

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO NEW ZEALAND
Kiwis, Kakas & Keas
01 – 21 November 2012



Leader: Mark Ayre

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A Personal Diary

01 to 03 November

The entire group had travelled out to New Zealand a day early so everybody was together at the hotel ready for me to collect them. This enabled us to make a quick exit from downtown Auckland to head out to the Cascade Regional Park in the Waitakere Ranges. A gentle introduction to New Zealand produced a range of both introduced and natives birds, these included the Eastern Rosella, Grey Warbler and New Zealand Native Pigeon as well as Tui and its wonderful parson's collar. The Sulphur-crested Cockatoos made a brief but noisy appearance. We were lucky with the weather and enjoyed lunch under the shelter of a Kanuka tree with a North Island Robin. The Walk in the forest was amazing with the sheer size and bulk of the Kauri trees. New Zealand's tallest the Kahikatea dwarfed us standing at its base. From there we made our way to the Muriwai Beach, which is on the west coast of New Zealand looking out into the Tasman Sea, the only thing that separates New Zealand from Australia. There were wonderful viewing opportunities of both the White-fronted Terns and the Australasian Gannets nesting on the headland at Muriwai. The huge cliffs above the car park had some excellent examples of some volcanic lava, which had been extruded under water forming pillow lava. With time to spare we headed back to Auckland to have a brief look around the causeway leading to Puketutu Island, which juts out into Manukau Harbour. We were able to make a start on identifying some of the New Zealand waterfowl. The New Zealand Shovelers were very tame being used to trucks continually driving to the quarry located on the island. Some of the Gray Ducks had young along with the Black Swans. The tide was quickly heading out but we were able to catch up with a flock of Wrybills and Bar-tailed Godwits.

04 November

It was a day early for Guy Fawkes but that had not stopped the display. With a cold wind blowing it made the landing on Tiri Tiri Matangi a wee bit exciting but it worked in our favour, since it was blowing strongly onto the beach and the birds were all hiding inside the forest. The whole ecosystem on this island is truly remarkable and is a wonderful example of what a predator-free status can do. It is hard to do justice to the place in words, but the close proximity to all the birds and the wonderful variety speak for themselves. Once into the shelter of the valley and the forest we were able to observe many of the treasures of the island such as North Island Saddleback, Stitchbird, Red-crowned Parakeet and Whitehead. A pair of Kokaka kept us searching in the tops of the mature trees, where the birds eat the ripe orange fruit, as we watched patiently. A few of the Brown Quail were happily doing their business alongside the track as we headed for the lighthouse for lunch. Then after lunch, a delightful but rather shy Takahe was watched as we strolled into the lee of the lighthouse and its buildings. The walk down the Wattle track to the small pond close to the departing wharf produced a pair of Brown Teal and one juvenile, a happy ending to a marvellous day.

05 November

With a midday high tide we ambled out towards the Miranda Shore Bird Centre, leaving behind the city of Auckland waking up to a Monday morning. Our first stop was the centre where my old friend Keith was waiting. He gave us a very enlightening talk on the centre and both of his books, (the first one deals with the story of the Bar-tailed Godwits and the longest non-stop flight from Alaska to New Zealand and the newer one which has just been just released is on New Zealand shorebirds and their issues.) High tide was approaching as we drove back to where all the birds roost on the shell bank. Unfortunately, the cool south westerly wind had what we wanted to see on the lee shore out of sight. But we were able to see the New Zealand Dotterel when it came up on to the ridge. Looking over the Stilt ponds, which were unusually empty of water, there were many stilts, some standing around, some on nests and some very close to us with very tiny babies walking about. This pond usually holds one or two little treasures but today there was nothing special just a couple of New Zealand Shoveler and a few White-faced Herons. Out at the main shell bank,

which is a dominant feature of this 'Chenier Plain', birds were coming into land in huge squadrons. A few Wrybill hiding on the side of the bank occasionally popped up giving us a view of their curved beaks. Bar-tailed Godwits were present in huge numbers, covering the sky when they took to the air. The shell bank had a large roost of White-fronted Terns and the Black-billed Gulls were at home with a large colony at the end of the shell bank. The Lesser Knot were holding their ground but were outnumbered by the godwits.

After having lunch at the visitor centre we headed away down through the Hauraki Plains making our way to Sulphur Point on Lake Rotorua. All four types of shags were present and nesting, along with the resident New Zealand Dabchicks. The lake had a host of waterfowl, introducing us to the New Zealand Scaup. We arrived at Lake Taupo with plenty of time to spare in full sunshine and blue skies. Lake Taupo was at its best and we could see all the way down to the opposite end of the lake to Mt Ruapehu and the other snow-covered tops.

