



2017 Victorian Megatour Trip Report - 20th to 29th November 2017

Summary:

Running each year in November the Victorian Megatour aims to showcase this state's best birding sites from the rainforest to the deserts, targeting many rare and iconic bird species plus enjoying the other flora and fauna that makes Australia so unique.

This year's tour was extended from 8 to 10 days allowing for time in East Gippsland.

7 participants (Judy, Helen, Ian, Kay, Pierre, Alma and Russell) plus one guide (Simon Starr) made for 8 intrepid birders on the trip.



The weather was consistently warm, with temperatures reaching the low to mid-thirties every day, little wind and no rain, excellent conditions for birding.

281 bird species were recorded over the ten days (8 of these were only heard). Some rarer inland nomadic birds were sighted reflecting this good spring for desert birds, whilst a small number of expected species managed to evade us, including Peaceful Doves which were heard numerous times!!

We did well for night birds with good views of Powerful, Sooty and Masked Owls plus Spotted Nightjars, Eastern Barn Owl, Owlet Nightjar and Tawny Frogmouth. We also connected with 21 species of Parrot, including fabulous views of many including Superb, Regent, Mulga, Turquoise and Blue-winged as well as Pink Cockatoos. We found all of the 8 possible cuckoo species, luckily seeing a pair of the rare Channel-billed Cuckoo. Other highlights included Malleefowl, Freckled Duck, Little Penguins, Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, Black-backed Bittern, Brolga, Baillon's Crake, Little Button-quail, Plains Wanderer, Banded Stilt, Inland Dotterel, Top-knot Pigeons, Red-backed Kingfisher, Dollarbird, White-browed Treecreeper, both Southern and Mallee Emuwrens, 4 sp of Fairy-wren, Rufous Bristlebird, Pilotbird, 30 species of Honeyeater including the rarer Painted Honeyeater, Black Honeyeater and Orange Chat, 8 of the 9 Victorian Robin Species (just somehow missed on a Hooded), all 3 Babbler sp, Spotted Quail-thrush (only some had good views), all four Vic Flycatcher sp, Figbird and Satin Bowerbird to mention a few.

Biggest dip was the Superb Lyrebird, which was heard by all, but only seen by two, the first time this tour has missed the Lyrebird.

19 mammal species were recorded. Excellent sighting of the scarce Squirrel Glider plus a Long-nosed Bandicoot were highlights, along with Koalas both by day and by night.

A reasonable number of reptiles were found, from some impressively large Lace Monitors right down to the diminutive Tesselated Gecko.

Day One: Based from Melbourne we visited the Yarra River in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, the Dandenong Ranges National Park, Toolangi State Forest and then spent the evening at a Little Penguin colony on Port Phillip Bay.

During a fabulous first birding walk near the Yarra river we were able to find a single roosting Powerful Owl, Australia's biggest Owl, plus a family of three Tawny Frogmouths.



At a wetland nearby we saw an adult Nankeen Night Heron, Musk Lorikeets were feeding in the flowering trees and some briefly saw a Buff-banded Rail. A Striated Thornbill showed well, which turned out to be the only one for the whole tour.

By late morning the heat was cranking up, and an extended hike in the Dandenong Ranges gave us some good views of a gorgeous male Rose Robin and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos amongst others. The Superb Lyrebirds were mostly quiet, and had retreated to the coolest shadiest parts of the forest, making us go off track to get a sighting which tends to make them more skittish and only two of us managed any views.

Driving further east, picking up a colony of Bell Miner on the way, we had a very successful walk in the higher mountains and more extensive forests near Toolangi, seeing the three cool wet forest specialties (Pink Robin, Olive Whistler and Pilotbird), all giving great views





Other quality birds included Red-browed Treecreeper, Satin Flycatcher, Australian King Parrot, Crescent Honeyeater and Flame Robin.

After dinner we headed down to Port Phillip Bay and a colony of Little Penguin. Activity was very high at this time of year with in excess of 70 Penguins seen, many calling and interacting, whilst some young were still begging from their nests in the large basalt rocks.

Day Two:

This morning we made the drive east out to the East Gippsland region which was to be our base for the next two nights. A couple of stops at some fruiting fig trees failed to produce anything of note, and a chance to stretch our legs in a bush reserve near Moe was fairly quiet, with an Olive-backed Oriole attending its nest the only sighting of interest.

After lunch we took a relaxed walk through a rainforest gully surrounded by wet sclerophyll forest in the foothills near Bruthen. Brown Gerygones accompanied us the whole way, much commoner than Brown Thornbills in this habitat. A male Rose Robin was extremely cooperative perching low down for extended periods, clearly enjoying being admired! Both Bassian Thrush and Superb Lyrebirds were calling in the shade of the gully but did not show however we enjoyed good sightings of Black-faced Monarch, King Parrot, Satin Bowerbird, Sacred Kingfisher, Large-billed Scrubwren, Lewin's Honeyeater, Satin Flycatcher, and the dainty Rufous Fantail.



We then took some back roads down to the coast at Metung, and at a wetland on the way were treated to an adult White-bellied Sea-Eagle in aerial combat with a Brown Falcon, the Eagle even making a complete 360 degree roll mid air. At a second wetland we found Blue-billed Duck, Latham's Snipe, Black-fronted Dotterel and Red-kneed Dotterel, 3 of these species we did not see again during the tour.

Pulling up at a fruiting fig tree in the suburbs of Metung all seemed quiet, and it looked like perhaps we would not see too much. On walking under the tree a pair of Channel-billed Cuckoos flew out and landed in a eucalypt nearby. A rarity in Victoria and a most welcome sighting. Hanging around a little longer a Figbird briefly appeared, then disappeared, and then for some unknown reason the birding really kicked off. A flock of 70 to 80 Top-knot Pigeons flew in from the west, all landing in the canopy of the large Moreton Bay Fig. More Figbirds appeared, and then a pair of Pacific Koel also flew in. All these four species were very rare in Victoria until the last decade or so, but are now increasingly being observed, perhaps as the climate warms.



Moving on we just had time for a short stop in the Colquhoun State Forest where we had our only views of Gang Gang Cockatoo for the tour, a male, who flew past quite close, but didn't stop. Also an Echidna was seen today, a little shy, but he did show us his cute nose a couple of times. An early night tonight ready for a big day tomorrow.

