

Nature of New Zealand | Species List

October 13 – 25 + Stewart Island Ext. October 25 – 29, 2022
with Naturalist Journeys



With Local Guide Mark Hanger, Naturalist Journeys Guide Carlos Sanchez and clients Yvonne, Joan, Julia, Janet, Diane, Eileen, Jeff, Carolyn, and Tom

Compiled by Carlos Sanchez

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(E)= Endemic to New Zealand

(I)= Introduced

SUMMARY: New Zealand is a splendid country featuring excellent stunning landscapes, friendly people, and unique birds. In fact, over a third of the birds that we saw on this tour are endemic to New Zealand (we recorded 43 endemic species and all 6 of New Zealand's endemic bird families). Although one does not usually think of mammals as part of New Zealand's native fauna, we had nice views of the Endangered and endemic Hector's Dolphin on the Kaikoura pelagic. Our group really loved the pelagic outings on this tour, and the Kaikoura pelagic came out on top as the group favorite activity. Both the Southern and Northern Brown Kiwi were the group favorites, and it is easy to see why – these fantastical creatures look like nothing else!

BIRDS (117 species recorded):

KIWIS: Apterygidae (2) – VOTED AS BIRDS OF THE TRIP

Southern Brown Kiwi *Apteryx australis* (E)—seen at night on Stewart Island at Ryan's Creek Aerodome (10/25)

North Island Brown Kiwi *Apteryx mantelli* (E)—seen at night near Auckland

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (10)

Graylag Goose *Anser anser* (I)

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (I)—scattered sightings throughout of this introduced species

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* (I)—widespread exotic. There was a very large, native swan on the island pre-human contact that probably looked a lot like a Black Swan.

Paradise Shelduck *Tadorna variegata* (E)—the most common and widespread endemic, perhaps the only one to have benefited from the arrival of people to New Zealand.

Blue Duck *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos* (E)—seen on North Island and at Fiordland National Park on the South Island. Everyone had fantastic views of this highly specialized duck, which lives only in areas of fast flowing water much like a Torrent Duck (10/28).

Australian Shoveler *Spatula rhynchotis*—relatively common, sometimes in large flocks such as at St Anne's Lagoon (10/20) and Lake Tekapo (10/22).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (I)—the most common duck in the country

Gray Teal *Anas gracilis*—seen at St Anne's Lagoon (10/20) and Lake Tekapo (10/22)

Brown Teal *Anas chlorotis* (E)—seen on the North Island

New Zealand Scaup *Aythya novaeseelandiae* (E)—widespread and common in freshwater lakes and ponds

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

California Quail *Callipepla californica* (I)—seen on the North Island

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (4)

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo* (I)

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* (I)

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* (I)

Brown Quail *Synoicus ypsilophorus* (I)

GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)

New Zealand Grebe *Poliiocephalus rufopectus* (E)—seen on the North Island. Strangely, it is nearly absent from the South Island.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*—nice views on Lake Tekapo of at least three birds (10/22).

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (4)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (I)

African Collared-Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea* (I)

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* (I)

New Zealand Pigeon *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae* (E)—this very large, arboreal pigeon was delightfully common throughout both the North and South Island in woodland and garden settings. The Kereru, as the Polynesians call it, feeds primarily on buds, leaves, flowers, and fruit.

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (2)

Long-tailed Koel *Urodynamis taitensis*—seen on the North Island and heard on the South Island at Arthur's Pass Wilderness Lodge. The decline of both endemic Yellowhead and Whitehead has caused a similar decline in Long-tailed Koels which parasitize their nests.

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*—seen on the North Island. In this part of their range, they specialize on parasitizing the nests of Gray Gerygone (Warbler).

RAILS, CRAKES, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (4)

Weka *Gallirallus australis* (E)—seen on Blumine Island (10/18) and Ulva Island (10/26), where they ran out to greet you as you landed on the island. Innately curious and opportunistic – what fun birds to spend time observing!

