

New Zealand's Natural History

Naturetrek Tour Report

1 – 22 November 2015



Australian Gannet by Ann Pardy



New Zealand Dotterel by Nigel Carter



New Zealand Robin by Nigel Carter



Wandering Albatross by Ann Pardy

Report compiled by Geoff Henderson
Images courtesy of Ann Pardy & Nigel Carter



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Participants: Geoff Henderson and Graham Parker (leaders) with a group of ten Naturetrek clients

Day 1/2

Sunday 1st/Monday 2nd November

The tour started with flights from the UK to Auckland via Dubai

Day 3

Tuesday 3rd November

Arrival in Auckland

At 2pm our flight landed at Auckland airport where group members met the guides, Geoff and Graham. We then proceeded to The Grand Chancellor hotel in central Auckland and met the remainder of the group, who had arrived the previous day. We were all a little weary from travel. Dinner was enjoyed at the Y Not restaurant on Auckland's waterfront before we retired for a good night's rest.

Day 4

Wednesday 4th November

Cascades Kauri Park and Muriwai Gannet colony

We awoke to heavy rain and strong south-westerlies. Unfortunately the dock at Tiritiri Matangi Island (Tiri) is very exposed to the south-west and the ferry to Tiri was cancelled. We therefore had to change our plans and visited two sites west of Auckland that, due to the late flight arrival yesterday, we hadn't been able to visit: Cascades Kauri Park in Auckland's Waitakare Ranges and Muriwai Beach just north of the Waitakares.

En route to the Cascades Park blue sky broke through the clouds and the rain stopped. This allowed a rain-free walk through the Kauri grove investigating the flora and fauna characteristic of this type of forest. A range of forest bird species were observed, notably Tui busily feeding on Rewarewa flowers.

From the Cascades we proceeded to a coffee stop in Kumeu, and then to the wild west coast beach of Muriwai. The south-west wind had not abated so it was brisk once we emerged from the bus. We were there to see Gannets and the winds helped make the visit very enjoyable as birds hung in mid-air above the busy colony. Most of the Gannets appeared to be incubating, although some were still collecting nest material. White-fronted Terns were roosting above the colony and produced a spectacle when something gave the birds a fright and all took to the wing for a few minutes.

After Muriwai we proceeded to Orewa Beach to the north-east of Auckland and checked into our accommodation. Dinner was enjoyed at Orewa Surf Life-saving Club.

Day 5

Thursday 5th November

Tiritiri Matangi Island

After the previous day's south-westerly, and morning and evening showers, we woke to clear skies and a slightly crisp wind from the south. The wind and swell had dropped sufficiently for a water taxi to transport us to Tiritiri Matangi for the day. It was a little lumpy for the 20 minute water taxi trip to Tiri but we all fared well and arrived at the island at 9.15am in beautiful sunshine. After a brief introduction from the resident Department of

Conservation ranger, we walked up the wattle track and were quickly rewarded with good sightings of rare forest bird species such as North Island Saddleback and Stitchbird (Hihi). Whitehead proved a little elusive but eventually all members of the group managed to observe one of the few birds that was not foraging at the top of the forest canopy. We were also rewarded with very good sightings of North Island Kokako as a pair moved along the forest floor and into the surrounding trees. The confiding and curious North Island Robin cooperated with photographers, although the light in the forest was a little dull in many places.

Lunch was enjoyed at the visitor centre in bright sunny conditions. After lunch we proceeded to a small dam and were rewarded with sightings of Brown Teal and, for some of us, North Island Fernbird.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent walking through the Kawau Bush track. This area has seating in a number of places which allowed the group to sit, listen and observe the forest life as though we weren't there. A walk along the beach towards the dock finished the day and along the way we saw a pair of both New Zealand Dotterel and Variable Oystercatcher, both species appearing to have nests. The return water taxi ride was considerably smoother.

After returning to The Grand Chancellor, dinner was enjoyed at Y Not restaurant again.

