



## 2021 Megatour Trip Report - 19<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> Nov (12 days)

**Summary:** Running each year in spring, the Victoria Megatour showcases the state's best birding regions from the wild rugged coastlines and rainforests in the south to the inland plains and semi-arid woodlands further north. This tour targets rare, cryptic and iconic bird species whilst enjoying all the other flora and fauna that makes Australia so unique.

This year's tour was one of our most successful with 6 participants, and 264 bird species recorded in the 12 days (12 of which were heard only) plus a fabulous array of mammals (17 species), reptiles, orchids, butterflies, dragonflies and of course magnificent landscapes. The weather was kind with cool conditions in the north and the hottest day along the coast. We did some spotlighting on 5 of the 11 nights. This trip averaged around 300kms a day over the 12 days. An active holiday which definitely shook out those covid cobwebs



## **Day 1 Melbourne to Sale (Gippsland) – 82 species recorded today**

Our first stop was in the foothills of the Great Dividing range an hour's drive clear of the Melbourne suburbs. During a pleasant walk we saw Large-billed Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone, Shining Bronze-cuckoo, Sacred Kingfisher, Red-browed Treecreeper and Striated Thornbill amongst others.

Our main area of focus today was the cool wet mountain forests of the Strzelecki ranges. We were not expecting a long species list here but this environment is home to some sought after endemics and we were not disappointed. On the drive up the mountain a Painted Button-quail crossed the road in front of us and was seen by a few. First up on our walk a male Rose Robin showed exceptionally well in the tall wattle mid-storey.



A little further on a Pilotbird buzzed across the track. It kept re-appearing, then we realized it was feeding a fledgling which was sitting on a log in plain view. We enjoyed the comings and goings for as long as we wanted, whilst at the same time Rufous Fantail and Olive Whistler put on a fabulous side-show



Cuckoos were calling, and a juvenile Crescent Honeyeater came into view. Plenty of Lyrebird scratchings were evident but no sightings today, and at the end of the walk a Bassian Thrush flew past and proceeded to sing from dense cover.

The latter part of the day was spent around the Gippsland lakes. Along the coast some highlights included White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Caspian Tern, Little Egret, Pied Oystercatcher and Greenshank, then at a waterbird colony excellent views were had of many species including Royal Spoonbills, Eastern Cattle Egrets and the exquisite Intermediate Egret in breeding plumage



## **Day 2 – East Gippsland – 104 species recorded today**

First up this morning we visited a couple of the more productive wetlands near Sale. A small flock of Latham's Snipe were seen as well as our only Black-fronted Dotterels for the trip. Grebes were nesting and good numbers of Cattle Egret, many in breeding attire flew overhead. Another check of the nesting Egrets and we found Intermediate Egrets collecting nesting material on the footpath !

Driving on into East Gippsland we headed down to the coastal town of Metung where views of the Gippsland lakes are possible and large Moreton Bay Fig trees attract the birds. As is often the way here there was little to see when we first pulled up at the heavily fruiting figs. But with some patience and some walking of nearby streets we eventually had excellent views of a male Pacific Koel, 4 Topknot Pigeons and 6 Figbirds



In the afternoon we took a drive into some coastal forest nearby, carefully checking the forest floor for Spotted Quail-thrush and the Casuarina clumps for Glossy Black-cockatoos. These elusive birds evaded us today but we had further chances. In a wet gully area the birds kept coming with Fan-tailed Cuckoos, Eastern Whipbirds, Satin Bowerbird, White-naped Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebill, Sacred Kingfisher and Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters amongst others.

Another lookout across the Gippsland lakes gave views of Black-faced Cormorants and both Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers, Pacific Gull and Bottlenose Dolphin



Mid-afternoon we visited some coastal dune scrub next to some waste water ponds. Another very bird filled walk had us enjoying views of Musk Lorikeets, Yellow Thornbills, Blue-billed and Pink-eared Duck, whilst a variety of Cuckoos called. Both Brush Bronzewing and Scarlet Honeyeater were calling too but we had to wait until later in the tour to see these species properly.

After an early dinner we headed back out into the coastal forests for a spotlighting adventure. At dusk near a clearing we heard at least three White-throated Nightjars calling and one bird gave us a couple of close fly-bys. Some Swamp Wallabys crashed off into the undergrowth as we drove to a gully forest with plenty of old growth trees. No sign of any Owls here today but the thermal scope picked up a Sugar Glider low down in a wattle and using red light we had prolonged and fabulous views of this dynamic arboreal critter.



### **Day 3 – East Gippsland – 86 species recorded today**

This morning took us to a different area of coastal forest, where patches of warm temperate rainforest and banksia woodlands add to the variety, again scanning closely for SQT's as we slow drove through this pristine habitat. A late flowering Tiger Orchid was a nice find



At our first long walk we were well rewarded with views of Azure Kingfisher, Brush Cuckoo, Rose Robin, Gang Gang Cockatoo, Red-browed Finch, another Top-knot Pigeon, confiding Eastern Yellow Robins, Lewin's Honeyeaters and much more



Continuing east and grabbing a picnic lunch we drove up to a lookout through some dense stands of Casuarina that had escaped the fires of early 2020. The Glossy Blacks were not visible today so we continued on to Cabbage tree reserve for another extended walk. The birdlife was absolutely pumping after excellent rains and again a haven from surrounding bush fire ravaged forests. Top-knot Pigeons featured yet again, Rose Robin posed low down and close by, Black-faced Monarchs were seen with some patience, Brown Gerygones and Rufous Fantails, Lewin's Honeyeaters and a stunning male Scarlet Honeyeater added some ping. A pair of Crested Shrike-tit performed for us, another wonderful walk.



From here we headed down to the coastline at Cape Conran. On the way a Turquoise Parrot flushed from the roadside but couldn't be relocated.



At the beautiful West Cape/Salmon Rocks, the seas were very quiet, a few Silveryeyes were all we could find in the coastal scrub recovering from fire, but we did spot a not so common Common Sandpiper hiding in the massive boulders.



Looking out across the estuary of the Snowy River a few Stints and Red-capped Plovers could be seen, plus a small group of Red-necked Avocet and some distant Little Terns.

Once again after dinner some of us headed out with spotlights to another site where some forest Owls were a possibility, but despite nice conditions all we found we tonight were mosquitos ! however you've got to be in it to win it

#### **Day 4 – Gippsland to NE Victoria - 83 species recorded today**

Despite quite a big drive today over the high country of the Great dividing range, we still had ample time to enjoy various sites along the way. On our third attempt we finally connected with two Spotted Quail-thrush, both males and were afforded stonking views. One male even performed an unusual display to its compatriot



Further along a search for Leaden Flycatcher was successful, and after a second breakfast ( this became the norm!!) we drove up and up to Hotham Heights where we enjoyed the views of snow-capped peaks and right on cue a male Flame Robin landed in front of us.



