



2023 Victoria Megatour Trip Report - 19th to 30th Nov

Summary: Running each year in November, the Victoria Megatour traverses the state's best birding regions from the wild rugged coastlines, mountains, 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 a wide range of species, this tour allows time for extended observation and photography. Comfortable accommodation and the best cafes and hotels selected for some quality food options

This year's tour produced a long species list. Between the seven of us we recorded 276 bird species in the 12 days (8 of which were heard only). Daily totals were well up on last year, with an average of 89 species seen per day for the 12 days, peaking at 101 birds on day six. Whilst chasing high daily tallies is not the aim, this does go to show how abundant the birdlife was in 2023.

We encountered a fabulous array of mammals (20 species), reptiles (11 sp), frogs (4 seen and more heard), butterflies (11 species) and of course the magnificent landscapes and plant life. Four birds made it to everyday bird legend status: Galah, Australian Magpie, Magpie-lark and Common Starling



Team 2023

We enjoyed mild weather for much of the tour with just a couple of days reaching 29 degrees as our maximum. With little wind and settled conditions the birding activity was excellent and following on from last year's flooding rains, waterbirds were abundant everywhere we went



We did have one day severely impacted by some crazy weather. Day eleven on the Surf Coast/Otways was blowing constant gale force winds from the south-east, and it rained ALL day with barely a break. Very unusual to have a whole day impacted, however we persisted and still found a few great birds

Waterbirds featured everywhere we went following last year's breeding events. White-necked Herons were seen on 11 of 12 days, and appeared in all sorts of funny places. We had close views of Freckled and Blue-billed Duck, flocks of Glossy Ibis, multiple excellent sightings of Latham's Snipe, Nankeen Night Herons at a number of sites, lots of Crakes and a Buff-banded Rail, Black-tailed Nativehens were seen on 6 of 12 days, and the beautiful Banded Stilt was seen at three locations.

15 species of raptor were seen, with three separate sightings of the scarce Black Falcon and a beautiful pair of Square-tailed Kite. We saw all three possible Button-quail species plus the remarkable Plains-wanderer



23 species of Parrot were recorded including the endangered Glossy Black-cockatoo, Budgerigar and Cockatiel plus sublime views of a family of Turquoise Parrot. Our nocturnal adventures were very successful, with sightings of Greater Sooty, Barn and Barking Owls, White-throated Nightjar and Tawny Frogmouth. We encountered Owlet-Nightjar in the daytime. We also amassed a fabulous selection of nocturnal mammals with highlights including Koala, Echidna, Feathertail Glider, Long-nosed Bandicoot, Mountain Brushtail and a Krefft's Glider seen well in full glide!

We connected with both sp of Emu-wren, both sp of Quail-thrush, all 3 Gerygone sp, 27 species of Honeyeater included Scarlet and Painted, all 3 sp of Babbler, and all 5 sp of Woodswallow. As is always the case we did miss some expected birds. This is the first time we've dipped on Superb Parrot, although one guest saw two fly through at high speed. And the bad conditions on day eleven meant we certainly missed out on another 6 birds at least. A pair of Malleefowl working a nest mound was one of many other highlights

Day 1 Melbourne to the Gippsland Lakes – 88 species recorded today

Leaving Melbourne via the freeway, one of our first birds of the trip was a Peregrine Falcon which buzzed across the road right in front of us.

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 productive walk we had our best/only views of quite a few species including Eastern Whipbird, Satin Flycatcher, Red-browed Treecreeper, Brown Gerygone, Large-billed Scrubwren, Lewin's Honeyeater and Striated Thornbill. High on the wish list, a male Rose Robin showed well, plus a male Satin Bowerbird flew through the forest



Before lunch a short walk around a rehabilitated wetland produced a nice selection of commoner waterbirds, but high water levels were not good for possible rail and crane sightings

After our delicious gourmet lunch we headed up to the mountain forests of the Strzelecki ranges, with a Bassian Thrush flying in front of the car along the way. Tame Crimson Rosellas greeted us in the picnic ground and a Satin Bowerbird was tidying up some left-over crumbs



During a long and relaxed walk in stunning scenery of mighty Mountain Ash and Myrtle Beech trees we saw our only Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos for the trip, plus our first Gang Gang Cockatoos high in the forest. Pilotbird called, but far from the track, whilst an Olive Whistler did come closer and was calling loudly within metres of us, but only a quick clear view for some. Surprisingly no Lyrebirds were heard at all on the walk, but we had close views of a Shining Bronze Cuckoo

Down in the Myrtle Beech gully a Pink Robin teased us with its call, but failed to show itself. We also encountered our only leeches of the trip, just a couple!

