

New Zealand's Natural History

Naturetrek Tour Report

30 October - 20 November 2016



New Zealand Falcon by Chris Nicholson



Kidney Fern by Terry Goble



Fab ferns by Anne Leuchars



Tui at Tiri Tiri by Nigel Hopkins

Report compiled by Terry Goble
Images courtesy of Anne Leuchars, Chris Nicholson, David Toplas, Nigel Hopkins & Terry Goble



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: Terry Goble (leader), Mark Hanger and Wynston Cooper (local guides)
Together with 12 Naturetrek clients

Summary

This tour took in the very best of wildlife and habitats in New Zealand. The highlights ranged from walking in the lush, verdant temperate rainforests to watching albatrosses soaring out on the ocean. The islands of Tiritiri Matangi, Kapiti and Stewart Island were stunning with large swathes of beautiful forest. High in the Southern Alps we enjoyed the spectacular backdrop of these imposing mountains as we walked up glaciated valleys. The Fiordland scenery was just breathtaking as we sailed up Milford Sound or wandered through the ancient Beech forests. All these things were hugely enjoyable but, as ever, what enhances these trips is the group itself; there was a sense of adventure and fun as well as bringing a lot of knowledge and expertise to the tour.

Day 1

Sunday 30th October

Six members of the group met Terry at Heathrow airport where they caught an overnight flight to Dubai.

Day 2

Monday 31st October

The group met Ann in Dubai, where they caught the flight down to Auckland.

Day 3

Tuesday 1st November

Despite being a long flight, the group arrived in good spirits at Auckland airport and met Mark, our local guide and naturalist. We also met Mick, who had already been out in New Zealand a week and was joining our tour. After some slight technical difficulties with the trailer and a missing bag (soon recovered) we got underway. We drove to the hotel to collect the last four more members of the group and then made our way to The Cascade Park. This was a gentle introduction to the birdlife and flora of New Zealand. It proved very productive with a fine selection of birdlife seen well, and the highlight was possibly the gaudy Eastern Rosella. There was a real mix of introduced species such as Californian Quail, and familiar European species, with some indigenous and notably endemic species. The Tui showed well and were enjoyable to watch, and a nice selection of others included New Zealand Robin (not a robin or a chat), Grey Warbler, Masked Lapwing, and Bellbird were heard and we had glimpses without seeing them well. The acrobatic Fantails were also fun to watch twisting in the air catching flies and gnats.

We then moved on to Muiari to see the Australasian Gannet colony. We walked to a viewpoint over the cliff edged and looked down on hundreds of nesting Gannets and White-fronted Terns. We watched and photographed them wheeling over the sea and cliffs for a while before it was time to head back and get to our rooms and prepare for the evening meal. We also noted Southern Black-backed Gull and the exquisite Red-billed Gull. Some of the group also found Silver-eye and a few of the common New Zealand birds. We also enjoyed a number of the North Island Glade Coppers, our first authentic New Zealand butterfly!

We then headed back to the hotel and got refreshed for our first meal. We walked to 'Y-Not' at the seafront. The meal was enjoyed in good spirits and friendly chatter. We did our first list of the trip and reflected on a lovely

introduction to New Zealand and its wildlife. The effects of the long journey were now beginning to catch up with the group and we made our way back to the hotel to get some much needed rest.

Day 4

Wednesday 2nd November

We met after breakfast at 8.30am and drove north to our ferry to Tiritiri Matangi Island. There were a few birds seen en route including three Australian Harriers flying together, several Pukeko and the usual European introductions. At the ferry terminal we spotted a dark-phase Reef Heron, which Mark informed us was a rare sighting. We watched it for a while walking along a rocky barrier before it was lost from view. A Little Shag (white-throated phase) and a few Welcome Swallows were enjoyed whilst we waited for the ferry. It duly arrived on time and we were soon aboard the Catamaran heading towards the island.

At sea there were few birds, with only a few Black-backed and Red-billed Gulls noted, but it was a rapid crossing. We disembarked onto the island and waited while the wardens gave us some information about the conservation of the island, the importance of ensuring that visitors did not bring unwanted creatures or plants, and that they respected the park and its wildlife. After the talk we were off exploring the island. Mark had seen that the very rare Brown Teal were on a small pool, so we headed there first to ensure we saw this, the first of the 'big six'! On the pool there were three of these unassuming birds, which we photographed and watched for a while.

As we were on a tight timetable we were soon off again, walking along Hobbs Beach. Here we encountered a pair of New Zealand Dotterel. Their nest had been inundated by a high tide and it was hoped that this pair would breed again. They displayed their 'broken wing' distraction technique to some of the visitors that strayed close to them which, although interesting to see, it was disappointing that people (none of our group) had wandered that close to them. Also on the beach was a pair of nesting Variable Oystercatchers. These enjoyed the added protection of having an area taped off around them. A little further on we entered the woodland and passed a few artificial burrows made for the Little Blue Penguin. One had a chick inside and we were able to see it through a perspex observation hole.

We then set off inland with the sound of Tui, Bellbird and Saddlebacks all around us. We soon got some excellent views of the male Stitchbird in its gold and black refinery. We also had glimpses of Saddlebacks, but decent views were proving difficult. Dotted along the route were some feeding stations, primarily for nectar feeders. Here we had excellent views of Bellbirds and Stitchbirds.

As we walked up through the forest we entered a wider, more open path. Here some of the group managed a better view of Saddlebacks and we also found a small covey of Brown Quail. A detour to look for Takahe and Kokako was unproductive, but we did manage some good views of Whiteheads. The sun was now shining and the showers seemed to have abated and it was getting quite warm. We decided to walk to the lighthouse and visitor centre for our lunch. At the centre there was a feeding station for the Tui. We were able to watch these stunning birds at close quarters and enjoy the array of iridescent colours when they were illuminated by the sun.

We sat down to enjoy our picnic lunch of sandwiches, fruit and cake. A light shower delayed the opening of the cake box, but it soon became sunny again and everyone sat in the sunshine, chatting happily. After lunch we made a concerted effort to find the Takahe and Kokako. We did finally get a good view of a Saddleback, but alas the Takahe proved elusive. After a great deal of searching we finally found two Kokako, but these were not easily

seen and a number of the group missed them, despite being large birds. Once they flew deeper into the forest we lost them and despite our efforts, they could not be relocated. It was nearly time to head back for the return ferry. We stopped again at the small pool, hoping for Spotless Crane, but unfortunately none emerged. We had a few fly-overs of Red-fronted Parakeet and one was seen foraging in the grass. We waited for it to emerge out into the open, but the ferry was boarding and so we had to leave the parakeet and this lovely island to head back to the mainland.

Back at Auckland we got ready for our evening meal. We walked down to 'Y-Not' restaurant and enjoyed our meal in a lively and relaxed atmosphere. We then made our way back to our rooms to get some sleep after a full but enjoyable day.