This drive down the mountains is windier and slower and we took our break for lunch by the Ovens river valley amongst lush tall eucalypts, our birding on the inland side of the ranges had begun. An excellent session turned up Noisy Friarbirds, Satin Bowerbird, White-throated Gerygone and Olive-backed Oriole amongst others



After checking into our accommodation we still had some time for our first birding in the granite hills of the Warby ranges close by. Picking a tried and tested location on the edge of the park we quickly connected with a Turquoise Parrot perched some distance away, reasonable views through the scope and we have plenty of time to try for better. Also present were Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, Peaceful Dove, Rainbow Bee-eater, Diamond Firetail, Fairy Martins, Noisy Friarbird and White-browed Babbler. A cracking way to finish the day



### **Day 5 – North-East Victoria – 89 species recorded today**

A relaxed birding day today in the species rich woodlands of north-east Victoria. A Koel was calling loudly early morning at the motel and our first walk at another site on the edge of the Warby ranges was very lively, with perhaps the highlight being a pair of Rainbow Bee-eaters that allowed us close approach and lit up the morning !



It was hard to walk past them but the Diamond Firetails, Restless Flycatchers, Dusky Woodswallows and Brown Treecreepers demanded it. A Turquoise Parrot called and buzzed past but couldn't be relocated, again something to work on later. We also had one of only two views of Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo for the trip.

After brunch we drove east to explore sections of the Chiltern forest. Our main walk here produced plenty of good views of a myriad of woodland birds. Three Speckled Warblers were busy singing and doing their thing in a clearing, showing unusually well for this species



Also of note in the area were Rufous Songlark, Yellow-tufted and Fuscous Honeyeaters, a pair of Western Gerygone, Yellow Thornbill, a female Red-capped Robin and a flock of Varied Sitellas.

A drive through the park was pretty quiet this year with little flowering occurring so we made use of the time to explore some of the surrounding rural roads and wetlands but not before this Dainty Swallowtail conveniently landed as we made our way along a dry ridge



The wet conditions and excellent grass growth this year made our mission difficult with mushy tracks and tall grasses hiding the birds ! A Little Friarbird came in for a close look, Yellow-billed Spoonbills and Australian Shelduck were noted, and a few White-backed Swallows were flying high near an old sand mine. The highlight however was a healthy group of six Grey-crowned Babblers feeding in a quite degraded roadside area with just a few large trees. Unusually they ignored our presence allowing for extended excellent viewing



For the latter part of the day we returned to the granite hills of the Warby ranges on a quest to gain better views of Turquoise Parrot. We took a long walk in a quiet part of the forest enjoying the abundant insect life, wild flowers and of course the birds. White-winged Trillers were present here, which proved to be our last sighting for the trip ( unusually low numbers this year). The beautiful falling leaf song of Western Gerygone led us to another sighting of this species, and one in the group spotted a Button-quail cross the track but it wasn't relocated.

Then the bird we were after called. One flew over us, and another called. Then the first bird returned to where it came from and proceeded to feed its recently fledged young. We were extremely privileged to watch this family do its thing for many minutes until, as they do, they twittered off . A highlight moment for the whole trip being immersed in their forest habitat. Beats caravan park birding!



Nothing was likely to top this experience and we happily headed back to camp and after dinner a few of us took a short night walk in a nearby River Red Gum forest. We had close views of Brushtail and Ringtail Possums before the rain started, the sound of Peron's Tree Frogs ringing in our ears.



## Day 6 – NE Vic to the Riverina – 107 species recorded today

A big day today traversing a range of habitats. After breakfast we took a walk in a nearby riverine forest in search of Dollarbird, which we successfully found, its call giving it away. Plenty of other birds about here too with White-necked Heron, Red-browed Finch, Friarbirds and Scrubwrens. A pair of Sacred Kingfisher were attending a nest hole and without disturbing them in any way we had a fabulous session watching their comings and goings, certainly got the cameras clicking



On our way west we took a drive through the Killawarra forest, where we had a second chance to connect with Painted Honeyeater ( we'd missed out in Chiltern). No doubt they were there, but were quiet today, we did however enjoy one very bird filled stop with Weebill, Buff-rumped and Yellow Thornbills, Western Gerygones and Speckled Warblers again, and a very vocal Pallid Cuckoo



We made a brief stop at Barmah by the banks of the mighty Murray river where we enjoyed close views of Noisy Friarbirds and Long-billed Corellas, and then we made a longer stop at the reedbeds near Mathoura. Plenty of action here with Reed Warblers and Grassbirds playing in front of us, Swamp Harriers cruising the area, Yellow Rosellas, Friarbirds and a Collared Sparrowhawk in the adjacent woodland. A Black-backed (Little) Bittern was calling but no fly-bys today and a Yellow-bellied Water Skink popped out beside us



As we drove out onto the plains of the NSW riverina, both Black and Whistling Kites and Pied Butcherbirds started appearing. After an afternoon break we continued on driving north onto the Hay plain in the company of a local guide who took us onto a private property. In a whole new region the new trip birds were coming thick and fast. Spiny-cheeked, Singing and Striped Honeyeaters, Emus, Wedge-tailed Eagles and White-winged Fairy-wrens, Eastern Blue-bonnets, Horsfield's Bushlark and Brown Songlarks, whilst some White-backed Swallows flew around much closer to us today.

Expectation was growing as we had dinner watching the sun set, before heading out for a night drive in search of the critically endangered and very unique Plains-wanderer. We found three of this species, a male a female and a juvenile. A family of Little Button-quail was an excellent side show, as well as a Fat-tailed Dunnart, Banded Lapwings with young and some Eastern Barn Owls, Red Kangaroos and Western Grey Kangaroos on the drive home. A Sudells Frog was out on the road too after some recent rain. A massive night after a massive day and the half way mark of the tour.



## Day 7 – Riverina to the Mallee – 85 species recorded today

A later start this morning then a walk in a nearby red gum forest was well rewarded. Our main quarry here didn't let us down, with scope views of Superb Parrots at a breeding site. Many other Parrots and Cockatoos here too including a surprising King Parrot flying through and Little Lorikeets calling.



We hit the road and drove back into Victoria and visited a couple of lakes in the Kerang region. White-fronted Chats were new for the tour, and we had further views of White-winged Fairy-wrens. Musk Ducks, Caspian Terns, Red-necked Avocet and White-breasted Woodswallows were viewed and a lovely pair of Zebra Finch landed close by, our only sighting for the tour.



