New Zealand 2014 with Western Field Ornithologists

Birds Seen in New Zealand with notes – WFO Fundraising Trip – November 24 - December 8, 2014
Leaders: Mark Ayre (Nature Quest New Zealand), Kurt Leuschner (WFO) + 12 other participants:
Jim Rowoth, Jeff Anderson, Bonnie Bompart, David Levasheff, Janice Levasheff, Kathy Hartley, Anne Hoff, Carol Getz, Thomas Getz, Michael Allen, Ronald Thorn, Leonie Batkin

Results of a 16 day fundraising trip to various birding spots on the North Island, South Island and Stewart Island of New Zealand. We raised thousands of dollars for Western Field Ornithologists that will benefit both the scholarship and publication funds. It was the first time WFO has traveled to New Zealand and hopefully it won’t be the last. All sightings were promptly reported to Ebird with the assistance of Bonnie Bompart. Accompanying photos by Jeff Anderson and David Levasheff.

Places visited included:

**North Island:** Auckland area, Waitakere Ranges Regional Park, Muriwai Beach, Tiritiri Matangi Island, Miranda Wildlife Sanctuary, Rotorua, Falker Dam, Whakamaru Ponds, Pureora Forest Reserve, Waihi Scenic Reserve, Whakapapa Intake, Tongariro National Park, Ohakune, Foxton Estuary, Plimmerton, Wellington, Cook Strait ferry crossing.

**South Island/Stewart Island:** Picton, Kaikoura (Uncle Gary’s charter albatross boat), Lake McGregor and the Canterbury Plains (braided rivers region), Allison’s Farm (bonus stop), Lake Poaka, Tasman Delta, Mount Cook National Park, Dunedin, Orokonui Eco-Reserve, Royal Albatross Center, Ripikareta Beach, Taiaroa Head, Tautuku Estuary, Stewart Island, Foveaux Strait ferry crossing, Kaka Point, Paterson Inlet, Ulva Island, Ocean Beach, Rakiura National Park, Fiordland National Park, Hollyford Valley, Milford Sound, Homer Tunnel, Invercargill.
Birds Seen:

(*) = Endemic species or subspecies

*South Island Brown Kiwi *Apteryx australis australis* – 3 seen on Ulva Island (off of Stewart Island in the South), another heard. I-phone photo by Jeff Anderson (above).

Australasian Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus australis* – seen on South Island on a few lakes

*New Zealand Dabchick *Poliocephalus rufopunctus* – locally common, seen on North Island in 1 location

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* – seen during North to South Island ferry crossing of the Foveaux Strait and other locations off the South Island.

*Southern Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora epomophora* – seen in 2 locations off of South Island (some believe the Southern and Northern are separate species).

*Northern Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora sanfordi* – seen off the South Island in 2 locations including birds on the nest at Taiaroa Head.

*New Zealand Black-browed Albatross or Campbell Island Albatross *Diomedea melanophris impavida* – one individual seen off of South Island near Wreck Reef. Very uncommon.

*New Zealand White-capped Albatross *Diomedea cauta steadi* – seen on N to S Island ferry crossing and other locations off of South Island – the most common albatross seen (some believe that the White-capped and the Salvin’s are separate species).

*Salvin’s Albatross *Diomedea cauta salvini* – seen on N to S Island ferry crossing and other locations off of South Island, small numbers mixed in with more common White-capped Albatross
*Southern Buller’s Albatross *Diomedea bulleri bulleri – a few individuals seen off of South Island near Wreck Reef, uncommon.

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebetria palpebrata* – one individual seen from N to S Island ferry – one of the most unexpected species of the trip. Even the local NZ birders were excited about this one. Native to the area but not endemic. David Levasheff took a fantastic photo (above).

Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* – seen off South Island in 2 locations – fairly common

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* – common, seen in a few locations off of South Island.

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* – seen by Jim only at Kaikoura/Picton off South Island.

*Fluttering Shearwater* *Puffinus gavia* – seen in 3 locations off of South Island.

*Hutton’s Shearwater* *Puffinus huttoni* – seen along Kaikoura coast/Picton, off of South Island. Local.

Common Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix urinatrix* – seen in 2 locations off of South Island.

*Westland Petrel* *Procellaria westlandica* – seen in 2 locations off of South Island.