Day 6

Friday 6th November

Miranda Shorebirds - Waimangu Valley - Taupo

The tour headed south for the first time, towards Miranda on the Firth of Thames. The drive took us down Auckland's (and New Zealand's) busiest motorway. A few birds were spotted from the bus once we left the main highway. First we headed to Miranda Shorebird Centre to get some local insight into bird species using this important tidal flat feeding area. The tide was low so birds were spread over some 8,000 hectares of sand flat. Spotting scopes were set up but the beautiful sunny morning caused intense heat shimmer and thus did not enable all sightings to be accurately identified. A few sightings were made, the sun was enjoyed, and then we headed down the highway towards Lake Rotorua.

After a brief stop in Tirau to see the corrugated iron sheep dog and sheep, we proceeded to Rotorua and a picnic lunch on the lakeside. Some good birding was had over lunch in the sun with sightings of some new waterfowl species. Rotorua is famously geo-thermally active, and a visit to the Waimangu Valley provided great sight-seeing of this phenomena, and also some enjoyable birding in the forest surrounding the hot pools, lakes and mud pools.

After a welcome ice cream in the sun we proceeded to Lake Taupo, checked into our accommodation and enjoyed dinner a short walk away. We were not late to bed as we had an early start planned for tomorrow to have a picnic breakfast at Pureora.

Day 7

Saturday 7th November

Taupo - Pureora and Tongariro National Parks

With just the first hint of daylight, we departed Taupo at 5.30am and headed to Pureora National Park for breakfast. The beautiful clear night made for a chilly morning, especially once we gained a little altitude at our destination. Our breakfast was complimented by excellent sightings of a Long-tailed Cuckoo. A range of other species were recorded, notably noisy Kaka, the native bush parrot.

We then travelled a short distance to walk amongst old-growth podocarp-broadleaf forest on the Totara Walk. The birding was excellent here for forest bird species, although the tall forest meant we had to work for our observations.

From here we travelled 30 kilometres to the Rimu Walk, followed by lunch on the edge of the forest. After lunch we went to Taupo with a stop on the western side of the lake to locate Fernbird, and we enjoyed good sightings of a pair.

The day was finished wonderfully with a visit to the Whakapapa River where we hoped to find Blue Duck (Whio). A single bird was quickly found, followed by a pair further down stream. We watched the single bird for some time, also enjoying the afternoon sun, and were rewarded as the bird moved from its position on a rock and showed it's white-water capabilities as a gentle rapid was negotiated.

We checked into the Chateau Hotel and enjoyed dinner before retiring.

Day 8

Sunday 8th November

Tongariro National Park

We awoke to our fourth day in a row of beautiful sunny weather, this time also rewarded with the volcanic mountain scenery of Tongariro National Park. The morning was spent walking the Taranaki Falls walk, taking in the mountain scenery and the unique flora of the region. A number of bird species were recorded on the walk and around the accomodation.

After lunch a bus trip was taken up Mount Ruapehu to take in the views and upper alpine vegetation. A trip to the Whakapapanui River allowed good sightings of another pair of Blue Duck and observations of the mountain Cordyline tree.

Dinner was again enjoyed at the Chateau Hotel.

Day 9

Monday 9th November

Tongariro to Wellington and ferry to the South Island

We awoke to scattered cloud, but still impressive views of the surrounding volcanism. The focus of the day was to arrive in Wellington for a mid-afternoon ferry crossing to the South Island. Apart from light drizzle as we left Tongariro National Park, the weather cooperated as we headed south.

A brief stop in Ohakune secured provisions for a lunch. Kowhai trees were flowering beautifully throughout the central North Island countryside. With just a half-hour for lunch at Foxton River, a few interesting bird sightings were made, but the tide was high so most birds were too distant on sandbanks.

Arriving at the ferry terminal with time to spare, we perused Wellington Harbour and stretched our legs. A stiff, cool breeze raised hopes of good seabird sightings, but unfortunately few seabirds were seen in the Cook Strait during a calm sailing. A Northern Giant Petrel (confirmed from Nigel's photograph) was the best seabird observation.