To get to the mallee national parks you have to inevitably drive through the wheatbelt. Blue Bonnets and Yellow-throated Miners become the norm, and by mid afternoon we were at our first quality location, a mixed mallee casuarina woodland close to the Murray river at Wemen.

Some activity caught my eye so we exited the bus for an extended walk where we encountered our only decent flock (60) of White-browed Woodswallows with many juveniles amongst them. A family of Apostlebird were chattering by the bus, an Australian Ringneck flushed and then we found the Wrens ! In one location we had both male Splendid (complete with fanned ear coverts) and male Purple-backed Fairy-wrens in the same bush, in fact they were on the same twig at one point. The dry muted mallee vegetation really pops when these jewels appear. A pair of Chestnut-rumped Thornbills were our first for the trip also.



A male Crested Bellbird proceeded to call, and I spotted it half way up in a Cypress pine, where it sat long enough for all to see it through the scope. This was certainly a great start to our mallee birding.

Time was getting short though so we drove up past Hattah NP making a few quick stops. A Little Eagle was a neat sighting. In some mallee spinifex country we heard the ever elusive Striated Grasswren. This bird did what many Grasswrens do and evaded the eyeballs, still we would be trying again. A Malleefowl nest mound that was active last year was lying dormant this year, but still nice to observe.

And finally as we approached our accommodation a fast flying flock of Regent Parrots generously perched by the roadside. We had nice views, despite looking into the light before their restless nature had them winging their way elsewhere.

### **Day 8 – The Mallee – 67 species recorded today**

Today's birding was very much about quality not quantity with rare and elusive mallee specialties on our agenda. A morning walk at a wetland however did add to the species list with some nice sightings of Darter, Common Bronzewing, White-breasted Woodswallow, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater and Red-rumped Parrots. The hoped for Rails and Crakes were hiding with high water levels not helping.

Driving south we connected with a pair of Cockatiel following the highway and had brief perched views, then we spent the bulk of the day exploring Hattah-Kulkyne NP. Using that morning rush of activity to assist us we embarked on a slow drive through mallee spinifex habitat. Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters now

replaced the White-plumed. No Woodswallows this year and no flowering of note. Our first walk at a select location was quickly successful with a pair of Mallee Emu-wrens showing exceptionally well, so well in fact even I got some decent photos even whilst making sure everyone else saw them aswell. It was high fives all around



Then less than an hour later a Chestnut Quail-thrush was disturbed from the track side. With some patience everyone obtained views and we all got out to follow a pair of them through the mallee. They were quite chilled and we enjoyed prolonged views as they did their thing whilst keeping a safe distance ahead. More high fives, we were on a roll !





A pit stop by the very full Lake Mournpall was quiet although the many damselflies were a nice distraction and with roads cut by the flooding we back tracked and then headed south to explore a different section of the park.



We enjoyed some long slow walks in southern Hattah seeing Chestnut-crowned Babblers (at a distance), Southern Whiteface, Hooded Robins, White-backed Swallows (our third and best sighting as they hawked around us within metres) Pied Butcherbirds and Brown Treecreepers, and then up on some sand hills a confiding Southern Scrub-robin came in to investigate us visiting in its own backyard



Not long after we had equally impressive views of this male Red-capped Robin

The hoped for Owlet-Nightjrat was not in its usual selection of hollows, or at least it didn't want to appear if it was however the nasal aah aah of a Little Crow was heard and the bird seen well both perched and in flight.

Next a visit to a different sandhill with many flowering Eremophilas was good, and we found a number of White-fronted Honeyeaters plus Rainbow Bee-eaters nesting. With so much inland rain up in NSW and QLD the hoped for Black Honeyeaters were not to be found and seem in extremely low numbers this far south this year.

We then had an early dinner and bird call, before our plan to drive some quiet back roads in the late arvo/early evening hoping for a Malleefowl. This tried and tested technique was once again successful, although it did take some time and the sun was getting lower. We eventually had excellent views of two birds, one of which crossed the track in front of us. What a buzz, and a fitting way to finish a great day's mallee birding



## Day 9 The Mallee to Central Victoria – 80 species recorded today

With some unfinished business our first stop this morning as we started to head south again was a site for Striated Grasswren. These tricky customers do not always show despite being quite loyal to certain areas, and this morning our luck was IN ! A cracking little Grasswren popped out from the dense cover three or four times with everyone in the group seeing the bird.



Back on the highway a high speed chase was a thrilling moment as a Peregrine Falcon pursued a Regent Parrot, kinda hope it failed this time  
A Central Bearded Dragon posed for us on a fence post, giving us the eye and pretending not to be there



After brunch the unmistakable wavering call of Pink Cockatoo led us to a group of five birds feeding first in a wattle with galls and then on an Avocado tree on the edge of town. We had insane views as they stripped the unripe fruit to get to the developing kernels inside.



We spent the remainder of the morning plus a picnic lunch at a small remnant reserve preserving some quality Cypress pine and Casuarina woodland. We had the reserve to ourselves and in nice conditions. Splendid Fairy-wrens showed well for us again here, and finally a Mulga Parrot also showed up, a female that we scoped. A bit of activity had us stopping again where Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, Spiny-cheeked and Striped Honeyeater and Varied Sitellas entertained us ( the Sitellas of the attractive western race pileata)



And after some effort we also located the rare and localized White-browed Treecreeper blending perfectly in with its chosen tree truck, a great result.

A walk at lunch around a small wetland produced 8 species of Dragonfly/Damselfly including the not so common and vibrant Scarlet Percher



We had now connected with pretty much all our mallee target species and left the area to drive south without any “what ifs” dogging us. We did however have one more stop at a large salt lake. The desert like vegetation here is home to Rufous Fieldwrens which we found with ease. Black-faced Woodswallows were also present and we had a bonus in the form of a pair of Cockatiel perched in an isolated mallee clump. They allowed us quite close though heat shimmer was not ideal for photographs.

A productive stop as we made our way back through the wheatbelt was a small wetland that has received environmental watering. The birdlife was plentiful as we relaxed by the water in the shade of some mighty Red Gums. Musk Ducks and Great Crested Grebes, Tree Martins hawking, and a Whistling Kite perched nearby. Could have probably sat there all day, but plenty of birds still to see !

Back in Central Victoria and after dinner and the bird call, most of us headed out again for dusk, as I assured everyone it was a great spot for Spotted Nightjar. As soon as I'd talked it right up I realized I'd broken my usual rule to play things down a little !! However we were successful thankfully and we had close fly-bys by a couple of Spotted Nightjars rounding out another fabulous day in the dry north-west of Vic. Tomorrow we would be by the sea again

### **Day 10 – Central Victoria to the Otways – 86 species recorded today**

Early morning birding today was extra lively. Just at the motel we had 5 sp of Honeyeater feeding in a flowering Callistemon including White-eared Honeyeater and this White-fronted that usually never sit still for more than a second.