Day Three:

Today we birded at a relaxed pace, visiting a variety of sites in the marvelous Cape Conran Coastal Park and around the nearby town of Marlo .

Early morning we took a look at the estuary of the Snowy River. A few Terns and shorebirds were seen with a single Grey (Black-bellied) Plover perhaps the highlight, and in the coastal vegetation we managed nice views of the normally skulking Eastern Whipbird. A juvenile Cuckoo was a challenge to identify, and despite a Brush Cuckoo calling nearby, the young bird in sight was likely the commoner Fan-tailed. A nice little flock of Varied Sitella also put in an appearance.

After breakfast, driving some of the back tracks through Cape Conran coastal park, we passed by a range of woodland and heathland habitats. We heard a Scarlet Honeyeater, but it failed to show, however a lovely pair of Leaden Flycatchers did perform well whilst Pallid and Shining Bronze Cuckoos were spotted, and a small flock of White-throated Needleetails were hunting overhead in the balmy conditions.



At an area of low heathland, a pair of Southern Emu-wren put on a remarkable show, with the male perching out in the open at close range. Stunning views of a cryptic and often secretive species, and amazing photo opportunities.

Possibly even more spectacular was the male Turquoise Parrot which was flushed from the roadside and remained perched long enough for all to enjoy its beautiful colours.

After lunch we dropped in at a few sites along the coast. At one rocky section of coast we noticed the wind had picked up from the east and some seabirds were visible. Walking further out to get closer we were able to identify a Shy Albatross, Australasian Gannets and a number of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters.

In the camp ground a slow drive around connected us with our target, a Wonga Pigeon, which had chosen the noisiest part of the camping area to feed in.



We had an early dinner and a short break before heading out again for an evening's spotlighting. We waited for dusk at a heathland area in the hope of a sighting of the tricky Eastern Ground Parrot. Walking out from the tour bus, I suggested insect repellent may be a good idea. Up until now we had not encountered any insect problems to talk about, and most of the crew either didn't hear me or ignored the advice thinking it wouldn't be too bad. I also ignored my own advice, and oh boy was that a mistake ! On getting to the site a km or so from the bus, the mosquitos arrived in force. No one was prepared, but like true heroes, we toughed it out, swatting furiously for about 40 minutes until the light was so bad any sighting would have been useless anyway. We did at least hear a couple of Ground Parrots uttering their rather un parrot-like and beautiful whistling calls.



Back at the bus I drenched myself in mossie spray and we were good to go. Our first stop was a lush wet gully forest and it wasn't long before we had heard a Greater Sooty Owl. Then a second bird called, they were now on both sides of the track, but we couldn't see either. Occasionally Sooty Owls will come down low to hunt, these birds were staying high up, and 8 pairs of eyes walking around with spotlights took around twenty minutes before we spotted our first one. After everyone getting their fill of Sooty Owl goodness we moved on to another area of forest for some general spotlighting, hoping for some nocturnal mammals, and maybe a Nightjar.

Masked Owls also occur in the area, but are tricky to connect with so it was more of a dream than a serious target. Sharp eyes spotted a Long-nosed Bandicoot on the roadside, both Swamp Wallabies and Red-necked Wallabies were seen, as well as a Brush-tailed Possum. In another gully at a quiet location well into the forest a Tyto Owl was heard, matching the sound of Masked Owl. We walked up to where the sound had come from and waited. Suddenly the bird flew from the tree above our heads calling and flying off into the distance until its call was barely audible, no one saw it. We stood there a little shocked, that we had not managed to spotlight the bird that was so close. And so we waited a while, and then a while longer, until once again we heard a Masked Owl return and land on the other side of the road. Its regular calls allowed us to find the bird this time, a relatively pale looking bird, most likely a male due to its relative small size. He then flew off again and we started back to the bus when another called from within the forest. A few of us walked in climbing over logs and branches until finally observing the female, a little lower down. An impressive bird, which never had her photo taken as we were all just keen to enjoy the experience, plus some had left their cameras behind ;-). An unexpected and big prize for the trip, and a Victorian lifer for the guide !!

Day Four:

After a slightly later start due to the night time activities, we set off on the longest drive of the whole tour, a 6 hour trip north over the mountains to get to the drier more open woodlands of the Chiltern forest. Some King Parrots and Crimson Rosellas were seen, as well as Currawongs, Kookaburras and Flame Robins. We enjoyed spectacular views at the top of the Great Dividing Range near Hotham Heights, at an altitude of around 1700 metres. Some of the south facing slopes still held snow, and large areas of Snow Gum woodland was still recovering from a recent wildfire.

Wasting no time we drove on arriving in Chiltern mid afternoon, with still 4 hours of quality birding time left to enjoy. Now in a completely different habitat type, new trip birds were flowing fast. Western Gerygone and Mistletoebird, Speckled Warbler and Red-capped Robin, Fuscous and Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Red-browed Finch and Weebill, White-throated Gerygone and Brown Treecreeper. More Leaden Flycatchers were seen, and all at our first location. Birding highlight was the Black-eared Cuckoo that made a brief appearance but perhaps the biggest surprise of this walk was the Koala. Not common in Chiltern, this was a real treat for the overseas members of the trip, and would save us some time later in the tour. With a storm threatening we took a drive through the forest to a nice quiet spot on the western side where recent Painted Button-quail activity was evident in the leaf litter. The birding here was excellent with Noisy Friarbird, more Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, and two confiding immature Turquoise Parrots allowing us prolonged views.



With just a little time remaining we dropped in at the Chiltern Valley wetlands where some connected with a Purple-crowned Lorikeet, and we had great views of Restless Flycatcher and Crested Shrike-tit. A nice end to the day.

Day Five:

Early morning birding in the Chiltern forest provided some even better views of some species we'd seen the night before including more Crested Shrike-tit, another Speckled Warbler, and a whole flock of Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. Some wetlands in the district held White-necked Heron and Royal Spoonbill, whilst a Little Lorikeet was heard in flight but wasn't seen.

A detour to the Murray river had us quickly finding our target bird, the Oriental Dollarbird, with a pair making hunting sorties out from bare branches overhanging the river. Nearby in a flowering Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*), a garden tree imported from Queensland, both Little Friarbird and Yellow Rosella (the yellow form of the Crimson Rosella) were enjoying the nectar.

