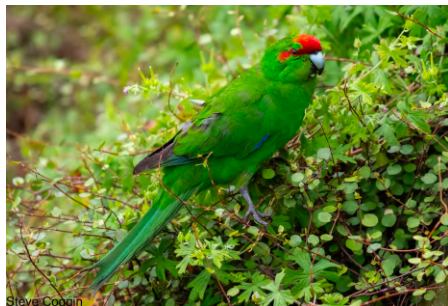
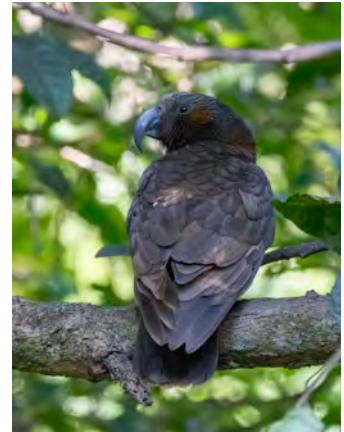


New Zealand Birding and Nature | Trip Report October 8-24, 2024 | by James Petersen



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



Tues., Oct. 8 Ambury Regional Park | Mangere Water Treatment Plant | Tawharanui Regional Park

Mark and a few of us were able to meet up in the morning for some birding before the 1:30 meet up time. We started the day off heading to Ambury Regional Park to bird the mudflats near the airport. Here, we started by finding a flock of European Goldfinches as we hiked down the trail. The first opening we came to had a smattering of birds—a White-faced Heron stalked the mudflats while a few Bar-tailed Godwits probed the mud looking for food. A little closer in, a Pukeo (Australasian Swamphen) walked by the edge of the trail while a



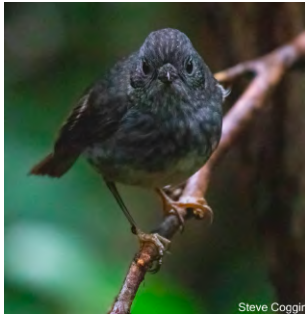
white-headed female Paradise Shelduck and Pied Stilt were further out on the mudflats.

A little way down the trail, a rodent trap was spotted on the side of the trail, and we had a detailed explanation of how these traps work by Mark. This included how New Zealand has volunteers that are assigned to several traps, so they are always kept baited to reduce the pressure that rats bring to the native New Zealand bird life. During this explanation, a Gray Gerygone was singing in the background.

Continuing, we reached a second opening that had a fenced off portion. This fence was there to protect nesting New Zealand Dotterls; also known as Red-breasted Dotterels. With some scanning, we had several Dotterels running back and forth while Eurasian Skylarks sang from their sky displays. During all this, a large flock of wintering South Island Oystercatchers gathered in the middle of the roped off area while several Variable Oystercatchers foraged on the shoreline. Continuing further down the trail, we reached the farthest we would go and admired the 3,000 plus Bar-tailed Godwits that were on the mudflats. Mixed in with the Godwits were several smaller shorebirds, including several Red Knots and Wrybills! Most of them were sleeping so it was hard to see their bills which curve to the side. Upon heading back to the car, a flock of Royal Spoonbills flew by, heading out to a roosting site at a nearby island.

Upon returning to the car, we headed for a short stop at the Mangere WTP. Here, we scanned both sides of the area at the ducks, quickly finding many Black Swans. Right at the start, we had a small diving grebe; a New Zealand Grebe that quickly dove to get some food. Further down, we had several large billed Australasian Shovelers while Welcome Swallows fluttered through the air and Chaffinches flew up from the sides of the road. At the furthest point, we scanned the far parts of the plant and were able to pick out a number of large Cormorants, turning out to be Pied Cormorants. By now, it was time to head back to the hotel to pick up the rest of the group and continue to lunch.

After a quick lunch, where we had to protect our food from the ravenous Silver Gulls, we continued onwards to Tawharanui Regional Park. Here, we walked the trails slowly, both seeing and being serenaded with the songs of the many Tui's. As we slowly walked up the trail, a New Zealand Kaka was noticed in the vines. We watched the first Kaka, when a second Kaka flew in and perched right out in the open, giving all stunning looks at this endemic species. Further down the trail, New Zealand Fantails revealed themselves; chasing each other and showing off their tail as they quickly fanned them all the way out. Mixed in with the fantails, several Whiteheads moved through the canopy. All this was going on when a New Zealand Pigeon came crashing



through the treetops to land and give everyone great looks at this humongous bird. At the furthest point on the trail, we had some more Kakas flying overhead screeching while a North Island Robin came hopping out of the underbrush and head further up the trail. On the way back to the car, we came across another few birds while looking for the Saddleback; one of which was a New Zealand Bellbird perched directly overhead while a Tui flew past, its head yellow with pollen. By this point, it was time to head back to Auckland for dinner and to end a long and fantastic day.

Wed., Oct. 9 Ferry to Tiritiri Matangi | Tiritiri Matangi

We met up for the day after breakfast, where we loaded up and headed up the coast to catch the ferry from the mainland to Tiritiri Matangi. This island is a predator free island that had a whole bunch of rare and endangered birds introduced on the island as a fall back in case of extension on the mainland—so a bunch of New Zealand's critically endangered and rare birds call the island home. While waiting for the ferry we birded the surrounding area where we had a Variable oystercatcher chasing a White-faced heron. The area also had many Silver and Kelp Gulls and two Pied Cormorants. While scanning the waterfront, an Australasian Gannet was seen flying in the distance.

Once we boarded the ferry, birding continued. As we made our way into deeper water, several pelagic birds were seen including a small number of Fluttering Shearwaters sticking close to the water, while a Buellers Shearwater arched high up, using the winds for lift. Towards the end of the ferry ride, several White-fronted Terns flew by, scolding each other as they passed us.

Once disembarked onto the Island, we worked our way up to the main trail, hearing both North Island Saddlebacks and North Island Kokako as we walked. On the main trail, we followed the road to the end, where we were rewarded with nice views of the South Island Takahae. This bird was thought to be extinct until a small population was rediscovered in the Murchison Mountains on the South Island. Since then, they have been introduced to several predator free islands, Tiritiri included to help increase the population. Everyone marveled at this huge blue green flightless bird with its massive red beak. By this time, it was lunch time, so we slowly made our way down the road trail towards the lighthouse. We made a few stops to enjoy the nectar feeders that were put out. Most of these feeders were overrun with many of the olive-green New Zealand Bellbirds. Not to be outdone, we also had several of the rarer Stitchbirds come in as well. The males showing their stunning black and yellow plumage. At one point we had 5 Stitchbirds in a feeder at the same time!

