

AUSTRALIA PART II

October 13, 2009 to November 1, 2009

Guided by
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When I was young, I always dreamed of visiting Australia; it was the place I wanted to see more than any other on earth. Now that I've visited the land down under numerous times, I dream of my next visit. There's just so much to love about Australia; for me it's the wonderful mix of the familiar and the exotic. The language, culture, and standard of living are all very familiar and comfortable, but the wildlife is just so different and unique that there's no mistake that you're not in your own back yard.

Our tour this year got a great sample of all that fantastic wildlife, all while feeling quite at home in a number of different venues. Starting off in the hot tropics of Darwin, we enjoyed the presence of a bunch of great birds, from the ubiquitous Magpie Geese, Orange-footed Scrubfowl and ethereal Torresian Imperial-pigeons to the far less conspicuous species like Rainbow Pitta, Long-tailed Finch and the stunning Red-headed Myzomela, all of which performed beautifully for the group. Picking up a couple of owls- Barking and Rufous- at the botanical gardens was another highlight of our time here.

All too soon it was time to leave Darwin behind and head to Cairns, arguably one of the birdiest regions of the country. After a brief stop in the lowlands (nesting Double-eyed Fig-parrot and a surprise Little Kingfisher) at Yorkey's Knob, it was up into the tablelands, and the charming Chambers Wildlife Lodge. Basing ourselves here, we went in search of a number of specialties of the Atherton region, connecting pretty well with all our targets. Quirky Chowchillas kicking leaves to the side in their odd fashion; a bold and vocal Tooth-billed Catbird at a bower inside the forest; a gorgeous male Golden Bowerbird sitting quietly next to the road; these were just a few of the most memorable sightings here. We also got a nice taste of the riches of Australia's wonderful mammalian residents, with superb sightings of platypus as well as close encounters with lovely Sugar Gilders.

Moving inland to Georgetown, we got a taste of the dry outback that makes up so much of central Australia. Water holes (dams) were a key feature here; pulling in most of the birds we were searching for. Among the many prizes we found were those stately Australian Bustards strolling across the open land, A flock of sharply patterned Spinifex Pigeons trying to blend into a rocky creek bed, and a good variety of finches, from Zebra to Masked to Black-throated. Back out to Cairns, we spent the next couple of days birding the northern parts of the tablelands, where a definite highlight was our breakfast with a couple of cassowaries at Cassowary House. Papuan Frogmouths on a day roost at Kingfisher Park, a couple of local robins (White-browed on the tablelands and Mangrove in Cairns) and a couple of rare Asian Dowitchers on the famous Esplanade were among the other star birds we found in the region.

A short flight to Brisbane and a couple of hours by bus later, and we were at the justly famous a in beautiful Lamington National Park. Bold and beautiful flocks of Crimson Rosellas and king Parrots swirled around, while stunning Regent and Satin Bowerbirds adorned the trees around the lodge. On the trails, a group of habituated birds (whipbird, Eastern Yellow robin, two scrubwrens) regularly hopped around at our feet, while gorgeous Wonga Pigeons and Logrunners remained a little more wary but still proved easy to see. Not all birds were quite this simple though; it took work to tease Noisy Pittas and Rose Robins out of the dense brush, and one of the main attractions, the rare Albert's Lyrebird played hard to get, ultimately giving itself up, though sadly for only part of the group.

Our grand finale came on the island state of Tasmania, a place most visiting birders never get to. In addition to the 12 Tasmanian endemics there are a bunch of other species that are most easily seen here, so it is well worth the visit. We ended up with excellent views of all the endemics, finishing up with the rare Forty-spotted Pardalote on Bruny Island and saw a bunch of other great local species,

including the endangered Hooded Plover, beautiful Swift Parrots, and the delicately colored Pink Robin, making our visit here a great success. And that's not even mentioning all the great mammals seen here. The wonderful Tasmanian Devil experience at Mountain Valley capped a mammal list that also included close encounters with a wonderfully oblivious echidna and a dozing wombat!

John and I had a great time showing you around Australia and thank you all for choosing to come with us. Great birds make for good trips, great clients make for great trips, and this really was a great trip. We both look forward to seeing you all again soon. Happy 2010 to all of you! Jay.

List total: 364 bird taxa and 27 mammal taxa

*If marked to left of list, * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic,
N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant*

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Casuariidae

SOUTHERN CASSOWARY (*Casuarius casuarius*)

We were all impressed by the big male that turned up for breakfast at Cassowary House, at least until the massive female appeared and made him look small! It was pretty cool to see them interact and hear all the aggressive "chatter" between them. They certainly weren't on very friendly terms.

Dromaiidae

EMU (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)

A group of 5 birds near the roadside en route to Georgetown was a good pick up.

Podicipedidae

AUSTRALASIAN GREBE (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*)

The most regularly encountered grebe, seen daily in the NT and FNQ, with a single bird also recorded on Tasmania.

HOARY-HEADED GREBE (*Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*)

When seen well, this grebe shows a really neat head pattern. We saw a few birds on Tasmania.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*)

A good number of these elegant grebes were seen nicely on Lake Barrine.

Procellariidae

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus tenuirostris*)

The clouds of shearwaters seen far offshore on the east side of Bruny Island were this abundant species.

Pelecanidae

AUSTRALIAN PELICAN (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*)

Seen pretty much daily on the Queensland portion of the trip.

Sulidae

AUSTRALIAN GANNET (*Morus serrator*)

A number of birds were feeding in typical gannet fashion (ie high-diving) as we made the ferry crossing to Bruny Island.

Phalacrocoracidae

LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*)

The most numerous cormorant in the north, where we saw them most days.

GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

This cormorant is widespread throughout the Old World. We saw a few in FNQ, and then again on Tasmania.

BLACK-FACED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*)

A fairly local endemic species, found only along the southern coast of Australia (including Tasmania). We had excellent views at several that were roosting on boats and moorings near the Bruny Island ferry dock.

LITTLE PIED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*)

This species is very stubby-billed in comparisons to most cormorants. Quite a common species, and we saw them regularly on the mainland portion of the tour.

Anhingidae

N "AUSTRALIAN" DARTER (*Anhinga melanogaster novaehollandiae*)

Seen a bunch of times in the north, though it'd be hard to beat those great views of the nesting birds at the Yorkey's Knob pond. This form is sometimes treated as a full species.

Ardeidae

PACIFIC (WHITE-NECKED) HERON (*Ardea pacifica*)

Small numbers in Queensland, including a couple of subadult birds with a very interesting streaky neck pattern

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

Common throughout the north.

PIED HERON (*Ardea picata*)

This beautiful heron was pretty numerous in the Darwin region.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET (*Mesophoyx intermedia*)

Common in the north.

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Egretta novaehollandiae*)
Small numbers in Queensland, then a bunch more on Tasmania.

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)
Fairly numerous throughout the mainland part of the trip.

PACIFIC REEF-HERON (*Egretta sacra*)
Alan and I got a scope view of a distant dark-morph bird along the Cairns Esplanade (where it is rather rare) during an optional afternoon shorebirding outing.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)
Common throughout the main tour, with a couple of birds seen around Launceston, Tasmania as well.

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*)
Small numbers along the Queensland coast.

RUFIOUS (NANKEEN) NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax caledonicus*)
Seen on 4 days (mostly as singles) in NT and FNQ, but I don't recall ever seeing an adult.

Ciconiidae

BLACK-NECKED STORK (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*)
This impressive bird has declined somewhat in the Darwin region, but we were lucky enough to see three birds at Knuckey's Lagoon (an adult pair and a large subadult) as well as a pair along the highway to the Adelaide River. This species shows just a little bit of sexual dimorphism: them males have dark eyes, the females yellow.

Threskiornithidae

AUSTRALIAN (WHITE) IBIS (*Threskiornis molucca*)
Abundant and seen daily on the mainland part of the trip.

STRAW-NECKED IBIS (*Threskiornis spinicollis*)
Likewise abundant and seen daily on the mainland.

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*)
A handful in the Darwin region were all for the tour.

ROYAL SPOONBILL (*Platalea regia*)
Good numbers of this handsome spoonbill on most days of the main tour. One bird at Cumberland Dam showed particularly well, showing off the red forehead patch and yellow eyebrow beautifully.

YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL (*Platalea flavipes*)
Much rarer than the Royal, and we had only a single bird at Hasties Swamp.

Anatidae

MAGPIE GOOSE (*Anseranas semipalmata*)
Incredibly numerous in the Darwin region, with fair numbers also in interior Queensland.

PLUMED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna eytoni*)
Hundreds of these ducks lined the shores of Hasties Swamp. There we also watched a number of them following a large snapping turtle that was walking across the mud. Wonder why they were so interested in it?

WANDERING WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna arcuata*)
Pretty common in the Darwin region.

N BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*)
A few birds were seen on the Atherton Tablelands, where they are rather uncommon. Much more numerous on Tasmania, where we saw plenty, including lots of cygnets.

AUSTRALIAN SHELDUCK (*Tadorna tadornoides*)
Just a few birds were seen in Tasmania, on our drive south to Hobart.

RADJAH SHELDUCK (*Tadorna radjah*)
Fair numbers in the wetlands in the Darwin region, with especially good numbers at the Palmerston Sewage Ponds.

GREEN PYGMY-GOOSE (*Nettapus pulchellus*)
Folks were quite excited by our first one, a single, distant bird at Knuckey's Lagoon. Over the next few days we saw dozens both in NT and FNQ, making us wonder why we tried so hard for those poor scope views.