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis aequinoctialis* – seen in 2 locations off of South Island.

Cape Pigeon (Petrel) *Daption capense capense* – seen in at least 2 locations off South Island

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur* – seen in at least 2 locations off of South Island

*Cook’s Petrel* *Pterodroma cookii* – seen in 2 locations off South Island – just a few individuals

*Grey-faced Petrel* *Pterodroma macroptera gouldi* – seen by Jim only at Kaikoura/Picton off South Island

Grey-backed Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma nereis* – a small flock seen briefly from N to S Island ferry crossing of Foveaux Strait.
*Yellow-eyed Penguin *Megadyptes antipodes – seen on South Island on nests at Ripikareta Beach

**Blue Penguin** *Eudyptula minor* – one individual seen on a nest on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island off the North Island and 7 more seen off of Ulva Island (adjacent to Stewart Island in the South Island region).

*Fiordland Crested Penguin* *Eudyptes pachyrhynrus* – seen in 2 locations off the South Island including Stewart Island and Milford Sound (actually a fiord).

**Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator* – we visited a huge nesting colony on the North Island at Muriwai Beach, and saw more at various locations off the South Island.

**Black Shag (Great Cormorant)** *Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae* – seen on both islands at various locations.

**Pied Shag (Cormorant)** *Phalacrocorax varius varius* – widespread: seen on both islands but fewer seen on South Island.

**Little Black Shag (Cormorant)** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* – seen on both islands, usually small numbers

*Little Shag (Little Pied Shag or Cormorant)* *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris* – seen in small numbers on both islands at various locations mixed in with other cormorant species.

*Spotted Shag (Cormorant)* *Phalacrocorax punctatus punctatus* – seen at various places along the South Island and Stewart Island coast.

*Stewart Island Shag (Cormorant)* *Leucocarbo chalconotus* – seen at Taiaroa (South Island) and Stewart Island only. Very local and not as common as Spotted Shag.

**White-faced Heron** *Ardea novaehollandiae* – seen on both islands, common.

**White Heron (Great Egret)** *Egretta alba modesta* – only one individual seen on the South Island near Invercargill.

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia* – seen on both islands in a few locations.

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor* – Introduced. One individual seen on North Island near the road.

**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus* – Introduced. Common on both islands.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis maxima* – Introduced. Seen on both islands in various locations.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser* – Introduced. Seen only on North Island but occurs on both islands.

*Paradise Shelduck* *Tadorna variegata* – seen on both islands, especially common on South Island.

*Blue Duck* *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos* – seen on South Island only in 2 locations. Very local on fast moving glacial-fed rivers.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* – Introduced. Seen on both islands. Common.

**Grey Duck** *Anas supernicia supencilia* – Native. Seen on both islands in various locations.

**Grey Teal** *Anas gracilis* – Native. Seen on North Island only at Miranda and one other pond.

*New Zealand Shoveler* *Anas rynchotis variegata* – seen on both islands in various locations.

*New Zealand Scaup* *Anas novaeseelandiae* – seen on both islands in various locations.

**Australasian Harrier** *Circus approximans* – common on both islands.

*New Zealand Falcon* *Falco novaeseelandiae* – seen once on the North Island and once on the South Island – both were brief flyovers-type looks.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* – Introduced. Seen on North Island in 2 locations. Also known as Ring-necked Pheasant.

**Wild Turkey** *Meleagris gallopavo* – Introduced. Seen on the North Island in one location only.

**California Quail** *Callipepla californica* – Introduced. Seen on North Island in 3 locations.

**Brown Quail** *Sinoicus ypsilophorus* – Introduced. 2 seen on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island, North Island.
*Stewart Island Weka Gallirallus australis scotti* – one seen on Ulva Island (adjacent to Stewart Island in the South Island region). Photo by David Levasheff (above).

Pukeko (Purple Swamphen) *Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus* – seen on both islands in various places.

Australian Coot *Fulica atra australis* – Seen on both islands on a few ponds and lakes.

South Island Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostrelegus finschi* – seen on both islands in various coastal locations.

*Variable Oystercatcher* *Haematopus unicolor* – seen on both islands in various coastal locations.

Spur-winged Plover *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae* – common on both islands.