Dinner was enjoyed at the our accomodation, the Picton Beachcomber Motel

Day 10

Tuesday 10th November

Marlborough Sounds boat trip, Blumine Island and Kaikoura coast

A beautiful, warm and sunny morning made for a wonderful boat trip on the Marlborough Sounds. Departing Picton just after 9am, we were quickly provided with very good King Shag viewings at a rocky roost site. The light was excellent for viewing and photograhing these large, rare, endemic shags. Shortly after, Little Blue Penguins and Hector's Dolphins were observed. The world's smallest penguins weren't concerned with the boat drifting close so we enjoyed good views. The Hector's Dolphins repeatedly swam close to the boat and we were able to appreciate just how small these unique dolphins are. Fluttering Shearwaters were rafting throughout the calm waters of the sounds and were also easily approached for observing and photography. We enjoyed watching the shearwaters dynamic soaring flight on the wake the boat, produced as we motored towards Blumine Island.

The tour boat skipper, Paul, led the group onto the beach on Blumine Island with hopes of finding Orange-fronted Parakeets. Good sightings were made by some but the birds proved generally very elusive. Weka, a native rail, were not at all shy, investigating us as soon as we landed and providing a nice encounter. On the return journey to Picton we stopped at a small Spotted Shag colony where some birds were nesting, their mature nestlings spilling over the nest edges.

Lunch was enjoyed in Picton before heading south to Kaikoura. The vineyards surrounding Blenheim, followed by the dry rolling farmland of eastern Marlborough, provided interesting sightseeing for those interested in land use practices in this part of New Zealand. The hot day continued as we neared Kaikoura so the cooler sea breeze on the coast was welcome.

Fur Seals are abundant on the coastline and we enjoyed many sightings of the adults at stops along the coast. On a short walk at Ohau Falls we were rewarded with fantastic sightings of juvenile Fur Seals as the approximately eight month old seals played endlessly in the pool below the falls as well as in a small pool at the beginning of the track.

The beautiful evening made for a good walk to dinner, enjoyed at the Pier Restaurant.

Day 11

Wednesday 11th November

Kaikoura (bush walk and pelagic trip)

Breakfast came with the disappointing news that the weather was too rough for the seabird watching trip in Kaikoura to go ahead as scheduled. The wind and swell were forecast to decrease during the day so we were on stand-by, with all fingers crossed, for an afternoon or possibly next day seabird watching trip. We therefore spend an hour and a half exploring South Island podocarp-broadleaf forest on the Fyfe Walk. Brown Creepers were located and the group enjoyed good sightings of a small family group moving through low canopy bush beneath the podocarp-broadleaf forest. Heavy rain then moved in so we headed off to lunch.

Welcome good news was received during lunch; the seabird trip was going ahead that afternoon. We boarded the bus at Kaikoura and were driven to the south side of the Kaikoura Peninsula and boarded the boat. After a safety induction, we quickly motored past the breakwater and into a few decent sized waves that caused a little nervousness amongst the passengers. Moving into deeper water the swell was broader and the skipper headed south so that the southern mainland provided a bit of a lee shore from the waves. Some ten minutes later the first burley container of fish livers was deployed off the stern and a group of Giant and Cape Petrels quickly arrived. The next couple of hours was spent enjoying a range of greater and lesser albatrosses, petrels and one shearwater species; the south-east Australian breeding Short-tailed Shearwater. One of the group had his boyhood dream fulfilled; seeing a Wandering Albatross. The seabirds put on a great show and the southerly wind and moderate swell only enhanced the spectacle of these birds, supremely adapted to their tough southern ocean environment. A great number of photographs were taken and the trip thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We dined at Hislop's Cafe and welcome rest was had afterwards as we were all tired from the sea air.

Day 12

Thursday 12th November

Kaikoura to Porter's Pass, Arthur's Pass and Hokitika

Departing after breakfast, a few last stops were made along the Kaikoura coast before heading south-west towards Arthur's Pass and the west coast of the South Island. Our first stop after leaving the coast was at Ann's lagoon, a pleasant series of small ponds and lakes nestled amongst an arboretum. A number of waterfowl not yet encountered were observed here in the rather bracing southerly wind. With showers threatening and hail eventuating, further waterfowl were enjoyed at Amberley Estuary. Of particular delight was good observations, through spotting scopes, of New Zealand Wrybill.

