

Petroicidae**B A South Island Tomtit** *Petroica macrocephala macrocephala* LC E

B	A
D	E
G	C
F	

 ALTERNATIVE NAMES Miromiro (NI), Ngiru-ngiru | L 13cm Wt 11g

Very small, *dumpy*, black and white, *short-tailed* forest bird. Adult male (A) *all-black head, neck, upper breast and upperparts, small white dot at base of upper mandible*. White flashes on wings and outer tail feathers visible in flight. *Lower breast bright lemon yellow, often almost orange where it meets black upper breast, and fading to pale yellow on belly*. Bill fine and black, iris black, legs black, feet orange-brown. Adult female (B) as male but brown upperparts, *pale lemon-buff breast, white underparts*. Immature male as adult but lacks white at base of bill and breast only faintly yellow, black less intense. Immature female like pale version of adult. **VOICE/CALL** Male song loud and musical *ti-oli-oli-oli-oh*, call a short, high-pitched *swee*, female a reedy *seet*. **BREEDING** Nest built in a hole in a tree, or in a thick tangle of vines. Up to 6 cream-coloured eggs with brown-purple spots laid September–January, hatching after 2.5 weeks, young fledge after 2.5–3 weeks. Pairs may raise up to 3 broods in a season. **FEEDING** Mainly invertebrates, insects, spiders, earthworms, but some fruit, especially in autumn. **P&R** Throughout SI, including native and exotic forests, but absent from grassland areas, both natural and industrial. **T&M** Loss of habitat is a major threat, as is predation by the many alien mammalian pests, especially Stoats, possums and rats. **BV** Native bush throughout SI and Stewart I.



There are 4 other subspecies of tomtit: **North Island Tomtit** (C) *P. m. toitoi*, or Miromiro, is found only on NI and its offshore islands. It is very similar to the South Island Tomtit, but the male has an all-white lower breast and belly. It is found throughout NI where there is native bush and occasionally in mature exotic plantations. **Chatham Island Tomtit** (D - female, E - male) *P. m. chathamensis* is found only Mangere, Little Mangere, Pitt and South East islands in the Chatham Is, while the **Auckland Island Tomtit** (F) *P. m. marrineri* is found only in the Auckland Is. Both resemble South Island Tomtit. **Snares Island Tomtit** (G) *P. m. danneferdi* is found only in the Snares Is; it is the largest of the subspecies and is all black, with the immature being slightly browner.

Black Robin *Petroica traversi* ENE

 L 15cm Wt (M) 25g (F) 22g

Very small, upright, all-black bush bird. Adults *all black* with fine black bill, iris dark brown, legs black, or brownish. Immature similar but with some paler streaking on forehead, crown and underparts. **VOICE/CALL** A series of clear liquid notes. **BREEDING** Nest in cavity in stump, among rocks, or in dense foliage. 2, occasionally 3 purple-brown-blotched, cream-coloured eggs laid October–December, hatching after 2.5 weeks, young fledge after 3 weeks. Generally re-lay only if clutch lost. **FEEDING** Entirely invertebrates, taken while foraging on forest floor or from low branches. **P&R** 150–200, found only on Mangere and South East islands in the Chatham Is. **T&M** Driven almost to extinction by the 1970s due to habitat loss and predation by rats and cats. Population of just 5 birds in 1979–81, including only 1 productive female, Old Blue, from whom all today's Black Robins are descended. Subject to a continuing monitoring and protection programme. **BV** Chatham Is, with special permission as the 2 islands occupied are reserves.

