**Petroicidae**

**South Island Tomtit** Petroica macrocephala macrocephala  
**LC E**

**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, 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 seeet.

**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. dannefaerdi 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  
**EN E**

**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.
Petroicidae
South Island Tomtit
Petroica macrocephala macrocephala
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**alternative names**
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**Voice/call**
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**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**
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