

# AUSTRALIA: FROM THE WET TROPICS TO THE OUTBACK CUSTOM TOUR TRIP REPORT

4 - 20 OCTOBER 2018

**By Andy Walker** 



We enjoyed excellent views of Little Kingfisher during the tour.



#### **Overview**

This 17-day customized Australia group tour commenced in Cairns, Queensland, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 and concluded in Melbourne, Victoria, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2018. The tour included a circuit around the Atherton Tablelands and surroundings from Cairns, a boat trip along the Daintree River, and a boat trip to the Great Barrier Reef (with snorkeling), a visit to the world-famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat in southern Queensland after a short flight to Brisbane, and rounded off with a circuit from Melbourne around the southern state of Victoria (and a brief but rewarding venture into southern New South Wales). The tour connected with many exciting birds and yielded a long list of eastern Australian birding specialties.

Highlights of our time in Far North Queensland on the Cairns circuit included Southern Cassowary (a close male with chick in perfect light), hundreds of Magpie Geese, Raja Shelduck with young, Green and Cotton Pygmy Geese, Australian Brushturkey, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Brown Quail, Squatter Pigeon, Wompoo, Superb, and perfect prolonged dawnlight views of stunning Rose-crowned Fruit Doves, displaying Australian Bustard, two nesting Papuan Frogmouths, White-browed Crake, Bush and Beach Stone-curlews (the latter with chicks), Comb-crested Jacana, Bridled and Black-naped Terns with thousands of nesting Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies on a sand cay on the Great Barrier Reef, Black-necked Stork, Great Frigatebird, Black-breasted Buzzard (an unexpected local rarity), displaying Pacific Baza, Grey Goshawk, White-bellied Sea Eagle, two Little Kingfishers sitting together, Azure Kingfisher, Laughing and Blue-winged Kookaburras, Rainbow Bee-eater, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, fig-eating and perched Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Spotted Catbird, displaying Tooth-billed and Great Bowerbirds, Bridled and Macleay's Honeyeaters, Fernwren, Atherton Scrubwren, Mountain Thornbill, very close-up Chowchilla, Yellowbreasted Boatbill, Black Butcherbird, a dozen fruit-feeding Barred Cuckooshrikes, Whitewinged and Varied Trillers, confiding Bower's and Little Shrikethrushes, White-eared, Pied, Black-faced, and Spectacled Monarchs, nearly-displaying Victoria's Riflebird on song perch, Pale Yellow, Mangrove, Grey-headed, and White-browed Robins, Crimson and Doublebarred Finches, and numerous gorgeous Chestnut-breasted Mannikins.

Highlights of our brief trip from Brisbane included White-headed, Topknot, and Wonga Pigeons, Baillon's and Spotless Crakes, Red-necked Avocet, adult and immature Black-necked Storks, a pair of nesting White-bellied Sea Eagles, Torresian Kingfisher, close views of feeding Glossy Black Cockatoos, very friendly Australian King Parrots and Crimson Rosellas, as well as Pale-headed and Eastern Rosellas, Little Lorikeet, Albert's Lyrebird making us work at first before giving incredible views, Green Catbird, very showy Regent and Satin Bowerbirds, gorgeous, tiny, and very colorful Variegated, Superb, and Red-backed Fairywrens, Mangrove Gerygone (plain but with a beautiful song), comical foraging Australian Logrunner, explosive-singing Eastern Whipbird, displaying Tawny Grassbird, ubiquitous Eastern Yellow Robin, and Bassian and Russet-tailed Thrushes, the latter found on its nest.

Finally, highlights of our circuit around Victoria (with a brief sortie into New South Wales) included **Emu**, **Cape Barren Goose**, **Freckled Duck**, the bizarre and huge **Musk Duck**, highly-prized **Malleefowl**, nesting **Tawny Frogmouth**, three **Australian Owlet-nightjars**, two large flocks of **Black-tailed Nativehens**, nesting **Brolga**, **Banded Stilt**, **Banded Lapwing**, beachnesting **Hooded Plover**, magical views of the rare **Inland Dotterel** and male **Plains-wanderer** on



a night drive, very close views of Little Penguin, numerous Shy Albatrosses and a vagrant Buller's Albatross, Nankeen Night Heron, Little and Wedge-tailed Eagles, Powerful Owl, Southern Boobook, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, the gorgeous Major Mitchell's Cockatoo crest-flashing, numerous colorful parrots including Superb, Regent, Mulga, Blue-winged, and Turquoise Parrots, Superb Lyrebird, Mallee and Southern Emu-wrens, Striated Grasswren, some very popular Purple-backed, Splendid, and White-winged Fairywrens, dozens of honeyeaters, the secretive Pilotbird, Crested Shriketit, Olive and Gilbert's Whistlers, definitely twelve Apostlebirds, White-winged Chough, Red-capped, Flame, Rose, and Pink Robins providing yet more color, Southern Scrub Robin, White-backed Swallow, Little Grassbird, Diamond Firetail, and Zebra and Double-barred Finches.

A total of 390 bird species were seen (plus five species heard only), along with an impressive list of other animals, including Platypus, Short-beaked Echidna, Koala, Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo, Red, Western, and Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Green Ringtail Possum, Striped Possum, (Southern) Greater Glider, Sugar Glider, Saltwater Crocodile, and Green Turtle.

Full species lists are provided at the end of this report.



Platypus showed incredibly well at dusk in Queensland.



#### **Detailed Report**

## Day 0, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. Pre-tour arrival in Cairns

The group of eight arrived during the day before of the start of the tour the following morning with time spent at leisure.

## Day 1, 4th October 2018. Cairns

The morning was spent birding around the Cairns Botanical Garden and Centenary Lakes. As it was our first day birding in the country we enjoyed all the birds seen, including all of the common birds that we'd become very familiar with over the coming weeks, as well as a selection of very special, much scarcer birds. As we walked around the small waterbodies we found Australian Pelican, Australian White Ibis, Pacific Black Duck, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Australian Brushturkey, and our first Laughing Kookaburra of the trip, along with Olive-backed Sunbird, Torresian Imperial Pigeon, Australian Swiftlet, White-breasted Woodswallow, Australian Figbird, the gorgeous and abundant Rainbow Lorikeet, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Green Oriole, Spangled Drongo, Yellow Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, Rainbow Bee-eater, and 'Gould's' Little Bronze Cuckoo. However, the best birds of our time here were quite easily the pair of Little Kingfishers that gave exceptional views, followed by a Grey Goshawk, which flew gracefully overhead before landing in full view for a few moments, allowing close study in the Swarovski ATX-95 telescope, several pairs of Black Butcherbirds, a family group of the local Raja Shelducks, and a pair of Bush Stone-curlews with two young. It was certainly a fun morning to get the tour list going with some very colorful and interesting species.

After a very nice café lunch back in Cairns we ambled across to the world-famous Cairns Esplanade, where we enjoyed watching the huge day roosts of **Spectacled Flying Fox** (including many with babies). We then spent a couple of hours watching the beach as the tide came in, pushing 18 species of shorebird into very close range. The highlight here (although only a flyby) was a pair of huge **Beach Stone-curlews**, an often tricky species to find. The many shorebirds included **Terek Sandpiper**, **Grey-tailed Tattler**, **Great Knot**, **Broad-billed Sandpiper**, **Red-necked Stint**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Far Eastern Curlew**, **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Common Greenshank**, **Lesser** and **Greater Sand Plovers**, and **Black-fronted Dotterel**. **Silver Gulls**, **Australian Pelicans**, and **Gull-billed Terns** were numerous along the beach, and **Eastern Osprey**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Welcome Swallow**, and **Varied Honeyeater** were noted too.

