



New Zealand | Species List

6 – 23 January, 2019 | Compiled by Greg Smith



- (127) Number of species total
(*) Hauraki Gulf pre-extension only
(**) Stewart Island post-extension only
(HO) = Heard Only
(I) = Introduced

BIRDS – 126 Species in 48 Families

KIWIS: (1)

***North Island Brown Kiwi** *Apteryx mantelli* – Three were seen on our pre-extension on the North Island

DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS: Anatidae: (12)

Graylag Goose (I) *Anser anser* – Groups were seen along the highway heading north to Tiritiri Matangi

Canada Goose (I) *Branta Canadensis* – Pretty common and found on most large bodies of fresh water

Black Swan (I) *Cygnus atratus* – Found in more places than the geese, but in smaller numbers

Paradise Shelduck *Tadorna variegata* – On both islands near bodies of water or on farm fields

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* – We went to Miranda Shorebird Centre on two different days with one then two birds on successive days

Blue Duck *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos* – Seen quite well in in Tongariro NP and again in Fiordland NP

Australian Shoveler *Spatula rhynchotis* – Not common at all, but when seen it was in small groups

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* – Hard to find pure individuals, but with patient detailing we were able to find a few that looked like they were not hybrids

Mallard (1) *Anas platyrhynchos* – Only sure way to tell was when we had a full-blown male in alternate plumage

Gray Teal *Anas gibberifrons gracilis* – Seen irregularly, but easy to tell with those facial features

***Brown Teal** *Anas chlorotis* – Only a couple of sightings, but they were very good looks

New Zealand Scaup *Aythya novaeseelandiae* – Probably the most common identifiable duck of all the waterfowl

PENGUINS: Spheniscidae (1)

****Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor* – Seen only on the pre- and post-extension

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

California Quail (1) *Callipepla californica* – Seen mostly in the Purorea Forest as we drove over gravel roads

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (3)

Brown Quail *Synoicus ypsilophorus* – Seen only once on our Tiritiri visit

***Ring-necked Pheasant (1)** *Phasianus colchicus* – Only one individual, a male, was seen on our Kiwi night

Wild Turkey (1) *Meleagris gallopavo* – Fairly common on the North Island, not so on the South Island

GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)

New Zealand Grebe *Poliiocephalus rufopectus* – Seen only a few times, mostly on the North Island

Great-crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* – Best looks were in the water works on the South Island

ALBATROSSES: Diomedidae (5)

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri* – Best looks were off of Stewart Island on the post-extension

White-capped Albatross *Thalassarche cauta stadi* – Seen on the Cook Strait crossing & off Kaikoura

Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini* – The most common albatross off of Kaikoura

Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora* – We saw both the Northern & Southern off of Kaikoura

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* – Great looks off of Kaikoura of multiple individuals

PETRELS, PRIONS, SHEARWATERS: Procellariidae (12)

N. Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli* – Numerous individuals on our albatross encounter off of Kaikoura

Cape Petrel *Daption capense* – Fairly numerous off of Kaikoura & at ease while feeding next to albatross

***Cook's Petrel** *Pterodroma cookii* – Fairly common off in the Hauraki Gulf once we got off-shore

***Fairy Prion** *Pachyptila turtur* – Very common in offshore waters of the Hauraki Gulf

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* – The common dark petrel on the Kaikoura albatross encounter

Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica* – We had one, maybe two off of Kaikoura

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes* – Common in the Hauraki Gulf, not so common off of Kaikoura coast

Buller's Shearwater *Ardenna bulleri* – Most were seen in the Hauraki Gulf, but a few were in Kaikoura

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea* – Seen off Kaikoura and again off of Stewart Island

Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris* – We had a few off of Kaikoura mixed in with the Sooty's
Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni* – Only seen when we were on the waters off of Kaikoura
Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia* – Common in the Marlborough Sounds and the Cook Strait crossing

STORM-PETRELS: Oceanitidae (2)

***White-faced Storm Petrel** *Pelagodroma marina* – The common storm petrel in the Hauraki Gulf

***New Zealand Storm Petrel** *Fregetta maoriana* – We saw near forty of this species in the Hauraki

GANNETS, BOOBIES: Sulidae (1)

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator* – Our visit to the Murwai gannet colony gave us intimate views

CORMORANTS, DARTERS: Phalacrocoracidae (7)

Little Pied Shag *Microcarbo melanoleucos* – Mostly on the North Island when there were trees for roosting

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* – Not common on the trip, but always near ocean waters

Spotted Shag *Phalacrocorax punctatus* – Mostly seen on the South Island in large numbers

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* – Best looks were along the shore of Rotorua Lake