After a relaxing lunch, we worked our way back to the ferry. As we walked, Mark spotted a dark shape lurking in



one of the trees which turned out to be a Morepork. Everyone got great looks at this small dark owl as he slept the day away on his perch. A little while down the trail, we all stopped to sit on a bench to view any birds coming into some troughs water. After a little wait, we were rewarded with two gray birds with blue facial skin—two North Island Kokakos! We watched as they fed on the leaves, preened each other and worked their way so at one point they were directly above us before disappearing into the underbrush behind us!

Continuing back, Mark spotted a Giant Weta sitting in the crook of a tree. The Weta looks like a giant cricket and are the main food source of Moreporks! By this time, the ferry was approaching so we headed down to the dock, only to get distracted one more time by a Red-crowned Parakeet who was feeding at eye level! We watched as it worked its way through the bush, looking for food and seemingly not caring of the group that had gathered to watch it. After having our fill of the parakeet, we headed down, boarded the ferry and continued back to the mainland. Once on the mainland, we continued back to Auckland after another memorable day.

Thurs., Oct. 10 Meremere | Whangamarino | Miranda Shorebird Center | Lake Rotorua

After getting the van all packed, we set out for the day of birding. We started by heading south, stopping at two marsh-like areas to look for some bitterns. At the first stop, it was wet, but we had looks at Pacific Black Duck and a Gray Teal adult with 4-5 babies in tow in the middle of the pond. On the grassy sides, Pukeo wandered about while a few White-faced Herons and a Pied stilt moved around, looking for food. In the middle of the pond, there were several Black Swans along with some Canada Geese.

We continued to the next marsh area, which was a bit less wet. Here we had several Swamp Harriers cruising back and forth while multiple Australasian Shovelers and Pacific Black Ducks foraged among the grassier areas. Meanwhile, in the closer forested areas a New Zealand Fantail flew up, flycatching in the morning sun. It was time to move on.

Our next stop was the Maranda Shorebird Sanctuary. This sanctuary is on the coast and a living shell bank (chenier shell bed). This means as it ages, the shell bank moves down the coast—right now, all the blinds do not match up with the current location of the chenier. That being said, it attracts a huge diversity of shore birds, including Wrybill and Bar-tailed Godwits. After a visit to the visitor center, we had a delicious lunch. Afterwards, we had a talk with one of the rangers. She talked about how this is the southern end of the Pacific flyway for shorebirds. This is where they first discovered that the Bar-tailed Godwits make a fall migration nonstop from Alaska all the way to New Zealand!



After the talk, we drove to the blinds, and they did not disappoint. We had two species of terns, Caspian and a newly minted Australian Tern (was gull-billed tern) until DNA said they were different species. There were also thousands of Bar-tailed Godwits and around 30 Wrybill! They are the only sandpipers in the world where the bill turns to the right. In the blinds, they had a paper printed out of the band combos and which country uses what color. They have found banded birds stretching from USA to India! We found a couple banded godwits that were banded from Australia and China. By this time, it was time to continue onwards. As we were walking out, all the birds were flushed by what we assumed was a Swamp Harrier. This caused us to witness the murmuration of thousands of Godwits wheeling in the sky directly over us!

From the shorebird center, we continued, gaining altitude and slowly watching the landscape transform from the flat coastal plane to a more mountainous, volcano-based terrain. We were heading to Rotura, which at one point was a volcano that blew its top and left a Caldara that was filled with water and became a lake. It has developed an island in the middle where the volcano is starting to re-emerge. But as we got to Rotoura, we passed a landscape with rhyolite mounds that were covered with vegetation, formed in the last eruption. As we got to Rotura, we birded the lake where we had amazing comparisons between dark morph little Pied Cormorants and Little Black Cormorants. Good views of the stubby bills of the little pied while the little black had a bit of a longer bill. The lake was also teeming with New Zealand Scaup and had a handful of New Zealand grebes as well. By this time, it was time to head to the hotel after a fantastic day.

Fri., Oct. 11 Kokako Track | Whakamaru | Pureora Forest Park | Mohaia Rapids

We started out the day heading to the Kokako track that was part of the Kaharoa Conservation area after an early breakfast. Here we strolled down into a virgin New Zealand forest, admiring the enormous moss-covered trees. The forest was so tall, all the bird activity was way up in the canopy, but we were serenaded by several Gray Gerygones, North Island Robins and some Tui's. As we finished the walk, closer to the edge we had a Chaffinch and great looks at a Yellowhammer that was perched on a nearby fence. We did hear the distant un-bird like call of a Kokako as well.

After the short walk, we stopped at the Whakamaru Dam area. Here in the open water, we had many of the common birds we had seen earlier, with great looks at several Paradise Shelducks, Australasian Shovelers and several Gray Teal. While looking at some of the distant teal, 3 Pacific Black ducks zoomed overhead. We continued scanning the far shore, finding some more Little Black and Little Pied Cormorants. Behind us, two New Zealand Fantails briefly interacted with each other while a Sacred Kingfisher flew by.

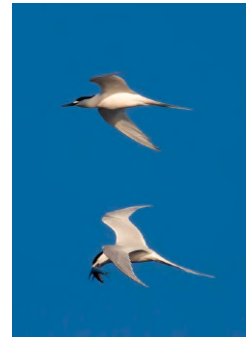
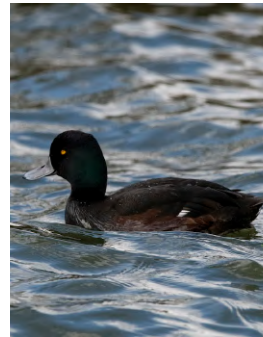


We continued to our next stop, Pureora Forest Park. Here we took the short Totara Loop Walk which led us into a stunning moss draped forest with interactive signs along the way. The ground here was covered with several species of ferns, the most common being Hen and Chick ferns. This type of fern reproduces asexually, with the young growing on the adult and only becoming its own plant once the adult fern leaf touches the ground. Tree wise, it was made up of several species of trees that towered overhead, including the Kahikatea or White Pine that can grow up to 60 meters high, the Matai with its hammered stone like coating that is underneath the bark. The forest also had shorter Kamahi trees, and Red Pines. Everyone truly marveled at the variety of mosses and how similar it looked to the forests of the Pacific Northwest. After finishing the trail, we continued to another part of the park; the buried forest road, where we had lunch. During our picnic lunch, we continued birding as we had numerous looks at the endemic, Yellow-crowned Parakeets as they flew overhead. We also heard a distant call from a Kokako while more Gray Gerygones sang away.

