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New Zealand Nature & Birding Tour January 5 – 18, 2016 With Stewart Island Extension January 18 – 21, 2016

2016 New Zealand Bird List

Southern Brown Kiwi – We got to see three of these antiques on Ocean Beach
Black Swan – Where there were large bodies of freshwater, there were swans
Canada Goose – Introduced, common, and spreading in the country
Graylag Goose – Always a few around lakes that folks frequent
Paradise Shelduck – Very numerous at the Mangere Water Treatment Plant
Blue Duck – Very good looks at eight of these at the Whakapapa Intake
Mallard – One adult male at Mangere was our best look
Pacific Grey Duck – A number of the birds at Mangere appeared to be pure
Australian Shoveler – Three females right alongside the road at Mangere
Gray Teal – Quite a few at Mangere and at other locations
Brown Teal – Not easy, but we got to see them on our first day out at Mangere
New Zealand Scaup – A few at Waimangu Volcanic area in old crater lakes
Yellow-eyed Penguin – Saw three total with the best being the twenty-minute preener
Little Penguin – Probably saw about twenty of these, both on land and in the water
Fiordland Penguin – Only one seen off of Stewart Island
California Quail – Spotted sporadically throughout the trip
Ring-necked Pheasant – First one was alongside the road
Turkey – Seen in fields once every couple of days on the North Island
Weka – A number of individuals around the Cook Monument on Queen Charlotte Sound
Great Crested Grebe – Seen well with young on the back at Wanuka Lake
New Zealand Dabchick – Seen on the same ponds as the NZ Scaup
Buller's Albatross – We saw eight on our ferry crossing over Cook Strait
White-capped Albatross – A windy day crossing Cook Strait gave us good looks
Salvin's (White-capped) Albatross – One on the Cook Strait Crossing
Royal Albatross – One on our Cook Strait crossing
Wandering Albatross – Best looks were on the morning boat trip out of Kaikoura
Cook's Petrel – One seen on the crossing over to Stewart Island
Gray-faced Petrel – One seen on the crossing back over to the South Island
Fairy Prion – Always with us on our open water section crossing Cook Strait
Westland Petrel – At least three on our Cook Strait crossing
Black Petrel – Seen on our morning boat trip out of Kaikoura

White-chinned Petrel – The most common petrel on our morning boat trip out of Kaikoura
Cape Petrel – Seen out of Kaikoura and off of Stewart Island
N. Giant Petrel – Common off of Kaikoura
Sooty Shearwater – Not in big flocks, but a number of single birds crossing Cook Strait
Short-tailed Shearwater – A few were seen while crossing Cook Strait
Flesh-footed Shearwater – One off of Kaikoura was our best look
Buller's Shearwater – Small numbers from Tiri Tiri Island
Fluttering Shearwater – Common close to shore where there was deep water
Hutton's Shearwater – Nests in the hills above Kaikoura, and we saw them offshore
Common Diving Petrel – We had four on our crossing of Cook Strait
Australasian Gannet – Seen best at the nesting colony north of Auckland
Great Black Cormorant – Sporadic at best, definitely not common
Stewart Island Shag – All over Stewart Island and along the Bluff shoreline
Spotted Shag – Seen well at various South Island locations
Little Black Cormorant – Different color morphs at Magere treatment plant
King Shag – A small roost of birds on a cliffside in Queen Charlotte Sound
Pied Cormorant – Best looks were at the Wellington ferry dock
Little Pied Cormorant – One very close individual at the Bluff boat dock
White-faced Heron – Seen every day within shallow water or foraging in short grass fields
Glossy Ibis – We watched the first confirmed nest record pair and their young
Royal Spoonbill – Not as common as we would like, but plenty of looks
South Island Takahē – Seen on Tiri Tiri Matangi up by the lighthouse
Australasian Swamphen – Very common on the North Island in fields and wetlands
Swamp Harrier – Whenever we saw a soaring raptor, well this is the only bird it could be
New Zealand Falcon – A nesting pair in a Wanaka campground gave us great looks
Eurasian Coot – Not common, but there were always a few around
Pied Stilt – The second most common shorebird in New Zealand
Black Stilt – The rarest shorebird in the world, seen in the Twizel area
S. Island Oystercatcher – Most were flocking up in the South Island readying for migration
Variable Oystercatcher – Most South Island pairs had a single, downy young with them
Pacific Golden Plover – One was seen at the Miranda Shorebird Centre
Masked Lapwing – Scattered in paddocks throughout both islands
Red-breasted Dotterel – Definitely not common, but we got our best looks on the N. Island
Double-banded Plover – Great looks at a stunning male in alternate plumage near Twizel
Wrybill – A group of seventy-five at the Miranda Shorebird Centre were seen well in the scope
Terek Sandpiper – One was seen flying overhead at Foxton Beach, just wouldn't land for us
Bar-tailed Godwit – One of the commonest shorebirds in New Zealand
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Two at the Miranda Shorebird Centre were feeding together
Pectoral Sandpiper – The Pec was feeding with the two Sharp-taileds mentioned above
Latham's Snipe – A great find of this rare vagrant at the Mangere water treatment plant
Brown Skua – Seen very well off of Stewart Island
Parasitic Jaeger – Scattered throughout the trip in different straits or sounds
Black-billed Gull – Usually seen near braided rivers, their favorite nesting habitat
Red-billed Gull – The common gull anywhere near the coast
Kelp Gull – They call them Lesser Black-backed down here, common on farms and the coast
Caspian Tern – Not common at all, but seen on both fresh and saltwater
White-fronted Tern – The common tern anywhere along the coast
Black-fronted Tern – Seen on the braided rivers where they prefer to nest
Rock Pigeon – City birds
Spotted Dove – Introduced and common in just a few areas
New Zealand Pigeon – Not uncommon, but always associated with native habitats

