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Bellbird: pp 188-189.

**Bellbird** (Korimako, Makomako) *Anthornis melanura melanura* (Sparrman 1786), Endemic  
3/4/1773 Dusky Sound, Fiordland

One of the most famous quotes in New Zealand history is Sir Joseph Bank's description of bellbird song in Queen Charlotte Sound on 17/1/1770. Their song was "certainly the most melodious wild musick I have ever heard, almost imitating small bells, but with the most tuneable silver sound imaginable".

Forster & Sparrman first collected the Bellbird in April 1773 on Cook's second voyage (Hoare 1982). Latham described the Bellbird or "Mocking Creeper" in 1782. Sparrman gave the binomial in 1786. No type specimen exists, and the type locality was mistakenly given as the Cape of Good Hope. Mislabelling of specimens was commonplace in earlier times (Rasmussen & Prys-Jones 2003). The type specimen was in the Leverian Museum, but was subsequently lost (Bartle 1993).

**Three Kings Bellbird** *Anthornis melanura obscura* Falla 1948, Endemic  
1948 Three Kings Islands

Cheeseman saw this bellbird in August 1887. Specimens collected on the Will Watch expedition in February 1934 were described by Falla (1948).

**Poor Knights Bellbird** *Anthornis melanura oneho* Bartle & Sagar 1987, Endemic  
1987 Poor Knights Islands

It differs from other subspecies by the adult males having blue ("Hyacinth Blue") heads, as opposed to the Manganese Violet colour of other races. L. Cockayne in 1906 was apparently the first naturalist to visit these islands, but only made notes on their botany. When R.A. Falla discovered Buller's Shearwater nesting on these islands in 1922, he was possibly the first to note this Bellbird, which is remarkably abundant here.