Day 5

Thursday 3rd November

Today we met in the lobby at 7am before heading out for breakfast at 'Jones'. This was just opposite the harbour and we all enjoyed a filling breakfast in a lovely setting to set us up for the day. We then negotiated the Auckland traffic and made good time en route to Miranda mud flats. Here our main target was Wrybill, a curious wader with a bill that bends to the right. This apparently gives the bird a unique niche to feed, but despite this their numbers are dwindling and they are becoming scarce. At Miranda we quickly found a flock of about twenty, largely inactive, Wrybills. Eventually one or two did begin feeding and most people managed reasonable views of their bills.

Although they were the target species, they were by no means the only attraction as there were spectacular numbers of Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit and Knot, with masses of gulls and terns including a small party of four Caspian terns. Wendy (New Zealand warden) was very helpful and showed the group a Black-tailed Godwit, not an easy find amongst the masses of bar-tailed. There was also a small group of Pacific Golden Plovers, which were a delight.

We stayed hoping the high tide would push the birds closer, however the tide was not particularly high and began retreating before the birds were pushed up the sandy beach. We left a little late and set off to Lake Rotorua for lunch and to look for New Zealand Scaup and New Zealand Dabchick. When we arrived there were hundreds of Scaup viewable, but no sign of the Dabchick. There were also plenty of Black Shag, Little Black Shag and Little Shag, which we sorted through. There were also several Black Swans as well as more common birds. As Mark prepared lunch a Dabchick was finally located and most people got a reasonable view before it moved off quite distant in the middle of the lake.

After lunch we set off again, this time to walk through a forest and down Waimangu Valley to look at the geothermally heated lakes and geysers. This was quite a spectacular walk in beautiful forest. On the way down we had only our third butterfly species as a New Zealand Red Admiral settled by the path. As we neared the bottom of the valley the smell of the sulphur was pungent, but not overwhelming and we enjoyed watching spouting geysers and the bubbling pools. Afterwards we caught a bus back to the centre and then drove on a short distance to view the mud pools. These were very active showering mud a few feet into the air. The noise and setting was strangely mesmerising and relaxing, but we had to push on to get to our hotel and get ready for dinner.

We arrived at the Chelmsford Motel at Lake Taupo and enjoyed a friendly welcome. The rooms were comfortable and each had a geo-thermal spa, which was very hot and relaxing. We met again at 7pm to head to Lakeside Hotel for dinner. We saw a pair of Californian Quails in the car park as we were leaving, which was a nice bonus. We enjoyed our meal and chatted happily before returning to get an early night in preparation for an early start the next day.

Day 6

Friday 4th November

Today was an early start (although not as early as planned by negotiation!) and we left the motel at 6am. We drove to Pureora to have breakfast on the edge of the ancient podcarp forest and listen and watch for birds. On the way we saw mostly common birds, but for a Morepork sitting by the side of the road. This was a very unusual sighting and it was great to see the owl in good light. We spent a little time photographing and watching it before moving on to our breakfast destination.

At Pureora, Mark conjured up breakfast whilst the rest of the group watched out. It was a slow start but the birds did start to appear with Yellow-crested Parakeet being the first of the target species to show. After this the Kaka finally flew over after we were hearing it for some time. We also managed reasonable views of the New Zealand Falcon, spotted by Chris, and the Long-tailed Cuckoo. There were also plenty of common and introduced species around.

After breakfast we set off for a walk along a forest trail about a mile away. We first had a picnic lunch and had a good sighting of the Shinning Cuckoo whilst we ate. We then set off down the trail and soon had some good birds including our first Rifleman, a gorgeous little bird, and great views of Kaka. Mark pointed out some of the flora of the forest as we made our way around. It was a circular walk and soon we were back at the minibus.

We drove off, heading towards another forested walk about 25 kilometres away. As we set off a Long-tailed Cuckoo sped across the road giving a great, but brief, view. Unfortunately we could not relocate it and had to move on. We parked up at the entrance to the walk and set off.

Later, en route to the hotel, we stopped for a view over Lake Taupo to enjoy the spectacular views, and then again at a white water river. After some searching, Corinne found a pair of Blue Ducks. We followed them upstream and eventually everyone had great views of these handsome ducks. These can often be tricky and take many hours to find so it was a relief to get a pair so soon. We then continued on to our hotel with the volcanic range as our backdrop. We settled into our rooms and met for a later dinner at 7.30pm. After dinner we completed the day's checklist and reflected on a very successful day before retiring to our rooms.

Day 7

Saturday 5th November

We had a later start today and didn't meet up until after breakfast at 9am. The magnificent mountain scenery was unfortunately covered with cloud and the rain was beginning to fall quite heavily. We set off on our walk to Taranaki Falls, a round trip of around two and a half hours. The walk was mainly across heather clad 'moorland' type terrain with a few pockets of Beech forest in the valleys where fires had not ravaged. Despite the rain, it was an enjoyable walk and contained some interesting flora. The weather made birding difficult and only a few species were seen. The only species native to New Zealand was Grey Warbler; the rest were introductions. We all

reached the falls and enjoyed the spectacular drop into a plunge pool. We climbed up the steps and had lovely views down into the falls and across the landscape. We then embarked on the walk back to the hotel to get ready for lunch.

We all met at 1.20pm to walk to the café for lunch, and soon after we set off a Long-tailed Cuckoo swooped past giving superb views; a nice bonus after struggling to find native species. Lunch was delicious and we chatted with good spirits despite the gloomy weather. There was a walk planned after lunch, but most declined and enjoyed a little free-time. David and Bob decided to go for a walk through Beech forest alongside the river. Mark dropped us off and we walked back for about an hour and a half. The birds inside the forest were more active and we had some very nice views of Tomtit, Silver-eye, Grey Warbler and a brief view of a Rifleman. A Long-tailed Cuckoo was heard but we were unable to locate it. We arrived back at the bridge above the village and scouted for Blue Duck without any luck. We then walked back to the hotel to re-join the others.

Day 8

Sunday 6th November

Today we left Whakapapa, heading south towards Wellington. This was roughly a four-hour drive and we stopped for a comfort stop and a brief birding stop at Foxton. Looking over the bay we spotted some of the usual shorebirds, including Knot and Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit. A pair of Royal Spoonbill was our only new addition, but we enjoyed good telescope views of these magnificent birds and observed their sweeping feeding action as they made their way along the shallows.