Lunch was enjoyed at Waimakariri River but rain showers prevented much exploration. Sleety snow showers blew past as we crossed Porter's Pass but fortunately they abated for our stop at Moanarua Lake. Australasian Crested Grebe was observed here for the first time, and a range of other waterfowl recorded. Kea, the famous New Zealand alpine parrots, were found in Arthur's Pass town, and fortunately they didn't attempt to vandalise the bus!

Travelling down the western side of the Southern Alps the weather improved markedly; out came the sun and the weather warmed up as we descended in Podocarp-broadleaf forest, leaving behind the beech forests of the eastern side of the mountains. After checking into the hotel at Hokitika, many people enjoyed the time prior to dinner exploring the beach, adjacent to the accommodation.

Day 13

Friday 13th November

Okarito Lagoon, Fox Glacier, Rowi Kiwi walk

We were back to another beautiful sunny day after the short interlude of rainy weather. Departing Hokitika, we headed south towards Franz Josef Township. The spectacular west coast podocarp-broadleaf forests were enjoyed as we drove south, with many stops along the way to take photographs. Great Herons were observed at a river just outside Hokitika, as were a few white-bait nets. Okarito Lagoon was visited and more Great Herons sighted, but unusually few other birds were present.

Lunch with a view back towards Fox Glacier was enjoyed prior to a walk up to the glacier terminus. The mass of ice was well covered in rock and sand but still an impressive site. All enjoyed the steep walls left behind by the receding glacier as we walked back down the valley, arriving at the bus just prior to another rain shower.

Checking into our motel in Fox township, everyone freshened up before heading to an early dinner in Franz Josef at the Rainforest Restaurant.

Backtracking south to Okarito, the group were met by kiwi guide Ian who ran through the 'a to z' of how see a Kiwi. The group spent three and a half hours searching for rowi kiwi with guide Ian and many were rewarded with a sighting of this elusive bird.

Day 14

Saturday 14th November

Fox to Haast Pass, Central Otago and Mackenzie Country

Breakfast was enjoyed at Matheson Lake Cafe before heading south to Munro's Beach. In steady rain we all donned raingear for the forty minute walk through stunning West Coast podocarp-broadleaf forest to arrive at Munro's Beach. The south-westerly wind was blowing onto the beach and the rain continued, although a little lighter than when we had set out from the bus. Within a few minutes of arriving a Fiordland Crested Penguin was spotted, preening on the beach. We all enjoyed the sighting, despite the bird being between rocks some distance away. After preening for some time, the penguin headed inland to the colony. Fortunately a second bird emerged from the sea a little later and also spent some time on the beach.

After a damp walk back to the bus we drove south and then inland, up the Haast River. Not far from the Haast Pass we had lunch at a picnic shelter as the characteristic west coast rain continued to fall. Rifleman was observed in the beech forest, but the conditions weren't favourable for photography.

Travelling through to the farmed, tussock grasslands of the Lindis Pass provided a strong contrast to the wet, lush west coast forest of the last couple of days. The rain stopped as we moved away from the Southern Alps and the cloud lifted. The improved conditions allowed the group to appreciate the mountains around Lakes Wanaka and Hawea, and through the Lindis Pass to Twizel. All weary from a long day travelling and a few outings in heavy rain, we checked into our hotel in Twizel and dined in the establishment's restaurant.

Day 15

Sunday 15th November

Twizel to Mount Cook National Park and Lake Ohau

We awoke in Twizel to steady rain from the south and the associated lower temperatures. Although disappointing not to be able to enjoy the surrounding mountains, nevertheless there was some good birding to be had. After breakfast, an excursion to the canals surrounding Twizel afforded good sightings of a Black Stilt (Kaki) foraging on the edge of a pond. At the Tasman delta, Banded Dotterel and South Island Pied Oystercatcher were seen. Then it was on to Mount Cook National Park where we had lunch on the bus as the rain continued. Fortunately the rain turned to showers and we were able to enjoy the beginning of the Hooker Valley walk up to Mueller Lake. A wide variety of native plants were in flower, most notably the commonly called Mount Cook 'daisy', which is actually a buttercup. The cloud level increased a little, revealing fresh snow just a couple of hundred metres above us.