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*—seen on the North Island. Very close relative of the Weka.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*—seen at St Anne's Lagoon (10/20) and Lake Tekapo (10/22).

Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus*—locally common on the South Island, often in wetlands by the road foraging in wet grass.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)

Pied Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*—common in roadside wetlands and ponds. A few seen at Glentanner (10/23).

Black Stilt *Himantopus novaeseelandiae* (E)—nice scope views at Lake Tekapo (10/22) and Glentanner (10/23). Only about a 170 birds remain in the wild, and the population is still under intensive management.

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (2)

South Island Oystercatcher *Haematopus finschi* (E)—very common on both mudflats and rich pastureland, where they nest.

Variable Oystercatcher *Haematopus unicolor* (E)—more strictly coastal than the previous species, often near rocks. Common in coastal environments.

LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS: Charadriidae (4)

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*—spread naturally to South Island, New Zealand in the 1930s and now common in grassy fields and pastures throughout the country.

Red-breasted Dotterel *Charadrius obscurus* (E)—large congregation observed on the North Island.

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*—seen at Kekerengu (10/18), Lake Tekapo (10/22), and Glentanner (10/23).

Wrybill *Anarhynchus frontalis* (E)—seen on the North Island and on their breeding grounds on the South Island (10/23), where they breed on large braided rivers. It is the only bird with an asymmetrically turned bill.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (2)

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*—seen on the North Island. The most numerous wintering shorebird in the country, famous for its long migration from its breeding grounds in eastern Siberia and Alaska.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*—one near the tip of the Kaikoura Peninsula (10/20).

SKUAS AND JAEGER: Stercorariidae (1)

Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus*—two birds on an islet near Bench Island came into the chum and gave us frequent flyovers (10/26).

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (6)

Black-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus bulleri* (E)—locally common on inland rivers and ponds. Paler with a noticeably longer, thinner bill than the next species.

Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*—very common. Formerly known as Red-billed Gull when split from the Australian Silver Gull.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*—abundant

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*—seen on North Island and Lake Tekapo on South Island (10/22).

Black-fronted Tern *Chlidonias albobristatus* (E)—common ‘marsh tern’ of inland rivers and wet fields, such as Glentanner (10/23) and Fiordland National Park (10/28).

White-fronted Tern *Sterna striata*—strictly coastal species, recorded almost without fail whenever we saw the ocean.

PENGUINS: Spheniscidae (2)

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*—nice views near Bench Island (10/26) and again in the harbor at Stewart Island (10/27).

Fiordland Penguin *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* (E)—fantastic views near Oban at Bragg's Bay (10/26) and again in Milford Sound (10/28) – what an endearing species!

ALBATROSSES: Diomedidae (5)

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*—we saw this uncommon albatross off Kaikoura (10/19) and Bench Island (10/26).

White-capped Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*—the most numerous albatross offshore, including nearly a hundred birds off Bench Island (10/26).

Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini*—quite common off Kaikoura (10/19) and Bench Island (10/26).

Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora*—about a couple dozen pairs visible at Taiaroa Head on our brief boat tour off the peninsula (10/24).

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*—the world's longest wingspan! About ten seen off Kaikoura (10/19).

SOUTHERN STORM-PETRELS: Oceanitidae (1)

White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*—seen in the Hauraki Gulf on North Island.

PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS: Procellariidae (12)

Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli*—numerous off Kaikoura, where we saw twenty-two birds (10/19)

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*—sharply plumaged petrel seen in numbers off Kaikoura (10/19).

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*—small numbers in the Hauraki Gulf, on the Cook Strait Ferry (10/17), and off Bench Island (10/26).

Parkinson's Petrel *Procellaria parkinsoni*—seen off North Island on the Hauraki Gulf.

Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica*—small numbers on our Kaikoura pelagic (10/19).

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*—a few birds on the Cook Strait Ferry crossing (10/17).

