



2022 Victoria Megatour Trip Report - 19th to 30th Nov

Summary: Running every year in November, the Victoria Megatour showcases the state's best birding regions from the wild rugged coastlines, heathlands 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. Whilst aiming to see as many species as possible, this tour also allows time for extended observation and photography. Comfortable accommodation and the best affordable cafes and hotels selected for the best meal options.

This year's tour was very successful despite some challenges! Five participants recorded 255 bird species in the 12 days (9 of which were heard only) plus a fabulous array of mammals (15 species), reptiles (8 species), and of course the magnificent landscapes and plant life.



We bumped into a couple of rarities (Regent Honeyeater and Channel-billed Cuckoo), plus we had exceptional views of many of the sought-after iconic Vic birds we looked for. We saw 14 species of raptor including the rare Square-tailed Kite, 24 species of Parrot was exceptional plus all the possible Fairy-wrens, Emu-wrens, Grasswrens, Fieldwrens and Heathwrens were seen, 28 species of Honeyeater was also a great total Best of all the company was brilliant.

Due to recent major flooding of inland areas (a one in 50 year event) many waterbirds had moved further inland to breed at inaccessible sites, hence we missed seeing a number of normally easy species such as Whiskered Tern, Great Egret and Australasian Shoveler. Neither did we see any Rails or Crakes, nor any Owls as our best chance was thwarted by wild winds and road closures.

The weather was mostly kind although we did experience a major cold front whilst in Gippsland with 100 kmph winds, hail storms and significant snowfalls on the mountains. We had just one day over 30 degrees for the whole trip. This tour averaged around 300 kms of travel a day over the 12 days with two of those days involving extra travel distances due to snowfall and flooded roads



Rough seas and wild hail storms at Cape Conran

Day 1 Melbourne to the Gippsland Lakes – 69 species recorded today

At a brief pit-stop before our first birding walk an adult male King Parrot was on the roof of the service station, a good omen perhaps?

Our first birding session was in the foothills of the Great Dividing range an hour's drive clear of the Melbourne suburbs in West Gippsland. During a pleasant walk we saw a range of forest birds including Australian King-Parrot, Large-billed Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone, Shining Bronze-cuckoo, Rose Robin and Rufous Fantail. Rain was threatening but held off for our walk.

After a delicious gourmet lunch we headed up to the mountain forests of the Strzelecki ranges. On the way a flock of Gang Gang Cockatoos flew down the road and conveniently landed. We enjoyed fabulous views, very pleasing as they are a mobile species and can be hard to pin down



Up on the mountain the weather had turned cool and light rain persisted. Bird activity was quite subdued and despite a slow and patient walk we only heard some of the specialties of the area (Pink Robin, Pilotbird, Superb Lyrebird and Olive Whistler) With eleven more days of birding to go we still had second chances for all these birds

We did however see Crescent Honeyeater, Bassian Thrush, Eastern Whipbird and Forest Raven amongst some commoner birds, and the scenery overlooking the cool temperate rainforest here is simply awe inspiring



At the end of the day we had a little time to visit a breeding colony of waterbirds where nesting Intermediate (Plumed) Egret was the stand out amongst various Cormorants, Spoonbills and Cattle Egrets. The Egret was sitting on eggs with its plumes spread in 360 degrees, I guess they have to place them somewhere

Day 2 – East Gippsland – 96 species recorded today

A huge day today with many highlights.

First up this morning we visited a couple of the more productive wetlands near Sale. We saw a fair selection of waterbirds including a single Latham's Snipe, both Royal and Yellow-billed Spoonbills with many immature birds amongst them, Australasian Darter and Whistling Kite.

Later in the morning we visited some coastal forest further east where Collared Sparrowhawk, Scarlet Honeyeater, Crescent Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Brown Gerygone, Rufous Fantail and Eastern Whipbird were all welcome sightings.

We ducked down to the coast for lunch and on the way checked out some fruiting Moreton Bay Fig trees. It was to be a late lunch as we enjoyed a number of great sightings here and it was hard to drag ourselves away with a male Pacific Koel, Satin Bowerbirds, Channel-billed Cuckoo a pair of Tawny Frogmouths and an Echidna. We were buzzing after this burst of quality sightings



In the afternoon we returned to some nearby coastal forest carefully checking the forest floor for Spotted Quail-thrush and the Casuarina trees for Glossy Black-cockatoos. These elusive birds evaded us but we would try again later. In a wet gully area the birding was lively with Eastern Shrike-tit, Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, Striated Thornbills and nesting Olive-backed Oriole all seen well

After an early dinner we headed back out into the coastal forests for a spotlighting adventure. At dusk near a clearing we were just getting our spotlights ready to go and applying mozzie repellent when a Painted Button-quail started calling nearby. In fading light we had clear views of the button-quail, and shortly afterwards saw a White-throated Nightjar flying over the clearing in front of us and then high above the canopy of eucalypts.

We then drove to a nearby wet gully forest for a night walk and using a thermal scope we located a number of Feather-tailed Gliders (the world's smallest gliding mammal). They avoided detection in the spotlights though, however the thermal then picked up a couple of signals up in a gum tree which turned out to be a pair of Superb Lyrebirds roosting, a totally unexpected and very welcome sight indeed! Soon after we found a Krefft's Glider which was most cooperative and sat for a photo. The night was rounded out with a Common Wombat trundling/bumbling along the track in front of us. We returned to our accommodation tired but elated!



Day 3 – East Gippsland – 69 species recorded today

Pre breakfast we made a stop on the coast where warm temperate rainforest meets stunning views of the Gippsland lakes. Down in the harbour Black-faced Cormorants were resting, and a few Bar-tailed Godwits were feeding, whilst a Pacific Gull loafed about. In the coastal jungle another male Scarlet Honeyeater was singing and showed nicely, as did a Spotted Pardalote feeding down low



After a brilliant big breakfast we continued east stopping by the edge of Lake Tyers to search for Azure Kingfishers. We found our first Black-fronted Dotterels for the trip as well as an Olive-backed Oriole and some White-naped Honeyeaters. The Kingfishers were elsewhere so we continued on to Cabbage Tree reserve near Orbost. This warm temperate rainforest has endured floods and wind damage over the last couple of years with the understory and canopy much more open than it has been. Despite this many rainforest birds were present and we enjoyed a feast of sightings including prolonged low-down views of Rose Robin, Black-faced

Monarch, Brown Gerygones, Rufous Fantail, and brief fly by sightings of Beautiful Firetail and an adult male Satin Bowerbird.