En route to our accommodation at Lake Ohau we stopped at Callum's Ponds to enjoy an array of waterfowl. A hybrid Mallard/Grey Duck had particularly striking plumage. Black-fronted Terns and Black-billed Gulls were very active over a farm field between Twizel and the turn-off to Lake Ohau. The photographers were able to get very good photographs of these species.

Immediately after dropping group members at their rooms, Graham saw a New Zealand Falcon fly over the lodge. This species can be elusive so he quickly advised everyone to keep eyes and ears alert for the falcon. The birds proved anything but shy, with many good sightings made of both members of a pair. Their behaviour suggested they were courting and not yet breeding. Again the photographers in the group were able to get some very good images. The day finished with a very good dinner enjoyed at the Ohau Lodge, followed by a drink by the fire.

Day 16

Monday 16th November

Lake Ohau to Invercargill via Lindis Pass – flight to Stewart Island

In contrast to yesterday, morning daybreak was clear and bright at Lake Ohau. We enjoyed very good views to the mountains at the head of the lake, including Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. Today we travelled from Lake Ohau to Invercargill for a late afternoon flight to Stewart Island. We passed through some beautiful countryside; over the Lindis Pass to Tarras and Alexandra, then on to Roxburgh and into southern Otago and finally Southland.

Strong winds welcomed us to Southland and made for a refreshing walk on the estuary close to the airport as we waited for our five o'clock flights. The group was divided between two planes for the twenty minute flight to Stewart Island. The small planes bumped about a little in the gusts, but looking down at the waves in Foveaux Strait made us all appreciate we were flying rather than on the ferry! Although we would have missed some seabird sightings, a boat charter scheduled for the following day would make up for that. The pilots did an excellent job landing on Stewart Island in the south-westerly squalls. Rain and wind fronts swept over the township as we enjoyed an excellent dinner at the Stewart Island Pub.

Unfortunately the inclement weather meant the evening's excursion to Ocean Beach to look for Stewart Island Brown Kiwi had to be postponed until the following day. The skipper reported fifty knot winds; certainly far

from ideal for viewing kiwi or enjoying the boat journey. South Island Kaka put on a brilliant show in the evening winds and a couple of individuals visited the motel balcony outside our rooms.

Day 17

Tuesday 17th November

Stewart Island - seabird charter and Ulva Island bush walk

Weather characteristic of the roaring forties persisted through the night, but the south-westerly wind decreased sufficiently to enable our boat trip to look for seabirds on the Stewart Island coast. Although cold and rainy squalls persisted through the morning, Phillip, the skipper of the Wildfire, found many spots in the lee of the wind where we could observe various local wildlife. We enjoyed many clear sightings of Fiordland Crested Penguins along the rocky shore. Blue Penguins were also observed but Yellow-eyed Penguin proved elusive in the water. Whilst Yellow-eyed Penguins were eventually seen in the water, the best sighting was of a bird climbing up a rocky beach. It stopped to preen at the top of the beach before entering long grass. The largest of the 'lesser' albatrosses, the White-capped Albatross, attended the vessel in good numbers. Many 'white-caps' landed within a few metres of the boat, some calling. A couple of Salvin's Albatrosses were recorded; one juvenile and an adult. The 'great' albatrosses were represented by a fleeting visit by a Northern Royal Albatross. For petrels, we observed a single Giant Petrel and many Diving Petrels, but all at a distance and too far away to enable identification to species level. A pair of Southern Skuas visited the boat the two times we passed their rocky outpost. Both birds came in close to investigate all on the back deck, affording those familiar with northern skuas good comparative observations and photographs. We also got to visit Whero Island with its Stewart Island Shag colony. The tiny island didn't provide much of a lee for the vessel to tuck into and made for challenging photographic conditions in the strong south-west wind chop.