After lunch we drove some back roads close to the Barmah forest, hoping for a Superb Parrot. It was pretty quiet, so we moved on as we had a big night out planned spotlighting on the plains north of Deniliquin. We still had a little time for birding before heading out for the evening so tried a couple more spots for Superb Parrot. It was very hot by now, and things were quiet, but then a call gave them away, and we found a flock of ten or more settled low down in a dense shrub by the roadside. We all had great views of these beautiful Parrots and a family group of Grey-crowned Babblers was a nice supporting cast.



Arriving in Deniliquin we met up with Philip Maher who was guiding us on a private property to the north for the evening. Phil had seen some Ground Cuckoo-Shrikes over the preceding week, and although they were seen just an hour before we got there, our luck was not in, however the birding generally was excellent, with lots of new trip birds sighted as we entered a whole new ecosystem for the first time.

The open plains produced White-winged Fairy-wrens, Horsfield's Bushlark and Brown Songlark, Black Falcon, and Wedge-tailed Eagle, Blue Bonnet and 3 species of Woodswallow. Black-tailed Nativehens and Banded Lapwings. And this was all before the main event. Our spotlighting on the property was very rewarding, as it usually is, with both male and female Plains Wanderers, a single Inland Dotterel, a male Stubble Quail and two Little Button-quail. In the adjacent woodland both Tawny Frogmouth and Eastern Barn Owls showed well also. A mega night out, and we had just reached the half way mark of the tour.



Day 6:

Despite a late night, the offer was there for an early morning pre-breakfast visit to a nearby wetland, in search of Bitterns. Roughly half the group came along, and in just over an hour of waiting and watching we connected with one female Black-backed Bittern, and two Baillon's Crakes.



At one point two adult White-bellied Sea-Eagles cruised in and landed right in the middle of a nesting colony of Royal Spoonbill. All the Spoonbills cleared out rapidly with no argument, and we can only guess that the Eagles were enjoying a breakfast of Spoonbill chicks.

After our breakfast (no Spoonbills involved) we drove east and back across the Murray river into Victoria again. Our first stop was at one of the Kerang lakes. This particular salt lake held some numbers of Red-necked Avocet and Banded Stilts, and whilst walking out to get closer we found out first Orange Chat (a female). Blue Bonnets and White-winged Fairy-wrens were seen again, and further on in a paddock of stubble a large mixed flock of Chats were found, including many Orange amongst them.

After lunch we visited a small mallee reserve at Goschen, a site that had a number of scarce and highly sought after birds present over recent weeks. The weather came in quite hot, and gusty, as a storm cell nearby built up. There were lots of Woodswallows, both Masked and White-browed, good numbers of Rufous Songlarks, Brown Treecreepers and both Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters.



One in our group spotted a female Black Honeyeater but it zipped off before others could get a look. Our best bird here was a lovely pair of Variegated Fairy-wren, however we failed to connect with a few rarer target species, and time meant we needed to push on and reach the mallee country further north.

With the heat and lack of sleep, our staunch and intrepid group were starting to fade a little (and the driver!), and we decided to head for our accommodation a little earlier tonight and get a decent sleep. After a short break, we made a quick birding visit before dinner to some bushland near town, connecting with our first White-fronted Honeyeaters, and on the way back to the hotel for dinner we found a small flock of Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, stunning birds and a great finish to a good day.

Day 7:

With a two night stay in Ouyen, we had a big day of relaxed birding in the pristine mallee, and the region certainly put on its best for us.

We started the day by driving some quiet tracks where Malleefowl are quite regularly seen.

Despite 8 pairs of eager eyes and some kms of slow driving we had to move on determined to keep working on finding this iconic mallee bird. We did however connect with our first Regent Parrots, with one female sitting close by and then a small flock appearing briefly. Further up the road we made our first extended walk in the mallee, getting great views of Splendid Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, Southern Scrub-robin, Red-capped Robin and Inland Thornbill.



An investigation of some known Owllet-Nightjar hollows was successful when one bird flew out and made its way to another hollow nearby. A tricky bird to see and a lifer for most in the group. Further on again and more Parrots were appearing. We had some brief views of Mulga Parrot, lots more Blue Bonnet and also Australian Ringnecks.

After the obligatory coffee stop we were back into the serious mallee spinifex habitat where some of the specialty mallee species may be found. Victoria's only endemic bird is the critically endangered Mallee Emu-wren, only found at a few sites, and even with the best local knowledge, sometimes a testing bird to locate. Well today the birding gods were happy, and one of my families of Emu-wren were exactly where they often are, and in a good mood. We had exceptional views of 3 or 4 birds, within 5 minutes of getting to the site.



And so moving on to explore a range of habitat niches with the park, we drove some more sandy bush tracks through open mature mallee woodland, seeing our first Crested Bellbirds, Gilberts Whistler (in some cypress pines) and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters. Rainbow Bee-eaters were adding colour to the scene and a quick detour before lunch had us enjoying close views of a Red-backed Kingfisher (one of our dips from Goschen the day before).

After lunch we drove down to one of the lakes close to the Murray river which has been recently filled. A nice selection of waterbirds were seen including nesting Great Crested Grebes, dozens of Nankeen Night Herons, and various Egrets, Cormorant and Darter. We were hoping for Apostlebirds and we were not disappointed, with a small number gadding about and making their cheeky noises.

From here we made our way east and along the Murray river to enjoy the River Red Gum forests and adjacent Black Box woodlands. On the way another target species, the Striped Honeyeater was found at a regular site where clumps of Casuarina grow. Down on the river track recent thunderstorms had made some sections a bit sticky, and with perhaps a bit of over confidence from our guide and driver (that might be me) took us into a spot that proved a bit wetter than predicted, where we promptly sunk in the wet clay. Fortunately having managed to get bogged on numerous occasions (usually on my own) pulling a few tricks we managed to make it out with sticky clay all over the bus as we drove off (much of which was still stuck when I got home!!)