06 November

The early morning start was greeted with a cool day out of the bag, with no frost and a blue sky as the sun rose in Pureora State Forest Park. Our friendly Kokako made an appearance just before breakfast and then as the sun rose it began its wonderful song, albeit a bit croaky at first. Several Kaka flew from tree to tree making their presence known. We managed to watch both types of cuckoo, which responded well to the tape recording, giving us excellent views. We then spent an hour walking in the Totara Forest. It was a wonderful experience to be among the giant trees and all their epiphytes (one tree can carry over a hundred different species of plants, all living happily together). The height and grandeur of the forest made watching the Yellow-crowned Parakeets hard work. Heading back to the Whakamaru Ponds there were a number of Grey Teal and a lonely Australian Coot. Lunch was taken down at the southern shore of the Lake Taupo where we made several attempts at finding Fernbird but only heard a Marsh Crake calling in the process. Finally, at our last attempt, we managed to call one up which was very obliging giving us the rewarding views we had been waiting for. There were a number of New Zealand Dabchicks out on the water with hundreds of Black Swans feeding. Our next stop was Whakapapa intake, where much to our surprise there two adult Blue Ducks and at least four young just taking off upstream. We decided to stop at Mahuia Rapids just before the turn off to Whakapapa Village to have a look for Richard's Pipit, where there was one. Much to our delight right at the end of the track on the opposite side of the river we were able to watch a pair of Blue Ducks with three young happily feeding away. We had the opportunity to spend as much time as we liked because they could not see us, which capped off a very special day.

07 November

As yesterday gave us such a wonderful experience with the Blue Duck at Mahuia Rapids we opted for a more leisurely start as we no longer had to go down the Manganuiateao River searching for them. Before leaving Mt Ruapehu, in all the glory of a perfect cloudless day, we headed for a tour up the ski-field road, visiting the Iwikua ski-field village and marvelling at the moonscape scenery. While examining some of the Alpine plants, a New Zealand Falcon came flying past, a nice bonus for the start of the day. It did not stop there because as we came down the road at the bottom bridge there was another pair of Blue Ducks with one young. The journey down through the Papa mud stone and the steep country that was full of slips and slides was rather quick and before we knew it we were at Bulls. So we went under the road bridge and down river where we were able to watch the very smart Black-fronted Dotterel. We had tried to leave it as late as possible to reach the Foxton River mouth, but as we looked over the mud flats it seemed there was a long way for the waders to be pushed in by the incoming tide. The regular Bar-tailed Godwits, Knot and Pacific Golden Plover were all there but we didn't find anything new. We had to leave before the river made it to high tide so we could get to the ferry on time. The trip across to the mainland on the Cook Strait ferry was cold with only a few birds after a long watch outside. One Salvin's Albatross passed close to the ferry along with a flock of Cape Pigeons. Dinner was served on the boat once it got dark and then we checked into our hotel.

08 November

We went down to the main wharf after an early breakfast to be ready for 8 am sailing with Paul to head up the Queen Charlotte Sound. It was yet another blue sky day, with a light but cold southerly breeze that kept the temperature down. With the small boat to ourselves we cruised at 20 knots heading for the outer sounds. We first pulled up for some Little Blue Penguins, which surfaced near the boat. These birds allowed us to get very close without diving and disappearing. Just at the entrance to Tory Channel, which flushes all the

nutrients into the Queen Charlotte Sounds, there were numbers of Fluttering Shearwaters along with one Arctic Skua which we passed on the way back. The few rocks where sometimes the King Shags roost was a winner, with at least three birds present and the boat was able to manoeuvre in close without disturbing them. The King Shags are always very edgy and once one takes to the air they all disappear. It was not long before we spotted one in the water fishing, and once on the surface his swivelling head gave him away. Our attention was diverted to large pod of Common Dolphins, the second largest of the dolphins. We enjoyed the dolphins bow-riding the boat, some with young. This was a new visiting pod which had joined the resident pod and they were all fishing together. These dolphins were quite happy to interact with the boat and as we followed them we came close to the Australasian Gannet colony. We paid a visit into Cook's landing place where the claim of sovereignty was made and is well-documented at Big Bay - the area was well guarded by a couple of friendly of Weka. This is the most historic place to set foot in New Zealand and we were able to drink out of the same creek as Captain James Cook did. On our journey through the sounds we learnt of the different populations of kiwi which have been introduced to the various islands as safe havens where the populations can grow before they are returned to their home forests. After lunch at Picton, one of the stops on the way to Kaikoura was at the Blenheim sewage pond. There was a good collection of water birds here, with a huge colony of Royal Spoonbills, New Zealand Shoveler, Grey Teal and Black Swans. There also was a pair of Glossy Ibis making themselves at home with the Royal Spoonbills on the island in the sewage ponds. It is hoped that these two birds may start breeding. We drove on to Kaikoura, the sea bird capital of the world, stopping on the way to view the New Zealand Fur Seals at one of their haul-out places.

09 November

It was another perfect day with the mountains up behind Kaikoura carrying a topping of snow. This could cause a problem for the Hutton's Shearwater which nest high up just below the snow line of the seaward Kaikoura Range. We had breakfast at the Albatross Encounters café which made for an easy departure. We sailed on one of the boats used for swimming with the dolphins as there were a lot of people joining us on the trip. This was a much larger two-storey catamaran which had a high-viewing platform. Even though it was fine day with only a light breeze, there was a moderate sea rolling the boat around which nearly proved too much for a couple in our party. (Although once ashore they soon recovered to eat a hearty lunch!) Gary, our skipper, was a wealth of knowledge with nothing slipping his attention. It seemed to be a little calm for a lot of the birds so we paid a visit to a fishing boat to start with. It was a beautiful scene with the early morning sun on the fresh snow on the mountains with the small fishing boat and a gathering of pelagic birds. The flock of Cape Petrels stayed with us for the rest of the day along with the Giant Petrels. Some of the Wandering and Salvin's Albatrosses came over from the fishing boat to check us out. We moved off to try our own luck at a place known as the 'The Trench' with the chum and had birds galore.