After lunch on the vessel we went for a walk on the sanctuary island Ulva. The island is free of introduced mammalian predators so a number of species that are uncommon on the mainland are much more common here. Stewart Island Robins were at our feet time and again during our walk. Some good sightings were made of Red-crowned Parakeet (Kakariki). Rifleman proved elusive, with their particularly high-pitch call going undetected by some members in the group. Kaka were heard frequently and observed on a few occasions. Most notably, one bird was watched as it foraged on the ground. Weka bade us farewell from Sydney Cove, where we also heard our first Saddleback.

After another great dinner at the South Seas Hotel, the evening was spent successfully searching for Stewart Island Brown Kiwi on Ocean Beach.

Day 18

Wednesday 18th November

Stewart Island - Invercargill - Te Anau

The south-west squalls continued into the morning as we departed Stewart Island on the brief flight to Invercargill. The Red Tussock Reserve was our first stop. The red tussocks were glowing in the sunlight and Speargrass (Spaniards) were flowering beautifully. Pipits and Fernbird were heard, but the visit focused more on some of the special flora of the area. The unique stunted podocarp flora of Wilderness Scientific Reserve also prompted a visit.

First stop in Te Anau was lunch at Sandfly Cafe. From there we progressed to the Eglinton Valley, on the edge of Fiordland National Park. We'd be passing through the valley again the next day, but this afternoon afforded more time to look for some of the forest birds species we hadn't yet observed. Yellowhead (Mohua) was top of the list so we were all very happy to discover them soon after we started looking. The birds prefer the tops of the red beech trees so it took a fair bit of neck-craning and binocular focusing to get a good look at them. Rifleman was also found a number of times, although the fast moving nature of this species didn't help the photographers. Yellow-crowned Parakeets were observed in the Eglinton Valley beech forest, but again fleetingly. By now most were familiar with the more common forest bird species. Nevertheless the confiding nature of South Island Robins were still very well appreciated. Dinner was taken at the hotel's restaurant.

Day 19

Thursday 19th November

Te Anau to Eglinton and Hollyford Valleys - Milford Sound cruise

The south-westerly winds dropped overnight and the cloud cleared, allowing a light frost in Te Anau. After breakfast we returned to the Eglinton Valley and then ventured further into Fiordland National Park. The stop at Mirror Lake was worth it; the surrounding mountains were well reflected in the still pools. Then it was on to the eastern, higher entrance to the Homer Tunnel and the alpine vegetation zone where we hoped to find Rock Wren. These small, long-legged, alpine passerines can be tricky to locate as they are fast-moving and don't fly far off the ground, or great distances. Despite a few observations, most struggled to see Rock Wren amongst the boulder-strewn alpine vegetation. Kea were quite the opposite, with crowds of birds centred at every location vehicles stopped to take in the views.

Lunch was had in the cool winds of the Gertrude Valley before heading down the Hollyford Valley with stops along the way. Whilst most of the group admired the Keas perched all over the bus, Sue and Mick observed a falcon soaring above the forest canopy. The Chasm was a busy point at which to stop, but the water plunging through the rock formations made it worth it.

The afternoon was spent on a boat cruise enjoying Milford Sound's huge glacial-cut walls and a little of its wildlife. A memorable dinner was enjoyed at an Te Anau Italian Restaurant with all seduced by the restaurant's gelato.

Day 20

Friday 20th November

Te Anau to Dunedin and Otago Harbour dinner cruise

The first order of the morning was observing a captive Takahe in Te Anau. The species was re-discovered in the Fiordland mountains in 1948, having been previously thought extinct. Earlier on our trip we had hoped to see Takahe on Tiritiri Matangi Island, but due to the species breeding, an area popular with these birds had been closed off. Fortunately, today a bird was in the full morning sun in its enclosure on the shores of Lake Te Anau.

From Te Anau we drove to Dunedin with a brief stop in Balclutha followed by lunch at Lake Waihola. The very gusty, hot north-westerly wind kept many inside the bus for lunch, and as the weather was far from conducive for birdwatching, we continued on, arriving in Dunedin a little earlier than planned. Hot north-west conditions

continued in Dunedin, but fortunately dropped away in the early evening, perfect for our scheduled boat trip on Otago Harbour.