After lunch the weather was deteriorating. We drove out to the wonderful Cape Conran coastal park, and took a short walk in some heathland recovering from the black summer fires and where I had recent sightings of Southern Emu-wren. The wind was howling, so no point in looking for such a tiny bird. We decided to head to a lookout on the coast, and see if any seabirds were passing by. There was a fair bit going on with Jaegers, Shy Albatross and Short-tailed Shearwaters all quite distant. The pair of White-bellied Sea-Eagles hang gliding in the breeze were much closer though.

On the windy side of the headland at the beautiful Salmon Rocks, the seas were wild and storms were rolling in off the ocean. We stayed for the landscapes and exhilaration of the wild weather, the van was literally rocking in the wind as small hail stones battered the windscreen !

Closer to Marlo and at the Snowy river mouth we picked up sightings of Red-necked Wallaby, Little Tern and our second Echidna for the tour.

We had enjoyed our day but we had to call off the planned night excursion due to the wild winds and flooded and damaged roads we'd encountered that prevented access to key sites. Another excellent dinner and an early night ready for a big drive tomorrow

Day 4 – Gippsland to NE Victoria - 66 species recorded today

Heavy snowfall during day 3 and overnight on the Great Alpine road meant that we had to make the call and drive the long way around the mountains avoiding the higher altitude roads. Live cams from Mt Hotham showed blizzard conditions, a virtual white-out! This is unusual for late November and the first time it's happened on this tour

So with a new plan we left at 7am arriving at 7pm in Wangaratta making numerous short birding and food stops at handy locations and we saw some great birds and landscapes along the way.

Our first detour took us into some coastal forest near Lakes Entrance, where we tried our luck for a Spotted Quail-thrush again. No quail-thrush were seen but a major bonus was a Square-tailed Kite hunting in the forest canopy. This rare raptor is on the increase in Victoria, but still very scarce in East Gippsland. Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, White-naped and Brown-headed Honeyeaters and Rufous Whistler kept things lively



Next stop was along the Mitchell river in Bairnsdale. The main attraction here is the colony of Grey-headed Flying-foxes, but we also had some close avian encounters including Little Corellas and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes



Further west a stop at a wetland near Maffra produced excellent views of Little Grassbird, and our first Tree Martins appeared.

Yet another great lunch was followed by a quick stop in La Trobe State forest. Once again overcast and damp conditions had subdued the bird activity, with our best find being a Red-browed Treecreeper high in a eucalypt. This bird tested our neck craning abilities staying high in the towering gums here

We crossed the Great Dividing Range at the Black Spur near Narbethong, and had a leg stretch at the top. Back to the cool and wet mountain forest, magnificent scenery and two more Superb Lyrebirds were found as well as an imm male Flame Robin hopping about in the car park, one of only two seen for the trip.



Powering on we kept the kms ticking over and had time for another nice walk, this time in the Strathbogie ranges. We were finally reaching some of the more open woodlands of the inland slopes, and we quickly located some Weebill and a pair of Rainbow Bee-eater. Plenty of water in the river too, with some waterfalls rushing down the rocky hills. We had certainly made the best of a long journey, and had an early night primed for a bird filled day tomorrow

Day 5 – North-East Victoria – 84 species recorded today

Today we could take our time to enjoy the avian riches to be found in this part of North-eastern Victoria, and the weather conditions were easing. We made an early start exploring a couple of sites on the edge of the Warby Ranges NP. Our main target was the exquisite Turquoise Parrot. At our first stop it was still fairly quiet, however we recorded our first Peaceful Doves, Red-rumped Parrots, Restless Flycatcher, White-browed Babblers, Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters and Fairy Martins for the tour. Then the tinkling call of a Turquoise Parrot alerted us to one flying past, but it didn't stop and headed off into private land.

At our second location the birdlife was even more active and a super session had us enjoying a pair of Diamond Firetails at close range, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Crested Shrike-tit, Brown Treecreepers, White-plumed Honeyeater, a Little Eagle which was calling and then landed for scoped views, and then a Turquoise Parrot passed by doing it's slow motion fluttering flight. This time he settled and over the course of 20 minutes we had some stunning views.



All this excitement was before a big breakfast in Ned Kelly country. The remainder of the morning was spent driving some of the wonderful bush tracks in the Warby ranges. On our way along the edge of the range we picked up Purple-crowned Lorikeets, Satin Bowerbirds, White-browed Babblers, and flocks of Noisy Friarbirds. We also bumped into an excited local who had just heard about a sighting of the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater in one of the gardens here. We tagged along but the Honeyeater wasn't to be found (we decided to try again tomorrow before leaving the area) Old growth White Box trees and a carpet of wildflowers makes for quite the scene up in the ranges. The birding was great too. We found a pair of Leaden Flycatchers, our first views of Jacky Winter, Fuscous Honeyeaters, Dusky Woodswallow, White-throated Gerygone, another Crested Shrike-tit, and a family of Varied Sitellas all showing well. We also had further brief sightings of Turquoise Parrot, but it would be hard to top the views we had earlier



We then headed to the historic town of Chiltern where after lunch we explored a couple of select sites in the Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP. Whilst Honeyeater numbers were lower than usual we made up for it with other bush birds such as Speckled Warbler, White-throated Gerygone, Western Gerygone, Weebill, Buff-rumped, Yellow and Striated Thornbills and a female Mistletoebird.

At our second site we enjoyed prolonged and low down views of Little Lorikeets feeding from flowering eucalypts. This is a hard bird to see well, so we made the most of it. The numerous Noisy Friarbirds were dominating the tree tops, keeping the Lorikeets closer to us



Photos later revealed Purple-crowned Lorikeet in the same clump of trees, a Darter was resting on a nearby dam, Peaceful Doves were calling, a Brown Goshawk cruised over high causing some concern, and then both Little Friarbird and Olive-backed Oriole both showed exceptionally well allowing for some excellent photos



A feast of birds to record tonight at the bird call over another great dinner and an early night ahead of a huge day tomorrow

Day 6 – North-East Victoria to the NSW Riverina – 95 species recorded today

Today's big itinerary took us from the inland slopes and rocky hills of north-east Victoria, through the fertile floodplains of the Murray river region and across to the vast expanse of the Hay plain in the NSW riverina where significant flooding was occurring.

