

# New Zealand Species List

January 20 – February 1, 2018 | Compiled by Greg Smith



With Greg Smith and participants Barbara, Elna, Catherine, Sanford (Sandy), Cathie, Ginger, Daniel, Muriel, George, Giulio, Lou, and Joan

## Species List: 113 Total Birds Seen

### Anatidae: Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl (10)

**Greylag Goose** (*Anser anser*) Seen early in the trip on our drive to Tiri Tiri Mantangi.

**Canada Goose** (*Branta canadensis*) Usually found near most large bodies of freshwater.

**Black Swan** (*Cygnus atratus*) They were also found on nearly any large body of water, usually in pairs.

**Paradise Shelduck** (*Tadorna variegata*) Scattered through both of the main islands, usually in pairs or small groups.

**Blue Duck** (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*) We were fortunate in viewing at least twelve of these fast water ducks around Tongoriro.

**Australian Shoveler** (*Anas rhynchos*) Best looks were at birds on our drive from Picton to Kaikoura.

**Pacific Black Duck** (*Anas superciliosa*) Seen well in the ponds right after our lunch near Waihu.

**Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*) More common than most of the other small waterfowl, very domesticated acting.

**Gray Teal** (*Anas gracilis*) Seen more regularly early on in the trip as opposed to the end.

**New Zealand Scaup** (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*) Very common on Great Lake Taupo and Lake Rotorua.

### Spheniscidae: Penguins (1)

**Fiordland Penguin** (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*) Seen by a few of the group on Monro Beach.

### Odontophoridae: New World Quail (1)

**California Quail** (*Callipepla californica*) Easy to find on the North Island anytime we were near brushy habitat.

### Phasianidae: Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies (1)

**Wild Turkey** (*Meleagris gallopavo*) Seen a few times a day in paddocks that were bordered by trees on the North Island.

### Podicipedidae: Grebes (2)

**New Zealand Grebe** (*Poliocephalus rufopectus*) Dabchicks were seen a few times on the North Island where there was deep water.

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**Great Crested Grebe** (*Podiceps cristatus*) Best looks were at two birds on a small lake on our drive from Picton to Kaikoura.

## Diomedidae: Albatrosses (4)

**White-capped Albatross** (*Thalassarche cauta cauta*) We had three to four on our albatross outing in Kaikoura.

**Salvin's Albatross** (*Thalassarche salvini*) The most common albatross out of Kaikoura.

**Royal Albatross** (*Diomedea epomophora*) There were at least three of these, the biggest albatross.

**Wandering Albatross** (*Diomedea exulans*) The ones we got long looks at were older individuals given the amount of white.

## Procellariidae: Shearwaters and Petrels (11)

**Northern Giant-Petrel** (*Macronectes halli*)

**Cook's Petrel** (*Pterodroma cookii*)

**Fairy Prion** (*Pachyptila turtur*)

**White-chinned Petrel** (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*)

**Black Petrel** (*Procellaria parkinsoni*)

**Westland Petrel** (*Procellaria westlandica*)

**Flesh-footed Shearwater** (*Ardenna carneipes*)

**Buller's Shearwater** (*Ardenna bulleri*) Seen sporadically on our albatross outing in Kaikoura.

**Sooty Shearwater** (*Ardenna grisea*) Two were seen on the ferry crossing from the North to the South Island.

**Hutton's Shearwater** (*Puffinus huttoni*) They nest near Kaikoura and we saw them waiting for darkness in rafts.

**Fluttering Shearwater** (*Puffinus gavius*) Most common in the Marlborough Sounds from the ferry and wildlife boat trip.

## Hydrobatidae: Storm-Petrels (1)

**White-faced Storm-Petrel** (*Pelagodroma marina*) We had two individuals on our albatross trip out of Kaikoura.

## Sulidae: Boobies and Gannets (1)

**Australasian Gannet** (*Morus serrator*) The colony at Muriwai was certainly a treat.

## Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants and Shags (7)

**Little Pied Shag** (*Microcarbo melanoleucos*) Sporadic, but usually around smaller bodies of freshwater or rocky coastline.

**Great Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) Seen on our wildlife ride in the Marlborough Sounds.

**Spotted Shag** (*Phalacrocorax punctatus*) First seen in the Marlborough Sounds.

**Little Black Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) Usually on freshwater for this trip, with best looks at Lake Rotorua.

**Pied Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax varius*) The more common shag around saltwater.

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**New Zealand King Shag** (*Phalacrocorax carunculatus*) The area in the Marlborough Sounds was where we found a small flock.

**Otago Shag** (*Phalacrocorax chalconotus*) Great looks at the former Stewart Island Shag on the coast below the albatross centre.