COTTON PYGMY-GOOSE (*Nettapus coromandelianus*)

Alan picked out a single male from among a flock of Green Pygmy-geese at Cumberland Dam. Rather uncommon on the tour route, so a very nice find.

MANED (AUSTRALIAN WOOD) DUCK (*Chenonetta jubata*)

A common, goose-like duck that we saw regularly in the Georgetown region, around Brisbane, and also on Tasmania.

GRAY TEAL (*Anas gracilis*)

Quite numerous on the various dams around Georgetown.

CHESTNUT TEAL (*Anas castanea*)

Found mainly in the southern half of the country, and on this tour seen only in Tasmania, where we recorded them daily.

I MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Seen by a couple of folks from the bus near Launceston, Tasmania.

PACIFIC BLACK DUCK (*Anas superciliosa*)

Generally the most numerous dabbling duck in the country, and we saw them regularly throughout.

PINK-EARED DUCK (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*)

A single bird on Durham Dam was a nice pick up, as it was the only one for the trip. This duck has a number of distinctive features (long, spatulate bill, zebra striped plumage) so it's odd that it was named for such an obscure field mark!

WHITE-EYED DUCK (HARDHEAD) (*Aythya australis*)

The Aussie equivalent of our scaups; seen at a number of sites in FNQ and on Tasmania.

MUSK DUCK (*Biziura lobata*)

A pair of these weird ducks were seen on a large pond on Tasmania, the male hunched low in the water with his tail up and his chin flap extended, displaying to the nearby female. Now what exactly she sees in him, I have no idea!

Pandionidae

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Singles on each of our first two days around Darwin.

Accipitridae

N PACIFIC BAZA (*Aviceda subcristata*)

Good scope views of small bits of a bird's head as it sat on a nest near Kingfisher Park on the Atherton Tablelands. We also saw a single bird flying over at the Daisy Hill Koala Reserve.

N SQUARE-TAILED KITE (*Lophoictinia isura*)

We finally connected with this bird at Daisy Hill, where a lovely adult was perched next to its nest near the Visitor Center, giving us wonderful scope studies.

AUSTRALIAN (BLACK-SHOULDERED) KITE (*Elanus axillaris*)

Quite a few in the southern part of the Atherton Tablelands, but none were seen anywhere else. In the past, this species has been lumped with both Black-shouldered and White-tailed Kites.

BLACK KITE (*Milvus migrans*)

Abundant in both the NT and FNQ, but not seen after we left Cairns.

WHISTLING KITE (*Haliastur sphenurus*)

Likewise abundant, perhaps even more so, in all the same places as the Black Kite.

BRAHMINY KITE (*Haliastur indus*)

A handful of sightings of this beautiful kite in the north, including one that was seen from the restaurant of our Darwin hotel!

WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

Best view of an adult was at the Palmerston Sewage Ponds, where we scoped a fairly nearby perched bird. We saw a few others at various locations, as well as one juvenile (looking a lot like an over-sized Whistling Kite), being mobbed by magpies on Bruny Island,

SWAMP HARRIER (*Circus approximans*)

Though range maps show it as occurring through the whole country, this species breeds mainly in Tasmania and the southern portions of the mainland, which may explain why we saw them only in Tasmania, but had them daily there.

SPOTTED HARRIER (*Circus assimilis*)

A rather uncommon harrier, but we were lucky enough to see two of these beauties. Bob spotted our first one from the bus on the Atherton Tableland, and we got some decent views as it coursed low over a field, and then perched for a bit on a distant fencepost. The very next day we saw another, and that one was even closer, giving us fantastic looks as it sailed along not far from the road.

GRAY GOSHAWK (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*)

Just a single bird was seen briefly in the dry eucalyptus forest along Duck Creek Road, below O'Reilly's.

BROWN GOSHAWK (*Accipiter fasciatus*)

Singles near Darwin and in the Tablelands, and a couple of birds around Mountain Valley Lodge in Tasmania. Very similar to the next species, though this bird is larger and more powerful, kind of like a Cooper's Hawk in comparison to a Sharp-shinned.

COLLARED SPARROWHAWK (*Accipiter cirrhocephalus*)

A few birds at scattered sites. Perhaps our best seen one was the perched bird Karen spotted at Daisy Hill, though unfortunately it didn't sit around long enough for everyone to scope it.

WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE (*Aquila audax*)

The wedge-shaped tail give this eagle a pretty distinctive shape, and it is easily identified even at a distance. We saw birds at several sites, including on Tasmania.

LITTLE EAGLE (*Aquila morphnoides*)

Our only one was seen during our stop for those humongous hamburgers at Mt Malloy.

Falconidae

AUSTRALIAN (NANKEEN) KESTREL (*Falco cenchroides*)

Fairly common on the Tablelands, but elsewhere we had just one record on the drive between O'Reilly's and Brisbane.

BROWN FALCON (*Falco berigora*)

Just a couple on the main tour, with only the perched bird on Duck Creek Road showing well. Also seen daily on Tasmania.

BLACK FALCON (*Falco subniger*)

Great looks at this rare falcon as it first sped overhead at Cumberland Dam, then perched atop a tree overlooking the water hole, allowing us some super scope studies!

Megapodiidae

AUSTRALIAN BRUSH-TURKEY (*Alectura lathami*)

Very common and tame in the rainforests of eastern Queensland. Funny how they looked big until we saw them at the feet of a cassowary.

ORANGE-FOOTED SCRUBFOWL (*Megapodius reinwardt*)

Numerous around Darwin and Cairns.

Gruidae

SARUS CRANE (*Grus antigone*)

Some good-sized mixed groups of cranes on the tablelands gave us a great opportunity to compare the two species side by side. Apart from the difference in the extent of bare skin on their necks and their leg color, the two cranes also differ in overall coloration. Sarus is paler gray overall, and this was pretty obvious when you saw the two side by side.

BROLGA (*Grus rubicunda*)

Good numbers in the tablelands, where we even got to see a few birds 'dancing', near Hasties Swamp.

Rallidae

BUFF-BANDED RAIL (*Gallirallus philippensis*)

A single bird strolled into the open at Fogg Dam as we tried to call up some grassbirds.

SPOTLESS CRAKE (*Porzana tabuensis*)

Though we narrowly missed the owlet-nightjar at Kingfisher Park, discovering that one of these crakes was at nearby Abattoir Swamp was a bit of a consolation prize. It took only a short wait in the hide before the bird appeared in a nearby puddle and flew long enough for all to get fantastic views.

WHITE-BROWED CRAKE (*Porzana cinerea*)

Good looks at three birds clambering among the big lily pads at Fogg Dam, especially that nice close one Rebecca spotted.

PURPLE SWAMPHEN (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

Small numbers at many wetland spots, including on Tasmania.

DUSKY MOORHEN (*Gallinula tenebrosa*)

Seen only on a couple of days in the tablelands.

N TASMANIAN NATIVE-HEN (*Gallinula mortierii*)

Endemic to Tasmania, where it is pretty common and easy to see. It was particularly fun watching these flightless birds swim across the river at Mountain Valley. We also saw a couple of tiny downy chicks there, one of which got stuck trying to come up through a hole in the rock. It eventually made it, but it didn't look good for a while.

EURASIAN COOT (*Fulica atra*)

Mostly on Tasmania, though we also saw a few in the tablelands.

Otididae

AUSTRALIAN BUSTARD (*Ardeotis australis*)

Several in the Georgetown region, including a couple of birds at very close quarters near the roadside. And it was pretty impressive seeing one of these huge guys fly by, wasn't it?

Jacaniidae

COMB-CRESTED JACANA (*Irediparra gallinacea*)

Common at wetlands throughout the north.

Haematopodidae

PIED OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus longirostris*)

A trio of birds on the coast near Darwin, a distant pair at the Lota mangroves, and a few more on Bruny Island.

SOOTY OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus fuliginosus*)

I think it was Nerses that spotted this bird near the jetty for the Bruny Island ferry.

Recurvirostridae

WHITE-HEADED (BLACK-WINGED) STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus*)

A few at Knuckey's Lagoon, then seen commonly in FNQ.

Burhinidae

N BUSH THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus grallarius*)

Though we didn't see the chicks with the pair near Darwin, the previous day, John and I had seen a very small downy chick with these birds, hence the nesting designation. We also paid a visit to the Cairns cemetery, which is a well-known stake out for these birds, and we counted a minimum of 21 there, though there easily could have been more.

BEACH THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus magnirostris*)

Always a tricky bird to find, but we got some superb views of one on the coast near Darwin. This was only my second one, my first being near Darwin back in 1991!

Glareolidae

AUSTRALIAN PRATINCOLE (*Stiltia isabella*)

A few birds in the mud around Cumberland Dam.

Charadriidae

BANDED LAPWING (*Vanellus tricolor*)

Nice looks at 5 in the high elevation grasslands on Tasmania, after much searching. Next year we'll know exactly where to look!

MASKED LAPWING (*Vanellus miles*)

We actually missed this common species on one day at O'Reilly's.

RED-KNEED DOTTEREL (*Erythrogonys cinctus*)

Nesters found our only one feeding among the big groups of whistling-ducks at Hasties Swamp.

b PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis fulva*)

Quite common around Darwin, with a few birds also along the Cairns Esplanade.

b BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

A few birds along the coast at Darwin were our only ones.

