

## **New Zealand Trip report – 26<sup>th</sup> July to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2004.**

**By  
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This was a three and a half week trip with Alan Johnston and Stefan McElwee. The aim was to see as many of the endemic species and races and seabirds as possible in the time available. The itinerary was designed with at least two attempts at each species if possible, and to try and fit in some of the spectacular scenery as well. Having two Lord of the Rings fanatics meant some additional stops were inevitable (but all were worth it). A total of 126 species were seen, but an additional 10 races were also seen. Of the 136 species/races seen, 66 are classed as endemic to the islands of New Zealand and a further 26 are classed as being introduced by man.

### **Essential Reading**

The Hand Guide to the Birds of New Zealand by Hugh Robertson & Barrie Heather. Should identify most things seen with this guide. I had to get this book via the internet as it is apparently not available in the UK.

Birds of New Zealand – Locality Guide by Stuart Chambers

Good for finding sites although some of the directions can be hard to follow. May be out of date for some species i.e. there are apparently no Yellowheads in the Eglinton Valley now.

AA New Zealand Road Atlas, bought before traveling out to NZ. Really helpful when deciding routes/alternatives & mileages etc.

Various trip reports were also consulted for the most reliable locations for several key species, downloaded from various internet websites, although finding trip reports for the New Zealand winter were almost non-existent!

### **Itinerary**

#### **Day 1 – 26<sup>th</sup> July 04**

Arrived at Auckland Airport in early morning after a 2 day flight from London via Los Angeles (1 day was lost over the pacific dateline!). Sorted out hire car and then headed towards Island Block Rd. First stop was near the airport looking out over the estuary (a timely stop to re-pack the car and get out all birding gear etc). Drove to Island Block Rd area and then onto Miranda on the Firth of Thames. Then headed south as far as we could before tiredness set in. Night in Te Awamutu.

#### **Day 2 – 27<sup>th</sup> July 04**

As heavy rain was falling, we decided to skip the original plan to bird the Pureora Forest Park and called in at the Otorohanga Kiwi House to make sure we saw a Kiwi on the trip! We struck lucky in the fact that the Otorohanga Kiwi House is the only Kiwi House in New Zealand with a Great Spotted Kiwi, and it is on show in the mornings! Left mid morning and drove to the Blue Duck site at Manganui-a-te-ao River. The weather had improved somewhat and views of Blue Ducks were had. Whilst watching these rather distant birds, a local told us of another site at Meyer's Bridge. We drove to this site and had point blank views of a pair of birds! Then drove south and birded the Raukwa Falls for a few minutes till dusk. Night in Wanganui.

#### **Day 3 – 28<sup>th</sup> July 04**

Drove to Wellington. Stopped off at Waikanae Estuary, opposite Kapiti Island. Birded there for c half an hour then drove the short distance to the Waimanu Lagoons and birded there for the next couple of hours. After lunch drove to the NGA Manu reserve (which was more like Washington Waterfowl Park!) and

stayed there till it was time to leave for the ferry. Drove down to Wellington and birded the harbour before getting on the ferry. It was dark during the ferry crossing, so no sea-watching could be attempted. Sorted out the hire car and found digs. Night in Picton.

#### **Day 4 – 29<sup>th</sup> July 04**

Raining heavily again when we awoke. Eventually found the Dolphin Watch Marlborough cabin and met with Amy to sort out the Queen Charlotte Cruise. She gave us the option of trying tomorrow because of the weather, but we decided to stay with the original plan and do the trip today. Light drizzle accompanied us for the trip on the way out to see the King Shags, but once in the Cook Strait, the weather brightened up and it was dry on the return journey (the sun even came out!). Once back on dry(ish) land drove down to Kaikoura, with breath-taking first views of the Kaikoura Ranges. Night in Kaikoura.

#### **Day 5 – 30<sup>th</sup> July 04**

Two pelagics off Kaikoura today. After the pm one, started the drive south. Had a quick look at St. Anne's Lagoon just before dusk. Night in Cheviot.

#### **Day 6 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 04**

This was basically a driving day! Headed down SH 1 and had a quick look at Washdyke Lagoon over lunch (had to look from the south end of the lagoon as we couldn't find the road to the north end). Continued south and then had a couple hour stop at Wainono Lagoon to look for a wintering Black Stilt. Further south a quick look at Oamaru Yellow-eyed Penguin site revealed tourists on the beach (so no chance of the penguins coming ashore). Decided to cut our losses and headed for Shag Point. Continued south and ended up half way along the Otago Peninsula. Night in Portobello.

#### **Day 7 – 1<sup>st</sup> August 04**

The morning was spent at Taiaroa Heads Albatross centre. This is the world's only mainland albatross colony. Saw five chicks and jammed in on an adult circling around the colony several times. Next stop was Sinclair Wetlands at Berwick Swamp. It had started drizzling again so drove to Bluff via Gore and birded Greenhills Bush for an hour or so. Night in Bluff.

#### **Day 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> August 04**

Morning crossing of the notorious Foveaux Strait to Stewart Island. We needn't have feared as the crossing was flat calm! We got picked up at the ferry terminal and were transported to our digs. After unpacking, we found out that Phillip Smith from Bravo Adventure Tours was back on the island! Tried to get onto a Kiwi trip but it was fully booked! Wandered round Oban and eventually found a Water Taxi company with a boat still in the water! Booked a trip to Ulva Island. Walked the short distance to Golden Wharf and took the water taxi to the island. Stayed on the Island for four hours and eventually cleaned up! After the evening meal decided to walk to Acker's Point in the hope of hearing a Kiwi!!! A nice walk but only Blue Penguins seen. Night in Oban.

#### **Day 9 – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 04**

Early morning crossing back of the Foveaux Strait – more swell than yesterday, so a few more albatross seen – but still flat calm! Picked up the car and started drive to Milford Sound. Spectacular scenery as you get into Fiordland. Tried to book in at the Best Western at Te Anau Downs but it was closed! Drove down to Milford Sound and booked the mornings boat trip seeing a Kea in the Chasms car park on the way. Night in the backpackers at Milford Sound.

#### **Day 10 – 4<sup>th</sup> August 04**

Early morning trip along the sound on the Milford Adventurer. Drove back along Eglinton Valley birding the Mirror Lakes and Lake Gunn Walkway briefly. Thereafter drove to Queenstown via Mossburn & 5 Rivers. Just before Queenstown birded (and duded) Deer Park Heights, which was used for several scenes

in the Lord of the Rings films. Spectacular scenery was provided by the mountain ranges around the park. Night in Queenstown.

#### **Day 11 – 5<sup>th</sup> August 04**

This was essentially another driving day. There was no need to go looking for Yellowhead at Lake Sylvan, having already seen them on Ulva Island. This undoubtedly saved at least ½ a day on the itinerary. From Queenstown we briefly birded Lake Hayes before heading to Arrowtown and looked at more LOTR locations. Then headed out to the Kawarau Gorge, where watched some mad people bungy jumping (and getting wet!) and yet another LOTR site! Very scenic it was too. Onwards to the Lindis Pass which was not quite how I expected it to be! But before we got there we birded a small reserve near Cripple town along the Lake Dunstan shore. At Omarama a quick detour to Lake Benmore produced very distant views of Black Stilt. Having seen one well earlier in the trip, we decided not to spend too much time looking for more but to drive as far as we could and make up some time for birding later on in the northern part of the island. The scenery around this part of New Zealand is stunning. At Lake Pukaki a stop at the Mt. Cook lookout was rewarded with perfect views of the peak (without cloud cover!). A quick stop at Lake Tekapo was also very scenic. The rest of the day was spent driving to Ashburton via Geraldine. Night in Ashburton.

#### **Day 12 – 6<sup>th</sup> August 04**

Again another driving day. From Ashburton we drove to Darfield and across Arthur's Pass to Greymouth and up to Punakaiki. Checked into Motel and sussed out Bullock Creek Rd (where we hoped to go looking for Great Spotted Kiwi later that night!). Went and looked round the Pancake Rocks in the rain and saw very little. Just before dark we went down to the valley head south of Punakaiki where the Westland Petrels come in from the sea to go to the breeding ledges. Expecting them to come in fairly high, we were surprised to find they came in very low down. After our evening meal at the pub we went back up Bullock Creek Rd, stood around in the rain for 10 minutes and decided to cut our losses and headed back to the digs! Night in Punakaiki.