In the late afternoon we had some time to visit a wetland in the Gippsland lakes region near Sale. Amongst the many waterbirds were good numbers of Latham's Snipe, which gave us great views and were surprisingly active, and flying across the water

Day 2 – East Gippsland – 97 species recorded today

A pre breakfast walk at a nearby wetland was very worthwhile. A Buff-banded Rail was out in full view before the dog walkers arrived. In the streamside vegetation a colony of Grey-headed Flying-fox entertained us and a few Nankeen Night Herons were sighted also.

After breakfast we continued east to the Lakes Entrance area for late morning birding. A stop in a gully on the Mississippi creek was full of birdlife and we had fantastic views of both Scarlet Honeyeaters and a male Rose Robin. What's more a Rufous Fantail was feeding at close range



Leaving the gully and heading out into the stringybark forest we connected with a big target bird, the Spotted Quail-thrush. The overcast conditions meant they were very active, and we actually ended up seeing 5 or 6 birds by the end of the day

For lunch we headed down to the coastal village of Metung. A famous fig tree there can attract a variety of sub-tropical species, rare in Victoria and we immediately found a few Top-knot Pigeons. A Figbird briefly showed itself and a Pacific Koel was calling in the distance. After some time gazing up into the Fig tree, we finally realized there was a family of Tawny Frogmouths at eye level right next to the road, not sure how we'd missed them up to then. Great to see such an extraordinary bird up close, but Metung hadn't finished with us yet, as an Echidna was out and about feeding on ants on a roadside lawn area.



In the afternoon we headed back into the coastal forests, driving some different tracks, seeing more Spotted Quail-thrush, and checking out areas of *Allocasuarina*, the food plant of the endangered Glossy Black-cockatoo. Ever hopeful, but also realistic about our chances, we checked a few sites, and at one we found many chewed cones, and a Glossy Black tail feather - they had been there !

We'd failed to connect with this species on the last couple of Megatours, so I was delighted when an eagle-eyed spotter in a back seat of the bus spied one close to the road. It turned out to be a family group (adult male, adult female and an imm male). We were very fortunate to encounter these birds so quickly, they are always tough to find.



The way the day was going we would have been happy with our lot, fabulous birding, but there was more to come. A visit to a beautiful location down on one of the arms of Lake Tyers had us seeing yet more Scarlet Honeyeaters, and some excellent prolonged views of a female Superb Lyrebird scratching away in the open just on the other side of the creek.



Back in Lakes Entrance we scoped a pair of Hooded Dotterels and lots of Black-faced Cormorants, plus enjoyed sightings of Dolphins in the bay there.

After a late afternoon break and a nice early pub dinner, we headed out into the coastal forests for some spotlighting. East Gippsland is very rich in nocturnal wildlife so our hopes were high. With a combination of spotlighting whilst driving, and walking in targeted locations we encountered a close range Greater Sooty Owl, a Mountain Brushtail Possum (Bobuck) with young, a Feather-tailed Glider seen well and a Kreffts Glider that even glided for us. This rounded out a top day of birding in East Gippy !



Day 3 – East Gippsland – 86 species recorded today

A pre breakfast stroll in some littoral rainforest near our accommodation was full of bird calls, but most were hiding. Today we would head further east to explore the wonderful Cape Conran Coastal Park. On the way there we spent a bit of time on the edge of Lake Tyers regional park, where after some effort we had nice scope views of an Azure Kingfisher, our only sighting for the tour. An adult White-bellied Sea-eagle flew in and landed and we also had brief views of a Square-tailed Kite cruising over the forest canopy along the highway.

Arriving in Marlo we checked out the mouth of the Snowy river. Floods and shifting sands had the estuary looking different to last year, we scoped some Bar-tailed Godwits and Australian Pied Oystercatchers. At West Cape we searched for the Pilotbirds that used to be resident there. No sign of them though, the fires of 2020 may have reduced their numbers. Out on the cape a pair of Sooty Oystercatchers flew past, our one sighting for the tour, and a distant Parasitic Jaeger bombed past (guide only views)

After lunch back in Orbost we returned to Cape Conran. A quick stop on the Cabbage Tree creek had us immersed in the “ping ping” of a large colony of Bell Miners, with everyone having great views. We also encountered our second Wonga Pigeon, again which flushed, giving us flight views



Driving into the back roads of Cape Conran we enjoyed a fabulous afternoon birding session, seeing our first Musk Lorikeets, and a couple of lightning fast Little Lorikeets, Dusky Woodswallows, finding a White-naped Honeyeater on its nest, flushing a Painted Button-quail (better views desired!), seeing a Turquoise Parrot do its slow fluttery flight through the trees and landing high up (bvd again !), getting great views of a male Southern Emu-wren in a heathy area, and also a nice male Leaden Flycatcher.