Our last location was a remnant patch of mallee and casuarina woodland close to the Murray, where a couple of birds that had eluded us were possible. We NEEDED Chestnut-crowned Babbler having dipped earlier in the day, but by the end of our walk not a Babbler had we found. We did however get a little bit lucky with much better views of Crested Bellbird. Having seen Black Honeyeaters at this reserve in previous years I thought it worth a try to call one up, and to our absolute delight in popped a male at close range for a look. A rare and nomadic bird in Victoria, but present in better numbers this year, and another catch up bird from our disappointing visit to Goschen.



And what's more walking back to the bus, suddenly there in the middle of the road was a Chestnut-crowned Babbler, plus a few more briefly appeared, all at the last minute. Driving back to camp, we tried our Malleefowl tracks again. More slow driving, and careful scanning of the surrounding country. Having passed through the best areas we had just about given up when there was a Malleefowl crossing the road ahead of us. It was only brief views and unfortunately not for everyone, but a satisfying sighting for most. A most remarkable day's birding in the mallee.

Day 8:

An early start and we made our way south towards Wyperfeld NP. Some roadside stops on the way turned up our first White-eared Honeyeaters, and some stonking views of Shy Heathwrens. A march through some Malleefowl country in hope of some better views did not work out, but still great to be out in such pristine habitat.

After morning tea, we birded in the wonderful Wyperfeld NP. In no time we had exceptional views of more Splendid Fairy wrens and Mulga Parrots. More Major Mitchells Cockatoos, Australian Ringnecks and Blue Bonnets. Plus we connected quite easily with our target White-browed Treecreeper, a rare and localized bird in Victoria.

After this success we moved on fairly quickly, heading south and east to drop into Lake Tyrrell, our only chance for Rufous Fieldwren. It took a little while, but good views did come, and more Orange Chats too, with some landing very close to the bus.



We were on quite a roll, so continued on for lunch and the drive south, with enough time for an extended walk in some granite hills back down in central Victoria. Once again it was quite warm, the water jug was low, but everyone was right up for the birding. We had just three or four targets for this site, since we had connected with everything else already, but there were a couple of special ones to look for. Not for the first time in the trip, Pierre was first onto the bird, a stunning Diamond Firetail.



We scoped the bird as it fed amongst the native grasses, and there were quite a few wows from the group, plus a relieved sigh from me (a Firetail Birding Tour would not be complete without a Diamond Firetail!)

Further on up the slopes both Wedge-tailed Eagle and Peregrine Falcon cruised the skies, clearly far superior to us mere mortals stuck on the ground below. We reached a natural well where birds come to drink, but recent rain had formed numerous drinking spots so it was quiet, however with some patience eventually the main target bird, a male Painted Honeyeater appeared in a nearby wattle tree. More wows from the group, dapper black and white plumage with those gold flashes in the wings and tail.

With some spotlighting ahead of us we made an early break for dinner, and we finished in time to hit the bush for dusk. Right on cue a Spotted Nightjar started calling nearby, and the first bird floated past while the light was still quite good. We were treated to quite a few more flybys before setting off for some casual spotlighting to see what might pop up. First sighting was the very sweet Ringtail Possum, followed a little later by the not so sweet Brush-tailed Possum.



Some excellent habitat trees had us on our toes, and once again we connected with a Tawny Frogmouth, however the hoped for Boobook did not turn up to play.

Stopping near some trees which had clearly had Gliders tapping the sap, we spied a small glider which promptly returned to its hollow. With a little squeaking, it came back out and showed well enough for us to confirm it as a Squirrel Glider. Then a second appeared in the same tree. A tricky animal to find, and a real highlight for the night.

Day 9: With a few birds still to find in central Vic we did an early morning spin in some quality habitat near our accommodation. It paid off when a male Brush Bronzewing wandered out onto the track in front of us, and a pair of Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters perched on the dead stalks of the mallee regenerating after a bushfire.

Another stunning male Red-capped Robin showed beautifully as did three Shy Heathwrens.



Another try for Painted Button-quail was unsuccessful, not so surprising! And so we headed off driving south with the coastline of the Great Ocean road our final destination. On the way we stopped off in Maldon and checked some of the streets and gardens for the recently reported Scarlet Honeyeaters. There had been an unprecedented influx of them into central Victoria and we still hadn't seen one on the trip, even in Gippsland where they are usually quite easy. To cut a long story short, we didn't see one in Maldon, or anywhere else, a crazy miss for the tour, but there will always be some birds that get away.

We did enjoy some very close Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeets in a flowering street tree, so close you could nearly touch them. So then we called into a spot where a pair of Barking Owls had been roosting recently. No cigar, so we moved on and headed down to the Brisbane Ranges NP. The tricky Spotted Quail-thrush is to be found in this awesome reserve, however it is not easy to see, so I had made sure we had a couple of hours to at least give it a fair go. Well within the first few kms of driving we had flushed one from the side of the road and saw where it landed. Using the bus as a hide we waited and tried a little call back using the "seep" contact call. It must have worked as the bird did reappear briefly, but only two on the bus saw it on the deck, a male Spotted Quail-thrush.

From there we tried some serious “death marches” through the dry woodland in the heat hoping to bump into another. One was heard, and likely flushed from a relatively dense area never to be seen. The heat of the afternoon was not perhaps the best time to look, and tested our intrepid group out, it was time to move on and re stock the water jug.

Arriving on the Surf Coast, the weather had cooled quite a bit, and we were fired up for some new sightings in another new environment. First stop was a rocky headland and beach, where we found a pair of Hooded Plover, one of which was nesting. We kept our distance and let them be.



At our next stop we were hoping for a Rufous Bristlebird. Mixing it with more regular tourists (yes, those “normal” people) and enjoying the spectacular views, we were also lurking in the bushes, and successfully seeing Rufous Bristlebirds. They were very vocal and active with no encouragement, they are fairly late breeders down in the cooler coastal environment. Some dolphins were spotted offshore, Bottlenose, and a few Gannets as well. And so we drove on to Lorne to refresh and enjoy a pleasant dinner in the Grand Pacific hotel. There was a large amount of wildlife on the streets of Lorne this evening, with this year’s crop of school leavers out to party (schoolies week).