We were soon underway again, this time to the 'River Cottage' for lunch. We also had a double reason as we were to meet Chris, a friend of Chris, and if that was confusing, we arrived all bearing a name tag of 'Chris'. There were 'Chris's' everywhere! We enjoyed a lovely meal and had an added bonus of a Monarch butterfly fly through. Chris spent some time catching up with his old friend after he finally revealed who the real Chris was. Then we were off again, this time to catch the ferry to Kapiti Island. We arrived in good time and spotted a few birds along the beach including White-fronted Tern and Pied Shag, and played football with a potty dog (not the actual dog - a ball he was playing with to be clear!).

We then had a unique experience of a tractor arriving carrying a boat on a launching-trolley. This then towed us out to sea before we slipped away and motored off as the tractor drove back to the shore; odd but effective. The journey over was relatively quiet and only common birds were seen, although a Fluttering Shearwater was a leader only sighting. On the Island we were given a briefing and a warm welcome after the formalities and pest search.

We were then free to explore the island's trails. The bird life around the lodge was extraordinary. Not only were there fabulous birds, but due to the predator-free nature of the islands, the views were incredible. Firstly, the Weka foraged around our feet, and this was followed by close sightings of Red-crowned Parakeet feeding on grass seeds. The supporting cast comprised of Tui, Bellbird and New Zealand Pigeon, all see down to a few feet. Perhaps the highlight was the Kaka. This large parrot allowed very close approach and posed for all of its audience. Some of the group went to explore the trails and most visited the lagoon at some point, which held Black Swan, Paradise Shelduck and Welcome Swallows hawking over the water. Perhaps the best sighting for some was the Giant Petrel seen following a fishing boat offshore. This huge seabird was seen several times as it

circled around and at one point there were two birds and most got good views. The issue whether it was a Northern or Southern was not fully resolved, but the bill tip did seem to be rosy, indicating Northern.

It was then time for dinner and a discussion around how to behave and what to expect on the Kiwi hunt. Our target was Little Spotted Kiwi, and we separated into two groups to keep noise and disturbance down as much as possible. Unfortunately, on this occasion, only one of the groups managed to get a view of the Kiwi and despite extensive efforts, the other group were not able to see the bird. Other highlights of the night walk through the reserve included sightings of Morepork, Blue Penguin and Tree Weta. Despite the disappointment for one group, the night walk was hugely enjoyable. Watching the dark night sky we found the Southern Cross and some other constellations, and heard the sounds of booming Weka, Onomatopoeic Morepork and of course the Kiwi themselves. We finally called an end to the walk at midnight and got some much needed sleep after a great day on this fantastic little island.

Day 9

Monday 7th November

The next day many were woken by the dawn chorus of melodious Bellbird and Tui and the harsh rasp of the Long-tailed Cuckoo. Whiteheads could also be heard. We headed to the lodge for breakfast and then had a search around the lodge for the Takahe without success, but were distracted by the antics of the Kaka, which landed on Corinne's head! Corinne's luck was definitely in as she also revealed that a night-time toilet break resulted in a good sighting of a Little Spotted Kiwi. It was then time to leave the island, and the ferry back to the mainland left on time. On the return journey there were a few more birds around including Fluttering Shearwater, Spotted Shag and Arctic Skua.

Back on shore we boarded the minibus and headed for the capital city, Wellington. We stopped at The Botanical Gardens for lunch before catching the ferry to Picton. On the trip over we managed to see our first albatrosses of the trip, causing great excitement. First, we identified the Fairy Prions as they drifted close to the ferry. These are exquisite grey birds with a distinctive dark 'M' in their wings. Next we spotted Sooty and Flesh-footed Shearwaters, and then our first albatrosses appeared. The Shy (White-capped) Albatross was the first identified; the obvious size difference was apparent even from a distance. Then we saw a Salvin's (Grey headed) Albatross. The birdwatching was excellent and we also saw a New Zealand Fur Seal to add to the slowly growing mammal list.

The birding became quiet for a short while with only a few distant shearwaters and albatrosses. However, when we turned into Queen Charlotte Sound and headed back south we started to pick up a new suite of birds with Fluttering Shearwater being an almost constant companion. Other highlights included a sighting of King Shag amongst the many Spotted Shags, and the reappearance of Australasian Gannet. The ferry trip takes nearly four hours but if flew by and soon we were docking in Picton.

In Picton we went the short distance to our hotel and relaxed before meeting up for dinner in a strange 'Christmassy' setting. Apparently they start early in Picton! We enjoyed a lovely meal, although confusion for the vegetarians had to be resolved by Mark. We chatted about the great birding we had had today and discussed the days ahead. After completing three days of the checklist, we went to our rooms looking forward to the cruise in the morning.

Day 10

Tuesday 8th November

We all met for a buffet breakfast and a prompt start so we could get to EKO office to board our boat for 8.45am. We had a briefing from the captain, who discussed the birds we might see on the cruise, as we set off out of Picton Harbour. We had only gone a short distance when we spotted another Fur Seal, and a short while later Alison spotted a pod of Dusky Dolphins. These unfortunately were not very co-operative and we left them after a short period watching them. We travelled up the sound and were soon spotting the now familiar Fluttering Shearwater, along with Pied and Spotted Shags. We reached a rocky islet where we saw a single King Shag resting on a rock. We had excellent views of the very rare bird before we left it in peace and headed for Blumine Island.

On the island we looked, without success, for Orange-fronted Parakeet. We saw a couple of Weka as they emerged from the shrubs, and there were lots of familiar birds such as Tui and Bellbird. There were also a couple of Variable Oystercatchers. Sadly, we had to leave without our quarry, but boarded the boat for a snack and drink before setting off to The Bay of Plenty. Here we soon had great views of Hector's Dolphin (the rarest dolphin in the world). At one point they swam very close to the boat and could be seen clearly in the clear waters. They then kept their distance and so we left them in peace.

On the return trip we saw an Arctic Skua loafing on the water before taking off. We also had two more sightings of pods of Dusky Dolphins. The second pod showed what Dusky Dolphins are well known for as they leapt spectacularly out of the water. Very soon we were back at the harbour where, after thanking Tristan (the captain) for a lovely trip, we went to relax in the warm sunshine at a nearby café for lunch.

We then set off again, this time heading south to Kaikoura, a two-hour drive away. However, our drive was going to take longer as we had some stops planned along the way. We first drove through the Blenheim vineyards and rolling farmland. The hilly scenery around the area was later dwarfed by the distant snow peaked mountains we were heading towards down the eastern coast.

Our first stop was a little café by the coast. The attraction here was not just a drink and comfort stop, but a nice little birding stop too. We saw Banded Dotterel, all three gull species, Pied Stilts, and a new blue butterfly; Southern Blue. There were also a few Fur Seals hauled up on some rocks further out. After a pleasant intermission we were on our way again. We stopped briefly for some scenery photographs as the peaks loomed nearer, and then followed the coast down to Kaikoura.