The albatrosses sat like sheep at the back of the boat competing with the Giant Petrels which are ones that are always causing trouble. We had good close up views of these birds which enabled us to see the difference between the Northern and Southern Giant Petrels. The Cape Petrels have no fear and were right in amongst it getting whatever came their way. All the Westland Black Petrels tended to hang back, but the one White-chinned Petrel came straight in very close to where all the action was. The Salvin's Albatross was easily voted the most beautiful of all the birds, especially when seen close up, the colours on its bill and head were so crisp and neat.

We had so many superb views of these pelagic birds that words cannot do them justice - seeing is believing. There was one Short-tailed Shearwater that paid a brief visit. We spent some time with the Dusky Dolphins that wanted to play while we were heading in towards Barney's Rock. The New Zealand Fur Seals had a few pups on the rocks along with some breeding White-fronted Terns and Black-backed Gulls.

Most of the party did a walk around the peninsular and saw the predator-proof fence where the relocation of Hutton's Shearwater is taking place. They are trying to start a new colony by hand-rearing young at the site and using tape recordings to attract the birds in at night. What a great day we had had on the water at Kaikoura.

10 November

The day dawned fine and we headed over to the Organic Café for another delicious breakfast. Since today was very much a driving day. We had arranged for morning tea and fresh farm-baked scones to be had in the garden of my in-laws family farm and so we headed up the inland Kaikoura road. It was another beautiful

day when we arrived with all the summer flowers showing their best. The field of daffodils in front of the bull paddock was had gone over but both the climbing and old fashioned roses, which were all around the garden, were spectacular. The colour combinations were very skilfully organised. In and around all the different paths are lots of my mother-in-law's own pottery statues, waiting to surprise you as you turn the corners. The group would have been happy to stay for hours but we had a long journey ahead of us. The next stop was Rangiora to pick up some supplies then on to Oxford for a picnic lunch. Dairy farming was everywhere, all with pivot irrigation and large herds of cows - some over a thousand. This huge conversion to dairy farming has greatly reduced the sheep numbers throughout the country. However, very high inputs of fertilizer are needed to maintain this intense dairy farming practice which has led to high nutrient build up in the waterways and lakes. After leaving the Canterbury Plains we travelled up the Waimakariri River gorge, over Porters Pass and the Torlesse range. We stopped at Lake Lyndon where a Banded Dotterel kept us amused as it was being photographed and one of the Great Crested Grebes was sitting on a nest right next to the water's edge out in the open. A short walk was undertaken at Arthur's Pass, before the rain set in, where we encountered a Rifleman and saw our first Keas. Our long day of travelling ended at the sight of the old Bealey Hotel.

11 November

We left the old hotel in the rain hoping it would clear as the day progressed. At the top of Otira Gorge we kept entertained by a lonely Kea who insisted on getting under the bus. The engineering of the road down the gorge was something to be seen. It was very surprising to see so many Weka along the side of the road on the way to Hokitika, and quite a few had young ones as well.

Before reaching the town of Hokitika we made a stop at the sewage ponds to find a pair of Cape Barren Geese along with a variety of waterfowl. Before heading off for lunch we watched the locals catching Whitebait, a small native fish, which is sold as a luxury at the river mouth. We also saw a couple of White-faced Herons which were feeding across the river. We drove on down through the west coast rainforest with patches of sunshine and took a short walk at Okarito looking out over the lagoon. On the way we watched three Yellow-crowned Parakeets feeding on a tree just off the track, which gave everybody a very good view. It was then off to our hotel for a stay of a couple of nights after a long drive.

12 November

Today we opted for a trip down the coast to Munro's Beach on a penguin hunt. The day was warm and fine, and the fresh snow on the tops made a beautiful back drop to the drive. We saw one Cattle Egret on the way feeding as you can guess, with a herd of cows.

The dry walk down to the beach through the lowland podocarp forest was wonderful with the sun shining through the tree ferns. We then stationed ourselves on the edge of the beach to allow the Fiordland Crested Penguins to come out of the water and walk up the beach without being frightened by us. While we were waiting one appeared from the cliffs and walked down on the beach and then after a short swim decided not to head for sea and returned to walk up the beach and into the rocks. Then another appeared from the rocks and at the same time we watched the one out at sea. The one on the shore just could not wait for the adult to return and met it in the water. To us the surf breaking on the beach looked terrifying but they just are not bothered, and just wait for the right wave to wash them up the beach while getting bashed around. Then just stand up and walk ashore as if nothing had happened. All these antics kept us amused for a couple of hours then we walked back through the forest for lunch at Lake Piranga.

While driving back we stopped to round up a herd of young heifers which had just got a gate undone. We managed to get in front of them and push them back in through the gate before they all made it on to the main road and caused an accident. We had an early dinner and went back down to Okarito to start on our quest to find an Okarito Brown Kiwi. Ian, (alias Captain Kiwi our guide), was there to meet us and we had a briefing and given our various commands. To my surprise we did not have to march into the forest for a couple of miles as the pair at the start of the track had been very active. This was a huge delight and just below where we had walked the previous day to the look out. After an in-depth discussion about kiwis and waiting for the sun to go down, we were all positioned along the track in preparation for the birds to come across the track. It was not long after sunset when the pair came out and headed our way, a rearrangement of the regimented line was quickly done. The birds were within a couple of metres when each gave a loud call and then the female popped onto the track just metres away, followed by the male who came along the track

to within a metre of us. They were so close and it was perfect night so we were able to hear them snorting about in the scrub by the track. It was a wonderful experience and we were back in bed before 11 pm as well.

