

New Zealand

29 July – 25 July 2010

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Introduction

Helen visited Dunedin University for 5 months and Rob decided to visit New Zealand afterwards. Rob arrived in Christchurch on June 29th. We tried for most endemics, dipped on the Rockwren, did not try for Okarito Brown Kiwi, North Island kiwi and Orange-fronted parrot. The timing of the trip made it impossible to try for New Zealand Petrel. Since this trip report was finally written in May 2015, details may be lacking.

Itinerary

Day 1	29-06-2010	Helen hires a car in Christchurch and picks up Rob from the airport. Drive to Kaikoura.
Day 2	30-06-2010	Pelagic with Albatross Encounter in the morning, and a whale watching trip in the afternoon.
Day 3	01-07-2010	Pelagic with Albatross Encounter and then drove to Arthur's Pass.
Day 4	02-07-2010	Walked a trail near the pass, walked another trail to a waterfall and enjoyed the Keas in Arthur's pass. Drove to lake Tekapo (full snow cover)
Day 5	03-07-2010	Found Black Stilt near Lake Tekapo and drove to Dunedin. Yellow-eyed penguins at Sandfly Bay.
Day 6	04-07-2010	Visited the Northern Royal Albatross visitor centre and had a look around Dunedin.
Day 7	05-07-2010	Birding around Sinclair Wetlands (for Fernbirds), drove through/birded Catlins & Nugget Point to Invercargill
Day 8	06-07-2010	Ferry from Bluff to Stewart Island. Arranged for a kiwi excursion and went to Ulva Island.
Day 9	07-07-2010	Walked to lighthouse, lunch in hotel, some more birding around Halfmoon Bay and Kiwi excursion at night.
Day 10	08-07-2010	Ferry back to Bluff, driving to Milford sound, failed to find Rock Wren near Homer Tunnel
Day 11	09-07-2010	Birding around Sound until Milford Cruise (Southern Right Whale), another try at Homer Tunnel, no luck. Overnight in Queenstown
Day 12	10--07-2010	Queenstown to Haast – afternoon visit to Jackson Bay for Fiordland Penguin
Day 13	11-07-2010	Haast to Punakaki, evening at Bullock Creek Road for Great Spotted Kiwi
Day 14	12-07-2010	Watching World Cup, Spain beating Holland, evening

		watching the Westland Petrels come in from the sea.
Day 15	13-07-2010	Punakaki to Picton.
Day 16	14-07-2010	Ferry to Wellington, watching Wrybills at Foxton, overnight in Whanganui.
Day 17	15-07-2010	Whanganui to Rotorua via Manganui o te Ao River (Blue Duck) and Pureora Forest (Kokako). Evening birding along lakes in Roturao
Day 18	16-07-2010	Rotorua to Orewa, with birding at Miranda.
Day 19	17-07-2010	Boat to TiriTiri, birding the island with Grey-Faced Petrels and Little Spotted Kiwi at night
Day 20	18-07-2010	Back to Auckland
Day 21	19-07-2010	13:00 flight to Nadi, Fiji

Literature:

Where to watch birds in New Zealand – Kathy Ombler

The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand – Barrie Heather, Hugh Robertson & Derek Onley

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

We have tried to accurately indicate the proper subspecies for all our observations, usually based on geographic locations based on the IOC World Bird List version 5.1. Not a complete checklist of all sighting, species mostly only written down on first day of sighting. When a comment like common, or several seen is given without a place this means throughout the trip, with first date written down. Although we are usually quite strict in not counting introduced species, the unique situation in New Zealand made us more lenient so we had no problems counting Takahe and Stitchbird on Tiri Tiri for example. Introduced species from other continents were ignored though.

1. Southern Brown Kiwi – *Apteryx australis lawryi*
07/07: 2 seen, 1 heard Stewart Island – Night trip with Phillip Smith
2. Little Spotted Kiwi – *Apteryx owenii*
17/07: Several heard only, Tiri Tiri Matangi
3. Great Spotted Kiwi – *Apteryx haastii*
11/07: Several heard only, Bullock Creek, Punakaki
4. Blue Duck – *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*
15/07: Manganui o te Ao River
5. Paradise Shelduck – *Tadorna variegata*
29/06: Common daily
6. Australasian Shoveler – *Anas rhynchos variegata*
05/07: Sinclair wetlands
7. Grey Teal – *Anas gracilis gracilis*
05/07: Several seen.
8. Brown Teal – *Anas chlorotis*
17/07: 3, Tiri Tiri