And so with these trips being so relatively short, we were suddenly on our last night. And so yes, it was time to go spotlighting ☺ The forests of the Otway ranges are rich in wildlife, and so throwing a spotlight around for a couple of hours is bound to result in something of interest. Tonight we encountered Swamp Wallaby, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Brushtail Possum, Tawny Frogmouth and a low down Koala. We also heard Southern Boobook and Yellow-bellied Gliders which we couldn’t find, plus a moth the size of a human hand.



Day 10:

The last day of the tour, but still a lot to look for. Driving east back along the coast towards Melbourne we took the lesser known tracks through the forests and heathlands just inland from the coast. The dainty Blue-winged Parrot breeds in quite good numbers in this stretch of heathy woodland, but as with many parrots are very mobile and hard to predict in a quick look. Anyway we were lucky to find a single bird perched in the open, and quite relaxed, allowing great and prolonged views.



Of the Heathwrens and Fieldwrens in Victoria there are four species, and we had seen two so far. Well we managed a third in the form of the Striated Fieldwren, the coastal cousin of the Rufous. On getting to a site for no.4 , the Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (an LBJ, a real birders bird!) all was quiet. We waited some time and all was still quiet. With some pishing in came some thornbills and White-eared Honeyeaters, and then the Heathwren sang for a while off to our left, and again in front of us. And then all was quiet. He successfully cruised by without giving us a sighting, masterfully evading our scrutiny, and that is how it was.

We had the whole of the last afternoon to enjoy, and there could be nowhere better than the Western Treatment Plant at Werribee. We were joined by a friendly employee of Melbourne Water to escort us and off we set out into the 10 thousand hectares that is the WTP. We added something like 14 species to our trip list whilst cruising the area. Thousands of Whiskered Terns were present and we picked out a White-winged Tern as well. There were thousands of waders on the mudflats, mostly the three commoner migratory species, and there were thousands of duck across the ponds, amongst which we sighted Australasian Shoveler, Pink-eared Duck and the rare Freckled Duck. There were also Crakes, lots of Crakes, and we enjoyed close views of both Australian Spotted and Baillon's. And the last bird of the tour, and perhaps my favourite of all the Victorian birds, a majestic Brolga in the Western lagoons. A perfect way to cap off a great ten days birding with fabulous people. Can't wait to do it all again.



ANNOTATED CHECKLIST

No.	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	1
1	Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	seen on 3 days up in the mallee country, including some juveniles
2	Malleefowl	<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	one crossed the road in front of the bus, missed by some
3	Stubble Quail	<i>Coturnix pectoralis</i>	a male seen at close range at night
7	Blue-billed Duck	<i>Oxyura australis</i>	a few on a wetland near Swan Reach in Gippsland
8	Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>	seen on two days
9	Freckled Duck	<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	one perched on a log on Lake Borrie WTP
10	Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	seen on four days
11	Cape Barren Goose	<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>	seen near Lara, a few pairs
12	Australian Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>	only seen on 3 days, thousands at Werribee
13	Maned Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>	seen on 9 of the 10 days
15	Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	regularly seen throughout
16	Australasian Shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchotis</i>	a small number seen at Werribee
17	Grey Teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>	seen occasionally on the coast and inland
18	Chestnut Teal	<i>Anas castanea</i>	only seen in southern regions
19	Pink-eared Duck	<i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>	small numbers seen at Werribee WTP
20	Hardhead (White-eyed Duck)	<i>Aythya australis</i>	seen here and there, big numbers at Werribee
21	Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>	seen on small wetlands on 3 separate occasions
22	Hoary-headed Grebe	<i>Poliiocephalus poliocephalus</i>	regularly seen
23	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	nesting at Hattah lakes
24	Little Penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>	70 plus seen on breeding colony on Port Phillip Bay
	Wedge-tailed Shearwater		c.15 seen off Cape Conran in easterly winds
28	Short-tailed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>	2 seen off Cape Conran
34	Shy Albatross (White-capped Albatross)	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	1 seen off Cape Conran
35	Australasian Gannet	<i>Morus serrator</i>	seen off Cape Conran and the Surf Coast
36	Australasian Darter	<i>Anhinga novaehollandiae</i>	one seen at Lake Hattah in the mallee
37	Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>	seen on 8 out of 10 days

38	Black-faced Cormorant	Phalacrocorax fuscescens	a few seen off Cape Conran
39	Australian Pied Cormorant (Pied Cormorant)	Phalacrocorax varius	seen at Lorne and also Werribee WTP
40	Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris	seen on 8 out of 10 days
41	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	seen on 8 out of 10 days
42	Australian Pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus	seen on 7 out of 10 days
43	White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae	Seen Every Day
45	White-necked Heron (Pacific Heron)	Ardea pacifica	only three seen
46	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	one at Werribee on the last day
47	Great Egret	Ardea alba	seen 7 out of 10 days
51	Nankeen Night Heron (Rufous Night Heron)	Nycticorax caledonicus	seen on 3 days, abundant at Lake Hattah in th mallee
52	Black-backed Bittern	Ixobrychus dubius	3 heard and one female seen in flight near Mathoura in NSW
55	Australian White Ibis (Australian Ibis)	Threskiornis moluccus	seen 8 out of 10 days
56	Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis spinicollis	seen 7 out of 10 days
57	Royal Spoonbill	Platalea regia	seen on 4 days including a breeding colony near Mathoura
58	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Platalea flavipes	seen three times
60	Black-shouldered Kite (Australian Kite)	Elanus axillaris	widespread 8/10
62	Black Kite	Milvus migrans	seen in the northern areas and near Werribee
63	Whistling Kite	Haliastur sphenurus	seen 5/10 days
64	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster	3 sightings, widespread
65	Spotted Harrier	Circus assimilis	only one bird in the mallee, distant over croplands
66	Swamp Harrier	Circus approximans	seen on four days
67	Brown Goshawk	Accipiter fasciatus	one very brief sighting
69	Collared Sparrowhawk	Accipiter cirrocephalus	one very brief sighting
70	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Aquila audax	floaters seen on three separate days
71	Little Eagle	Hieraaetus morpnoides	a couple seen well, both light phase and dark phase
72	Brown Falcon	Falco berigora	surprisingly only seen on 3 days
73	Australian Hobby	Falco longipennis	just two very brief sightings
75	Black Falcon	Falco subniger	one flying off on the plains near Wanganella
76	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	one at Mt Korong, perched on the mountain top