#### **Day 13 – 7<sup>th</sup> August 04**

Awoke to more rain, so headed to Greymouth for breakfast, then up to Reefton and across the Lewis Pass (where it was snowing!) to Kaikoura. A quick look off Goose bay provided Stef with a Sperm Whale tail fluke far offshore and a few seabirds for the rest of us + lots of Fur Seals. A quick sea watch of the Kaikoura peninsular in evening. Night in Kaikoura.

#### **Day 14 – 8<sup>th</sup> August 04**

AM pelagic with Oceanwings, PM whale watch tour to see Sperm Whales. Night in Kaikoura.

#### **Day 15 – 9<sup>th</sup> August 04**

Morning pelagic off Kaikoura. Afternoon spent driving to Picton. Tried to find Lake Elterwater, but after driving around for ½ hour we spoke to an ex-pat local who told us it had dried up some time ago! Decided to have a look along the south edge of Lake Grassmere. This provided one of the surprises of the trip with a count of c40 Cirl Buntings amongst the Yellowhammers! Drove on to Wairau Lagoon and birded there for the last ½ hour till dusk. Night in Picton.

#### **Day 16 – 10<sup>th</sup> August 04**

Morning spent walking around Picton shopping etc. Caught the morning ferry back across the Cook Strait and saw a few seabirds etc. At Wellington, picked up our third hire car and headed off to Normanby where we were staying with friends of Alan's. A quick birding stop was had at Virginia Lake, near Wanganui. Night in Normanby.

### **Day 17 – 11<sup>th</sup> August 04**

Another driving day with a few stops en route. From Normanby tried to see Mount Egmont, but the volcano was shrouded in low cloud! Drove along the Forgotten World Highway (aptly named!) and ended up at Bennydale. Had a quick reccy in the Pureora Forest Park and heard a Kokako singing distantly. Also jammed in on two Yellow-crowned Parakeets (the only ones of the trip). Night in Bennydale.

### **Day 18 – 12<sup>th</sup> August 04**

Early morning in Pureora Forest Park birding Plains Rd and along the track to the Tower. Then started the long drive to Warkworth via Te Kuiti, stopping briefly in Auckland (at the Fullers Ferry office) to pick up the return ferry tickets from Tiri Tiri Matangi for the 14<sup>th</sup>. A quick look at the estuary at Waiwera produced the only Eastern Reef Egret of the trip. After checking in at a motel had a quick look at Sandspit.

### **Day 19 – 13<sup>th</sup> August 04**

A mix up with the travel (Rubens Water Taxi) arrangements made by Kiwi wildlife saw our water taxi heading down to Gulf Harbour! We eventually got a water taxi from Sandspit and headed out to Tiri via Beehive Island (a small island off Kawau Island) where we had views of a male Shore Plover. Landed on Tiri to be met by volunteers who walked us up to the lodgings and gave us the rundown of the island etc. After something to eat we spent all of the afternoon in the Wattle Track, where a pair of North Island Kokako eventually showed well. At dusk we walked up to where the Grey-faced (Great-winged) Petrels come in to their breeding burrows. The rest of the night was spent walking around looking for Little Spotted Kiwi. After hearing several, but not being anywhere close to one, a change of tactics was required. One pizza and a cuppa later, we headed back out along the track by the generator shed, and, after about 15 minutes one came thumping down the path right past us! Another was seen about ½ hr later and we called it quits after that! Night on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island.

### **Day 20 – 14<sup>th</sup> August 04**

All day spent birding Tiri, before packing up and catching the ferry back to Gulf Harbour. When it became obvious that our 'lift back to the car wasn't materializing' Stef phoned Karen from Kiwi wildlife, who eventually arrived and gave us a lift back to the car at Sandspit! Night in Warkworth.

### **Day 21 – 15<sup>th</sup> August 04**

A bit of a spare day, so we decided to go up to Waipu Cove and look for the rare race of Fairy Tern. We eventually saw two birds and a very smart New Zealand Dotterel in full summer plumage. Heading south we decided to try an area that Karen had told us about. This was an area just inland from Waiwera, and consisted of a Sewage Pond and a small hidden pond along the estuary/river. There was also a good looking wet field, which although didn't produce very much – it had potential. Night in Warkworth.

### **Day 22 – 16<sup>th</sup> August 04**

Back to Sandspit for the Pterodroma Pelagics trip into the Hauraki Gulf. Bret, the skipper took us to Beehive Island for more looks at the Shore Plovers (this time both males were present), before heading out into the Gulf. It was fairly choppy, so we didn't get as far out as they normally would have, but still saw some great bird's inc. a White-faced Storm Petrel (the first returning birds of the summer)! Because we couldn't go out as far as possible, we landed on Kawau Island, where we saw our third race of Weka. Night in Warkworth.

### **Day 23 – 17<sup>th</sup> August 04**

Our last day in New Zealand. We drove to Lake Kereta and birded the area before heading down to Auckland Airport and catching the flight back to London via Los Angeles.

## Systematic List

The nomenclature, scientific names and sub-specific identification in the following systematic list follows that of the Pocket Checklist, The birds of New Zealand, produced by the Ornithological Society of New Zealand which is based on the Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand (Third Edition), E G Turbott (convener) 1990, with the exception of the treatment of the Albatrosses, which follow Shirihai 2002? The Complete Guide to Antarctic Wildlife.

**NI** = North Island  
**SI** = South Island  
**StI** = Stewart Island

As there is no overlap with dates 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> refers to July and 1<sup>st</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> to August. The number in parenthesis after the species Latin name refers to the number of days noted on the trip out of the 23 bird-able days of the holiday. This will give an indication of how easy the species is to see on a winter trip.

**Little Spotted Kiwi** *Apteryx owenii* (2)

**NI:** Two singles were seen just before midnight on Tiritiri Matangi on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Australasian Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus australis* (1)

**SI:** Twos were seen at Lake Dunstan and Lake Benmore on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**New Zealand Dabchick** *Poliiocephalus rufopectus* (3)

**NI:** Two were seen at Waimanu Lagoons on 28<sup>th</sup> with three on a small 'hidden' pond near Mangawhai on 15<sup>th</sup> and two were at Lake Kereta on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Albatross sp** *Diomedea/Thalassarche sp*

**SI:** A Wanderer or Southern Royal was seen from land just N of Kaikoura on 29<sup>th</sup>. Four were seen off Oamaru on 31<sup>st</sup>. A 'Shy' type was seen whilst crossing the Foveaux Strait on 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 'Wanderer' was seen from the Whale Watch trip off Kaikoura on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Snowy Albatross** *Diomedea (exulans) exulans* (2)

**SI:** Singles (probably the same bird) were seen off Kaikoura on 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. An 'either or' with Gibson's Albatross was also noted off Kaikoura on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Gibson's Albatross** *Diomedea (exulans) gibsoni* (3)

**SI:** Four to five were seen on both pelagics off Kaikoura on 30<sup>th</sup> with ten there on 8<sup>th</sup> and 12 on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Antipodean Albatross** *Diomedea (exulans) antipodensis* (3)

**SI:** Two were seen on the pm pelagic off Kaikoura on 30<sup>th</sup> with two's also off there on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Southern Royal Albatross** *Diomedea (epomophora) epomophora* (3)

**SI:** Six were noted on the am pelagic off Kaikoura on 30<sup>th</sup> with three on the pm trip. Two were also off there on 8<sup>th</sup> with four on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Royal Albatross** *Diomedea (epomophora) sandfordi* (1)

**SI:** At the breeding colony at Taiaroa Head at the tip of the Otago peninsular, 1 adult and five chicks were seen on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophrys melanophrys* (7)

**SI:** Off Kaikoura, ten were noted on the am pelagic on 30<sup>th</sup> with 15 on the pm trip. Five were noted on the am pelagic on 8<sup>th</sup> with eight on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Three were seen from land off there on 7<sup>th</sup> and two were seen on the Whale Watch trip also on 8<sup>th</sup>. Seven were seen on the Cook Straight ferry crossing on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**StI:** Singles were seen on both crossings of the Foveaux Strait on 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>.

