

New Zealand Birding & Nature Species List | October 8 – 24, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide James Petersen with local guide Mark Ayre. Our clients included Diane, Steve, Clare, Paul, Carol, Scott, Daphne.

We started in the North Island and worked our way down through the South Island to Stewart Island. The number of bird species seen on this trip that are found nowhere else in the world was incredible; from the friendly North and South Island Robins to the ultra-endangered South Island Takahe and New Zealand King Shag. In total we saw 44 endemic species that are found nowhere else in the world!

We also can't fail to mention, the spectacular scenery we encountered; especially on the South Island. This trip had it all from towering glacier fed areas of Mount Cook to windswept peaks of above Arthur's pass to the towering Fiordland areas of Milford Sound. Between the birds, mammals, insects and natural beauty, there was always something to look out throughout the trip. In all we encountered 124 species of birds, 7 species of mammals and 1 endemic species of Insect.

BIRDS: 124 species were recorded, of which 44 were endemic and 26 were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 124 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[New Zealand Birding and Nature | October 8-24, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip

in family line shows the total number of species that was seen in that family.

next to species shows number of days of the trip that species was seen.

Family or Species Common Name Scientific Name: — (124)

KIWIS: Apterygidae — (1)

Southern Brown Kiwi (E) *Apteryx australis* — (1) A special Kiwi outing was planned to see this species. Multiple Kiwis were heard while on a walk on Stewart Island. We all had amazing views of one as we followed it half down the airstrip. While walking back, we found a week-old Kiwi feeding at the start of the walk.

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae — (11)

Canada Goose (I) *Branta canadensis* — (8) A common introduced bird. They seem to be thriving in New Zealand.

Black Swan (I) *Cygnus atratus* — (8) Another introduced species, we saw Black Swans most days, many either on nests or with young cygnets trailing behind them.

Mute Swan (I) *Cygnus olor* — (1) Only seen while birding the Blenheim Water Treatment Plant. It was near a flock of Black Swans.

Paradise Shelduck (E) *Tadorna variegata* — (11) This common endemic was seen most of the days of the trip. Both the males and females were stunning, the males with their all-dark plumage and females with their white heads.

Blue Duck (E) *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos* — (2) This yellow-eyed slate blue duck was only seen twice, both on the way too and coming from the Skotel while on the North Island. Māori name: Whio

Australian Shoveler *Spatula rhynchotis* — (7) This large-billed shoveler was frequently seen while we were visiting the wetland areas.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* — (3) We saw several of these uncommon ducks. The Mallards have reduced the population of Black Ducks in New Zealand due to hybridization.

Mallard (I) *Anas platyrhynchos* — (7) A common bird on most wetland areas.

Gray Teal *Anas gracilis* — (8) The most common teal of the trip, with large numbers of these gray ducks seen on both the North Island and the South Island.

Brown Teal (E) *Anas chlorotis* — (1) This highly endangered teal was only seen on the first day while birding Tawharanui Regional Park. We had good looks at this species as they were swimming on a few small ponds hidden in the forest. Māori Name: Tete Whero

New Zealand Scaup (E) *Aythya novaeseelandiae* — (6) This was a common bird on most large bodies of water. Our best views of this endemic bird came late in the day while birding Lake Rotorua where we had 30 of them close to shore.

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae — (1)

California Quail (I) *Callipepla californica* — (2) These introduced quail were seen while on both the North and South Island. Our best looks came on the first day while at Tawharanui Regional Park.

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae — (4)

Wild Turkey (I) *Meleagris gallopavo* — (1) This introduced bird was only seen on the North Island while driving between stops.

Ring-necked Pheasant (I) *Phasianus colchicus* — (1) We also only saw this species while on the North Island.

Indian Peafowl (I) *Pavo cristatus* — (1) Just like the Wild Turkey and Ring-necked Pheasant this species was only observed while driving the between stops.

Brown Quail (I) *Synoicus ypsilophorus* — (1) This small brown quail was seen very closely after finished birding at Tawharanui Regional Park.