Just outside the town we stopped again to look at a Fur Seal colony hauled out on rocks close to the shore at Ohau Point. There was also a Spotted Shag breeding site and further out to sea a few Hutton's Shearwaters could be made out. Another productive stop! We set off for the final leg of the journey; a short distance to our hotel, the White Morph, where we settled in.

Day 11

Wednesday 9th November

This morning we had breakfast at 7.30am and met up again at 8.50am to get the bus to the marina. We boarded the Delphinidae vessel with Captain Gary and his crew. The focus of this trip was meant to be seabirds, but news of Long-finned Pilot Whales out to sea was too big a temptation. We therefore changed the itinerary and

motored out about 14 miles across a deep canyon. On the way we were followed by Northern Giant Petrels and the delightful Cape Petrels. We saw a few other birds such as Hutton's Shearwater and Westland Black Shearwater.

Once in the area we quickly located the whales and enjoyed watching them, often very closely. At times they surfaced a few feet from the boat, entralling the group. After a while we turn our attention back to the seabirds and set out a cage of fish offal. This soon had birds coming in from all directions and it was tough knowing where to look. The Wandering Albatross took centre stage as it bullied the petrels and other albatrosses out of the way. To see such an iconic seabird at such close quarters was exhilarating. Others that ventured in included Salvin's, Royal, Black-browed and Shy Albatrosses. White-chinned Petrel was also new and a few came close by the boat searching for scraps. After a dizzying hour or so it was time to head back inshore.

On the way we stopped again at a spot closer to the land and finished off the bait next to a fishing vessel. Although we did not see any different species it was still a spectacular sight to watch all these seabirds coming in to look for scraps. It was now time to head back and as a last sighting, some of the group saw a Blue Penguin near the marina entrance. We also saw a few Fur Seals loafing on the rocks. We thoroughly enjoyed the trip and were still chatting excitedly as we went to lunch at a nearby café.

After lunch we had some free time and went to relax or head out on a walk with Mark. Unfortunately, the Sperm Whale trip had been cancelled as the whales had drifted too far out to reach. We met up again at 7pm for dinner. After an enjoyable meal we retired to our rooms.

Day 12

Thursday 10th November

Today we continued our travels further south, leaving Kaikoura after breakfast at 8.30am and headed along the Inland Scenic Route over Arthur's Pass, down to the west coast and on to Hokitika.

Our first stop en route was at St Ann's Lagoon where we picked up a few new birds, notably Black-fronted Dotterel, Grey Teal and Australasian Shoveler. We also saw two Cape Barren Geese among a variety of more common species. After this we continued along the flat plains until we started to climb up into the hills. We were lucky with the weather as the forecast was wet and windy, but we enjoyed sunshine and warmth almost the entire journey.

We stopped for a picnic lunch near Sheffield on the Wainakariri River. Apart from a delicious lunch, we also had another new bird for the trip: although distant, we saw Black-fronted Tern. Some of the group also found a few Grey Warblers. We had a new butterfly to add to our list when Mick found a Yellow Admiral, and most people got good photographs of this attractive species.

After lunch we set off again and the hilly landscape became more beautiful and dramatic and we climbed up the mountains. A scenery stop for some photographs of the magnificent mountain scenery also resulted in finding the tiny but gorgeous Boulder Copper butterfly. This butterfly has an iridescent purple sheen when seen in the sunlight and gave great views as the males were flying round competing for females.

We eventually drove on, stopping at Arthur's Pass Village for the famous Kea parrot; a star of many documentaries, mostly involving the parrot eating various bits of people's cars. We had no such problem other than locating them. After we found a rather tame one inside a café, we then found two others which were much shyer but we were able to photograph in more natural surroundings. We also had an ice cream befitting the now warm and sunny afternoon.

We next stopped at the actual Arthur's Pass, this time in search of a giant alpine buttercup. We did find some nice specimens, but many had not yet emerged. We walked back to the bus after admiring the plants and set off again. We were soon heading out of the mountains and dropping quickly towards the west coast. After a drive along the coast in the warm late afternoon sun, we finally arrived at Hokitika and were pleased to find we were upgraded to ocean view rooms. On arrival we met Winston, who was guiding for the next day and a half as Mark was temporarily leaving the group. We chatted briefly to Winston and went to our rooms to get ready for dinner at 7.30pm.

Most of the group met at 7pm and enjoyed a drink and a chat in the bar. We then had our evening meal before catching up with the checklist and heading off to bed with the news that we are getting a lie-in, due to having a late night tomorrow.

Day 13

Friday 11th November

We enjoyed our late and leisurely start for the day and met Winston at the bus at 9.15am. We said goodbye to Mark, who was due to be back in a couple of days to re-join the trip. We then got underway for our drive to Jose Franz. We stopped briefly at Lake Mahinapua for an attempt to see Brown Creeper, which was unfortunately not calling. We moved on, heading south down the west coast. Winston told the group a little about the history and culture of the west coast as we drove along.

We then had a 20 minute comfort stop prior to heading off to our lunch destination at Okarito Lagoon. The rain had been incessant all morning but did look like it was going to brighten up, however it persisted until late into the afternoon. At lunch we picked up a new bird for the trip with a sighting of a couple of Great Egrets (White Heron). We also had a lovely encounter with a Paradise Shelduck and her multitude of ducklings. There were also a few other common birds around.

After lunch we set off to try for a bird that had eluded us earlier in the trip. We arrived at a boggy location (Pakihi) to see if we could find the skulking Fernbird. We were unsuccessful at first, but then moved to a different spot and were rewarded with some excellent views after initially being spotted by Phil. Buoyed by this success we set off to our accommodation, 'The Rainforest Retreat', and settled into our rooms.

We met again at 3.30pm to explore the glacial region, but the weather was still poor with low cloud and heavy showers. We were not sure what kind of views we would be able to get in this beautiful and rugged region. In the event the views at Franz Joseph Glacier were fine as the cloud draped around the mountains, but there was enough of a break to see the glacier clearly. We walked to the viewpoints to get a better sighting of the rapidly retreating glacier. This glacier once reached down to the ocean another 19 kilometres away. Over the centuries it has retreated, but far more rapidly in the last decade. After taking photographs and admiring the view, we walked back down through the rainforest path back to the bus and returned for dinner.

We met for an early dinner at 5.45pm as we were hoping to set out to try and watch the Rowi (Okarito) Kiwi this evening. The rain had been unrelenting and if anything was getting heavier. At 6.30pm we were to find out if the activity was still going to take place. Then we finally heard that Ian was prepared to take us out, only if we were committed to the event as it was going to be a difficult evening. Six of the group decided that they would go despite the weather. So it was confirmed that we would meet Ian at 8.30pm.