**New Zealand White-capped Albatross** *Thalassarche (cauta) steadi* (6)

**SI:** Three were seen from land just N of Kaikoura on 29<sup>th</sup>. Off Kaikoura, ten were seen on the am pelagic with six on the pm trip on 30<sup>th</sup> and ten and eight on the 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> trips respectively. Several were seen from land off Kaikoura on 7<sup>th</sup> with two from the Whale Watch trip on 8<sup>th</sup> and five from the Cook Straight ferry crossing on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Salvin's Albatross** *Thalassarche (cauta) salvini* (6)

**SI:** Off Kaikoura, 20 were seen on the am pelagic with eight on the pm trip on 30<sup>th</sup>. Five and eight were seen on the 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> trips respectively and birds were noted from land on 7<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere three were seen from Shag Point on 31<sup>st</sup> with a single off Taiaroa Head on 1<sup>st</sup>. Two were seen from the Cook Straight ferry crossing on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Southern Buller's Albatross** *Thalassarche bulleri bulleri* (6)

**SI:** Off Kaikoura, five were seen on the am and 12 on the pm trips on 30<sup>th</sup>, with only two on the trip on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere, on 1<sup>st</sup> two were seen off Taiaroa Head and a single in Bluff Harbour, where another single was seen offshore the next morning.

**StI:** Three-four were seen on the crossing of the Foveaux Strait on 2<sup>nd</sup> with c20 on the return crossing the next morning.

**Fluttering/Hutton's Shearwaters** *Puffinus gavioides/huttoni*

**NI:** c100 were flying around Wellington Harbour on 28<sup>th</sup>. These two species appear to be identified more by range than by plumage! We certainly saw birds off both islands in the same flocks that could have been both species.

**Fluttering Shearwater** *Puffinus gavia* (5)

**NI:** c ten were seen on the Water Taxi trip between Sandspit and Tiritiri Matangi on 13<sup>th</sup> and 100's were seen on the Hauraki Gulf pelagic on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** 100's were seen on the Queen Charlotte Sound trip on 29<sup>th</sup>, including a partial albino bird. Many were noted on the crossing of the Cook Strait on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Hutton's Shearwater** *Puffinus huttoni* (5)

**SI:** Only seen off Kaikoura, where 100's were noted on 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Smaller numbers were noted on the 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> pelagics.

**Small Shearwater sp** *Puffinus sp*

**NI:** One, thought to be possibly a Little Shearwater, was seen between Sandspit and Tiritiri Matangi on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Diving Petrel** *Pelecanoides urinatrix* (5)

**NI:** c ten were seen on the Hauraki Gulf pelagic on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** c100 were noted at the head of the Queen Charlotte Sound in the Cook Strait on 29<sup>th</sup> with a single from the am pelagic off Kaikoura the next day. Four were seen on the Cook Straight ferry crossing on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**StI:** A Diving Petrel, probably this species was seen on the Foveaux Strait crossing on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Westland Petrel** *Procellaria westlandica* (3)  
**SI:** 40+ were watched flying inland to their breeding areas just S of Punakaiki on 6<sup>th</sup>. One was off Kaikoura on 9<sup>th</sup> (unusual for the time of year) and two were noted on the Cook Strait ferry crossing on 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Southern Cape Pigeon** *Daption capense capense* (3)  
**SI:** Only seen off Kaikoura. Two were on the am pelagic on 30<sup>th</sup> with another two on the trip of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Singles were also seen on the pm trip on 30<sup>th</sup> and on the trip of the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Snares Cape Pigeon** *Daption capense australe* (6)  
**SI:** Three were seen at the head of the Queen Charlotte Sound in the Cook Strait on 29<sup>th</sup>. Off Kaikoura, 1-200 were noted on the trips offshore on 30<sup>th</sup> with 80 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 150 on 9<sup>th</sup>. Two were noted from land on 7<sup>th</sup> with only two seen on the Whale Watch trip on 8<sup>th</sup> (perhaps indicating that this species is less common inshore?). 44 were seen on the Cook Strait ferry crossing on 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Antarctic Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialisoides* (1)  
**SI:** On 30<sup>th</sup>, one was seen distantly on the am pelagic with two (giving good views) on the pm trip off Kaikoura.
- Giant Petrel sp** *Macronectes halli/giganteus*  
**SI:** Two were seen from land just N of Kaikoura on 29<sup>th</sup> and seven-eight were seen off the Kaikoura peninsular on 7<sup>th</sup>. All were probably Northern.
- Southern Giant Petrel** *Macronectes giganteus* (2)  
**SI:** Off Kaikoura, two were on the am trip on 30<sup>th</sup> and on the trip on 9<sup>th</sup>, with three on the pm trip on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Northern Giant Petrel** *Macronectes halli* (3)  
**SI:** Only seen off Kaikoura, where eight on the am pelagic on 30<sup>th</sup> increased to 12 on the pm trip. 12 were also seen on the trip on 8<sup>th</sup> with 15 on 9<sup>th</sup>. One was also seen on the Whale Watch trip on 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Fairy Prion** *Pachyptila turtur* (7)  
**NI:** c100 were seen on the Hauraki Gulf pelagic on 16<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** c40 were seen in the Cook Strait on the Queen Charlotte Sound trip on 29<sup>th</sup> with c80 seen off Kaikoura the next day. Up to 300 were seen off Kaikoura between 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Small numbers were seen on the ferry crossing of the Cook Strait on 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Grey-faced Petrel (Great-winged Petrel)** *Pterodroma macroptera gouldi* (3)  
**NI:** Four were seen on the crossing to Tiritiri on 13<sup>th</sup>, with many noted offshore and c10 coming into their burrows on the island that night. 200+ were on the Hauraki Gulf pelagic on 16<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** One was off Kaikoura on 9<sup>th</sup> – unusual for the time of year.
- New Zealand White-faced Storm Petrel** *Pelagodroma marina maoriana* (1)  
**NI:** Four were seen on the Hauraki Gulf pelagic on 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Yellow-eyed Penguin** *Megadyptes antipodes* (1)  
**SI:** Five were seen at the Shag Point watch point on 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Blue Penguin** *Eudyptula minor* (4)  
**NI:** Several were seen and heard on Tiritiri on 13<sup>th</sup> (inc. c six in nest boxes by the wharf) with two on the Hauraki Gulf pelagic and one by the dock on Kawau Island on 16<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** Ten were noted on the Queen Charlotte Sound trip on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**StI:** Four were seen on the walk to Acker's Point on 2<sup>nd</sup> with many heard along the way.

**Fiordland Crested Penguin** *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* (1)

**SI:** Three were seen in the early-ish morning in Milford Sound from the boat trip on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator* (14)

**NI:** Singles were seen off Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup> and in Wellington Harbour on 28<sup>th</sup>. Two-three were off Sandspit on 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> with six on the journey to Tiritiri on 13<sup>th</sup>. Six were in Bream Bay on 15<sup>th</sup> with c150+ on the Hauraki Gulf pelagic next day.

