**NEW ZEALAND WRENES**

All 4 species; family endemic to New Zealand

1. *The Stephens Island Wren* (Tornosia jaillii) became extinct in 1894; 1 is probably extinct, and 2 remain.

285. **ROCK WREN** *Xenicus glisventris*

**New Zealand Wrens**

The New Zealand wrens are an ancient family of tiny birds with no close affinity to other groups of birds. They have short, rounded wings and a very short tail. Females are larger than males.

**Acanthisittidae**

The female selects the nest site, but both birds work together to excavate a hollow in a bank or crevice, or use a soft-covered ledge for the nest. The large enclosed nest has an entrance tunnel in the side. It is made of tussocks and grasses, and is lined with feathers. During the week of nest-building and the next 5 days after eggs are laid, the female is frequently fed by the male. The first clutch is laid from mid-October to mid-November, but replacement clutches are laid at intervals of 20 days. The chicks, which hatch over 1–3 days, are brooded throughout the fledging period of 22–24 days. "Fledglings" are only brooded about 40% of daylight hours by both parents, but almost continually by the female. Parents feed the chicks until they are 2 days old. Juvenile forms first pair in the summer they are hatch and then breed when 11 months old. The oldest bird recorded lived at least 8 years.

**Behaviour:** Parrots remain on territory all year and, unlike the Rifleman, there is no indication that they have helpers at their nests. They have quite weak flight and bob their bodies on taking flight. Accompaniments display involves bobbing and wing flicking. The main calls are a high-pitched and car-crying three-cove call, with the first note being accentuated, and a "whirring" call. Chicks sometimes duet. "Feeding" Diet is mainly invertebrates, especially beetles, spiders, centipedes, caterpillars, flies and larvae of moths and caddisflies, and Cyanophila and Guillaumes fruit and grass seeds are also eaten.