We got our wet weather gear on and met Ian in the car park by the Kiwi reserve (Pakihi). He outlined what a tough evening it might be and was pleased that we were prepared to make an attempt despite the odds being low. We set out past the two kilometre-long territories of two pairs of Kiwis to the territory of 'White-eye' and his mate. The rain was very heavy at this point, but Ian had tracked down a Kiwi and we approached within a few feet. Unfortunately the Kiwi was in about three feet of dense rainforest and despite our patience and determination, we were unable to get a sighting, despite its proximity. We returned through the next pair's territory but they were too distant to be able to attempt to see. Our last hope rested with the pair that have a territory that included the car park where we had parked the minibus. As we approached, Ian began to get a little excited as he had picked up the signal of another Kiwi, but a little distant. We set off after the Kiwi down the main road. Ian thought it might be feeding on the road verge as they often do. We approached the site and Ian was again able to track the bird down to a few feet. As before, the bird was hidden in thick vegetation. We could hear it snuffling around, but could not see the bird. At one point its nose poked through the grasses and we hoped it was about to emerge. A ripple of excitement ran through the group and hearts were beating a little faster as we remained quite hoping it would emerge. Then a car approached and we had to retreat to the other side of the road. We were so close! We returned to nearby the spot where it had been partially seen. We began to get a sinking feeling that it was not going to be our night and we decided to give it a go for ten more minutes. Then just as we were about to give up, Ian put a red light into the grass to reveal a Rowi Kiwi standing out in the open in full view. A mixture of relief and excitement pulsed through the group. After a few minutes watching the bird it disappeared back into the vegetation. The group were tired, wet and euphoric! What an end to a tough night. We thanked Ian and headed back to the hotel a happy group. We said goodnight and tramped off to our rooms to get ready for the next adventure to see the penguins!

Day 14

Saturday 12th November

Today was a travel day as we had quite a long distance to drive through hilly and mountainous roads to Twizel. We aimed to set off reasonably early and met at the minibus to leave after breakfast at 8am. We were underway in good time and headed to our first stop to view the Fox Glacier. We drove for a short time before stopping at a view point and looking at the glacier high in the mountain. The scenery was spectacular and the day was in total contrast to yesterday; sunny and clear with blue skies. As a bonus, Chris found a Grey Duck amongst the many Pukeko and Masked Lapwings. After a comfort stop and refuelling we were on our way again, heading south to Munro Beach in the hope of Fiordland Crested Penguins.

We drove for about an hour and a half, arriving just after 10am. We then walked through the coastal rainforest for a few kilometres. It was a glorious patch of forest, lush and rich in fern, mosses, lichens and liverworts. There were a few calling Grey Warblers as we walked. We eventually reached the beach and it took a few minutes of 'hide and seek' with the penguins before we got reasonable views as the penguins clambered about the rocks. Eventually two penguins walked out onto the beach and plunged into the sea. We could then see them for a brief moment in all their finery with the distinctive yellow crest above their eye, before they disappeared into the waves.

A final sighting as they disappeared was had by some as they swam adjacent to the beach. It was now time to head back and get some lunch at Haast.

We arrived at Haast town and looked for our lunch spot. It happened to be near a lily pad-filled pond. We had a quick explore and found some new dragonflies and damselflies before settling down to order our food. After lunch we had a long drive ahead so our stops were limited. We first stopped at some mature Mountain Beech forest at Haast Pass. We hoped for Yellowhead at this site, but although we heard one reasonably close by, we could not see the bird. We did have some consolation in a Rifleman and Grey Warbler. We were soon underway again, and this time the drive took us along to great lakes and up into dramatic mountain and moorland scenery.

After a long drive in the heat of the afternoon, we eventually arrived at Albert town. Here we had heard of a New Zealand Falcon nest and after a little exploration of two campsites, we eventually located the nest. There did not seem to be any falcons at the nest, but Chris casually remarked that there was one in the tree above our heads and sure enough, a gorgeous falcon looked down on us, only a few metres away. We enjoyed watching and photographing the bird, but time was pressing and we were underway again towards Twizel. Along the route Alison spotted two pairs of Australasian Great Crested Grebes in a lake, which was another first for the trip.

We arrived later than hoped for at Twizel, and arranged for a late dinner at 8pm. We settled into our rooms and met again for a pre-dinner drink before enjoying a relaxing buffet. After dinner we completed the checklist and then retired to our rooms.

Day 15

Sunday 13th November

Today was a day for exploring the area around Twizel. Our first port of call was to a nearby Black Stilt breeding centre to support the recovery program of these endangered birds. We were unable to locate any wild birds in the pools behind predator proof fences. There were several Pied Stilts and other waterfowl, and in the surrounding habitat there were many Skylarks and Yellowhammers. We then drove along a canal but again drew a blank. We still had one more possibility to try today, and that was at the head of Lake Pukaki on the way to Mount Aoraki. We pulled off at the lake and searched for the Black Stilt. Initially we had nice views of Banded Dotterel and finally good views of Black-fronted Tern. We walked on down the streams and eventually found a flock of mainly juvenile Black Stilts in the distance however the heat haze was making viewing very difficult. To combat this, David decided to ford the glacial streams and gravel/mud flats to get closer. He managed this and got very close views and photographs; definitely worth the muddy toes!

It was now time to move on to go for lunch at Aoraki Hotel. We ordered and ate our food on a veranda looking out on this magnificent mountain range. After lunch we went for a walk and enjoyed finding Mountain Weta, and Mike found a Tussock butterfly to add to our list. Perhaps the best sighting of the day was a pair of New Zealand Falcons defending their nest against hikers. One woman received a small cut on her forehead as she strayed too near the nest and was swooped on by one of the falcons. We watched as several others were dive-bombed before moving back to the minibus. On the way there were some nice birds including Rifleman, Tomtit and Grey Warbler. Back at the vehicle we looked up at the highest peaks. The very top was still blanketed by clouds, but we did get a brief view of the summit.

We next drove south of Twizel to a series of lakes and ponds. Our quarry here was Baillon's Crake. We stopped en route to photograph Mount Aoraki, whose summit was now more visible. As we reached the ponds we noted several tiny Boulder Copper-type butterflies and photographed a few. Meanwhile Mark got to work trying to locate the crake. Unfortunately, despite several attempts, there was no sign of the crake and we elected to return to the hotel. On the way back we saw Grey Duck, but it may have been hybridised. We also had great views of Mount Aoraki as it finally cleared, and a spectacular view of the summit was enjoyed as we made our way back to the hotel for dinner.

Day 16

Monday 14th November

Today was mostly a travel day as we were driving down to Invercargill to catch a flight to Stewart Island. However, some got up and met early to have another try for the Marsh (Baillon's) Crake. We drove back down to the pools and listen out for the crake, but again there was no sign of it. We did see some common birds and a few Hares, but then returned for breakfast and met up with the rest of the group.

