



# TROPICAL BIRDING



## Eastern Australia: From Top to Bottom

18 October–5 November 2009

**Leaders: Iain Campbell and Michael Retter**

Photos by Michael Retter and a generous participant

*Report written by Michael Retter*

*Australia's isolation has made it a virtual evolutionary petri dish called home by a myriad of bird families found nowhere else on the planet. Cassowaries, honeyeaters, fairy-wrens, pseudo-babblers, lyrebirds, mud-nest-builders, logrunners: all are Australo-Papuan endemic families. So are the bowerbirds, a family to which this stunning male **Regent Bowerbird** belongs. As diverse and immense as it is isolated, Australia consequently harbors an impressive diversity of species.*

The array of habitats visited (and thus, birds seen) on this tour makes it an ideal excursion for anyone who has never visited the continent. We started in the warm, lush rainforests of northern Queensland, traveled inland to the desert-like outback of western New South Wales, watched clouds of seabirds and whales off the rocky coast near Sydney, and ended on the snow-covered peaks of Tasmania. The days were long and pace was fast at times, but the result was a substantial trip list of 423 bird species. The mammals were equally impressive. We had superb views of a platypus floating on the surface of a still pond, viewed a tree-kangaroo through the scope one morning, and watched, amazed, as an echidna buried itself into the forest floor in mere seconds. For most of us, though, the evening (successfully) searching for Plains-wanderer (and in the process seeing Black Falcon, Orange Chat, and Ground Cuckoo-shrike) was the crown jewel of the tour.

## Day 1: Cairns

Birds are everywhere in Cairns, so we saw Torresian/Pied Imperial-Pigeon, Rainbow Lorikeet, Rainbow Bee-eater, Olive-backed Sunbird, and Yellow Honeyeater by simply walking from the hotel to the van. Iain and I had done some scouting the day before, so our first destination this morning was the active **Papuan Frogmouth** nest a nice local had shown us. The impressive songs of Green Orioles surrounded us, and some hyper-sounding tinkling in the nearby scrub turned into a spectacular blue-hooded, male **Lovely Fairy-wren**. A Black Butcherbird greeted us as the first representative of its family. Back at a car, a trio of **Bush Thick-knees** appeared in the car park. Then we hit a patch of lowland rainforest within the botanic gardens. **Australian Brush-turkeys** and **Orange-legged Scrubfowl** made quite a ruckus in the leaf litter, but we somehow managed to key in on the a dainty **Red-necked Crake**, a tough bird. Some small ponds on the grounds held Pacific Black Duck, Little Pied Cormorant, Intermediate Egret, **Royal Spoonbill**, and **Magpie-goose**. A **Laughing Kookaburra** hunted from a nearby footbridge, and a neat-looking male **Figbird intergrade** appeared.



*Torresian Imperial-Pigeons are abundant in Cairns*



*Bush Thick-knee*



*Papuan Frogmouth on its nest*



*Male Olive-backed Sunbird*

The tide was now right to visit the Esplanade, a beachfront walkway in Cairns that becomes a marvelous mudflat if you're there at the right time. We saw the regular cast of shorebirds there: **Red-capped Plover**, **Black-fronted Dotterel**, Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Curlew Sandpiper, both sandpipers, and Bar-tailed Godwit. Varied and Brown Honeyeaters fed in the flowering trees along the walkway, while Magpie-larks, Willie-wagtails, and Masked Lapwings studded the grass below.

A couple of us headed back to the Esplanade this afternoon, where a few **Mangrove Robins** had been forced out of the mangroves at high tide and were hopping about on the lawn.

At dusk we were treated to a fine show by a massive **Rufous Owl** back at the botanic gardens. Dinner was at a great little Malaysian place that does a killer seafood laksa.



*Black-fronted Dotterel*



*male Green x Yellow Figbird intergrade*



*Great Knot and Curlew and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers*



*Rufous Owl*

## Day 2: Cairns, the Great Barrier Reef, and Kuranda

We started the morning on the Esplanade, trying to find some new shorebirds. Our efforts produced a number of Black-tailed Godwits and a locally rare **Asiatic Dowitcher**, the latter far from its normal migration route.

We then boarded our boat and headed out to Michelmas Cay, in the Great Barrier Reef. The only **Bridled and Roseate Terns** of the tour flew by en route. The cay itself was full of nesting Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies. There were also smaller numbers of both Lesser and Great Crested Terns. A Great Frigatebird flew high overhead, and a small number of charming **Black-naped Terns** loafed on the beach. A **Black Noddy** was spotted perched on an anchored boat. After arms-length views of these handsome birds, the rest of the morning and early afternoon was spent in glass bottom boats and snorkeling, enjoying the breathtaking biodiversity just below the waves.



*Asiatic Dowitcher*



*Great Crested Tern*



*Lesser Crested Terns*



*Sooty Terns (with Brown Noddy in background)*

Back ashore, we drove inland to Kuranda, where we unloaded and settled in for a night at Cassowary House. That was when a curious female **Southern Cassowary** wandered into one of our rooms! The word went up, and everyone rendezvoused at the lower rooms to get a look at this beast of a bird. I can honestly say that this was the only bird I've ever been genuinely scared of. Just one look at the massive claw at the end of those stout, muscular legs, and there's no question: if it wants to take you out, it can, and it will! A brief spell of birding before dinner produced a cute little Yellow-breasted Boatbill.



### **Day 3: Kuranda to Daintree**

The unique, jarring songs of **Eastern Whipbirds** broke the pre-dawn silence—quintessential eastern Australia. We assembled in the car park and were immediately attracted to the incessant calling of a **Grey Goshawk**. Following the sound led not only to the bird, but its nest as well. We stood entranced as a gorgeous male **Spectacled Monarch** passed by, his orange plumage seeming to glow from amongst the leaves. A squadron of the massive, oddly-shaped **Channel-billed Cuckoo** flew by, heading south for the summer.



Sue's legendary breakfast deserves its reputation. Not only did we enjoy a delicious spread of fresh, exotic fruit—black sapote (chocolate fruit), papaya, mango, pineapple, passion fruit, and soursop—but we shared the scraps with a colorful group of birds. The subtly yet complexly beautiful **Macleay's Honeyeaters** were the first to appear. Then the **Yellow-spotted Honeyeaters** showed up. It wasn't until the dried pineapple was placed on the rail, though, that the **Victoria's Riflebird** (the first bird-of-paradise for many of us) felt she was hungry enough to approach. An **Emerald Dove** fed on the forest floor below the balcony, joined by brush-turkeys, scrubfowl, and a **Musky Rat-kangaroo**. The **Spotted Catbirds** arrived a bit late this morning, but they did show.



*female Victoria's Riflebird, a bird-of-paradise*



*Spotted Catbird, a member of the bowerbird family*



*Macleay's Honeyeater*



*Musky Rat-Kangaroo*

By mid-morning we were headed back down toward the coast and north to Daintree. We found a couple impressive **Pheasant Coucals** in the sugarcane fields, and a sewage treatment plant held a dozen handsome chestnut-and-white **Radjah Shelducks**.

We arrived in Daintree just in time for lunch, after which we birded the road that follows the river downstream. We had great luck with **Lovely Fairy-wren** here; everyone had prolonged views of one of a couple males, and a female appeared briefly. A **Dollarbird** (of the roller family) perched high in a dead snag overlooking the lazy Daintree River. I think we saw over a thousand Torresian Imperial-Pigeons this afternoon, including a displaying male, who showed us how he



uses his (at first glance) messily barred undertail coverts to woo the females. Almost assuredly by no mistake, his display tree was full of fruit, and it attracted a small group of **Scaly-breasted Lorikeets** and a rainbow-colored **Wompoo Fruit-Dove**. The dove soon sang its bizarre, onomatopoeic song, though some of us thought it sounded more like a bodily function than “*womp-oooooo*”!

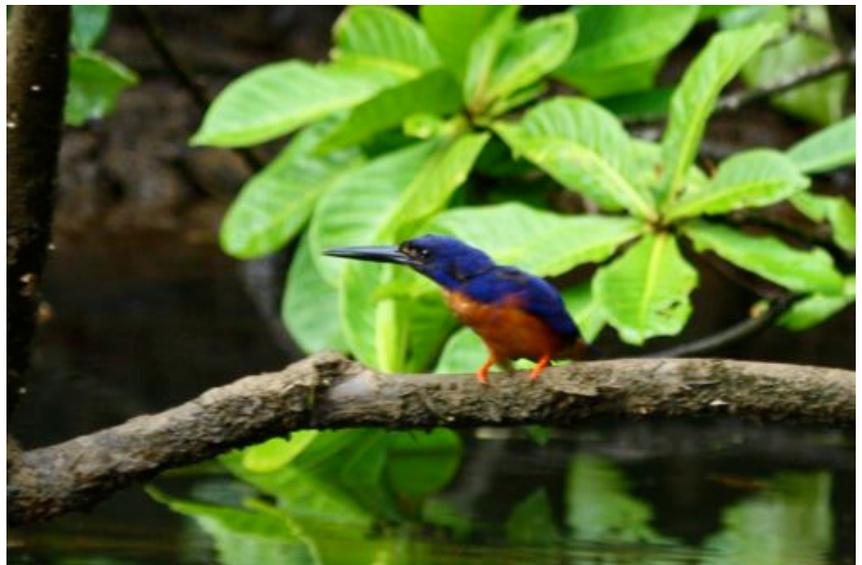


We spent the evening viewing a small pond within a passion fruit orchard.