GREBES: Podicipedidae — (3)

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus* — (1) This small species of grebe was only seen while birding Lake Elterwater. We saw these species well and had good looks at its namesake silver tufts.

New Zealand Grebe (E) *Poliiocephalus rufopectus* — (3) This small grebe is only resident on the North Island, where we saw it 3 out of the 5 days on the North Island.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* — (3) We had amazing looks at these large, crested grebes as they interacted, nested and danced on the shores of Lake Wanaka.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae — (4)

Rock Pigeon (I) *Columba livia* — (10) A very common bird, seen most days of the trip.

African Collared-Dove (I) *Streptopelia roseogrisea* — (1) Only seen on the first few days of the trip while on the North Island.

Spotted Dove (I) *Spilopelia chinensis* — (1) Another dove that was only seen on the first few days of the trip while on the North Island.

New Zealand Pigeon (E) *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae* — (6) Everyone got amazing looks at this humongous, native, green backed Pigeon on both the North and South Islands. The best looks were of one almost perched at eye level right of the trail while at Tawharanui Regional Park. Māori name: Kereru

RAILS, CRAKES, AND ALLIES: Rallidae — (4)

Weka (E) *Gallirallus australis* — (3) This rail like bird is only found on the South Island where we observed it twice. Once was while we were on Blumine Island and we got to watch this bird tear apart a rotting log in search of insects. While the other time was at Milford Sound as one strolled through the parking lot.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* — (3) Only seen on the larger bodies of water.

South Island Takahe (E) *Porphyrio hochstetteri* — (1) This large flightless bird was only seen while birding on Tiritiri Matangi. We watched as it waddled into the undergrowth and stood there as we got scope views of this bird's massive bill and thick head.

Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus* — (3) Very common on the North Island, less so on the South Island. On the North Island seen and heard as they strolled around any open area of land. Several were seen on the first day while at Tawharanui Regional Park. Māori name: Pukeo

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae — (2)

Pied Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus* — (11) We had some nice looks at these stilts on both the North and the South Islands.

Black Stilt (E) *Himantopus novaezelandiae* — (1) This very endangered bird was only seen once on the South Island— where we came across two as they fed in the marshes while at Lake McGregor. Māori name: Kaki

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae — (2)

South Island Oystercatcher (E) *Haematopus finschi* — (8) We observed this species on both the North and South Islands. Our best views were of a large congregation of 300 of these birds while birding the Miranda Shorebird Center.

Variable Oystercatcher (E) *Haematopus unicolor* — (9) Also seen on both North and South Islands, with best looks coming while landing the boat at Blumine Island. We watched a mother stay perfectly still on her nest as the boat landed.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae — (5)

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles* — (10) We saw these on both the North and South Islands, they seemed to be fearless birds; mobbing anything they did not like. We witnessed one mobbing a Swamp Harrier while on the South Island.

Red-breasted Dotterel (E) *Charadrius obscurus* — (1) We only saw these on the North Island, but good looks at these dull reddish breasted birds as they were on the beach while at Tawharanui Regional Park.

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus* — (4) Our best views of this plover was on its breeding ground on the braided riverbeds below Mt. Cook. Here we got great views as one walked along the opposite shoreline.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyaornis melanops* — (1) Only seen once, while birding at the Miranda Shorebird Center. This bird was mixed in with a flock of Turnstones.

Wrybill (E) *Anarhynchus frontalis* — (2) Seen only two days of the trip, with the best views coming as an estimated 30 plus fed on the mudflats opposite the bird hide.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae — (3)

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* — (3) These godwits were seen in incredible numbers as they fed at the Miranda

Shorebird center. A number were banded. As we left we watched as they all took off in unison, whirling above us having been flushed by a Swamp Harrier.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* — (1) A small number of these turnstones were seen at the Miranda Shorebird Center.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* — (2) A small number of these birds were seen while birding the Miranda Shorebird Center—mixed in with the larger Bar-tailed Godwits.