We set off for our drive at 9am and aimed to reach Invercargill about 4pm. We did however, have a few interesting stops en route. We stopped for coffee at Tarras for a twenty-minute break and then got underway again.

Our next stop was for lunch at Roxborough. Here we enjoyed a delicious home cooked meal at The Store. The conveniences for The Store were opposite the café. Ann can back to report that the toilet spoke to her, giving a 10 minute warning before the doors opened, and then promptly played music to entertain during the toilet stop! This proved a popular activity as people queued for the musical lavatory.

We drove on through mainly warm sunshine through mountainous countryside which gradually turned to hills. Mark pointed out that Thyme had invaded this countryside, but despite it being an unwelcome invasive plant, there was no denying the lovely spectacle of vast swathes of blue/mauve Thyme over the hillsides. We stopped to stretch our legs at Butcher's Dam, which proved quite a productive stop. We had very good views of Australasian Pipit, found an Australasian Red Admiral, and a dragonfly that refused to stay still and be identified. This was all in the setting of a glorious hillside smelling of Thyme. We had a pressing engagement so got back on the road to Invercargill. After another hour and a half, we finally reached the airport and check in our bags for the flight.

We had two nine-seater aircraft to take us over. The flight was stunning over the mudflats and across the Foveaux Strait to Stewart Island. The island below was covered in large tracts of rainforest interspersed with small pockets of habitation. The landing strip was also interesting as we flew up the side of a forest clad hillside before touching down on top of the hill...breath-taking!

We were then taken to our accommodation at Kaka Retreat by taxi. The suitability of its name became immediately apparent as we seemed to be surrounded by Kaka flying around the accommodation and landing on balconies. They are beautiful and inquisitive creatures and we had a few delightful moments watching them before we got ready for our evening meal. Unfortunately, the rain started to become persistent and gradually heavier. At dinner our fears were confirmed when we heard that the Kiwi expedition had been cancelled. This was disappointing news and we had to hope that the weather improves for the next day.

We enjoyed our meal and then returned to our rooms after a tiring day to get some well needed rest and hope for a clearer day tomorrow.

Day 17

Tuesday 15th November

We woke to another grey and wet day, however the boat trip was going ahead as planned. After our in-house continental breakfast, we met up to walk to Oban dock. Here we boarded Captain Phil's boat and set off in search of penguins and other seabirds. Our first stop was to search for Fiordland Crested Penguin. After a little searching we found a small party on the shore among the rocks. We could not get in too close due to the swell and the rock strewn coastline. We did however, get reasonable views and could see the vivid yellow crests above their eyes.

We moved on after a while in the hope of finding Yellow-eyed and Blue Penguins. The Yellow-eyed were difficult to find and we drew a blank at our first attempt. However, at the second site we managed to identify a calling bird after quite a lot of scanning. We eventually found three penguins and had some reasonable views. The Blue Penguins were found swimming and feeding near a salmon fish farm. We had reasonably close views and enjoyed watching these delightful small penguins. We had a number of other birds off the boat, most notably Salvin's and Shy Mollymawks (Albatrosses). We also had Diving Petrel and some large Brown Skuas with Cape Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel and Sooty Shearwater making up the sightings.

It was now time to land on Ulva Island and enjoy a walk in pristine rainforest. This was a forest that looked pretty much the same thousands of years ago. As we entered the forest we encounter almost immediately a flock of South Island Saddlebacks, which were one of our target species. We also had a very obliging South Island Robin and Weka to a few feet. On the other extreme, Yellowhead was only seen by Bob, high in the canopy. Other firsts were Brown Creepers and a large Sea Lion lying along the path we wanted to take back to the boat. We decided to find another path! Other than the birds, there were some delightful plants including the extraordinary Dancing Spider Orchid and Green Hooded Orchid.

It was now time to return to Oban and Phil set off across the strait. We arrived back a little later than expected and had to rush to get our dinner in time so we would make the evening excursion to see the Kiwi. We thanked Phil for his skill in finding birds and handling the boat to get us great views, and set off to get ready for dinner.

After dinner we had to hurry to get ready for our evening Kiwi trip to Big Glory, to see South Island Brown Kiwi. We first had a presentation on the Kiwi and its ecology, before boarding the boat. It was a wet and windy evening as we set off. The trip across took about 30 minutes and we then had to get a water taxi as the Harvest Moon meant the tides were very high and low. Now the tide was so low the boat could not moor. We gathered on the wharf for our final briefing, before setting off. The weather was not improving and some showers were getting heavier. We did get shelter under the forest canopy and also protection from the wind. Despite the condition and such a large group, we had two good Kiwi sightings for most of the group. Those at the front were lucky enough to see it down to a few feet. It was now getting late and time to return to the Kaka Retreat as everyone was tired after a long day.

Day 18

Wednesday 16th November

Today we left Stewart Island to fly back to South Island. The weather was still poor when we boarded the flight, but we flew under the clouds and so still had great views as we departed. We arrived back in Invercargill about 9am. We gathered our bags and were back in the bus heading for coffee and a stop at a local museum. The museum was a gem, having fascinating life histories of 'the fastest Indian', Maori artefacts and art, but best of all a breeding program and display for Tuataras. These amazing reptiles are critically endangered in the wild. Henry, who was on display, was over 120 years old and still producing young. These young were being prepared to establish colonies in the wild and help secure the future for this incredible 'mini dragon'.

After about an hour we set off for Te Anau and our lunch at The Sandfly Café. We enjoy a lovely lunch with views across the lake in now sunny and warm conditions. After lunch we decided to make the best of the weather and drive up to Homer's Tunnel (Hollyford Valley) and look for Rock Wren. The drive was spectacular and became increasingly so as we drove deep into the Fiordland National Park. The Beech Forest became stunted before eventually we passed the tree line. The Hollyford Valley became steep and narrow with sheer snow-capped peaks raising up into the clouds. The setting was breathtaking and this was enhanced by the rains as multiple waterfalls cascaded down the steep sided valley.

When we arrived at Homer's Tunnel there were already about four Kea entertaining visitors. We watched from the comfort of the bus as they flew around showing off their almost scarlet back and underwing. Soon the rain eased and eventually stopped as we set off to look for the Rock Wren, a difficult and elusive bird to find. Unbelievably, after a few minutes, the first bird we encountered was a Rock Wren, before it disappeared in the boulders. A little while later we saw two wrens, probably a pair hopping about the rocks and boulders giving exceptional views. We watched these for a while before boarding the minibus and heading back to the hotel at Te Anau.

We all met up again for dinner and had to catch up on three nights of missed checklists due to late activities. This dutifully done, we retired to our rooms to catch up on our sleep after a very late previous night.