Intently we searched for any small motion or in the water or a surfacing bubble. After about an hour, a couple bubbles floated to the top, and lo and behold, a turtle stuck its head above the surface—not what we were looking for! Soon, a bubble appeared, and another. Then a ribbon. This was no turtle. Like a stealth submarine, it emerged, legs spread, then bill, tail, and all. This was an uncommonly spectacular view of a **Platypus**, and even Iain, who has seen dozens, remarked that he’d never seen one this well!

#### **Day 4: Daintree to the Atherton Tableland**

No trip to Daintree is complete without a boat ride on the eponymous Daintree River. A brilliant metallic blue male Shining Flycatcher sang near the dock, showing us his scarlet red mouth lining. **Azure Kingfishers**, orange below, indigo above, and a weird smoky purple in between, darted from bank to bank. Having seen Papuan Frogmouth in Cairns, we were free to spend more time looking for **Great-billed Heron**, but as luck would have it, we didn’t need the time. A very obliging bird posed for photos both ways. What a bill! Our boat captain took us right to couple of roosting



**Rufous/Nankeen Night-Herons**. There also were some impressive reptiles, like a 10-foot Saltwater Crocodile and some emerald-and-black tree snakes. Back on land, a quick stop at some nice rainforest produced a pair of duetting male **Noisy Pittas**, their wings flashing electric blue and they dashed about just above the ground.

We were well onto the Atherton Tableland by midday, and we ate lunch at Abbatoir Swamp near Julatten. Our only **Northern Fantail** of the trip was a nice bird to see from the picnic table. At the “swamp” itself, a pair of **White-cheeked Honeyeaters** fed in a red bottlebrush tree, and a **White-browed Crake** walked along the edge of the pond. Just down the road, we briefly stopped at a finger of riparian monsoon forest, and our targets, **White-browed Robin** and Fairy Gerygone, appeared right on cue.



*White-browed Crake*



*Northern Fantail*

Just north of Mareeba is Lake Mitchell, a large, shallow lake fringed with swamp and marshland. The productive waters teemed with birdlife, and we added dozens of waterbirds to the trip list: Wandering Whistling-Duck, Green Pygmy-goose, Brolga, and Comb-crested Jacana to name a few.

A mid-afternoon siesta was in order when we arrived at the hotel in Mareeba, but afterwards, we took a quick trip out on a side road, where we found some **Squatter Pigeons** and a roving flock of the comical **Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo**.



*Comb-crested Jacana*



*Green Pygmy-geese*



*Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos*



*Squatter Pigeon*

### **Day 5: Mt. Lewis, Mt. Malloy, and Mareeba**

The road up Mt. Lewis is quite bumpy, especially so in the dark. What was left of the night provided an opportunity to see some of Australia's odd and unique mammal fauna. **Long-nosed Bandicoot** and Common Brushtail Possum appeared in the headlights. We arrived at the upper elevations of Mt. Lewis right on time, as the dawn chorus began. The loud songs of Golden Whistlers were certainly the most common sound here, but we did manage to cut through them and find a **Bower's Shrike-Thrush**. A Bassian Thrush hopped around on the ground and was soon joined by a smart-looking **Grey-headed Robin**. Movement in a nearby low bush turned into a mouse-like **Atherton Scrubwren**. Feeding in the road ahead was a flock of **Red-browed Firetails**, their scarlet feathers and bills glowing amid the morning haze. We walked into the montane rainforest, hoping for a shot at some of the skulkier birds. It was a good hour past dawn now, and we'd not heard so much as a peep from a Chowchilla; we were starting to get worried. A **Tooth-billed Bowerbird** sang from within the gloom, but chasing after him proved fruitless. However, we did soon come upon a fruiting tree, which was attracting Victoria's Riflebird and Spotted Catbird. Soon a Tooth-billed Bowerbird appeared to share the bounty. An odd, long whistle cued us in to the

presence of a singing **Fernwren**, who contently fed in the undergrowth while we watched. Then Iain froze; he could hear scratching in the leaf litter ahead. We crept up slowly and were treated to a good 15 minutes with a small group of chubby **Chowchillas**. Their feeding method was, in my experience, quite extraordinary. While most leaf litter feeders toss leaves to the side with their bills, or kick them back behind, the Chowchillas put all their weight on one leg, and then used the other leg's remarkably big foot to push the leaves off to the side. Surely there's a dance from the '80s like this? Back at the van, a couple bizarre-looking **Topknot Pigeons** conveniently perched in a treetop.



*Grey-headed Robin*



*Topknot Pigeon*



At a birdy picnic area in Mt. Malloy we saw our first of many impressive **Blue-faced Honeyeaters**. A curious White-bellied Cuckoo Shrike came in for a visit. The elementary school kindly let us view a **Great Bowerbird** bower on their property. After a bit of time, its impressively large and scaly owner began to squawk from a large tree behind. If not for the pink powderpuff on his nape, he might have seemed formidable!

It gets hot midday, so another siesta was in order. We spent the late afternoon birding in the drier country near Mareeba. As the sun's rays began to relent a bit, bird activity picked up markedly. White-throated Gerygones started to sing their charming song of downward spirals. **Blue-winged Kookaburras** appeared on roadside wires. Two **Weebills** (or "mini-meas" as Iain onomatopoeically calls them) flew in out of nowhere, and we got a kick out of watching this pair of Australia's smallest bird noisily chase one another in circles. Two Pheasant Coucals began an eerie duet on either side of us, which was very cool experience. Just as the sun was setting, we

located a pair of **Pale-headed Rosellas** and a family **Grey-crowned Babblers**.



*Great Bowerbird*



*White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike*



*Great Bowerbird bower*



*Pale-headed Rosella*

### **Day 6: Mt. Carbine, Mareeba, and Jullaten**

Another early start was in the cards today as we headed inland to target some dry country specialties. Dawn found us on a secondary road headed through some hayfields, where a group of **Australian Bustards** was congregating. We were very happy to see a displaying male, in “full puff” as he attempted to show off to the seemingly unimpressed females.



Then we headed further inland, and stopped at a closed gate in the middle of nowhere, down a desolate ranch road in dry scrub. “This is the place,” Iain said. “Just wait.” At first it was deathly quiet, but soon, the location sprang alive with activity. A Brown Treecreeper landed on the gate, followed soon after by a Jacky Winter and a Black-faced Woodswallow. A flock of **Banded Honeyeaters** flew in from across the road and congregated in a tree nearly over our heads. Seconds later, a



Varied Sittella joined them. Then, as if by magic, a group of three **Black-throated Finches** appeared just a couple feet below them in the same tree. Since they’re endemic to area, the honeycreeper and the finch were our two big target birds of the morning—what luck! But the excitement was far from over. A **Silver-crowned Friarbird** flew over the road, followed soon after by a **Brown Goshawk**. An odd black-and-white streaked honeyeater made an appearance. It was an immature **Striped Honeyeater**, well north of its mapped range but seemingly in suitable habitat. A male **Red-backed Fairy-wren** performed beautifully for us as he dashed about in a small gully, where we found another group of handsome **Banded Honeyeaters**. And the icing on the cake: on the drive back to the highway we came across another group of very cooperative **Squatter Pigeons** in the road.



*Black-throated Finch*



*Red-backed Fairy-wren*



The trip back towards Mareeba was made quite enjoyable with frequent birding stops. Just a few minutes at one riparian corridor scored a bevy of new birds: Olive-backed Oriole, **Red-winged Parrot**, **Double-barred Finch**, White-throated Honeyeater, **Scarlet Myzomela**, and the first of many **Galahs**. A female **Brown Falcon** was especially entertaining as she darted to and from a favored perch to go after large insects.

We made a couple more wetland stops, first checking out Lake Mitchell again, where **Black-necked Stork** and Hardhead (White-eyed Duck) were new. The Mareeba Wetlands provided much closer looks at birds like jaçanas and whistling-ducks, but there were still new birds to be seen, like Little Black Cormorant and Lemon-bellied Flycatcher (Flyrobin). For most of us, though, the best sighting at the wetlands was of a female **Agile Wallaby** whose pouch was overflowing with a joey. It did jump out of her pouch eventually, and the locals told us this may have been his first time out. I have a new respect for female kangaroos after seeing that!



It was back to the Abbatoir Swamp for dusk in order to look for **Spotless Crake**, which was remarkably responsive and showed quite well. A White-browed Crake again walked into the open on the edge of the pond. We'd timed our visit just right so that we could go by a couple roost trees as darkness fell. Sure enough, after it got dark enough, an **Australian Owlet-nightjar** popped its head out of the hole! Just a few minutes later, a pair of **Masked Owls** woke up and headed out to hunt from a nearby tree.