Long-tailed Cuckoo – Mostly heard calling in different habits, but we did see a few
S. Boobook – Long looks at a pair on their day roost on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island
Sacred Kingfisher – Best look was on the rocks at Mangere water plant
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo – Seen but not heard at Auckland’s Centennial Park
New Zealand Kaka – Seen at a few locations but they were on our decks at the Kaka Lodge
Red-crowned Parakeet – Seen best as we had lunch at Auckland’s Centennial Park
Yellow-crowned Parakeet – Adjacent to Oban on Stewart Island
Eastern Rosella – Got to see one about ten feet off the road
Rifleman – Seen on an early morning bird walk at the Wilderness Lodge near Arthur’s Pass
Tui – Quite common on Tiri Tiri Island and very close to the trail
New Zealand Bellbird – Good, long looks at the Tiri Tiri feeders
Gray Garygone – Seen up on Arthur’s Pass
Whitehead – Common in most Manuka forests
N. Island Kokako – Heard more often than seen, but not common
North Island Saddleback – Tiri Tiri Matangi Ridge trail was loaded with them
South Island Saddleback – We saw them in the Canterbury Plains in native habitat
Stitchbird – Seen on the Ridge trail on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island
Australian Magpie – This introduced species was fairly common on most ranch fields
New Zealand Fantail – Common and in your face whenever we found them
Tomtit – We had them feeding next to our picnic tables at Auckland’s Centennial Park
New Zealand Robin – Confiding and always wanting their picture taken in native forest
South Island Robin – Ulva Island and its trail system gave us our best looks
Sky Lark – Very good looks in the fields near the Miranda Shorebird Centre
Welcome Swallow – Everywhere, especially on the North Island
Fernbird – Seen on the trail down to the boat at Tiri Tiri Matangi Island
Silver-eye – Best look was while we were looking at the Blue Duck family
Eurasian Blackbird – Fairly common everywhere
Song Thrush – If there was a lawn or short grass field, there were Song Thrush
European Starling – Unfortunately too common
Common Myna – Scattered all over the country with no specific habitat
Dunnock – Best looks were in the volcanic area around Rotorua
Australasian Pipit – In the tundra areas of the high elevation volcanos
Yellowhammer – Usually seen along trails in grassy fields
Common Chaffinch – Introduced and fairly common in most habitats
European Greenfinch – Seen scattered in brushy areas on the two big islands
Common Redpoll – Not common, but also seen in brushy areas
European Goldfinch – Seemed to be near ranch homes with lots of vegetation
House Sparrow – Unfortunately ubiquitous

2016 New Zealand Mammal List

European Rabbit – Too common and usually adjacent to wooded areas
Brown Hare – Wide-open grassy areas
Red Deer – There were a number of these farmed deer running wild
Wapiti – American elk that were introduced for meat could be seen in scattered herds
New Zealand Fur Seal – Found mostly along the shore of the South Island
Dusky Dolphin – Seen out of the Kaikoura area on our albatross trip
Hector’s Dolphin – Three small pods seen in the Queen Charlotte Sound
Sperm Whale – One adult bull was seen off of Kaikoura
Pilot Whale – A pod of at least forty animals were seen off of Kaikoura