RED-CAPPED PLOVER (DOTTEREL) (*Charadrius ruficapillus*)

Small numbers on the mudflats at the north end of the Cairns Esplanade.

b LESSER SANDPLOVER (*Charadrius mongolus*)

Both sandplovers were present in fair numbers at both Darwin and the Cairns Esplanade, though there were also quite a few of indeterminate species.

b GREATER SANDPLOVER (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)

See above.

b ORIENTAL PLOVER (*Charadrius veredus*)

We knew there were some of these uncommon shorebirds around, as John and I had found some during our scouting day, but on our first visit to Night Cliff, they were nowhere to be found. Luckily, we had time for a second attempt, and that time quite a few were visible, where they were easily told from the numerous sandplovers by their thinner bills and more upright stance.

HOODED PLOVER (*Charadrius rubricollis*)

This plover has been in serious decline in recent years due in large part to its preference for sandy beaches. We saw 5 birds on Bruny Island, on just such a beach, a beach that is specifically protected to give shelter to these birds.

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL (*Euseyonis melanops*)

Most wetlands in FNQ had at least one pair of these pretty plovers. We also saw a couple on Tasmania.

Scolopacidae

a LATHAM'S SNIPE (*Gallinago hardwickii*)

Snipe identification is pretty tricky here, as a couple of similar species can occur, though at the sites at which we saw snipe (ie the tablelands) this is the regularly occurring species, and we saw nothing to make us think they might be one of the rare ones.

a ASIAN DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*)

A rare migrant to Australia, and there apparently hadn't been any present at all on the Esplanade in recent years, so we were fortunate to have such great close views of a couple. We were also lucky that we saw any shorebirds at all, given that our timing was off and the tide was already all the way in when we arrived!

a BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*)

This godwit shows a bold black and white wing pattern like Hudsonian Godwits. Less common overall than Bar-tailed, but there were quite a few around, first several flyovers at Fogg Dam, then more on the Esplanade at Cairns.

a BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*)

Quite numerous at all shorebird sites in the north.

a WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Fairly common at all the shorebird sites. Note that these were the Eurasian Whimbrels, with the white rumps.

a FAR EASTERN CURLEW (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

Again, common at the shorebird sites.

TEREK SANDPIPER (*Xenus cinereus*)

A couple of these cool-looking sandpipers were running around on the mudflats at the Esplanade.

b COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Not so common; we saw just a couple around Darwin.

b GRAY-TAILED TATTLER (*Tringa brevipes*)

Good-sized flocks were both at Night Cliff and the Cairns Esplanade.

b COMMON GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)

Surprisingly few. We saw just a couple at the Esplanade.

- b** MARSH SANDPIPER (*Tringa stagnatilis*)
This is more of a freshwater species than coastal, and we saw a few at freshwater sites around Georgetown and at Knuckey's Lagoon.
- b** RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)
A few around Darwin, and then a single distant bird on the Cairns Esplanade.
- b** GREAT KNOT (*Calidris tenuirostris*)
A couple of large flocks at Darwin and Cairns.
- b** RED-NECKED STINT (*Calidris ruficollis*)
The common small peep in the country. We had a few at Cairns, with a couple also around Darwin.
- b** SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*)
This Pectoral-sized sandpiper is pretty common at both coastal and freshwater sites and we saw a bunch at most of the northern shorebird sites.
- b** CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*)
Just a few of these chunky birds at the Esplanade.

Laridae

- PACIFIC GULL (*Larus pacificus*)
This massive-billed gull is endemic to the coastal regions of southern and western Australia and Tasmania, where it is being replaced in many areas by Kelp Gull. We saw a few pairs on Bruny Island.
- KELP GULL (*Larus dominicanus*)
A pretty local species in the country, but there were a fair number on Tasmania.
- SILVER GULL (*Larus novaehollandiae*)
The only widespread gull in the country, and seen at all coastal locations.

Sternidae

- CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*)
A single bird along the Darwin coast was it for the trip.
- LESSER CRESTED TERN (*Sterna bengalensis*)
Generally not common, but we found three birds among a group of Crested Terns at Darwin's East Point.
- GREAT CRESTED TERN (*Sterna bergii*)
The common coastal tern species. We saw them at most coastal sites, including on Tasmania.
- WHISKERED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*)
Mainly a summer breeding migrant to Australia, this species was numerous around Darwin, particularly at the Palmerston Sewage Ponds. I was a bit surprised that most were still in non-breeding plumage, though there were a few breeding plumaged birds as well.
- b** WHITE-WINGED TERN (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)
A non-breeding migrant to the country; a few nonbreeding plumaged birds were among the many Whiskered Terns at the Palmerston Sewage Ponds.

Columbidae

- I** ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)
- WHITE-HEADED PIGEON (*Columba leucomela*)
Kind of elusive this trip; Pete saw one fly over one morning at Chamber's, but otherwise we just heard a few at O'Reilly's.
- I** SPOTTED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis*)
Introduced, and fairly common at Cairns, Brisbane, and on Tasmania.
- BROWN CUCKOO-DOVE (*Macropygia phasianella*)
Nicely seen on both mornings around Chambers, and then again at O'Reilly's.
- EMERALD DOVE (*Chalcophaps indica*)
Two races occur in Australia. Some folks saw a single longirostris in the Darwin area, then we all had superb close views of several of the race chrysochlora at Kingfisher Park.
- COMMON BRONZEWING (*Phaps chalcoptera*)
A few wary birds put in a late afternoon appearance at Flat Creek Dam, and then we had wonderful scope views of one perched on a TV antenna near the Bruny Island ferry jetty.

- * BRUSH BRONZEWING (*Phaps elegans*)
Heard on Bruny Island, but never very nearby.
 - CRESTED PIGEON (*Geophaps lophotes*)
This wonderful pigeon was especially numerous in the Georgetown region, where we watched good numbers walk in to the water holes to drink.
 - SPINIFEX PIGEON (*Geophaps plumifera*)
After a couple of unsuccessful attempts to track down this spectacular bird, we made one last visit to Routh Creek before heading back to Cairns, and hit pay dirt! A small group of birds were feeding along the creek bed, and by a couple froze in exposed places as we approached, allowing us ample time to admire them through the scope.
 - SQUATTER PIGEON (*Geophaps scripta*)
This dry land pigeon was numerous at the water holes in the Georgetown region.
 - DIAMOND DOVE (*Geopelia cuneata*)
Another dry land species, though we saw only a small number at the Georgetown water holes.
 - PEACEFUL DOVE (*Geopelia placida*)
Very common throughout the north, though we ran out of them when we headed to O'Reilly's.
 - BAR-SHOULDERED DOVE (*Geopelia humeralis*)
Slightly larger than the similar Peaceful Dove, and not quite as common, though we saw them most days in the north.
 - WONGA PIGEON (*Leucosarcia melanoleuca*)
I can't recall ever seeing this beautiful pigeon anywhere but at O'Reilly's. Fortunately, though, there are some habituated birds there that gave us some great views.
 - WOMPOO FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus magnificus*)
Big and beautiful, but what an odd call! We had nice scope studies at Lake Barrine, and then again at Stony Creek.
 - * SUPERB FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus superbus*)
Heard at Stony Creek, but we never could bring it in.
 - ROSE-CROWNED FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus regina*)
We called one in at Howard Springs as we searched for the pitta, and had pretty good looks at it as it perched high overhead. Then just before lunch several of us saw one showing beautifully in a fruiting tree. We also had a lovely look at two the next day at Fogg Dam. Not a bad showing for a usually difficult pigeon.
 - N** TORRESIAN IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula spilorrhoa*)
*This ethereal looking pigeon was a common sight throughout the north, where large numbers arrive from their wintering areas in PNG and Indonesia every August. Usually now split from similar Pied Imperial-pigeon (*D. bicolor*), which is found on some PNG islands.*
 - TOPKNOT PIGEON (*Lopholaimus antarcticus*)
This bird's funky hairdo is just too cool. We had some great studies of the topknot both in the tablelands and at O'Reilly's.
- Cacatuidae**
- RED-TAILED BLACK-COCKATOO (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*)
Seen regularly in the north. Seeing several floating across the outback scrub at Georgetown then dropping in to drink at a waterhole is such a memorable sight. These birds are just so buoyant.
 - GLOSSY BLACK-COCKATOO (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*)
We had good karma with some of the rarer species on this tour, such as this one. I'd asked local O'Reilly's guide Duncan about these birds and was told he hadn't seen any around for a long time. Shortly afterward, we spotted 4 or 5 birds feeding in some casuarinas and wound up with some great scope studies of them. Awesome!
 - YELLOW-TAILED BLACK-COCKATOO (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*)
A few flocks in Tasmania, though we never had any really close perched birds.
 - GALAH (*Eolophus roseicapillus*)
Galaha might be considered a pest in Australia, but I think they are spectacular, and I love 'em! Seen regularly throughout the tour, though for me the most memorable were the group that visited one of the Georgetown water holes in the late afternoon, positively aglow in the beautiful low-angle lighting.

LITTLE CORELLA (*Cacatua sanguinea*)

Fairly common in the Darwin region.

SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO (*Cacatua galerita*)

An abundant and widespread species, and we saw them every day of the trip, including on Tasmania.

Psittacidae

RAINBOW LORIKEET (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)

The common lorikeet of the eastern rainforest regions, where we saw them in good numbers daily.