### **Day 7: Mareeba to Cairns via Yungaburra**

There's a park near Yungaburra where tree-kangaroos can be seen if you get there early enough, and we were certainly going to give it our best. It was cloudy and a little drizzly, but that meant conditions would be favorable for bird activity longer into the morning. The early arrival paid off, as Iain located a **Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroo** perched precariously over the road. The scope views of this odd creature were quite welcome, as was the male **Pied Monarch** who was working the car park. A **Barred (Yellow-eyed) Cuckoo-shrike**

appeared in a snag over the road, a Black-faced Monarch fed high in the canopy, and a Fan-tailed Cuckoo did laps around us. This spot was pumping, but we had to get going.

Hasties Swamp was our next stop. On the way, we stopped to admire a group of **Sarus Cranes** as they fed in a farm field. We found more at Hasties, but no one was complaining!



The wetland was loaded with new birds. It's hard to walk more than a few steps here without a Purple Swamphen running out of the way, and the lake was packed with nearly a thousand **Plumed Whistling-Ducks**. A **Red-kneed Dotterel** was working the edge. We found a **Sacred Kingfisher** nest next to the hide, which worked out quite well for everyone involved. An Australian [Black-shouldered] Kite perched up in a dead snag, and a pair of Silver-eyes flitted about in the trees.

No time to lose...onto the next spot. A pair of **Wedge-tailed Eagles** circling over the road was certainly worth a stop, though. What a massive bird! Still, we had to get moving. Iain was on a mission. He knew of a place for **Golden Bowerbird**, and once we got to the spot, a feathered fireball shot overhead and briefly lit mere feet away. Success! Consensus was that the book illustrations didn't come close to doing this impressive species justice.



After lunch, we headed back to Cairns, where Iain knew a random spot for **Crimson Finch**, and the old railroad bed was littered with tiny, hovering rubies. Getting the finch so close to Cairns saved us a bunch of time, so we had another opportunity to check the Esplanade for shorebirds. The Asiatic Dowitcher was still there, and a pair of Pacific Golden-Plover was new for the list. Dinner was at a great Greek restaurant, and afterward we headed straight to bed. There was an early flight to catch tomorrow.

## **Day 8: Brisbane to O'Reilly's**

We touched down at Brisbane airport just after 8 a.m. No one was particularly happy about the early start in Cairns, but we had to get into the rental car and to the mangroves before it got too hot. The effort paid off, with **Mangrove Honeyeater** and **Mangrove Gerygone**

appearing within a couple minutes of our arrival.



The next stop was for what may be Australia's cutest mammal: the Koala. There was an important bird to be seen in these eucalypts, too; this was the best location over the entire three weeks for Square-tailed Kite. The trip's first Noisy Miners greeted us in the car park, and very soon the novelty wore off. Everywhere you looked, there were miners moving through the trees, and they certainly lived up to their name. Just up from the car park, we spotted a **Tawny Frogmouth** on a nest. But back to the hunt. We spent a good

hour here, without any sign of our two targets when Iain suddenly stopped in his tracks and said, "Ah, I've got you now." A few seconds later, we were all enjoying scope views of a **Koala**, which was in a much smaller tree than I think most of us expected. The light was fine, but the Koala soon turned its head away, so a couple of us walked to the other side of the tree to try to get a better shot of its face. We were composing shots when—no kidding—a **Square-tailed Kite** flew through the field of view! Talk about luck. How many people can say they've had both a wild Koala and a Square-tailed Kite in view at once? The kite continued on, and so did we, riding quite high from such a memorable experience.

Our next destination was, for many of us, the most anticipated on the trip. We were headed up into the montane rainforest to base ourselves at the famous O'Reilly's lodge. If you don't know why O'Reilly's is famous among birders, just check out the photo below. **Regent Bowerbirds**, **Crimson Rosellas**, and **Australian King-Parrots** will literally land on you, hoping for a raisin or some other morsel. But even the birds that aren't there for a free handout are remarkably tame. We stepped out of the van to see a female **Satin Bowerbird** chomping on a leaf a foot off the sidewalk. Next to it was a bush where Yellow-throated and White-browed Scrubwrens were bouncing around. And finally, between us and the main door, we had to walk a gauntlet of **Wonga Pigeons** and **Superb Fairy-wrens**. Yeah, we were going to like it here.





*Wonga Pigeon*



*male Superb Fairy-wren*



*female Satin Bowerbird*



*male Regent Bowerbird*

As easy as the birding is on the lodge grounds, the real prizes are across the road. So after unpacking, we headed off into the dark, lush rainforest. Immediately, we were met with a familiar-sounding nasal screeching. But this time, it was coming from a **Green Catbird**, the southern relative of the species we'd seen earlier. Following the sound, we found a pair of catbirds working a fruiting tree. We figured it might be worth it to hang out here a bit, and we were rewarded with an appearance by a male **Paradise Riflebird**. It was at this moment that we met a hiker headed back to the lodge. "There's a lyrebird out on the trail about 20 minutes back," he said. With those words, Iain was off, and the chase was on. A few minutes later we came across a young family who informed us that they'd also just seen a lyrebird. "About 10 minutes ago," they said. Soon after, we came to a fork in the trail. Oh, no! Which way were these people coming from? Luckily, the trails paralleled one another, and we set off on the upper one. In just a hundred yards or so, Iain heard the bird rusting off the side of the trail. "Hurry!" he whispered forcefully. This bird was moving fast, so when it did cross the trail, only a few people got to see it well up ahead. We weren't giving up that easily! Patiently waiting near the spot, we soon heard the bird begin to sing its amazing string of expert imitations. Once we got closer, we could again hear the bird tossing leaves

about. We peered into the tangle of vegetation, straining to catch the faintest movement, when finally, one of us saw a leaf move. The bird was quite obscured, but a lucky few got to watch the male feeding, and well enough to see his tail and confirm that he was indeed an **Albert's Lyrebird**. By now, dinner was calling, and we turned around to head back to the lodge. We knew we'd be back tomorrow.

After dinner we headed out to the canopy walk to do some night birding. Though we didn't see any birds, we did hear a **Lesser Sooty-Owl** and have great looks at a **Common Ringtail Possum** as it walked a foot away on a support wire. Back at the lodge, a couple **Southern Boobooks** were singing.

### **Day 9: O'Reilly's**

We headed back into the rainforest early this morning. Not far into the forest we heard the pretty song of a **Rose Robin**; though he stayed up pretty high, we did get prolonged and unobscured views of him. Back near the lyrebird spot, a **Noisy Pitta** began to sing ahead. We followed the sound and were quite happy to discover that the bird was right along the trail. Unfortunately, he was behind a large log that paralleled the trail. We waited patiently, and he eventually popped right up on the log. The lyrebird proved difficult again, but one of us did have great looks at it. Walking back for lunch, Iain had been tossing some friendly barbs at one of the participants for her camouflage pants, but when she sat down for a rest and a **Southern Logrunner** hopped onto her knee, he had to admit their utility! The logrunners here are very tame, and this personable species became a welcome companion as we birded the rainforest. There's a **Satin Bowerbird** bower right near the lodge, and we watched with great interest as the male carefully arranged his collection of blue plastic bits. Red-necked Pademelons (a species of small kangaroo) fed on the lawn below the cabins at lunchtime, after which we headed off to bird a different habitat.



*male Southern Logrunner*



*male Satin Bowerbird in front of his bower*

The distance over which the habitat switches from dense rainforest to dry eucalypt

woodland is unbelievably small. In some places, it happens in as little as 25 meters. As if that weren't neat enough, there's a bird that specializes in this narrow interface: the **Red-browed Treecreeper**, which we saw busily searching for insects along the tree trunks. Further into the dry habitat, we stopped at a patch of invasive *Lantana*. Though bad for the overall ecosystem, **Variegated Fairy-wrens** love the stuff, and we quickly found a territorial male. A short blast from an iPod activated the local family of **Bell Miners**, which like their Noisy cousins, certainly have the "gift of gab". A pair of handsome **Spotted Pardalotes** also came into tape here, providing our first views of this neat Australian family of burrow-nesters. It began to sprinkle mid-afternoon, and just a minute after we got back to O'Reilly's, it started to pour. This was the first real rain they'd had in many months here, so the frogs were out in full force after dark, delighting the amateur herpetologists among us.



*Bell Miner*



*Variegated Fairy-wren*



### Day 10: O'Reilly's to Brisbane

We started down the mountain just after dawn. A **Brush Bronzewing** flushed off the road, but only a few of us saw it in time. Soon after, a *Zoothera* thrush with a rusty-looking tail flew up, so we stopped to check it out. Immediately, a **Russet-tailed Thrush** began to sing, and two of them hopped out onto the road. It was great to have the opportunity to study both this species and the similar Bassian Thrush, and to say we were all really confident with the field marks. Down

the road, we found an area of bunchgrass in a eucalypt woodland. It looked really good for **Spotted Quail-Thrush**, so we played the tape and waited for a response. A male sang back, but it began to rain at the same time, and we had to give up the search and head back to the lodge to pack.