But before leaving the Wangaratta area we targeted some birds missed so far. First up was an Azure Kingfisher found on a small billabong. He perched long enough for all to see this jewel of the waterways before flying off like a bullet. Sacred Kingfishers were located also, plus with the Kookaburras it was a triple Kingfisher start to the day and a pair of Yellow Rosella fed on the ground at close range



After another delicious breakfast we decided to try our luck back at the garden where the Regent Honeyeater had been sighted. We wandered up and down the quiet roads enjoying the array of birds seen yesterday (Satin Bowerbirds, King Parrots, White-browed Babbler, Noisy Friarbird, Purple-crowned Lorikeets etc) plus our first Blue-faced Honeyeaters for the tour.

There were lots of Bottlebrush in flower so we split up and started checking them all. And then I saw our bird fly in and disappear in the middle of one. I called out to the others, upon which a Friarbird chased it from the bush and it flew across the road in front of us, displaying all its finery of black and gold.

We were all a bit speechless, seeing this wild born Regent Honeyeater, a bird that is in real danger of extinction. We tried to relocate the bird but it wasn't to be, however this sighting will be etched in all our minds forever!

It was time to move on, and taking the scenic route around and through the Warbies for the last time we chanced on to a decent sized Laced Monitor, what a beast!



As we travelled across the fertile agricultural regions of the Murray valley raptors began to appear more frequently. Black Kites and Brown Falcons, Nankeen Kestrels and Whistling Kites. Approaching Tocumwal where we crossed into NSW walking towards us on the side of the highway in broad daylight was a Koala.

Such a strange sight, with their long back legs and its very determined marching up the road. It safely found a tree to hug and we moved on.

A lunch break on the side of the mighty Murray at Tocumwal was relaxing. Long-billed Corellas inspected nest holes, a White-necked Heron was soaring around and Blue-faced Honeyeaters put in a second appearance for the day. Before arriving in Deniliquin for a break we picked up our only White-breasted Woodswallows for the trip in Finlay.

After some r and r we embarked on the second part of our day, a drive up onto the Hay plain and a night out spotlighting. Entering a whole new landscape new trip birds were coming thick and fast such as this male Mistletoebird



Further on we recorded a pair of Cockatiel flying past, displaying Rufous Songlarks, Emus walking through the saltbush, Eastern Bluebonnets, a brief sighting of some Grey-crowned Babblers, both Singing and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, and guide only views of a flushed Spotted Nightjar



We were also seeing the occasional Western Grey Kangaroo



and a Bearded Dragon on the road



Our last birding before dark was where the floods had reached either side of the road near Wanganella and Wahwillah. Magpie Geese and Plumed Whistling Ducks were enjoying the conditions, Black-tailed Nativehens were running around, both Zebra Finch and White-winged Fairy-wrens were seen in the distance, plus our only Hardhead, Hoary-headed Grebe and Pied Stilts for the entire tour.

But perhaps the highlight were a pair of Pink-eared Duck close to the roadside in the evening light, the male displaying to the seemingly uninterested female swimming ahead.



And still today's adventures were far from over. After switching to two 4wd vehicles we had to drive through a road washed away by floodwaters to get to the grasslands where we successfully found both a female and a male Plains-wanderer, plus there was a Curl Snake on the road home as well!





Two critically endangered birds in the one day, and the half way mark of our tour

Day 7 – Riverina to the Mallee –71 species recorded today

A later start today, and after breakfast we headed down to Gulpa island which is in major flood. Our quarry was the Superb Parrot that breed in the area, and we saw a few as they flew past sometimes very close, on their way to feed wherever they felt like, as they do. Whilst hanging out there we encountered a tremendous patch of woodland buzzing with birds. Sacred Kingfisher and Rainbow Bee-eater, Southern Whiteface and Yellow Thornbill, Western Gerygone and Diamond Firetail, Pied Butcherbird and our first White-winged Triller singing from the treetops





Due to flooded rivers and closed roads, we had a longer drive around today to get to the mallee region of north-west Victoria. The aim was to get there with some birding time later in the day, so we pressed on, making some targeted stops along the way. Some back roads near Pyramid Hill provided us with much better views of White-winged Fairy-wren, and a full plumaged male to boot,

Then near Boort we stopped at a salt-lake where Red-necked Avocet were paired up and preparing to breed. Individuals would take off and fly around calling, often giving very close fly-bys, a real spectacle even if they were only in small numbers





Our next salt-lake (Lake Tyrrell) is a much bigger place, and we just explored a tiny section, concentrating on the birds of the surrounding saltbush country. A few more White-winged Fairy-wrens skitted about, Rufous Fieldwrens kept popping up and singing, plus the Black-faced Woodswallows were there too right on cue, our best chance for these species. We also had views of a displaying Brown Songlark, and our first White-fronted Chats.

We reached our first quality section of mallee country with a bit of time to play with. Our early evening timing and location gave us a bit of a chance that we'd find a Malleefowl out on one of the tracks. However it is a bit of a lottery and therefore always a major thrill to actually connect with this bird. Well our timing was right and we found not just one but three Malleefowl all on one section of road. We'd just arrived in the habitat and found the trickiest customer. It was high fives all around!



Picture from previous encounter in same area

Conditions had seen incredible growth of native grass and seeding of the spinifex as well. We stopped in a small clearing amongst the mallee trees and found a pair of Splendid Fairy-wrens and a female Mulga Parrot. Two more of the mallee's special birds found in no time, and rewards for a long drive



Day 8 – The Mallee – 57 species recorded today

Today we had the chance to slow down, drive less, and adjust to the pace of the mallee wilderness. We were birding for quality over quantity and spent the whole day in and around Hattah Kulkyne NP and Ouyen.

As well as the mallee spinifex habitats that cover large areas, we also explored open saltbush country, sandhills and river red gum fringed wetlands.