13 November

The fine weather stayed with us for our long haul over to Lake Ohau. Our first stop and walk was in the parkiwi swamp at Ship's Creek. It was a new experience as we were able to walk on top of the swamp with all the forest giants above us. Leaving the coastal forest we climbed up and over the Gates of Haast, making for the top of the Haast Pass to experience the silence of the Beech Forest in all its primeval majesty. The conditions were great and it was not long before we located a pair of Mohua (Yellowhead), which were happily feeding and singing away. We then watched a Rifleman feeding and enter its nest which was very rewarding. After lunch at Cameron's Flat we drove over the Lindis Pass. We were moving into the heart of the MacKenzie country, and turned off the road at the bottom of the Lindis Pass up and into the Ahuriri Valley. The station at the head of the valley is one of the recent acquisitions by the government to secure and protect those special species that live and breed in the braided riverbeds. We began by having wonderful views of the endemic Black-fronted Terns, but just could not find a Black Stilt, so finally gave up and headed for the lodge and dinner.

14 November

The weather forecast was not good but the day dawned fine again. We set off to Ohau River to visit the delta system and various ponds around it. Once at the delta we spotted one Black Stilt which was a great relief, as it is the rarest wader in the world, once there were only 56 birds left in the wild, now their numbers are steadily on the increase thanks due the efforts of DOC and at the last count there were 86 birds. Right in front of our eyes we witnessed a Stoat running out and then swimming across the water to another bit of the delta while being watched by a Banded Dotterel. We then headed to the ponds to try are luck with the Marsh Crake. After trying at a couple of different places we then flushed one out and were entertained by it feeding along the edge of the pond in full view of us. These were some of the best natural views we have all had. After a coffee break we set off to search for a closer Black Stilt up on the road to Mt Cook. Both the Poaka ponds and the delta at the head of Lake Pukaki did not yield the prized bird. There were plenty of Banded Dotterels but no stilts. So we set off towards Mt Cook but as we were driving along, on the side of the road was a Black Stilt feeding in the paddock. We were able to watch and photograph it for some time. After lunch at the Hermitage we headed off to look over the Muller Glacier and see the most photographed Mount Cook Lilly. We were lucky that this was all in sunshine and warm weather. We then drove back to the lodge for dinner.

15 November

The drive up over the Lindis Pass is always inspiring and with the tussock-covered hills left behind us we made our way for a coffee stop at Tarras. Then it was on along Lake Dunstan, lined by the vineyards and past Cromwell, the town that was flooded when the hydro lake was formed. We saw the evidence of the old gold mining days in the Karawau Gorge and the travelled onto Kingston at the head of Lake Wakatipu. There was a special stop to see the Kingston Flyer, the old operational steam train, in all its glory which was waiting to make the trip up the line. We dropped our bags at the hotel in Te Anau and headed up the Eglinton Valley making a couple of stops en route to the Lake Gunn Nature trail.

While we watched some Brown Creepers we all very pleased to see some Yellowheads as well. This was the first time in 10 years that we have seen them in this part of the forest. There were also Kaka in the forest, and Keas flying high overhead, which was a great end to the day.

16 November

With a mixed bag of weather, and the road to Milford being open for the first time, we headed off to look for Rock Wren. The road had been closed due to a rock fall and there was some more unstable material higher up, causing a potential problem. But it was open for us today so we made the most of it as where we wanted to go was beyond the rock fall. Once at the Homer Tunnels, with only the odd shower, we spent a good couple of hours searching for the elusive bird. However, it was not to be. We even had a repeat walk after lunch by some of the more dedicated birders but it was still not to be seen. So it was off to Milford for the optional cruise where the boating crew saw a couple of Fiordland Crested Penguins and some New Zealand Fur Seals.

17 November

Today was a driving day as we had to be at the ferry for an evening sailing to Stewart Island. Our first stop at Redcliffs was overlooking an old ox-bow lake which is now a wetland. We could see lots of wildfowl but what caught our attention was a small Marsh Crake which flew from one side to another and could be seen in the reeds. Then another came across, so in the end we saw two Marsh Crakes. Our next stop was the old school house but there were no obliging Little Owls there. We had lunch in a small isolated, semi-circular bay with some small islands providing some protection. There were plenty of terns, Red-billed Gulls and Spotted Shags to keep us entertained. At Invercargill, the Tuataras kept everybody amused in the museum. Henry who was born at the turn of the 20th century was out and about. Before catching the ferry there was a few spare minutes to check out Awarua Lagoon. The speedy trip on the ferry showed us a few Sooty Shearwaters, diving petrels and several White-capped Albatrosses. After a quick dinner we set off kiwi watching to make the most of the weather. In the twilight on the way over to ocean beach, we watched a Yellow-eyed Penguin along with several rafts of Little Blue Penguins. The walk to ocean beach was a little bit muddy but it was not long and as we strolled along the beach we encountered our first Stewart Island Kiwi. The male was a bit jumpy so we did not stay long with this bird, but we all could see him excellently. About midway along the beach we encountered another and stayed with this female which was so busy eating the sand hoppers in the kelp that she didn't take the slightest bit of notice of us. This was not the last bird as we also found another female towards the end of the beach which was too busy feeding to take any notice of us as well. These experiences were very special and such a contrast to the Okarito kiwi watching. We returned back to the boat for a warm drink then the trip back in the dark where we were able to see a few Fairy Prions in the spotlight of the boat close to Ackers Point. This all made for a long and memorable day.