**SI:** c50 were noted on the Queen Charlotte Sound trip on 29<sup>th</sup> with small numbers off Kaikoura on 30<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Birds were also noted crossing the Cook Straight on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Shag (Cormorant)** *Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae* (12)

**NI:** Two singles were seen whilst traveling between Te Kuiti & Ruatiti on 27<sup>th</sup> with three between Foxton & Waikanae and two at Waimanu lagoons on 28<sup>th</sup>. Singles were also noted between Wellington & Bulls on 10<sup>th</sup> and off Sandspit on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Singles were in Milford Sound on 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, at Lake Dunstan on 5<sup>th</sup>, between Kumara Junction & Punakaiki on 6<sup>th</sup> and between Punakaiki & Greymouth and Greymouth & Reefton on 7<sup>th</sup>. Birds were also noted at Kaikoura on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Pied Shag** *Phalacrocorax varius varius* (14)

**NI:** On 26<sup>th</sup>, two were near Auckland Airport and five at Miranda. Three were at Sandspit on 12<sup>th</sup> with two there the next day. One was at Tiritiri on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** On 29<sup>th</sup>, one was in Picton Harbour with cten being seen on the Queen Charlotte Sound trip. 14 were in the Kaikoura area on 30<sup>th</sup> with one in Milford Sound on 4<sup>th</sup>. Up to seven were at Kaikoura between 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and three in Picton Harbour on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Black Shag** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* (4)

**NI:** Singles were near Auckland Airport on 26<sup>th</sup> and in Wellington Harbour on 28<sup>th</sup>. One was at Sandspit on 13<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Shag** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris* (17)

**NI:** On 26<sup>th</sup> ten were near Auckland Airport with a single along Falls Rd. Four were at Waimanu lagoons on 28<sup>th</sup> with two in Wellington Harbour that afternoon. One to two were seen between Stratford & Sandspit between 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> with six at Mangawhai heads on 15<sup>th</sup> and singles near there (at the sewage works pool) also on 15<sup>th</sup> and near Helensville on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Up to eight were in the Kaikoura area on 30<sup>th</sup> and from 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. One was between Timaru and Hook on 31<sup>st</sup>. Four were along the Otago peninsular on 1<sup>st</sup> and one was in Milford Sound on 4<sup>th</sup>. Birds were also noted at Lake Hayes (nr Queenstown), Lake Dunstan and Lake Pukaki on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**New Zealand King Shag** *Leucocarbo carunculatus* (1)

**SI:** Six were seen on the journey through the Queen Charlotte Sound with 35+ on the White Rock breeding grounds at the head of the sound in Cook Straight on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Stewart Island Shag** *Leucocarbo chalconotus* (4)

**SI:** On 31<sup>st</sup>, two were seen off Oamaru with c40 on a stack off Shag Point. c50 were in a small colony at Taiaroa Head on 1<sup>st</sup>, which included both 'bronze' and 'pied' phases. Three were in Bluff Harbour on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**StI:** Birds were seen on the crossing of the Foveaux Straight on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Spotted Shag** *Stictocarbo punctatus punctatus* (12)

**NI:** One was in Wellington Harbour on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** On 29<sup>th</sup> one was in Picton Harbour and c20 were noted on the Queen Charlotte Sound trip. On 31<sup>st</sup> three were off Oamaru and two off Shag Point. Two were in Bluff Harbour on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, with two more off Punakaiki on 6<sup>th</sup>. Up to ten were off Kaikoura on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> with the last sighting of two in Picton Harbour on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**White-faced Heron** *Ardea novaehollandiae novaehollandiae* (19)

**NI:** 40+ were seen in the estuary near Auckland Airport on 26<sup>th</sup>. One to two were seen at several other sites down to Wellington between 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. One to three were noted between 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> with 11 between Helensville and Lake Kereta on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Six were noted between Portobello and Tairaroa Head on 1<sup>st</sup> with seven between Kumara Junction and Punakaiki on 6<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise small numbers were seen in most areas

**White Heron (Great White Egret)** *Egretta alba modesta* (3)

**SI:** Singles were seen in Picton Harbour on 29<sup>th</sup> and in Milford Sound on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Small white Heron sp** *Egretta/Bubulcus sp*

**NI:** One was seen at great distance in the estuary near Auckland Airport on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Reed Heron (Eastern Reef Egret)** *Egretta sacra sacra* (1)

**NI:** A dark phase bird was in the estuary at Waiwera on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Australasian Bittern** *Botaurus poiciloptilus* (1)

**NI:** One was flushed whilst walking along a footpath by the Whangamarino River near Island Block Road on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia* (3)

**NI:** c6 were seen at Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup> with three at Waimanu Lagoon estuary on 28<sup>th</sup>. Three were also seen at Sandspit on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus* (14)

**NI:** Small numbers were seen at most suitable habitat with 36 on Lake Kereta being the largest count for the N Island. Pairs with young were at Waimanu lagoons (seven) on 28<sup>th</sup> and at the 'hidden' lake near Mangawhai (six) on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Again seen at all suitable localities, occasionally in large numbers. Tens were at Washdyke lagoon on 31<sup>st</sup> with 50 at the Sinclair Wetlands on 1<sup>st</sup> and hundreds on Lake Benmore on 5<sup>th</sup>. 61 were in the Lake Grassmere area on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis maxima* (7)

**SI:** 18 were around the Kaikoura area on 30<sup>th</sup> with c100 at Washdyke Lagoon the next day. Seven were at Mirror Lakes in the Eglinton Valley on 4<sup>th</sup> with hundreds at Lake Benmore on 5<sup>th</sup>. Birds were also present on Lake Tekapo on 5<sup>th</sup> and Wairau Lagoon on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Cape Barren Goose** *Cereopsis novaehollandiae* (1)

**SI:** One (presumably a feral bird?) was seen at St. Anne's Lagoon on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Paradise Shelduck** *Tadorna variegata* (21)

**NI:** Seen just about everywhere! One to ten were seen at many localities with the max count for the N Island being 50+ between NGA Manu reserve and Wellington on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Again seen along just about every stretch of road! Max counts were c30 between Te Anau Downs and Milford Sound on 3<sup>rd</sup>, c80 between Mirror Lakes and Mossburn and c44 between 5 Rivers and Queenstown the next day with hundreds at Lake Benmore on 5<sup>th</sup> and 36 between Kumara Junction and Punakaiki on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue Duck** *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*

(1)

**NI:** A pair and a single were seen c14km along the Manganui-a-te-ao River from Ruatiti on 27<sup>th</sup>. Whilst watching these birds a local told us of another pair that lived on the stretch of river at Meyer's Bridge. This pair was seen very well and was just about unflushable!

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*

(21)

**NI:** Four were seen in a field along Falls Rd (nr Island Block Rd) on 26<sup>th</sup>. Birds were also seen (but not counted) between Te Awamutu to Otorohanga on 27<sup>th</sup>, between Wanganui to Bulls and at Waimanu Lagoons on 28<sup>th</sup>. Two were on a roadside pond on the way to Helensville on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Birds were seen (but not counted) between Cheviot and Christchurch on 31<sup>st</sup>, Taiaroa Head to Sinclair Wetlands on 1<sup>st</sup>, on Lake Hayes (nr Queenstown) on 5<sup>th</sup>, between Punakaiki to Greymouth on 7<sup>th</sup> and on Wairau Lagoon on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Duck (Pacific Black Duck)** *Anas superciliosa superciliosa*

(9)

**NI:** Six were seen in the Island Block/Falls Rd area on 26<sup>th</sup>. Two were at the NGA Manu Reserve on 28<sup>th</sup>. Two were between Stratford and Taumarunui on 11<sup>th</sup> with another two between Warkworth and Leigh (and on the hidden pond nr Mangawhai) and a single at the Sewage pools nr Mangawhai on 15<sup>th</sup>. Six were at Lake Kereta and on a pond on the way to Helensville on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Two were at Milford Sound on 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> and two were between Darfield and Kumara Junction on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Teal** *Anas gracilis*

(8)

**NI:** Six-eight were at the NGA Manu reserve on 28<sup>th</sup> with another six on the Sewage pools nr Mangawhai on 15<sup>th</sup> and on the small pond by the road on the way the Helensville on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Six were between Picton and Kaikoura on 29<sup>th</sup> with four at St. Anne's Lagoon the next day. Ten were on Lake Dunstan on 5<sup>th</sup> and three were at Kaikoura on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Brown Teal** *Anas aucklandica chlorotis*

(2)

**NI:** Four birds (two pairs) were seen on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.

**New Zealand Shoveler** *Anas rhynchotis variegata*

(6)

**NI:** c85 were at Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup> with ten at Waimanu Lagoons on 28<sup>th</sup>. 15 were on the Sewage pools nr Mangawhai with four on the hidden pond near there on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Two were at St. Anne's Lagoon on 30<sup>th</sup> with 25 at Berwick Swamp (Sinclair Wetlands) on 1<sup>st</sup>. Four were at Lake Hayes (nr Queenstown) and three were at Lake Dunstan on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**New Zealand Scaup** *Aythya novaeseelandiae*

(9)

**NI:** 15 were at the Waimanu Lagoons with a single at the nearby NGA Manu reserve on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** 50+ were at St. Anne's Lagoon on 30<sup>th</sup> with a single between Timaru and Hook the next day. 145 were at the Sinclair Wetlands on 1<sup>st</sup> with six on Mirror Lakes and c80 on Lake Te Anau on 4<sup>th</sup>. On 5<sup>th</sup>, 40 were on Lake Hayes (nr Queenstown) with one to four at Lakes Dunstan, Benmore and Tekapo. Ten were also at Lake Pearson on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Australasian Harrier** *Circus approximans*

(23)

This is a very common species and was the only native bird to be seen every day!