As the tide continued to come in we decided to take a rest for the last hour or so of the afternoon with time to reflect on the many wonderful and new birds seen during the day.

## Day 2, 5th October 2018. The Great Barrier Reef

After breakfast we headed out of Cairns by boat to the Great Barrier Reef. As we waited to depart the marina we saw our first **Pacific Reef Heron**, **Striated Heron**, and **Greater Crested Terns** of the tour. After an hour or so at sea (with some brief glimpses of **Common Bottlenose Dolphins**) we arrived at Michaelmas Cay, a fantastic sight with crystal-clear seas and the sound of thousands of terns resonating around. After an introduction to the area we landed on the cay, where we were greeted by a pair of **Brown Boobies** and several **Great Frigatebirds** right on the edge of the beach,



both giving great, close views. We spent some time looking through the many **Sooty Terns**, picking out several **Bridled Terns**, and we scoured the thousands of **Brown Noddies** in the hope of seeing **Black Noddy**, but it wasn't to be today (the one seen briefly during a safety briefing vanishing before the group could be gathered). **Greater Crested Terns** and **Lesser Crested Terns** were plentiful and gave good comparison views as they sat close to each other. A pair of **Black-naped Terns** was a nice sight too. **Ruddy Turnstone** was the only shorebird noted on the island, but it did show well.



Great Frigatebird resting on the cay with hundreds of Sooty Terns, Brown Noddies, and Brown Boobies in the background

Our trip to the Great Barrier Reef was not solely about birds, however, and it would be a great shame not to venture into the water, so we all enjoyed a couple of fun snorkeling sessions and trips over the reef in a glass-bottomed boat around Michaelmas Cay and Hastings Reef, and in doing so we found **Green Turtle**, **Manta Ray**, and **Tawny Nurse Shark**, along with hundreds of species of stunningly beautiful fish. It is always a magnificent sight underwater here with some amazing corals too, of course. As always the team on the boat were exemplary and made this a fun and enjoyable trip.

After finishing the reef trip we headed back to Cairns, collected our bags and local guide Ben, and headed south to Innisfail for the night, seeing our first **Straw-necked Ibis**, **White-necked Heron**, **Fairy Martin**, and **Black Kites** along the way.



## Day 3, 6th October 2018. Innisfail to Yungaburra and the Atherton Tablelands

Today was sure to rank as one of the best days of the tour. We found **Southern Cassowary** along the coast near Innisfail (an adult male and chick), with **Rose-crowned** and **Superb Fruit Doves**, **Barred Cuckooshrike**, **Metallic Starling**, **Spangled Drongo**, and **Double-eyed Fig Parrot** also in attendance here. As we headed to the Atherton Tablelands we found **Satin Bowerbird**, **Victoria's Riflebird** (a member of the much-sought birds-of-paradise family), **Grey Whistler**, and **Bower's Shrikethrush**, along with several other species.

After lunch we stopped at Hasties Swamp National Park near Atherton, where we enjoyed a couple of hours watching the water, getting plenty of new trip birds. Plumed Whistling Ducks were plentiful, as were Pink-eared Ducks. Also present were Grey Teal, Hardhead, and Maned Duck. We found a couple of Latham's Snipes, Marsh Sandpiper, Red-kneed Dotterel, and Black-fronted Dotterel. Buff-banded Rail was present but distant. Whistling Kites were present here, as was Nankeen Kestrel, Australian Swamphen, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Macleay's Honeyeater, Little Shrikethrush, and Chestnut-breasted Mannikin.



A male **Southern Cassowary** with his chick appeared along the side of the road, where they gave us some incredible views as they walked right by us and into the forest, where they vanished.

As the afternoon wore on we stopped at a river, where we found our first **Platypus** of the trip, with fantastic views having had in the end. We were also distracted from our platypus views by **Sarus** Crane, Varied Triller, Pacific Baza, Red-backed Fairywren, Scarlet Myzomela, Whitecheeked Honeyeater, Spectacled Monarch, and Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

After dinner we ventured out near our accommodation and had a brief but great mammal-watching drive and walk, during which we struck gold and found the rare and secretive **Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo**. We also saw **Green Ringtail Possum**, the copper form of **Common Brushtail** 



**Possum** (sometimes split into its own species, "Copper Brushtail Possum"), **Striped Possum**, **Sugar Glider**, **White-tailed Rat**, and **Eastern Barn Owl**. It was a very long day, but it was incredibly rewarding.

## Day 4, 7th October 2018. Atherton Tablelands to Julatten

After breakfast we spent a few hours birding around Lake Eacham, where we had excellent views of a male Victoria's Riflebird on a display perch. Although he didn't go into display mode (the females were all busy feeding) he did do a few stretches and vocalizations, which was great to see (check out the Birding Ecotours YouTube page for some video of this). Here we also enjoyed seeing Spotted Catbird, Wompoo Fruit Dove, Grey-headed Robin, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Brown Cuckoo Dove, Australian Golden Whistler, Double-toothed Bowerbird (including a male bringing a fresh leaf to his bower), Pale-headed Rosella, Pale Yellow Robin, and Spectacled Monarch.

Our next stops included Lake Barrine, The Curtain Fig Tree, and Yungaburra, where we found Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Topknot Pigeon, Sarus Crane, and many of the aforementioned species, along with Musky Rat Kangaroo, Saw-shelled Turtle, and Boyd's Forest Dragon.

After lunch we headed north, adding Little Red Flying Fox, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Great Bowerbird, White-browed Robin, White-eared Monarch, Bar-shouldered Dove, Graceful, Yellow, and Brown-backed Honeyeaters, Rufous Whistler, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Redwinged Parrot, Little Friarbird, and Double-barred Finch. We also were able to watch a mob of very relaxed Eastern Grey Kangaroos, which was a real treat.

In the midafternoon we arrived at our accommodation for the next two nights, the wonderful Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge. Here we spent the last hours of the day watching Metallic Starling, Red-browed Finch, Spectacled Monarch, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Pale Yellow Robin, Australasian Brushturkey, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, and Macleay's Honeyeater outside our rooms. A night walk around the property was quiet, but we did see Eastern Barn Owl and Red-legged Pademelon.

#### Day 5, 8th October 2018. Kingfisher Park and the Mount Lewis area

Some of the group were awakened in the early hours by a vocal **Lesser Sooty Owl** outside the rooms!

A pre-breakfast birding session near to Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge with local guide Carol provided plenty of new and exciting birds, one of the best being the first bird we saw, a beautiful female Black-necked Stork, soon followed by Cotton Pygmy Goose, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, Wandering Whistling Duck, Comb-crested Jacana, Little Egret, Red-backed Fairywren, and Golden-headed Cisticola. A fruiting fig tree gave us our first perched views of the diminutive Double-eyed Fig Parrot. It was great to be able to watch the bird for a prolonged period while it fed. There were lots of pigeons and doves present, such as Superb Fruit Dove (very shy with a brief view but lots of vocalizations), Topknot Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Torresian Imperial Pigeon, and Pacific Emerald Dove.

After a delicious breakfast we headed to Mount Lewis National Park, gaining some elevation. Here the birds changed slightly, and we found several new and restricted-range species, such as



Fernwren, Chowchilla, Atherton Scrubwren, Mountain Thornbill, Bridled Honeyeater, Grey Fantail (the local subspecies), Spotted Catbird, Victoria's Riflebird, Bower's Shrikethrush, and Grey-headed Robin. Other more widespread species seen included Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Australian Golden Whistler, Lewin's Honeyeater, Mistletoebird, and Rainbow Bee-eater.