SKUAS AND JAEGERES: Stercorariidae — (1)

Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus* — (1) This hulking brown seabird was only seen on the ferry ride across to Stewart Island and on the pelagic trip the following day. Our best views came on the Stewart Island Pelagic trip as one circled the boat more than five times checking us out.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae — (7)

Black-billed Gull (E) *Chroicocephalus bulleri* — (7) This endemic gull was seen mainly on the South Island, with some good looks at the namesake black bill while birding at Ashley Estuary South.

Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae* — (12) A common gull throughout most of the trip, with a stunning 200 seen while on the Kaikoura Pelagic trip.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* — (16) Our most common Gull and seen every day of the trip—even in the mountains! Māori name: Karoro

Australian Tern *Gelochelidon macrotarsa* — (1) This newly split species (as of 2024) was seen flying around the mudflats while birding the Miranda Shorebird Center. We all got decent scope views of its short black beak while perched on the ground as well.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* — (4) Several of these large, orange-billed Terns were observed, with some nice looks at the Ashley Estuary.

Black-fronted Tern (E) *Chlidonias albostratus* — (3) We found these Terns on the South Island only. Our best looks at these orange billed terns were at the Ohau C ponds, where we had 8 of them perch both on the road and on a fence post. Both adults and young birds observed and were comfortable enough that they allowed us to park right next to them and get point blank looks.

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata* — (8) The much more common tern of the trip, found on both Islands. Our best looks were at the Ashley Estuary- where we got to see a nesting colony of this species.

PENGUINS: Spheniscidae — (2)

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor* — (5) Seen sporadically across the trip with brief sightings on the ferry crossing between North and South Island. We finally caught up with them and had fantastic looks at them as they exited the water after dinner on Stewart Island. We also had good looks at a group on our last full day on the Dunedin Harbor cruise. Māori name: Korora

Fiordland Penguin (E) *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* — (1) Only seen on the Stewart Island Pelagic, where we had good looks at two in their rocky caves as well as a number swimming in the water by one of the Islands that may have caused a feeding frenzy. Māori name: Pokotiwaha

ALBATROSSES: Diomedidae — (5)

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri* — (1) Only 2 these dark billed with a yellow outline albatross were seen. Both individuals observed were coming into to the chum during the Stewart Island Pelagic trip.

White-capped Albatross *Thalassarche cauta* — (1) The most common Albatross on the Stewart Pelagic trip only, with a total of 41 being attracted to the bait being thrown overboard.

Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini* — (4) The most common Albatross observed, with a handful being seen on all the pelagic trips as well as some from shore.

Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora* — (3) We saw both types of Royal Albatross. We saw Southern Royal Albatross on both of our pelagic trips, watching this hulking, huge Albatross come into the chum was jaw dropping. We saw Northern Royal Albatross only once, with 10 plus birds observed soaring off the cliffs on the Dunedin Harbor cruise. There were also a number sitting on what we assume were their nests on the cliffs as well.

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* — (1) We only saw that enormous albatross on the Kaikoura Albatross encounters, but it was amazing seeing these huge albatross soar effortlessly in on and grab the chum that was put out for them. The albatross here was the “Antipodean” type of albatross.

PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS: Procellariidae — (10)

Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli* — (3) These hulking, enormous birds were seen on both pelagic trips; both times coming into bait.

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* — (1) This hulking bird was noticed on the last day while on the Dunedin boat trip. The identification of this species is challenging, but with good photographs, one could see the greenish tip to this birds bill.

Cape Petrel *Daption capense* — (3) A total of 40 of these cute, small black and white petrels were seen coming into to the Kaikoura Pelagic trip. 39 of them where of the expected “Snares” race that bread off snares Island, while 1 was of the more uncommon “Antarctic” race.

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur* — (1) We saw these gray Prions off the ferry coming into the South Island. They were easy to spot, flushing from the water as the ferry went by.

Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* — (1) This all-dark petrel was only seen while on the Kaikoura Albatross Adventures trip. 11 of them were seen, and a few came into the bait and gave us good looks.

Buller’s Shearwater *Ardenna bulleri* — (1) Only seen on the ferry to Tiritiri Matangi.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea* — (2) Only seen at the very tip of the South Island as well as on the ferry ride across to Stewart Island.

Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris* — (1) A few seen cutting through the water on the Kaikoura Albatross Adventures.

Hutton’s Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni* — (1) A common Shearwater on the Kaikoura Albatross pelagic. We came across a feeding frenzy of 5,000 plus of these birds came as we traveled back to the dock!

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia* — (3) A common shearwater on the ferry to Tiritiri Matangi and on the ferry between the North and the South Islands.

Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix* — (2) Only a few seen, one was on the ferry between the North Island and South Island while the other gave an extended look as it kept up with the ferry to Stewart Island. Mark referred to them as buzzy bees.

GANNETS AND BOOBIES: Sulidae — (1)

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator* — (3) These large seabirds were seen on the ferries taken on the North Island and between the Islands as well as the boat trip in Queen Charlotte Sound. Our best looks was of a few while heading out to Blumine Island, were a feeding frenzy had us observer a number of Gannets diving into the water around the boat to get food!

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae — (7)

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos* — (8) A difficult cormorant to identify until we got it down to look at the beak. This small beaked cormorant was sporadically common throughout the trip with the best sightings being at Rotorua where we had side by side comparisons between Little Pied and Pied Cormorants.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* — (2) Only seen a few times, and only at the Southern tip of the South Island.

Spotted Shag (E) *Phalacrocorax punctatus* — (5) These fantastic cormorants were seen throughout the trip, but only on the coast. Our best looks were on the Queen Charlotte Sound trip where we got point blank looks at a male that was

still in breeding plumage. His green lores were a vivid contrast on a black, white and gray bird.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* — (4) Only seen on the North Island, these smaller all dark cormorants were not an easy identification but we had looks at them on October 10 and 11th.

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius* — (9) The larger of the two black and white cormorants, with a longer bill as well. We had good looks at these cormorants at Lake Rotorua as they were perched next to Little Pied Cormorants.

New Zealand King Shag (E) *Leucocarbo carunculatus* — (1) Only one of these large black and white shags were seen. But we had amazingly close looks at it from the bare yellow facial skin to the pink feet on the Blumine Island boat trip.

Steward Island Shag (E) *Leucocarbo chalconotus* — (3) This species of shag is split into two different races which do not appear to overlap. We saw both—the “Fouveau” Shag while on the pelagic boat trip off Stewart Island as well as on the southern tip of the South Island. We saw the “Otago” race only on the last full day and on the Dunedin Harbor boat cruise.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae — (6)

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* — (1) Like finding a needle in a haystack, we had 3-4 of these birds calling all around us while at Tokaanu Old Warf rd. With some patience, one was located way deep in the marsh and all got scope views of this skulky bird. Maori name: Matuku

Nankeen Night-heron *Nycticorax caledonicus* — (1) Only seen once and that was at the Upokongaro Café where one light colored night heron was spotted staring right down at us. It picked the perfect spot as it was so high, we couldn't put the scope on it.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* — (1) Only one seen of the trip was at the Ashley Estuary. It was with a Little Egret which made identification simpler.

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae* — (11) This bird was a common sight along most wetlands and bodies of water.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* — (1) This egret with golden slippers was only seen once while birding at Ashley Estuary.

Pacific Reef-Heron *Egretta sacra* — (1) We only saw this species once, perched on a offshore island while coming back from the Kaikoura Albatross Encounter pelagic trip.

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae — (1)

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia* — (6) Seen 6 days of the trip with the largest congregation of them seen feeding while birding the Miranda Shorebird center with 50 of them observed. We also had great looks of a rockery looking out to the ocean while on the Dunedin harbor cruise.

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae — (1)

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans* — (13) A very common bird seen most days. Mostly seen in flight coursing over the open areas looking for food.

OWLS: Strigidae — (1)

Morepork (E) *Ninox novaeseelandiae* — (1) Only seen while on Tiritiri Matangi. This owl was hidden on the side of the trail and let us all get great looks as it half slept, and half watched us. Māori name: Ruru

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae — (1)

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus* — (4) We only observed these small Kingfishers on the North Island near many of the wetlands we visited.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconide — (1)

New Zealand Falcon (E) *Falco novaeseelandiae* — (1) Only seen in the morning while driving back down from the

Whakapapa Ski Fields. It flew away from us and perched atop a rocky outcropping where we all got distant scope views of this falcon.