We drove along the western side of Otago Harbour to Deborah Bay where we boarded the Caprice, operated by Karitane Charters. The skipper, Alan, welcomed us aboard and shortly after we were motoring north towards Taiaroa Head. New Zealand Fur Seals, nesting Spotted Shags and Black-backed Gulls, and nesting areas of Little Blue Penguins were observed on the eastern side of the Harbour out towards Taiaroa Head. Individuals and small rafts of Little Blue Penguins were frequently seen in the water. Even from a distance, the large silhouettes of Northern Royal Albatrosses gliding over the peninsula headland were easily discernible. These birds were well appreciated as we neared the mainland albatross colony. The Stewart Island Shag colony provided easier photography than on Whero Island, during our Stewart Island boat charter. Royal Spoonbills and Red-billed Gulls were abundant. Our excursion out into the waters past Taiaroa Head was surprisingly quiet, with only fleeting sightings of giant petrels and Sooty Shearwaters. A couple of porpoising fur seals swam not far off the vessel's bow. The dorsal fin of a Hector's Dolphin was also briefly sighted. Skipper Alan and the crew put on a lovely dinner onboard, complemented by a surprisingly still evening on the Otago harbour.

Day 21/22

Saturday 21st/Sunday 22nd November

Dunedin – Auckland - UK

We had some time in Dunedin before going to the airport shortly after 10am for our noon flight to Auckland and then onwards to the UK where another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Salvin's Albatross by Ann Pardy

Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; C = captive only)