After a wonderful lunch, where we sat relaxing and watching Macleay's Honeyeater, Redbrowed Finch, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Australian Brushturkey, and Bar-shouldered Dove, we headed down the mountain to the dry areas of Mount Molloy and Mount Carbine, where we found some excellent birds, the best of them being an unexpected Black-breasted Buzzard as we were watching a displaying Australian Bustard! Other high-quality birds included Squatter Pigeon, Red-winged Parrot, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Great Bowerbird, Brown Quail, White-winged Triller, Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, and Brown Falcon.

### Day 6, 9th October 2018. Daintree River cruise and travel to Cairns

We departed the excellent Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge early in the morning in time to make our dawn boat trip along the Daintree River with local boatman Murray. We had lots of great birds during our two-hour cruise, with the two nesting **Papuan Frogmouths** being very high up the list of favorite birds. Other quality was provided by **White-browed Crake**, **Azure Kingfisher**, **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, **Raja Shelduck**, **Pacific Koel**, **Shining Flycatcher**, **Pied Monarch**, and excellent views of **Green Oriole** feeding at eye-level. It wasn't all about the birds, though, as we were all very impressed by the four **Common** (Green) **Tree Snakes** and a four-meter-long **Saltwater Crocodile** we saw along the river.



It was great to see two pairs of nesting **Papuan Frogmouths** while on the river cruise.



After the conclusion of our boat trip we started our journey back toward Cairns. Stops along the way gave us good views of Crimson Finch, Little Tern, Wandering Whistling Duck, Green Pygmy Goose, Latham's Snipe, Black Butcherbird, Rufous Fantail, Grey Whistler, and White-eared Monarch. Our final bird of this circuit out of Cairns was a very obliging Mangrove Robin, which showed extremely well close to our hotel.

We said goodbye and a huge thank you to local guide and driver Ben and grabbed an early night in anticipation of our early start the following morning.

## Day 7, 10th October 2018. Flight to Brisbane and travel to Lamington National Park

We had a very early departure from Cairns for our two-hour flight to Brisbane, where we arrived around 8 a.m. We then spent a few hours birding around Brisbane before we headed south to Lamington National Park and the world-famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, where we arrived in the midafternoon. Our birding around Brisbane yielded several new species, the best of which being sightings of both the secretive **Spotless Crake** and **Baillon's Crake** and the equally furtive **Brown Quail**. We also had great looks at **Mangrove Gerygone**, **Torresian Kingfisher**, **Rednecked Avocet**, **Pied Stilt**, **Variegated**, **Superb**, and **Red-backed Fairywrens**, **Tawny Grassbird**, **Striped Honeyeater**, **Grey Shrikethrush**, **Eastern Osprey** (with young on a nest), **Pheasant Coucal**, **Torresian Crow**, and a few new species of wildfowl such as **Black Swan**, **Chestnut Teal**, and **Dusky Moorhen**, as well as further looks at several species we'd started to become familiar with. We also saw a few impressive **Eastern Water Dragons**.

As we drove up to O'Reilly's we found our first **Whiptail Wallaby**, and a stop for the interesting and ever-vocal **Bell Miner** fortuitously yielded a pair of the rare and secretive **Glossy Black Cockatoos** to much delight!

After a brief rest after checking into our rooms we took an hour's walk around the lodge car park. Here new birds were literally all around us, and it was hard to know where to look! Crimson Rosella, Australian King Parrot, Satin Bowerbird, Regent Bowerbird, Wonga Pigeon, Australian Logrunner, Eastern Whipbird, Eastern Yellow Robin, Eastern Spinebill, Pied Currawong, White-browed Scrubwren, and Brown Thornbill all vied for our attention We also improved our views of Superb Fairywren from earlier in the day with two dazzling males hopping about on the lawn, soon followed by a Red-necked Pademelon. A short while later we called it a day because of a huge thunderstorm, which was impressive to watch and listen to but did unfortunately prevent any night walk, although a Common Brushtail Possum was near the dining room.

## Day 8, 11th October 2018. Full day O'Reilly's and Lamington National Park

The weather really did not help with strong wind, cold temperatures, and occasional heavy rain and drizzle as we spent the full day birding around O'Reilly's and Lamington National Park. However, that said we still found some good birds, it was just harder than usual. Top of the bill went to the local and rare **Albert's Lyrebird**. which we eventually located after a lot of walking around on the various trail systems. We also saw several **Green Catbirds**, the best views being of four birds feeding in a fruiting tree with a couple of **Topknot Pigeons**. One of the best finds of the day was a nesting pair of **Bassian Thrushes**, a beautiful, cryptically-plumaged bird. We also had some fantastic views of **Australian Logrunner**, with several pairs feeding practically at our feet!





The **Regent Bowerbird** is simply stunning!

The usual spectacular and showy birds were everywhere too, like Regent Bowerbird, Satin Bowerbird, Crimson Rosella, Australian King Parrot, Eastern Yellow Robin, Australian Golden Whistler, Eastern Whipbird, etc.

Unfortunately the wind and rain continued into the night and prevented a night walk. However, we did see **Red-legged** and **Red-necked Pademelons** during the day on our walks.

#### Day 9, 12th October 2018. O'Reilly's and Lamington National Park, flight to Melbourne

We had time for a few hours' pre-breakfast birding from O'Reilly's, during which we saw two **Albert's Lyrebirds** (the same individual as the previous day and a different bird – a young male). One of the first species we saw was a pair of **Russet-tailed Thrushes**, and a short while later, on a different trail, we again saw the pair of **Bassian Thrushes** we had found nesting the previous day. So it was great to be able to compare these two species within half an hour or so of each other. We had a few more **Australian Logrunners**, **Green Catbirds**, **Regent Bowerbirds**, **Satin Bowerbirds**, and the usual showy suspects, but both **Noisy Pitta** and **Paradise Riflebird** remained 'heard only' in the continuing poor, windy weather.

After a late breakfast we checked out of the wonderful O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat (you could easily spend a week here and not get bored). We made our way off the mountain, stopping briefly for a wine-tasting session at O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards. As well as sampling some very nice red wines we saw our first **Galahs** and had further looks at **Scaly-breasted Lorikeet**, **Little Friarbird**, **Australian Magpie**, and **Straw-necked Ibis**.



As we continued toward the airport a brief stop at a dam near Tamborine yielded over 30 species! A pair of **White-bellied Sea Eagles** were the reason for the stop, but this led us to seeing an adult and an immature **Black-necked Stork**, **Little**, **Scaly-breasted**, and **Rainbow Lorikeets**, **Little Corella**, **Eastern** and **Pale-headed Rosellas**, and **Pied Butcherbird**. Not bad for 15 minutes!

After a stress-free check-in for our flight to Melbourne we had lunch and passed through security. We arrived in Melbourne in the early evening and made our way the short distance to our hotel for the night, ready to set off on our circuit of Victoria the following day.

## Day 10, 13th October 2018. Melbourne to Airey's Inlet

We met up with our local guide Simon after breakfast and set off for our circuit around Victoria. It was a great (if somewhat breezy) day, and we recorded 112 species (without even going full tilt!). Our first stop was in Eynesbury, to the west of Melbourne, where we found the rare and local Freckled Duck. Here we also had our first proper looks at Tree Martin, Little Eagle, Galah, Eastern Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, Little Grassbird, Brown Treecreeper, Red Wattlebird, White-plumed Honeyeater, Dusky Woodswallow, Little Raven, Common Blackbird, European Goldfinch, the delightful Diamond Firetail, and a few Purple-crowned Lorikeets. We then headed in to the You Yangs, where we encountered a pair of Tawny Frogmouths sitting near to a recently-failed nesting attempt as well as our first Spotted Pardalote and Weebill (Australia's smallest bird) of the trip. A final stop before lunch in Lara yielded the local Cape Barren Goose, along with Yellow-rumped Thornbill at a nest, and a couple of introduced species: the very local Eurasian Tree Sparrow, and the somewhat-more-widespread European Greenfinch.