Continuing, we drove to the largest lake in New Zealand, Lake Taupo. One that has been shaped by volcanic eruptions going back centuries. Here we visited the expansive marshes, with our first stop; one that was by the road. With a little bit of luck, we were able to get one of the skulky, mouse like, New Zealand Fernbirds to first start calling and then show itself. It called away as everyone got great binocular views at first and then scope views of this streaky, brown, mouse like bird. We then drove right up to the lake and walked back towards the road listening for our next bird. At first, all we heard was a low booming, sub-woofer-like sound coming from the marsh. We eventually heard 4 of these birds at first and with some careful scanning; Mark was able to locate one that we could put the scope on. We watched as this Australasian Bittern stood still and boomed for everyone. He threw his whole body into the call every time. This one was potentially a young bird as it had bright blue facial skin. From the lake, it was time to head up in elevation.

As we drove up, we got stunning views of the three volcanoes that were by our nights lodging: Mt Ruapehu, Tongariro, and Ngauruhoe. Although, we had a few more stops before checking into the hotel. Our first stop was by a raging river with a waterfall. Here we scanned the river, looking for some Blue Ducks. Instead, we spotted a pair of New Zealand Pipits working the drier rocks in the river. We watched and got great views as the single bird, that was joined by a second one that worked its way up and down the river and interacted with an adult Chaffinch around as well.

We continued to the next river crossing where a large duck was spotted sleeping on a rock in the river. Here we had amazing views of a Whio or Blue duck. This bird calmly slept; oblivious to the birders pointing cameras and



scopes at him, his bright yellow eye contrasting with a pretty and muted slate bluish gray body feathers. By this time, it was time to head up to the night's hotel and have a large and delicious dinner that was followed by bedtime after a fantastic day.

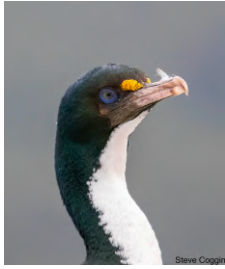
Sat., Oct. 12 Skotel | Upokongaro | Cook Strait Ferry

After a fantastic breakfast, we started birding for the day. We started the day by taking advantage of one of the rare bluebird days to continue up above the Skotel. Here we had an amazing view of the snow-covered Mount Ruapehu and the valleys below. Mark explained how rare these bluebird days were. Continuing down from the lahar fields, we had a New Zealand Falcon whip past us, only for it to turn and perch on a distant rock. We all hopped out of the van and got scope views of this falcon, before he decided to continue about his day. We continued onwards from here, descending from the high elevations and lahar fields of past eruptions down into the valley. We passed the spot where we had the Blue Duck the day before and he was still sleeping on the rock in the middle of the turbulent water.

Our next stop was a little café that is the only spot in New Zealand to see Nankeen Night Herons. We found one perched in a tree, but it had perched so perfectly that we could not get the scope on it. None the less, everyone got great views of this brown backed, black capped Night Heron as he rested for the day. After enjoying the Night Heron, we had a 30-minute break, enjoying the coffee and baked goods that the café had to offer.

From here, we continued to Wellington, driving on the highway that is on a Faultline. We passed the rolling green hills and many sheep farms heading to Wellington as Mark explained the type of rock here is mud rock. A precursor rock that eventually forms Granite as it gets put under more and more pressure. We also passed many Australian Magpies as well as a few Indian Peafowls. After arriving in Wellington, we had 35 minutes to wander around before our ferry to the South Island.

Once on the ferry, we started birding from the deck. Leaving the North Island, we had numerous Fluttering Shearwaters along with the common Kelp and Red-billed Gulls. After a hearty dinner, we birded as the ferry arrived in the South Island. Multiple Fairy Prions—a small gray seabird flushed from the water as well as a single Common Diving Petrel. As we got closer to the South Island, Fluttering shearwater numbers gradually increased as did the Red-billed Gull numbers. A few Little Penguins were briefly spotted as they came up from diving for fish while White-fronted Terns flew overhead, calling away. The mammals did not want to be left out as we had



two New Zealand Fur Seals by some salmon farms. Meanwhile, Dusky Dolphins played in the water, acrobatically jumping up and back flipping back into the water. Dusk was settling in as the ferry arrived, but that made the tall green bays and islands of the South Island sounds that we navigated through even grander. As we disembarked the ferry, we headed to the hotel for the night after an amazing day.

Sun., Oct. 13 Queen Charlotte Sound | Blumine Island | Blenheim WTP | Ohau Seal Colony

Today, we started with a delicious breakfast and then went down to the docks for a boat trip out into Queen Charlotte Sound. After an explanation of the birds we could see, the boat disembarked, and we were treated to a couple of Pied and Spotted Shags roosting on the nearby rocks. One of the Spotted Shags was still in breeding plumage, so we were treated to a stunning sight as he still had his neon green and blue facial skin and two cowlick feathers that stuck up on his head. From here, we continued along the shoreline until Mark spotted our first and only New Zealand King Shag of the trip. We were able to sit on the bow as the boat was expertly maneuvered to get nice close looks at this endemic Shag. This species is the farthest north of the yellow-footed shags and is only found in Queen Charolette sound!

Continuing further out into the straight, ww found numerous Fluttering Shearwaters sitting on the water. As we got toward the middle of the bay, it was noticed that some Gannets were diving into the water. Upon closer approach, we found a bait ball. This is where the dolphins (Dusky Dolphins) would circle a school of fish, pushing them ever closer to the surface of the water. As they got to the surface, the dolphins would streak through them, grabbing whatever meal they could get. Since they were on the surface, whatever fish survived the dolphin attack, got eaten by the hungry Fluttering Shearwaters and Australasian Gannets that awaited them on the surface. At one point during this event, the fish unsuccessfully tried to hide underneath the boat but were pushed out again by the dolphins. Everyone admired this national geographic moment as we all got close looks at the Shearwaters, Gannets and dolphins as they feasted on the bait fish. After witnessing this extravaganza, we continued to Blumine Island.

Upon disembarking on to Blumine Island, Mark expertly took us to a Malherbe's Parakeet nest where everyone got great looks at this highly endangered species as it took turns coming into its nest. At one point, this species was thought to be extinct. The captive breeding program that was started has tried to put them on numerous other Islands, but this is the only Island they have taken too successfully. We started to hike the trails after



seeing the parakeets but were quickly distracted by our first Weka of the trip. This medium sized rail shaped bird didn't seem to care we were nearby as we watched it grab and rip apart a rotten log as it looked for grubs to eat. We continued a few steps only to find a second one, and again watched it as it dug around the leaf litter, looking for grubs. We continued on as some of the group briefly saw a Tomtit, while all the group saw more Tui's and New Zealand Bellbirds. Our last bird on the Island was again one of the parakeets as it fed quietly in the back of a shrub.