9. New Zealand Scaup – *Aythya nyroca*
01/07: Arthurs pass
10/07: Wanaka lake
10. Fiordland Penguin – *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*
10/07: 3, Jackson bay
11. Yellow-eyed Penguin – *Megadyptes antipodes*
03/07: 8, Sandfly bay, Dunedin Otago
07/07: 1, Stewart Island
12. Little Penguin – *Eudyptula minor*
07/07: 4, *minor*, Stewart Island
14/07: 10+ *variabilis*, Wellington Harbour
13. Antipodean Albatross – *Diomedea antipodensis gibsoni*
30/06: Several both days Kaikoura.
14. Southern Royal Albatross – *Diomedea epomophora*
30/06: Several both days Kaikoura
15. Northern Royal Albatross – *Diomedea sanfordi*
30/06: Whale watching Kaikoura
01/07: 2nd Day Kaikoura pelagic
04/07: Otago Peninsula
16. Black-browed Albatross – *Thalassarche melanophris*
30/06: Both days Kaikoura
14/07: Ferry between South Island and North Island
17. Shy Albatross – *Thalassarche cauta steadi*
30/06: Both days Kaikoura
14/07: Ferry between South Island and North Island
18. Salvin's Albatross – *Thalassarche salvini*
30/06: Kaikoura
06/07: Stewart Island
14/07: Ferry between South Island and North Island
19. Buller's Albatross – *Thalassarche bulleri bulleri*
30/06: Both days Kaikoura, several seen from the coast at several times, also seen from ferry to Stewart Island and ferry between North Island and South Island.
20. Southern Giant Petrel – *Macronectes giganteus*
30/06: Uncommon, several in kaikoura
21. Northern Giant Petrel – *Macronectes halli*
30/06: Common both days Kaikoura
22. Cape Petrel – *Daption capense australe*
30/06: Common
23. Fairy Prion – *Pachyptila turtur turtur*

- 14/07: Several on trip between South Island and North Island
24. Great-winged Petrel – *Pterodroma macroptera gouldi*
17-07: several in breeding colony on Tiri Tiri Matangi
 25. Westland Petrel – *Procellaria westlandica*
30/06: Several Kaikoura
12/07: 100+ Punakaki
14/07: Several, crossing from South Island to North Island
 26. Fluttering Shearwater – *Puffinus gavia*
30/06: Several both days Kaikoura
14/07: Several ferry between North Island and South Island
 27. Hutton's Shearwater – *Puffinus huttoni*
30/06: Several both days Kaikoura
05/07: Several from Nugget Point
 28. Common Diving Petrel – *Pelecanoides urinatrix chathamensis*
06/07: Stewart Island crossing
14/07: Several ferry between North Island and South Island
 29. New Zealand Grebe – *Poliocephalus rufopectus*
15/07: Rotorua
 30. Great Crested Grebe – *Podiceps cristatus australis*
15/07: Rotorua
 31. Royal Spoonbill – *Platalea regia*
05/07: Bluff
 32. Eastern Cattle Egret – *Bubulcus coromandus*
29/06: Several seen.
 33. White-faced Heron – *Egretta novaehollandiae*
30/06: Several seen, first in Kaikoura
 34. Pacific Reef Heron – *Egretta sacra sacra*
30/06: Several seen, first in Kaikoura
 35. Australasian Gannet – *Morus serrator*
30/06: Several seen
 36. Little Pied Cormorant – *Microcarbo melanoleucos brevirostris*
04/07: Otago Peninsula
 37. Spotted Shag – *Phalacrocorax punctatus punctatus*
30/06: Common along coast
 38. Australian Pied Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax varius varius*
30/06: Kaikoura
 39. Great Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae*
30/06: Several seen