NEW ZEALAND PARROTS: Strigopidae — (2)

Kea (E) *Nestor notabilis* — (1) Only seen while in the high mountains while on the South Island. Our best view was coming back from Milford sound and watching one try to get into someone's car while they were waiting for the Hosmer Tunnel. It was not successful but was fun way to see their personality.

New Zealand Kaka (E) *Nestor meridionalis* — (4) Seen on Both the North Island and on Stewart Island. The Stewart Island birds had a much lighter head than the northern birds. Our best views were when one perched right in front of us while birding Tawharanui Regional Park on the first day.

PARROTS: Psittaculidae — (4)

Red-crowned Parakeet (E) *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae* — (2) We had these parrots both on the first full day on Tiritiri Matangi and on Ulva Island. The birds on Tiritiri perched right in front of us and we got to watch it forage for food in a low shrub.

Yellow-crowned Parakeet (E) *Cyanoramphus auriceps* — (3) We had these parakeets on three different points on the trip with the best looks coming while eating lunch in the Buried Forest.

Malherbe's Parakeet (E) *Cyanoramphus malherbi* — (1) We saw three of these highly endangered Parakeets on the Blumine Island trip. Two of them were seen attending to a nesting cavity, while further up the trail another one was deep in a shrub foraging for food.

Eastern Rosella (I) *Platycercus eximius* — (1) These noisy birds were only seen on the first day while birding the Auckland area.

NEW ZEALAND WRENS: Acanthisittidae — (2)

Rifleman (E) *Acanthisitta chloris* — (4) A bird that was named after the rifle infantry's colors. This small tailless wren was seen several times with the best look coming while birding Mount Cook National Park. Here we were able to get great views of two calling and interacting/ creeping up trees like nuthatches.

South Island Wren (E) *Xenicus gilviventris* — (1) We had a fantastic experience with 4 of these small wrens in the mountains just before the Homer Tunnel. We ate lunch while watching a pair of these tiny wrens hop around, bath and creep in and out of the rocks.

HONEYEATERS: Meliphagidae — (2)

Tui (E) *Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae* — (6) A very common bird on the North Island with their calls a common call in the forested areas. The best views were from Tiritiri Matangi as they came in to try and raid the nectar feeders.

New Zealand Bellbird (E) *Anthornis melanura* — (11) Another common bird on both Islands, with many of the forested areas we visited having their calls. They also were a common sight on Tiritiri Matangi as they would also come in for the nectar feeders. Māori name: Korimako

THORNBILLS AND ALLIES: Acanthizidae — (1)

Gray Gerygone (E) *Gerygone igata* — (10) A very common bird, heard more often than seen but we had some nice looks of these small gray warblers as we birded Mt. Cook.

WHITEHEADS: Mohouidae — (3)

Whitehead (E) *Mohoua albicilla* — (1) Endemic to the North Island only, where we had decent looks while on Tiritiri Matangi. Māori name: Popokotea

Yellowhead (E) *Mohoua ochrocephala* — (2) Restricted to the South Island. We had amazing looks at these bright, yellow headed birds while on the Lake Gunn Nature Walk. Their bright plumage really attracted one's eye in the dark,

green, mossy forest. Māori name:

Pipipi (E) *Mohoua novaeseelandiae* — (1) These small brown birds with loud voices were seen and heard well while birding on Ulva Island.

WOODSWALLOWS AND ALLIES: Artamidae — (1)

Australian Magpie (I) *Gymnorhina tibicen* — (14) A common bird throughout the trip. Our best sighting of this species was finding a nest while birding Lake McGregor and watching the adults come in and leave to try and placate the hungry babies.

FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae — (1)

New Zealand Fantail (E) *Rhipidura fuliginosa* — (8) This was another common bird in the more forested parts of the trip. Also seemed to be a lot of clients favorite bird as it would jump around in the vegetation and fully flash its tail. One memorable sighting was of 2 adults feeding 3 young birds while birding the Waituna Lagoon. Māori Name: Piwakawaka

WATTLEBIRDS: Callaeidae — (3)

North Island Kokako (E) *Callaeas wilsoni* — (2) Only seen on the first full day; where we had 2 adults preening each other and flying/ climbing above us. We did hear them in the distance the next day, but due to the height of the forest we couldn't see them.

North Island Saddleback (E) *Philesturnus rufusater* — (1) This is another species we only had once on the trip, we had decent looks at two of these black birds with reddish backs while birding Tiritiri Matangi Island.

South Island Saddleback (E) *Philesturnus carunculatus* — (1) It took a lot of patience but we eventually were able to get this Saddleback to come out and give brief views as it flew overhead of us, staying high up in the canopy.

STITCHBIRDS: Notiomystidae — (1)

Stitchbird (E) *Notiomystis cincta* — (1) This bird that belongs to a monotypic family, we saw this species while birding at Tiritiri Matangi. They would come into the nectar feeders and at one point, we had 5 in one feeder! Māori name: Hihi

AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS: Petroicidae — (3)

North Island Robin (E) *Petroica longipes* — (3) A small black robin that is not scared of people. We saw this species several times while birding the North Island. Our best sighting was one that was just off the trail while birding at Tiritiri Matangi Island.

South Island Robin (E) *Petroica australis* — (3) A look alike robin of the south Island, we saw these birds several times on the South Island. Our best sighting was on the Ulva Island where, again, this bird seemed totally unafraid of people.

Tomtit (E) *Petroica macrocephala* — (5) Seen throughout the trip, everyone enjoyed watching this species flit among the rocks and come point blank to the group while at the Wilderness lodge. Māori name: Komiromiro

LARKS: Alaudidae — (1)

Eurasian Skylark (I) *Alauda arvensis* — (7) A common bird throughout the trip. Many times out in the field we would hear the sing song melodic song of a displaying adult and look up to see the bird hovering in the air, before plummeting back down to earth only to do it all again.

BUSH WARBLERS: Locustellidae — (1)

New Zealand Fernbird (E) *Poodytes punctatus* — (1) This skulky endemic was found while birding a marsh in the Lake Taupo area. We had amazing looks at one perched in the tops of the reeds as he surveyed his territory.

Maori Name: Matata

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae — (1)

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena* — (12) A very common swallow on the trip, mostly seen in flight cruising the air for bugs.

WHITE-EYES: Zosteropidae — (1)

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis* — (4) These small green birds with bold white eye rings were only seen 3 days of the trip. The best looks came while watching the grebes display at Wanaka Lake.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae — (2)

European Starling (I) *Sturnus vulgaris* — (13) A common bird seen on most days of the trip.

Common Myna (I) *Acridotheres tristis* — (4) A common bird on the North Island, nonexistent on the South Island.

THRUSHES: Turdidae — (2)

Song Thrush (I) *Turdus philomelas* — (9) Another common bird seen throughout the trip; this was mostly seen walking among the forest floor/local parks we visited.

Eurasian Blackbird (I) *Turdus merula* — (10) This all-black bird with a yellow beak was another common bird seen on both Islands.

ACCENTORS: Prunellidae — (1)

Dunnock (I) *Prunella modularis* — (4) This small songbird with a gray head was seen several times throughout the trip. The best sighting was of two birds that allowed close looks and photos while we were birding the Lake Wanaka waterfront.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae — (1)

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus* — (14) A common bird seen throughout the trip.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae — (1)

New Zealand Pipit (E) *Anthus novaeseelandiae* — (1) Only seen once on the trip, while on the way to the Skotel. We had good looks of one on the rocks in the middle of the stream and watched as it interacted with a Common Chaffinch. Māori name: Pihoihoi

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae — (4)

Common Chaffinch (I) *Fringilla coelebs* — (15) These dapper finches were a common sight on the trip.. We had our best views of this species as it came in to steal crumbs while eating at the Cardrona Restaurant. We also had great views of the male that was interacting with the New Zealand Pipit.