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius* – Seemed to be the most common shag in our North Island travels

New Zealand King Shag *Leucocarbo carunculatus* – Only a little over 600 left in the world and we saw about 5% of them in the Marlborough Sounds

Otago Shag *Leucocarbo onslow* – From Dunedin south to Stewart Island this was the common shag

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (2)

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae* – Certainly the common heron of the trip, both fresh and salt water, and in farm fields

Pacific Reef-Heron *Egretta sacra* – We saw three along coast during our hike over Kaikoura Point

SPOONBILL: Threskiornithidae (1)

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia* – Seen sporadically over the trip feeding in mostly freshwater

SWAMPHENS, WEKA, COOTS: Rallidae (5)

Weka *Gallirallus australis* – Great looks on the islands of the Marlborough Sounds

***South Island Takahe** *Porphyrio hochstetteri* – Seen by some just before our night walk in Tawharanui

Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus* – Much more common on the North Island

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* – Didn't see this species until we got to the South Island, only a few

***Banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis* – We had a female with two young and at least another three in Tawharanui

Marsh Crake *Porzana pusilla affinis* – It took a while, but we got looks in the water works near Twizel on the South Island

HARRIERS: ACCIPITRIDAE (1)

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans* – The only hawk in NZ, and found just about everywhere away from forests

STILTS, AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)

Pied Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus* – In shallows there were always pairs or large groups

Black Stilt *Himantopus novaezelandiae* – We actually for to see about 10% of the population of this stunning bird. All in the water works area of the South Island

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (2)

South Island Oystercatcher *Haematopus finschi* – Large flocks of this primarily South Island species that had migrated north to the North Island

Variable Oystercatcher *Haematopus unicolor* – Always on beaches on all three of the large islands

PLOVERS, DOTTERELS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (6)

Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva* – A few flocks in the Miranda Shorebird Centre area

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles* – In farm fields of both the North and South Islands

Red-breasted Dotterel *Charadrius obscuris* – Best looks and biggest numbers were near the South Island water works

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus* – Scattered, but very good looks while watching Black Stilts

Black-fronted Dotterel *Euseyornis melanops* – At the wastewater treatment plant in Otaki

Wrybill *Anarhynchus frontalis* – Large flocks had already migrated from the braided rivers of the South Island to the Miranda Shorebird Centre area

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (6)

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* – Over 4500 of these birds were on the chenier shell flats at Miranda

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* – Two were spotted in the ponds near Miranda Shorebird Centre

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* – Small flocks at the Foxton Estuary and the Miranda Shorebird Centre

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* – We had three on our second trip to Miranda

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* - Two on our first trip to Miranda and one on the second trip

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* - One at the Foxton estuary was a treat, and unexpected

SKUAS and JAEGERs: Stercorariidae (1)

Arctic (Parasitic) Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* – Seen on the crossing of Cook Strait and again the next day on Marlborough Sounds

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (7)

Black-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus bulleri* – Mostly seen on inland waters, but there were still a few along the coast

Red-billed Gull *Larus scopulinus* – The common coastal gull, and we got to see a large nesting colony in Kaikoura

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* – Mostly along the coasts, but also seen feeding on interior farm fields

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* – We only saw six in widely dispersed areas – both fresh and salt waters

New Zealand Fairy Tern *Sternula nereis davisae* – We saw a female and her mostly-grown chick at Pakiri Beach, two of the remaining 42 individuals in the world

Black-fronted Tern *Chlidonias albostrigatus* – We saw about thirty hawking insects on the South Island's braided rivers

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata* – Common along the coast of all three islands

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (4)

Rock Pigeon (1) *Columba livia* – Mostly in cities and towns, but also near farm buildings

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis* – Seen in city/town parks, not at all common

Barbary Dove *Streptopelia risoria* - We only saw three of this species, and all were near rural farm buildings

New Zealand Pigeon *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae* – Common in the Marlborough Sounds and on Stewart Island

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (2)

Long-tailed Koel *Urodynamis taitensis* – Seen flying over Pureora Forest on our breakfast in the wilds

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcides lucidus* – Seen and heard on our first morning of the tour at the wastewater treatment plant

Owls: Strigidae (1)

Southern Boobook *Ninox boobook* – We saw at least six of this species, mostly in family groups

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus* – Seemed to be much more common on the North Island temperatures

FALCONS: Falconidae (1)

New Zealand Falcon *Falco novaeseelandiae* – While refueling in ?, one blasted by the gas station at eye-level

KEAS and KAKAS: Nestoridae (2)

Kea *Nestor notabilis* – Ah, probably the smartest bird in the world, our one and our best view was at the tunnel entrance in Fiordland NP