Up the road in a nature reserve a Shy Heathwren popped out a few times, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater perched up and Brush Bronzewing flew about at break neck speed. Then without any warning a Southern Scrub-robin hopped out in front of us, showing even better than the bird previously. Love these birds !



Also showing well was a male Western Whistler, with his grey base to the tail on view, a recent split from the Golden Whistler and resident in the area

Still needing Painted Honeyeater on the tour, we headed for some local granite hills where the wattle shrublands are loaded with mistletoe. The birds here are easier to find than those in the box ironbark woodlands and we were not disappointed with our views as a male sat and sang, then sailed into the sky on a display flight, yellow feathers glistening.

A Peregrine Falcon was no doubt uninterested as it surveyed the scene from a high peak, whilst Hooded Robins, White-browed Babblers, Diamond Firetails, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and Southern Whiteface all zipped about. A real bonus here was views of two Yellow-footed Antechinus as they scurried in and out of a crack in a large boulder.



With a big drive to the coast it was time to move on, but before lunch we checked a roost tree for the Powerful Owl. Their favourite tree was vacant, but I thought it worth a wander, and we were rapt to locate an adult Owl complete with Sulphur-crested Cockatoo meal. Especially pleasing after missing a couple of Owls earlier in the tour.





Approaching the coast we made a pit stop at a large wetland which was a little too full for shorebirds but 500 Black Swan and flocks of Whiskered Terns were a welcome sight nonetheless. Eurasian Skylarks were singing high in the sky also and a Swamp Harrier was creating havoc in the distance

We reached the coast still with some time to try our luck. At a lookout over the ocean the seas were empty of bird life, the weather had fined up and temperature were rising. However on a quiet back road nearby we connected with two special parrots. Firstly a small mob of Gang Gang Cockatoos were scoped in the treetops, and then a lone Blue-winged Parrot was perched in a dead tree above a small waterhole and sat there happily preening giving us fabulous views



Other birds seen here included White-eared and White-naped Honeyeaters and a pair of Grey Currawong We saw some Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos flying by, and this was a feature for the rest of the tour with multiple sightings of flying birds including some decent flocks. Another day finished on a high

## Day 11 – The Otways – 78 species recorded today

Today's early birding was at some wetlands and a headland near our motel. Musk Lorikeets and King Parrots were at our accommodation early then the wetland yielded at least 7 Latham's Snipe, one of which we watched feeding for some time. Little Wattlebirds and New Holland Honeyeaters called nearby.



Then in the coastal scrub near the headland our target the Rufous Bristlebird made a number of appearances. Not particularly photogenic today but good views nonetheless. Out at sea was as quiet as yesterday, not even a Gannet to be seen, although we did finally spot two Gannets later in the day

Heading west we stopped in some coastal Ironbark forest, hoping to find Satin Flycatchers, a species that had evaded us thus far. A nice birding walk produced Crested Shrike-tit, Bassian Thrush (brief views), Dusky Woodswallows, Gang Gang Cockatoos (reasonable views), and a pair of Satin Flycatchers (completing the set of Flycatchers for the trip)

The bulk of the day we spent in the central part of the Otways. The Great Ocean road winds its way through Lorne, Wye River and Apollo Bay where we made a couple of stops. 3 Sooty Oystercatchers were feeding on a rock shelf and at Marengo we watched the Australian Fur Seals flobbering on the rocks, surrounded by Greater Crested Terns, Pacific Gull and Black-faced Cormorants.

Pushing on we made it to the Cape Otway area for lunch. The heathy woodlands here are alive with birds and we enjoyed Olive Whistler and Rufous Bristlebird whilst eating our sandwiches. A Sea-Eagle cruised past and the world really was a good place. The Superb Fairy-wrens in the picnic ground were totally unafraid of humans and a dazzling male hopped around our feet the whole time. Paradise!

Perhaps the highlight though were a group of 4 Gang Gangs feeding at eye level by the edge of the road. They let us approach to a few metres affording incredible views



We also connected with a Koala, resting in a dead snag, and looking typically relaxed



A last mission today was to visit some of the cool temperate rainforest found higher up in the Otways. We still had a couple of iconic birds to see in this environment so it was definitely worth trying. Our first walk took us through lush forest to a waterfall ( there are many waterfalls in the Otways !!) Crescent Honeyeaters and Olive Whistlers were calling and after not too long we heard a Pink Robin singing (its song can be heard despite the rushing water in the falls). It took some time but then we caught a few nice views of the male as he fed in some dense wattles across the stream. Fantastic, what a buzz to find this gorgeous and often hard to spot bird. The female also briefly appeared.

Then out of the blue he must have spotted some prey right next to us, and he flew across and perched a foot off the ground three metres away from where we were standing. Perhaps the most outstanding moment of the tour, and possible a once in a lifetime experience. It was more high fives !!



We then visited another location in the higher part of the Otways and were pleased to find the resident male Satin Bowerbird pretty quickly. His bower is out of view, but he is usually nearby, keeping watch and looking magnificent. We had excellent but brief views today his blue sheen, ivory bill and violet eye all shining in the sunny weather.

It was a long drive back to our motel, but the trip was all so worth it. Just one day left.

## Day 12 The Surf Coast and Port Phillip Bay – 75 species recorded today

The itinerary for this tour means every day has new birds and new environments. So despite having seen A LOT of birds, we had plenty still to look for

First up we took a long slow walk in some open coastal heathland looking for skulkers, and boy were they skulking. Our views of our three target birds were consistent with their degree of difficulty. We had good views of Striated Fieldwrens, reasonable views of Southern Emu-wrens and lightening fast blurry views of Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, So actually a pretty good result for one short walk !

Next up with the tide falling we headed out to an ocean beach where a pair of Hooded Plovers were dutifully present. They will likely nest soon, and the foot traffic increases dramatically in summer, so hoping they are successful this year with the help of the volunteers down there



A distant Jaeger flew west and an immature Black-faced Cormorant was loafing on some rocks too and allowed us our closest views for the trip



With the hot weather the beach was getting busy, and with all our camera gear and birding clothing we were a bit out of place so skidaddled before the police arrived!

Lunch in Lara was followed by a visit to a wetland where Cape Barren Geese were keeping to the shade, and had young with them, great to see. We saw yet another Snipe ( a good tour for Snipe), and yet again no Rails or Crakes ( water levels high) .