RAINBOW (RED-COLLARED) LORIKEET (*Trichoglossus haematodus rubritorquis*)

This distinctive subspecies replaces the familiar form in the Darwin region, where they were also very common.

SCALY-BREADED LORIKEET (*Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*)

Small numbers were seen, either in monospecific flocks, or at times, mixed in with flocks of Rainbows. Our first views of several as we awaited the platypus on the tablelands were certainly among our best.

VARIED LORIKEET (*Psitteuteles versicolor*)

Though not uncommon in the Darwin region, these birds were mostly seen as lorikeet shaped objects hurtling by overhead. Our one group of perched birds just didn't sit long enough for more than a couple of folks to get on them.

N DOUBLE-EYED FIG-PARROT (*Cyclopsitta diophthalma*)

Our driver, Petra, showed us our first ones, a nesting pair at Yorkey's Knob. We also saw some remarkably tame ones in the gardens at Cassowary House, feeding, appropriately enough, in a fruiting fig tree.

GREEN ROSELLA (*Platycercus caledonicus*)

A common Tasmanian endemic, which we saw daily on the island.

CRIMSON ROSELLA (*Platycercus elegans*)

Though we saw singles on two days in the tablelands, it wasn't until we got to O'Reilly's that we got good views of this stunning parrot. There, of course, we had up close and personal views of them, and sometimes served as perches for them.

NORTHERN ROSELLA (*Platycercus venustus*)

The three "white-cheeked" rosellas were until fairly recently lumped as a single species, but they are now all treated separate, allopatric, species. This one is rather uncommon on our tour route, but we lucked into a trio feeding in a roadside tree during a random stop to look for friarbirds. Nicely spotted Verna!

EASTERN ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*)

We just barely get into this species range on this tour, as it is possible around Brisbane. But the only one we saw was on our first day on Tasmania, on our visit to the Trevallyn Reserve in Launceston.

PALE-HEADED ROSELLA (*Platycercus adscitus*)

Seen daily in the Georgetown region, where we had some nice views of them as they came down to drink at some of the dams.

BLUE-WINGED PARROT (*Neophema chrysostoma*)

On this trip only possible in Tasmania. We had decent views of a perched pair during our wombat search at Cradle Mountain, then had a distant pair in the grasslands in the center of the island as we drove to Hobart the next day.

SWIFT PARROT (*Lathamus discolor*)

Though this parrot occurs widely in eastern Australia in the winter, it is an endemic breeder on Tasmania, and Bruny Island is perhaps the best place to find them. It was a good year for them there, too, and we found several large groups and had some fantastic studies of these slender and colorful birds.

AUSTRALIAN KING-PARROT (*Alisterus scapularis*)

Most everyone saw a pair early one morning at Chamber's Wildlife Lodge. Later we saw them daily at t, where, like the Crimson Rosellas, they are amazingly tame, and periodically perched on our heads as we stood outside the restaurant.

RED-WINGED PARROT (*Aprosmictus erythropterus*)

Ho hum. Another gorgeous Australian parrot. These ones were pretty common in the Darwin region and around Georgetown.

Cuculidae

PALLID CUCKOO (*Cuculus pallidus*)

One of these large cuckoos was seen well and scoped on the tablelands, and then we saw and/or heard them daily in Tasmania, where they are a summer breeding resident.

BRUSH CUCKOO (*Cacomantis variolosus*)

The only one we saw was a single bird in a weedy field at Fogg Dam.

FAN-TAILED CUCKOO (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*)

Aside from a single bird along Duck Creek Road at t, all of our sightings were from Tasmania, where they were pretty common.

HORSFIELD'S BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx basalis*)

A single bird put in an appearance in a roadside tree along the Fogg Dam. Otherwise, we only heard this species once on Tasmania.

SHINING BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*)

All of our sightings came on our first full day in the tablelands, where we saw a total of 4 birds, at several sites, including from the hide at Hasties Swamp. Also heard one on Tasmania.

LITTLE BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx minutillus*)

This is the one with the bright red eye. Some folks had a brief sighting of one at the Darwin River Dam, then we all caught up with some nice views of a couple along Black Mountain Road above the Cassowary House.

AUSTRALIAN KOEL (*Eudynamys cyanocephala*)

A breeding migrant to Australia from PNG and Indonesia. Pretty good numbers had already arrived in the Darwin region, where we saw and heard our only ones.

CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOO (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*)

This massive cuckoo is another breeding migrant from Indonesia and PNG. Three birds were seen flying overhead in the tablelands, one was seen near Georgetown, and a couple of folks also saw one at t, where they are not very common.

PHEASANT COUCAL (*Centropus phasianinus*)

A few birds in the Darwin region included one seemingly suicidal bird that just barely made it across the road.

Tytonidae

LESSER SOOTY-OWL (*Tyto multipunctata*)

Heard our first night at Chambers, so we went looking the next night and got absolutely stunning spotlight looks at a pair right above the Sugar Glider feeding area.

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

One was on a roadside sign as we headed out to Fogg Dam before sunrise one morning.

Strigidae

RUFOUS OWL (*Ninox rufa*)

Both this species and the next were on roosts in the Darwin Botanical Gardens, the day before the tour started; next day, we couldn't find either one. So, we made a second visit the next day, and that time got lucky, with wonderful looks at a single one of these birds roosting in the open above the trail.

BARKING OWL (*Ninox connivens*)

Yup, the Barking Owls were also back the next day, so everything turned out fine. We also found one next morning at Fogg Dam, besides hearing quite a few, and deciding they really are well-named.

SOUTHERN BOOBOOK (*Ninox boobook*)

Good looks at one after dark near the feeding station at Chambers.

Podargidae

N TAWNY FROGMOUTH (*Podargus strigoides*)

One well-camouflaged bird on a nest along the Duck Creek Road, then another, also on a nest, at the Daisy Hill Koala Reserve.

N PAPUAN FROGMOUTH (*Podargus papuensis*)

Nesting had already been completed, but we saw both an adult female and a younger, smaller bird at Kingfisher Park on the tablelands.

Caprimulgidae

LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus macrurus*)

We had one calling in the early morning at Fogg Dam, but just as it was flying in, a vehicle raced past and chased it off, so all we really saw was a nightjar-shaped silhouette.

Apodidae

AUSTRALIAN SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus terraereginae*)

*Now split from White-rumped Swiftlet (*A. spodiopygius*), this species was common around the Cairns region.*

WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)

Our only ones were a couple that flew overhead as we birded along Black Mountain Road.

Alcedinidae

AZURE KINGFISHER (*Alcedo azurea*)

We scoped a mostly hidden bird at the Darwin River Dam, then had much better looks at a couple at Fogg Dam the next day.

LITTLE KINGFISHER (*Alcedo pusilla*)

A rare and hard to find bird, so the one we saw so well (and photographed) at the Yorker's Knob pond was a great find!

LAUGHING KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo novaeguineae*)

The classic Australian bird, with one of the best calls anywhere. We saw them everywhere but the NT and around Georgetown.

BLUE-WINGED KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo leachii*)

Though they do overlap, we never saw the two kookaburras on the same day. Our only sightings came around Darwin, where they were reasonably common.

FOREST KINGFISHER (*Todirhamphus macleayii*)

Unlike Azure and Little Kingfishers, this species is not usually associated with water, so don't read too much into the fact that they were hanging around the sprinkler heads at the Darwin River Dam.

RED-BACKED KINGFISHER (*Todirhamphus pyrrhopygia*)

A species of the dry interior, where it is often found far from water. Aside from one or two on power lines during the drive to/from Georgetown, we had super looks at one perched in a dead tree in the parking area at Cumberland Dam.

COLLARED KINGFISHER (*Todirhamphus chloris*)

This species prefers brackish water and mangrove habitats, and we saw our only one on the coast near Darwin.

SACRED KINGFISHER (*Todirhamphus sanctus*)

Surprisingly few of these widespread birds were seen, with most of our records coming from FNQ.

Meropidae

RAINBOW BEE-EATER (*Merops ornatus*)

Quite common and seen daily throughout the north (NT and FNQ).

Coraciidae

DOLLARBIRD (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

A breeding migrant to Australia from PNG and Indonesia. We saw this roller daily in the NT, then in smaller numbers on the tablelands and around t

Pittidae

NOISY PITTA (*Pitta versicolor*)

Heard a few times, but they weren't as vocal as we expected around Cassowary House, and it wasn't until we got to t that we finally saw one. There, we had a super responsive one right near the lodge that we called in for some beautiful looks.

RAINBOW PITTA (*Pitta iris*)

Excellent looks at a pair, including prolonged scope studies of a preening bird, at Howard Springs.

Menuridae

ALBERT'S LYREBIRD (*Menura alberti*)

A bittersweet story; on our final attempt to track down this bird at t, my group discovered a male in the botanical gardens. Everyone had nice looks at it while I ran down the track trying to reach John's group on the radio. I finally got through, and John and the gang raced to get to us, and they almost made it. By the time they appeared, we had just lost the lyrebird about 30 seconds earlier, and we never did relocate it. Sorry guys.

Alaudidae

I EURASIAN SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*)

Common in the upland grasslands on Tasmania.

Hirundinidae

TREE MARTIN (*Petrochelidon nigricans*)

Quite common in FNQ, then again on Tasmania.

FAIRY MARTIN (*Petrochelidon ariel*)

Seen regularly in FNQ, often on mixed flocks with Tree Martins.