Pied Stilt *Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus* – common on both islands in marshy areas.

*Black Stilt* *Himantopus novaezelandiae* – seen on the South Island in two locations. Local.

*Banded Dotterel* *Charadrius bicinctus bicinctus* – seen on the South Island only at a few locations.

*Northern New Zealand Dotterel* *Charadrius obscurus aquilonius* – a few seen at Miranda on the North Island.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* – a small flock seen at Miranda on the North Island.

Lesser (Red) Knot *Calidris canutus rogersi* – small flocks seen at Miranda and Foxton Estuary on the North Island.
*Wrybill* **Anarhynchus frontalis** – one seen at Miranda on the North Island, and two more seen at the Tasman Delta, South Island (braided river nesting area). Photo by Jeff Anderson (above).

**Turnstone** **Arenaria interpres** – one seen at Miranda on the North Island. Also known as Ruddy Turnstone.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** **Calidris acuminata** – at least 4 seen at Miranda on the North Island.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** **Calidris melanotos** – 2 seen with Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in a muddy field at Miranda on the North Island.

**Red-necked Stint** **Calidris ruficollis** – 4 seen by Ron at Miranda on the North Island.

(Far) **Eastern Curlew** **Numenius madagascariensis** – one seen at Miranda, North Island.

**Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit** **Limosa lapponica baueri** – many seen at Miranda and Foxton Estuary on the North Island. We also saw the spot where the female “E7” began her epic (approx. 7,000+ mile) journey to Alaska. Later she returned to Miranda non-stop across the Pacific.

**Arctic Skua (Parasitic Jaeger)** **Stercorarius parasiticus** – individuals seen off of both islands in a few locations.

**Brown Skua** **Catharacta skua lonnbergi** – seen twice off of Stewart Island.

(Southern) **Black-backed Gull or Kelp Gull** **Larus dominicanus dominicanus** – common on both islands.

Red-billed Gull – **Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus** – seen on both islands in various coastal locations.

*Black-billed Gull* **Larus bulleri** – seen on both islands. Prefers inland areas and braided rivers.

**Caspian Tern** **Sterna caspia** – seen on both islands especially North Island.

**White-fronted Tern** **Sterna striata** – common on both islands. Seen in various locations.

*Black-fronted Tern** **Sterna albostriata** – prefers inland areas and braided rivers on South Island. Local.

*New Zealand Pigeon** **Hemiphaga novaseelandiae** – seen on both islands in various locations including towns.

**Rock Pigeon** **Columba livia** – Introduced. Common on both islands.
Barbary Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea* – Introduced. Seen once north of Auckland. Also known as African Collared-Dove and sometimes Ringed Turtle-Dove (formerly *Streptopilia risoria*).

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis tigrina* – Introduced. Seen twice on North Island near Auckland.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita* – Introduced from Australia. Seen (and heard) on North Island at Waitakere Ranges Regional Park.

*Kea *Nestor notabilis* – We saw 3 near the entrance to the Homer Tunnel on South Island.

*Kaka *Nestor meridionalis* – we saw both the North Island subspecies *septentrionalis* at Pureora Forest Reserve and the South Island (nominate) subspecies *meridionalis* on Stewart Island and South Island.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius* – Introduced. Seen once on the North Island and a couple of times on the South Island in forest/garden/city areas.

*Yellow-crowned Parakeet – *Cyanoramphus auriceps auriceps* – seen on both islands but in smaller numbers compared to Red-crowned.

*Red-crowned Parakeet – *Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae* – seen on both islands in various locations.

Shining Cuckoo *Chrysoccocyx lucidus lucidus* – one flew across the road in front of our vehicle at Pureora Forest Reserve, North Island. A very brief look.

Long-tailed Cuckoo *Eudynamys scolopacea* – one flew right over us at Pureora Forest Reserve, North Island. Also heard.

Morepork *Ninox novaeseelandiae* – two seen on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island (North Island) and another heard on Ulva Island off of Stewart Island in the South Island region.

New Zealand Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta vagans* – seen on both islands in various locations. More often heard.

Rifleman *Acanthisitta chloris* – seen on both islands in a few locations but elusive. North Island subspecies is *granti*, and South Island subspecies is nominate *chloris*. More often heard. Our most memorable look was in the shrubs in front of the Mt. Cook Visitor Center.