During the course of the day we encountered quite a few reptiles including the Central Bearded Dragon, Military Dragon and the prehistoric looking Stumpy-tail Lizard



In the mallee spinifex habitat we searched for the rare and localized Mallee Emu-wren. At the first site there was no sign of any Emu-wrens however we had a chance encounter with a Regent Parrot conveniently perched by the road. We would see more Regents in flight but this was our first and best encounter. Also fabulous views of a very vocal Striped Honeyeater was a highlight



At our next Emu-wren site it was getting warm and a little breezy. We walked past an active Malleefowl nest mound along the way, but no Malleefowl to be seen and then success, some decent views of a male Emu-wren, at times very close by. In the same location, and while the Emu-wren was showing for a second time, a Striated Grasswren popped up on a branch a little further away. Most of us managed good but brief views of this elusive mallee bird. It was a case of which way do you look for a while there!



Down by the lakes the waterbirds were in low numbers and widely spaced, but we found a few Teal and Herons, plus Grey Butcherbirds were feeding young and a family of Apostlebird were typically chatty. It was marvelous to see the incredible numbers of Dragonflies mating and laying eggs in the shallow floodwaters that had inundated the entire floodplain including the Black Box communities growing at higher elevations. The biggest flood for decades





Whilst driving around today we picked up many nice random sightings. Wedge-tailed Eagles drifted by, a Brown Songlark was displaying, a high flying Woodswallow flock must surely have been mainly White-browed Woodswallows, Australian Ringnecks briefly appeared, Mulga Parrots kept appearing and hung around for better views, our first Grey Currawong flew by, of the black-winged subspecies, Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters, Yellow-throated Miners, White-eared Honeyeaters, and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills were all welcome sightings

The day was warming up and a mid afternoon walk in an open plain was starting to test our resilience, however we were well rewarded. Just a short distance from the bus I heard a Budgie. We looked about and couldn't see any passing by. There was just a lone mallee tree close to us and within its canopy were a pair of Budgerigar, resting in the heat of the day and preening each other. We were afforded prolonged and close views, the mad dogs and Englishmen were right to be out there!



Arriving back in town we recuperated, had dinner and then took a last drive around before heading for the motel, a good move as a major highlight for the day appeared, five Pink Cockatoos !



As the sun set, incredibly a rainbow appeared in the sky behind these stunning birds. Another moment we'll all remember for a long time. And no enhancement at all on this photo



A fabulous day of mallee birding and still another day in this wilderness

Day 9 The Mallee to Central Victoria – 73 species recorded today

Early morning we visited some remnant vegetation near Ouyen. We were specifically looking for the diminutive Purple-backed Fairy-wren which we found in their usual bushes. The females were very active whilst the full colored males followed them around, as they do.

The same location had our first White-fronted Honeyeaters for the trip, some flyby Pink Cockatoos (perhaps the same birds as yesterday), Rainbow Bee-eaters hunting from their favourite perches, and a nice selection of butterflies including a showy Spotted Jezebel



Heading south we detoured to a quality patch of mixed mallee/pine/casuarina woodland where yet more Mulga Parrots appeared. During a search for White-browed Treecreepers here, we came across both Splendid and yet more Purple-backed Fairy-wrens, in fact with males of both species on the same twig at one point. And the colour parade was not over, with a male Red-capped Robin posing nicely too. Some beautiful birds and very nice photo opportunities





A male Boulenger's Skink was spotted as well complete with red breeding flush



Moving on we again took the scenic route, and it paid off when a Chestnut Quail-thrush was spotted by the side of the track. This mallee specialty had been missed yesterday so fabulous to find them before we left the area, and it turned out to be Mum, Dad and kid in tow!



Traversing more quiet mallee roads we came across a perched Wedge-tailed Eagle plus an Australian Hobby, and finally nailed down a solid id on an Australian Raven despite hearing/seeing them many times along the way (throat hackles well seen!)

After lunch a call in to Greens lake for a quick drive through was worthwhile as we spotted a pair of Cockatiel which sat very nicely for us, the female preening while the male watched on



Later in the afternoon we had made it back to north-central Victoria and took an extended walk at Wychitella NCR. The combination of box ironbark forest and dense mallee broombush habitat here is very bird rich. In the open forest Sacred Kingfishers, yet another Eastern Shrike-tit, and a range of Honeyeaters greeted us. In the denser areas of mallee and broombush we took our time and eventually a fabulous array of quality birds showed for us. We had three species of Whistler (Gilberts, Western and Rufous), Inland Thornbills, Shy Heathwrens and yet more Purple-backed Fairy-wrens, but the Southern Scrub-robin was a “heard only”



After a big nine days on the road our group were happy for a night in after dinner. Tomorrow we would be down by the coast again!

Day 10 – Central Victoria to the Otways – 84 species recorded today

First up this morning we visited Inglewood NCR close to our accommodation. Similar habitat to Wychitella and we connected with Shy Heathwren, Inland Thornbill, White-fronted Honeyeaters and Western Whistler. A Brush Bronzewing was calling in the distance, and we scored good views of Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, a trip bird

Driving south we perused a flooded Red Gum swamp near Maldon where both Grey and Chestnut Teal were present alongside a few other common waterbirds

South of the historic town of Maldon remain extensive tracts of Box-Ironbark forest, and a rich history of gold mining. Targeting another Honeyeater that had evaded us thus far, we connected with a pair of Black-chinned Honeyeaters which showed fairly well despite staying high up.

Then for the second time in the tour I heard a Painted Button-quail, and this time it was broad daylight. With a little encouragement the bird walked across the track in front of us providing outstanding views



Other sightings here included Grey Currawong, Yellow-tufted and Fuscous Honeyeater, and a Yellow-footed Antechinus seen by a few

We continued onto to a nearby town where a family of Powerful Owls had been roosting recently. Despite an extensive search (I had been very confident of success) the Owls had hooted off. We then discovered that two of our participants who had been feeling below par had now both tested positive for Covid 19. We sadly parted ways as they headed for some time out at a hotel and some medical attention (mild symptoms and now happily recovered). Fortunately the rest of us tested negative and after a late lunch we continued on with the trip.