The boat trip back was uneventful, we came across the remains of the feeding frenzy, with most of the shearwaters and gannets sitting on the water, full of the bait fish they had just enjoyed. After a filling lunch, we continued down the coast in the van with our first stop being Blenheim WTP. Here we had numerous ducks such as Gray Teal, Paradise Shelducks and lots of Black Swans. A single Mute Swan was spotted mixed in with all the other swans. Meanwhile, the Island in the middle of the WTP was filled with Royal Spoonbills. Continuing, we stopped at Lake Elterwater, where we got stunning looks at a Hoary-Headed Grebe. This is one of the few places in New Zealand to find this small, brown grebe with silver streaks on its head. Our next stop was a small café where we had what were most likely Fluttering Shearwaters and then a New Zealand Fur Seal colony where we had stunning looks at several baby fur seals as they played in the tidal pools. From here, we continued to our nights lodging after a satisfying day out in the South Island.

Mon., Oct. 14 Kaikoura Pelagic | Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway

We started out the day with a delicious breakfast at the Kaikoura Albatross Center followed by a view from the top of the hill that overlooks the city. From there, looking back towards the mountains, we could see the large snow-capped peaks of the geologically young Kaikoura Mountains. Upon seeing that it wasn't raining we continued downwards to the docks to meet up for the Kaikoura Albatross adventure pelagic trip. As we started out towards the drop off, it didn't take us long for the seabirds to start to show up. A few Hutton's Shearwaters lifted off the ocean as we continued passed them. Then the giants appeared. Two Antipodean Albatross's appeared out of nowhere to follow the boat. These Albatross are in the Wandering Albatross complex. Some consider each island that wandering albatross to breed on its own species, while some consider them to be all in the Wandering Albatross Complex.

These two continued to follow the boat and were soon joined by half a dozen Cape Petrels, tiny birds that like to follow boats. After a while of heading out, the captain stopped the boat and threw the chum in a mesh bag and



dropped it in the ocean. At this point, many more Albatross smelled the chum and saw the movement and joined in. By now, we had two species of Albatross as the relatively “smaller” Salvin’s Albatross joined in. The next bird to show up was a Northern Giant Petrel, followed by a second one who decided it would be better to buzz the feeding frenzy while letting out a scream—which bothered none of the birds. We watched for the next 45 minutes as several of the large, graceful Wandering Albatross’s came and went, sometimes fighting over the food and sometimes chasing the Giant Petrels off the food as well. The Cape Pigeons gathered around the bait as well, sneaking in food when the bigger birds started to fight. It was at this point that the captain decided to start up the boat and move to deeper water.

At the deeper water spot, we had the same group of birds come in. The Wandering Albatross’s and the Northern Giant Petrels continued to feed and fight over the food while the Cape Petrels surrounded them. We also had a mix of shearwaters (Westland and Short-tailed) come by to check out the ruckus but never land for any appoint of time. The latter showing no interest in joining the feeding flock we had accumulated. At this time, Mark spotted a Southern Fulmar that briefly joined the Cape Petrels before continuing. It was then that our last albatross species of the day showed up, a Southern Royal Albatross. It landed on the water and everyone got great looks at this massive bird with a pink bill with a thin black line. It stayed back from the feeding flock and stayed away as the rest of the chum was dumped to be left for the birds as we started heading back to the dock.

On the way back, we checked out some offshore rocks, where a Pacific Reef Heron was found roosting on the top. Continuing along the coast, we caught up to a massive flock of Hutton’s Shearwater as they streamed and wheeled around over the surface of the water. It was estimated that this flock was around 5,000 birds! Once back at the dock, we disembarked and headed for lunch. After lunch, with a free afternoon, some stayed back at the hotel while others chose to go on the Kaikoura cliff walk. The cliff walk was great as it allowed one to walk the edge, seeing the limestone geology and great views of the surrounding area. We learned that this peninsula used to be an island and was gradually connected to the mainland via erosion. The birding was great as well, with multiple great looks at Yellowhammers and Song Thrushes. We had two points in the hike where we had a small group of Silvereyes move past us. Towards the end of the hike, we had some great looks at a Dunnock; a small sparrow like bird that is native to Europe. By this time, it was time to head back to the hotel and after the daily checklist and dinner time to turn out for the night after an amazing day birding.



Tues., Oct. 15 Kaikoura South Coast | St. Anne's Lagoon | Ashley Estuary | Arthurs Pass Wilderness Lodge

We woke up to a stunning blue sky that contrasted with the stunning Kaikoura Mountains that were capped in snow! After breakfast, we loaded up and continued southward for the day. We started with a stop on the south shore of Kaikoura where we had several seabirds seen from the shore, including two Northern Giant Petrels and a Salvin's Albatross as well. This was combined with the New Zealand Fur Seals that were sleeping on the rocks. Our next stop was inland from the coast at St. Annes Lagoon. Here many of the exotic vegetation names were displayed while we scanned one of the lakes for birds. Most of the common waterfowl we had seen throughout the trip was present, from Black Swans with cygnets to Gray Teal. On the far side of the lagoon, we had two sleeping Great-crested Grebes—which were new for the trip. With a little bit of waiting, we got scope views of them being active and great views of the shaggy feathering around its face. Nearby were 2 fledgling Magpies that we watched being fed by its parent multiple times.

We continued onwards, again heading back towards the coast where we ended up at Ashley Estuary. We stumbled upon a Mute Swan near the Estuary as well as a colony of nesting Pied Cormorants. With great views of the adults sitting on the nest ignoring the already fed chicks. At the Estuary- we had several shorebirds with Bar-tailed Godwits being the most numerous. We scanned the area that still had water and spotted a medium sized white heron with two plumes—a Little Egret that was feeding among the Gray Teal. Upon walking out towards some of the further reaches of the estuary, we had a few of the smaller shorebirds which included a Double-banded Plover. Everyone got scope views of this plover while several Black-fronted Terns flew by. Their black caps and orange bills were showing well. We continued out to the edge of a White-fronted Tern colony. From there, we walked back to the van and had lunch before continuing. After a quick stop at a café to have some coffee and delicious pie, we arrived at the Wilderness Lodge by Arthurs Pass. (add something about alternating plate tectonics and how this area is getting pushed up by plates)

After checking in, we were treated to a nature walk. As we strolled across the landscape, Johnathan pointed out the many plants of the area, with Mountain Beech—which isn't a Beech species being the dominant tree while some Lancewood was also mixed in. We passed by a Mother Beech tree that was hundreds of years old and had likely sprouted there before the forest was in existence. On the beech's were Red Mistletoe plants. These plants are parasitic and grow on the actual tree. We continued, walking onto a Braided Riverbed that was made up of Mudstone and Graywacke that eventually with a lot of pressure leads to Granite. Some of the plants here were short and in the daisy family which included the dead looking Everlasting Daisy. Continuing onwards from the riverbed, we entered a clearing that had several plants with adaptations to avoid grazers such as the Moa



when it existed. These plants included the Inside out plant, Matagouri (which the Maori used to do tattoos), and the Porcupine Plant. Surrounding most of these plants were Bracken Ferns. We slowly admired the landscape on our return to the lodge and turned in for the day after a delicious dinner.