We heard that a lyrebird had been seen in the botanic garden near the lodge at dawn, so we gave the bird one last crack. We did hear the bird very close by at one point, but never managed a glimpse. A **Noisy Pitta** and a **Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoo** were nice consolation prizes, though.

Heading back down the mountain, we paused to admire a mob of neat-looking **Whiptail (Pretty-faced) Wallabies**. On the way to Brisbane, we stopped along the road for **Eastern Rosella** and **Grey Butcherbird**, both new for the trip. No question which one wins the beauty contest! Off to Sydney...



### **Day 11: Royal National Park to Jamberoo**

It was still dark when we arrived at Royal National Park. Superb Lyrebird was the target, and we weren't going to let a late start get in the way. We heard the bird right when we got out of the van, but it was on the other side of the river—drat! Back into the car! We drove to the other side, and walked to where it sounded like the bird was singing, but the bird had flown back across to where we were originally. So back across we went. But now, the bird refused to sing any further (no matter which side of the river he was on). Frustrated, we gave up the search and headed up the trail to look for New South Wales's only endemic bird, the **Origma** (Rock-warbler). They weren't cooperating, but we thoroughly enjoyed the antics of a number of **Eastern Spinebills**. These smart-looking honeyeaters are quite common here, but we were after a drab, rock-dweller. Thankfully, someone was looking uphill and caught a flash of rust on a slab of limestone. An **Origma** was perched atop it, oddly but characteristically jerking its tail from side to side. We'd still not seen a lyrebird, but the weather was so good, we decided to head up onto the heathlands, where bad weather is commonplace and will quickly ruin the best-planned day of birding. We stopped to look at a pair of Little Corellas in the car park, which proved to be a good idea as they were somehow the only ones most of us saw the entire trip.

Indeed, the weather was gorgeous, but the birds were a bit tough. Emu-wrens and heathwrens were singing, but would never cooperate long enough for anyone to see them well. Thankfully, a pair of **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos** flew over, and a **Tawny-crowned Honeyeater** appeared atop a *Banksia* with a group of **New Holland Honeyeaters**. This seemed to restore people's spirits. We persisted, and did manage to pull out a **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (Hylacola)** and a couple **Southern Emu-wrens**.



We headed down the coast to do some seawatching before lunch. A quick binocular scan when we hopped out of the van revealed hundreds of shearwaters close in to shore. Excellent! We scampered down the rocks and between tidal pools to the tip of the point, so that we'd be as close to the birds as possible. Amazingly, there were both **Short-tailed Shearwaters** and Sooty Shearwaters feeding between us and the breakers. This provided a unique opportunity to discuss subtle field marks between the two, like wing pattern, bill

shape, and head coloration. "WHALE!" someone shouted. I scanned with my binoculars but wasn't having any luck until he said, "No—only 50 meters out!" Sure enough, a pair of **Humpback Whales** surfaced and began to play around, smacking their tails against the waves. What a treat to get so close to such massive and magnificent creatures without risking seasickness! A bit further out, but still quite close, we found **Fluttering Shearwaters**, **Australian Gannets**, and dark-morph **Wedge-tailed Shearwaters**. Meanwhile, a pair of **Sooty Oystercatchers** had flown in and perched on the rocks behind us. Tummies were rumbling, so we walked back to have lunch in the picnic area near the van, where we had some new company in the form of **Red Wattlebirds**, Red-whiskered Bulbuls, Australian Raven, and a **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**.



*Sooty Oystercatcher*



*Humpback Whale*

Still missing lyrebird, we drove inland to a rainforest patch but were quite disheartened to find the gate locked well before closing time. Instead, we checked into our hotel and regrouped. The weather was pleasant, so we tried to make the best of the situation and

headed up to the heathland at Barren Grounds. We heard a Pilotbird from the car park, and walked into the forest to try for this skulker. It was here, while quietly sitting on the forest floor, that we discovered the first terrestrial leeches of the trip. Nothing bad—this was Australia after all—but a shock for those of us who'd never experienced them before. Iain was telling us about a guide in New Guinea who's purposefully attached a leech to see how long it would stay on. One of the clients, Jason, thought it would be fun to try the experiment on his own, and he easily beat the record. But after an hour and 45 minutes, he decided it was time for the no-longer-so-little blood-sucker to go. Oh, in case you were wondering, the **Pilotbird** did show itself, but only briefly as it dashed between the bushes.

Out on the heathland, **Eastern Bristlebirds** were being quite vocal. We spent a lot of time trying to find one male in particular, but as expected, no one managed more than a quick glimpse of this master skulker. Chestnut-rumped Heathwren put in an encore appearance. By now it was getting dark, and the temperature had dropped markedly, so we drove down the hill and back to the hotel. Along the way, we saw a **Black (Swamp) Wallaby** and a **Short-beaked Echidna**. Well, we saw the top few spines of the echidna. By the time we stopped the van and ran back to the animal, it had almost completely buried itself into the humus-rich forest floor. In just a few seconds, it had buried itself straight down into the ground—very impressive!



*Iain and Jason with the leech*



*Who knew they had orange racing stripes?*

### **Day 12: Barren Grounds to the Outback**

There was one more chance to see a lyrebird at dawn, so we took it. We easily located a singing male, but he proved surprisingly difficult catch sight of. It seemed like we should have been right on top of him. We spent 15 minutes trying to find the bird when a sudden

blast of wings revealed his presence. He's been right over us, 40 feet up a tree. Silly bird; **Superb Lyrebirds** are supposed to be on the ground; hadn't he read the books? He sailed downhill and out of sight, and unfortunately, we had a tight schedule that necessitated our departure. Back up at Barren Grounds, the bristlebirds proved just as skulky, and all we could manage with **Gang-gang Cockatoo** was to hear a couple birds. There was a long drive ahead; this was the day we headed into what many of us think of when we hear the word "Australia": the unpopulated, dry interior or "outback".

We drove south and east towards Canberra, crossing the Great Dividing Range and entering the Murray River drainage. A stretch of the legs along the Murrumbidgee River in Gundagai produced our first **Red-rumped Parrots**. Feeding with them was a pair neat-looking, orange Crimson × Yellow Rosella intergrades, also know as "**Adelaide**" **Rosellas**. We ate lunch in Junee, where Iain hoped to find Superb Parrot, a very localized species endemic to this part of Australia. The decade-long drought seemed to have greatly reduced the numbers of parrots in general, but not to worry: he had another spot.

Speeding along to the west, someone yelled "EMU!", and we slammed on the brakes. A pair of **Emus** was slowly walking through an open field. We were now well into open country, so the stop gave us the opportunity to find some new birds. A **Rufous Songlark** displayed overhead, and a group of Yellow-rumped Thornbills fed on the ground under a barbed wire fence. A pair of **White-winged Trillers** appeared in the only tree around. We had a neat encounter with a rather irate frilled lizard here, too.



*Emu*



*hybrid rosella*

Ironically, as we drove west, storm clouds began to gather, and by the time we'd reached Iain's Superb Parrot spot, we were in the middle of a full-fledged thunderstorm. It didn't seem to be moving very fast, so there was nothing to do but keep driving. Once we exited the thunderstorm, eyes were straining to seek out any parrot-like form. This produced **Bluebonnet**, **Mulga Parrot**, and even a **Cockatiel**, but no Superb Parrots could be found. It was down to the wire; there was one chance left. We pulled off the road and under a shady grove of trees. A flock of six fluorescent green parrots shot out from the trees ahead of us, but one bird circled back and landed. It was a male **Superb Parrot**! Third time's a charm, it would seem. We also found a pair of **Yellow Rosellas** here, which was a good thing because we'd be leaving their tiny range in the next couple miles.



We arrived in Leeton with plenty of time to unpack at the hotel before heading out to bird Fivebough Swamp in the late afternoon. This is Iain's favorite wetland in the entire world, and it was easy to see why. The first pond held a bevy of new birds: **Hoary-headed Grebe**, **Red-necked Avocet**, Whiskered Tern, **Freckled Duck**, and the bizarrely beautiful **Pink-eared Duck**. Not only was there a great variety of birds, but they were numerous and allowed close approach. An Australian Reed-Warbler was on territory in the reeds at the corner, and popped out to tell us off when we got too close. A flock of **Black-tailed Native-hens** scattered as we walked the dike to the next pond, which held a large number of **Australian Shelducks**.



*Pink-eared Duck*



*Red-necked Avocets*



### **Day 13: Outback New South Wales**

I was really looking forward to this morning. The birding that is. The drive isn't so much fun, but it's completely necessary. The middle of nowhere in the outback is not somewhere you want to be midday if you can help it, and once you experience the birds, you want to go back the next day. We arrived at dawn in an extensive patch of mallee, a neat habitat of stunted eucalypts with an open understory strewn with rings of spinifex grass (*Triodia*). It's very easy to

get lost here, so having a GPS proved very handy. As luck would have it, there was a downpour the day before we arrived, so puddles of water dotted the road, and the birds were taking full advantage. A **Shy Heathwren** darted out of the brush for a sip, and back into cover. It did this five or six times before finally ditching the shy routine and taking a full-on bath. It was soon joined by a **Red-capped Robin** and a **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater**.