77	Nankeen Kestrel (Australian Kestrel)	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>	widespread seen on 6 days, even on the mountain top at 1700 metres
79	Brolga	<i>Grus rubicunda</i>	one bird at Werribee WTP
80	Buff-banded Rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	one seen by a few near the Yarra river day one
82	Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	a pair seen from the hide at Mathoura, two more seen at Werribee
83	Australian Crake	<i>Porzana fluminea</i>	a few seen at Werribee on the last day
85	Australasian Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio melanotus</i>	5/10 days seen
86	Dusky Moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>	3/10 days seen
87	Black-tailed Native-hen	<i>Tribonyx ventralis</i>	some numbers on the plains at Wanganella and more at Lake Hattah
88	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	7/10 days seen
89	Little Button-quail	<i>Turnix velox</i>	two seen whilst spotlighting at Wanganella, another seen in mallee spinifex habitat at Hattah NP
91	Painted Button-quail	<i>Turnix varius</i>	fresh platelets seen at Chiltern, no birds observed
92	Plains-wanderer	<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>	one or two males and one female at Wanganella
93	Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	one at Swan Reach in Gippsland and another near Lara
99	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	3 near Kerang and 25 at Werribee
100	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	3 at Werribee
106	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	one at Marlo
107	Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	thousands at Werribee
110	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	a couple near Kerang and numerous at Werribee
111	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	large numbers at Werribee
116	Pied Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>	seen near Marlo and Werribee
117	Sooty Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	
118	White-headed Stilt (Black-winged Stilt (Australian))	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>	seen at Swan Reach in Gippsland and at Werribee
119	Banded Stilt	<i>Cladorhynchus leucocephalus</i>	Lake Kelly near Kerang
120	Red-necked Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra novaehollandiae</i>	near Kerang and big numbers at Werribee
122	Grey Plover (Black-bellied Plover)	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1 near Marlo
123	Red-capped Plover	<i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>	seen at Marlo and also Lake Kelly near Kerang
128	Inland Dotterel	<i>Peltohyas australis</i>	one at Wanganella
129	Black-fronted Dotterel	<i>Elsayornis melanops</i>	Swan Reach in Gippsland
130	Hooded Dotterel (Hooded Plover)	<i>Thinornis rubricollis</i>	2 near Anglesea, breeding

131	Red-kneed Dotterel	<i>Erythronyctes alpinus</i>	Swan Reach in Gippsland
132	Banded Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tricolor</i>	seen at Wanganella
133	Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>	9/10 days
136	Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	2, one lp one dp close into shore at Werribee
137	Brown Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>	
138	Pacific Gull	<i>Larus pacificus</i>	seen at Cape Conran and along the Surf Coast
140	Silver Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>	8/10 including birds in the dry northern mallee towns of Ouyen and Sea Lake
142	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	2 in Kerang region
143	Greater Crested Tern (Great Crested Tern)	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	4/10 days, along the coast
149	White-winged Tern (White-winged Black Tern)	<i>Chlidonias leucoptera</i>	1 seen at Werribee
150	Rock Dove (Rock Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>	7/10 days
151	White-headed Pigeon	<i>Columba leucomela</i>	
152	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	4/10 days, in southern areas
153	Common Bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	7/10 days, widespread
154	Brush Bronzewing	<i>Phaps elegans</i>	seen in central Vic, heard in the Otways
155	Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	8/10 days
157	Peaceful Dove	<i>Geopelia placida</i>	HEARD on 4 separate days, not seen
158	Wonga Pigeon	<i>Leucosarcia melanoleuca</i>	1 at Cape Conran, heard at Fairy Dell
159	Top-knot Pigeon	<i>Lopholaimus antarcticus</i>	flock of 70 plus at Metung feeding at fig tree
161	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>	seen three times some good views
162	Gang-gang Cockatoo	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	only one male seen flight views in Gippsland
163	Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i>	SEEN EVERY DAY
164	Long-billed Corella	<i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i>	3/10 days
165	Little Corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>	6/10 days
166	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (Pink Cockatoo)	<i>Lophochroa leadbeateri</i>	observed over two days in the mallee up to 6 seen
167	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	9/10 days seen
169	Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i>	5/10 days, mostly in the south, a couple seen in Maldon
170	Musk Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>	6/10 days seen

171	Little Lorikeet	Glossopsitta pusilla	Heard near Chiltern, not seen
172	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	Glossopsitta porphyrocephala	briefly seen at Chiltern, seen well in central Vic at Maldon
173	Australian King-Parrot	Alisterus scapularis	4/10 days all in southern Vic
174	Superb Parrot	Polytelis swainsonii	up to 15 seen near Deniliquin over two days
175	Regent Parrot	Polytelis anthopeplus	small flocks seen in the mallee
176	Crimson Rosella	Platycercus elegans	8/10 days seen, 3 of those days were Yellow Rosella along the Murray river in northern Vc
177	Eastern Rosella	Platycercus eximius	6/10 days seen
178	Australian Ringneck (Mallee Ringneck)	Barnardius zonarius	seen on 3 days whilst in the mallee region
179	Eastern Blue Bonnet	Northiella haematogaster	seen on 4 days whilst in the northern regions
181	Red-rumped Parrot	Psephotus haematonotus	5/10 days in the northern areas
182	Mulga Parrot	Psephotus varius	seen well in the mallee 2/10 days
184	Blue-winged Parrot	Neophema chrysostoma	one seen well on last day near Aireys Inlet on the Surf Coast
187	Turquoise Parrot	Neophema pulchella	a male seen at Cape Conran, then two immatures seen Chiltern
188	Eastern Ground Parrot	Pezoporus wallicus	calling at dusk near Marlo
189	Pacific Koel	Eudynamys orientalis	a pair in a fig near Metung, probably heard near Bruthen
190	Channel-billed Cuckoo	Scythrops novaehollandiae	2 in the fig at Metung
191	Pallid Cuckoo	Cacomantis pallidus	seen in Gippsland and Chiltern
192	Brush Cuckoo	Cacomantis variolosus	one heard near Marlo
193	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Cacomantis flabelliformis	recorded on 5 days, seen twice
194	Black-eared Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx osculans	one flew in and showed well in Chiltern
195	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx basalis	seen once, heard on two other days
196	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx lucidus	recorded on 5 days, seen twice
197	Powerful Owl	Ninox strenua	one adult roosting near the Yarra day one
198	Barking Owl	Ninox connivens	
199	Southern Boobook	Ninox boobook	heard on the last night near Lorne
201	Greater Sooty Owl	Tyto tenebricosa	a pair near Cape Conran, one seen quite well
202	Australian Masked Owl	Tyto novaehollandiae	male and female seen near Cape Conran
203	Eastern Barn Owl (Barn Owl)	Tyto deliculata	seen on the plains north of Deniliquin and one seen flying around town the next morning