Wed., Oct. 16 Arthur's Pass

After a hearty breakfast, we all met with Johnathan and the owner for a morning hike exploring the Bealey Track portion of Arthurs Pass. As we started up the trail, a few New Zealand Bellbirds started calling, their strange calls echoing through this mossy, Beech Forest. Continuing up the trail, everyone admired how mossy and cool this forest was. Further down, a high-pitched call note was heard and soon located. It turned out to be the call of two Rifleman, following each other around. Everyone eventually got on these hyperactive tailless birds as they moved down the trail, following each other. Right after the rifleman disappeared, we had a dark South Island Robin appear behind us, before moving on as well. Moving on up the trail, we passed several endemic plants to New Zealand, starting with a Celery Pine—a high altitude pine that looks like it has leaves instead of needles. We reached a more open area where there were Pygmy Pines growing—one of the smallest conifer species in the world. With them looking more like mats of moss than an actual tree. We continued up the trail, still admiring the plants with Johnathan pointing out a species of Dragons Claw that had a toothlike structure on the stem of each leaf when picked. The Bog Pine was the next plant we came across, one that when crushed smelled like the white pines of the northern hemisphere. Again, this pine appeared to have leaves and no needles. After looking at a Drapherous (carnivorous plant) and a Pineapple plant—we reached the end of the trail that overlooked some amazing snowcapped mountains. We were right next to a glacier fed stream where we sat down for some coffee and tea. While also having a glass of pure glacier water. While we were waiting, a Tomtit appeared across the stream and eventually approached to the point where it almost landed on us. It serenaded us as we had our tea and cookies. After tea and cookies were over, it was time to head back to the van. After retracing our steps, we made it back to the van in time to go look in the village for some Kea's. As we reached the village, we noticed one greenish lump sitting on the table by the café. Upon closer inspection, it turned out to be a Kea. Suddenly there were 2, then three and finally five Kea all around us. Two were perching either on the table or on the fence, watching us, while the other three walked around and called back and forth to each other.

After a delicious lunch, everyone had a siesta for the afternoon in preparation for some stargazing and a night hike to look for some Kiwi's. After the siesta though, we met up with the sheep farmer on the lodge who gave us a demo on how his two dogs round up a herd of sheep. With him using a whistle to let one of his dogs know



which way he wanted the sheep to go. Once the sheep were herded to him, he showed us how he would use his Shepards hook to catch the sheep. After that demo, he brought us down to the shearing shack, where we were able to learn about Merino wool and how he shears them. We were able to watch a demo of him hand shearing one of the sheep, which is an old skill and not done often anymore. By this time, it was dinner, and we walked back to the lodge.

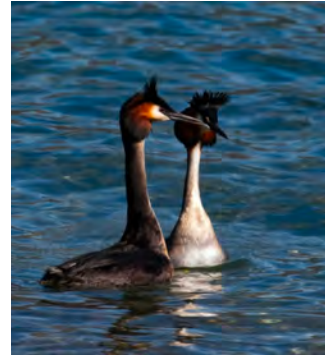
After dinner and the nightly checklist, we all met up in the lobby and proceeded to head down to the sheep fields to get a look at the night sky. The full moon was very bright, but even so, we were shown Scorpio which down here is known as Maui's hook. As it relates to the maori legend how Maui stole a boat and hooked a big fish with the boat being the South Island and the fish being the north Island. After seeing Maui's hook, we were shown the Southern Cross and explained how sailors used that to navigate with no official southern star (unlike the north star in the northern hemisphere). We continued onwards from here, checking a few places out for kiwis but striking out on seeing or hearing them. Regardless, it was a stunning night with the full moon reflecting off the snowcapped high peaks.

Thurs., Oct. 17 Wilderness Lodge | Lake McGregor

Some started off the day by going down and seeing professionals shearing the sheep using electric tools, while others slept in. After meeting up for breakfast, we loaded up and headed out with our first stop a statue showing how tall a moa really was. These birds roamed the island until the Maori's landed here and were extant around 600 years before Europeans arrived. At the same time, there was a truly massive bird of prey that would also eat Moa's. This bird was rumored to also take humans as well!

We slowly made our way down to Christchurch. We watched as the scenery slowly changed from the breathtakingly high snowcapped peaks to the rolling hills and finally the coastal plain that Christchurch is on. From Christchurch, we continued back up through the rolling plains to the desert part of New Zealand. Here it's filled with tussock habitat and not many trees. Our stop for the day was Lake McGregor.

At Lake McGregor, we slowly worked our way around the lake, scanning both the lake and the sides for ducks and shorebirds. Working our way around, we slowly came across numerous Black Swans and several New Zealand Scaup. There were 2 Australian Shovelers nearby as well as 2 Gray Teal, both at the edge of the lake. The lake also held a few Eurasian Coots and some black and white Pied Stilts. We proceeded to work our way back around the edge and continued up, paralleling a swampy, grassy part of the lake, when two stilts were spotted. These were all dark stilts, Black Stilts. There are only around 140 of these species left in the world.



Everyone got great scope views of these endangered birds as we watched them forage along the bank of the lake. By this time, it was time to head to Twizel, but not before a quick stop to try and drum up a Chukar which we were unable to find. By this time, we continued to the hotel at the end of a very good day.

Fri., Oct. 18 Ohau C Ponds | Glentanner Braided River | Mount Cook National Park

After breakfast, our first birding stop for the day was the dam area and adjacent ponds. Driving by the water, we had New Zealand Scaup, Gray Teal and Black-billed gulls perched on the salmon hatcheries. Flying below were several Black-fronted Terns, their orange bills glowing in the sunlight. Continuing further, we walked around a riparian area that surrounded some small ponds with decent looks at several White eyes as well as 4 California Quails and a few European Greenfinches. On the way out of the area, we came across 8 Black-fronted Terns and everyone got point blank looks and photos while these terns perched in front of us on the road and on the fence line. We observed both adult and young birds. After finishing here, we continued to the main area for the day, Mt. Cook!

On the way to Mount Cook, we had one more stop. Our stop was the Braided River at Glentanner. Here we marveled at the huge Braided River, a geological feature where the river moves, and the rocks are pushed down from higher by the spring snow melts. This means the river changes course often and leads to a rocky area with no vegetation that is perfect for a few New Zealand's endemic birds to breed in. The main bird we saw was at least 15 Double-banded Plovers. We all got amazing looks at this New Zealand Endemic as it ran around, much like most plovers. With a little patience, we got great views of one at the edge of the water, with many getting some great photos as well. We all saw many Paradise Shelducks and multiple Black-fronted Terns flying upriver. In the grasslands above the braided river, many Eurasian Skylarks danced in the air, claiming multiple territories for their own. All this was backdropped with a stunning image of Mount Cook behind a clear blue sky, the gleaming snow reflecting the morning sun.