WELCOME SWALLOW (*Hirundo neoxena*)

Missing only in the Darwin region and around Georgetown, otherwise seen daily.

Motacillidae

AUSTRALASIAN PIPIT (*Anthus [novaeseelandiae] australis*)

Seen only on Tasmania, where they were not uncommon.

Campephagidae

BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina novaehollandiae*)

The most numerous of the cuckooshrikes, and we saw them regularly throughout, including on Tasmania.

YELLOW-EYED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina lineata*)

Aka Barred Cuckoo-shrike. Our only record was of a pair in the canopy of a tall tree along Black Mountain Road, not far from Cassowary House.

N WHITE-BELLIED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina papuensis*)

Fairly common around Darwin, with a few also in the Atherton Tablelands, including one bird sitting on a surprisingly small nest near Mount Malloy.

CICADABIRD (*Coracina tenuirostris*)

Heard at Cairns and then again at O'Reilly's, where we finally did manage to get some views of a couple on our final day, though they weren't what I would call cooperative.

WHITE-WINGED TRILLER (*Lalage tricolor*)

Both triller species were reasonably common in the Darwin region, but apart from there, we had only a few sightings in the tablelands.

VARIED TRILLER (*Lalage leucomela*)

See above.

Turdidae

OLIVE-TAILED (BASSIAN) THRUSH (*Zoothera lunulata*)

The two Australian thrushes are very similar, and until fairly recently were treated as a single species. Telling them apart is quite tricky, and we learned that individual birds could be identified as either species, depending on which field guide you used! Eventually we did manage to sort them out and to see both species. This is generally the more common one, and we saw a few around O'Reilly's. Pete and Rebecca also saw one at Mountain Valley Lodge in Tasmania.

RUSSET-TAILED THRUSH (*Zoothera heinei*)

The first thrush we encountered on the trail at O'Reilly's; we first called it a Bassian, but when John caught up with his group, he pointed out that it was actually Russet-tailed, an identification we agreed with after perusing a different field guide. This was the only one we were to see, though we did hear a few as well.

I EURASIAN BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*)

Very common on Tasmania, where they have been introduced.

Cisticolidae

GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA (*Cisticola exilis*)

Lots of them were in the grassy areas at Fogg Dam, the only site we saw them at.

Sylviidae

AUSTRALIAN REED-WARBLER (*Acrocephalus australis*)

This was also seen only at Fogg Dam, though we saw just a single bird near the viewing platform.

TAWNY GRASSBIRD (*Megalurus timoriensis*)

Once again, these birds were seen only at Fogg Dam. Several were around, though it took some time to get a good view, and the many cisticolas only added to the difficulty, as they always popped up when we tried to call in the grassbirds.

Rhipiduridae

NORTHERN FANTAIL (*Rhipidura rufiventris*)

Fairly common in the Darwin region.

WILLIE-WAGTAIL (*Rhipidura leucophrys*)

Missing in the Darwin region and on Tasmania, though they were common everywhere else.

GRAY FANTAIL (*Rhipidura [fuliginosa] albiscapa*)

A few birds in the tablelands and at O'Reilly's, but most common on Tasmania, where we saw them daily.

RUFOUS FANTAIL (*Rhipidura rufifrons*)

Some folks saw a couple as we searched for paradise-kingfishers near Cairns, then we all caught up with this beautiful fantail at O'Reilly's.

Monarchidae

BLACK-FACED MONARCH (*Monarcha melanopsis*)

The most common monarch in the eastern rainforests, where we saw them regularly.

SPECTACLED MONARCH (*Monarcha trivirgatus*)

Nice views of a couple of these lovely monarchs at Chambers, then a few more sightings at O'Reilly's.

PIED MONARCH (*Arses kaupi*)

A range restricted endemic of the Cairns area, and this can be a tough bird to find. We had excellent views twice, both times of single males. The first was right next to the parking area at the Curtain Fig, and then a few days later we saw one along Black Mountain Road.

LEADEN FLYCATCHER (*Myiagra rubecula*)

We saw this species several times from the Darwin region down to O'Reilly's, though almost all of our records were of female plumaged birds.

BROAD-BILLED FLYCATCHER (*Myiagra ruficollis*)

Excellent close views of a pair in some roadside trees along the Fogg Dam causeway.

SATIN FLYCATCHER (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*)

Quite common on Tasmania, where we saw this bird several times in eucalyptus forest.

RESTLESS FLYCATCHER (*Myiagra inquieta*)

*Fair numbers in the Georgetown region, near the contact zone with the form *nana*, which is sometimes treated as a separate species, Paperbark Flycatcher.*

RESTLESS FLYCATCHER (*Myiagra inquieta nana*)

Nice views of a pair of these Paperbark Flycatchers at Fogg Dam.

SHINING FLYCATCHER (*Myiagra alecto*)

The shimmering blue-black males are pretty nice, but those rufous and white females with the black caps are even better. We saw several pairs, always near water, in the Darwin region.

YELLOW-BREASTED BOATBILL (*Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*)

These striking little birds always remind me of tody-flycatchers. We saw just one at Lake Barrine, but it was super responsive and very cooperative individual.

Petroicidae

LEMON-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Microeca flavigaster*)

A few birds in the Darwin region, including great looks at a pair flycatching from a roadside barrier up at East Point.

SCARLET (PACIFIC) ROBIN (*Petroica multicolor*)

Seen in small numbers on most days in Tasmania.

N FLAME ROBIN (*Petroica phoenicea*)

This stunning robin was quite common on Tasmania, where we saw them daily, and found a well-concealed nest on the side of a tree trunk.

ROSE ROBIN (*Petroica rosea*)

A couple of territorial males were along the boardwalk trail at O'Reilly's, and though they were a bit elusive, we eventually caught everyone up with them.

PINK ROBIN (*Petroica rodinogaster*)

Tasmania is the stronghold for this species, though it also occurs in the southeastern corner of the mainland. Alan found our first one, a lovely, confiding male at our picnic lunch stop en route to Mountain Valley. Our only other sighting was of a pair near our lodge at Mountain Valley the very same afternoon.

DUSKY ROBIN (*Melanodryas vittata*)

A rather dull endemic to Tasmania; we saw them on several days, including one bird in streaky juvenile plumage on Bruny Island.

PALE-YELLOW ROBIN (*Tregellasia capito*)

*Regularly perching sideways on tree trunks, this robin is quite confiding and easy to see in the Atherton Tablelands, where the race *nana* occurs. I think one or two folks may have seen one of the nominate subspecies at O'Reilly's too.*

N (EASTERN) YELLOW ROBIN (*Eopsaltria australis*)

Our first was a nesting bird at the platypus lookout in the tablelands, but most of our records were at O'Reilly's where they are common, and several birds have gotten ridiculously tame.

MANGROVE ROBIN (*Eopsaltria pulverulenta*)

We just couldn't reel them in at Palmerston, but some nice tape work by John lured a couple into view at the edge of the mangroves at the north end of the Cairns Esplanade.

WHITE-BROWED ROBIN (*Poecilodryas superciliosa*)

A couple of birds of the nominate race were found along a dry creek bed in the northern part of the Atherton tablelands. They were a bit tricky to see, and some folks missed them initially, but by dropping into the creek bed and walking up into their territory a bit more, we managed to get clean up views for everyone.

ASHY (GRAY-HEADED) ROBIN (*Heteromyias albispecularis cinereifrons*)

Quite common and easy to see in the tablelands. Sometimes this form is treated as a separate species from the form found in the PNG highlands.

Pachycephalidae

OLIVE WHISTLER (*Pachycephala olivacea*)

A rather skulking whistler of the southeast. For us this species was seen only on Tasmania; our first ones popped out into the open without any effort on our part, as we were doing some roadside birding for honeyeaters on the way up to Mountain Valley Lodge.

GRAY-HEADED WHISTLER (*Pachycephala griseiceps*)

*This and the next species were until recently treated as a single species and called Gray Whistler, *P. simplex*, a name that has been retained by the NT species. This is the one we saw quite commonly in the Atherton Tablelands.*

GRAY WHISTLER (*Pachycephala simplex*)

This dull whistler is now an endemic to the Top End region of the NT and is sometimes called Brown Whistler. We saw a couple of birds in the forests around Fogg Dam.

GOLDEN WHISTLER (*Pachycephala pectoralis*)

A fairly common bird of the eastern rainforests; we had excellent views at Chambers, then also saw them at O'Reilly's and on Tasmania.

BLACK-TAILED (MANGROVE GOLDEN) WHISTLER (*Pachycephala melanura*)

*Males are very similar to male Golden Whistlers, while females of the race we saw (*robusta*) are very distinctive. We only saw a single male along the Adelaide River, but there was no question of the identification, especially since Golden Whistlers don't occur anywhere near here!*

RUFOUS WHISTLER (*Pachycephala rufiventris*)

Small numbers in the Darwin region, then again around Georgetown.

RUFIOUS (LITTLE) SHRIKE-THRUSH (*Colluricincla megarhyncha*)

We saw both the grayed form at the Darwin River Dam in the NT, and the rufous form in the tablelands.

BOWER'S SHRIKE-THRUSH (*Colluricincla boweri*)

An Atherton Tableland endemic. We saw just a couple of birds, right on the grounds of Chambers Wildlife Lodge on our first morning there.

GRAY SHRIKE-THRUSH (*Colluricincla harmonica*)

Though found throughout the country, we didn't catch up with this species until we got to O'Reilly's, after which we had them every day, including on Tasmania.