New Zealand Kaka *Nestor meridionalis* – Seen in the Pureora Forest and on Stewart Island

PARAKEETS: Psittaculidae (4)

Orange-fronted Parakeet *Aratinga canicularis* – Seen on the one of the islands in the Marlborough Sounds

Red-crowned Parakeet *Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae* – Best looks were on Tiritiri at a watering trough

Yellow-crowned Parakeet *Cyanoramphus auriceps* – Mostly heard, but also seen in the Pureora Forest

***Eastern Rosella (1)** *Platycercus eximius* – Seen only on the pre-extension out in the Land of the Kiwi

NEW ZEALAND WRENS: Acanthisittidae (1)

Rifleman *Acanthisitta chloris* – It took a while to get good looks of this species, but we finally found a family group up on Arthur's Pass

HONEYEATERS and BELLBIRDS: Meliphagidae (2)

Tui *Prothemadera novaeseelandiae* – Probably the most common endemic, and seen on all three islands
New Zealand Bellbird *Anthornis melanura* – Scattered on the North Island and the north end of the South Island

WARBLERS: Acanthizidae (1)

Grey Warbler *Gerygone igata* – Seen sporadically throughout the trip, but very good looks on Arthur's Pass

WHITEHEADS and CREEPERS: Mohouidae (3)

Whitehead *Mohoua albicilla* – Like the grey warbler, but with our best looks on the North Island

****Yellowhead** *Mohoua ochrocephala* – We got to see five of this species on Stewart Island, a life bird for all six of the non-kiwis

Brown Creeper (Pipipi) *Mohoua novaeseelandiae* – Best looks for all were up on Arthur's Pass

WATTLEBIRDS: Callaeidae (3)

North Island Kokako *Callaeas wilsoni* – Plenty of good looks on Tiritiri of the Blue-wattled Crow

North Island Saddleback *Philesturnus rufusater* – Tiritiri had quite a few, and they were very cooperative

****South Island Saddleback** *Philesturnus carunculatus* – Stewart Island had a significant population, and they didn't seem to be the least bit disturbed by our presence

STITCHBIRDS: Notiomystidae (1)

Stitchbird *Notiomystis cincta* – Only on Tiritiri, and having hard times even there

MAGPIES: Artamidae (1)

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* – A species that made it to NZ on its own, and with all the farms, it is everywhere

FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae (1)

New Zealand Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa* – A bit of a showoff, and what a treat as it wagged its tail for all to see

ROBINS: Petroicidae (3)

Tomtit *Petroica macrocephala* – This species was seen on all three islands, but didn't become readily visible until we arrived on the South Island

North Island Robin *Petroica longipes* – Not as distinct as its South Island relative, and not as tame

South Island Robin *Petroica australis* – One of those NZ species that had no problem getting in our face

SKYLARKS: Alaudidae (1)

Eurasian Skylark (I) *Alauda arvensis* – Aerial displays were as abundant as the birds at Miranda Shorebird Centre

SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae (1)

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena* – Seen every day on the entire trip, aptly named

FERNBIRDS: Locustellidae (1)

Fernbird *Poodytes punctatus* – Seen twice, but our best looks were at the edge of Lake Taupo

SILVEREYES: Zosteropidae (1)

Silver-eye *Zosterops lateralis* – More common on the North Island, usually traveling in small family groups

BLACKBIRDS and Thrushes: Turdidae (2)

Eurasian Blackbird (I) *Turdus merula* – Common in urban locations with green grass and trees

Song Thrush (I) *Turdus philomelos* – What a little beauty!

STARLINGS and MYNAS: Sturnidae (2)

European Starling (I) *Sturnus vulgaris* – Not seen every day, which is always a good thing

Common Myna (I) *Acridotheres tristis* – Common all over the North Island, but not seen on the South Island

ACCENTORS: Prunellidae (1)

Dunnock (I) *Prunella modularis* – Best looks were on our hike around Kaikopura Point

Pipits: Motacillidae (1)

Australasian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* – On the beach with the Fairy Terns foraging in the dunes

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (1)

Yellowhammer (I) *Emberiza citrinella* – More on the North Island as opposed to the South Island

FINCHES: Fringillidae (4)

Common Chaffinch (I) *Fringilla coelebs* – Common on wooded edges on both of the big islands

European Greenfinch (I) *Chloris chloris* – Sporadic, but striking as they took flight. Best looks were on Kaikoura Point

Common Redpoll (I) *Acanthis flammea* – Not common, but easily approached to maximize our views

European Goldfinch (I) *Carduelis carduelis* – Turning from alternate to basic plumage, but the red on the head made for easy identification. Even while driving

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow (I) *Passer domesticus* – Ubiquitous