Day 19

Thursday 17th November

Today we were driving to Milford Sound for an afternoon cruise. We had most of the day to get there and so planned a few stops along the way. The first stop at Nobb's Flats was to try and get better views of Yellowhead. Some had seen the birds on Ulva Island but most had missed it or had poor views. The first spot we tried was quiet with mainly Chaffinch and Blackbird singing. However, on the second spot about a hundred metres further on we heard the call. We all jumped out of the bus and were rewarded with great views of at least three Yellowheads feeding in the mature Beech trees.

This meant that at our next stop (Lake Gunn) we could walk around without any target species to find. It was a very mature Beech forest (800 years old). The interior was stunning with many shades of green, with virtually every tree covered in lichen and mosses. It was a lush, verdant and quite beautiful forest. We also saw a few birds including Kaka, Robin and Rifleman. After walking around we set off again to have lunch at Gertrude Valley, just before Homer's Tunnel. Whilst enjoying our picnic lunch we were entertained by two males and a female Tomtit flying around. One of the males may have been last year's offspring helping to raise this year's brood.

After lunch we set off through the Homer Tunnel towards Milford Sound, stopping just once more at The Chasm. This was just a short twenty minute walk around a canyon that had been sculptured into some amazing holes and shapes by the action of the flood water and pebbles picked up in the flow, scouring the rocks. The results were quite spectacular and the rocks around the stream had been worn smooth by the erosion.

After this brief stop we collected our tickets and boarded the catamaran, which took us out to the edge of the sound and back around again. The cruise was just over an hour in glorious steep sided mountain scenery. We saw spectacular waterfalls, a Fur Seal colony and a small group of Fiordland Crested Penguins on the rocks. On the return journey we pulled in close to one of the dramatic waterfalls. Those on the viewing platform on the bow became drenched as the boat neared the waterfall. Some dashed inside whilst others enjoyed the early shower! After this it was time to head back for dinner at Dolce Vita in Te Anau. We were a little behind schedule and got ready in a hurry to get to the restaurant for 7.30pm. We enjoy some fine Italian food and wine, before calling an end to a fun and enjoyable day.

Day 20

Friday 18th November

Today was our penultimate day and we were driving to Dunedin for our final group wildlife experience: a cruise around Taiaroa Head at the mouth of Otago Harbour. Here we were looking for the only mainland nesting Northern Royal Albatrosses in the world.

It was a warm, bright day as we made our way out of the dramatic mountain scenery with fresh snowfall decorating the peaks. We descended onto the hilly pasture and farming region. En route we saw several Australasian Harriers and Pied Oystercatchers, and also Black-billed Gulls chasing tractors.

We stopped for coffee at Gore, just for a break and comfort stop. We were soon on our way after a quick shop at the 'Gun, Slave and Opium' shop. Not sure what people bought!

We then made our way to Dunedin, a sprawling city that took a further ten kilometres to reach the city centre from the outskirts. We went for lunch at 'Nectars', which was a delightful, friendly place. We then had a rush to get to the boat for our cruise on the 'Monarch'. As the roads were clear we made it in good time, noting several White-faced Herons, Variable Oystercatcher and Little Shag on the way.

We set sail on time and enjoyed a lovely little trip around Otago Harbour and had the bonus of an unexpected new bird for the trip. We visited a shag colony and were told that what had been previously thought of as Stewart Island Shag has been found to be a genetically distinct species, although impossible to separate in the field. Locally, this bird has been called Otago Shag awaiting confirmation by the International Ornithologist's Union. We watched a breeding colony with their 'chimney stack' nests, and next to them, tucked into the cliffs, were breeding Spotted Shags. We also saw a single New Zealand Sea Lion and a colony of the misnamed Fur Seals. As we venture further out to sea it became a little choppy, but we were able to watch breeding Royal Albatrosses on their nests and a few immatures circling overhead. It was a sunny afternoon with bright blue skies setting the albatrosses in glorious light and they effortlessly glided on their three metre wings.

We then sailed further out into the open ocean and saw a few more species, including White-capped Albatross, Cape Petrel, White-chinned Petrel and Sooty Shearwater. We then sailed back into the harbour and disembark

after a very enjoyable hour. We then drove back to the impressive Scenic Hotel, where we had a warm welcome, drink and hot towel. After getting settled in our rooms we met for our last dinner as a group. We thanked Mark for his hard work: finding an impressive array of birds; driving us around the length and breadth of this beautiful country; and most of all his entertaining and informative commentary and engaging manner. The group presented him with a card and gift and we said farewell.

The checklist still remained to be completed so we did our last two days and chatted, reflecting on what had been a successful and hugely enjoyable trip with a group that retained a sense of fun and adventure throughout.

Day 21/22

Saturday 19th/Sunday 20th November

For ten of the group, today we were flying back to Dunedin and then on to Vancouver, London and Newcastle respectively. We had a free morning, which most spent exploring Dunedin until it was time to go to the airport at noon. We said 'goodbye' to Phil and Alison, who were going on to enjoy a few more days on the South Island. In Auckland we said 'goodbye' to David and Alison who had a further ten days exploring the North Island and to Bob and Corinne who were flying home to Canada. The rest of us made the journey back to London via Dubai, except for Ann who went on to Newcastle. At Heathrow we said our 'farewells' and the tour came to an end.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!



Stitch Bird by David Toplas

	Common name	Scientific name	November																		
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
29	Little Black Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>			20	1			1												
30	Little Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>		1	20	2			1		1				6		10			10	
31	King Shag	<i>Leucocarbo carunculatus</i>							1	1											
32	Stewart Island Shag	<i>Leucocarbo chalconotus</i>															200				
33	Otago Shag	<i>(Phalacrocorax chalconotus)</i>																		✓	
34	Spotted Shag	<i>Punctatus punctatus</i>							20	✓	✓	2					20			✓	
35	Black Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1		10				1			1	1	3	2	✓			1		
36	Pied Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>		25	2						1	✓	✓								
37	White-faced Heron	<i>Ardea novaehollandiae</i>		1	✓			✓	1		2	2						1		10	
38	Great Egret (White Heron)	<i>Egretta alba</i>											LO	2	1						
39	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>									2										
40	Reef Heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	1									1									
41	Royal Spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>							2	2										2	
42	Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>		1	✓			✓	✓	10			10	✓	✓	10	✓			✓	
43	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		6		4							4			20	✓		✓	4	
44	Cape Barren Goose	<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>											2								
45	Paradise Shelduck	<i>Tadorna variegata</i>	4	2	6	10		✓	✓	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
46	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓		✓	1	1	10	10	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
47	Grey Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>			2									1	2						
48	Grey Teal	<i>Anas gibberifrons</i>											20			20	✓				
49	Brown Teal	<i>Anas. aucklandica</i>		3					1												
50	New Zealand Shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchotis</i>											10			3					
51	Blue Duck	<i>Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos</i>				6															
52	New Zealand Scaup	<i>Aythya novaeseelandiae</i>			✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	4	6
53	Australasian Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>	1	4	20	10		10	5	10			20		30	5	10	1	4		
54	New Zealand Falcon	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>				1									1	2					
55	Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopava</i>	10	4	5			2													
56	Brown Quail	<i>Synoicus ypsilophorus</i>		6																	
57	California Quail	<i>Lophortyx californica</i>	2		2	20									1						
58	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	LO		2	1		1	1									2			
59	Weka	<i>Gallirallus australis</i>						4	2	2			6	4				10		LO	
60	Pukeko (Australasian Swamphen)	<i>Porphyrio melanotus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	2				✓	✓	✓				3	10	