After getting back to the vans, we continued onwards to Mount Cook National Park. We spent the remaining day here, with our first stop being the museum. The museum went over a brief history of Mount Cook, starting with the multiple ascents and examples of early climbing gear and an example of the huts that are up there currently. On the second floor, there were examples of the fauna, native examples of wildlife and non-native



introduced examples as well. Once finishing in here, it was time for a quick bite to eat.

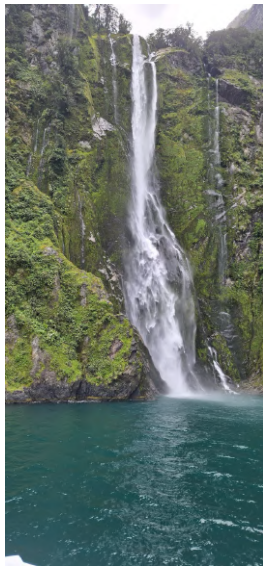
Afterwards, we took a trail slowly up the forested slopes. The forest was dominated with Red Beech and many species of ferns on the ground. We slowly worked our way up, finding a few New Zealand Fantails and at the furthest point, a Tomtit. All were singing, giving good examples of their high-pitched song. It was on the way down where we had 2 Riflemen give us quite a show. We watched as these small New Zealand Wrens chased each other in the canopy and eventually perched out in the open for all to see. Afterwards, at the beginning of the trail head, we were treated to quick glimpses of 2-3 Gray Gerygone's, most likely near a nest.

Our last stop in the National Park was to walk up the trail to overlook the lake that is made by the melting glacier. This lake is what eventually flows down to feed the Braided Riverbed that we were birding earlier in the day. The water was a teal blue color as Mount Cook Towered above. The clouds had moved in, giving it all a foreboding look as we watched two climbers descend the trail. After finishing the trail, we continued back down for dinner after a fantastic day.

Sat., Oct. 19 Wanaka lake foreshore | Cardrona Restaurant | Te Anau

After breakfast we hit the road. Today was mainly a travel day as we drove from Tizel to Te Anu. Although, we swapped one mountain range for another. We started by heading towards Landis Pass. We left the lower areas of Twizel and the scenery changed from the distant snowcapped peaks of Twizel to these high, rolling, steep hills that had some tussocks growing. Mark explained the geology of the area, we are again in the alternating mechanisms, where the previous mountain range was building up, this one had the Australian plate being pushed underneath the pacific plate. This created the main rock of the area, a schist, which needed a lot of heat and pressure to be formed. We passed both sheep farms and Lucerne farms—a crop used for winter feed of animals. Many of the corresponding valleys here were created by the fault as well, and then water erosion did the rest. After driving over the pass, we dropped down into the next valley and got to our first stop of the day. Here, we stopped at the lake front at Wanaka. We first walked over to what is said to be the most photographed tree in all of New Zealand. It was a tree growing out of the water and if you got the angle right, you could capture a stunning picture of a glassy lake and tree with the snow-capped peaks in the background. We then spent the next hour or so walking the lake front, watching many Great Crested Grebes interact, some dancing for courtship while others were in the middle of incubating eggs for the next generation of grebes.

From here, we continued driving through the picturesque landscapes, watching them change back to snow filled mountain tops. We arrived at our lunch stop, the Cardona Restaurant, where the food was good. As we all



waited for our food, we watched the House Sparrows, and Common Chaffinches scavenge from uncleared and unguarded plates, while Song Thrushes ran around underfoot. The Song Thrushes were not innocent either, they were also scavenging for food as well. When we finished, the Chaffinches and Song Thrush's stole our scraps as well before the server whisked them away. On our way out of the restaurant, Clare noticed a skink that came out briefly before running back into his area. It turned out to be a Southern Striped Gecko or Toropuku. From here, we continued to Te Anau, with more looks at Mount Cook as we finished the day.

Sun., Oct. 20 Te Anau | Fjordland National Park | Milford Sound

After a quick breakfast, we got on the road and headed to our first stop of the day—the sewage ponds and Upukerora River Mouth by Te Anau. Here we had numerous Black-fronted Terns flying over the lake, fishing. Some scanning over the surface near the edge of the lake revealed a sleeping South Island Oystercatcher while two Piled Stilts flew in. All this while several Eurasian Skylarks were doing their sky display. We moved on from here and drove towards Milford Sound with our next stop being the Mirror Lakes trail in the Fjordland National Park. This trail was quiet, but we had good looks at New Zealand Scaup, Gray Teal and some Common Chaffinches. The trail wended through some native forest, eventually exiting by a lookout over a lake that was so calm, we were able to see the reflections of the high, snow-capped mountains in the lake below. In the lake there were eels that leave to breed in the Pacific as well. After getting back to the van, our next stop was the Knobs Flat area. We slowly worked our way down a trail that entered this cool, moss-filled forest. The main trees in the forest were Red Beech and Lance Wood, with some of the Red Beech being enormous! The understory was dominated by smaller Red Beech, Lancewood and tons of ferns. We had over 3 species of ferns on the trail alone! The trail was pretty quiet, but we did have good looks at a few South Island Robin while a few Gray Gerygones singing their high-pitched tune. We continued to the next trail—the Lake Gunn Nature Walk. Here, we had the same moss draped forest filled with Lancewood, old growth Red Beech and multiple species of ferns. It was way more birdy, with great looks at New Zealand Fantails, and South Island Robins. We continued down the trail until a chatter was heard. The chatter belonged to a Yellowhead. This bird is restricted to the South Island and is endangered with populations having declined due to habitat loss and introduced mammalian predators. We watched as one Yellowhead soon turned into 2 and they foraged just off the trail, everyone getting amazing looks at this bright yellow bird. Continuing down the trail, we came across a large lake. A little further down the trail, 2 small, tailless birds were seen. We all watched as these two Riflemen foraged for food right above us. Mark explained after the birds flew back that they were named riflemen because their colors were like a rifleman's colors. By this time, it was getting close to lunch time, so we continued up the road. Our lunch stop was going to be right before the tunnel up by Hosmer Pass. This high up, the trees faded away and we were left with large boulder fields surrounded by snow-capped mountains. After distributing our picnic



lunches, we walked up into the boulder field and were treated by a delightful show from 4 South Island Wrens, or Rock Wrens. We watched between bites of lunch as two of these wrens went in and out of a base of a boulder, bouncing up and down on a few rocks. In one of the rocks, there was a small puddle that the wrens took advantage of, bathing a couple feet from everyone, oblivious of the humans that surrounded it. The wrens were still flying from rock to rock as we finished up lunch and headed through the tunnel and down to Milford Sound.