Continuing the theme of targeting species missed earlier in the trip, we drove down to the Brisbane Ranges NP. Some slow driving and scanning here didn't produce much, so we stopped at a tried and tested location for a walk. We quickly found a Scarlet Robin, our only sighting for the tour, and a few other LBJ's flitting about. Using some targeted alarm calls/pishing we waited in case anything else appeared. White-eared Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebill and Striated Thornbills all came for a look, but no Heathwrens as hoped for.

We had however got the interest of a very special bird. Walking towards us as we froze amongst the tree trunks was a male Spotted Quail-thrush. Kudos to the group who all followed my advice to not move around. He came even closer allowing us stonking views, and then hopped up onto a horizontal branch and proceeded to sing. What a bird, and one of those special encounters that keeps us birding 😊



On a high we carried on down to the coast, and would have settled for little more today, but there was one more surprise awaiting us.

We drove down to Point Addis for a look at the scenery and to see what was about, quite a few Gannets were fishing offshore, but otherwise the seas were quiet so we just soaked in the fantastic scenery of the Great Ocean road. Some Silvereyes were feeding and showed nicely as did some White-browed Scrubwrens, and then unexpectedly out popped a Blue-winged Parrot and landed on the fence next to us at point blank range. The birding gods were smiling on us today



We checked in and enjoyed a pleasant dinner and our bird list.
Only two more days to go

Day 11 – The Otways – 73 species recorded today

Today was another relaxed day without a lot of driving (but still 12 hours in the field) and time to explore the eastern part of the Otway Ranges NP, looking for the local specialties and also targeting those birds we'd missed previously. Our first location was up on the Anglesea heath where a few possibilities awaited us. It was surprisingly cold early morning which seemed to affect the activity. A Brush Bronzewing flushed from the track, too quick for most. Try as we could only I saw the Southern Emu-wren fly across the path close to us. The Striated Fieldwren however did show very nicely while another Forest Raven cawed and floated past. We also heard our third Painted Button-quail which was accidentally flushed.

Chasing the low tide we headed down to the coast next to wander some beaches. It was refreshing to get some sea air again, and a group of Crested Terns and an adult Pacific Gull allowed very close approach while a Black-shouldered Kite hovered just above our heads searching for its quarry in the coastal dunes



And then our main target appeared close to the breakers, a pair of Hooded Plover



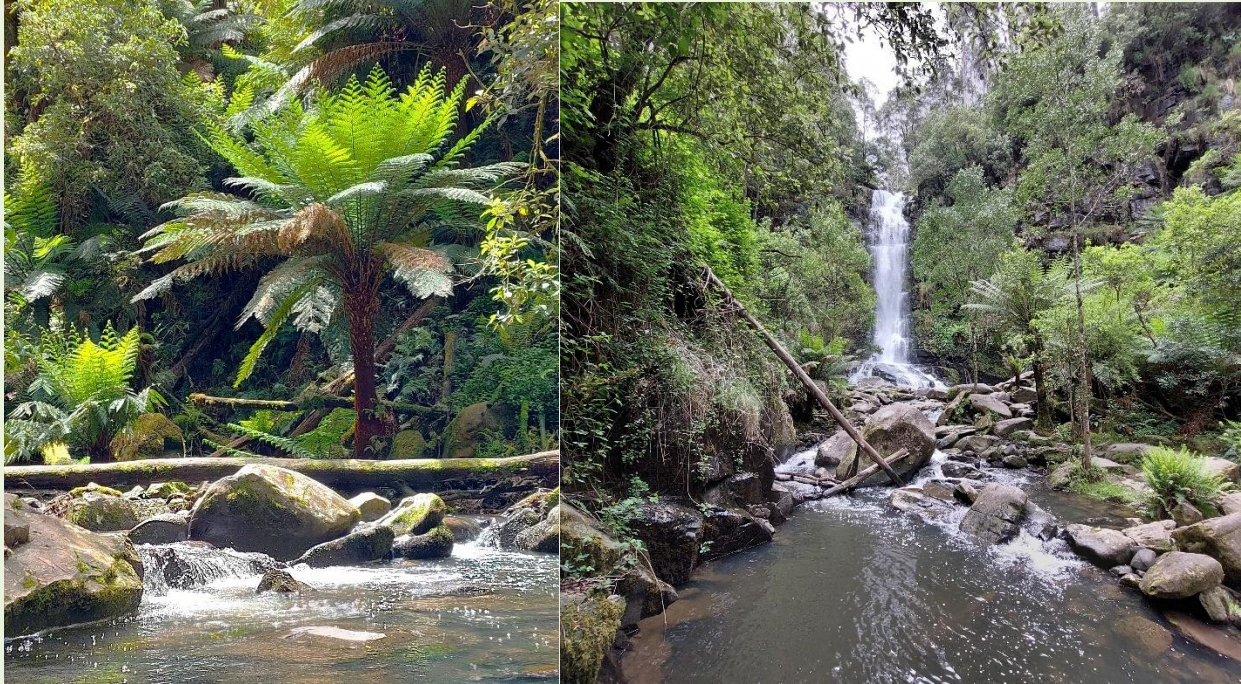
Next we went searching for the local endemic Rufous Bristlebird. They are doing quite well at some locations along the coast here, seemingly secure whilst their cousins the Eastern and Western Bristlebird are much rarer. We still had to find one though and they like to remain under cover much of the time.

We spotted one scurrying past, and then another. It took some patience but eventually our best looks eventuated and a bird that's become accustomed to foot traffic was briefly feeding just metres from us in the lightkeepers garden. At the same time a small flock of Yellow-tailed Black Cockies flew into the same garden to feed from Hakea cones, it was all happening at once again!