204	Tawny Frogmouth	Podargus strigoides	a family of three seen in daylight on day one near the Yarra river, also seen on three separate nights whilst spotlighting
206	Spotted Nightjar	Eurostopodus argus	two seen hawking at dusk at close range and more heard near Inglewood
207	Australian Owlet-nightjar	Aegotheles cristatus	one seen briefly near Cape Conran whilst spotlighting, another seen near Hattah in the daytime
208	White-throated Needletail	Hirundapus caudacutus	small flock feeding at Conran
211	Laughing Kookaburra	Dacelo novaeguineae	Seen EVERY Day
212	Red-backed Kingfisher	Todiramphus pyrrhopygius	one near Hattah
213	Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus	recorded 9/10 days
214	Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus	seen on the 5 days we were north of the divide
215	Oriental Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis	a pair by the Murray river
216	Superb Lyrebird	Menura novaehollandiae	heard day one in the Dandenongs, only seen by two people
217	White-throated Treecreeper	Cormobates leucophaea	5/10 days
218	White-browed Treecreeper	Climacteris affinis	a male seen in Wyperfeld NP
219	Red-browed Treecreeper	Climacteris erythroptis	seen day one at Toolangi
220	Brown Treecreeper	Climacteris picumnus	seen on 5 days whilst inland
221	Superb Fairy-wren	Malurus cyaneus	seen 9/10 days
222	Splendid Fairy-wren	Malurus splendens	seen on the two days in the mallee country
223	Variegated Fairy-wren	Malurus lamberti	seen on all four days we were in the north-west of Victoria
224	White-winged Fairy-wren	Malurus leucopterus	seen near Deniliquin and Kerang lakes
225	Southern Emu-wren	Stipiturus malachurus	a pair seen at Cape Conran
226	Mallee Emu-wren	Stipiturus mallee	family group seen at Hattah NP
228	Spotted Pardalote	Pardalotus punctatus	recorded 5/10 days, both subspecies seen
229	Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus	only recorded 4/10 days
231	Rufous Bristlebird	Dasyornis broadbenti	seen on day 9 near Aireys Inlet
232	Pilotbird	Pycnoptilus floccosus	great views on day one at Toolangi
233	White-browed Scrubwren	Sericornis frontalis	6/10 days
234	Large-billed Scrubwren	Sericornis magnirostra	seen on day 2 near Bruthen in Gippsland
235	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	Calamanthus pyrrhopygius	only heard near Anglesea day 10
236	Shy Heathwren	Calamanthus cautus	two excellent sightings, near Wyperfeld and near Inglewood

237	Striated Fieldwren	<i>Calamanthus fuliginosus</i>	seen near Anglesea on day 10
238	Rufous Fieldwren	<i>Calamanthus campestris</i>	seen at Lake Tyrrell
240	Speckled Warbler	<i>Pyrrholaemus sagittatus</i>	seen both days in Chiltern
241	Weebill	<i>Smicronis brevirostris</i>	4/10 days
242	Brown Gerygone	<i>Gerygone mouki</i>	seen both days in East Gippsland
243	Western Gerygone	<i>Gerygone fusca</i>	Chiltern
244	White-throated Gerygone	<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>	Chiltern
245	Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>	5/10 days all in southern Victoria
246	Inland Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza apicalis</i>	seen both days in the mallee
247	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i>	seen on 3 days in the northwest of Victoria
248	Buff-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza reguloides</i>	seen 3/10 days, whilst in central Vic
250	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	4/10 days
251	Yellow Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza nana</i>	seen day one, recorded one other time
252	Striated Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza lineata</i>	only seen on day one near the Yarra
253	Southern Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	seen in Wyperfeld NP
254	Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>	Seen EVERY Day
255	Little Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>	seen on 2 days in Gippsland
256	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>	seen on three days in the north-west of Vic
257	Striped Honeyeater	<i>Plectorhyncta</i>	one seen at Hattah NP
258	Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>	seen at Chiltern and by the Murray river
259	Little Friarbird	<i>Philemon citreogularis</i>	seen on three days all near the Murray river
261	Blue-faced Honeyeater	<i>Entomyzon cyanotis</i>	seen near Kerang
262	Bell Miner	<i>Manorina melanophrys</i>	seen near Seville in the Dandenongs on day one
263	Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>	4/10 days
264	Yellow-throated Miner	<i>Manorina flavigula</i>	3/10 days all in the north-west
266	Lewin's Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga lewinii</i>	just seen once in Gippsland near Bruthen
267	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus chrysops</i>	seen the first three days
268	Singing Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>	seen on the last 6 days
269	White-eared Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus leucotis</i>	recorded on the last 3 days
270	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus melanops</i>	3/10 days whilst in central Victoria