Buller's Shearwater *Ardenna bulleri*—only one of these distinctively patterned shearwaters on the Cook Strait Ferry Crossing (10/17).

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*—our best views were in the large congregation of pelagic birds near Bench Island (10/26).

Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris*—one came into the chum on our Kaikoura pelagic, providing us with exceptionally good views for this species (10/19).

Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni*—seen on the Cook Strait Ferry crossing (10/17).

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*—the most numerous pelagic species, sometimes even close to shore!

Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*—one of these fast-flying little petrels off Bench Island (10/26). Looks a bit more like an auklet or murrelet than a petrel!

BOOBIES AND GANNETS: Sulidae (1)

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*—numerous at Hauraki Gulf and on the Cook Strait Ferry (10/17).

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (7)

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*—seen at Lake Tekapo (10/22) and Taiaroa Head (10/24).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*—one at Lake Tekapo (10/22) and several more on Milford Sound (10/28), where they were roosting on an emergent branch.

Spotted Shag *Phalacrocorax punctatus* (E)—the most numerous coastal cormorant species, in addition to being quite beautiful.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*—one at Milford Sound (10/28).

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*—seen on Blumine Island (10/18), on the Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway parking lot (nesting – 10/20), and Braggs Bay on Stewart Island (10/26).

New Zealand King Shag *Leucocarbo carunculatus* (E)—great, close views on our Queen Charlotte Sound boat tour (10/18). Endemic to a very small area of New Zealand.

Stewart Island Shag *Leucocarbo chalconotus* (E)—breeding colony at Taiaroa Head (Otago Shag subspecies, 10/24) and near Bench Island (Foveaux Shag subspecies, 10/26).

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (1)

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*—the only widespread heron species but a common one. Seen almost daily. Colonized New Zealand naturally in the 1940s.

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*—first recorded in New Zealand in 1861, spreading naturally throughout the country ever since. Seen on our tour at Lake Tekapo (10/22), Taiaroa Head (rookery, 10/24), and Tautuku Estuary Walkway (10/25).

HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (1)

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*—very common in all open habitats throughout the island.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*—nice views at Fiordland National Park (10/28) and at sites on North Island. Not strictly tied to water like kingfishers in the Americas.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (1)

New Zealand Falcon *Falco novaeseelandiae* (E)—brief views near Glentanner (10/23) on our way to the Mount Cook area.

NEW ZEALAND PARROTS: Strigopidae (2)

Kea *Nestor notabilis* (E)—after initial views at Arthur's Pass Village (10/22), we got to spend time watching the antics of these amazing birds at Fiordland National Park (10/28). They are just so smart and curious about everything around them.

New Zealand Kaka *Nestor meridionalis* (E)—we enjoyed spending time with these forest birds at the Kaka Retreat on Stewart Island and Ulva Island (10/26).

OLD WORLD PARROTS: Psittaculidae (4)

Red-crowned Parakeet *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae* (E)—numerous on Ulva Island (10/26), where they are a core species of mixed feeding flocks.

Yellow-crowned Parakeet *Cyanoramphus auriceps* (E)—seen on North Island and again at Ulva Island near Stewart Island (10/26).

Malherbe's Parakeet *Cyanoramphus malherbi* (E)—nice views of this Critically Endangered parrot species on Blumine Island (10/18).

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius* (I)—recorded on North Island. A colorful exotic from southeast Australia.

NEW ZEALAND WRENS: Acanthisittidae (1)

Rifleman *Acanthisitta chloris* (E)—not uncommon on the South Island in native forest, including Arthur's Pass Wilderness Lodge (10/21) and Arthur's Pass Track (10/22).

HONEYEATERS: Meliphagidae (2)

Tui *Prothemadera novaeseelandiae* (E)—common and conspicuous endemic honeyeater – love the white feathers on the upper breast.

New Zealand Bellbird *Anthornis melanura* (E)—particularly numerous in areas of native woodland and sanctuary islands where introduced pests were either not present or heavily reduced.

