

Plocamium cirrhosum

Washed up on the beach at Western Bay. *S.Miller*, Jan 1991, WELT A024583.

Pterocladia lucida

Only a few patches seen in Opo Bay, but abundant on the northern coast (Shears & Babcock 1984). *R.P.Bell*, Dec 1936, AK 147246; *S.Miller*, Jan 1991, WELT A023787; *M.D.Wilcox & P.B.Hutton*, Jan 2012, AK 330715.

Pterocladia capillacea

Very common in all the bays, on boulders. *R.P.Bell*, Dec 1936, AK 147264; *S.Miller*, Jan 1991, WELT A023783; *M.D.Wilcox & P.B.Hutton*, Jan 2012, AK 330716; *M.D.Wilcox*, Jan 2012, AK 330714, AK 330717.

Sarcodia montagneana

A.N.Baker, Jan 1979, WELT A010402.

Spyridia filamentosa

Washed up on the beach, and found epiphytic on *Carpophyllum plumosum* at Western Bay. *M.D.Wilcox & P.B.Hutton*, Jan 2012, AK 330720; *M.D.Wilcox*, Jan 2012, AK 330721.

Taylorophycus filiformis

A fairly common turfing seaweed in Opo Bay. *M.D.Wilcox*, Jan 2012, AK 330694-95.

Vidalia (Osmundaria) colensoi

One of the commonest red algae, found subtidally all around the island. *S.Miller*, Jan 1991, WELT A023784; *M.D.Wilcox & P.J. de Lange*, Jan 2012, AK 330693; *M.D.Wilcox & P.B.Hutton*, Jan 2012, AK 330674.

Acknowledgements

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References

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- Trevarthen, C.B. 1954: Features of the marine ecology of Little Barrier, Mayor, and Hen Islands. *Tane* 6: 34-60.
- Trevarthen, J. 1954: Algal species list for Mayor Island. *Tane* 6: 61-66.

Birds noted on ABS Trip to Tuhua (Mayor Island) 27-30 January 2012

Stella Rowe and Shelley Heiss-Dunlop

1. Land and coastal birds

North Island brown kiwi, *Apteryx mantelli*. Eleven have been introduced in three transfers of seven adults (2006) and two lots of two chicks (2008, 2011). A possible call or two heard.

Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*. Two seen on Lake Te Paritu, six on Lake Aroarotamahine.

Brown teal, *Anas chlorotis*. Two releases in 2006 and 2008. Two seen in crater.

Little shag, *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*. Fifteen seen roosting at L. Te Paritu with a few empty nests in pohutukawa above. Also one seen fishing round the coast.

Pied shag, *Phalacrocorax varius*. Three seen on a sandbank and roosting in pohutukawa at L. Te Paritu. More commonly seen around the coast.

Australasian bittern, *Botaurus poiciloptilus*. Not seen by us but three were recorded in the crater wetland in 1952 (Edwards 1955).

Swamp harrier, *Circus approximans*. One quartering low over the wetland in the crater.

New Zealand falcon, *Falco novaeseelandiae*. One seen and heard in the crater (P. de Lange, pers. comm.).

Banded rail, *Gallirallus philippensis*. One seen in crater (P. de Lange, pers. comm.).

Spotless crane, *Porzana tabuensis*. One seen in crater (P. de Lange, pers. comm.).

Southern black-backed gull, *Larus dominicanus*. Three seen at the crater lakes, and individuals on coast.

Red-billed gull, *Larus novaehollandiae*. A group of about 75 birds including newly-fledged young remained in Opo Bay during our stay.

White-fronted tern, *Sterna striata*. One seen at Omapu/Western Bay and one at Opo Bay on beach.

New Zealand pigeon, *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*. At least five seen, likely to be widely dispersed in moderate numbers.

Kaka, *Nestor meridionalis*. Widely seen and heard as they ranged over the island.