40. Bronze Shag – *Leucocarbo chalconotus*
05/07: Otago Peninsula
06/07: Stewart Island

41. Swamp Harrier – *Circus approximans*
29/06: Common daily

42. Weka – *Gallirallus australis*
06/07: *scotti*, Ulva island
12/07: *australis*, Punakaki

43. Purple Swamphen – *Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*
29/06: Common

44. Takahe – *Porphyrio hochstetteri*
17/07: Tiritiri Matangi

45. Eurasian Coot – *Fulica atra australis*
29/06: Several seen

46. South Island Oystercatcher – *Haematopus finschi*
30/06: Common along coast

47. Variable Oystercatcher – *Haematopus unicolor*
30/06: Common along coast

48. White-headed Stilt – *Himantopus leucocephalus*
29/06: Several seen

49. Black Stilt – *Himantopus novaehollandiae*
03/07: Lake Tekapo

50. Masked Lapwing – *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae*
01/07: Several seen

51. Wrybill – *Anarhynchus frontalis*
14/07: 25+, Manuwatu (Foxton beach)
16/07: 100s Miranda

52. New Zealand Plover – *Charadrius obscurus aquilonius*
16/07: Several Miranda

53. Double-banded Plover – *Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus*
30/06: 2, Kaikoura

54. Bar-tailed Godwit – *Limosa lapponica baueri*
16/07: Several Miranda

55. Red-necked Stint – *Calidris ruficollis*
16/07: Several Miranda

56. Red-billed Gull – *Chroicocephalus scopulinus*

29/06: Common

57. Black-billed Gull – *Chroicocephalus bulleri*
30/06: Kaikoura
06/07: Stewart Island
58. Kelp Gull – *Larus dominicanus dominicanus*
29/06: Common
59. Caspian Tern – *Hydroprogne caspia*
14/07: South Island – North Island Crossing,
15/07: Manawatu
60. White-fronted Tern – *Sterna striata*
30/06: Kaikoura
06/07: Stewart Is
14/07: South Island – North Island Crossing,
61. Black-fronted Tern – *Chlidonias albostratus*
30/06: Kaikoura
14/07: South Island – North Island Crossing,
62. New Zealand Pigeon – *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*
02/07: Common
63. Morepork – *Ninox noveaseelandiae noveaseelandiae*
06/07: HO Stewart is.
11/07: HO, Bullock Creek Road
64. Sacred Kingfisher – *Todiramphus sanctus vagans*
01/07: Common
65. New Zealand Falcon – *Falco novaeseelandiae*
02/07: Arthurs pass
05/07: Nugget point
66. Kea – *Nestor notabilis*
02/07: Arthurs pass
08/07: Homer Tunnel
67. New Zealand Kaka – *Nestor meridionalis meridionalis*
06/07: Stewart Island
68. Yellow-crowned Parakeet – *Cyanoramphus auriceps*
15/07: Pureora
69. Red-crowned Parakeet – *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae novaezelandiae*
06/07: Ulva island
17/07: Tiri Tiri
70. Rifleman - *Acanthisitta chloris chloris*
02/07: Arthurs pass

71. New Zealand Bellbird – *Anthornis melanura melanura*
02/07: Arthurs pass
04/07: Otago peninsula
06/07: Stewart Island
72. Tui – *Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*
05/07: Catlins
06/07: Stewart island
17/07: Tiritiri Matanga
73. Grey Gerygone – *Gerygone igata*
05/07: Several
74. North Island Kokako – *Callaeas wilsoni*
15/07: Pureora Forest
75. North Island Saddleback – *Philesturnus rufusater*
17/07: Tiri Tiri
76. South Island Saddleback – *Philesturnus carunculatus*
06/07: Stewart Island
77. Stitchbird – *Notiomystis cincta hautura*
17/07: Tiri Tiri
78. Yellowhead – *Mohoua ochrocephala*
06/07: Ulva island
79. Whitehead – *Mohoua albicilla*
17/07: Tiri Tiri
80. Pipipi – *Mohoua novaeseelandiae*
02/07: Common
81. New Zealand Fantail – *Rhipidura fuliginosa*
30/06: Common inc. black form (SI: *fuliginosa*, NI: *placabilis*)
82. Tomtit – *Petroica macrocephala*
01/07: Common (NI: *toitoi*, SI: *macrocephala*)
83. New Zealand Robin – *Petroica australis rakiura*
06/07: Ulva Island
84. Welcome Swallow – *Hirundo neoxena neoxena*
01/07: Several seen
85. New Zealand Fernbird – *Megalurus punctatus punctatus*
05/07: Sinclair wetland
86. Silvereye – *Zosterops lateralis lateralis*
30/06: Common
87. New Zealand Pipit – *Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*
02/07: Several seen

During her stay Helen additionally saw

Wandering Albatross – *Diomedea exulans*

White-chinned Petrel – *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

Buller's Shearwater – *Puffinus bulleri*

Short-tailed Shearwater – *Puffinus tenuirostris*

Flesh-footed Shearwater – *Puffinus carneipes*

White-faced Storm-petrel – *Pelagodroma marina maoriana*

Mammals:

Sperm whale:

3, Kaikoura

Southern Right Whale

2, Milford Sound

Bottle-nosed Dolphins

Several, Milford Sound

Hector Dolphins

S-N - crossing

Humpback Whale

S-N - crossing

NZ Fur Seal

common

NZ Sea lion

5+ Sandfly bay