272	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus ornatus</i>	seen at Hattah NP
274	Fuscous Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus fuscus</i>	seen on both days in Chiltern
275	White-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus penicillatus</i>	seen on 5/10 days
276	Black-chinned Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>	seen at Chiltern
277	Brown-headed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>	recorded on 3/10 days
278	White-naped Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus lunatus</i>	seen on the first two days
279	Painted Honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	one seen near Wedderburn on day 8
280	Crescent Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus</i>	seen on day 1 at Toolangi, and heard near Lorne
281	New Holland Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>	seen 6/10 days
282	White-fronted Honeyeater	<i>Purnella albifrons</i>	seen near Ouyen and heard near Wyperfeld
283	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	<i>Gliciphila melanops</i>	seen near Inglewood
284	Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>	seen 5/10 days whilst in southern Vic
285	Black Honeyeater	<i>Sugomel nigrum</i>	one female at Goschen and a male near Hattah
287	Scarlet Myzomela	<i>Myzomela sanguinolenta</i>	heard at Conran
289	Orange Chat	<i>Epthianura aurifrons</i>	seen at Lake Kelly and Lake Tyrrell
290	White-fronted Chat	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>	seen near Kerang and at Werribee
291	Jacky Winter	<i>Microeca fascinans</i>	only one sighting for the whole trip
292	Scarlet Robin	<i>Petroica boodang</i>	seen in the Brisbane Ranges NP
293	Red-capped Robin	<i>Petroica goodenovii</i>	4/10 days all in northern areas
294	Flame Robin	<i>Petroica phoenicia</i>	seen at Toolangi day 1
295	Rose Robin	<i>Petroica rosea</i>	seen well days 1 and 2
296	Pink Robin	<i>Petroica rodinogaster</i>	a male seen day one at Toolangi
298	Eastern Yellow Robin	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>	recorded 6/10 days
299	Southern Scrub-robin	<i>Drymodes brunneopygia</i>	seen at Hattah NP
300	Grey-crowned Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>	seen near Gulpa island NSW
301	White-browed Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i>	seen on 3/10 days
302	Chestnut-crowned Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus ruficeps</i>	seen near Hattah NP
303	Eastern Whipbird	<i>Psophodes olivaceous</i>	good sighting near Marlo

304	Spotted Quail-thrush	Cinclosoma punctatum	flight views in Brisbane Ranges NP, seen by two on the ground
305	Varied Sittella	Daphoenositta chrysoptera	seen near Marlo
307	Crested Shrike-tit	Falcunculus frontatus	seen both days at Chiltern
308	Crested Bellbird	Oreoica gutturalis	seen around Hattah NP
309	Olive Whistler	Pachycephala olivacea	seen well on day one at Toolangi
311	Gilbert's Whistler	Pachycephala inornata	seen at Hattah and heard near Wedderburn
312	Australian Golden Whistler (Golden Whistler)	Pachycephala pectoralis	seen on the first three days
313	Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	recorded 9/10 days
314	Grey Shrike-thrush	Colluricincla harmonica	recorded 9/10 days
315	Black-faced Monarch	Monarcha melanopsis	seen in Gippsland near Bruthen, another heard along the Snowy river near Marlo
316	Leaden Flycatcher	Myiagra rubecula	seen at Cape Conran and at Chiltern
317	Satin Flycatcher	Myiagra cyanoleuca	seen at Toolangi and near Bruthen
318	Restless Flycatcher	Myiagra inquieta	seen at Chiltern
319	Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	seen EVERY day
320	Rufous Fantail	Rhipidura rufifrons	seen once near Bruthen
321	Grey Fantail	Rhipidura albiscapa	seen 7/10 days
322	Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	seen 7/10 days
324	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	seen 9/10 days
325	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina papuensis	only seen at Chiltern, poor views
328	Australasian Figbird	Sphecotheres vieilotti	4 or 5 at Metung
329	Olive-backed Oriole	Oriolus sagittatus	many seen in Gippsland and Chiltern
330	White-breasted Woodswallow	Artamus leucorhynchus	only seen once, on the plains north of Deniliquin
331	Masked Woodswallow	Artamus personatus	seen on 3 days in northern areas
332	White-browed Woodswallow	Artamus superciliosus	seen on 4 days in northern areas
334	Dusky Woodswallow	Artamus cyanopterus	recorded 3/10 days in Gippsland and Chiltern
335	Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus	4/10 days
336	Pied Butcherbird	Cracticus nigrogularis	seen on the 4 days spent in the north-west
337	Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	seen EVERY Day
338	Pied Currawong	Strepera graculina	6/10 days
339	Grey Currawong	Strepera versicolor	melanoptera seen in the mallee and versicolor seen on the Surf Coast
341	Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides	6/10 days

342	Forest Raven	<i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>	a pair seen on the last day near Aireys Inlet
343	Little Raven	<i>Corvus mellori</i>	8/10 days
344	White-winged Chough	<i>Corcorax melanoramphos</i>	7/10 days
345	Apostlebird	<i>Struthidea cinerea</i>	only seen at Hattah NP
346	Satin Bowerbird	<i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</i>	seen near Bruthen in Gippsland and also near Lorne
347	Horsfield's Bush Lark (Australasian Bushlark)	<i>Mirafra javanica</i>	seen on the plains north of Deniliquin
348	Eurasian Skylark (Skylark)	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	seen at Werribee
349	Australian Pipit (Australasian Pipit)	<i>Anthus australis</i>	4/10 days
350	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	7/10 days
354	Red-browed Finch (Red-browed Firetail)	<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>	3/10 days
355	Diamond Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	seen near Wedderburn
357	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	heard near Lara
358	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	4/10 days
359	Mistletoebird	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>	recorded on 6/10 days seen well a couple of times
360	White-backed Swallow	<i>Cheramoeca leucosterna</i>	one seen near Kerang
361	Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	seen EVERY Day
362	Tree Martin	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>	seen twice, very close views at Werribee
363	Fairy Martin	<i>Petrochelidon ariel</i>	4/10 days
364	Australian Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus australis</i>	just recorded twice near Mathoura, NSW and at Werribee
365	Little Grassbird	<i>Megalurus gramineus</i>	just recorded twice near Mathoura, NSW and at Werribee
366	Rufous Songlark	<i>Megalurus mathewsi</i>	4/10 days, around Chiltern and at Goschen
367	Brown Songlark	<i>Megalurus cruralis</i>	seen on the plains north of Deniliquin
368	Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>	just seen on the last day at Werribee
369	Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	6/10 days
	Bassian Thrush	<i>Zoothera lunulata</i>	heard near Bruthen
371	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	8/10 days
373	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	9/10 days
374	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	6/10 days

MAMMALS RECORDED	Rakali	Echidna
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	Swamp Wallaby	Red-necked Wallaby
Long-nosed Bandicoot	Brush-tailed Possum	Red Kangaroo
Western Grey Kangaroo	Fat-tailed Dunnart	European Hare
House Mouse	Ringtail Possum	Yellow-bellied Glider (heard only)
Grey-headed Flying-fox	Feral Cat	Koala
European Rabbit	Squirrel Glider	
REPTILES IDENTIFIED	Long-necked Tortoise	Gibber Gecko
Lace Monitor		
Central Bearded Dragon	Stumpy-tail Lizard	Blue-tongue Lizard