Orange-fronted parakeet, *Cyanoramphus malherbi*. Two releases, 71 birds in 2010, seven in 2011, from birds raised

in captivity in Christchurch. A number of calls were heard from the track to Wharenui Bay and a brief call heard in the crater.

Shining cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx lucidus*. One heard in the crater (P. de Lange pers. comm.).

Morepork, *Ninox novaeseelandiae*. At least two heard in Opo Bay.

New Zealand kingfisher, *Halcyon sancta*. One heard and one seen at Opo Bay.

Grey warbler, *Gerygone igata*. Widespread but not common.

Bellbird, *Anthornis melanura*. Widespread and common, and heard throughout the day. In the crater the frog chorus provided a loud bass accompaniment.

Tui, *Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*. Present but not as common as bellbird.

New Zealand fantail, *Rhipidura fuliginosa*. Only a few seen.

North Island robin, *Petroica longipes*. Widespread, commonly seen and heard. In May 2003, 42 were introduced from Mokoia Island. The transfer seems to have been a success as all birds seen were unbanded indicating successful breeding. Two of the original banded birds are still thought to be present.

Tomtit, *Petroica macrocephala*. None seen by us although they are known to be present in very low numbers (J. Heaphy pers. comm.). They are possibly being affected by the high number of robins.

Silvereye, *Zosterops lateralis*. A few noted in and around the crater.

Welcome swallow, *Hirundo neoxena*. A few at the crater lakes and around the crater rim.

Blackbird, *Turdus merula*. Three seen at Opo Bay and on Panui Peninsula.

Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*. Three seen flying across Opo Bay.

House sparrow, *Passer domesticus*. Common around buildings in Opo Bay.

Note: Although there was no evidence of petrel burrows seen by our group, John Heaphy said that there are three small colonies of perhaps no more than 20 burrows of nesting seabirds on the main island (probably grey-faced petrel, *Pterodroma macroptera*, and common diving petrel, *Pelecanoides urinatrix*) with others on off-shore stacks. These could be expected to expand now that pest mammals (cats, pigs, kiore and Norway rats) have been removed in the poison drop of May 2000.

References

- Checklist Committee (OSNZ). 2010: Checklist of the birds of New Zealand, Norfolk and Macquarie Islands, and the Ross Dependency, Antarctica. 4th ed. Te Papa Press & Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc., Wellington.
- Edwards, J.S. 1955: The Birds of Mayor Island. *Notornis* 6: 118-119.
- Onley, D.; Schofield, P. 2007: Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World. Princeton University Press.

2. Seabirds observed from the MV "Ohoere"

Little Penguin, *Eudyptula minor*. One seen in inshore waters.

Fairy prion, *Pachyptila turtur*. One seen at sea.

Black petrel, *Procellaria parkinsoni*. A possible sighting but not easily distinguished from flesh-footed shearwater at a distance.

Buller's shearwater, *Puffinus bulleri*. 10-20 seen.

Flesh-footed shearwater, *Puffinus carneipus*. After leaving Mayor Island on the return trip, four followed our boat for a short while, arcing back and forth across the wake. One landed briefly on the sea and we could see its pale legs as it pattered along the water to assist take-off. Others were seen gathered around a distant fishing boat.

Fluttering shearwater, *Puffinus gavia*. Good numbers seen rafting and fishing with red-billed gulls on the seaward side of the Whangamata islands.

White-faced storm petrel, *Pelagodroma marina*. We had good views of two close to the boat pattering the sea surface with their long dangly legs.

Common diving petrel, *Pelecanoides urinatrix*. A few seen.

Australasian gannet, *Morus serrator*. Seen diving over school fish and small groups on passage.

Southern black-backed gull and red-billed gull. A few individuals of both species seen.

3. Other

Beach wrecks: Two fluttering shearwaters at Oira/North West Bay.

One diving petrel at Omapu/Western Bay.

Two flying fish skittered along the surface close to the boat as we approached the island.

Tuatara were released in 2007 and there are four, possibly five species of lizard on the island (J. Heaphy, pers. comm.).

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