	Common name	Scientific name	November																		
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
61	South Island Takahe	<i>Porphyrio hochstetteri</i>																		C	
62	Australian Coot	<i>Fulica atra australis</i>													2					1	
63	South Island Pied Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			✓					6	1	6			6		10	✓	✓		
64	Variable Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>		6	4			2	4	6	1		2		6	20			4		
65	Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>	10	4	✓	✓		✓	10	3	2	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
66	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>			6																
67	New Zealand Dotterel	<i>Charadrius obscurus</i>		2																	
68	Banded Dotterel	<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>								4					10						
69	Black-fronted Dotterel	<i>Charadrius melanops</i>										3									
70	Wrybill	<i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i>			20			2													
71	Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			✓			✓													
72	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>			2																
73	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>									1										
74	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>			✓			20													
75	Pied Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		LO	✓			2		6		✓			✓						
76	Black Stilt	<i>Himantopus novaezealandiae</i>													15						
77	Southern Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus dominicalis</i>	16	50	✓	1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
78	Silver (Red-billed) Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i>	20	20	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
79	Black-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus bulleri</i>			✓					6				✓	✓			✓	✓		
80	South Polar Skua	<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>														4					
81	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			4			6													
82	Black-fronted Tern	<i>Sterna albobriata</i>										2	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
83	White-fronted Tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>	200	2	✓			✓	✓	10				✓			✓		8		
84	New Zealand Pigeon	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae</i>	2	6	2	6		20	20	6	✓	10		10			2	1	1		
85	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
86	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>		10																	
87	Barbary Dove	<i>Streptopelia risoria</i>		1																	
88	Kaka	<i>Nestor meridionalis</i>				5		4	3		✓			1			20	10	1		
89	Kea	<i>Nestor notabilis</i>											3					4	10		
90	Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>	4			4															
91	Red-crowned Parakeet	<i>Cyanoramphus novaezealandiae</i>		6				10	16								✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	November																		
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
92	Yellow-crowned Parakeet	<i>Cyanoramphus auriceps</i>				4											6				
93	Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	1																		
94	Shining Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>				1															
95	Long-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Eudynamys taitenis</i>				2	1	H	1					H							
96	Morepork	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>				2		2						H							
97	New Zealand Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon sanca</i>	4	2	2	2		1	1							1					
98	Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	20	✓	✓	✓	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			4		1		
99	Rifleman	<i>Acanthisitta chloris</i>				1	1							1	3				1		
100	Rock Wren	<i>Xenicus gilviventris</i>																2			
101	Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	3		1	20	20	4	1		6				6	1					
102	Grey Warbler	<i>Gerygone igata</i>	2		1	10	10	6	1		1	3	H	2	4						
103	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		H	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
104	New Zealand Pipit	<i>Anthus novaseelandiae</i>				1		1	3		1	2									
105	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
106	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
107	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1			1	2	1	1		2				2	1			1	1	
108	Fernbird	<i>Bowdleria punctata</i>											1								
109	Brown Creeper	<i>Mohoua novaseelandiae</i>															6				
110	Whitehead	<i>Mohoua albicilla</i>		10		3		4	5												
111	Yellowhead	<i>Mohoua ochrocephala</i>															1				
112	North Island Fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>	10	2	2	10		5	3								1	1	1		
113	Tomtit	<i>Petroica macrocephala</i>			H															4	
114	New Zealand Robin	<i>Petroica australis</i>	2	5	H	2		2	2								1		3		
115	Kokako	<i>Callaeas cinerea</i>		2																3	
116	Stitchbird	<i>Notiomytis cincta</i>		20																	
117	Bellbird	<i>Melanura melanura</i>	1	✓	H	H		10	10	20	6		✓	✓		✓	✓	2	1		
118	Tui	<i>Prosthemadura novaseelandiae</i>	30	✓	2			10	10	10	2		✓	✓		✓	✓	10		1	
119	North Island Saddleback	<i>Philesturnus rufusater</i>		4																	
120	South Island Saddleback	<i>Philesturnus carunculatus</i>														10					
121	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
122	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	H		2	✓	1	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	
123	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	2		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	November																		
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
124	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	H			✓	2			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
125	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1	2	✓	✓	6		1	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
126	Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>				10								4	✓				1		
127	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
128	Indian Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓													
129	Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	1	6	✓	✓	2	✓	5	5	5	✓	✓	✓	2	1		4	✓	✓	
130	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>																		6	

Mammals

1	Long-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>										50								
2	Hector's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus hectori</i>								✓	✓									
3	Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>								✓										
4	New Zealand Sea Lion	<i>Phocartos hookeri</i>														1			1	
5	New Zealand Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus forsteri</i> ,						2	✓	✓	6									20
6	European Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>							1											
7	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓						
8	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>			✓	✓								✓			✓			

Butterflies

1	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓		
2	North Island Glade Copper	<i>Lycaena feredayi</i>	✓																	
3	New Zealand Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa gonerilla</i>			✓								✓		✓					
4	Common Blue	<i>Zizina otis labradus</i>				✓														
5	Yellow Admiral	<i>Vanessa itea</i>										✓		✓						
6	Boulder Copper	<i>Lycaena boldenarum</i>										✓		✓						
7	Southern Blue	<i>Zizina otis oxleyi</i>								✓				✓						
8	Tussock Ringlet	<i>Argyrophenga antipodum</i>												✓						
9	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>						✓												
10	Australasian Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa kershawi</i>											✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	November																		
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19

Dragonflies and Invertebrates

1	Red Damselfly	<i>Xanthocnemis zealandica</i>				✓														
2	Red Percher	<i>Diplacodes bipunctata</i>				✓														
3	Yellow-spotted Dragonfly	<i>Procordulia grayi</i>							✓											
4	Asian Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓															
5	Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓														
6	German Wasp	<i>Vespula germanica</i>														✓	✓			
7	Honey Bee sp	<i>Apis mellifera</i> (type)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
8	Wellington Tree Weta	<i>Hemideina crassidens</i>							✓	✓										
9	Mountain Weta	<i>Hemideina maori</i>														✓				



Salvin's Albatross by Terry Goble



Kea by Chris Nicholson



Red-crowned Parakeet by Chris Nicholson