After lunch we headed to the coast at Avalon Beach. Here we found the local endemic **Banded Stilt** (along with **Pied Stilt** and **Red-necked Avocet**). Other shorebirds included our first **Pied Oystercatcher** along with **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, and **Red-necked Stint**. Other new birds here included **Australian Crake**, **Pacific Gull** (one of the best gulls in the world!), **Swamp Harrier**, and displaying **Eurasian Skylark**.

As we moved west along the Great Ocean Road we saw a small flock of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos flying across the famous route. A couple of nearby stops gave us plenty to look at, including Hoary-headed Grebe, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, White-throated Treecreeper, Little Wattlebird, New Holland, Brown-headed, White-eared, and White-naped Honeyeaters, Striated Pardalote, Bassian Thrush, Varied Sittella, Eastern Yellow Robin, and a lovely male Crested Shriketit in the perfect evening sunshine. Our final stop of the day in a small area of very picturesque heathland gave us our final two new birds of a day full of new birds, Southern Emu-wren and Striated Fieldwren.

## Day 11, 14th October 2018. Airey's Inlet to central Victoria

We packed a lot in during a long day but were handsomely rewarded with some really great birds. Our first stop, just down the road from where we were staying, was for the local **Rufous Bristlebird**, of which we got some excellent views. A sea watch here was very rewarding with some lucky people getting a close fly-by **Buller's Albatross!** We all also got to see **Shy Albatross** and **Australasian Gannet**. Other prized species here included **Blue-winged Parrot**, **Singing Honeyeater**, and **Grey Currawong**.





**Rufous Bristlebird** is from an ancient lineage of passerines and is a member of an Australianendemic family; it is very locally distributed in southern Australia and also has a beautiful song.

After breakfast we headed a short distance to the east, where we were soon watching even more **Shy Albatrosses** close offshore, but also our main target bird, the rare endemic **Hooded Dotterel**. Other species included **Caspian** and **Greater Crested Terns**. It was great to see the nesting dotterels, and we just hope that they survive the many pressures of beach life in Australia.

While heading back west along the Great Ocean Road a brief stop gave us our first **Australian Pied Cormorant**, and then a short while later we were watching a **Koala**. Unfortunately it wasn't doing an awful lot (they are generally nocturnal), but it was still nice to be able to see one in the wild.

After a rather nice lunch in a small village we continued our journey north, away from the coast. A stop in Ballarat gave our day lists a boost with lots of wildfowl, which included a couple of surprises in Magpie Goose, Blue-billed Duck, Pink-eared Duck, and Swamp Harrier. A stop along a river provided us the rare opportunity to see the wonderful Powerful Owl, and here we also found our first Common Bronzewings and Musk Lorikeets, while nearby we also saw our first White-winged Choughs, typically lazily crossing the road. As we were driving around we also enjoyed both Little and Long-billed Corellas along with plenty of pretty Galahs and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and several mobs of Eastern Grey Kangaroos, including a female with a joey in the pouch.





Sulphur-crested Cockatoo is a common bird and was seen on most days of the tour, which isn't a problem when it looks as incredible as this.

Our final stop of the day was in a patch of flowering Yellow Box and River Red Gum. Here we had a bonanza of new birds, such as **Pallid Cuckoo**, **White-browed** and **Masked Woodswallows** (the former being one of the best-looking woodswallows in the world), **Black-chinned**, **Yellow-tufted**, and **Fuscous Honeyeaters**, as well as **Diamond Firetail**, **Red Wattlebird**, and **Dusky Woodswallow**. A tremendous end to the day!

#### Day 12, 15th October 2018. Central Victoria to Ouyen

We started in Inglewood and wasted no time getting our birding underway with some great (and beautiful) birds such as Gilbert's Whistler, Shy Heathwren, White-backed Swallow, Common Bronzewing, Brush Bronzewing, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, White-fronted Honeyeater, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Little Corella, Long-billed Corella, and Australian Hobby.

We started our journey away from Inglewood and stopped at a couple of lakes, agricultural fields, and parkland areas, where we found roosting **Nankeen Night Heron** and nesting **Tawny Frogmouth** along with the rare and localized (in Victoria) **Grey-crowned Babbler**, **Eastern Bluebonnet**, **White-winged Fairywren**, and **Horsfield's Bush Lark**.

After lunch we called in ar Cullens Lake, which was rammed full of waterfowl, and it really was a spectacular sight; thousands of birds were present all around the waterbody. We found several new species for our trip in the form of **Australian Shelduck**, **Australasian Shoveler**, **Black-tailed Nativehen**, and **Yellow-billed Spoonbill**. Nearby we also found a large number of the bizarre (and huge) **Musk Duck**, with the flowering vegetation full of **Black Honeyeaters** and a small flock of the tiny **Zebra Finch** and a couple of **White-winged Trillers** also present.



Our final stop of the day was at the salt lake of Lake Tyrrell. Here it was not waterfowl we were looking for but birds inhabiting the saltbush and nearby scrub, and we found **Emu**, **Purple-backed Fairywren**, **White-fronted Chat**, and **Rufous Fieldwren**. As we arrived in Ouyen for the night we were all very excited to find a gorgeous **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo** – our last bird of the day was a very, very special one!



When Major Mitchell's Cockatoo raises its crest there is usually a gasp from those observing, and this sighting was no different. What a bird!

#### Day 13, 16th October 2018. Hattah-Kulkyne National Park

We had the full day birding the wonderful Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, a huge area of mallee woodland. Our first big target of the day, **Malleefowl**, performed really well when we found it, and we had some fantastic, prolonged views of a foraging bird. Here we also had our first looks at the huge **Red Kangaroo** as well as our best views to date of **Western Grey Kangaroo**. A short while later we were watching perched **Regent Parrots** after we had seen several flocks fly over while we were enjoying the megapode. During our breakfast break we were very lucky when another **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo** flew in and landed right next to us, even showing its rather fancy, colorful headgear!

After breakfast we headed into the bush, where we searched for **Mallee Emu-wren**. After hiking for a while (and seeing a very cool **Shingleback Lizard** and a couple of **Mallee Dragons**) we heard the emu-wren calling but unfortunately it was not seen by many people, it seemed to be a very shy individual. While walking around here we also found **White-browed Woodswallow**, **Yellow-plumed Honeyeater**, and **Striped Honeyeater**. Prior to lunch we saw a small flock of **Southern Whiteface** and the first one of the well-named **Splendid Fairywren**, a truly stunning bird. A stand of tall, old River Red Gum trees was very active with parrots, and we found nesting



Regent Parrots, Crimson (Yellow) Rosella, Little Corella, Australian Ringneck, and Sulphurcrested Cockatoo. Here we also enjoyed a nesting Striated Pardalote.



We were lucky and had some amazing views of Malleefowl in glorious early-morning light.

After a quick lunch we again headed out birding and found a **Central Bearded Dragon**. While looking at this beautiful lizard there was a mixed flock of thornbills passing through, containing **Yellow**, **Inland**, and **Chestnut-rumped Thornbills**, and we had further views of **Splendid Fairywren** and another one of our targets, a dozen (there must have been) very friendly **Apostlebirds**. We were pleased that we had stopped for the lizard! After getting these targets we headed out for another walk through some bush, where we found three excellent species in **Chestnut-crowned Babblers**, **Southern Scrub Robin**, and, best of all, **Australian Owletnightjar**.