Further along the coast near Aireys Inlet we took a walk in some coastal forest and enjoyed a wide variety of birds. New for our trip was a pair of Satin Flycatchers that had somehow eluded us thus far. Varied Sitellas appeared again, an Eastern Shrike-tit was calling (yes, another one)

For the afternoon we travelled past Lorne and headed up into the tall wet eucalypt forests that the Otways are famous for. On our travels we spotted both Swamp and Red-necked Wallabies, both Pied and Grey Currawongs, Crimson Rosellas and King Parrots, and even some Black-faced Cormorants on the coast (our closest views yet). Eventually we were back in the hills with their towering trees and giant tree ferns. A couple of walks were had at targeted locations and we succeeded finally in seeing three separate Olive Whistler (a bird we had missed day one). Their mellow and far carrying call was magic to hear in the lush surroundings. A waterfall visit was incredibly beautiful despite the fact the Pink Robins were elsewhere, and we also saw Flame Robin, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Eastern Spinebill, Rufous Fantail and the very dark local subspecies of Brown-headed Honeyeater



Late in the day we popped back to some heathland and again the Southern Emu-wrens were hiding, but some Blue-winged Parrots did show well. This trip had flown by, our last day tomorrow

Day 12 The Surf Coast and Port Phillip Bay –85 species recorded today

Australia has a lot of birds that are tricky to find, so despite 11 days on the road we still had some skulkers to look for this morning.

Returning to the Anglesea heath, in a new location we commenced a walk where we managed great views of both Southern Emu-wren and Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, two specialties of the area. We even managed some photos too!



The remainder of the day was spent on the shores of Port Phillip Bay where a wide range of waterbirds are to be expected, and plenty of new trip birds possible.

Across the afternoon we added quite a few new species including Brolga, Cape Barren Goose, Blue-billed Duck, Musk Duck, Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, White-winged Black Tern and Golden-headed Cisticola

We also enjoyed seeing six species of raptor, Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeets, Eurasian Skylark and Horsfield's Bushlark, Pied Cormorants and Royal Spoonbill amongst many others





Tour concluded with fond farewells and Melbourne drop-offs late afternoon (trip list below)

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	One sighting of a male with young on the Hay plain
Malleefowl	<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	3 seen on roadside near Patchewollock
Stubble Quail	<i>Coturnix pectoralis</i>	heard
Magpie Goose	<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>	Hay plain, are breeding there this year
Plumed Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna eytoni</i>	Hay plain, likely breeding
Blue-billed Duck	<i>Oxyura australis</i>	a small number at Werribee
Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>	a pair in the Little River
Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	seen 6 of 12 days
Cape Barren Goose	<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>	seen on day 12 Port Phillip Bay area
Australian Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>	seen 4 of 12 days
Maned Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>	seen every day 12/12
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	seen 10 of 12 days
Grey Teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>	seen 9 of 12 days
Chestnut Teal	<i>Anas castanea</i>	seen 7 of 12 days
Pink-eared Duck	<i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>	a pair on the Hay plain, courtship observed
Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>	a few on the Hay plain
Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>	seen on 4 days
Hoary-headed Grebe	<i>Poliiocephalus poliocephalus</i>	one sighting on the Hay plain
Short-tailed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>	distant birds seen from Cape Conran
Shy Albatross (Shy Albatross(Shy))	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	2 or 3 birds offshore at Cape Conran
Australasian Gannet	<i>Morus serrator</i>	seen along the coast, 3 days

Australasian Darter	Anhinga novaehollandiae	seen 3 times
Little Pied Cormorant	Microcarbo melanoleucos	seen 7 of 12 days
Black-faced Cormorant	Phalacrocorax fuscescens	seen in Gippsland and again on the Surf Coast
Australian Pied Cormorant (Pied Cormorant)	Phalacrocorax varius	3 separate observations
Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris	seen on 4 days
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	seen on 4 days
Australian Pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus	seen on 4 days
White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae	seen on 8 of 12 days
White-necked Heron	Ardea pacifica	seen three times in inland areas
Eastern Cattle Egret (Cattle Egret)	Bubulcus coromandus	seen at breeding site in Gippsland
Australian White Ibis	Threskiornis moluccus	seen on 6 of 12 days
Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis spinicollis	seen on 7 of 12 days
Royal Spoonbill	Platalea regia	seen at breeding site on Gippsland lakes and at Werribee
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Platalea flavipes	only seen in Gippsland lakes
Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus axillaris	seen on 4 days
Square-tailed Kite	Lophoictinia isura	one sighting near Bruthen
Black Kite	Milvus migrans	seen on 5 of 12 days
Whistling Kite	Haliastur sphenurus	seen on 5 of 12 days
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster	adult pair seen Cape Conran

Swamp Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>	three sightings in 12 days
Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>	only one sighting
Collared Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>	seen on three separate days
Wedge-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila audax</i>	seen on 4 of the last 6 days
Little Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	2 sightings
Brown Falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>	seen on 5 of the last 7 days
Australian Hobby	<i>Falco longipennis</i>	3 sightings
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	one in Ouyen
Nankeen Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>	seen on 7 of 12 days
Brolga	<i>Grus rubicunda</i>	a pair at Werribee day 12
Australasian Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio melanotus</i>	seen 5 of 12 days
Dusky Moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>	seen 6 of 12 days
Black-tailed Native-hen	<i>Tribonyx ventralis</i>	seen on the Hay plain
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	seen on 5 of 12 days
Little Button-quail	<i>Turnix velox</i>	heard on the Hay plain
Painted Button-quail	<i>Turnix varius</i>	3 separate sightings
Plains-wanderer	<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>	a male and a female seen on the Hay plain
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	one seen day 2 Gippsland lakes
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lipponica</i>	small flock near Marlo
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	seen day 12 Port Phillip area
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	seen day 12 Port Phillip area
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	seen day 12 Port Phillip area
Pied Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>	seen on 3 separate days
Pied Stilt	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>	one sighting on the Hay plain

Red-necked Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra novaehollandiae</i>	only sighting of breeding pairs at Boort
Red-capped Plover	<i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>	3 separate sightings
Black-fronted Dotterel	<i>Elsyornis melanops</i>	3 separate sightings
Hooded Dotterel (Hooded Plover)	<i>Thinornis rubricollis</i>	a pair seen enar Anglesea
Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>	recorded 12/12 every day bird
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	distant views of Jaeger sp Cape Conran
Pacific Gull	<i>Larus pacificus</i>	seen on 3 days
Silver Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>	seen on 7 of 12 days
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	one brief sighting at Metung
Greater Crested Tern (Crested Tern)	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	seen on 4 of 12 days
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	seen at Marlo and Werribee
White-winged Tern (White-winged Black Tern)	<i>Chlidonias leucopteras</i>	4 birds at Werribee
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	7/12 days
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	5/12 days
Common Bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	6/12 days
Brush Bronzewing	<i>Phaps elegans</i>	2 brief sightings and others heard
Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	10/12 days
Peaceful Dove	<i>Geopelia placida</i>	recorded on 4 days
Wonga Pigeon	<i>Leucosarcia melanoleuca</i>	only one brief sighting
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>	seen on 4 separate days