Our last two stops for the tour were old saltworks along the shoreline of Port Phillip bay, where migratory shorebirds may be seen. At the first location we enjoyed a nice flock of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, and then in another pond some Red-necked Stints and Curlew Sandpipers. Plenty of time to really soak up the subtle differences in these small brown long distance migrants for those less familiar.

Walking further in we located a small number of Sternula terns ( Little/Fairys) We hiked as far as we could to get better views, and after a little confusion with an immature bird which appeared to have an all black bill, the adult Fairy Terns flew in to feed it, and the faint yellowish wash to the bill was finally noted. Another small tern nearby was certainly a non-breeding Little Tern. Also of note were great

views of a Little Grassbird doing a fluttering display in full view under a samphire bush

At our last location (we all wanted to keep going for ever really) we were fortunate to have a nice selection of shorebirds quite close. The three commonest ( RNStint, Sharpies and Curlew Sand) all side by side, and decent numbers of Marsh Sandpiper ( at least 35 birds present)



Plenty of Red-necked Avocets too, affording fabulous photo opportunities. After some searching 3 Pacific Golden Plover were picked out hiding in the samphire a little further out. Whiskered Terns hawked above them all giving close fly bys, and once again the world was a great place.

We returned to Melbourne in good time and said our farewells after what was a totally enjoyable tour to run with delightful people. Looking forward to next year already. **FULL TRIP LIST BELOW**



<b>ENGLISH NAME</b>	<b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b>	<b>SUB SPECIES</b>	
Emu	Dromaius novaehollandiae		Good numbers seen in the riverina
Malleefowl	Leipoa ocellata		2 birds seen well
Stubble Quail	Coturnix pectoralis		heard only
Blue-billed Duck	Oxyura australis		one male near Lakes Entrance
Musk Duck	Biziura lobata		best views at Wooroonook lakes
Black Swan	Cygnus atratus		seen on 6 of 12 days
Cape Barren Goose	Cereopsis novaehollandiae	novaehollandiae Eastern	last day near Lara
Australian Shelduck	Tadorna tadornoides		only one sighting near Peechelba
Maned Duck	Chenonetta jubata		seen on 10 of 12 days
Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa	rogersi	seen on 10 of 12 days
Grey Teal	Anas gracilis		seen on 7 of 12 days
Chestnut Teal	Anas castanea		seen on 4 days
Pink-eared Duck	Malacorhynchus membranaceus		only one sighting near Lakes Entrance
Hardhead (White-eyed Duck)	Aythya australis		2 sightings
Australasian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae	novaehollandiae Australian	seen on 3 days
Hoary-headed Grebe	Poliiocephalus poliocephalus		nesting near Sale

Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	australis Australian	Wooroonook lakes
Australasian Gannet	Morus serrator		2 off the Surf Coast
Australasian Darter	Anhinga novaehollandiae		just one sighting
Little Pied Cormorant	Microcarbo melanoleucos	melanoleucos Australasian	seen on 6 days
Black-faced Cormorant	Phalacrocorax fuscescens		sightings along the coast on 4 days both in Gippsland and Surf Coast
Australian Pied Cormorant (Pied Cormorant)	Phalacrocorax varius	hypoleucos Australian	one sighting on the Snowy river estuary
Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris		seen on 7 days
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	novaehollandiae/ carboides Australian	seen on 5 days
Australian Pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus		seen on 7 days
White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae		seen on 7 days
White-necked Heron (Pacific Heron)	Ardea pacifica		3 sightings, one very close
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	nigripes Australasian	one distant sighting at McGloughins beach
Great Egret	Ardea alba	modesta Eastern	one distant sighting at Lakes Entrance
Intermediate Egret	Egretta intermedia	intermedia Eastern	7 birds, some nesting near Sale
Eastern Cattle Egret (Cattle Egret)	Bubulcus coromandus	coromanda Eastern	large numbers around Sale

Black-backed Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus dubius</i>		heard only near Mathoura
Australian White Ibis (Australian Ibis)	<i>Threskiornis moluccus</i>		9 of 12 days
Straw-necked Ibis	<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>		10 of 12 days
Royal Spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>		nesting near Sale
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	<i>Platalea flavipes</i>		sightings on 3 days
Black-shouldered Kite (Australian Kite)	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>		7 of 12 days
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	affinis Torresian	seen on 3 days in the riverina/mallee
Whistling Kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>		7 of 12 days
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>		3 sightings all along the coast
Swamp Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>		2 sightings
Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>	fasciatus Southern	2 sightings
Collared Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>	cirrocephalus Australian	3 sightings
Wedge-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila audax</i>	audax Mainland	only seen twice
Little Eagle	<i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i>	morphnoides Australian	3 sightings
Brown Falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>	berigora Australian	4 of 12 days
Australian Hobby	<i>Falco longipennis</i>	longipennis Southern murchisonianus Inland	1 quick flyby

Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	macropus Australian	one chasing a Regent Parrot, another on a rocky outcrop
Nankeen Kestrel (Australian Kestrel)	Falco cenchroides	cenchroides Australasian	7 of 12 days
Spotless Crake	Porzana tabuensis		brief sighting by 2 people near Mathoura
Australasian Swamphen	Porphyrio melanotus	bellus/melanotus	6 of 12 days
Dusky Moorhen	Gallinula tenebrosa	tenebrosa Australian	7 of 12 days
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	australis Australian	8 of 12 days
Little Button-quail	Turnix velox		a male with chicks in the riverina
Plains-wanderer	Pedionomus torquatus		one male one female and one juvenile in the riverina
Latham's Snipe	Gallinago hardwickii		seen at three sites
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis		35 seen on the last day Port Phillip bay
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia		small numbers in Gippsland and Port Phillip
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos		one in East Gippsland
Red-necked Stint	Calidris ruficollis		seen at 3 sites
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Calidris acuminata		seen at 2 sites in Port Phillip
Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea		seen at 2 sites in Port Phillip
Pied Oystercatcher	Haematopus longirostris		seen on the first 3 days
Sooty Oystercatcher	Haematopus fuliginosus	fuliginosus Southern	2 near Lakes Entrance and 3 near Apollo Bay
Pied Stilt (Black-winged)	Himantopus leucocephalus		seen on 2 days