THORNBILLS AND ALLIES: Acanthizidae (1)

Gray Gerygone *Gerygone igata* (E)—quite common and widespread endemic songbird in wooded habitats. New Zealanders often call this one a 'Gray Warbler', although it is not related to either the warblers of Eurasia or the Americas.

MOHOUS: Mohouidae (3)

Whitehead *Mohoua albicilla* (E)—seen on the North Island.

Yellowhead *Mohoua ochrocephala* (E)—seen only on Ulva Island near Stewart Island, where there are no introduced predators (10/26).

Pipipi *Mohoua novaeseelandiae* (E)—reasonably common around Arthur's Pass, where we recorded a few individuals daily (10/21 and 10/22). Very acrobatic, almost tit-like behavior.

WOODSWALLOWS AND ALLIES: Artamidae (1)

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* (I)

FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae (1)

New Zealand Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa* (E)—common and conspicuous endemic that comes readily to pishing. South Island has a solid black morph of this species.

WATTLEBIRDS: Callaeidae (3)

North Island Kokako *Callaewa wilsoni* (E)—seen on North Island, the largest of the living wattlebirds.

North Island Saddleback *Philesturnus rufusater* (E)—seen at Tiritiri Matangi Island, where there are no introduced predators.

South Island Saddleback *Philesturnus carunculatus* (E)—seen only on Ulva Island near Stewart Island (10/26), where there are no introduced predators. Always observed in close association with feeding flocks of parakeets and Yellowhead.

STITCHBIRDS: Notiomystidae (1)

Stitchbird *Notiomystis cincta* (E)—seen on Tiritiri Matangi Island, a stronghold for this species. Before receiving intensive management in the 1990s, there was only one small population left on Little Barrier Island.

AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS: Petroicidae (3)

North Island Robin *Petroica longipes* (E)—observed on North Island.

South Island Robin *Petroica australis* (E)—observed a few times on South Island, including Arthur's Pass (10/21), Ulva Island (10/26), and Fiordland National Park (10/28). A highly terrestrial and long-legged Australasian Robin.

Tomtit *Petroica macrocephala* (E)—seen at Arthur's Pass (10/21) and Fiordland National Park (10/28). One can see why the species name is '*macrocephala*', as they do have proportionately very large and round heads – very cute.

LARKS: Alaudidae (1)

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (I)—abundant in open grasslands and pastures throughout.

BUSH WARBLERS: Locustellidae (1)

New Zealand Fernbird *Poodytes punctatus* (E)—seen at Tautuku Estuary Walkway (10/25) and Fiordland National Park (10/28).

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (1)

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*—the only swallow species in New Zealand but delightfully common.

WHITE-EYES: Zosteropidae (1)

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (2)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (I)

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* (I)

THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* (I)—seemed to be more common and brazen in New Zealand than in its native range in Europe!

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula* (I)

ACCENTORS: Prunellidae (1)

Dunnock *Prunella modularis* (I)—seen at the Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway (10/20), Fiordland National Park (10/28), and the Dunedin Botanic Garden.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (I)

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (1)

New Zealand Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (4)

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* (I)—Marc said that this was probably New Zealand's most widespread and numerous songbird right now.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* (I)

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* (I)—we recorded a small flock at Glentanner after observing Wrybill and Black Stilt at the lake edge (10/23).

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* (I)

OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (1)

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* (I)—our best views were on the Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway, where it seemed to be especially common (10/20).

MAMMALS (6 species recorded):

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (I)

New Zealand Fur Seal *Arctocephalus forsteri*

New Zealand Sea Lion *Phocarctos hookeri*—funny to see one on the edge of the forest on Ulva Island! Quite common in coastal areas.

Dusky Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus obscurus*—seen on our Kaikoura pelagic boat tour.

Hector's Dolphin *Cephalorhynchus hectori*—we saw this small and Endangered dolphin on the Kaikoura pelagic.

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*—observed on the Hauraki Gulf.