Just then, a **Chestnut Quail-thrush** began to sing from within the mallee, and the hunt was on. We zig-zagged through the mallee, trying to follow the song, but had a hard time telling which direction it was coming from. When we got close enough, it became apparent that there were two males singing, so we set up shop between them, and hit the tape. Both came tantalizingly close, but always stayed out of sight. We gave up, and on the way back to the road, a quail-thrush nonchalantly crossed the "path" ahead. Figures!

Back out on the road, a flock of honeyeaters appeared. **Black Honeyeater** was perhaps the most exciting this far east, but a male **Painted Honeyeater** gorging himself on mistletoe berries was also quite nice. **Striped Honeyeaters** were also present, this time where we expected them to be. A **Crested Bellbird** perched up where we were able to get a look at this neat songster. Some rapid tinkling alerted us to the presence of a fairy-wren, and very shortly a stunning male **Splendid Fairy-wren** appeared, accompanied by the most



“oohs” and “ahs” heard over the entire trip. Truly a living sapphire! A very impressive, melodic song led us to a slightly less (visually) stunning Western Gerygone. Still, the gerygone certainly has the fairy-wren beat on vocal talent. A dull whistler had us stretching our heads for a bit, but it proved to be a young male **Gilbert’s Whistler**. A **Black Falcon** blasted by, but frustratingly, only two of us managed to get on it. The action was nonstop—this was some of the best birding we’d had so far!

We began to drive on, and paused to admire a large flock of woodswallows circling over the road. Among them were some snazzy male **Masked and White-browed Woodswallows**. Once out of the mallee and into more open country, ironically, we saw our only **Mallee Ringneck** of the trip. We stopped to try our luck at some saltbush, but we couldn’t find any White-winged Fairy-wrens. It turned out to be a great spot anyway, because a male **Spotted Bowerbird** popped up in a tree not too far away. We were certainly not expecting to see this species!



*male White-browed Woodswallow*



*male Masked Woodswallow*

The habitat again changed, this time to cypress-brigalow woodland. Our quick attempt to bird this habitat was thwarted by rain, but we pulled out pairs of **Speckled Warblers** and **Striated Pardalotes** before hopping back into the van. Thankfully, we’d be back in a similar habitat tomorrow. With such an early start, we took a siesta this afternoon before heading out for another trip to Fivebough. We concentrated on a different portion of the swamp this time, and were rewarded with nice selection of new birds. We walked along a dike flanked by reeds on either side, both of which were full of Little Grassbirds. Carefully peeking around the corners paid off, as a small group of **White-throated Chats** fed on the open path. In the big marsh, we found a **Yellow-billed Spoonbill**, a large number of Marsh Sandpipers, and a vagrant from America—a **Pectoral Sandpiper**. An **Australian Crake** called nearby, and a little playback brought it right out for everyone to see.

## Day 14: Binya to Hay

We started near Binya today, in habitat similar to that which we'd been rained out of yesterday. Right away we found another **Painted Honeyeater**: a good sign for this endangered species. After hearing them a few times, we finally saw a **Black-eared Cuckoo**. A garrulous flock of **White-browed Babblers** seemed to follow us for a while. Restless Flycatcher was another species we'd failed to catch up with until this morning. A pair of circling raptors comprised both morphs of **Little Eagle**. A small group of **Southern Whitefaces** rounded out the stop.

The near-mythical meat pies of Griffith were calling our names, so we headed southward for lunch. But first, we stopped at the golf course, where everyone got ridiculously close views of **Tawny Frogmouth** and **Bluebonnet**. After lunch, we set off towards Hay to check in and rest up before an exciting evening.



*male Painted Honeyeater*



*Black-eared Cuckoo*



*Tawny Frogmouths*



*White-browed Babblers*

We arranged to be met by a local birder at his family's farm, and he let us know what was around. Iain told him what we'd like to go after, and from there on it was like checking off a

shopping list. First a female **Orange Chat** ran out into the track ahead of us. Then we stopped at a flat where a pair of **White-winged Fairy-wrens** was bouncing around. A huge Red Kangaroo watched us pass by as we drove to see a **Ground Cuckoo-shrike** at its nest. Next up, **Spotted Harrier** and **Black Falcon**. It was great to clean up the latter species for everyone after yesterday's less-than-satisfactory experience. A corral held small groups of **Zebra (Chestnut-eared) Finches** and **Budgerigars**; the impressive sunset vista quickly eliminated any parallels with a pet store. Next, we enjoyed **Australian Pratincoles** and **Inland Dotterels**, the latter just in from the wintering grounds. They would soon breed and head back north, spending only a few weeks at this southern latitude. There was no question that bird-for-bird and minute-for-minute, this hour was the best birding we'd had. But it was about to get better.



*Ground Cuckoo-shrike*



*memorable open-country sunset*



*Black Falcon*



*Australian Pratincole*

Darkness fell, and we loaded into two four-wheel-drives. Thus began our hour or two of driving in circles—literally. We slowly drove circles in an area of short, sparse vegetation, looking for anything that that wasn't vegetable or mineral. A **Fat-tailed Dunnart** (a tiny marsupial "mouse") ran around in the spotlight. Then a call came up on the radio. The other

group had located a female **Little Buttonquail**. We drove over to meet them, and there she was. Cute little thing. Next, we found a small covey of **Stubble Quail**.



*female Little Buttonquail in mid-blink*



*Stubble Quail*



This was great, but the big daddy (or big momma as we'd soon find out) was still out there somewhere. I'm not sure if it was the 30th or 40th time around the field, when Jason yelled from the back seat, "STOP THE CAR NOW! WE'RE RIGHT ON TOP OF IT!" I was on the other side of the car, and the bird was so close to the back wheel (less than two feet), that I literally had to lay across the (very amenable) driver's lap to see it: a gorgeous female **Plains-wanderer**, standing motionless next to a rumbling one-ton machine. We backed off, called the other vehicle over, and sat flabbergasted for a quarter hour while she just stood there. She preened a bit, looked around, and stretched. If we concerned her, she was a masterful bluffer. It's always hard to tear yourself away from a stunning lifer, but especially so with such a difficult bird. Somehow we managed, though, and began a gleeful drive back to Hay.

### **Day 15: Hay to Lithgow**

After such a long and exciting night, the morning's lie-in was much appreciated. The only birding scheduled for the morning was the local sewage lagoon, and time of day certainly

doesn't matter. **Australian Shoveler** was a pick-up here, and we also got closer looks at **Zebra Finch** and **White-winged Fairy-wren**. Now began the longest drive of the trip. This was certainly a travel day, but we tried to break it up with a bit of birding.

At Blue Gum Swamp we had superb views of **Freckled Duck** and added **Blue-billed Duck** to the list.

Going over the checklist on the drive, we noticed we had a glaring hole. How had we not seen a **Striated Thornbill**? About a minute later, Iain pulled over at a rest area and said, "This looks great for **Striated Thornbill**." And there they were, right in the car park! We walked around a bit more and came across a singing **Spotted Quail-thrush**, but there was almost no chance he'd show himself midday, so we moved on after a brief attempt.



### **Day 16: Capertee Valley to Sydney**

The locals say the Capertee Valley is the biggest canyon in the world. The area is certainly beautiful and offers great birding, but I have to say that I've seen more impressive geological gashes in Mexico. This is *the* Regent Honeyeater spot, though, and that's why we were here. Well, that was much of the reason. We came across many flocks of **Little Lorikeets** here—quite lucky for such a spotty bird. A flock of stunning **Diamond Firetails** feeding along the road got quite a reaction from the van. Surely those two species alone made it worth the trip.



We got to Iain's Regent Honeyeater spot from the year before and made a disturbing discovery. The eucalypt grove they nested in had become diseased and died. A **Regent Honeyeater** sang from far up the slope, but it was just too steep to risk an ascent. Bad luck, but there were other groves to check that were more readily accessible. The spiffy-looking **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** was common here, and we found both **Crested Shrike-tit** and **Pallid Cuckoo** at this stop, so it was certainly worth our time to poke around.



*Crested Shrike-tit*



*Diamond Firetail*

We hit another likely-looking eucalypt grove, where quick we ran into a frisky group of honeyeaters. A pair of **Fuscous Honeyeaters** was viciously chasing a pair of **Black-chinned Honeyeaters**. We couldn't tell what the commotion was about, but both were new species for us, so we didn't mind too much. While we watched the honeyeaters, a group of local birders arrived. It didn't look good, they said. Regents were scarce this year to begin with, and had either fledged early or abandoned their nests. It had been weeks since anyone had seen one in these parts.

