many of the country's native landbirds, the Saddleback has declined greatly due to the introduction of a variety of non-native predators, and now exists solely on predator-free island reserves. (Photo by guide George Armistead)

TUI (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*) – Abundant, charming, superb vocalists, and one of the most famous birds in New Zealand. Seen 11/16 days. [E]

NEW ZEALAND BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*) – Common endemic. Named for Captain Cook's description of their song. [E]

Acanthizidae (Thornbills and Allies)

GRAY GERYGONE (*Gerygone igata*) – Not the snazziest endemic, but a charming little bird with sort of a wistful little song. [E]

Callaeidae (Wattlebirds)

KOKAKO (*Callaeas cinereus*) – Yes! This is a bird that can be quite tough to see, but thankfully we had a pair on Tiri that cooperated pretty well for us. [E]

SADDLEBACK (NORTH ISLAND) (*Philesturnus carunculatus rufusater*) – Seen well on Tiri. [E]

SADDLEBACK (SOUTH ISLAND) (*Philesturnus carunculatus carunculatus*) – Seen well on Ulva Island. Along with Kokako and the extinct Huia, these birds comprise the endemic family of wattlebirds (*Callaeidae*). [E]

Notiomystidae (Stitchbird)

STITCHBIRD (*Notiomystis cincta*) – Recently elevated to a monotypic family, we were happy to see this endemic well while on Tiri. [E]

Cracticidae (Bellmagpies and Allies)

AUSTRALASIAN MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) – Seen 12/16. [I]

Pachycephalidae (Whistlers and Allies)

WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua albicilla*) – Several seen well on Tiri and at Puerora. [E]

YELLOWHEAD (*Mohoua ochrocephala*) – The rarest of the three Mohoua, and this genus name comes from the Maori word for this particular species. The Mohoua are considered a subfamily of the Whistlers and allies, but some might separate them into their own (endemic) family. We saw them well on two days. [E]

PIPIPI (*Mohoua novaeseelandiae*) – This one took us a surprisingly long time, but our patience and persistence were rewarded with great views eventually. We all agreed that Brown Creeper does not seem a good name for this bird. [E]

Rhipiduridae (Fantails)

NEW ZEALAND FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*) – Seen 10/16 days. [E]

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*) – Linda and Mark spotted a flock of nearly 80. [I]

Petroicidae (Australasian Robins)

TOMTIT (*Petroica macrocephala*) – On the North Island we saw them only at Pureora. On the South Island we saw them commonly. [E]

NEW ZEALAND ROBIN (*Petroica australis*) – Another bird that registered several votes for favorite of the trip, they were about as confiding as they could be. We saw both North Island and South Island forms. [E]

Alaudidae (Larks)

SKY LARK (*Alauda arvensis*) [I]

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

WELCOME SWALLOW (*Hirundo neoxena*) – Nearly daily.

Megaluridae (Grassbirds and Allies)

FERNBIRD (*Megalurus punctatus vealeae*) – We heard them on the South Island, and them well on the North Island. [E]

FERNBIRD (*Megalurus punctatus punctatus*) [E*]

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

EURASIAN BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*) [I]

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*) [I]

Zosteropidae (White-eyes)

SILVER-EYE (*Zosterops lateralis*) – Seen 13/16 days.

Sturnidae (Starlings)

COMMON MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*) – Around Auckland. Seen 5 days. [I]

EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*) – Daily. [I]

Prunellidae (Accentors)

DUNNOCK (*Prunella modularis*) – 7/16 days. [I]

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

AUSTRALASIAN PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) – A tough one if the weather is not on your side, we were pleased to find a pair near Routeburn. [E]

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*) [I]

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

COMMON CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*) [I]

EUROPEAN GREENFINCH (*Chloris chloris*) [I]

COMMON REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*) [I]

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*) [I]

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) [I]

MAMMALS

OLD WORLD RABBIT (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) [I]

CAPE HARE (*Lepus capensis*) [I]

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN (*Tursiops truncatus*)

SHORT-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN (*Delphinus delphis*)

DUSKY DOLPHIN (*Lagenorhynchus obscurus*)

HECTOR'S DOLPHIN (*Cephalorhynchus hectori*) – One of only four species in this genus, all of which are from the Southern hemisphere, and are relatively small. Less than a meter and half long this species is one of the smallest cetaceans in the world, and is endemic to New Zealand.

SPERM WHALE (*Physeter catodon*) – Awesome studies of at least 4 off Kaikoura.

NEW ZEALAND FUR SEAL (*Arctocephalus forsteri*)

SOUTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL (*Mirounga leonina*) – One seen distantly.

ELK (*Cervus canadensis*) [I]

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 140 bird taxa and 10 mammal taxa