Very happy with this haul we headed back to town for an early dinner. A brief stop along the way for **Striated Grasswren** nearly paid off. It came towards us calling, but again, like the emu-wren, didn't show to all. Frustrating, but that's sometime the way things go with these very rare and secretive species. On the whole we had seen some incredible birds during the day, so we finished happy.

A brief post-dinner birding session at a waterhole provided brief views of **Australian Raven**, **Peregrine Falcon**, and a minimum of 44 **Common Bronzewing** pigeons coming to drink.

## Day 14, 17th October 2018. Ouyen to Deniliquin, in the evening Plains-wanderer trip

Given the late night planned for the evening we had a late start and a relaxed day's birding, although we still saw plenty of new birds. Some highlights as we left the mallee habitat were **Red**-



capped Robin, White-browed Treecreeper, White-browed Babbler, Hooded Robin, and Mulga Parrot. All great birds, and most gave fantastic views.

As we continued our journey towards the Victoria border a brief stop at Lake Tutchewop gave us our first proper looks at **Wedge-tailed Eagle**. It was well worth the wait, with a pair in flight and then perched next to each other on adjacent fenceposts, allowing excellent comparative views of the marked size difference between the large female and the smaller male. Here we also found our first and only **Orange Chats** of the trip, two pairs, the males glowing nice and bright.

Nearby a small waterbody held a couple of male **Mallards**, and as we crossed into New South Wales we came across a large paddock with a family group of **Common Ostrich**. The birds in this area are considered wild but of 'dubious origin', but they seem to be a self-sustaining population having been present for many years.

After checking into our hotel in Deniliquin we drove north into the Riverina region of New South Wales and the Hay Plains, where we met up with local expert Phil and landowner Robert. Our evening was to be spent looking for one key bird, and one very important one at that. However, before it got dark we enjoyed looking at a flock of **Banded Lapwings**, a pair of **Wedge-tailed Eagles** sitting on a nest, and finally a colored male (two in fact) of **White-winged Fairywrens**, after having seen dozens of females/brown birds over the last couple of days. We also could study at close range three species of kangaroo, with **Red**, **Eastern Grey**, and **Western Grey Kangaroo** all present. Just at sunset we saw an **Eastern Barn Owl**, ate our picnic dinner, and then the fun started...

This year the plains had been incredibly dry, with far lower amounts of rainfall than usual, and so we knew we would be in for a tough night. However, knowing that there had been eight millimeters of rainfall the previous day had given us some hope. As we set off in the darkness we were soon watching two **Australian Owlet-nightjars**, quickly followed by several **Common Brushtail Possums**, **Fat-tailed Dunnart**, **Eastern Banjo Frog**, **Common Spadefoot Toad**, **Horsfield's Bush Lark**, and **Australian Pipit**. We were concentrating our efforts on one bird, and eventually we located our main prize of the night, the Critically Endangered (IUCN) **Plains-wanderer**.

The relief was huge; against all odds we'd found the bird we had all been dreaming to see, and it was not disappointing. We spent some time with this male and soaked in the real beauty of this tiny, even strange-looking bird. But then, not wanting to disturb it for too long, we went on our way, looking for one last target. Again, after some searching of suitable habitat we found ourselves eye to eye with the highly-nomadic and highly-sought **Inland Dotterel**, another magnificent bird (and usually the top bird on any day list or trip list!). The evening was a great success, and we all owe Phil and Robert a huge debt of gratitude for all they do for this species and those who want to try and see it.

After a careful drive back to town, dodging the kangaroos (thanks Simon!), it was time for bed, although it was difficult to sleep due to the adrenaline still pumping and the calling **Southern Boobook** outside the rooms!

It had been a long day, but again the birds and wildlife seen during the day (and night) had made it all totally worthwhile. It was a real privilege to be able to get out onto the plains to search for these wonderful animals.





Plains-wanderer was our main target, and after an extensive search we found this male bird. As Tom so perfectly put it, "we were looking for a tiny needle in a giant haystack, in the dark!" Luck was certainly on our side, given how dry the area was, and we were very thankful to see it.



Another great bird from our night trip was Inland Dotterel, which showed particularly well.



## Day 15, 18th October 2018. Deniliquin to Chiltern via Gulpa Island

We had a relaxed start to the day after our late-night adventures the previous evening, and we were all still pretty excited about our Plains-wanderer success. Our first port of call, after breakfast, was a small island sanctuary, full of stunning giant River Red Gums. It didn't take long to find what we were looking for, the gorgeous and local **Superb Parrot**, but we had to search through stacks of **Eastern Rosella**, **Crimson** (Yellow) **Rosella**, **Galah**, **Long-billed Corella**, **Little Corella**, **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**, and **Red-rumped Parrot** in doing so. This place is a parrot-lover's paradise! Walking around the reserve we also found **Nankeen Night Heron**, **Little** and **Noisy Friarbirds**, **Blue-faced Honeyeater**, **Brown Treecreeper**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Laughing Kookaburra**, and **Superb Fairywren**. Our first **Swamp Wallaby** of the trip could also be well photographed.

After birding near Deniliquin we continued southward, stopping for some birding in the Box Ironbark woodlands and surrounding farmland of Warby-Ovens National Park. Here we eventually got our main parrot target, the stunning **Turquoise Parrot**, with fairly close views of three feeding males enjoyed at length. As we were looking for the parrot we discovered many new birds and improved views of other species, with notable birds including **Speckled Warbler**, **Buff-rumped** and **Striated Thornbills**, **White-throated** and **Western Gerygones**, **Restless Flycatcher**, **Varied Sittella**, **Crested Shriketit**, **White-throated Treecreeper**, **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**, **Jacky Winter**, **Red-capped**, **Hooded**, and **Eastern Yellow Robins**, **Rufous Songlark**, **Eastern Spinebill**, and **Double-barred Finch**. Two very popular mammals were also seen during our time here, first **Short-beaked Echidna** (an egg-laying mammal like the platypus) and second the tiny **Yellow-footed Antechinus**, an insectivorous marsupial.

We arrived in Chiltern for an early dinner and early to bed, all of us still quite tired from the previous evening.

## Day 16, 19th October 2018. Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park to Healesville

After a leisurely breakfast we headed into Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park for a couple of hours. A glorious, sunny morning greeted us as we watched the gorgeous **Spotted Pardalote** at close range. Here we finally also had our first proper perched views of **Pallid Cuckoo**. Honeyeaters were very evident, and we had good views of **Black-chinned**, **Yellow-tufted**, **White-plumed**, and, best of all, the rare **Painted Honeyeater**. Lots of parrots of numerous species were found too, and we saw many of the birds we'd seen the previous day.

As we left the area we found a small marsh, which contained the bird we were looking for, **Brolga**. Although our main interest was focused on the crane we had a quick scan around and saw **Yellow-billed Spoonbill**, **Australian Pelican**, and **Black-tailed Nativehen**.

Our afternoon was spent traveling south into a more mountainous area, where we saw lots of by-now-familiar birds, with a couple of new ones thrown into the mix. The best new bird was probably **Rose Robin**, and we saw a pair of these. We heard both **Superb Lyrebird** and **Pilotbird** but could not get close enough to see them at this time.

After dinner we took a brief night walk, where we immediately found a nesting pair of **Southern Boobooks**, which gave good views. Here we also managed to find **Greater**, **Yellow-bellied**, and **Sugar Gliders**, **Common Ringtail Possum**, and **Tawny Frogmouth**. The highlight of this walk for a lucky few might well have been the **Common Wombat** that meandered through the area.