18 November

With our late night it was an easy start to meet Phil and his boat *Wildfire* at the wharf for a 9.30 am departure. With a cold southerly blowing it was going to be a calm day. We had to head all the way to Port William before we came across any Fiordland Crested Penguins; the first four were all juveniles hiding in a rock cave. We then were able to get some very close views of a couple in the water alongside the boat, and then some adults on a cliff face which were well photographed.

We then made our way out to the Muttonbird Islands and it was at both North Island and Women Island we saw Yellow-eyed Penguins on the shore. On Bunkers Island we were entertained by a Brown Skua which thought we had some easy food. There were plenty of White-capped Albatrosses which followed the boat with the odd diving petrel and a couple of Sooty Shearwaters and one Cape Pigeon. These birds had been stationed on the back of a fishing boat. At Whero Rock we could smell the Stewart Island Shags while we were watching them at their nests. Lunch was taken at the shelter of Sydney Cove and as we were going round to the wharf on Ulva Island there were a couple of Bottlenose Dolphins which we watched while they were feeding in the shallow water. They did not want to play with the boat so we headed ashore.

As we sheltered while a shower passed by, there was a fleeting glimpse of a South Island Saddleback. The South Island Robin was acting just like all robins and hoping about our feet. We were able to get good views of both Yellow-crowned and Red-crowned Parakeets as they were feeding which gave us the opportunity to see the differences. The bush was loaded with Brown Creepers which came down close while feeding, much closer than those in the huge old Red Beech of the fiordland forest. These birds were feeding with Yellowheads which we could hear singing, then a couple came down close as well, giving us yet again more views; it seemed that during this trip we were to have some great interactions with these colourful birds.

We did try to catch up with the saddleback, but other than some quick sightings they kept well hidden. The Weka on the island were up to their usual antics down at the wharf as we left. The marvellous day was capped off with a wonderful meal up at Church Hill Café.

19 November

We caught the early ferry leaving the island on yet another fine day with cold southerly wind behind us. This made for smooth sailing across, but the sea was a bit choppy so there were a few bumpy patches. There was not much seen on the crossing other than the usual White-capped Albatrosses, one lone Cape Petrel and a lone Giant Petrel. The first stop on our journey to Dunedin was for a White-capped Heron on the Waituna wetlands, but the coming squally showers drove us back to the bus and onward through the Catlins lowlands forest. At Tautuku estuary we walked out on the boardwalk amongst the river bed and the reeds. It was then

on to Kaka Point and the Nuggets and its lighthouse. The walk to the lighthouse gave a chance to look down on a colony of Royal Spoonbills which seemed to nest in the most awkward places on a rock stack along with Spotted Shags and Red-billed Gulls. There were plenty of New Zealand Fur Seals hauled out on the rocks below as well. At the lighthouse huge rafts of Sooty Shearwaters were passing by in all directions with odd Cape Petrel as well. A couple of Shy Albatrosses were seen just off the heads endlessly flying about. There was huge variety of birds nesting on the rock stacks but the Red-billed Gulls were the most prolific.

It was then on to Dunedin, and after a quick check in, it was out to meet Alan and his waiting catamaran at Deborah's Bay. The light seemed to be fading but with sun breaking through under the cloud it made for some excellent photos. The wind was all wrong for the birds and we only managed to catch the odd Royal Albatross on the wing but up on Taiaroa Head there were several birds looking like white and black sheep. There were huge rafts of Sooty Shearwaters and we were able to get up close and watch them feeding. The heads were cover with birds nesting, including the Stewart Island Shags, whose nests are up on little rounded stacks, and had lots of fluffy down-covered chicks. One New Zealand Fur Seal got a bit of a fright as he popped his head out of the water to see all these people looking at him. As we headed back from the ocean into the stiller waters of the harbour the Little Blue Penguins were beginning to raft up; these rafts were up to thirty or forty birds. It would not be long before they were ashore heading to their nests. Keeping with the sea theme we had a wonderful seafood meal on the boat as we came into the harbour. The tide was coming in and huge flock of Bar-tailed Godwits took to the air circling above us. There were a couple of Dusky Dolphins at the entrance to the harbour but they were heading out to feed and not interested in us. What a great day and great way to end a holiday in New Zealand with sun setting over Otago Harbour.

20 November

We had a relaxing day in Dunedin. The group spent their time in the morning strolling around the botanical gardens and opted to stay at the museum after our goodbye and farewells as we all departed our separate ways. We had travelled over 4,617 km and seen 132 species of birds. The huge increase in dairy farming though out the country was very noticeable and it was quite surprising to see three Stoats while on the trip which just goes to prove what a problem the predators are in New Zealand. One of the highlights has to be the pelagic birds on the various trips onto the water, along with the unusual antics of the New Zealand Kiwis. But for me the wonderful sighting of the Yellowhead all-round the country proves how all the work carried out on predator control has paid off.