**NI:** Six were seen between Te Kuiti to Taumarunui on 27<sup>th</sup> and five between Bulls and Foxton the next day. 11 were between Wellington and Bulls on 10<sup>th</sup> with nine between Normanby and Stratford and 22 between Stratford and Taumarunui with another ten between Taumarunui to Pureora via Waimiha on 11<sup>th</sup>. 15 were between Te Kuiti to Auckland the next day. One to four were seen at many localities and whilst driving.

**SI:** 17 between Lumsden and Te Anau on 3<sup>rd</sup> was the max count. Other high counts included eight between Picton and Kaikoura on 29<sup>th</sup>, nine between Hook and Oamaru on 31<sup>st</sup>, 12 between Sinclair Wetlands and Gore and 11 between Gore and Greenhills Bush on 1<sup>st</sup>, nine between Bluff and Lumsden on

3<sup>rd</sup>, eight between 5 Rivers and Queenstown on 4<sup>th</sup> with ten between the Lewis Pass and SH70 and nine between SH70 and Kaikoura on 7<sup>th</sup>. One to seven were also seen on many routes whilst driving.  
**StI:** One was seen on Stewart Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**New Zealand Falcon** *Falco novaeseelandiae* (3)

**NI:** One was seen in Pureora Forest Park on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Singles were at Ships Cove on 29<sup>th</sup> and flew over Deer Park Heights (nr Queenstown) whilst we were 'warg' spotting on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Brown Quail** *Synoicus ypsilophorus* (2)

**NI:** Only seen on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island where seven were noted on 14<sup>th</sup> and four on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus prob. Torquatus* (1)

**NI:** One was between Stratford and Taumarunui on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Peafowl (Peacock)** *Pavo cristatus* (1)

**NI:** One normal and one 'white' bird were present on Kawau Island on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo* (4)

**NI:** On 27<sup>th</sup>, three were between Te Kuiti to Taumarunui with eight between Taumarunui to Ruatiti. Five were between Stratford to Taumarunui on 11<sup>th</sup> with 23 at Kaiwaka on 15<sup>th</sup> and eight between Lake Kereta and Helensville on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**North Island Weka** *Gallirallus australis greyi* (1)

**NI:** Two were seen on the beach on Kawau Island on 16<sup>th</sup>. They were, however, very shy, unlike the Western and Stewart Island Wekas that we encountered elsewhere.

**Western Weka** *Gallirallus australis australis* (3)

**SI:** Three were in Ships Cove on 29<sup>th</sup> with two at Punakaiki on 6<sup>th</sup> and on 7<sup>th</sup> three +1 dead between Punakaiki and Greymouth and two between Greymouth and Reefton.

**Stewart Island Weka** *Gallirallus australis scotti* (1)

**StI:** Nine were on Ulva Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Spotless Crake** *Porzana tabuensis plumbea* (1)

**NI:** Singles were seen (by the Brown Teal Pond) and heard in the Wattle track on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Pukeko (Purple Swamphen)** *Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus* (17)

**NI:** Common and seen on most journeys, mainly in wet field and ditches. 21 were at Island Block Road on 26<sup>th</sup> with 20+ at the NGA Manu reserve on 28<sup>th</sup>. 23 were between Stratford and Taumarunui on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Again a regular roadside bird in suitable habitat. 32 were seen between Kumara Junction and Punakaiki on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> with 49 between Greymouth and Reefton on 7<sup>th</sup>. 26 were between Taiaroa Head and Sinclair on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**South Island Takahe** *Porphyrio mantelli hochstetteri* (2)

**NI:** Four were seen around the lighthouse area on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.

**Australian Coot** *Fulica atra australis* (2)

**SI:** c100 were on Lake Hates (nr Queenstown) on 5<sup>th</sup> with 30 on Virginia Lake (nr Wanganui) on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Oystercatcher sp** *Haematopus sp*

SI: c60 were between 5 Rivers and Queenstown on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**South Island Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus finschi* (18)

NI: 30 were near Auckland Airport on 26<sup>th</sup> with 'lots' at Miranda later that day. Two were between NGA Manu reserve and Wellington on 28<sup>th</sup>. 35 were between Auckland and Waiwera on 12<sup>th</sup> with four to five at Sandspit on 13<sup>th</sup> and ten to 20 between Warkworth and Leigh on 15<sup>th</sup>.

SI: Seen in small numbers (one to four) most days whilst driving. Birds were present at Kaikoura and Washdyke Lagoon and six were in the Lake Grassmere area on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Variable Oystercatcher** *Haematopus unicolor* (16)

NI: Five were at Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup> with 30 at Waikanae beach on 28<sup>th</sup>. One was at Sandspit on 13<sup>th</sup> with four between Warkworth & Leigh and between Waipu and Bream Bay on 15<sup>th</sup>. Ten were at Mangawhai Heads also on 15<sup>th</sup>. Birds were present on Beehive Island on 16<sup>th</sup>.

SI: Ten were at Ship Cove (QCS trip) on 29<sup>th</sup> with ten also at Kaikoura next day. A single was at Shag Point on 1<sup>st</sup>. Two in Milford Sound on 4<sup>th</sup> with several again present at Kaikoura on 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Three were in the Lake Grassmere area on 9<sup>th</sup>.

StI: One to two on Stewart Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Pied Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus* (9)

NI: On 26<sup>th</sup>, 50 were near Auckland Airport with c100 at Miranda. Three were between the Raukwa Falls and Wanganui on 27<sup>th</sup>. Two were between Wellington and Bulls on 10<sup>th</sup> with, on 15<sup>th</sup>, six-seven between Warkworth and Leigh and two on the 'hidden' pond near Mangawhai. Four were between Helensville and Lake Kereta on 17<sup>th</sup>.

SI: Five were in the Kaikoura area on 30<sup>th</sup> with, on 31<sup>st</sup>, birds at Washdyke Lagoon and 40 at Wainono Lagoon with four at Shag Point in the evening. c8 were at Lake Benmore on 5<sup>th</sup> with 28 in the Lake Grassmere area and two at Wairau Lagoon on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Stilt** *Himantopus novaeseelandiae* (2)

SI: One was at Wainono Lagoon on 31<sup>st</sup> with two seen distantly on Lake Benmore on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**New Zealand Dotterel** *Charadrius obscurus* (4)

NI: Singles were at Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup> and in Bream Bay on 15<sup>th</sup>. Two were on Beehive Island on 13<sup>th</sup> with three there on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Banded Dotterel (Double-banded Plover)** *Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus* (4)

SI: Eight were near Kaikoura (in the trotting track area) on 30<sup>th</sup> with 30 at Wainono Lagoon the next day. One to two were in the Kaikoura area on 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> with eight in the Lake Grassmere area on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-fronted Dotterel** *Charadrius melanops* (1)

SI: One was at the Wairau Lagoon on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Shore Plover** *Thinornis novaeseelandiae* (2)

NI: A single male was seen on Beehive Island (off Kawau Island) on 13<sup>th</sup> with two males there on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Wrybill** *Anarhynchus frontalis* (3)

NI: c600 were at Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup>.