## Day 17, 20th October 2018. Healesville to Melbourne, tour concluded

We awoke to a cold, gray, and very wet final morning of the tour in Healesville. Though undaunted (sort of!) we headed up the mountain in the bus to see what we could find without getting too wet and cold. It didn't take us too long to find our main target bird, though sightings of all three individuals were brief as the **Superb Lyrebirds** ran along the edge of the forest tracks as we drove by. Brief but conclusive views (and great to hear some calls and mimicry from them too)! While at higher elevations in the clouds we also found a dozen **Flame Robins**, the males glowing even in the gloomy conditions. We also managed to find **Olive Whistler** and amazingly even got looks at a **Pilotbird** that hopped out on a rock in full view! At this same spot we also saw both **Pink** and **Rose Robins** as well as more **Flame Robins** and an **Eastern Whipbird**. The rain continued and even intensified, so we decided to visit the local bakery to warm up.

After eating and drinking and running some errands we decided to head east to try and get out of the poor weather. We arrived at a series of lakes, where we found a decent array of species in no time at all. Highlights of this short visit included fantastic looks at **Australian Reed Warbler**, **White-winged Triller**, **Pink-eared Duck**, **Australian Darter**, and, best of all, a pair of stunning **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos** that flew in from across a lake and landed in the low trees right next to us, giving prolonged eye-level views. A very nice surprise indeed!



This mature male **Superb Lyrebird** (the largest passerine in the world) showed us just how beautiful this species in when you can get a good view. Throw in the amazing vocalizations, and it's no wonder they are so popular!

After grabbing a quick bite to eat we made our way to the Dandenong Ranges National Park, where within seconds of pulling into the car park we were watching a beautiful male **Rose Robin** hopping around at our feet. A short while later it got even better as we were having dream views of a mature



male **Superb Lyrebird** perched on a horizontal branch at eye-level. It was fantastic to see. After the lyrebird left his perch and headed into the forest to feed we started walking through this impressive forest and were soon watching **Crescent Honeyeater**, **Eastern Yellow Robin**, **Pied Currawong**, and the main target of our hike, **Rufous-browed Treecreeper**. Afterwards a quick stop at a nearby gift shop allowed some close-up views of **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** (and the purchase of some local products).

We then headed back into the city for our final dinner stop and checklist session of the trip, where we discussed what had been a fantastically enjoyable trip and selected the 'Bird of the Trip'. **Splendid Fairywren** came out on top with three votes, with **Plains-wanderer** second with two votes and **Southern Cassowary**, **Superb Lyrebird**, and **Mangrove Robin** also receiving honorable mentions with one vote each.

However, we were not done quite yet, and as a special bonus after dinner we headed to the coast, where we found a small group of the delightful **Little Penguins**, a seriously cool way to end what had been a wonderful trip with close-up views of this rather cute (and the world's smallest) penguin. We returned to our hotel, where we said fond farewells to our local guide Simon, without whom we would have seen a great deal less, and then headed to bed as the tour concluded.



A pretty cool bird to end the tour, Little Penguin, the last new bird for the trip.

#### Day 0, 21st October 2018. Post-tour departure from Melbourne

After a leisurely breakfast everyone departed from Melbourne's airport. A huge thank you to everyone for making this such an enjoyable trip! It was great fun birding with you all, and I am looking forward to the next time.



#### **Bird List - Following IOC (8.2)**

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen. The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: CE = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened. Australia endemics are bolded.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Ostriches (Struthionidae)	
Common Ostrich	Struthio camelus
Cassowaries, Emu (Casuariida	(e)
Southern Cassowary - VU	Casuarius casuarius
Emu	Dromaius novaehollandiae
Magpie Goose (Anseranatidae)	
Magpie Goose	Anseranas semipalmata
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae	e)
Plumed Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna eytoni
Wandering Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna arcuata
Cape Barren Goose	Cereopsis novaehollandiae
Black Swan	Cygnus atratus
Freckled Duck	Stictonetta naevosa
Raja Shelduck	Radjah radjah
Australian Shelduck	Tadorna tadornoides
Pink-eared Duck	Malacorhynchus membranaceus
Maned Duck	Chenonetta jubata
Cotton Pygmy Goose	Nettapus coromandelianus
Green Pygmy Goose	Nettapus pulchellus
Australasian Shoveler	Spatula rhynchotis
Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos
Grey Teal	Anas gracilis
Chestnut Teal	Anas castanea
Hardhead	Aythya australis
Blue-billed Duck - NT	Oxyura australis
Musk Duck	Biziura lobata



Common Name	Scientific Name
Megapodes (Megapodiidae)	
Australian Brushturkey	Alectura lathami
Malleefowl - VU	Leipoa ocellata
Orange-footed Scrubfowl	Megapodius reinwardt
Pheasants and Allies (Phasiani	dae)
Brown Quail	Coturnix ypsilophora
Penguins (Spheniscidae)	
Little Penguin	Eudyptula minor
Albatrosses (Diomedeidae)	
Shy Albatross	Thalassarche cauta
Buller's Albatross - NT	Thalassarche bulleri
	•
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving P	etrels (Procellariidae)
Short-tailed Shearwater	Ardenna tenuirostris
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Australasian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae
Hoary-headed Grebe	Poliocephalus poliocephalus
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Black-necked Stork - NT	Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiorni	thidae)
Australian White Ibis	Threskiornis molucca
Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis spinicollis
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus
Royal Spoonbill	Platalea regia
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Platalea flavipes
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
	Nycticorax caledonicus
Nankeen Night Heron	
Nankeen Night Heron Striated Heron	Butorides striata







Common Name	Scientific Name
Banded Lapwing	Vanellus tricolor
Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles
Red-kneed Dotterel	Erythrogonys cinctus
Inland Dotterel	Peltohyas australis
Pacific Golden Plover	Pluvialis fulva
Red-capped Plover	Charadrius ruficapillus
Lesser Sand Plover	Charadrius mongolus
Greater Sand Plover	Charadrius leschenaultii
<b>Hooded Dotterel - VU</b>	Thinornis cucullatus
Black-fronted Dotterel	Elseyornis melanops
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
Comb-crested Jacana	Irediparra gallinacea
Plains-wanderer (Pedionomidae)	
Plains-wanderer - CE	Pedionomus torquatus
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopaci	
Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus
Far Eastern Curlew - EN	Numenius madagascariensis
Bar-tailed Godwit - NT	Limosa lapponica
Black-tailed Godwit - NT	Limosa limosa
Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres
Great Knot - EN	Calidris tenuirostris
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Calidris falcinellus
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Calidris acuminata
Curlew Sandpiper - NT	Calidris ferruginea
Red-necked Stint - NT	Calidris ruficollis
Latham's Snipe	Gallinago hardwickii
Terek Sandpiper	Xenus cinereus
Grey-tailed Tattler - NT	Tringa brevipes
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (I	
Brown Noddy	Anous stolidus



