



BIRDERS REST, KERIKERI

ACCOMMODATION & BIRDING

Our home in Kerikeri is a centre for birding in the Far North of New Zealand, about 4 hours drive north of Auckland. Our speciality is the North Island Brown Kiwi which still has a stronghold in our area.

We have quality accommodation consisting of 2 self-contained units, one with a queen bed & the other with twin beds. Both have ensuite bathroom & kitchenette, access to decks, riverside garden with native birds & heated swimming pool.

Our most regular excursion is our night tour to see North Island Brown Kiwi at a site not far from here. We also run day tours and half-day tours to look for other birds of interest such as Fernbird, Tomtit, New Zealand Dotterel, Wrybill, other shorebirds, Royal Spoonbill, New Zealand Dabchick, North Island Robin, New Zealand Pipit, Brown Teal, Weka, occasionally Australian Bittern; also terns, oystercatchers, some seabirds offshore, and a number of other commoner species.

We also run day pelagic trips from Whangaroa Harbour or the Bay of Islands when there is demand and when we can fill a boat. We have been out more than 20 times and have an impressive list of sightings including 29 tubenoses (6 species of albatross).

Prices for our various facilities are as follows:

Self-contained units (with private bathroom & kitchenette) - NZ\$170 per night including 'continental' breakfast (\$110 for singles).

Night tour for Kiwi (usually c.4 hours including half hour travel each way) - \$100 per person or \$90 for B&B guests.

Day tours in the Far North region looking for a variety of characteristic New Zealand birds (c.8 hours) - \$300 total (not per person).

Half day tours (c.5 hours) - \$180 total.

Far North bird site guide by Detlef Davies - \$25.

Day Pelagics – can be arranged when there is demand, prices depend on number of participants.

SOME ENDEMIC SPECIES IN THE FAR NORTH

NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Charadrius obscurus*)

The northern half of the North Island holds the majority of the world population of this species which is only c.2000 birds. They are frequently to be found on sandy beaches and in sand dunes in the Far North and form flocks outside the breeding season. Both sexes can be flushed rufous on the underparts when breeding.

NORTH ISLAND ROBIN (*Petroica longipes*)

Once common in native forest throughout New Zealand, the Robin disappeared from large areas through relentless predation. With good pest-control they can quickly re-establish themselves as they have done in Puketi Forest near Kerikeri and on Moturoa, Moturua and Urupukapuka in the Bay of Islands.



KOKAKO (*Callaeas cinerea*)

Like the Robin, the Kokako also disappeared from most former haunts but survived in Mataraua and Waima Forests in western Northland where they can be found with persistence; at dawn in early spring is best. Some have been returned to the remoter parts of Puketi.



WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*)

Like an outsize, flightless and bold version of the Banded Rail which has recently re-established itself on the Russell side of the Bay of Islands. It is not as shy as the Banded Rail and will appear in gardens and on roadsides where there is reasonable cover; it is not particularly a water bird.

FERNBIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*)

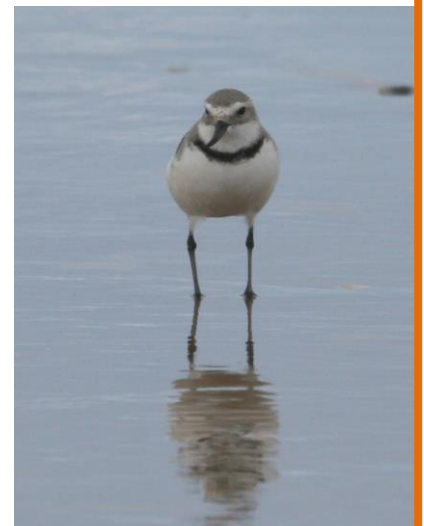
In a genus to itself, the Fernbird is a shy bird of dense marshes and rushes, usually with scattered bushes of Manuka or similar species from which it calls from cover. It is common in the Far North where there is still much suitable habitat, e.g. along rivers, inland from mangroves and around dune lakes.

BROWN TEAL (*Anas chlorotis*)

A rare duck but has survived in a few places in the Far North while almost absent from the rest of New Zealand. Like so many New Zealand birds which have suffered losses through predation, they are reluctant flyers, preferring to run from danger. The colony near Helena Bay is well known but they have been introduced to new sites where numbers are increasing.

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*)

A remarkable small shorebird with a bill which kinks to the right. Breeds on riverbeds in the South island but most fly north to estuaries and beaches in the North Island between January and August. They favour a few particular sites in our region such as Parengarenga, Kowhai Beach & Tokerau Beach.





DAY PELAGICS

From 2010 we have been out on day pelagic trips many times from Whangaroa harbour and from the Bay of Islands. The number of species seen is astonishing and the table below shows their frequency, many of these are likely to be more regular than the records show.

| | Number of trips on which species seen (out of 21) | | Number of trips on which species seen (out of 21) |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Little Penguin | 17 | Sooty Shearwater | 8 |
| Wandering Albatross | 13 | Short-tailed Shearwater | 6 |
| Northern Royal Albatross | 1 (Sept) | Buller's Shearwater | 17 |
| White-capped Albatross | 14 | Fluttering Shearwater | 21 |
| Salvin's Albatross | 2 | Hutton's Shearwater | 5 |
| Campbell Albatross | 3 | Little Shearwater | 14 |
| Buller's Albatross | 2 | Common Diving Petrel | 14 |
| Northern Giant Petrel | 5 | Wilson's Storm Petrel | 3 |
| Southern Giant Petrel | 1 (August) | White-faced Storm Petrel | 17 |
| Cape Petrel | 2 | New Zealand Storm Petrel | 12 |
| Grey-faced Petrel | 9 | Australasian Gannet | 18 |
| Kermadec Petrel | 1 (Jan) | Grey Ternlet | 2 |
| White-naped Petrel | 3 | Arctic Skua | 8 |
| Cook's Petrel | 16 | Pomarine Skua | 2 |
| Pycroft's Petrel | 10 | Brown Skua | 1 (Jan) |
| Cook's / Pycroft's Petrel | 11 | South Polar Skua | 1 (April) |
| Black-winged Petrel | 6 | Cape Barren Goose | 5 |
| Fairy Prion | 18 | Reef Heron | 3 |
| Black (Parkinson's) Petrel | 16 | Bottlenose Dolphin | 3 |
| Flesh-footed Shearwater | 17 | Common Dolphin | 7 |
| Wedge-tailed Shearwater | 1 (Jan) | Bryde's Whale | 2 |

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A Site Guide By
DETLEF DAVIES