SI: Five were seen flying along the valley between Lewis Pass and SH70 on 7<sup>th</sup> with four in the Lake Grassmere area on 9<sup>th</sup>.

- Spur-winged Plover (Masked Lapwing)** *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae* (20)  
**NI:** Three adults and five half grown chicks were near Auckland Airport on 26<sup>th</sup>, there after seen fairly regularly in small numbers whilst driving.  
**SI:** 11 were between Christchurch and Timaru on 31<sup>st</sup>. Again seen in small numbers whilst driving.
- Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* (2)  
**NI:** One was at Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** Two were in the Lake Grassmere area on 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Lesser Knot** *Calidris canutus canutus* (1)  
**NI:** 14 were at Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica bauri* (1)  
**NI:** 40 were at Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa melanuroides* (1)  
**SI:** Two were at the Wainono Lagoon on 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Brown Skua** *Catharacta (Stercorarius) skua lonnbergi* (1)  
**StI:** One was noted just before Stewart Island on the Foveaux Straight crossing on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus* (1)  
**NI:** One (a 1<sup>st</sup> W?) was seen from the Hauraki Gulf pelagic on 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Southern Black-backed Gull (Kelp Gull)** *Larus dominicanus dominicanus* (21)  
**NI:** Common, often seen in large flocks in fields and on estuaries. 60 were between Bulls and Foxton with 50 on the Waimanu estuary on 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** Again commonly seen whilst driving. Hundred's were between Fairlie and Geraldine on 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Red-billed Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus* (19)  
**NI:** Small numbers were seen at Auckland Airport area and Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup> with 15 at Waimanu Lagoon on 28<sup>th</sup> and 20 at Langs Beach on 15<sup>th</sup> the peak counts on North Island. Otherwise seen in small numbers at several localities.  
**SI:** Seen in small numbers most days, but not generally counted.  
**StI:** several noted in Oban on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Black-billed Gull** *Larus bulleri* (10)  
**NI:** 40 were at Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup> with a single at the Waimanu Lagoons on 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** Ten were off Kaikoura on 30<sup>th</sup> with c40 there on 8<sup>th</sup>. Two were between Christchurch and Timaru on 31<sup>st</sup> with lots between Bluff and Te Anau on 3<sup>rd</sup>. 100 were between Mossburn and 5 Rivers on 4<sup>th</sup> with ten at Lake Hayes (nr Queenstown) and Lake Tekapo on 5<sup>th</sup> when 'lots' were between Fairlie and Geraldine.
- Black-fronted Tern** *Sterna albobristata* (9)  
**SI:** One was noted from a brief seawatch just to the N of Kaikoura on 29<sup>th</sup>. Several were in the Kaikoura area the next day with the next not seen until a single was in Bluff Harbour on 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. On 4<sup>th</sup>, one was noted between Mirror Lakes and Mossburn with two between Mossburn and 5 Rivers and four between 5 Rivers and Queenstown. Singles were between Geraldine and Ashburton on 5<sup>th</sup> and off Kaikoura on 8<sup>th</sup> with five there the next day.

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*

(12)

**NI:** Six were at Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup> with a single between Te Kuiti and Auckland on 12<sup>th</sup> and two at Sandspit the next day. Three were at Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 14<sup>th</sup> with one to two around Beehive Island on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Singles were at Picton Harbour on 29<sup>th</sup>, Washdyke Lagoon on 31<sup>st</sup> and Kaikoura on 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Three were noted on the crossing of the Cook Strait on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**White-fronted Tern** *Sterna striata*

(13)

**NI:** 30 were at Miranda on 26<sup>th</sup>. Six were seen between Sandspit and Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 13<sup>th</sup> with a single at Langs beach on 15<sup>th</sup> and 20 on the Hauraki Gulf pelagic on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Four were on the Queen Charlotte Sound trip on 29<sup>th</sup> with small numbers off Kaikoura on 30<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. One was in Bluff Harbour on 2<sup>nd</sup> with eight there the next day. On 6<sup>th</sup> one flew N between Kumara Junction and Punakaiki with c30 coming into breeding plumage at Pancake Rocks, Punakaiki. Eight were seen from the ferry crossing of the Cook Strait on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**New Zealand Fairy Tern** *Sterna nereis davisae*

(2)

**NI:** Two were in Waipu Cove on 15<sup>th</sup> and a single was noted from the Hauraki Gulf pelagic on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**New Zealand Pigeon** *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*

(12)

**NI:** On 27<sup>th</sup>, ten were seen whilst driving between Te Kuiti and Wanganui. Seven were at the NGA Manu reserve the next day. Singles were between Stratford to Taumarunui on 11<sup>th</sup>, at Sandspit the next day, between Warkworth and Leigh on 15<sup>th</sup> and between Warkworth and Helensville on 17<sup>th</sup>. Three were at Kawau Island on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Singles were between Milford Sound & Lake Gunn and Mirror Lake & Mossburn on 4<sup>th</sup>, with others between Kumara Junction & Punakaiki on 6<sup>th</sup> and between Lewis Pass & SH 70 on 7<sup>th</sup>. Four were between Greymouth & Reefton on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**StI:** Two were between Oban and Golden Wharf on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)** *Columba livia*

(13)

**NI:** Present in small numbers but not counted.

**SI:** Present in small numbers but not counted.

**North Island Kaka** *Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*

(3)

**NI:** In the Pureora Forest Park, one was seen on 11<sup>th</sup> with ten on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup>. One flew over the digs at Warkworth on the evening of 14<sup>th</sup>.

**South Island Kaka** *Nestor meridionalis meridionalis*

(2)

**StI:** Six-12 were seen around the digs at Oban (& elsewhere on the main island) on 2<sup>nd</sup> including one that landed on the balcony! Six were also noted on Ulva Island also on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Kea** *Nestor notabilis*

(2)

**SI:** On 3<sup>rd</sup>, a confiding bird was seen in the Chasm Car Park (on the way to Milford Sound), with three flying around Milford Sound.

**Eastern Rosella** *Platycercus eximius*

(6)

**NI:** Four-six were at Te Kuiti on 27<sup>th</sup> with one there on 12<sup>th</sup> and two between Taumarunui to Pureora via Waimiha on 11<sup>th</sup>. Three were near Mangawhai on 15<sup>th</sup> with one on Kawau Island on 16<sup>th</sup> and two between Lake Kereta and Helensville on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Parakeet sp** *Cyanoramphus sp*

**NI:** Four flew over the NGA Manu reserve on 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Red-crowned Parakeet** *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae novaezelandiae* (3)  
**NI:** Small numbers were seen on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.  
**StI:** Six + were on Ulva Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Yellow-crowned Parakeet** *Cyanoramphus auriceps auriceps* (1)  
**NI:** Two were seen at Pureora FP on 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Morepork** *Ninox novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae* (3)  
**NI:** One was seen flying across the road in front of the car between Wanganui to Normanby, before Kai Koi on 10<sup>th</sup> with another (taped briefly) giving good views by the car in the Pureora Forest Park the next day. One was heard calling at Warkworth on 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Little Owl** *Athene noctua* (1)  
**SI:** One was heard at Cheviot on the evening of 30<sup>th</sup>.
- New Zealand Kingfisher (Sacred Kingfisher)** *Halcyon sancta vagans* (16)  
**NI:** 30 were seen near to Auckland Airport on 26<sup>th</sup>. There after small numbers noted at most suitable localities. 15 were between Warkworth and Leigh on 15<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** Small numbers seen whilst driving between localities.
- South Island Rifleman** *Acanthisitta chloris chloris* (2)  
**SI:** Two were along the Lake Gunn Walkway on 4<sup>th</sup>.  
**StI:** Three were on Ulva Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* (15)  
**NI:** Small numbers (generally under five) were noted at several localities.  
**SI:** Like the NI, small numbers were noted at several localities whilst driving, with 15 at Wainono Lagoon on 31<sup>st</sup> the largest count.
- Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica neoxena* (19)  
**NI:** Small numbers noted on most days.  
**SI:** Small numbers noted on most days with 21 at Lake Dunstan on 5<sup>th</sup> being the highest count.
- New Zealand Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae* (4)  
**SI:** Singles were at Deer Park Heights (nr Queenstown) on 4<sup>th</sup>, Kaikoura on 7<sup>th</sup> and at Wairau Lagoon on 9<sup>th</sup>. Two were between Darfield and Kumara Junction on 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Hedge Sparrow (Dunnock)** *Prunella modularis* (13)  
**NI:** Seen and heard in small numbers.  
**SI:** Seen and heard in small numbers.  
**StI:** present, but not counted.
- Blackbird** *Turdus merula* (22)  
**NI:** Present in small numbers and not generally counted.  
**SI:** Present in small numbers and not generally counted.  
**StI:** Present in small numbers.
- Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* (21)  
**NI:** Present in small numbers and not generally counted.  
**SI:** Present in small numbers and not generally counted.  
**StI:** Present in small numbers.