Gang-gang Cockatoo	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	2 sightings, one excellent one brief
Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i>	seen 12/12 days every day bird
Long-billed Corella	<i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i>	seen 5 of 12 days
Little Corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>	seen 6 of 12 days
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	<i>Lophochroa leadbeateri</i>	seen well in Ouyen
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	recorded 10 of 12 days
Cockatiel	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	2 sightings
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i>	seen 5 of 12 days
Musk Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>	seen on 4 of 12 days
Little Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	heard once, seen once
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta porphyrocephala</i>	recoded on 3 days
Australian King-Parrot	<i>Alisterus scapularis</i>	recorded 6 of 12 days
Superb Parrot	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	one sighting Gulpa island
Regent Parrot	<i>Polytelis anthopeplus</i>	one sighting Hattah NP
Crimson Rosella	<i>Platycercus elegans</i>	Crimsons seen on 7 days and Yellows seen on 4 days
Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>	recorded 6 of 12 days
Australian Ringneck	<i>Barnardius zonarius</i>	only brief views on one day in the mallee
Eastern Blue Bonnet	<i>Northiella haematogaster</i>	seen on 4 of 12 days
Red-rumped Parrot	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>	seen on 7 of 12 days
Mulga Parrot	<i>Psephotus varius</i>	seen all three days in the mallee

Budgerigar	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	one excellent sighting in the mallee
Blue-winged Parrot	<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	2 excellent sightings on the Surf Coast
Turquoise Parrot	<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	seen weel in NE Vic
Pacific Koel	<i>Eudynamys orientalis</i>	one sighting in Gippsland
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>	one sighting in Gippsland
Brush Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>	heard on day one, possible sighting day 11
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>	only one seen a couple more heard
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i>	seen twice, heard more
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>	seen once heard more
Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>	one sighting of a pair
White-throated Nightjar	<i>Eurostopodus mystacalis</i>	one seen day 2 Gippsland lakes
Spotted Nightjar	<i>Eurostopodus argus</i>	one seen day 6 Hay plain
Azure Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx azureus</i>	one seen day 7 NE Vic
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	seen 11 of 12 days
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>	recorded 9 of 12 days
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>	seen 5 of 12 days
Superb Lyrebird	<i>Menura novaehollandiae</i>	2 sightings, another heard
White-throated Treecreeper	<i>Cormobates leucophaea</i>	recorded 9 of 12 days
Red-browed Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris erythroptis</i>	only one sighting

Brown Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	seen 5 of 12 days
Superb Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	seen 10 of 12 days
Splendid Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus splendens</i>	2 great sightings in the mallee
Purple-backed Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus assimilis</i>	2 great sightings in the mallee
White-winged Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus leucopterus</i>	seen twice, heard more
Southern Emu-wren	<i>Stipiturus malachurus</i>	one good sighting
Mallee Emu-wren	<i>Stipiturus mallee</i>	one good sighting
Striated Grasswren	<i>Amytornis striatus</i>	one good sighting
Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>	recorded 5 of 12 days
Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	recorded 9 of 12 days
Rufous Bristlebird	<i>Dasyornis broadbenti</i>	one excellent sighting on the Surf Coast
Pilotbird	<i>Pycnoptilus floccosus</i>	only heard in Gippsland
White-browed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis frontalis</i>	recorded 8 of 12 days
Large-billed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis magnirostra</i>	one good sighting in Gippsland
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	<i>Calamanthus pyrrhopygius</i>	one good sighting Surf Coast
Shy Heathwren	<i>Calamanthus cautus</i>	seen twice in the mallee
Striated Fieldwren	<i>Calamanthus fuliginosus</i>	seen on day 11 and day 12
Rufous Fieldwren	<i>Calamanthus campestris</i>	seen once Lake Tyrrell

Speckled Warbler	<i>Pyrrholaemus sagittatus</i>	seen once Chiltern
Weebill	<i>Smicrornis brevirostris</i>	recorded 4 of 12 days
Brown Gerygone	<i>Gerygone mouki</i>	seen on first three days of the tour
Western Gerygone	<i>Gerygone fusca</i>	seen at Chiltern and Gulpa island
White-throated Gerygone	<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>	seen in the Warbys and at Chiltern
Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>	recorded 6 of 12 days
Inland Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza apicalis</i>	seen twice in the mallee
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i>	seen twice in the mallee
Buff-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza reguloides</i>	just two sightings
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	recorded 4 of 12 days
Yellow Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza nana</i>	recorded 3 of 12 days
Striated Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza lineata</i>	recorded 5 of 12 days
Southern Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	one good sighting Gulpa island
Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>	recorded 10 of 12 days
Little Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>	seen twice, Gippsland and Surf Coast
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>	seen on 3 days in the mallee
Striped Honeyeater	<i>Plectorhyncta</i>	two sightings
Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>	seen on two days in NE Vic
Little Friarbird	<i>Philemon citreogularis</i>	one sighting in Chiltern
Regent Honeyeater	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	UNBANDED FEMALE NEAR GLENROWAN

Blue-faced Honeyeater	Entomyzon cyanotis	seen on two days in NE Vic
Noisy Miner	Manorina melanocephala	recorded 8 of 12 days
Yellow-throated Miner	Manorina flavigula	seen on 3 days in the mallee
Lewin's Honeyeater	Meliphaga lewinii	recorded on the first 4 days
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Lichenostomus chrysops	recorded 5 of 12 days
Singing Honeyeater	Lichenostomus virescens	recorded 5 of 12 days
White-eared Honeyeater	Lichenostomus leucotis	recorded 6 of 12 days
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Lichenostomus melanops	just recorded 3 of 12 days
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus ornatus	a couple of sightings in the mallee
Fuscous Honeyeater	Lichenostomus fuscus	seen well on 2 days
White-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus penicillatus	recorded 4 of 12 days
Black-chinned Honeyeater	Melithreptus gularis	one good sighting day 10
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Melithreptus brevirostris	recorded 5 of 12 days
White-naped Honeyeater	Melithreptus lunatus	only seen on 2 days
Crescent Honeyeater	Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus	recorded 4 times
New Holland Honeyeater	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae	recorded 6 of 12 days
White-fronted Honeyeater	Purnella albifrons	a couple of sightings in the mallee