Pomatostomidae

GRAY-CROWNED BABBLER (*Pomatostomus temporalis*)

This dry country bird was fairly common in the Georgetown region.

Orthonychidae

SOUTHERN LOGRUNNER (*Orthonyx temminckii*)

These beautifully patterned forest floor birds are pretty common, and pretty unperturbed by human intruders, along the trails at O'Reilly's where we had numerous wonderful views.

CHOWCHILLA (*Orthonyx spaldingii*)

Chowchillas and logrunners share an endearing habit of tossing leaves aside with an odd, pronounced sideways kicking motion that is pretty fun to watch. This species is generally harder to see, but we were extremely fortunate to find a group of four birds feeding just inside the forest from the parking area at Lake Barrine. It was the sound of all that leaf-kicking that first alerted us to their presence!

Eupetidae

EASTERN WHIPBIRD (*Psophodes olivaceus*)

This bird has one of the most unforgettable songs of all Australian birds, and it's also obvious upon hearing it, just why they got the name "whipbird". Though we saw our first at Chamber's Wildlife Lodge, our best views were at O'Reilly's, where a couple of birds have pretty much lost their fear of humans.

Maluridae

* RED-BACKED FAIRYWREN (*Malurus melanocephalus*)

Heard once below O'Reilly's but they just wouldn't show.

SUPERB FAIRYWREN (*Malurus cyaneus*)

These delightful little birds first appeared at O'Reilly's but they were especially numerous on Tasmania, where they are the only fairy-wren present.

VARIEGATED FAIRYWREN (*Malurus lamberti*)

*A trio of birds in a vine tangle along a dry creek bed near Georgetown were of the widespread interior race *assimilis*.*

LOVELY FAIRYWREN (*Malurus amabilis*)

Formerly considered a subspecies of Variegated Fairy-wren, this species differs mainly in having a much shorter tail, and also a very distinct female plumage. We had some nice views of a small party of birds along Black Mountain Road.

Acanthizidae

FERNWREN (*Oreoscopus gutturalis*)

An inconspicuous and difficult to find Atherton Tableland endemic. Our first attempt at this species was partially successful; the bird flew in immediately after playback, but just as we were getting on it, we were distracted by a cry of "Tree Kangaroo!" by our driver, Petra. Sadly, the kangaroo eluded most of us, and the Fernwren disappeared in the meantime. We stayed much more focused the next day when we tried again at the same spot, and this time were rewarded with incredible close views of the male that dashed in and began singing in plain view!

YELLOW-THROATED SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis citreogularis*)

This species always reminds folks of the Common Yellowthroat. A few folks saw one near the Crater, but they were far more numerous and easy to see at O'Reilly's.

WHITE-BROWED SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis frontalis*)

Likewise common and easy to see at O'Reilly's. One ridiculously tame party of birds that seemed to follow us on the trails there included both scrubwrens, along with a whipbird and an Eastern Yellow Robin, all of which were sometimes too close to properly focus on them with our cameras!

TASMANIAN SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis humilis*)

Like a large, plain White-browed Scrubwren, this bird is a common Tasmanian endemic.

ATHERTON SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis kerii*)

This tableland endemic is extremely similar to the Large-billed Scrubwren, which is partially sympatric. This species is larger and darker, and tends to feed closer to the ground or even on the ground, whereas Large-billed feeds higher up. We saw one small party of birds at the Crater.

LARGE-BILLED SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis magnirostris*)

Seen regularly at several places in the eastern rainforests.

SCRUBTIT (*Acanthornis magnus*)

One of the tougher Tasmanian endemics to track down, but we had a super responsive pair our first afternoon at Mountain Valley, then another pair a couple of days later. This is a far more distinctive looking species than the field guides make it out to be.

STRIATED FIELDWREN (*Calamanthus fuliginosus*)

Great views of a couple of birds in the heathy scrub where we went wombat hunting just outside of Cradle Mountain NP on Tasmania, despite the fairly heavy rains that we had at the time.

BUFF-RUMPED THORNBILL (*Acanthiza reguloides*)

Several small parties were encountered along Duck Creek Road.

MOUNTAIN THORNBILL (*Acanthiza katherina*)

The whitish eye of this tableland endemic is among its most distinctive features. We ran into these birds on a couple of days near the Crater, and had some excellent views both times.

BROWN THORNBILL (*Acanthiza pusilla*)

Common and seen daily at O'Reilly's and on Tasmania.

N TASMANIAN THORNBILL (*Acanthiza ewingii*)

Quite similar to Brown Thornbill, but we saw them both numerous times and got to be pretty adept at telling them apart. Best views were at Mountain Valley Lodge where a pair were busy delivering food to their chicks in a nest in a low shrub next to the driveway.

YELLOW-RUMPED THORNBILL (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*)

An easily identified thornbill, not only for the bright yellow rump, but for their habit of feeding on the ground in open grassy areas. We saw them only on Tasmania where they were quite common.

STRIATED THORNBILL (*Acanthiza lineata*)

Seen in small numbers around O'Reilly's, where their white-streaked crowns and yellower underparts help separate them from the similar Brown Thornbill.

WEEBILL (*Smicronis brevirostris*)

They sure do have wee, tiny bills, don't they. We found these small birds only in the Georgetown region, where they were quite common.

GREEN-BACKED GERYGONE (*Gerygone chloronotus*)

Small numbers were seen in the Darwin region.

FAIRY GERYGONE (*Gerygone palpebrosa*)

Nice views of a couple of birds on our way back from Georgetown, then again the next day in the tablelands.

WHITE-THROATED GERYGONE (*Gerygone olivacea*)

Along with the preceding species, this is one of the prettiest of the gerygones. This species also has one of the most beautiful songs, among my favorite Australian bird songs. We heard them a few times, and also had beautiful views of a couple around Georgetown.

LARGE-BILLED GERYGONE (*Gerygone magnirostris*)

A pretty generic gerygone. We saw this species well at Howard Springs and Fogg Dam in the Darwin region, then again at Yorkey's Knob near Cairns.

BROWN GERYGONE (*Gerygone mouki*)

The nominate race was quite common in the rainforests of the tablelands.

MANGROVE GERYGONE (*Gerygone levigaster*)

As its name implies, this species is restricted to mangroves. We worked hard to find them at Palmerston, and were ultimately successful, though we were almost caught by the quickly incoming tide!

Climacteridae

WHITE-THROATED TREECREEPER (*Cormobates leucophaeus*)

The lone bird we saw along Duck Creek Road was of the widespread nominate subspecies.

WHITE-THROATED TREECREEPER (*Cormobates leucophaeus minor*)

We also saw just one bird of this subspecies, which is sometimes called Little Treecreeper, in the Atherton Tablelands.

N RED-BROWED TREECREEPER (*Climacteris erythroptus*)

Duncan had a nest staked out along Duck Creek Road, but we saw no activity at the nest hole. The reason why became apparent when we finally tracked these birds down: the young were fledged already. We wound up with super looks at the family of two adults and two juveniles.

BROWN TREECREEPER (*Climacteris picumnus*)

Once again we saw just a single one of these treecreepers, in some dry eucalypt woodland near Georgetown.

Nectarinidae

N OLIVE-BACKED (YELLOW-BELLIED) SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris jugularis*)

These brilliant sunbirds were seen regularly in the Cairns region, and we saw a couple of active nests, including one right inside the carport at Cassowary House.

Dicaeidae

MISTLETOEBIRD (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*)

This stunning little bird is in the flowerpecker family, the lone member of the family to occur in Australia. We saw them pretty much daily until we left Cairns.

Pardalotidae

SPOTTED PARDALOTE (*Pardalotus punctatus*)

This was the common pardalote along Duck Creek Road, where we had especially good views of a pair that dropped down to the ground, presumably to a concealed nest hole. We also saw this species on Tasmania.

FORTY-SPOTTED PARDALOTE (*Pardalotus quadragintus*)

Probably the scarcest of the Tasmanian endemics, this was also the last one we tracked down, getting some super views on our final full day out on Bruny Island.

RED-BROWED PARDALOTE (*Pardalotus rubricatus*)

Our only one was a well-seen individual that we found in some dry woodland near the Georgetown race course.

STRIATED PARDALOTE (*Pardalotus striatus*)

A single bird was seen near Darwin, and a couple along Duck Creek Road, but this species was especially common on Tasmania, where we saw them every day.

Zosteropidae

AUSTRALIAN YELLOW WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops luteus*)

This species is pretty much restricted to the northern coast of the country, and for us, the Darwin region was our only shot at it. And that's all we needed as we had great looks at a pair our first morning at Buffalo Creek.

SILVER-EYE (*Zosterops lateralis*)

Common and widespread, and missed on only a few days.

Meliphagidae

BROWN HONEYEATER (*Lichmera indistincta*)

One of the most numerous and conspicuous honeyeaters in the north.

DUSKY MYZOMELA (*Myzomela obscura*)

Dull and easily looked over, but pretty common around Darwin and Cairns.

RED-HEADED MYZOMELA (*Myzomela erythrocephala*)

A striking honeyeater of the northern coastal regions. We had amazing views on our first morning at Buffalo Creek.

SCARLET MYZOMELA (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*)

The melodious song of this brilliant honeyeater was a commonly heard song in the tablelands. We also saw a couple of birds as we waited for platypi near Yungaburra.