Common Name	Scientific Name
Black Noddy	Anous minutus
Silver Gull	Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae
Pacific Gull	Larus pacificus
Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia
Greater Crested Tern	Thalasseus bergii
Lesser Crested Tern	Thalasseus bengalensis
Little Tern	Sternula albifrons
Bridled Tern	Onychoprion anaethetus
Sooty Tern	Onychoprion fuscatus
Black-naped Tern	Sterna sumatrana
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	Columba livia
White-headed Pigeon	Columba leucomela
Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Macropygia phasianella
Pacific Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps longirostris
Common Bronzewing	Phaps chalcoptera
Brush Bronzewing	Phaps elegans
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes
Squatter Pigeon	Geophaps scripta
Wonga Pigeon	Leucosarcia melanoleuca
Peaceful Dove	Geopelia placida
Bar-shouldered Dove	Geopelia humeralis
Wompoo Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus magnificus
Superb Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus superbus
Rose-crowned Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus regina
Torresian Imperial Pigeon	Ducula spilorrhoa
Topknot Pigeon	Lopholaimus antarcticus
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Pheasant Coucal	Centropus phasianinus
Pacific Koel	Eudynamys orientalis
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx basalis



Common Name	Scientific Name
Shining Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx lucidus
Little Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx minutillus
Pallid Cuckoo	Cacomantis pallidus
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Cacomantis flabelliformis
Brush Cuckoo (H)	Cacomantis variolosus
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Lesser Sooty Owl (H)	Tyto multipunctata
Eastern Barn Owl	Tyto javanica
Owls (Strigidae)	
Powerful Owl	Ninox strenua
Southern Boobook	Ninox boobook
Southern Boodook	Ninox boobook
Frogmouths (Podargidae)	
Papuan Frogmouth	Podargus papuensis
Tawny Frogmouth	Podargus strigoides
Owlet-nightjars (Aegothelidae)	T
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Aegotheles cristatus
Swifts (Apodidae)	
Australian Swiftlet	Aerodramus terraereginae
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Oriental Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Laughing Kookaburra	Dacelo novaeguineae
Blue-winged Kookaburra	Dacelo leachii
Forest Kingfisher	Todiramphus macleayii
Torresian Kingfisher	Todiramphus sordidus
Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus
Azure Kingfisher	Ceyx azureus
Little Kingfisher	Ceyx pusillus
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	





Common Name	Scientific Name
Musk Lorikeet	Glossopsitta concinna
Double-eyed Fig Parrot	Cyclopsitta diophthalma
Pittas (Pittidae)	
Noisy Pitta (H)	Pitta versicolor
Lyrebirds (Menuridae)	
Albert's Lyrebird - NT	Menura alberti
Superb Lyrebird	Menura novaehollandiae
Bowerbirds (Ptilonorhynchidae)	)
Green Catbird	Ailuroedus crassirostris
Spotted Catbird	Ailuroedus maculosus
Tooth-billed Bowerbird	Scenopoeetes dentirostris
Regent Bowerbird	Sericulus chrysocephalus
Satin Bowerbird	Ptilonorhynchus violaceus
Great Bowerbird	Chlamydera nuchalis
Australasian Treecreepers (Clin	nacteridae)
White-throated Treecreeper	Cormobates leucophaea
Red-browed Treecreeper	Climacteris erythrops
White-browed Treecreeper	Climacteris affinis
Brown Treecreeper	Climacteris picumnus
Australasian Wrens (Maluridae	<u></u>
Purple-backed Fairywren	Malurus assimilis
Variegated Fairywren	Malurus lamberti
Superb Fairywren	Malurus cyaneus
Splendid Fairywren	Malurus splendens
Red-backed Fairywren	Malurus melanocephalus
White-winged Fairywren	Malurus leucopterus
Southern Emu-wren	Stipiturus malachurus
Mallee Emu-wren - EN	Stipiturus mallee
Striated Grasswren	Amytornis striatus
Honeyeaters (Meliphagidae)	





Common Name	Scientific Name
Varied Honeyeater	Gavicalis versicolor
Singing Honeyeater	Gavicalis virescens
Fuscous Honeyeater	Ptilotula fusca
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Ptilotula ornata
White-plumed Honeyeater	Ptilotula penicillata
Graceful Honeyeater	Meliphaga gracilis
Yellow-spotted Honeyeater	Meliphaga notata
Lewin's Honeyeater	Meliphaga lewinii
Bristlebirds (Dasyornithidae)	
Rufous Bristlebird	Dasyornis broadbenti
Pardalotes (Pardalotidae)	
Spotted Pardalote	Pardalotus punctatus
Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus
Australasian Warblers (Acanthi	
Fernwren	Oreoscopus gutturalis
Pilotbird	Pycnoptilus floccosus
Shy Heathwren	Calamanthus cautus
Striated Fieldwren	Calamanthus fuliginosus
Rufous Fieldwren	Calamanthus campestris
Speckled Warbler	Pyrrholaemus sagittatus
Atherton Scrubwren	Sericornis keri
White-browed Scrubwren	Sericornis frontalis
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Sericornis citreogularis
Large-billed Scrubwren	Sericornis magnirostra
Weebill	Smicrornis brevirostris
Brown Gerygone	Gerygone mouki
Mangrove Gerygone	Gerygone levigaster
Western Gerygone	Gerygone fusca
Large-billed Gerygone	Gerygone magnirostris
White-throated Gerygone	Gerygone olivacea
Fairy Gerygone	Gerygone palpebrosa
Mountain Thornbill	Acanthiza katherina
Brown Thornbill	Acanthiza pusilla



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Inland Thornbill	Acanthiza apicalis	
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza uropygialis	
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza reguloides	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa	
Yellow Thornbill	Acanthiza nana	
Striated Thornbill	Acanthiza lineata	
Southern Whiteface	Aphelocephala leucopsis	
Australasian Babblers (Pomatos	tomidae)	
Grey-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus temporalis	
White-browed Babbler	Pomatostomus superciliosus	
Chestnut-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus ruficeps	
Logrunners (Orthonychidae)	Ta	
Australian Logrunner	Orthonyx temminckii	
Chowchilla	Orthonyx spaldingii	
Whiching Landbakhan Ora	21 411 (D1 - 12 1)	
Whipbirds, Jewel-babblers, Qua		
Eastern Whipbird	Psophodes olivaceus	
Boatbills (Machaerirhynchidae)		
Yellow-breasted Boatbill	Machaerirhynchus flaviventer	
Woodswallows, Butcherbirds and	d Allies (Artamidae)	
White-breasted Woodswallow	Artamus leucorynchus	
Masked Woodswallow	Artamus personatus	
White-browed Woodswallow	Artamus superciliosus	
Dusky Woodswallow	Artamus cyanopterus	
Black Butcherbird	Melloria quoyi	
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	
Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus	
Pied Butcherbird	Cracticus nigrogularis	
Pied Currawong	Strepera graculina	
Grey Currawong	Strepera versicolor	
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)		



Common Name	Scientific Name
Barred Cuckooshrike	Coracina lineata
Black-faced Cuckooshrike	Coracina novaehollandiae
White-bellied Cuckooshrike	Coracina papuensis
White-winged Triller	Lalage tricolor
Varied Triller	Lalage leucomela
Sittellas (Neosittidae)	
Varied Sittella	Daphoenositta chrysoptera
Australo-Papuan Bellbirds (O	reoicidae)
Crested Bellbird (H)	Oreoica gutturalis
	1
Whistlers and allies (Pachycephalidae)	
Crested Shriketit	Falcunculus frontatus
Olive Whistler	Pachycephala olivacea
Gilbert's Whistler	Pachycephala inornata
Grey Whistler	Pachycephala simplex
Australian Golden Whistler	Pachycephala pectoralis
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris
Bower's Shrikethrush	Colluricincla boweri
Little Shrikethrush	Colluricincla megarhyncha
Grey Shrikethrush	Colluricincla harmonica
Figbirds, Orioles & Turnagra	(Oriolidae)
Australasian Figbird	Sphecotheres vieilloti
Olive-backed Oriole	Oriolus sagittatus
Green Oriole	Oriolus flavocinctus
Green onoic	Oriotus furocinetus
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Spangled Drongo	Dicrurus bracteatus
Fantails (Rhipiduridae)	
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura albiscapa
Rufous Fantail	Rhipidura rufifrons
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	