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	<i>Gliciphila melanops</i>	one sighting in central Vic mallee
Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>	recorded 6 of 12 days
Scarlet Myzomela	<i>Myzomela sanguinolenta</i>	seen well on two days in Gippsland
White-fronted Chat	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>	sighted on 2 days
Jacky Winter	<i>Microeca fascinans</i>	recorded 4 of 12 days
Scarlet Robin	<i>Petroica boodang</i>	one good sighting day 11
Red-capped Robin	<i>Petroica goodenovii</i>	seen a couple of times in the mallee
Flame Robin	<i>Petroica phoenicia</i>	seen twice in the mountains
Rose Robin	<i>Petroica rosea</i>	recorded 3 days in Gippsland
Pink Robin	<i>Petroica rodinogaster</i>	heard in Gippsland
Eastern Yellow Robin	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>	recorded 6 of 12 days
Southern Scrub-robin	<i>Drymodes brunneopygia</i>	heard in central Vic mallee
Grey-crowned Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>	brief views Hay plain
White-browed Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i>	recorded 4 of 12 days
Eastern Whipbird	<i>Psophodes olivaceous</i>	recorded first 3 days of the tour
Spotted Quail-thrush	<i>Cinclosoma punctatum</i>	exceleltn sighting day 10
Chestnut Quail-thrush	<i>Cinclosoma castanotum</i>	one sighting in the mallee day 9
Varied Sittella	<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	two separate sightings
Crested Shrike-tit	<i>Falcunculus frontatus</i>	recorded 5 of 12 days
Crested Bellbird	<i>Oreoica gutturalis</i>	heard twice in the mallee

Olive Whistler	<i>Pachycephala olivacea</i>	heard day one, seen day 11
Gilbert's Whistler	<i>Pachycephala inornata</i>	seen once, Wychitella
Western Whistler	<i>Pachycephala occidentalis</i>	seen twice in the mallee
Australian Golden Whistler (Golden Whistler)	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>	seen 6 of 12 days
Rufous Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>	recorded 10 of 12 days
Grey Shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	recorded 10 of 12 days
Black-faced Monarch	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	one sighting in Gippsland
Leaden Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra rubecula</i>	one sighting in the Warbys
Satin Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	one sighting on the Surf Coast
Restless Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra inquieta</i>	one sighting in the Warbys
Magpie-lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>	recorded 11 of 12 days
Rufous Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	seen on 4 separate days
Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>	recorded 9 of 12 days
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	recorded 9 of 12 days
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	recorded 8 of 12 days
White-winged Triller	<i>Lalage tricolor</i>	two sightings for the tour
Australasian Figbird	<i>Sphecotheres vieilotti</i>	heard in Gippsland
Olive-backed Oriole	<i>Oriolus sagittatus</i>	recorded 5 of 12 days

White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>	one sighting, Finlay
White-browed Woodswallow	<i>Artamus superciliosus</i>	two high flying flocks on the mallee
Black-faced Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cinereus</i>	one sighting Lake Tyrrell
Dusky Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>	seen on 4 separate days
Grey Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>	recorded on 4 of 12 days
Pied Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>	seen on 3 days in the north
Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	12/12 every day bird
Pied Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>	recorded 8 of 12 days
Grey Currawong	<i>Strepera versicolor</i>	not seen until day 8 in the mallee, also "grey" birds seen on the Surf Coast
Australian Raven	<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	confirmed on 6 of 12 days
Forest Raven	<i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>	seen twice in Gippsland and once in the Otways
Little Raven	<i>Corvus mellori</i>	recorded 11 of 12 days
White-winged Chough	<i>Corcorax melanoramphos</i>	recorded 8 of 12 days
Apostlebird	<i>Struthidea cinerea</i>	one sighting in Hattah
Satin Bowerbird	<i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</i>	recorded on 5 days
Horsfield's Bush Lark (Australasian Bushlark)	<i>Mirafra javanica</i>	heard once, guide only views day 12
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	seen day 12
Australian Pipit (Australasian Pipit)	<i>Anthus australis</i>	recorded 4 of the last 6 days
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	recorded 9 of 12 days

Zebra Finch	<i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>	just one sighting Hay plain
Red-browed Finch	<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>	recorded 6 of 12 days
Diamond Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	good views Warbys, brief views Gulpa island
Beautiful Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura bella</i>	brief view in Gippsland
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	heard day 12
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2 sightings
Mistletoebird	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>	recorded on 4 days
Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	recorded 11 of 12 days
Tree Martin	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>	2 sightings for the tour
Fairy Martin	<i>Petrochelidon ariel</i>	recorded 5 of 12 days
Australian Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus australis</i>	recorded on 4 days
Little Grassbird	<i>Poodytes gramineus</i>	seen/heard on 3 days
Rufous Songlark	<i>Cincloramphus mathewsi</i>	recorded on 3 days
Brown Songlark	<i>Cincloramphus cruralis</i>	recorded on 3 days
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>	seen day 12
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	recorded on 7 of 12 days
Bassian Thrush	<i>Zoothera lunulata</i>	seen briefly day 1, heard day 2
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	recorded 10 of 12 days
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	12/12 every day bird
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	recorded 7 of 12 days

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MAMMAL LIST

Short-beaked Echidna,
Yellow-footed Antechinus,
Common Wombat,
Krefft's Glider,
Feathertail Glider,
Western Grey Kangaroo,
Eastern Grey Kangaroo,
Red Kangaroo,
Red-necked Wallaby,
Swamp Wallaby,
Grey-headed Flying Fox,
Australian Fur Seal,
European Hare,
European Rabbit,

REPTILE LIST

Curl Snake

Lace Monitor,

Stumpy-tail Lizard,

Eastern Bearded Dragon,

Central Bearded Dragon,

Military Dragon,

Boulengers Skink,

Long-necked Tortoise,

BUTTERFLY LIST

Cabbage White,

Caper White,

Small Grass Yellow,

Spotted Jezebel,

Common Brown,

Orchard Swallowtail,

ALSO

Spotted Marsh Frog, and various Dragonflies and Orchids identified