BANDED HONEYEATER (*Certhionyx pectoralis*)

The three species in this genus are all strikingly patterned black and white birds; they are also quite nomadic and unpredictable, and always nice to see. We found several of this species in some dry woodland near Darwin, and then saw more at Georgetown.

GRACEFUL HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga gracilis*)

The smaller, slimmer Meliphaga with the smaller yellow ear patch, this species was seen only around Cassowary House, where we found just a few.

YELLOW-SPOTTED HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga notata*)

This bird is generally found at lower elevations than the very similar Lewin's Honeyeater, and we found them just in the northern parts of the tablelands, where they seemed most numerous around Cassowary House.

LEWIN'S HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga lewinii*)

The most common and widespread, and arguably the boldest, of the Meliphaga honeyeaters. We saw lots in the tablelands and around O'Reilly's.

BRIDLED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus frenatus*)

This Atherton endemic likes the high elevation forests, and the few we saw were all at about the highest elevation we got to up at the Crater.

YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus chrysops*)

Nelson spotted our first ones from the hide at Hasties Swamp. All of our other sightings came from the O'Reilly's area, where they were quite common.

VARIED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus versicolor*)

Just a couple of birds were seen along the Cairns Esplanade.

MANGROVE HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus fasciolaris*)

Quite similar to the Varied, but this species is duller and browner, and restricted to mangroves to the south of Varied's range. We had nice looks at several in the mangroves near Brisbane.

YELLOW HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus flavus*)

Not uncommon in the Cairns region.

WHITE-GAPED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus unicolor*)

Fairly common around Darwin.

YELLOW-THROATED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus flavicollis*)

One of four honeyeaters endemic to Tasmania. We had small numbers of this neat bird daily there.

YELLOW-TINTED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus flavescens*)

Small numbers around Georgetown included some coming down to the dams to drink.

GRAY-FRONTED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus plumulus*)

Quite scarce, and difficult this year, but we finally found a couple of birds at our reliable site near Georgetown.

MACLEAY'S HONEYEATER (*Xanthotis macleayana*)

A tablelands especially, and we saw them on several days, with the ones at the Cassowary House feeders easily giving us our best looks.

WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER (*Melithreptus lunatus*)

Quite numerous in the dry eucalyptus forest along Duck Creek Road.

BLACK-HEADED HONEYEATER (*Melithreptus affinis*)

One of two Tasmanian endemics in this genus. This seemed to be the more common of the two, and we saw them well a bunch of times.

WHITE-THROATED HONEYEATER (*Melithreptus albogularis*)

This was the first Melithreptus species that we picked up near Darwin. We also saw a couple at Big Mitchell Creek in the northern tablelands.

STRONG-BILLED HONEYEATER (*Melithreptus validirostris*)

The larger, and less numerous of the two endemic Melithreptus on Tasmania, though we still had many excellent looks.

- N** LITTLE FRIARBIRD (*Philemon citreogularis*)
Pretty common throughout the north. We even found one on a nest at Night Cliff.
- HELMETED FRIARBIRD (*Philemon buceroides gordonii*)
This is the race that is found in the Northern Territory. We found them to be common around Darwin.
- HELMETED FRIARBIRD (*Philemon buceroides yorki*)
And this is the form from Queensland, and they were likewise common around Cairns.
- SILVER-CROWNED FRIARBIRD (*Philemon argenticeps*)
Very similar to the Helmeted Friarbird, differing mainly in the shape of the bare black facial skin. We found just a couple as we headed towards the Palmerston sewage ponds.
- NOISY FRIARBIRD (*Philemon corniculatus*)
Who will forget that first sighting of dozens of these birds in the big flowering tree at our lunch stop en route to Georgetown?
- CRESCENT HONEYEATER (*Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*)
This beautifully marked honeyeater was seen wonderfully in a flowering tree near Mountain Valley Lodge.
- NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATER (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*)
Seen only in Tasmania, where they were especially abundant on Bruny Island.
- WHITE-CHEEKED HONEYEATER (*Phylidonyris nigra*)
Not usually numerous in the tablelands, though there must have been lots of their favored flowers around this year as we encountered quite a lot of these beauties, beginning with a couple at the platypus spot.
- BROWN-BACKED HONEYEATER (*Ramsayornis modestus*)
Just a few of these birds were seen in the Cairns region.
- BAR-BREASTED HONEYEATER (*Ramsayornis fasciatus*)
Quite a few of these birds were seen at Darwin River Dam, including some real well-marked individuals. A single bird along Fogg Dam was a bit out of place.
- RUFIOUS-BANDED HONEYEATER (*Conopophila albogularis*)
Fairly numerous around Darwin.
- RUFIOUS-THROATED HONEYEATER (*Conopophila rufogularis*)
Good numbers at Georgetown.
- EASTERN SPINEBILL (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*)
A few of these gorgeous honeyeaters were regulars around a Lodge. We also saw a couple on Bruny Island.
- BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER (*Entomyzon cyanotis*)
Big, bold and beautiful. Especially numerous in the Georgetown area where big noisy groups of birds would fly into a tree top then all sit facing each other and start squawking before flying off to another tree and going through the same ritual again.
- BELL MINER (*Manorina melanophrys*)
Being among a colony of these amazing sounding birds is just a wonderful experience. The birds usually stay high up, but we got several to drop in low and close with a little bit of pishing.
- NOISY MINER (*Manorina melanocephala*)
Quite common in drier forest around a
- YELLOW-THROATED MINER (*Manorina flavigula*)
Replaces Noisy Miner through much of the interior. We saw bunches of them at Georgetown.
- BRUSH WATTLEBIRD (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*)
Seen only on Tasmania, where our best views came as we were waiting for the ferry to Bruny Island.
- YELLOW WATTLEBIRD (*Anthochaera paradoxa*)
The largest of the honeyeaters, this species is another of the Tasmanian endemics, and we saw them daily there.

Oriolidae

- OLIVE-BACKED ORIOLE (*Oriolus sagittatus*)
Just a few birds were seen around Georgetown.
- GREEN (YELLOW) ORIOLE (*Oriolus flavocinctus*)
Pretty common in the Darwin and Cairns regions.

GREEN (AUSTRALASIAN) FIGBIRD (*Sphecotheres viridis*)

Pretty numerous throughout the north, and we saw them most days until we left Cairns, with a few also seen around Brisbane.

Dicruridae

SPANGLED DRONGO (*Dicrurus bracteatus*)

Seen first at Howard Springs, then fairly regularly in the tablelands.

Grallinidae

MAGPIE-LARK (*Grallina cyanoleuca*)

Extremely common and conspicuous throughout in open areas. We only missed this species on one day on the mainland, and on Tasmania, where they don't occur.

Corcoracidae

APOSTLEBIRD (*Struthidea cinerea*)

They may not always be in groups of 12, but they do tend to hang together in crowds. Numerous in the Georgetown region.

Artamidae

WHITE-BREASTED WOODSWALLOW (*Artamus leucorhynchus*)

The most commonly seen woodswallow, seen regularly throughout the north.

BLACK-FACED WOODSWALLOW (*Artamus cinereus*)

Just a few birds were seen around Georgetown.

DUSKY WOODSWALLOW (*Artamus cyanopterus*)

The only woodswallow that occurs on Tasmania, this species was seen several times there.

Cracticidae

GRAY BUTCHERBIRD (*Cracticus torquatus*)

Our only sighting was of a single bird below a

GRAY BUTCHERBIRD (*Cracticus torquatus argenteus*)

*This form is sometimes treated as a separate species, Silver-backed Butcherbird, *C. argenteus*. It is restricted to the northern parts of NT and WA. We saw a single bird as we searched for Partridge Pigeon near Darwin.*

PIED BUTCHERBIRD (*Cracticus nigrogularis*)

Quite common at several sites, though we probably saw more around Georgetown than anywhere else.

BLACK BUTCHERBIRD (*Cracticus quoyi*)

A few of these were seen in the tablelands, including right around our cabins at Chambers.

AUSTRALASIAN MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina tibicen*)

Seen almost daily after we'd left Darwin. Two races were seen, the black-backed nominate form on the mainland, and white-backed leuconota on Tasmania.

PIED CURRAWONG (*Strepera graculina*)

The currawong we saw widely throughout Queensland.

BLACK CURRAWONG (*Strepera fuliginosa*)

Endemic to Tasmania, where it occurs with the next species. Separating them is not too hard given a good view. This species has black, rather than white, undertail coverts. We saw both species regularly in Tasmania.

GRAY CURRAWONG (*Strepera versicolor arguta*)

This race is also called Clinking Currawong in reference to its clinking calls. It is restricted to Tasmania where we saw them often.

Paradisaeidae

PARADISE RIFLEBIRD (*Ptiloris paradiseus*)

This riflebird was seen a couple of times at a, including one male in a fruiting tree in the upper parking area.

VICTORIA'S RIFLEBIRD (*Ptiloris victoriae*)

Several sightings up in the tablelands included some nice close females on the Cassowary House feeders, and a male on a presumed display perch at the Crater. We watch in quiet anticipation, hoping he would perform for us, but after a time, he left without treating us to his display.

Ptilonorhynchidae

SPOTTED CATBIRD (*Ailuroedus melanotis*)

Fairly common in the tablelands, with some especially nice looks at a couple on the lodge grounds at Chambers.