	Common name	Scientific name	November																	
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
1	Southern Brown Kiwi (Stewart Island)	<i>Apteryx australis lawryi</i>															✓			
2	Australasian Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus australis</i>											✓		✓	✓				
3	New Zealand Dabchick	<i>Podiceps rufopectus</i>			✓	✓														
4	Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>									✓									
5	Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>									✓						✓			✓
6	White-capped (Shy) Albatross	<i>Diomedea cauta steadi</i>									✓						✓			
7	Salvin's (Shy) Albatross	<i>Diomedea cauta salvini</i>									✓						✓			
8	Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>							✓	✓	✓									
9	Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>									✓									
10	Cape Pigeon	<i>Daption capense</i>									✓									
11	Westland Black Petrel	<i>Procellaria westlandica</i>									✓									
12	Short-tailed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>									✓									
13	Fluttering Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gavia</i>							✓	✓										
14	Hutton's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus huttoni</i>									✓									
15	Yellow Eyed Penguin	<i>Megadyptes antipodes</i>																✓		
16	Blue Penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor iredalei</i>								✓								✓		✓
17	Fiordland Crested Penguin	<i>E. pachyrhynchus</i>													✓			✓		
18	Australasian Gannet	<i>Morus serrator</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓										
19	Little Black Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>																		✓
20	Little Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>			✓	✓							✓							✓
21	Stewart Island Shag	<i>Leucocarbo chalconotus</i>																✓		✓
22	Spotted Shag	<i>Punctatus punctatus</i>							✓	✓			✓					✓		✓
23	Black Shag (Great Cormorant)	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓	✓							✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	White-faced Heron	<i>Ardea novaehollandiae</i>	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓						✓
25	Great Egret (White Heron)	<i>Egretta alba</i>												✓						
26	Royal Spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>			✓				✓				✓						✓	✓
27	Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓			✓			✓				
28	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		✓	✓	✓							✓		✓				✓	
29	Cape Barren Goose	<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>											✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	November																
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
30	Paradise Shelduck	<i>Tadorna variegata</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
31	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Grey Teal	<i>Anas gibberifrons</i>									✓			✓					
33	Brown Teal	<i>Anas aucklandica</i>			✓														
34	New Zealand Shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchos</i>				✓					✓			✓					
35	Blue Duck	<i>Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos</i>					✓	✓											
36	New Zealand Scaup	<i>Aythya novaeseelandiae</i>				✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
37	Australasian Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
38	New Zealand Falcon	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>												✓	✓			✓	✓
39	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	✓		✓														
40	Brown Quail	<i>Synoicus ypsilophorus</i>		✓															
41	California Quail	<i>Lophortyx californica</i>	✓		✓			✓											
42	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			✓														
43	Weka	<i>Gallirallus australis</i>							✓								✓		
44	Pukeko (Purple Swamphen)	<i>Porphyrio melanotus</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
45	Takahe	<i>Porphyrio mantelli</i>	C																
46	Australian Coot	<i>Fulica atra australis</i>									✓		✓	✓					
47	South Island Pied Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
48	Variable Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
49	Spur Winged Plover	<i>Vanellus miles</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
50	New Zealand Dotterel	<i>Charadrius obscurus</i>		✓															
51	Banded Dotterel	<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>									✓			✓					
52	Wrybill	<i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i>									✓								
53	Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>									✓								
54	Pied Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓	✓					✓								
55	Black Stilt	<i>Himantopus novaezealandiae</i>												✓					
56	Southern Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus dominicalis</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Red-billed Gull	<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Black-billed Gull	<i>Larus bulleri</i>				✓								✓			✓	✓	✓
59	Brown Skua	<i>Catharacta skua</i>														✓			
60	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	✓	✓							✓								
61	Black-fronted Tern	<i>Sterna albobristata</i>									✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	November																
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
62	White-fronted Tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
63	New Zealand Pigeon	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>												✓					
65	Kaka	<i>Nestor meridionalis</i>				✓									✓	✓	✓		
66	Kea	<i>Nestor notabilis</i>									✓		✓						✓
67	Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>	✓			✓													
68	Red-crowned Parakeet	<i>Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae</i>		✓		✓											✓		
69	Yellow-crowned Parakeet	<i>Cyanoramphus auriceps</i>																✓	
70	Shining Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>				✓													
71	Orange-fronted Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula canicularis</i>								✓									
72	Long-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Eudynamys taitenis</i>				✓													
73	New Zealand Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>		✓	✓				✓										
74	Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
75	Rifleman	<i>Acanthisitta chloris</i>											✓	✓			✓	✓	
76	Rock Wren	<i>Xenicus gilviventris</i>																	✓
77	Silvereeye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓			✓						
78	Grey Warbler	<i>Gerygone igata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓			✓	✓	
79	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
80	New Zealand Pipit	<i>Anthus novaezealandiae</i>					✓	✓						✓				✓	
81	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
83	Hedgesparrow	<i>Prunella modularis</i>					✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Fernbird	<i>Bowdleria punctata</i>		✓		✓													
85	Brown Creeper	<i>Mohoua novaezealandiae</i>								✓			✓				✓	✓	✓
86	Whitehead	<i>Mohoua albicilla</i>		✓		✓													
87	Yellowhead	<i>Mohoua ochrocephala</i>																✓	
88	North Island Fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓
89	Tomtit	<i>Petroica macrocephala</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓			✓	✓	
90	New Zealand Robin	<i>Petroica australis</i>											✓	✓				✓	
91	North Island Robin	<i>Petroica longipes</i>		✓															
92	Kokako	<i>Callaeas cinerea</i>		✓															
93	Stitchbird	<i>Notiomytis cincta</i>		✓															

	Common name	Scientific name	November																
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
94	Bellbird	<i>Melanura melanura</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Tui	<i>Prosthemadura novaseelandiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Saddleback	<i>Philesturnus carunculatus</i>		✓															
97	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				✓					✓	✓		✓			✓		
99	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
100	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓		✓		✓
101	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	✓	✓				✓				✓				✓
102	Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>				✓								✓			✓	✓	✓
103	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Indian Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓													
105	Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

Mammals

New Zealand Sea Lion, *Phocarctos hookeri*
 Hector's Dolphin, *Cephalorhynchus hectori*

New Zealand Fur Seal, *Arctocephalus forsteri*

Dusky Dolphin, *Lagenorhynchus obscurus*



Stewart Island Brown Kiwi by Nigel Carter