The Milford Sound cruise was jaw dropping. We set out and were greeted with flat seas and sheer cliffs that had been carved by millions of years of both Glaciation, Volcanoes and erosion. Most people seemed to feel like ants, peering up at this grandiose landscape. As we cruised around the sound, it was more of the same, massive cliffs plunging right into the sea with a lush forest clinging to the sides of the cliffs. From time to time, one could see evidence of massive rockslides, that would take all vegetation with it as it had plunged down the cliffs, leaving stripes of bare rock in the forested hillside, waiting for plants to revegetate the area. All this was combined with the highest of the peaks still being snow covered. The bird and mammal life were also around, with Kelp Gull nests on the sides of the hills while red-beaked silver Gulls floated by. At one point, a Silver Gull landed on the railing on the upper deck of the boat, content to save energy and hitch a ride. Along the rockier areas, New Zealand Fur Seals sought refuge from the ocean to rest on the few exposed shoreline rocks. While we continued cruising around the sound, a little bit of the history of the sound was mentioned, how some British sailors discovered it while trying to seek shelter from a storm and docked at the mouth thinking it was a massive river. Once the cruise was over, we made our way back to the van, only to be distracted by a Weka who was wandering around the parking lot. The way back up and over the pass was much the same, the road twisting up to towering mountains. At the tunnel, which is one way, we were treated to a show by the Keas. These Keas saw a car with a window open and decided it would be fun to try and get in the car. The Kea's did not succeed, and they perched on the tops of the cars, planning their next mischievous event. After passing through the tunnel, we continued back down the mountains after a fantastic day out.

**Mon., Oct. 21 Waiiau Wier | Rakatu Wetlands Lookout | Beaches
(Gemstone/Cozy Nook/Wakapatu) | Waituna Lagoon | Stewart Island Ferry |
Kiwi Walk**

After a quick breakfast, we loaded up and set off for a long day. Our route today would take us down to the tip of the South Island and across the Cook's straight to Stewart Island. We started our day at the Waiere Weir,



where we had a handful of Kelp Gulls and 2 Paradise Shelducks. The Eurasian Skylarks were doing their flight songs while a Dunnock foraged nearby. Continuing south, we stopped at a series of beaches, scanning for shorebirds. The beaches we stopped at were Gemstone, Cozy Nook and Wakapatu beaches. We came across multiple groups of Black-billed gulls and larger groups of White-fronted Terns. We also found lesser numbers of the more common shorebirds; including both species of oystercatchers, a small flock of 16 Bar-tailed Godwits and a few Paradise Shelducks. Our last two stops before the ferry were at Riverton, where we had our first Stewart Island Shag (Foveaux Strait race) of the trip. These large shags have two color morphs and large pink feet. We watched as this dark morph stayed perched on the rock before flying off. At the Waituna Lagoon, we had a flock of four New Zealand fantails interacting with each other. The adults were very busy feeding 2 younger birds, as they constantly begged for food. Counting out to the overlook; we had several Kelp Gulls and Black Swans loafing way out on the tidal mudflats. With some careful we were able to find 1 Double-banded Plover as well as both species of Oystercatchers. By this time, it was time for the ferry over to Stewart Island.

The seas were very calm on this ferry, which allowed anyone who wanted to have a chance to be outside. With the calm seas, we found a few Sooty Shearwaters zooming by, coming from more northern climates. At the deepest part, we had a huge, hulking brown bird with white wing flashes lift off the water—a Brown Skua. A little while later, a small black and white seabird was spotted skimming above the surface of the water. It turned out to be a Common Diving Petrel, and as we watched it keeping up, it suddenly landed on the water and disappeared out of sight. The rest of the ferry was calm, with sporadic views of a few more Sooty Shearwaters and a few more Stewart Island Shags. Upon getting to the dock, we were picked up by the motel staff and driven to where we would be staying.

After a delicious dinner, we walked out to the wharf to view the Little Penguins coming in from their day of fishing. We watched as two surfaced and then disappeared only to surface much closer. Eventually, we were able to watch them climb out of the water and hop/waddle slowly into their cave for the night.

We had one more activity for the night, a Kiwi walk. We met and driven up to a private area where we were informed they had numerous Kiwis come out to forage at night. We started walking down the airstrip, with the guide slowly sweeping her red light back and forth looking for the plump shape of a feeding Kiwi. Around halfway down the strip, a South Island Brown Kiwi was spotted crossing the airstrip in front of us. This kiwi led us all the way down the rest of the area we walked, and we watched as it sniffed, fed and ran down by the forest edge. During that time, we heard two other Kiwis screaming in the forest. Once we reached the end of the



strip, we turned around and slowly walked back, looking for more Kiwis. Right at the beginning of the area, another kiwi was spotted, a young kiwi with a tiny bill. The guide had said this was only the second time she had ever seen a young Kiwi and estimated this bird to be 4 weeks old. The Kiwi babies, once hatched are all ready to forage on their own, just stay in their parents' territory for up to a year. By this time, everyone was dropped off at the hotel after an amazing day.

Tues., Oct. 22 Stewart Island Pelagic | Ulva Island

After a late breakfast due to the late night of Kiwi searching, we met down at the dock to board our boat for the day. Once off, we cruised out of the harbor and into a cove to start looking for some penguins. They did not disappoint, as we had cruised by just in time to see our first Fjorland Crested Penguin standing at the entrance to its cave. It gave all brief looks as this yellow crested flightless bird just stood there, and then turned around to disappear where he came from. We cruised around to the other side of the outcrop and managed to spot a second penguin, this time in the water. We watched as this one hopped out of the water and waddled into another cave by the shore. We continued, sailing out into the bay, while the crew started chumming. This chumming soon attracted a Brown Skua. We watched this hulking bird circle the boat for what seemed like 5 minutes, giving all on the boat amazing looks at this fierce predator of the ocean.

The chum then attracted our first Albatross of the day; a White-capped Albatross, that was soon joined by over 20 more of them. As they competed for the chum, a few gray-headed Salvin's Albatrosses joined the growing group of birds. As we slowly made our way further out, all the albatrosses kept pace with us, continuing to land on the water, grab some food, then fly to catch back up to the boat to get some more. We continued heading out, towards one of the islands, followed by at the highest count; 40+ White-capped Albatross with a smaller number of Salvin's. A group of terns was then spotted diving in the water near the Island. This could be caused by three things, Dolphins pushing fish to the surface, Seals doing that or Penguins. It turned out to be 3-4 Fjorland Crested Penguins that had pushed the fish to the surface as the White-fronted Terns were taking advantage of it. The penguins never spent a lot of time on the surface, using it to take a quick breath before diving back underwater. After scanning the shoreline for more penguins, we moved on towards the deeper waters. As we started chumming again, our albatross flock returned, this time bringing in one adult Albatross with a dark bill and yellow outline—a Buller's Albatross. Everyone enjoyed watching this new species as it competed with all the White-capped Albatrosses. The next bird to show up was a hulking Northern Giant Petrel. It just seemed fine to land in the back of the flock and watch what was going on, never making a move to get any chum. The last bird to show up was a truly enormous Southern Royal Albatross. As it joined the flock, it made all the other Albatrosses look tiny! We watched our albatross flock disperse as we turned to head back to



the mainland. We sailed by a giant rock that had a colony of Stewart Island Shags on it. We were told by the captain how there used to be a researcher who lived on the Island but had to be forcibly convinced to leave before one really bad storm hit. He left and the storm blew his shack he was living in off the cliff.