- North Island Fernbird** *Bowdleria punctata vealeae* (1)  
**NI:** One was heard and briefly seen on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 14<sup>th</sup>.
- South Island Fernbird** *Bowdleria punctata punctata* (1)  
**SI:** One was seen well(ish) at the Sinclair Wetlands on 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Whitehead** *Mohoua albipectus* (4)  
**NI:** 20 were seen in the Pureora Forest Park on 11<sup>th</sup> with three there next morning. Ten were on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.
- Yellowhead** *Mohoua ochrocephala* (1)  
**StI:** Four were seen on Ulva Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Brown Creeper** *Mohoua novaeseelandiae* (2)  
**SI:** Six+ were in Greenhills bush (near Bluff) on 1<sup>st</sup>.  
**StI:** 21 were on Ulva Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Grey Warbler (Grey Gerygone)** *Gerygone igata* (19)  
**NI:** On 26<sup>th</sup> four were at Island Block Road with one between there and Miranda. The next day two to three were between Te Awamutu to Otorohanga and at Raukwa Falls. Three were at NGA Manu reserve on 28<sup>th</sup> with birds present (but not counted) at Pureora FP on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** Singles were at Kaikoura on 30<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, Shag Point on 31<sup>st</sup>, Te Anau Downs (Best Western Motel) on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lake Gunn & Mirror Lakes on 4<sup>th</sup> & at Picton on 10<sup>th</sup>. Three were at Milford Sound on 3<sup>rd</sup> with ten at Lake Dunstan on 5<sup>th</sup>. Birds were also heard between Milford Sound and Lake Gunn.  
**StI:** One was on Ulva Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- North Island Fantail** *Rhipidura fuliginosa placabilis* (10)  
**NI:** Seen most days in small numbers, 20 were c14km along the Manganui-a-te-ao river on 27<sup>th</sup> with another ten at near-by Meyers Bridge. Ten+ were at NGA Manu reserve on 28<sup>th</sup>.
- South Island Fantail** *Rhipidura fuliginosa fuliginosa* (10)  
**SI:** Again seen in small numbers on most days. 25 at Lake Dunstan on 5<sup>th</sup> was the peak count. Black phase birds were noted at the Best Western at Te Anau Downs on 3<sup>rd</sup> with two at Lake Dunstan on 5<sup>th</sup>.  
**StI:** Present but not counted.
- North Island Tomtit** *Petroica macrocephala toitoi* (3)  
**NI:** A M was along Island Block Road on 26<sup>th</sup> with one at Pureora FP on 11<sup>th</sup> and two-three there the next morning.
- South Island Tomtit** *Petroica macrocephala macrocephala* (5)  
**SI:** Singles were at Greenhills Bush on 1<sup>st</sup>, between Te Anau Downs and Milford Sound (with two M's at the latter locality) on 3<sup>rd</sup> and between Reefton and the Lewis Pass on 7<sup>th</sup>. On 4<sup>th</sup>, two M's & a F were at Milford Sound with three M's between Milford Sound and Lake Gunn.  
**StI:** A M was on Ulva Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- North Island NZ Robin** *Petroica australis longipes* (3)  
**NI:** One was in the Pureora FP on 11<sup>th</sup> and two-three were on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 13<sup>th</sup>.
- South Island NZ Robin** *Petroica australis australis* (1)  
**SI:** A pair were present along the Lake Gunn Walkway on 4<sup>th</sup>.

- Stewart Island NZ Robin** *Petroica australis rakiura* (1)  
**StI:** Seven were on Ulva Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Silvereeye** *Zosterops lateralis lateralis* (20)  
**NI:** Small numbers were encountered at several sites, with six-20 around the two Blue Duck sites on 27<sup>th</sup>. 20 were also at the Pureora Forest Park on 11<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** Again small numbers were present at several sites. Ten were at Wainono lagoon on 31<sup>st</sup> with 20 at Portobello the next day.  
**StI:** Birds were heard on Ulva Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Stitchbird** *Notiomystis cincta* (2)  
**NI:** 15+ were present on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.
- Bellbird** *Anthornis melanura melanura* (13)  
**NI:** Singles were at Raukwa Falls on 27<sup>th</sup> and at NGA Manu Reserve the next day. One was at the Pureora Forest Park on 12<sup>th</sup> with many singing on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 13<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** Two were between Picton & Kaikoura on 29<sup>th</sup> with six at Greenhill's Bush on 1<sup>st</sup>. Birds were seen and heard along the Eglinton Valley on 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> and a singles was between Greymouth and Reefton on 7<sup>th</sup>.  
**StI:** Six were at Ulva Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Tui** *Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae* (15)  
**NI:** Singles were seen at Te Kuiti, Meyer's Bridge and Raukwa Falls on 27<sup>th</sup>. Ten were around the Waimanu Lagoons with five at NGA Manu Reserve the next day. Lots were on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> with three around the Mangawhai area on 15<sup>th</sup> and a single between Warkworth & Helensville on 17<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** Four were around Greenhill's Bush on 1<sup>st</sup> with one at Bluff the next day. Singles were between Kumara Junction & Punakaiki on 6<sup>th</sup> and at Picton on 10<sup>th</sup>.  
**StI:** Four were around Oban with three on Ulva Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella* (15)  
**NI:** A large flock was present along Island Block Road on 26<sup>th</sup> with birds present at Miranda later that day and along the Manganui-a-te-ao River area on 27<sup>th</sup>. Three-four were on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 14<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** Present in small numbers at several sites, but generally not counted.
- Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirrus* (1)  
**SI:** 41+ were in the Lake Grassmere area on 9<sup>th</sup>. Seen in small (and some not so small) flocks along the road to the coast along the eastern edge of the saltpans.
- Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* (21)  
**NI:** Birds were present at Island Block Rd on 26<sup>th</sup>, Raukwa Falls on 27<sup>th</sup>, between Foxton & Waikanae and at Waimanu lagoons on 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** Birds were present at Sinclair Wetlands on 1<sup>st</sup> and at Kaikoura on 9<sup>th</sup>.  
**StI:** Birds were noted on Stewart Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* (13)  
**NI:** Birds were present at Auckland Airport & Island Block Rd on 26<sup>th</sup>, Waimanu lagoons on 28<sup>th</sup>, between Stratford & Taumarunui on 11<sup>th</sup> and on the journey to Helensville on 17<sup>th</sup>.  
**SI:** Birds were noted whilst driving between Picton & Kaikoura on 29<sup>th</sup>, Christchurch & Timaru on 31<sup>st</sup>, Mossburn & 5 Rivers on 4<sup>th</sup> and at Kaikoura on 9<sup>th</sup>.  
**StI:** Birds were present on Stewart Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

(16)

**NI:** Lots were present at Island Block Rd on 26<sup>th</sup> with smaller numbers present at Miranda the same day. Seven were between Bulls & Foxton with three between Foxton & Waikanae and small numbers at Waimanu lagoons on 28<sup>th</sup>. One was between Normanby & Stratford on 11<sup>th</sup> and several were between Helensville & Lake Kereta on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Birds were noted between Picton & Kaikoura on 29<sup>th</sup> and at Kaikoura on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

(6)

**SI:** On 31<sup>st</sup>, 30 were between Cheviot & Christchurch with 150 along the track to the Wainono Lagoon. On 1<sup>st</sup>, five were at Taiaroa Head with birds also heard at Sinclair Wetlands. On 5<sup>th</sup> birds were heard at Kawarau Gorge with c80 between Lake Dunstan & Lake Benmore. Three were between Reefton and the Lewis Pass on 7<sup>th</sup> with at least one in the Lake Grassmere area on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

(23)

**NI:** Present but not counted at many localities.

**SI:** Present but not counted at many localities.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

(21)

**NI:** Present but not counted at many localities.

**SI:** Present but not counted at many localities.

**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*

(8)

**NI:** Present in small numbers as far south as Te Awamutu.

**North Island Kokako** *Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*

(2)

**NI:** One was heard singing in the evening at Pureora FP on 11<sup>th</sup> and a pair were seen in the Wattle Track on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**North Island Saddleback** *Philesturnus carunculatus rufusater*

(2)

**NI:** Lots were present on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island on 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.

