Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
Based on: Watola, G. 2009. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (2nd Edition)
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.
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South Island piopio: pp 217-218.

South Island Piopio *Turnagra capensis capensis* (Sparrman 1787), Endemic 4/4/1773 Dusky Sound, Fiordland

Anders Sparrman collected this species, but mixed up his specimens and mistakenly thought it had been obtained in South Africa. Hence the specific name is *capensis*. George Forster painted it and named it *Turdus crassirostris* (Hoare 1982). It was last recorded in 1921. Everywhere abundant and ridiculously tame, they succumbed to introduced predators and were gone by 1902.

Stephens Island Piopio *Turnagra capensis minor* J.H. Fleming 1915, Endemic 1915 Stephens Island, Cook Strait

Medway (2004) reinstated this subspecies after receiving advice from K.C. Parkes (in 1966). The Stephens Island race was a more rufescent bird than the nominate race. Fleming (1953) placed this subspecies on the suspense list, presumably because of a lack of reference material. Oliver referred to it as a smaller subspecies. Subsequent Checklists either ignored it or synonymised it. It was said to be numerous in 1894, and a specimen was collected in January 1897. It had died out by 1898, killed by cats.

Piopios are orioles that colonized New Zealand 20mya from Australia (Johansson, Pasquet & Irestedt 2011).