European Greenfinch (I) *Chloris chloris* — (3) An uncommon bird that was observed mostly while on the South Island. Our best views came on the North Island of an adult that was perched on a fence post after birding the Kokako track.

Lesser Redpoll (I) *Acanthis cabaret* — (2) Only seen on the South Island, with brief views coming while birding the Ohau C ponds.

European Goldfinch (I) *Carduelis carduelis* — (7) This brightly plumaged species was seen on both Islands.

OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae — (1)

Yellowhammer (I) *Emberiza citrinella* — (5) This bright yellow species was seen a few times, with some close looks at some foraging birds the afternoon of the Kaikoura Albatross Adventure.

MAMMALS: — (7)

New Zealand Fur Seal *Arctocephalus forsteri* — (7) The only seal seen on this trip, with individuals seen on most of the boat trips and also when birding from shore. The best experience we got was on the way down to Kaikoura, we stopped at a seal colony and got to see several baby seals wandering around the coast line.

New Zealand Sea Lion *Phocarctos hookeri* — (2) Only seen while we were on Stewart Island. We came across a sleeping individual while walking the beach on Ulva Island.

Hector's Dolphin *Cephalorhynchus hectori* — (1) We were lucky to find a few of these endangered dolphins while birding the beaches on the South Island along the Foveaux Strait.

Dusky Dolphin *Sagmatias obscurus* — (3) Only seen on the northern end of the South Island. We had several of these dolphins join in or potentially cause the feeding frenzy we observed while heading out to Blumine Island.

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* — (5) This highly invasive species was observed on both the North and South Islands.

European Hare *Lepus europaeus*— (1) Another highly invasive species, we observed one of this species while staying at the Wilderness lodge by Arthur's Pass.

Stoat *Mustela erminea* — (1) This invasive species was seen running across the road while we were driving to the Wilderness Lodge by Arthur's Pass.

Insects: — (1)

Giant Weta *Deinacrida heteracantha* — (1) This endangered species was found by Mark while birding Tiritiri Mangai. Everyone got great looks at this huge insect as it hid in the foliage of a tree.

LOCATIONS AND NOTES:

Day 1: Ambury Regional Park – Tawharanui Regional Park

Day 2: Ferry to Tiritiri Matangi – Tiritiri Matangi

Day 3: Meremere Power Station/Humpbridge – Whangamarino (ricebowl flats)-Miranda Shorebird Center – Lake Rotorua

Day 4: Kokako track – Whakamaru Dam – Pureora Forest – Lake Taupo - Tokaanu Old Warf Road – Mahuia Rapids – Whakapapanui stream overbridge

Day 5: Whakapapa Ski Field – Upokongaro – Cook Strait Ferry

Day 6: Queen Charlotte Sound Boat Trip – Blumine Island – Blenheim Water Treatment Plant – Lake Elterwater – Kaikoura North Coast

Day 7: Kaikoura Albatross Encounter – Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway

Day 8: Kaikoura South Coast – St. Anne's Lagoon – Ashley Estuary South End – Lake Lyndon – Arthur's Pass Wilderness Lodge

Day 9: Arthur's Pass Bealy Track – Arthur's Pass Village

Day 10: Lake McGregor

Day 11: Ohau C Ponds – Waterwheel Wetland – Glentanner – Mount Cook National Park (Mueller lookout walk

Day 12: Lake Wanaka foreshore

Day 13: Te Anau Upukerora River Mouth – Fiordland National Park (Mirror Lakes, Knobs Flat, Lake Gunn, Homer Tunnel, The Chasm) – Milford Sound

Day 14: Te Anau Bird Sanctuary – Waiau Wier -Rakatu Wetlands Lookout -Gemstone Beach -Cosy Nook -Wakapatu Beach -Riverton Rocks Highway -Waituna Lagoon -Stewart Island Ferry -Kiwi Walk

Day 15: Stewart Island Pelagic – Rakiura National Park (Ulva Island)

Day 16: Stewart Island Ferry – Katiki Point – Dunedin Harbor Cruise