That wasn't going to dissuade us from trying, though. We walked along a eucalypt-lined creek bed, where we flushed a couple **Brown Quail**. Iain looked up just in time to see two **Regent Honeyeaters** flying high and fast downstream. They were so quick that no one else got on them. Subsequent searching proved fruitless, but we did get great looks at a Brown Treecreeper feeding at our feet on the ground. Dramatically paler, it sure didn't look much like the one we saw in northern Queensland!

We'd put in valiant effort, but it was time to head back to Sydney. We had to catch an afternoon flight to Hobart. We briefly stopped at the Lithgow Sewage Works, where we got much better views of **Blue-billed Duck** and Australian Shoveler. Very near the airport in Sydney, I realized we'd never stopped to look at a "Green" Figbird. This is a dubious split, but we were here, so why not look for it? An amusing game of urban birding ensued as we ran up and down sidewalks and scanned through friarbirds and wattlebirds in *Ficus* trees. We did eventually get one flying across the road; not a fabulous look, but it was a figbird nonetheless.

## **Day 17: Bruny Island**

We woke up to a windy, rainy Hobart. Not a good omen, but you play with the hand you're dealt. When we arrived at the Murrell Reserve, the weather was still sub-par, though the rain had reduced to a manageable drizzle. Massive **Yellow Wattlebirds**, Australia's largest honeyeater, noisily passed through the eucalypts. **Tasmanian Native-hens** dashed across the trail. Our target bird, **Forty-spotted Pardalote**, was calling from somewhere in the large tree above us, but we couldn't locate the birds until they flew across to the other side of the pond. Drat! We circled the pond to chase the pardalotes, finding **Green Rosella** and the seriously underrated **Yellow-throated Honeyeater** along the way. The wind was still howling, which made it all the harder to find two leaf-sized birds in the top of a tree. They continued to call, but we just couldn't find them. There was a ferry to catch, so we threw in the towel and walked back around the pond. In the sapling literally ten meters from the van were two calmly feeding **Forty-spotted Pardalotes**. The look on Iain's face was priceless.



It started to rain again at the ferry terminal, but we were able to bird from under the eaves of a restaurant. **Black-faced Cormorants** are usually here, and today was no exception.



Once onto Bruny Island, the wind calmed down a bit, though we never saw the sun all day. We drove along and stopped to look at a **Dusky Robin** perched out on a fencepost. Across the road we, almost miraculously, located a **Swift Parrot** perched motionless in a tree. Iain's **Flame Robin** spot produced once again, and a male **Olive Whistler** appeared for good measure. He entertained us for a while with his impressive vocal stylings. The song was so high pitched that it seemed to slide up and out of our audible

range at the end.



*male Flame Robin*



*male Olive Whistler with a sticky mouth*

Driving across “the Neck”, we stopped to scan for seabirds, and what we saw was truly spectacular. Just over the water was a teeming black cloud dotted with white specks. Before us was one of the most impressive concentrations of birds many of us had ever seen. **Shy Albatrosses** and Australian Gannets were feeding amid a swirling mass of tens of thousands of Short-tailed/Sooty Shearwaters. We headed on down the beach and stopped to find a pair of **Hooded Plovers** and a group of **Pacific Gulls**.



Toucans have nothing on this gull when it comes to bills! **Dusky Woodswallows** cruised by, and a **Strong-billed Honeyeater** probed the crevices of an immense shaggybark eucalypt. We all found it quite interesting that although this honeyeater fills the treecreeper niche (and thus has a very characteristic way of feeding), none of the field guides we had on us illustrated it doing so. Looking in the books you’d think it was just another White-throated Honeyeater look-alike. No, it was much cooler than that!



*Pacific Gulls*



*Strong-billed Honeyeater*

We drove up into the mountains a bit, which put us in range for a few more species. A male **Pink Robin** and a pair of **Scrubtits** appeared at the same time, and the robin won our attention without contest. Unfortunately, the Scrubtits didn't stick around, but both **Tasmanian Thornbill** and **Tasmanian Scrubwren** appeared at the same spot. Dominated by massive, tall shaggybarks, the forest up here was spectacular. A **Black Currawong** perched in a big snag, and a **Crescent Honeyeater** briefly flew in to check us out. Our luck had been so good that we only had one target left on the island. We drove through suitable habitat, but didn't turn up much. On the drive back to the ferry, Iain finally spotted our bird: a male **Scarlet Robin**. We put our binoculars on it, and simultaneously, two other North Americans and I said, "It's a Rose-breasted Grosbeak." Really, with enough distance, the similarity is uncanny! We'd somehow missed **Chestnut Teal** up until now, but a quick check of some ponds produced a couple families of this smart-looking duck.



*male Pink Robin*



*Crescent Honeyeater*

## **Day 18: Hobart area**

So great was yesterday's luck on Bruny that our plans today were quite flexible. We decided to begin on Mount Wellington. Iain's never-fail **Grey (Clinking) Currawong** spot lived up to its name. The bird, however, might not be so obliging next time if we don't bring it some crisps. It was definitely not impressed with our offering of bread and promptly left after a quick taste. We drove up higher onto the mountain, and it appeared as if the vegetation was covered with a thick layer of frost. Climbing further, we realized that it wasn't



frost at all, but rather, about a quarter inch of snow! Striated Fieldwren was the target here, but it didn't want to play in these frozen conditions. Then again, neither did Iain, who made it quite clear that this weather was simply not allowed on his tours. This was a Tropical Birding trip, after all. We descended the mountain to grab a hot drink and warm up a bit.

Newly invigorated, we headed back up the mountain, this time stopping halfway up to try for Scrubtit, since yesterday's pair had decided they weren't going to stick around if we were going to sub them to look at that Pink Robin. We walked into a quiet patch of dark, stunted forest. Something hopped along the forest floor but what was it? Yes, it was a **Scrubtit!** It eventually hopped onto an open trail, so everyone got a chance to see it well. Here we were also treated to another male **Pink Robin**.

There was only one bird left to get on the mountain, so we headed back up to the top. It was warmer by now, though certainly far from warm. We spent a good deal of time in this gorgeous, rocky heath habitat, and found a couple **Flame Robins** in the process. Naturally, it wasn't until we had nearly gotten back to the car that a pair of **Striated Fieldwrens** appeared.

We finally got **Musk Duck** just outside Hobart, and it was scarcely midday, so we had plenty of time to take a bit of a drive and target one last bird. Spring was in full force in Tasmania, and the drive was beautiful. The verdant green hills were punctuated with huge swaths of color, as everywhere there were flowers in bloom—not just gardens but also roadside ditches. We made it to the final destination, and scanned some sheep pastures. We were looking for large birds. “Nope, just sheep in this one.” “Yeah, me too.”



A running theme on this tour was Iain giving up on a bird only to have it appear as we attempted to leave the area. Again, after starting drive towards Hobart, three huge **Cape Barren Geese** thwarted our progress by appearing amongst a couple old cars in a neglected pasture. These were truly some big shelducks! What a great way to end the tour, right?

Now we were really headed back to Hobart. About halfway back, Iain brought the car to a sudden halt. An **echidna** was in the road, and there was an oncoming bus headed straight for it! Thankfully, there was plenty of time to get the poor thing out of the way. We got much more satisfying views of this one, to say the least!



*Short-beaked Echidna*



*getting a closer look*

## Day 19: Departure

You just can't keep an obsessive birder from birding. **Musk Lorikeets** had been flying over quite often the prior two days, but no one had managed to see one perched. Those of us

lucky enough to get the later flight out of Hobart got great looks at a couple feeding in a tree right across the street from the terminal entrance this morning. That's what you call down to the wire! This is a whirlwind tour if there ever was one, but if you want to see a ton of birds and don't mind a few early starts, it's certainly worth the effort.

## BIRD LIST

This list includes all the bird species that were recorded by at least one of us. Taxonomy and nomenclature closely follow Clements (2007). Parentheses denote an alternate name used by some checklists.

Total: **423** bird species, of which 10 were heard only (H) and 1 was seen only by a leader (L).