## Ardeidae: Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns (2)

**Great Egret** (*Ardea alba modesta*) We only saw two of these birds, most probably because it was nesting season.

**White-faced Heron** (*Egretta novaehollandiae*) Usually seen on any fair-sized body of water, with best looks on Great Lake Taupo.

## Threskiornithidae: Ibises and Spoonbills (1)

**Royal Spoonbill** (*Platalea regia*) Not encountered too often, and always in small numbers near freshwater lakes.

## Rallidae: Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (2)

**Australasian Swamphe**n (*Porphyrio melanotus*) The Pukekoe was usually grazing in most areas with short grass.

**Weka** (*Gallirallus australis*) Two were foraging on the beach of our island stop in Marlborough Sounds.

**Eurasian Coot** (*Fulica atra*) Only a few were seen and those were on Great Lake Taupo.

## Accipitridae: Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (1)

**Swamp Harrier** (*Circus approximans*) Seen every day in most non-forest habitats.

## Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets (2)

**Pied Stilt** (*Himantopus leucocephalus*) Large groups of this “chatty” shorebird were seen at the Miranda chernier area.

**Black Stilt** (*Himantopus novaeseelandiae*) A few adults were foraging in the delta of the river that drained the Aoraki glaciers.

## Haematopodidae: Oystercatchers (2)

**South Island Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus finschi*) A large mixed flock at Miranda allowed us to compare with the Variable.

**Variable Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus unicolor*) The more common of the oystercatchers, especially on the North Island.

## Charadriidae: Plovers and Lapwings (5)

**Pacific Golden-Plover** (*Pluvialis fulva*) Seen at both Miranda and along the edge of the Foxton estuary.

**Masked Lapwing** (*Vanellus miles novaehollandiae*) Most large paddocks had a pair, especially on the North Island.

**Red-breasted Dotterel** (*Charadrius obscurus*) Good looks at both Miranda and along the edge of the estuary near Foxton.

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**Double-banded Plover** (*Charadrius bicinctus*) A good-sized flock at Miranda.

**Wrybill** (*Anarhynchus frontalis*) This braided river nester was seen well at Miranda in medium-sized flocks.

## Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (5)

**Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*) Always a treat to see these long-distance migrants with a large flock out in Miranda.

**Ruddy Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*) Only seen on the chernier flats at Miranda.

**Sanderling** (*Calidris alba*) Three individuals were foraging together in the Foxton Estuary.

**Red Knot** (*Calidris canutus*) Seen in basic plumage at Miranda and foraging at the estuary near Foxton.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** (*Calidris acuminata*) Two, maybe three were seen only at Miranda.

## Stercorariidae: Skuas and Jaegers (3)

**Brown Skua** (*Stercorarius antarcticus lonnbergi*) Seen briefly on our boat crossing to Tiri Tiri Mantangi.

**Arctic Skua** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) A single individual was viewed on our crossing to Tiri Tiri Mantangi.

**Parasitic Skua** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) Seen most every time we were out on saltwater, always in very small numbers.

## Laridae: Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (7)

**Black-billed Gull** (*Chroicocephalus bulleri*) We only saw this braided river-nester once, on the chenier flats at Miranda.

**Red-billed Gull** (*Chroicocephalus scopulinus*) Common anywhere around the coast of the New Zealand.

**Kelp Gull** (*Larus dominicanus*) Or Southern Black-backed Gull was common on most of the trip when near the coast.

**Caspian Tern** (*Hydroprogne caspia*) Only one, and that was at the Miranda Shorebird Centre.

**Whiskered Tern** (*Chlidonias hybrid*) A vagrant that had been reported was seen by all near Waihu on Great Lake Taupo.

**Black-fronted Tern** (*Chlidonias albobristatus*) Not common on this trip with just a few seen near Aoraki.

**White-fronted Tern** (*Sterna striata*) The common tern on the coast.

## Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (3)

**Rock Pigeon** (*Columba livia*) Cities, parks, and barns.

**Spotted Dove** (*Streptopelia chinensis*) Only found once and that was as we drove to Muriwai from Tiri Tiri Mantangi.

**New Zealand Pigeon** (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) If there was native forest, we would always see some of these huge pigeons.

## Cuculidae: Cuckoos (1)

**Long-tailed Koel** (*Urodynamis taitensis*) Heard in the Pureora Forest on our morning hike.

## Strigidae: Owls (1)

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**Southern Boobook** (*Ninox novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*) Seen by most on Tiri Tiri Mantangi and heard both nights at Lake Moeraki.

## Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (1)

**Sacred Kingfisher** (*Todiramphus sanctus*) Not at all common, but seen well by all of us.

## Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (1)

**New Zealand Falcon** (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) Heard calling repeatedly on the hike to Monro Beach.