We had seen a variety of mammals and butterflies. Three types of dolphins, Bottlenose, Dusky and Hector's were seen along with New Zealand Red Admiral and New Zealand Copper butterfly with "Cabbage Whites" for good measure.

21 November

The group arrived back in the UK.

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CHECKLIST OF SPECIES SEEN DURING THE TOUR

Species

South Island Brown Kiwi (*Tokoeka*)
 Stewart Island Brown Kiwi (*Tokoeka*)
 Australasian Crested Grebe (*Puteketeke*)
 New Zealand Dabchick (*Weweia*)
 Northern Royal Albatross (*toroa*)
 Wandering Albatross
 New Zealand White-capped (Shy) Albatross
 Salvin's Albatross
 Short-tailed Shearwater (Tasmanian Muttonbird)
 Sooty Shearwater (Muttonbird), (*Titi*)
 Fluttering Shearwater (*Pakaha*)
 Hutton's Shearwater
 Common Diving Petrel (*Kuaka*)
 Black (Parkinson's) Petrel
 Westland Petrel
 White-chinned Petrel (Shoemaker)
 Cape Pigeon
 Southern Giant Petrel
 Northern Giant Petrel
 Fairy Prion (*Titi Wainui*)
 Yellow-eyed Penguin (*Hoiho*)
 Blue Penguin (*Korora*)
 Fiordland Crested Penguin (*Pokotiwaha*)
 Australasian Gannet (*Takapu*)
 Black Shag (Black Cormorant) (*Kawau*)
 Pied Shag (Pied Cormorant)
 Pied Shag (Pied Cormorant) (*Karuhiruhi*)
 Little Black Shag (Little Black Cormorant)
 Little Shag (Little Pied Cormorant)
 Little Shag (*Kawaupaka*)
 New Zealand King Shag
 Stewart Island Shag, Bronze Shag
 Spotted Shag (*Parekareka*)
 White-faced Heron
 Great White Egret (Great Egret)
 Cattle Egret
 Glossy Ibis
 Royal Spoonbill (*Kotuku-ngutupapa*)
 Black Swan
 Mute Swan
 Canada Goose
 Cape Barren Goose
 Paradise Shelduck (*Putangitangi*)
 Blue Duck (*Whio*)
 Mallard
 Grey Duck (*Parera*)
 Grey Teal (*Tete*)
 Brown Teal
 New Zealand Shoveler (*Kuruwhengi*)
 New Zealand Scaup (*Papango*)
 Australasian Harrier (*Kahu*)
 New Zealand Falcon (*Karearea*)
 California Quail
 Brown Quail
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Wild Turkey
 Buff Weka
 Stewart Island Weka
 Marsh Crake (*Koitareke*)

Scientific Name

Apteryx australis australis (Shaw & Nodder)
Apteryx australis lawryi (Rothschild)
Podiceps cristatus australis (Gould)
Poliiocephalus rufopectus (Gray)
Diomedea epomophora sandfordi (Murphy)
Diomedea exulans (Linnaeus)
Diomedea cauta stadi (Falla)
Diomedea cauta salvini (Rothschild)
Puffinus tenuirostris (Temminck)
Puffinus griseus (Gmelin)
Puffinus gavia (Forster)
Puffinus huttoni (Mathews)
Pelecanoides urinatrix urinatrix (Gmelin)
Procellaria parkinsoni (Gray)
Procellaria westlandica (Falla)
Procellaria aequinoctialis (Linnaeus)
Daption capense (Linnaeus)
Macronectes giganteus (Gmelin)
Macronectes halli (Mathews)
Pachyptila turtur (Kuhl)
Megadyptes antipodes (Hombron & Jacquinot)
Eudyptula minor (Forster)
Eudyptes pachyrhynchus (Gray)
Morus serrator (G. R. Gray)
Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae (Stephens)
Phalacrocorax varius (Gmelin)
Phalacrocorax varius varius (Gmelin)
Phalacrocorax sulcirostris (Brandt)
Phalacrocorax melanoleucos (Vieillot)
Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevisrostris (Gould)
Leucocarbo carunculatus (Gmelin)
Leucocarbo chalconotus (Gray)
Stictocarbo punctatus punctatus (Sparman)
Ardea novaehollandiae novaehollandiae (Latham)
Egretta alba (Linnaeus)
Bubulcus ibis coromandus (Boddaert)
Plegadis falcinellus (Linnaeus)
Platalea regia (Gould)
Cygnus atratus (Latham)
Cygnus olor (Gmelin)
Branta canadensis maxima (Delacour)
Cereopsis novaehollandiae (Latham)
Tadorna variegata (Gmelin)
Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus (Gmelin)
Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos (Linnaeus)
Anas superciliosa superciliosa (Gmelin)
Anas gracilis (Buller)
Anas aucklandica (Gray)
Anas rhynchotis variegata (Gould)
Aythya novaeseelandiae (Gmelin)
Circus approximans (Peale)
Falco novaeseelandiae (Gmelin)
Callipepla californica brunnescens (Ridgway)
Synicus ypsilophora (Bosc)
Phasianus colchicus (Linnaeus)
Meleagris gallopavo (Linnaeus)
Gallirallus australis hectori (Hutton)
Gallirallus australis scotti (Ogilvie-Grant)
Porzana pusilla affinis (J. E. Gray)

Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> (Linnaeus)
Takahe (<i>Notornis</i>)	<i>Porphyrio mantelli</i> (Owen)
Australian Coot	<i>Fulica atra australis</i> (Gould)
Pied Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (Linnaeus)
Southern Island Pied Oystercatcher	<i>Gallirallus australis finschi</i> (Martens)
Variable Oystercatcher (<i>Torea</i> ; dark phase, <i>Torea</i> pango)	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i> (J. R. Forster)
Pied Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> (Linnaeus)
Black Stilt (<i>Kaki</i>)	<i>Himantopus novaeseelandiae</i> (Gould)
New Zealand Dotterel (<i>Tuturiwhatu</i>)	<i>Charadrius obscurus</i> (Gmelin)
Banded Dotterel (<i>Tuturiwhatu</i>)	<i>Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus</i> (Jardine & Selby)
Black-fronted Dotterel	<i>Charadrius melanops</i> (Vieillot)
Wrybill (<i>Ngutuparore</i>)	<i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i> Quoy & Gaimard
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i> (Gmelin)
Spur-winged Plover	<i>Vanellus miles novaehollandiae</i> (Stephens)
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i> (Linnaeus)
Lesser Knot (<i>Huahou</i>)	<i>Calidris canutus canutus</i> (Linnaeus)
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i> (Linnaeus)
Brown (Subantarctic) Skua (<i>Hakoakoa</i>)	<i>Catharacta skua lonnbergi</i> (Mathews)
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> (Linnaeus)
Southern Black-backed Gull (Kelp Gull, Dominican Gull)	<i>Larus dominicanus</i> (Lichtenstein)
Red-billed Gull (<i>Tarapunga</i>)	<i>Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus</i> (J. R. Forster)
Black-billed Gull	<i>Larus bulleri</i> (Hutton)
Black-fronted Tern (<i>Tarapiroe</i>)	<i>Sterna albobriata</i> (G. R. Gray)
Caspian Tern (<i>Taranui</i>)	<i>Sterna caspia</i> (Pallas)
White-fronted Tern (<i>Tara</i>)	<i>Sterna striata</i> (Gmelin)
Barbary Dove	<i>Streptopelia roseogrisea</i> (Sundevall)
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis tigrina</i> (Temminck)
New Zealand Pigeon (<i>Kereru</i>)	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i> (Gmelin)
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> (Gmelin)
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i> (Chatham)
North Island Kaka	<i>Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis</i> (Lorenz)
South Island Kaka	<i>Nestor meridionalis meridionalis</i> (Gmelin)
Kea	<i>Nestor notabilis</i> Gould
Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i> (Shaw)
Red-crowned Parakeet (<i>Kakariki</i>)	<i>Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i> (Sparrman)
Yellow-crowned Parakeet (<i>Kakariki</i>)	<i>Cyanoramphus auriceps auriceps</i> (Kuhl)
Shining Cuckoo (<i>Piwiwharaura</i>)	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus lucidus</i> (Gmelin)
Long-tailed Cuckoo (<i>Koeko</i>)	<i>Eudynamis taitensis</i> (Sparrman)
Morepork (<i>Rura</i>) - HEARD ONLY	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i> (Gmelin)
New Zealand Kingfisher (<i>Kotare</i>)	<i>Halcyon sancta vagans</i> (Lesson)
North Island Rifleman (<i>Titipounamu</i>)	<i>Acanthisitta chloris granti</i> (Mathews & Iredale)
South Island Rifleman (<i>Titipounamu</i>)	<i>Acanthisitta chloris chloris</i> (Sparrman)
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i> (Linnaeus)
Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica neoxena</i> (Gould)
New Zealand Pipit (<i>Pihoihoi</i>)	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i> (Gmelin)
Hedge Sparrow (Dunnock)	<i>Prunella modularis</i> (Linnaeus)
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i> (Linnaeus)
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i> (Brehm)
North Island Fernbird (<i>Matata</i>)	<i>Bowdleria punctata vealeae</i> (Kemp)
Whitehead (<i>Popokatea</i>)	<i>Mohoua albicilla</i> (Lesson)
Yellowhead (<i>Mohua</i>)	<i>Mohoua ochrocephala</i> (Gmelin)
Brown Creeper (<i>Pipipi</i>)	<i>Mohoua novaeseelandiae</i> (Gmelin)
Grey Warbler (<i>Riroriro</i>)	<i>Gerygone igata</i> (Quoy & Gaimard)
North Island Fantail (<i>Piwakawaka</i>)	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa placabilis</i> (Bangs)
South Island Fantail (<i>Piwakawaka</i>)	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa fuliginosa</i> (Sparrman)
North Island Tomtit (<i>Miromiro</i>)	<i>Petroica macrocephala toitoi</i> (Lesson)
South Island Tomtit (<i>Ngiru-ngiru</i>)	<i>Petroica macrocephala macrocephala</i> (Gmelin)
North Island Robin (<i>Toutouwai</i>)	<i>Petroica australis longipes</i> (Garnot)
South Island Robin (<i>Toutouwai</i>)	<i>Petroica australis australis</i> (Sparrman)
Stewart Island Robin	<i>Petroica australis rakiura</i> (Flemming)
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis lateralis</i> (Latham)
Stitchbird (<i>Hihi</i>)	<i>Notiomystis cincta</i> (Du Bus)
Bellbird (<i>Korimako, Makomako</i>)	<i>Anthornis melanura melanura</i> (Sparrman)