**South Island Saddleback** *Philesturnus carunculatus carunculatus*

(1)

**SI:** A juvenile was present on Ulva Island on 2<sup>nd</sup>. This bird took some finding and was found with ten minutes to spare before the return water taxi ride! No doubt they are commoner on a different part of the island.

**Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen hypoleuca*

(21)

**NI:** Birds of the White-backed race were regularly noted around the North Island. Three intergrades with the Black-backed race *G. t. tibicen* were noted near Lake Kereta on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** Birds of the White-backed race were regularly noted along the east side and between Lumsden and Lake Te Anau.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

(1)

**SI:** One was noted between Portobello and Taiaroa Head (Otago Peninsular) on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Critters and things: -**

**Monarch Butterfly**

**NI:** One was around the Waimanu Lagoons on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**SI:** One was at Kaikoura on 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Hector's Dolphin**

SI: Three to five were on the pm pelagic off Kaikoura on 30<sup>th</sup> with two seen on the Whale Watch trip there on 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Short-beaked Common Dolphin**

NI: A pod of c45 was seen on the Hauraki Gulf pelagic on 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Bryde's Whale**

NI: One surfaced several times next to the boat on the Hauraki Gulf pelagic on 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sperm Whale**

SI: Three males were seen on the Whale watch trip off Kaikoura on 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Zealand Fur Seal**

SI: c Six were noted on the Queen Charlotte Sound trip on 29<sup>th</sup> with 5 on the Milford Sound Boat trip on 4<sup>th</sup> and colonies at Goose Bay (near Kaikoura) on 7<sup>th</sup> and at Kaikoura on 30<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Hooker's Sea Lion**

SI: A Fur Seal/Sea Lion, probably this species, was hauled out on the beach near Shag Point on 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Eels**

NI: Several came to the feeding station (!) at the NGA Manu Reserve at feeding time on 28<sup>th</sup>!

### **Wallaby sp**

NI: Several were on Kawau Island, near Sandspit on 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Accommodation:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Name of Accom</b>	<b>Cost NZ\$</b>
26/07/2004	Te Awamutu	Park Lodge Motel	85 (115 with breakfast)
27/07/2004	Wanganui	Four seasons Motel	95
28/07/2004	Picton	Americano Motor Lodge	95
29/07/2004	Kaikoura	Kaikoura Motel	91
30/07/2004	Cheviot	Cheviot Motels and caravan park	83
31/07/2004	Portobello	Portobello Motel	145
01/08/2004	Bluff	Lands End - The Little Inn	296
02/08/2004	Stewart Island	Bay View Motel	175
03/08/2004	Milford Sound	Milford Sound Lodge	69
04/08/2004	Queenstown	Colonial Village Motel	120
05/08/2004	Ashburton	Taylor's Lodge Motel	105
06/08/2004	Punakaiki	Punakaiki Rocks Villas	130.5
07/08/2004	Kaikoura	Kaikoura Motel	90
08/08/2004	Kaikoura	Kaikoura Motel	90
09/08/2004	Picton	Ferrylink Motel	92
10/08/2004	Normanby	Friends of AJJ	0
11/08/2004	Bennydale	Bennydale Motel	75
12/08/2004	Warkworth	Central Motel	92
13/08/2004	Tiri Tiri	Tiri Tiri Bunkhouse	60 each

	Matangi		
14/08/2004	Warkworth	Central Motel	92
15/08/2004	Warkworth	Central Motel	92
16/08/2004	Warkworth	Central Motel	92
17/08/2004	flew home		

### Weather:

24/07/2004	slightly overcast in NCL. Bright sunshine in London. Warm (22*) in LA
25/07/2004	Day lost in air crossing dateline!
26/07/2004	cold early morning - frost on car in AUK. Fog in valley around Wangamarino area. Hot & sunny for rest of day c18*
27/07/2004	heavy rain am, giving way to showers then brightening in eve c14*
28/07/2004	calm & overcast with bright periods. Rain started at Picton 1700, very heavy c10*
29/07/2004	light rain at first light, thick cloud and rain brightening around 1300. sunshine on drive to Kaikoura
30/07/2004	bright but cloudy, definitely cool. Brighter in pm. Cold in eve.
31/07/2004	cold start! Ice on all windows of car & in my coke! Beautiful sunny day with little or no wind.
01/08/2004	dry first thing, low cloud arriving c1100, grotty mizzle at Sinclair Wetlands, brightened on journey to Bluff
02/08/2004	Calm, light N? bright & sunny all day. Flat calm crossing to Stewart Island
03/08/2004	bright & sunny all day. Cool towards eve in Milford Sound
04/08/2004	overcast with light rain in am, clearing as we drove along Eglington Valley. Bright with some sun after that.
05/08/2004	generally bright and sunny all day, becoming overcast towards late pm
06/08/2004	grotty with rain and low cloud all day
07/08/2004	rain most of day, but cloud lighter than yesterday. Snow on Lewis Pass. Brighter & calm in eve at Kaikoura
08/08/2004	bright & sunny, flat calm for most of day until mid-late afternoon, then cloud & rain & wind increased
09/08/2004	bright & sunny all day, calm
10/08/2004	bright & sunny all day, light rain/showwer in pm
11/08/2004	rain all am to mid pm. Then sunny & cold! W wind
12/08/2004	rain showers in am, brightening the further N we went. 16* in Warkworth
13/08/2004	bright & sunny most of day - heavy showers in eve
14/08/2004	bright & sunny all day
15/08/2004	rain early am, then heavy showers for rest of day, fairly warm
16/08/2004	calm early on, wind freshening during day, fairly choppy at sea. Hail in mid pm on Kawau Island
17/08/2004	generally bright & sunny. Hot in LA

### Mileages:

Date	From	To	Distance in km	Comments
26/07/2004	Auckland	Te Awamutu	252	
27/07/2004	Te Awamutu	Wanganui	346	
28/07/2004	Wanganui	Wellington	220	ferry to Picton
29/07/2004	Picton	Kaikoura	157	
30/07/2004	Kaikoura	Cheviot	86	

31/07/2004	Cheviot	Portobello	510	
01/08/2004	Portobello	Bluff	302	
02/08/2004	Bluff	Stewart Island	2	
03/08/2004	Stewart Island	Milford Haven	314	
04/08/2004	Milford Haven	Queenstown	311	
05/08/2004	Queenstown	Ashburton	402	
06/08/2004	Ashburton	Punakaiki	365	
07/08/2004	Punakaiki	Kaikoura	384	
08/08/2004	Kaikoura	Kaikoura	10	
09/08/2004	Kaikoura	Picton	225	
10/08/2004	Picton	Normanby	298	ferry to Wellington
11/08/2004	Normanby	Bennydale	298	
12/08/2004	Bennydale	Warkworth	383	
13/08/2004	Warkworth	Tiri Tiri	8	
14/08/2004	Tiri Tiri	Warkworth	8	
15/08/2004	Warkworth	Warkworth	288	via Waipu
16/08/2004	Warkworth	Warkworth	17	via Sandspit
17/08/2004	Warkworth	Auckland Airport	?	