Day 1 - 7 March 2019
Depart USA

Day 2 - 8 March 2019
Travelling

Day 3 - 9 March 2019

Arrive Auckland, New Zealand, travel to the world’s first marine reserve at Goat Island. Receive an introduction to New Zealand wildlife, conservation and restoration of endemic species. Take a cruise along the coastline encountering a host of native coastal and sea birds. Spend time in the marine reserve and discuss the recovery of all main species - marine vegetation, animal and bird life.

Stay at Matakana Motel. (D)

Day 4 - 10 March 2019

Take ferry to Tiritiri Matangi island, for 6 hours in a highly successful island native bird sanctuary. Have free time to explore the islands regenerated native forest and coastal alcoves. Encounter a host of rare and endangered birds of New Zealand in their natural habitat.

Return to Matakana. (B,L)
Day 5 - 11 March 2019
Visit Muriwai Beach & gannet colony on the cliffs of the Tasman Sea. Travel on to the estuaries at Miranda shore birds. Walk quietly near populations of various wading birds. Some, like the Bar tailed Godwit (Kuaka), are flocking in preparation for their migration back to Alaska. Visit Karangahake gorge for a vista of natural New Zealand and on to Tauranga.
Stay at Calais Apartments at Mount Maunganui. (B,D)

Day 6 - 12 March 2019
McLaren Falls Park and ancient rainforests, Service Learning, Maori interaction and their focus on stewardship of environment. Christian efforts restoring the environment and meeting local people. Visit Sanctuary Park and see how USA college students have completed habitat restoration under the mantle of Creation Care. Evening meal with Lifezone Church members.
Return to Calais Apartments. (B)

Day 7 - 13 March 2019
Visit Kaituna wetland restoration project. Meet a researcher studying the endangered endemic Bittern (Matuku). Take a guided tour to see how Kuaka NZ is restoring the natural habitat that the Matuku needs for survival. Evening of Maori culture: Te Po – Maori traditional welcome to New Zealand, cultural performance, traditional hangi feast and then a guided tour of the geothermal park and the famous Pohutu geyser in the evening.
Stay at Holiday Inn Hotel in Rotorua. (D)

Day 8 - 14 March 2019
Visit Kiwi Encounter to be guided through project Nest Egg - the recovery of the Kiwi Bird. Get an up close view of other endemic bird species that are most difficult to view in the wild. Transfer to Mainland Island reserve and meet the Christian scientists leading the restoration. Lunch together.
Transfer to Auckland airport and take flight to Dunedin.
Stay in Wains Hotel in Dunedin. (B,L)

Day 9 - 15 March 2019
Discussions with Otago University lecturer on endemic coastal birds. Elms Wildlife Tours guided private tour along the Otago Peninsula coast. Visit an Albatross colony, then a Yellow Eyed Penguin conservation area plus Little Blue Penguins, Hookers seals and other features of the wild coast. Final dinner together in Dunedin.
Return to Wains Hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 10 - 16 March 2019
Fly Dunedin / Christchurch or Auckland / USA (B) or continue discovering New Zealand

Day 11 - 17 March 2019
Return home
Kuaka is the Maori name for the Bar Tailed Godwit, a bird who migrates every year between Alaska & New Zealand. We have been given the name *Kuaka* by local Maori people because our visitors are likened to the Kuaka — as they also travel across the hemispheres to nourish themselves, before returning home.