*Rock Wren *Xenicus gilviventris* – two or more seen at the entrance to Homer Tunnel, South Island.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* – Introduced. Very common on both islands in open fields.

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo tahitica neoxena* – one of the most commonly seen species on both islands.

New Zealand Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae* – seen once on the North Island and once on the South Island. Uncommon.

Dunnock (Hedge Sparrow) *Prunella modularis* – Introduced. Seen well on both islands, especially on the South Island.

Blackbird *Turdus merula* – Introduced. Common on both islands especially the North Island.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* – Introduced. Common on both islands.

*North Island Fernbird *Bowdleria punctate vealeae* – seen in two locations on the North Island. Local.

*Whitehead *Mohoua albicilla* – seen in 2 locations on the North Island.

*Yellowhead *Mohoua ochrocephala* – seen and heard on Ulva Island off of Stewart Island in the South Island region. Local.

*Brown Creeper *Mohoua novaeseelandiae* – seen on Ulva Island off of Stewart Island where it is very common. Also heard along the Cascade Creek Nature Trail, South Island. Local.

*Grey Warbler *Gerygone igata* – seen on both islands especially the South Island. Common.

*Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa* – subspecies *placabilis* commonly seen on the North Island. Nominat subspecies *fuliginosa* also seen on the South Island near Mt. Cook.

*Tomtit *Petroica macrocephala* – both subspecies seen: nominate *macrocephala* on the South Island and *toitoi* on the North Island.

*New Zealand Robin *Petroica australis* – nominate subspecies *australis* seen on Ulva Island off of Stewart Island in the South Island region, and subspecies *longipes* seen in various locations on the North Island.
Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis lateralis* – common on both islands, especially North Island.

*Stitchbird* Notiomystis cincta – seen on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island off of the North Island. Photo by David Levasheff (above).

*Bellbird* Anthoris melanura melanura – common endemic on both islands even in gardens.

*Tui* Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae – common on both islands especially the North Island and Tiri Tiri Matangi Island.

Yellowhamer *Emberiza citronella* – Introduced. Common on both islands.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* – Introduced. Common on both islands.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* – Introduced. Common on both islands.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* – Introduced. Common on both islands especially North Island.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* – Introduced. Seen on South Island only in a few places. Also known as Common Redpoll.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* – Introduced. Common on both islands.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* – Introduced. Common on both islands, especially North Island. Also known as European Starling.

(Common) Myna *Acridotheres tristis* – Introduced. Common on North Island only. Also known as Indian Myna. Does not occur on the South Island (too cold).

*North Island Kokako* Callaeas cinerea wilsoni – heard in one location (Tiri Tiri Matangi Island) and 2 seen in another (Pureora Forest Reserve), both on North Island.
*Saddleback* *Philesturnus carunculatus* – nominate subspecies *carunculatus* seen on Ulva Island off of Stewart Island in the South Island region, and subspecies *rufusater* seen on Tiri Tiri Matangi Island off of the North Island.

**Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen* – Introduced. Common on both islands but we saw most of them on the North Island.

126 species including 50+ endemics

**Other species:**
New Zealand Fur Seal, Sperm Whale, Dusky Dolphin, Hector’s Dolphin, Red Deer, Elk, Brush-tailed Possum, Wallaby (roadkill), Stoat, Pygmy Right Whale (dead on beach), Common Blue, Black Mountain Ringlet, Common Copper, Boulder Canyon Copper, Red Admiral, Magpie Moth

**Additional Bird Species seen either just before or just after the main trip by members of our group:**
North Island Brown Kiwi *Apteryx australis mantelli* – Mardens Cross, Kerikeri, North Island
Okarito Brown Kiwi *Apteryx rowi* – Okarito Forest, South Island
Buller’s Shearwater *Puffinus bulleri* – North Island boat trip
White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica* – Mangawhai Heads, North Island
Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae* – Walker Park Ponds, Seaview, South Island
Banded Rail *Rallus philippensis assimilis* – Aroha Island Preserve near Kerikeri, North Island
Fairy Tern *Sterna neresis daviesae* – Mangawhai Heads, North Island
Little Owl *Athene noctua* – one seen on a fencepost on the west coast of South Island