### **CASSOWARIES: Casuariidae**

Southern Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius*

### **EMU: Dromaiidae**

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

### **GREBES: Podicipedidae**

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

### **ALBATROSSES: Diomedidae**

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*

### **SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS: Procellariidae**

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*

### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae**

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

### **GANNETS AND BOOBIES: Sulidae**

Australian Gannet *Morus serrator*

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae**

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

Black-faced Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscescens*

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

### **ANHINGAS: Anhingidae**

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

### **FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae**

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*

### **HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNs: Ardeidae**

Pacific Heron *Ardea pacifica*

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Pacific Reef-Heron *Egretta sacra*

Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Rufous Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>
<b>STORKS: Ciconiidae</b>	
Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>
<b>IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae</b>	
Australian Ibis	<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>
Straw-necked Ibis	<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Royal Spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	<i>Platalea flavipes</i>
<b>DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae</b>	
Magpie Goose	<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>
Plumed Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna eytoni</i>
Wandering Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna arcuata</i>
Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>
Cape Barren Goose	<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>
Freckled Duck	<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>
Australian Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>
Radjah Shelduck	<i>Tadorna radjah</i>
Green Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus pulchellus</i>
Maned Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>
Gray Teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>
Chestnut Teal	<i>Anas castanea</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Australian Shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchos</i>
Pink-eared Duck	<i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>
White-eyed Duck	<i>Aythya australis</i>
Blue-billed Duck	<i>Oxyura australis</i>
Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>
<b>OSPREY: Pandionidae</b>	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
<b>HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES: Accipitridae</b>	
Pacific Baza	<i>Aviceda subcristata</i>
Square-tailed Kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>
Australian Kite	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Whistling Kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
Swamp Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>
Spotted Harrier	<i>Circus assimilis</i>
Gray Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>
Collared Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>
Wedge-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila audax</i>
Little Eagle	<i>Aquila morphnoides</i>
<b>FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae</b>	
Australian Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>
Australian Hobby	<i>Falco longipennis</i>
Brown Falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>

Black Falcon	<i>Falco subniger</i>
<b>MEGAPODES: Megapodiidae</b>	
Australian Brush-turkey	<i>Alectura lathamii</i>
Orange-footed Scrubfowl	<i>Megapodius reinwardt</i>
<b>PHEASANTS AND PARTRIDGES: Phasianidae</b>	
Brown Quail	<i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>
Stubble Quail	<i>Coturnix pectoralis</i>
<b>BUTTONQUAIL: Turnicidae</b>	
Little Buttonquail	<i>Turnix velox</i>
<b>CRANES: Gruidae</b>	
Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>
Brolga	<i>Grus rubicunda</i>
<b>RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS: Rallidae</b>	
Red-necked Crake	<i>Rallina tricolor</i>
Australian Crake	<i>Porzana fluminea</i>
Spotless Crake	<i>Porzana tabuensis</i>
White-browed Crake	<i>Porzana cinerea</i>
Purple Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Dusky Moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>
Black-tailed Native-hen	<i>Gallinula ventralis</i>
Tasmanian Native-hen	<i>Gallinula mortierii</i>
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
<b>BUSTARDS: Otidae</b>	
Australian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis australis</i>
<b>JACANAS: Jacanidae</b>	
Comb-crested Jacana	<i>Irediparra gallinacea</i>
<b>PAINTED-SNIPES: Rostratulidae</b>	
<b>OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae</b>	
Pied Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>
Sooty Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>
<b>AVOCETS AND STILTS: Recurvirostridae</b>	
Pied Stilt	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>
Red-necked Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra novaehollandiae</i>
<b>THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae</b>	
Bush Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>
<b>PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: Glareolidae</b>	
Australian Pratincole	<i>Stiltia isabella</i>
<b>PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae</b>	
Banded Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tricolor</i>
Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>
Red-kneed Dotterel	<i>Erythrogonys cinctus</i>
Pacific Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
Red-capped Plover	<i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>
Lesser Sandplover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
Greater Sandplover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
Inland Dotterel	<i>Charadrius australis</i>
Hooded Plover	<i>Thinornis cucullatus</i>
Black-fronted Dotterel	<i>Euseyonis melanops</i>
<b>SANDPIPERS: Scolopacidae</b>	
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>

Asiatic Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Far Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>
Gray-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
<b>PLAINS-WANDERER: Pedionomidae</b>	
Plains-wanderer	<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>
<b>GULLS: Laridae</b>	
Pacific Gull	<i>Larus pacificus</i>
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Silver Gull	<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>
<b>TERNs: Sternidae</b>	
Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>
Black Noddy	<i>Anous minutus</i>
Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>
Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>
Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>
Great Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
<b>PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae</b>	
White-headed Pigeon	<i>Columba leucomela</i>
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia phasianella</i>
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Common Bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>
Brush Bronzewing	<i>Phaps elegans</i>
Crested Pigeon	<i>Geophaps lophotes</i>
Squatter Pigeon	<i>Geophaps scripta</i>
Peaceful Dove	<i>Geopelia placida</i>
Bar-shouldered Dove	<i>Geopelia humeralis</i>
Wonga Pigeon	<i>Leucosarcia melanoleuca</i>
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i>
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus regina</i>
Torresian Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula spilorrhhoa</i>
Topknot Pigeon	<i>Lopholaimus antarcticus</i>
<b>COCKATOOS: Cacatuidae</b>	
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii</i>
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>
H Gang-gang Cockatoo	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>

Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i>
Little Corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>
Cockatiel	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>
<b>PARROTS: Psittacidae</b>	
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus</i>
Musk Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>
Little Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>
Double-eyed Fig-Parrot	<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma</i>
Mallee Ringneck	<i>Barnardius barnardi</i>
Green Rosella	<i>Platycercus caledonicus</i>
Crimson Rosella	<i>Platycercus elegans</i>
Yellow Rosella	<i>Platycercus flaveolus</i>
Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>
Pale-headed Rosella	<i>Platycercus adscitus</i>
Mulga Parrot	<i>Psephotus varius</i>
Red-rumped Parrot	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>
Bluebonnet	<i>Northiella haematogaster</i>
Swift Parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>
Budgerigar	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>
Australian King-Parrot	<i>Alisterus scapularis</i>
Red-winged Parrot	<i>Aprosmictus erythropterus</i>
Superb Parrot	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>
<b>CUCKOOS: Cuculidae</b>	
Pallid Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus pallidus</i>
Brush Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>
Black-eared Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx osculans</i>
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i>
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>
Little Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>
Australian Koel	<i>Eudynamys cyanocephalus</i>
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>
Pheasant Coucal	<i>Centropus phasianinus</i>
<b>BARN-OWLS: Tytonidae</b>	
H Lesser Sooty-Owl	<i>Tyto multipunctata</i>
Australian Masked-Owl	<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>
<b>OWLS: Strigidae</b>	
Rufous Owl	<i>Ninox rufa</i>
H Southern Boobook	<i>Ninox boobook</i>
<b>OWLET-NIGHTJARS: Aegothelidae</b>	
Australian Owlet-Nightjar	<i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>
<b>FROGMOUTHS: Podargidae</b>	
Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>
H Marbled Frogmouth	<i>Podargus ocellatus</i>
Papuan Frogmouth	<i>Podargus papuensis</i>
<b>SWIFTS: Apodidae</b>	
Australian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>
<b>KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae</b>	
Azure Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo azurea</i>
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>

	Blue-winged Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo leachii</i>
	Forest Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus macleayi</i>
H	Red-backed Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus pyrrhopygius</i>
	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
	Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>
	<b>BEE-EATERS: Meropidae</b>	
	Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>
	<b>ROLLERS: Coraciidae</b>	
	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
	<b>PITTAS: Pittidae</b>	
	Noisy Pitta	<i>Pitta versicolor</i>
	<b>LYREBIRDS: Menuridae</b>	
	Albert's Lyrebird	<i>Menura alberti</i>
	Superb Lyrebird	<i>Menura novaehollandiae</i>
	<b>LARKS: Alaudidae</b>	
	Australasian Bushlark	<i>Mirafra javanica</i>
	<b>SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae</b>	
	Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>
	Fairy Martin	<i>Petrochelidon ariel</i>
	Tree Martin	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>
	<b>WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae</b>	
	Australasian Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>
	<b>CUCKOO-SHRIKES: Campephagidae</b>	
	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina maxima</i>
	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
	Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina lineata</i>
	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina papuensis</i>
	Cicadabird	<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>
	White-winged Triller	<i>Lalage tricolor</i>
	Varied Triller	<i>Lalage leucomela</i>
	<b>BULBULS: Pycnonotidae</b>	
	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
	<b>THRUSHES: Turdidae</b>	
	Olive-tailed Thrush	<i>Zoothera lunulata</i>
	Russet-tailed Thrush	<i>Zoothera heinei</i>
	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
	<b>CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae</b>	
	Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>
	<b>OLD WORLD WARBLERS: Sylviidae</b>	
	Australian Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus australis</i>
H	Little Grassbird	<i>Megalurus gramineus</i>
	Brown Songlark	<i>Cincloramphus cruralis</i>
	Rufous Songlark	<i>Cincloramphus mathewsi</i>
	<b>FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae</b>	
	Northern Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufiventris</i>
	Willie-wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
	Gray Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>
	Rufous Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>
	<b>MONARCH-FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae</b>	
	Black-faced Monarch	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>
H	White-eared Monarch	<i>Monarcha leucotis</i>
	Spectacled Monarch	<i>Monarcha trivirgatus</i>

Pied Monarch  
Leaden Flycatcher  
Satin Flycatcher  
Restless Flycatcher  
Shining Flycatcher  
Yellow-breasted Boatbill

*Arses kaupi*  
*Myiagra rubecula*  
*Myiagra cyanoleuca*  
*Myiagra inquieta*  
*Myiagra alecto*  
*Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*

**AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS: Petroicidae**

Jacky-winter  
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher  
Scarlet Robin  
Red-capped Robin  
Flame Robin  
Rose Robin  
Pink Robin  
Dusky Robin  
Pale-yellow Robin  
Yellow Robin  
Mangrove Robin  
White-browed Robin  
Gray-headed Robin