## Strigopidae: New Zealand Parrots (2)

**Kea** (*Nestor notabilis*) During our lunch stop in Arthur's Pass, we got to see one individual working under some shrubs.

**New Zealand Kaka** (*Nestor meridionalis*) The Pureora Forest had a few of these parrots perched atop of the matawi trees.

## Psittaculidae: Old World Parrots (4)

**Orange-fronted Parakeet** (*Eupsittula canicularis*) All saw one of the 300+ left in the world on an island in Marlborough Sounds.

**Red-crowned Parakeet** (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae novaezelandiae*) Seen crawling around the trees and calling at Pureora.

**Yellow-crowned Parakeet** (*Cyanoramphus auriceps*) During our breakfast in Pureora Forest we got first of three looks at this species.

## Acanthisittidae: New Zealand Wrens (1)

**Rifleman** (*Acanthisitta chloris*) Seen on Tiri Tiri Mantangi.

## Meliphagidae: Honeyeaters (2)

**Tui** (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*) Best looks were certainly on Tiri Tiri Mantangi, but we did see them in other locales.

**New Zealand Bellbird** (*Anthornis melanura*) The feeding stations on Tiri Tiri Mantangi gave us some up close looks.

## Acanthizidae: Thornbills and Allies (1)

**Greygone** (*Gerygone igata*) Seen by the group on the trail near Blue Pools on the drive to Lake Ohau.

## Mohouidae: Whiteheads (3)

**Whitehead** (*Mohoua albicilla*) Family groups seemed to be everywhere on our Tiri Tiri Mantangi visit.

**Pipipi** (*Mohoua novaeseelandiae*) Seen by the group on the trail near Blue Pools on the drive to Lake Ohau.

## Callaeidae: Wattlebirds (3)

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**North Island Kokako** (*Callaeas wilsoni*) Really good looks at a family group feeding on the fruits of the cabbage tree.

**North Island Saddleback** (*Philesturnus rufusater*) Great looks while out on Tiri Tiri Mantangi

**South Island Saddleback** (*Philesturnus carunculatus*) We got to see this South Island relative down on some of the predator-free islands.

## Notiomystidae: **Stitchbird (1)**

**Stitchbird** (*Notiomystis cincta*) Only on Tiri Tiri Mantangi.

## Cracticidae: **Bellmagpies and Allies (1)**

**Australian Magpie** (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) Most paddocks on both islands had a resident pair of these birds.

## Rhipiduridae: **Fantails (1)**

**New Zealand Fantail** (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*) Not common, but seen every time we were in native forest.

## Petroicidae: **Australasian Robins (2)**

**Tomtit** (*Petroica macrocephala*) Seen in the Marlborough Sounds and at Lake Moeraki.

**New Zealand Robin** (*Petroica australis*) First seen on Tiri Tiri Mantangi.

## Alaudidae: **Larks (1)**

**Skylark** (*Alauda arvensis*) Seen during a coffee/tea stop on the drive from Kaikoura.

## Hirundinidae: **Swallows (1)**

**Welcome Swallow** (*Hirundo neoxena*) They were everywhere there was a body of water nearby.

## Locustellidae: **Grassbirds and Allies (1)**

**Fernbird** (*Megalurus punctatus*) Only a pair was seen, and that was on our morning breakfast stop in Pureora Forest.

## Zosteropidae: **White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies (1)**

**Silver-eye** (*Zosterops lateralis*) When seen, we usually saw them in family groups or flocks.

## Turdidae: **Thrushes and Allies (2)**

**Eurasian Blackbird** (*Turdus merula*) A front yard bird throughout most of New Zealand.

**Song Thrush** (*Turdus philomelos*) Another introduced species, but not nearly as common as the blackbird.

## Sturnidae: **Starlings (2)**

**European Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) Most everywhere there were fields and/or hedgerows.

**Common Myna** (*Acridotheres tristis*) Haven't seen any on the South Island, but they were very common in Auckland.

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## **Motacillidae: Wagtails and Pipits (1)**

**Australasian Pipit** (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) Seen while looking at a couple of Blue Duck in Tongariro.

## **Emberizidae: Buntings and New World Sparrows (1)**

**Yellowhammer** (*Emberiza citrinella*) Seen sporadically feeding alongside fallow paddocks.

## **Fringillidae: Finches, Euphonias, and Allies (4)**

**Common Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*) Seen by the group on the trail near Blue Pools on the drive to Lake Ohau.

**European Greenfinch** (*Chloris chloris*) Seen only a couple of times, and only on the North Island.

**Common Redpoll** (*Acanthis flammea*) Seen during our lunch stop in Wairu.

**European Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*) Flocks were doing a pretty good job on grass-covered paddocks.

## **Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (1)**

**House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*) Unfortunately, everywhere. ...