GREEN CATBIRD (*Ailuroedus crassirostris*)

Quite vocal at a, and we got some views, but they weren't as friendly as the the Spotted Catbirds were.

TOOTH-BILLED CATBIRD (*Ailuroedus denticrostris*)

The bower of this bird is pretty simple: just a cleared area with a number of leaves laid out, pale underside up. We found a couple of bowers, and a couple of birds, including a bold one perched just a few feet away singing, at Lake Barrine.

GOLDEN BOWERBIRD (*Prionodura newtoniana*)

With no known active bower for us to visit, our chances to find this showy bird were pretty slim. But a big fruiting fig tree at the Crater was attracting in lots of other birds, and so we were hopeful. It didn't take too long either before Mike spotted a gorgeous male sitting quietly on a low perch. Made it worth getting soaked in all that rain, didn't it?

REGENT BOWERBIRD (*Sericulus chrysocephalus*)

Do birds get any more beautiful than the male of this species? Simply outstanding views and photographic opportunities of those habituated ones at a

SATIN BOWERBIRD (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*)

Also common and conspicuous at a, where we also got to see a couple of great bowers adorned with all manner of bright blue objects.

GREAT BOWERBIRD (*Chlamydera nuchalis*)

A few around the Darwin region, but most common around Georgetown, where we saw good numbers, but unfortunately we couldn't track down a bower.

Corvidae

TORRESIAN CROW (*Corvus orru*)

The common (only) Corvid we saw pretty much everywhere on the mainland.

FOREST RAVEN (*Corvus tasmanicus*)

Tasmania's only Corvid, making it easy to identify! Abundant there, and seen in good numbers daily.

Sturnidae

N METALLIC STARLING (*Aplonis metallica*)

Some impressive sized nesting colonies were seen in the Cairns region, along with bundles of the starlings themselves.

I COMMON MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*)

A common introduced pest species that we saw loads of around Cairns and Brisbane.

I EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Abundant on Tasmania.

Passeridae

I HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

A pretty widespread introduced bird, missed only in the Darwin region.

Estrildidae

BEAUTIFUL FIRETAIL (*Stagonopleura bella*)

We heard one calling at Mountain Valley, but were having trouble tracking it down, and Harriet was the only one to see it before it flew off for good. Fortunately we found a more cooperative bird on Bruny Island the next day. Nerves spotted that one, and though it didn't stick around long, it was long enough for us all to get a decent view.

RED-BROWED FIRETAIL (FINCH) (*Neochmia temporalis*)

Pretty common in the eastern rainforest regions, but especially numerous at the feeders at Kingfisher Park.

CRIMSON FINCH (*Neochmia phaeton*)

Quite a large number of these beautiful finches were found feeding on the ground along Fogg Dam.

ZEBRA (CHESTNUT-EARED) FINCH (*Taeniopygia guttata*)

Some pretty good-sized flocks came into drink at a couple of the dams in the Georgetown area.

DOUBLE-BARRED FINCH (*Taeniopygia bichenovii*)

We first found a few birds at Howard Springs, then saw more of these endearing little birds regularly in the Georgetown region.

MASKED FINCH (*Poephila personata*)

Linda and I saw a single bird on a roadside wire near Palmerston sewage ponds, when everyone else had walked up the road. Luckily for the rest of the group, this uncommon finch was present in pretty good numbers this year around Georgetown, and we had some excellent views of several groups there.

LONG-TAILED FINCH (*Poephila acuticauda*)

This finch is even scarcer than the Masked, so we were fortunate to find a couple among a group of Double-barred Finches at Howard Springs. Linda and I also saw a single bird with the Masked Finch we saw near the sewage ponds.

BLACK-THROATED FINCH (*Poephila cincta*)

Quite numerous at Georgetown, where we saw several pretty large flocks, one or two with a few Masked Finches mixed in.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED MUNIA (MANNIKIN) (*Lonchura castaneothorax*)

Karen and Nelson saw a couple of birds feeding with the Crimson Finches at Fogg Dam. Others caught up with a couple of birds in dry forest near Mount Malloy as we searched for a Square-tailed Kite nest.

Fringillidae

I EUROPEAN GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*)

Small numbers of this introduced species were seen on Tasmania.

I EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*)

A very common introduced species in Tasmania.

MAMMALS

SHORT-BEAKED ECHIDNA (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)

Several on Tasmania, the best one of which was at Mountain Valley Lodge. We spotted it feeding in an open field next to the cabins, and watched as it moved closer and closer, ultimately coming within 6 feet of where we stood before casually continuing on its way.

PLATYPUS (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*)

Not only did we have some excellent views of one or two one late evening near Yungaburra, but we also had some nice looks along the creek at Mountain Valley Lodge. What a cool critter!

SPOTTED-TAILED QUOLL (*Dasyurus maculatus*)

The devil show at Mountain Valley Lodge was by all accounts a good one, but only Bob and Joyce were lucky enough to have this animal show up on their porch for scraps of meat.

TASMANIAN DEVIL (*Sarcophilus harrisii*)

Devils visited everybody's porches for meat scraps, so while everyone's experience with them was somewhat different, everyone did get good looks at this great animal. In much of their range, devil populations have been afflicted by horrible facial tumors and the population of devils has crashed. Fortunately, no devils around Mountain Valley have yet to show signs of tumors, and hopefully they never will.

LONG-NOSED BANDICOOT (*Peramelas nasuta*)

One of these cool little beasts turned up below the Sugar Glider feeders at Chambers. Its first visit was brief and some folks missed him, but those that stayed later were treated to a great close view as he lapped up honey from the base of one of the feeder trees.

COMMON WOMBAT (*Vombatus ursinus*)

We have Rebecca to thank for this one. While the rest of us were looking for fieldwrens, she was following tracks and looking under logs, and she ended up finding one of these guys sleeping in a cozy nest, sheltering from the rain.

KOALA (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)

I think a few people were suffering from eye strain after all the time we put in looking for koalas along Duck Creek Road without success. But a stop at Daisy Creek on our way back down to Brisbane made it all okay when we found a mom with a piggy-backing baby after just a short search. I love happy endings!

- COMMON BRUSHTAIL POSSUM (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)
A few of these showed up for meat scraps at Mountain Valley Lodge and I think were seen by all.
- MOUNTAIN BRUSHTAIL POSSUM (*Trichosurus caninus*)
Three different individuals of this very dark possum showed up at the a feeders during dinner one night.
- SUGAR GLIDER (*Petaurus breviceps*)
Several of these lovely, large-eyed possums were regular visitors to the feeder trees at Chambers. We were a bit concerned the first night when a large Carpet Python turned up and appeared intent on snacking on a glider or two, but they were pretty adept at avoiding it and still getting at the honey.
- COMMON RINGTAIL POSSUM (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*)
I think Peter may have been the only one to see one of these on the way back to the rooms at a one night.
- MUSKY RAT-KANGAROO (*Hypsiprymnodon moschatus*)
The smallest Macropod. A few of these little guys were hanging around below the verandah at Cassowary House.
- TASMANIAN PADEMELON (*Thylogale billardieri*)
A few animals around Mountain Valley Lodge.
- RED-NECKED PADEMELON (*Thylogale thetis*)
Small numbers at a
- RED-LEGGED PADEMELON (*Thylogale stigmatica*)
This rather rare pademelon was seen well at Chambers, where a fairly large group of them has been habituated and come in for an evening feeding, complete with commentary by the owner of the lodge.
- LUMHOLTZ'S TREE KANGAROO (*Dendrolagus lumholtzi*)
One of these rarely seen kangaroos hopped out onto the road as we searched for Fernwren at the Crater, but a car came along and chased it off before most of us even knew it was there. Only Petra, our driver, and a couple of folks near her got to see it.
- AGILE WALLABY (*Macropus agilis*)
A few around Darwin, then seen regularly in the tablelands.
- RED-NECKED WALLABY (*Macropus rufogriseus*)
One was seen at a, then a few more at the Trevallyn Reserve near Launceston on Tasmania.
- WHIPTAIL WALLABY (*Macropus parryi*)
We first spotted a couple of these attractive wallabies grazing in an open field in the tablelands, and later saw several more in the drier forest below a
- EASTERN GRAY KANGAROO (*Macropus giganteus*)
A big group of rather distant animals on the Mareeba golf course.
- COMMON WALLAROO (*Macropus robustus*)
A couple of these rather woolly coated kangaroos were seen at the waterhole behind our Georgetown hotel.
- RED KANGAROO (*Macropus rufus*)
Not regularly seen on the tour, but there were good numbers of them around Georgetown this year.
- BLACK FLYING-FOX (*Pteropus alecto*)
Some big colonies in Darwin, including at the Botanical Gardens and Howard Springs.
- SPECTACLED FLYING-FOX (*Pteropus conspicillatus*)
We visited a big noisy colony of these nicely marked bats right in the city of Cairns.
- I** OLD WORLD RABBIT (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)
Pretty numerous on Tasmania.
- DINGO (*Canis familiaris dingo*)
Karen spotted out first, a typical reddish animal, as we birded at Durham Dam one morning. Surprisingly we also saw three different dingos, all with a lot of blackish fur, around a
- I** FALLOW DEER (*Dama dama*)
A bunch in the highlands of Tasmania.

Additional Comments

We identified a couple of bat species that are not in our database. They were:

Common Bentwing Bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*); the one we found roosting under the bridge at the Adelaide River.

Little Broad-nosed Bat (); the one roosting inside the hide at Hasties Swamp.

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