Common Name	Scientific Name
Spectacled Monarch	Symposiachrus trivirgatus
Black-faced Monarch	Monarcha melanopsis
White-eared Monarch	Carterornis leucotis
Pied Monarch	Arses kaupi
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca
Leaden Flycatcher	Myiagra rubecula
Shining Flycatcher	Myiagra alecto
Restless Flycatcher	Myiagra inquieta
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Torresian Crow	Corvus orru
Little Raven	Corvus mellori
Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides
Augtualian Mudnagtang (Canaana	(a a Lia
Australian Mudnesters (Corcora	
White-winged Chough	Corcorax melanorhamphos
Apostlebird	Struthidea cinerea
Birds-of-paradise (Paradisaeidae	)
Paradise Riflebird (H)	Ptiloris paradiseus
Victoria's Riflebird	Ptiloris victoriae
Australasian Robins (Petroicidae	)
Grey-headed Robin	Heteromyias cinereifrons
White-browed Robin	Poecilodryas superciliosa
Mangrove Robin	Peneoenanthe pulverulenta
Pale-yellow Robin	Tregellasia capito
Eastern Yellow Robin	Eopsaltria australis
Hooded Robin	Melanodryas cucullata
Jacky Winter	Microeca fascinans
Rose Robin	Petroica rosea
Pink Robin	Petroica rodinogaster
Flame Robin - NT	Petroica phoenicea
Red-capped Robin	Petroica goodenovii
Southern Scrub Robin	Drymodes brunneopygia



Common Name	Scientific Name
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Horsfield's Bush Lark	Mirafra javanica
Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis
Swallows, Martins (Hirundin	nidae)
White-backed Swallow	Cheramoeca leucosterna
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena
Fairy Martin	Petrochelidon ariel
Tree Martin	Petrochelidon nigricans
Reed Warblers and Allies (A	
Australian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus australis
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<b>Grassbirds and Allies (Locus</b>	tellidae)
Little Grassbird	Poodytes gramineus
Rufous Songlark	Cincloramphus mathewsi
Tawny Grassbird	Cincloramphus timoriensis
Cisticolas and Allies (Cisticol	lidae)
Golden-headed Cisticola	Cisticola exilis
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Silvereye	Zosterops lateralis
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturn	nidae)
Metallic Starling	Aplonis metallica
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Russet-tailed Thrush	Zoothera heinei
Bassian Thrush	Zoothera lunulata
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula
Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)	
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)		
Olive-backed Sunbird	Cinnyris jugularis	
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)		
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	
Waxbills, Munias and Allies (Estrildidae)		
Diamond Firetail	Stagonopleura guttata	
Red-browed Finch	Neochmia temporalis	
Crimson Finch	Neochmia phaeton	
Zebra Finch	Taeniopygia guttata	
Double-barred Finch	Taeniopygia bichenovii	
Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata	
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	Lonchura castaneothorax	
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)		
Australian Pipit	Anthus australis	
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillida	ne)	
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	

Total Seen	390
Total Heard Only	5
Total Recorded	395

## **Mammal List**

Common Name	Scientific Name
Cats (Felisdae)	
Domestic (Feral) Cat	Felis catus
Dolphins (Delphinidae)	
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	Tursiops truncatus
_	
Old World Fruit Bats (Pteropodidae)	



Common Name	Scientific Name
Spectacled Flying Fox	Pteropus conspicillatus
Little Red Flying Fox	Pteropus scapulatus
Dasyurids (Dasyuridae)	
Yellow-footed Antechinus	Antechinus flavipes
Fat-tailed Dunnart	Sminthopsis crassicaudata
Musky Rat Kangaroo (Hypsip	orvmnodontidae)
Musky Rat Kangaroo	Hypsiprymnodon moschatus
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Kangaroos, Wallabies, and Re	elatives (Macropodidae)
Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo	Dendrolagus lumholtzi
Agile Wallaby	Macropus agilis
Western Gray Kangaroo	Macropus fuliginosus
Eastern Gray Kangaroo	Macropus giganteus
Whiptail Wallaby	Macropus parryi
Red Kangaroo	Macropus rufus
Red-legged Pademelon	Thylogale stigmatica
Red-necked Pademelon	Thylogale thetis
Swamp Wallaby	Wallabia bicolor
Gliders and Striped Possums	(Petauridae)
Striped Possum	Dactylopsila trivirgata
Yellow-bellied Glider	Petaurus australis
Sugar Glider	Petaurus breviceps
(Southern) Greater Glider	Petauroides volans
Brushtail Possums and Cuscu	ses (Phalangeridae)
Common Brushtail Possum	Trichosurus vulpecula
	,
Koalas (Phascolarctidae)	
Koala	Phascolarctos cinereus
Ringtail Possums (Pseudochei	ridae)
Common Ringtail Possum	Pseudocheirus peregrinus
Green Ringtail Possum	Pseudochirops archeri
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Common Name	Scientific Name	
Wombats (Vombatidae)		
Common Wombat	Vombatus ursinus	
Hares and Rabbits (Leporidae)		
European Hare	Lepus europaeus	
European Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus	
Platypus (Ornithorhynchidae)		
Platypus	Ornithorhynchus anatinus	
Echidnas (Tachyglossidae)		
Short-beaked Echidna	Tachyglossus aculeatus	
Bandicoots and Echymiperas (Peramelidae)		
Northern Brown Bandicoot	Isoodon macrourus	
Old World Mice and Allies (Muri	dae)	
Common Water Rat	Hydromys chrysogaster	
Fawn-footed Melomys	Melomys cervinipes	
House Mouse	Mus musculus	
White-tailed Giant Rat	Uromys caudimaculatus	
Total seen	34	

# **Reptile List**

Common Name	Scientific Name	
Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)		
Saltwater Crocodile	Crocodylus porosus	
Geckos (Gekkonidae)		
Common House Gecko	Hemidactylus frenatus	
Dragons (Agamidae)		
Mallee (Military) Dragon	Ctenophorus fordi	
Boyd's Forest Dragon	Hypsilurus boydii	
Eastern Water Dragon	Intellagama lesueurii	
Central Bearded Dragon	Pogona vitticeps	



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Monitors (Varanidae)		
Banded (Spotted) Tree Monitor	Varanus scalaris	
Lace Monitor	Varanus varius	
Skinks (Scincidae)		
Royal (Pale-rumped) Ctenotus	Ctenotus regius	
Eastern Water-skink	Eulamprus quoyii	
Shingleback Lizard	Tiliqua rugosa	
Common Bluetongue Skink	Tiliqua scincoides	
Colubrid snakes (Colubridae)		
Common (Green) Tree Snake	Dendrelaphis punctulatus	
Sea turtles (Cheloniidae)		
Green Turtle	Chelonia mydas	
Freshwater turtles (Cheluidae)		
Murray River Turtle	Emydura macquarii	
Saw-shelled Turtle	Wollumbinia latisternum	
Total seen	16	

# **Amphibian List**

Common Name	Scientific Name
Marsh Frogs (Limnodynastida	ne)
Eastern Banjo Frog	Limnodynastes dumerilii
Common Spadefoot Frog	Neobatrachus sudellae
Tree Frogs (Hylidae)	
Green Tree Frog	Litoria caerulea
White-lipped Tree Frog	Nyctimystes infrafrenatus
Toads (Bufonidae)	
Cane Toad	Rhinella marina
Total seen	5