Tui	<i>Prothemadera novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae</i> (Gmelin)
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i> (Linnaeus)
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i> (Linnaeus)
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i> (Linnaeus)
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i> (Linnaeus)
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i> (Linnaeus)
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i> (Linnaeus)
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> Linnaeus
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i> (Linnaeus)
North Island Kokako	<i>Callaeas cinerea wilsoni</i> (Bonaparte)
North Island Saddleback (<i>Tieke</i>)	<i>Philesturnus carunculatus rufusater</i> (Lesson)
South Island Saddleback (<i>Tieke</i>)	<i>Philesturnus carunculatus carunculatus</i> (Gmelin)
Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i> (Latham)

MAMMALS

New Zealand Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus forsteri</i>
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>
Hector's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus hectori</i>
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>

This list represents those birds and other animals as seen by party members of this tour.



Eglinton Valley



Salvin's Albatross



New Zealand White-capped Albatross



Wandering Albatross



Australasian Gannet



Fluttering Shearwater



Variable Oystercatcher



White-faced Heron



Spotted Shag



Tutara (Henry)



Kea



Stitchbird



Pukeko



Weka



Tui



South Island Robin



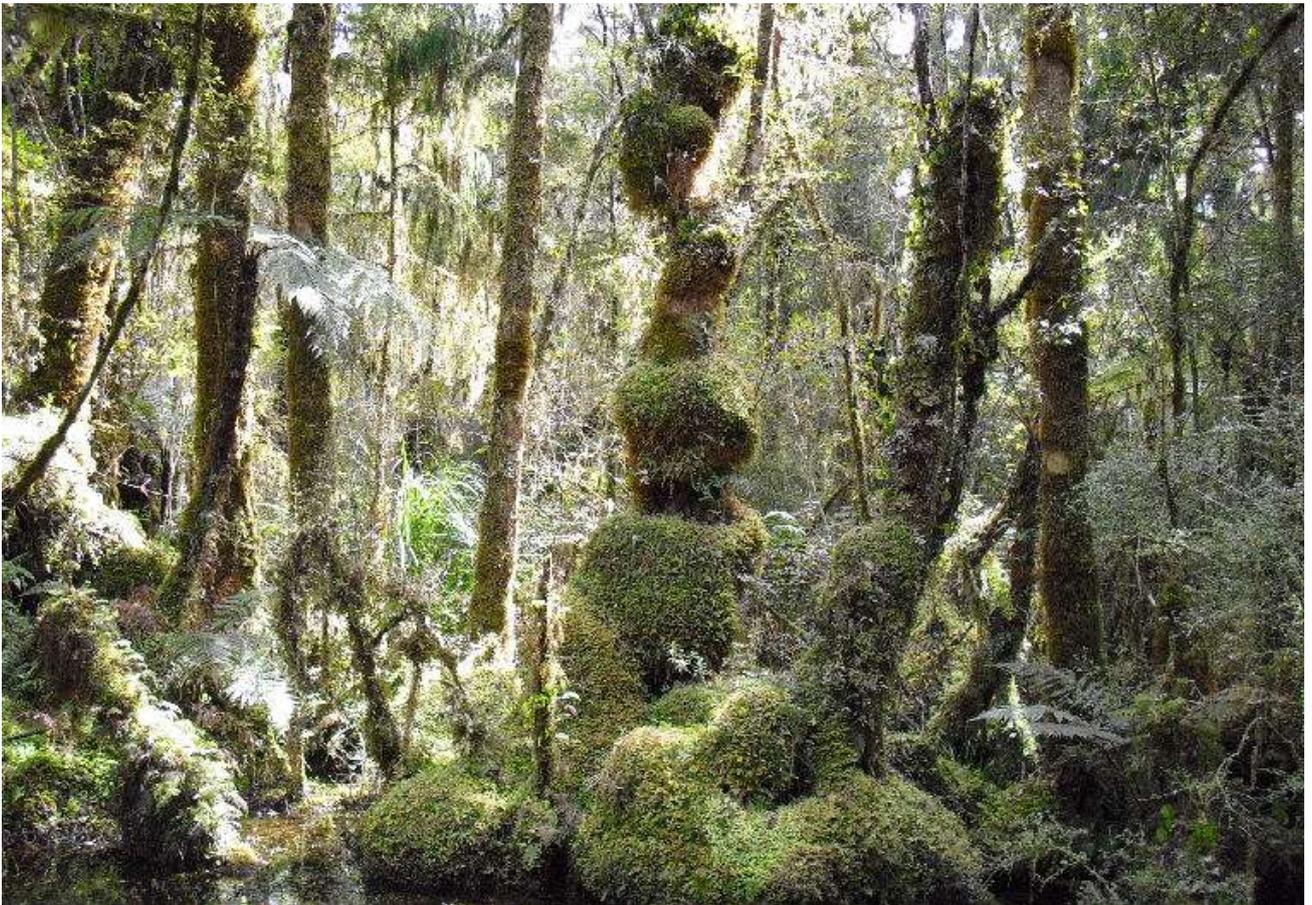
Bellbird



Stewart Island Robin



Mount Tongario



Parkia Swamo near Haast

Front Cover Blue Ducks

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