*Microeca fascinans*  
*Microeca flavigaster*  
*Petroica multicolor*  
*Petroica goodenovii*  
*Petroica phoenicea*  
*Petroica rosea*  
*Petroica rodinogaster*  
*Melanodryas vittata*  
*Tregellasia capito*  
*Eopsaltria australis*  
*Eopsaltria pulverulenta*  
*Poecilodryas superciliosa*  
*Heteromyias albispecularis*

**WHISTLERS AND ALLIES: Pachycephalidae**

Crested Shrike-tit  
Crested Bellbird  
Olive Whistler  
Gilbert's Whistler  
Golden Whistler  
Rufous Whistler  
Rufous Shrike-Thrush  
Bower's Shrike-Thrush  
Gray Shrike-Thrush

*Falcunculus frontatus*  
*Oreoica gutturalis*  
*Pachycephala olivacea*  
*Pachycephala inornata*  
*Pachycephala pectoralis*  
*Pachycephala rufiventris*  
*Colluricincla megarhyncha*  
*Colluricincla boweri*  
*Colluricincla harmonica*

**PSEUDO-BABLERS: Pomatostomidae**

Gray-crowned Babbler  
White-browed Babbler

*Pomatostomus temporalis*  
*Pomatostomus superciliosus*

**LOGRUNNERS: Orthonychidae**

Southern Logrunner  
Chowchilla

*Orthonyx temminckii*  
*Orthonyx spaldingii*

**WHIPBIRDS AND QUAIL-THRUSHES: Eupetidae**

Eastern Whipbird  
H Spotted Quail-thrush  
Chestnut Quail-thrush

*Psophodes olivaceus*  
*Cinclosoma punctatum*  
*Cinclosoma castanotum*

**FAIRYWRENS: Maluridae**

Red-backed Fairywren  
White-winged Fairywren  
Superb Fairywren  
Splendid Fairywren  
Variegated Fairywren  
Lovely Fairywren  
Southern Emuwren

*Malurus melanocephalus*  
*Malurus leucopterus*  
*Malurus cyaneus*  
*Malurus splendens*  
*Malurus lamberti*  
*Malurus amabilis*  
*Stipiturus malachurus*

**THORNBILLS AND ALLIES: Acanthizidae**

Eastern Bristlebird  
Pilotbird  
Rock Warbler

*Dasyornis brachypterus*  
*Pycnoptilus floccosus*  
*Origma solitaria*

Fernwren	<i>Oreoscopus gutturalis</i>
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis citreogularis</i>
White-browed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis frontalis</i>
Tasmanian Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis humilis</i>
Atherton Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis kerri</i>
Large-billed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis magnirostra</i>
Scrubtit	<i>Acanthornis magna</i>
Speckled Warbler	<i>Pyrrholaemus sagittatus</i>
Striated Fieldwren	<i>Calamanthus fuliginosus</i>
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	<i>Hylacola pyrrhopygia</i>
Shy Heathwren	<i>Hylacola cauta</i>
Buff-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza reguloides</i>
Mountain Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza katherina</i>
Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>
Tasmanian Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza ewingii</i>
Inland Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza apicalis</i>
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i>
Yellow Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza nana</i>
Striated Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza lineata</i>
Weebill	<i>Smicronis brevirostris</i>
Fairy Gerygone	<i>Gerygone palpebrosa</i>
White-throated Gerygone	<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>
Large-billed Gerygone	<i>Gerygone magnirostris</i>
Brown Gerygone	<i>Gerygone mouki</i>
Western Gerygone	<i>Gerygone fusca</i>
Mangrove Gerygone	<i>Gerygone levigaster</i>
Southern Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>
<b>AUSTRALIAN CHATS: Epthianuridae</b>	
L Crimson Chat	<i>Epthianura tricolor</i>
White-fronted Chat	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>
<b>SITELLAS: Neosittidae</b>	
Varied Sittella	<i>Neositta chrysoptera</i>
<b>AUSTRALASIAN TREECREEPERS: Climacteridae</b>	
White-throated Treecreeper	<i>Cormobates leucophaea</i>
Red-browed Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris erythroptis</i>
Brown Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>
<b>SUNBIRDS: Nectariniidae</b>	
Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
<b>FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae</b>	
Mistletoebird	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>
<b>PARDALOTES: Pardalotidae</b>	
Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>
Forty-spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus quadragintus</i>
Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>
<b>WHITE-EYES: Zosteropidae</b>	
Silver-eye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>
<b>HONEYEATERS: Meliphagidae</b>	
Brown Honeyeater	<i>Lichmera indistincta</i>
Dusky Myzomela	<i>Myzomela obscura</i>
Scarlet Myzomela	<i>Myzomela sanguinolenta</i>
Banded Honeyeater	<i>Certhionyx pectoralis</i>

Black Honeyeater	<i>Certhionyx niger</i>
Graceful Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga gracilis</i>
Yellow-spotted Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga notata</i>
Lewin's Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga lewinii</i>
Bridled Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus frenatus</i>
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus chrysops</i>
Varied Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus versicolor</i>
Mangrove Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus fasciogularis</i>
Singing Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>
Yellow Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus flavus</i>
White-eared Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus leucotis</i>
Yellow-throated Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus flavicollis</i>
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus melanops</i>
Fuscous Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus fuscus</i>
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus ornatus</i>
White-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus penicillatus</i>
Grey-fronted Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus plumulus</i>
Macleay's Honeyeater	<i>Xanthotis macleayanus</i>
White-naped Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus lunatus</i>
Black-headed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus affinis</i>
White-throated Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus albogularis</i>
Black-chinned Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>
Strong-billed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus validirostris</i>
Brown-headed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>
Little Friarbird	<i>Philemon citreogularis</i>
Helmeted Friarbird	<i>Philemon buceroides</i>
Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>
Silver-crowned Friarbird	<i>Philemon argenticeps</i>
Crescent Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus</i>
New Holland Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>
White-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris niger</i>
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris melanops</i>
Brown-backed Honeyeater	<i>Ramsayornis modestus</i>
Striped Honeyeater	<i>Plectorhyncha lanceolata</i>
Painted Honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>
H Regent Honeyeater	<i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i>
Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
Blue-faced Honeyeater	<i>Entomyzon cyanotis</i>
Bell Miner	<i>Manorina melanophrys</i>
Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>
Yellow-throated Miner	<i>Manorina flavigula</i>
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>
Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>
Brush Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>
Yellow Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera paradoxa</i>
<b>OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae</b>	
Olive-backed Oriole	<i>Oriolus sagittatus</i>
Green Oriole	<i>Oriolus flavocinctus</i>
Green Figbird	<i>Sphecotheres viridis</i>
Australian Figbird	<i>Sphecotheres vieilloti</i>
<b>DRONGOS: Dicruridae</b>	
Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i>

**MUDNEST BUILDERS: Grallinidae**Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca***WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH AND APOSTLEBIRD: Corcoracidae**White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*Apostlebird *Struthidea cinerea***WOODSWALLOWS: Artamidae**White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*Black-faced Woodswallow *Artamus cinereus*Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus***BELLMAGPIES AND ALLIES: Cracticidae**Gray Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*Australasian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*Black Currawong *Strepera fuliginosa*Gray Currawong *Strepera versicolor***BIRDS-OF-PARADISE: Paradisaeidae**Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*Victoria's Riflebird *Ptiloris victoriae***BOWERBIRDS: Ptilonorhynchidae**Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus melanotis*Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*Tooth-billed Catbird *Ailuroedus dentirostris*Golden Bowerbird *Prionodura newtoniana*Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*Spotted Bowerbird *Chalmydera maculata*Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis***CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES: Corvidae**Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*Little Raven *Corvus mellori*Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus***STARLINGS: Sturnidae**Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae**H Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*Red-browed Firetail *Neochmia temporalis*Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*Chestnut-eared Finch *Taeniopygia castanotis*Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*Black-throated Finch *Poephila cincta*Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*Chestnut-breasted Munia *Lonchura castaneothorax*

**SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES: Fringillidae**

European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>

**MAMMAL LIST**

Short-beaked Echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>
Platypus	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>
Fat-tailed Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis crassicaudata</i>
Long-nosed Bandicoot	<i>Perameles nasuta</i>
Koala	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>
Common Brushtail Possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>
Common Ringtail Possum	<i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i>
Musky Rat-kangaroo	<i>Hypsiprymnodon moschatus</i>
Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo	<i>Dendrolagus lumholtzi</i>
Agile Wallaby	<i>Macropus agilis</i>
Whiptail Wallaby	<i>Macropus parryi</i>
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus giganteus</i>
Western Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>
Red Kangaroo	<i>Macropus rufus</i>
Euro (Common Wallaroo)	<i>Macropus robustus</i>
Black (Swamp) Wallaby	<i>Wallabia bicolor</i>
Rufous-bellied (Tasmanian) Pademelon	<i>Thylogale billardieri</i>
Red-legged Pademelon	<i>Thylogale stigmatica</i>
Red-necked Pademelon	<i>Thylogale thetis</i>
Spectacled Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera navaeangliae</i>
Feral Pig	<i>Sus sp.</i>
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>