Stilt (Australian))			
Red-necked Avocet	Recurvirostra novaehollandi ae		seen on 3 days
Pacific Golden Plover	Pluvialis fulva		3 birds seen Port Phillip
Red-capped Plover	Charadrius ruficapillus		seen on 3 days
Black-fronted Dotterel	Elsyornis melanops		one sighting near Sale
Hooded Dotterel (Hooded Plover)	Thinornis rubricollis	rubricollis Eastern	2 sightings
Banded Lapwing	Vanellus tricolor		adult with young Riverina
Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles	novaehollandiae Southern	recorded every day
Parasitic Jaeger	Stercorarius parasiticus		one distant Jaeger, Surf Coast
Pacific Gull	Larus pacificus	pacificus East Coast	seen on 5 days along the coast
Silver Gull	Chroicocephalus novaehollandi ae	novaehollandiae Australian	7 of 12 days
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia		seen on 3 days, max of 30 near Lake Boga.
Greater Crested Tern (Great Crested Tern)	Thalasseus bergii	cristatus Australasian	seen on 5 days along the coast
Little Tern	Sternula albifrons	sinensis Western Pacific	Gippsland and Port Phillip
Fairy Tern	Sternula nereis	nereis Australian	One sighting Port Phillip
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida	javanicus Eastern	seen at 3 sites

Rock Dove (Rock Pigeon)	Columba livia		7 of 12 days
Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis		6 of 12 days
Common Bronzewing	Phaps chalcoptera		recorded on 9 of 12 days
Brush Bronzewing	Phaps elegans	elegans Eastern	recorded on 3 days all flight views
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	lophotes Eastern	8 pf 12 days
Peaceful Dove	Geopelia placida	placida Eastern	5 of 12 days, only one good view
Wonga Pigeon	Leucosarcia melanoleuca		heard only
Top-knot Pigeon	Lopholaimus antarcticus		seen at three sites in Gippsland
Yellow-tailed Black- Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus funereus	funereus Eastern xanthonotus w.vic	seen or heard on 6 of 12 days mostly flight views
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Callocephalon fimbriatum		recorded on 6 days, eye level close views in the Otways
Galah	Eolophus roseicapilla	albiceps Eastern	recorded every day
Long-billed Corella	Cacatua tenuirostris		4 of 12 days
Little Corella	Cacatua sanguinea	gymnopsis Eastern	4 of 12 days
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (Pink Cockatoo)	Lophochroa leadbeateri	leadbeateri Eastern	close views of 5 birds in the mallee
Sulphur- crested Cockatoo	Cacatua galerita	galerita Eastern	<b>8 of 12 days</b>
Cockatiel	Nymphicus hollandicus		seen twice in the mallee

Rainbow Lorikeet	Trichoglossus moluccanus	moluccanus Eastern	7 of 12 days
Musk Lorikeet	Glossopsitta concinna	concinna South-eastern	6 of 12 days
Little Lorikeet	Glossopsitta pusilla		heard only
Australian King-Parrot	Alisterus scapularis	scapularis Southern Australian	6 of 12 days
Superb Parrot	Polytelis swainsonii		seen well in the riverina
Regent Parrot	Polytelis anthopeplus	monarchoides Eastern	seen on 2 days in the mallee
Crimson Rosella	Platycercus elegans	elegans South-eastern flaveolus Yellow	recorded 11 of 12 days ,both ssp seen
Eastern Rosella	Platycercus eximius	eximius South-east	9 of 12 days
Australian Ringneck (Mallee Ringneck)	Barnardius zonarius	barnardi Mallee	seen on 2 days in the mallee
Eastern Blue Bonnet	Northiella haematogaster	haematogaster South-eastern	4 of 12 days, riverina and mallee
Red-rumped Parrot	Psephotus haematonotus	haematonotus South-eastern	7 of 12 days
Mulga Parrot	Psephotus varius		seen on 2 days in the mallee, female perched well
Blue-winged Parrot	Neophema chrysostoma		one seen very weell, Surf Coast
Turquoise Parrot	Neophema pulchella		seen on 3 days, great views in Warbies
Pacific Koel	Eudynamis orientalis	cyanocephalus South-east Eastern	seen Metung heard Wangaratta
Pallid Cuckoo	Cacomantis pallidus		only seen in Killawarra

Brush Cuckoo	Cacomantis variolosus	variolosus Southern	one seen near Lakes Entrance
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Cacomantis flabelliformis	flabelliformis Australian	recorded 7 of 12 days
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx basalis		recorded 6 of 12 days
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx lucidus	plagosus Australian	recorded on the first 5 days, only brief sightings
Powerful Owl	Ninox strenua		one roosting bird with Cockatoo prey, Central Victoria
Australian Boobook	Ninox boobook	boobook South-eastern leucopsis Tasmanian	heard only
Eastern Barn Owl (Barn Owl)	Tyto deliculata	delicatula Australian	a few seen in the riverina
Tawny Frogmouth	Podargus strigoides	strigoides coastal/"eastern" brachypterus inland/"western"	heard only
White-throated Nightjar	Eurostopodus mystacalis	mystacalis "eastern"	seen at dusk in Gippsland
Spotted Nightjar	Eurostopodus argus		seen at dusk Central Victoria
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Aegotheles cristatus	cristatus mainland	heard
Azure Kingfisher	Ceyx azureus	azureus/azurea Southern	seen near Lakes Entrance
Laughing Kookaburra	Dacelo novaeguineae	novaeguineae Southern	seen every day
Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus	sanctus Australian	recorded 7 of 12 days
Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus		recorded 6 of 12 days



Oriental Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis	pacificus Eastern	seen near Wangaratta
Superb Lyrebird	Menura novaehollandiae	victoriae Southern	just one bird heard and not seen
White-throated Treecreeper	Cormobates leucophaea	leucophaeus South-eastern	recorded 8 of 12 days
White-browed Treecreeper	Climacteris affinis	affinis Eastern	a male seen well in the mallee
Red-browed Treecreeper	Climacteris erythroptus		one brief view in Gippsland
Brown Treecreeper	Climacteris picumnus	victoriae South-eastern picumnus North-Eastern (inland Vic)	5 of 12 days
Superb Fairy-wren	Malurus cyaneus	cyanochlamys Northern leggei South Australian/w.vic	11 of 12 days
Splendid Fairy-wren	Malurus splendens	melanotus Eastern	3 days in the mallee good views
Purple-backed Fairy-wren	Malurus assimilis		seen on 2 days in the mallee
White-winged Fairy-wren	Malurus leucopterus	leuconotus Mainland	seen in the riverina
Southern Emu-wren	Stipiturus malachurus	malachurus East coast polionotum Glenelg w.vic/grampians	one sighting on the Surf Coast
Mallee Emu-wren	Stipiturus mallee		close views in the mallee
Striated Grasswren	Amytornis striatus	striatus Sandplain	one showed well in the mallee
Spotted Pardalote	Pardalotus punctatus	punctatus Coastal xanthopyge Inland/nw vic	7 of 12 days, both ssp

Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus	ornatus South-eastern/coastal substriatus Western/inland striatus Tasmanian	recorded 11 of 12 days
Rufous Bristlebird	Dasyornis broadbenti	caryochrous Otways broadbenti Coorong/swVic	seen on the Surf Coast
Pilotbird	Pycnoptilus floccosus	sandlandi Lowland	close views in Gippsland
White-browed Scrubwren	Sericornis frontalis	frontalis South-eastern harterti Southern Mainland/otways/ s.gipps	8 of 12 days
Large-billed Scrubwren	Sericornis magnirostra	magnirostra East Coast	seen well day one in Gippsland
Shy Heathwren	Calamanthus cautus	cauta Eastern mallee	seen well in Central Victoria
Striated Fieldwren	Calamanthus fuliginosus	boumeorum Western/w.vic albiloris Eastern/e.vic	seen day 12 . Surf Coast
Rufous Fieldwren	Calamantus campestris	campestris Nullarbor/nwvic winiam Murray mallee/cwvic	seen Lake Tyrrell
Speckled Warbler	Pyrrholaemus sagittatus		great views in NE Vic
Weebill	Smicronis brevirostris	brevirostris Eastern occidentalis Southern/nw vic	4 of 12 days
Brown Gerygone	Gerygone mouki	richmondi Southern	recorded 3 of the first 4 days
Western Gerygone	Gerygone fusca	exsul Eastern woodlands	seen on 2 days in NE Vic

White-throated Gerygone	Gerygone olivacea	olivacea Eastern	one sighting in NE Vic
Brown Thornbill	Acanthiza pusilla	pusilla South-eastern	7 of 12 days
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza uropygialis		seen 3 days up in the mallee
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza reguloides	reguloides South-eastern australis South Australian(swVic)	brief sightings on 2 days
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa	leighi South-eastern	5 of 12 days
Yellow Thornbill	Acanthiza nana	modesta Western	seen on 3 days
Striated Thornbill	Acanthiza lineata	lineata South-eastern clelandi South Australian/sw vic	seen on 2 days
Southern Whiteface	Aphelocephala leucopsis	leucopsis South-east	seen on 3 days
Red Wattlebird	Anthochaera carunculata	carunculata Eastern woodwardi Western/w.vic	recorded every day
Little Wattlebird	Anthochaera chrysoptera	chrysoptera South-eastern	seen on 4 days along the coast
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Acanthagenys rufogularis		recorded on 5 days
Striped Honeyeater	Plectorhyncta		recorded on 4 days in the riverina and mallee
Noisy Friarbird	Philemon corniculatus	monachus Southern	seen on 4 days, NE VIC and riverina
Little Friarbird	Philemon citreogularis	citreogularis Eastern	seen on 2 days

Blue-faced Honeyeater	Entomyzon cyanotis	cyanotis Eastern	recorded on 4 days
Noisy Miner	Manorina melanocephala	melanocephala Southern	recorded on 7 days
Yellow-throated Miner	Manorina flavigula	flavigula Eastern	seen on 4 days
Lewin's Honeyeater	Meliphaga lewinii	lewinii Southern	recorded 3 of the first 4 days
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Lichenostomus chrysops	chrysops South-eastern	6 of 12 days
Singing Honeyeater	Lichenostomus virescens	sonorous South-eastern	seen on the last 7 days if the tour
White-eared Honeyeater	Lichenostomus leucotis	leucotis South-eastern/coastal novaenorciae Western/inland	seen on the last 4 days of the tour
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Lichenostomus melanops	meltoni Western/inland melanops Eastern/coastal cassidix Helmeted	5 of 12 days
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus ornatus		seen on 2 days in the mallee
Fuscous Honeyeater	Lichenostomus fuscus	fuscus Southern	only seen well once
White-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus penicillatus	penicillatus Eastern	<b>5 of 12 days</b>
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Melithreptus brevirostris	brevirostris South-eastern wombeyi Promontory/otways/wgipps pallidisceps Northern/nwvic	recorded 7 of 12 days

White-naped Honeyeater	Melithreptus lunatus	lunatus Eastern	recorded 5 of 12 days
Painted Honeyeater	Grantiella picta		good views ion Central Vic
Crescent Honeyeater	Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus	pyrrhoptera Eastern	a couple of sightings
New Holland Honeyeater	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae	novaehollandiae Eastern	seen on 8 of 12 days
White-fronted Honeyeater	Purnella albifrons		seen twice in the mallee
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	Gliciphila melanops	melanops Northern	one sighting in central Victoria
Eastern Spinebill	Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris	tenuirostris South-eastern	recorded on 5 of 12 days
Scarlet Myzomela	Myzomela sanguinolenta	sanguinolenta Australian	low numbers, one good sighting in Gippsland
White-fronted Chat	Epthianura albifrons		recorded on 4 of 12 days
Jacky Winter	Microeca fascinans	fascinans Eastern assimilis Southern/nw vic	recorded on 4 days, only one brief sighting !
Scarlet Robin	Petroica boodang	boodang Eastern	heard not seen
Red-capped Robin	Petroica goodenovii		seen twice in the mallee
Flame Robin	Petroica phoenicia		seen in the high country
Rose Robin	Petroica rosea		seen well on the first 3 days
Pink Robin	Petroica rodinogaster	inexpectata Mainland	close sighting in the Otways
Hooded Robin	Melanodryas cucullata	cucullata South-eastern	seen on 3 days
Eastern Yellow Robin	Eopsaltria australis	australis South-eastern	8 of 12 days
Southern Scrub-robin	Drymodes brunneopygia		2 separate close sightings in the mallee

Grey-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus temporalis	temporalis Eastern	close views in NE Vic
White-browed Babbler	Pomatostomus superciliosus	gilgandra Eastern Southern/w.vic	seen on 3 days
Chestnut-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus ruficeps		one sighting in the mallee
Eastern Whipbird	Psophodes olivaceous	olivaceous South-east	recorded on the first four days
Spotted Quail-thrush	Cinclosoma punctatum	punctatum Eastern	close views in Gippsland
Chestnut Quail-thrush	Cinclosoma castanotum	castanotus Eastern	close views in the mallee
Varied Sittella	Daphoenositta chrysoptera	pileata Western/w.vic chrysoptera South-eastern	seen 3 times, both ssp
Crested Shrike-tit	Falcunculus frontatus	frontatus Eastern	2 sightings
Crested Bellbird	Oreoica gutturalis	gutturalis Southern	one sighting in the mallee
Olive Whistler	Pachycephala olivacea	olivacea South-Eastern/e.vic bathychroa Promontory/otways hesperus Glenelg/sw.vic	2 sightings, Gippsland and Otways
Gilbert's Whistler	Pachycephala inornata		heard only Central Vic
Western Whistler	Pachycephala occidentalis	fuliginosa	seen in central Vic
Australian Golden Whistler (Golden Whistler)	Pachycephala pectoralis	youngi South-eastern glaucara Tasmanian	recorded 5 of 12 days

Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	rufiventris Southern	recorded 8 of 12 days
Grey Shrike-thrush	Colluricincla harmonica	harmonica Eastern	recorded 9 of 12 days
Black-faced Monarch	Monarcha melanopsis		one good sighting in Gippsland
Leaden Flycatcher	Myiagra rubecula	rubecula South-eastern	one good sighting in Gippsland
Satin Flycatcher	Myiagra cyanoleuca		one good sighting Surf Coast
Restless Flycatcher	Myiagra inquieta	inquieta Southern	seen twice in NE Vic
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	cyanoleuca Southern	11 of 12 days
Rufous Fantail	Rhipidura rufifrons	rufifrons Southern	recorded on the first 3 days
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura albiscapa	alisteri South-eastern albiscapa Tasmanian	9 of 12 days
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	leucophrys Southern	8 of 12 days
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	melanops Mainland novaehollandiae Tasmanian	7 of 12 days
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina papuensis	robusta South-eastern	heard only in Gippsland
White-winged Triller	Lalage tricolor		only 2 sightings NE Vic
Australasian Figbird	Sphecotheres vieilotti	vieilotti	seen in Gippsland
Olive-backed Oriole	Oriolus sagittatus	sagittatus Eastern	recorded on 4 days
White-breasted Woodswallow	Artamus leucorhynchus	leucopygialis Torresian	seen on 3 days
White-browed Woodswallow	Artamus superciliosus		2 sightings, low numbers this year

Black-faced Woodswallow	Artamus cinereus	melanops Inland	one sighting in the mallee
Dusky Woodswallow	Artamus cyanopterus	cyanopterus Eastern	recorded 6 of 12 days
Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus	leucopterus Inland torquatus South-eastern/coastal	recorded on 4 days
Pied Butcherbird	Cracticus nigrogularis	nigogularis Eastern	seen on 5 days
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	terraereginae Eastern/inland tyrannica Southern Victoria	seen every day
Pied Currawong	Strepera graculina	nebulosa South-eastern ashbyi Western Victorian	9 of 12 days
Grey Currawong	Strepera versicolor	versicolour South-eastern/inc Grampians melanoptera w.vic, Little Desert to coast/Otways	3 of 12 days
Little Crow	Corvus bennetti		1 seen and heard in the mallee
Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides	coronoides Eastern	recorded for sure on 6 days
Forest Raven	Corvus tasmanicus	tasmanicus Southern	heard once in Gippsland
Little Raven	Corvus mellori		10 of 12 days
White-winged Chough	Corcorax melanoramphos	melanorhamphos Eastern	9 of 12 days
Apostlebird	Struthidea cinerea	cinerea Southern	one sighting in the mallee



Satin Bowerbird	Ptilonorhynchus violaceus	violaceus Southern	recorded on 5 days
Horsfield's Bush Lark (Australasian Bushlark)	Mirafra javanica	horsfieldii Eastern	one sighting in the riverina
Eurasian Skylark (Skylark)	Alauda arvensis	arvensis European	recorded on the last 3 days
Australian Pipit (Australasian Pipit)	Anthus australis	australis Central bistriatus Tasmanian	brief sightings on 9 of 12 days
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	domesticus European	seen on 11 of 12 days
Zebra Finch	Taeniopygia guttata	castanotis Australian	one sighting near Lake Boga
Red-browed Finch (Red-browed Firetail)	Neochmia temporalis	temporalis Southern	just 3 sightings
Diamond Firetail	Stagonopleura guttata		seen on 3 days
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	britannica British	3 sightings
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	hiruninaceum Australian	recorded on 6 of 12 days
White-backed Swallow	Cheramoeca leucosterna		seen 3 times, one very close encounter
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena	neoxena Eastern	seen every day
Tree Martin	Petrochelidon nigricans	neglecta Mainland nigricans Tasmanian	seen on 3 days
Fairy Martin	Petrochelidon ariel		seen on 4 days

Australian Reed-Warbler	Acrocephalus australis	australis Eastern	recorded on 5 days
Little Grassbird	Poodytes gramineus	goulburni Eastern gramineus Tasmanian	recorded on 5 days
Rufous Songlark	Cincloramphus mathewsi		heard and seen in NE Vic
Brown Songlark	Cincloramphus cruralis		seen in the riverina
Golden-headed Cisticola	Cisticola exilis	exilis South-eastern	just recorded twice
Silvereeye	Zosterops lateralis	lateralis Tasmanian pinarochrous South Australian/w and nw vic westernensis South-eastern/central and e.vic	recorded 9 of 12 days
Bassian Thrush (Olive-tailed Thrush)	Zoothera lunulata	lunulata South-eastern	brief sightings twice, in Gippsland and Otways
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	merula European	every day
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris		every day
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	tristis Indian	8 of 12 days
<b>252 species seen plus 12 more heard</b>			
<b>Mammals</b>	<b>Frogs</b>		
Red Kangaroo	Sudell's Frog (Common Spadefoot)		

Western Grey Kangaroo	many others heard		
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	<b>Butterflies</b>		
Swamp Wallaby	Dainty Swallowtail		
Common Brushtail Possum	Caper White		
Common Ringtail Possum	Small Grass Yellow		
Kreffit's (Sugar) Glider	Cabbage White		
Koala	Common Blue		
Echidna	Varied Sword-grass Brown		
Yellow-footed Antechinus	Common Brown		
Fat-tailed Dunnart	Australian Painted Lady		
Grey-headed Flying-fox	Yellow Admiral		
Australian Fur Seal			
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<b>Dragonflies</b>		
Rabbit, Hare, Cat	Tau Emerald		
	Australian Emporer		
<b>Reptiles</b>	Blue Skimmer		
Stumpy-tail Lizard	Wandering Percher		

Eastern Bearded Dragon	Scarlet Percher		
Central Bearded Dragon	Blue-spotted Hawker		
Military Dragon	Red and Blue Damsel		
Yellow-bellied Water Skink	Aurora Bluetail		
Murray River Turtle	Blue Ringtail		
Eastern Brown Snake	Wandering Ringtail		
Jacky Lizard			
<b>Orchids (most finished flowering)</b>			
Tiger (Hornet) Orchid			
Common Onion Orchid			
Hyacinth Orchids yet to flower			