After this, we were dropped back off on the mainland, ready for the next birding activity, a short ferry ride over to Ulva Island. Ulva Island is recently a predator free Island that is kept that way by dropping poison and trapping of any rats that swim to the island. This is necessary to help try to restore the native bird population. As we wandered among the native forest, we had Kaka's calling loudly while both Yellow-crowned and Red-crowned Parakeets flew overhead. Wandering deeper in the forest, we came across the loudly singing Yellowhead, with several of these bright headed birds seen foraging at eye level in the forest. Their heads are a pop of bright yellow in an otherwise muted green forest! Continuing, we walked further into the forest, eventually hearing a repetitive call coming from above us. A South Island Saddleback!! This bird stayed high up in the canopy, flying around and eventually over us as it interacted with a Yellowhead. Further up the trail, we heard the high-pitched squeaky call of the Brown Creeper or Pipipi. We watched as 3-4 of these little birds climbed among the tree trunks, following each other and calling much like a flock of Bushtits back in the United States. A little further down the trail, we turned around and headed back to the dock. We took a different route and walked across a sandy beach that held a hulking brown lump way at the other end. It turned into a snoozing New Zealand Sea Lion, our only one of the trip. With it, was a Weka that walked across the sand into a cave formed by an uprooted tree. We continued to the dock and were shortly picked up and dropped back off on the mainland. A short walk later we arrived back at the hotel after a great day on the water.

Wed., Oct. 23 Stewart Island Ferry | Katiki Point | Dunedin Harbor Cruise

Our last full day started with meeting at the docks to take the ferry back to the South Island. Once there, we continued up the coast, staying in areas with rolling hills and eventually getting to Dunedin. After checking into the hotel, we continued north to Katiki point. Here, we walked out to the point in hopes of finding some Yellow-eyed Penguin, but were rewarded with a prize of getting amazing point blank looks at several New Zealand Fur seals, including a baby!! Everyone enjoyed watching the Red-billed Gull colony and scanning the ocean, where we were able to pick out a close to shore Salvin's Albatross. After 45 minutes, it was time to head back to Dunedin to catch our last activity of the trip, a harbor cruise of the Dunedin Harbor.

The harbor cruise was amazing. The cruise started off by spotting a group of 5-6 Little Penguins and we watched

as they dove and surfaced nearby. Continuing, we passed a colony of nesting Stewart Island Shags; the Otago subspecies which one day could become their own species. The Stewart Island Shag is made up of two subspecies (Foveaux and Otago) which do not interbreed or interact it seems. As we continued further out into the harbor, we got to the main species of this trip. A breeding colony of Northern Royal Albatross. Everyone was amazed to see these seabirds circling up on the updrafts to access their nests. For these albatrosses, this is the only place they will ever touch land in the world, and it is completely incredible to see. With careful scanning, several albatrosses were spotted on the cliff face, invariably sitting on a few nests. As we turned to see the outer cliff face, we continued to see Royal Albatross wheeling high above us in the sky. On the other side of the cliff face, there was a rookery of Royal Spoonbills, nesting on what trees could take route on the cliff sides. It was quite a sight to see nesting albatrosses, an active Royal Spoonbill colony and several seabirds at the same time. Heading back, we had a Cape Petrel and 2 Northern Giant Petrels sitting on the water eating something. From here, we slowly made our way back to the pier. And from there, we had our end-of-the-trip dinner, where we all reviewed the amazing birds, wildlife and scenery we had all experienced over the past 17 days.

Thurs., Oct. 24 Departures

Today was a relaxing morning. After a leisurely breakfast, everyone made their way to their rooms to pack and head back to their next destinations after a fantastic trip covering the length of New Zealand.

Top 3 Favorite birds/moments of the trip:

Daphne: Seeing the Rock Wrens (New Zealand Wren), the Wilderness lodge and the sheep.

Steve: Seeing the big, bold, loud, iridescent Tui's, and seeing the 3 volcanoes from the Skotel

Diane: Riflemen, the Wilderness lodge and seeing Dusky Dolphins

Clare: Seeing Fantails with their tails fully spread, the Wilderness lodge and seeing the Skink

Paul: Seeing the Rock Wrens bathe, Gannets fishing and the Kaikoura Pelagic trip

Carol: Seeing the Rock Wren among the tail talus slopes, the Wilderness lodge and Fred the Sheep dog

Scott: Amazing looks at the Stitchbirds, the Wilderness Lodge and Sea Lions

James: Showing all the wildlife, Fantail, Stitchbird and Rock Wrens and lastly the Scenery

Mark: New Zealand Falcon, Wilderness Lodge and seeing a Stoat

Photos: Group (James Petersen - JP), Red-crowned Parakeet (Steve Coggin - SC), New Zealand Pigeon (JP), Kaka (JP), Antipodian Albatross (SC), Yellowhead (C), Tui (SC), Brown Teal (SC), New Zealand Fantail (SC), Stitchbird (SC), Takahe (SC), North Island Robin (SC), Bar-tailed Godwits (SC), Pied Stilt (SC), Sacred Kingfisher (SC), Group Birding (JP), Fluttering Shearwater (SC), White-fronted Tern (SC), New Zealand Scaup (JP), Great-crested Grebe (SC), Black-billed Gull (SC), King Shag (SC), Marherbes Parakeet (SC), Australasian Bittern (SC), Sliver Gull (SC), Spotted Shag (JP), Cape Petrei (SC), Northern Giant-Petrel (SC), Australasian Gannet (JP), Gibson's Albatross (JP), New Zealand Fur Seal (JP), Scenic (JP), Tomtit (SC), Kea (SC), Scenic (JP), Black Stilt (SC), Black-fronted Tern (SC), New Zealand Falcon (JP), South Island Wren (SC), Weka (Scott Walker -SW), Brown Skua (SC), White-capped Albatross (SC), South Island Kiwi (SC), Kea (JP), Little Penguin (SC), Mt. Cook (JP), Black-fronted Tern (JP)