Cruising back to Marlo for dinner, we had a large flock of Top-knot Pigeons fly past, a Superb Lyrebirds run off the roadside, 3 White-headed Pigeons on a powerline and yet another Koel calling (and hiding again!)

Our last night in East Gippsy, so no option but to get out again after dark and see what awaits us! We waited at a heathland site at dusk in case a Ground Parrot were to call, but we didn't hear one this time, however White-throated Nightjars were very vocal, with three heard all distant and in different locations. It was pretty dark when the first appeared, strong eye shine giving it away. It landed on a dead branch and called, allowing us to approach fairly close, nice views but it flew again before photos. Flying Foxes and Night Herons were flying overhead at last light also, as we drove back out of the park, stopping here and there listening for Masked Owl. No luck tonight with the big forest Tyto, but we did all have clear views of a Long-nosed Bandicoot in the headlights of the car. A cracking way to end the evening after a solid day's birding

Day 4 – Gippsland to NE Victoria - 79 species recorded today

Despite a long drive over the high parts of the Great Dividing range today, we still encountered 79 species, largely thanks to some wonderful woodland birding late in the day.

The morning was mostly driving, up into the alpine region. Peppermint and Stringybark gave way to Snow Gum and alpine herb-fields.

A few short stops up here in the high country are always interesting and today we enjoyed sightings of the lovely Macleay's Swallowtail, an Emu grazing the tussock grasses, an immaculate White-eared Honeyeater, looking larger and brighter than its inland cousins, a cooperative Fan-tailed Cuckoo, drive by Flame Robins (unable to stop) and some alpine orchids, the Mountain Caps (*Caladenia alpina*). But the biggest surprise was a lone Blue-winged Parrot perched at a high pass near Hotham Heights



Arriving in Wangaratta mid-afternoon we checked in and had a break before a birding session in the Warby Ranges (the granite section of the Warby-Ovens NP)

We added a huge number of new species to our trip list with some quality sightings including Leaden and Restless Flycatchers, Western Gerygone, Diamond Firetail, Shining Bronze Cuckoo, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Yellow Thornbill, Brown-headed Honeyeaters, Peaceful Dove, Rufous Songlark, White-winged Trillers and Brown Treecreepers. A medium sized Red-bellied Black Snake on the track also created quite a stir before it left the scene. Star of the show however undoubtedly went to the family of Turquoise Parrots. We had an immature bird perched and being fed by the adults, and eventually the adult male on the ground in the open in front of us. Despite our best efforts we didn't see any more the next day, so this sighting was very welcome indeed.



An early night tonight ready for a relaxed day tomorrow exploring the environs of NE Victoria

Day 5 – North-East Victoria – 95 species recorded today

An early morning stroll along the Ovens river was very pleasant with a range of commoner species seen, although the birds were not particularly showy, and the hoped for Dollarbird did not materialize.

After a big cooked breakfast we headed back into the Warby Ranges, visiting some different sites to yesterday. An Eastern Bearded Dragon was roadside. We saw our only Hooded Robins for the tour, a family group which came very close. A little unexpected were a trio of Gang Gang Cockatoos, giving us much improved views. Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters gave us a good show, as did White-winged Trillers and a lovely close Olive-backed Oriole



Raptors were regularly appearing, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Goshawk, Whistling Kite and Brown Falcon. We kept our eyes peeled for Turquoise Parrot, but a regular spot for them didn't produce today, however the old growth White Box forest with a carpet of bright yellow Everlastings and granite outcrops was well worth the drive. Both Restless and Leaden Flycatchers appeared again, and we finally hit on a mixed flock of smaller bush birds, connecting with a couple of tricky target species we didn't want to miss today, good views of both White-throated Gerygone and Speckled Warbler with accompanying Buff-rumped Thornbill and Weebill



For lunch we headed to the historic hamlet of Chiltern, and spent time at a few select locations for the afternoon. Small wetlands in the area had plenty of waterbird action, with Pink-eared Ducks and Darters showing well. Surrounding Red Gum forests had both Noisy and Little Friarbirds and once again some Little Lorikeets were present but gave us the slip before good views could be had.

In the Box-ironbark forest areas we went searching for Painted Button-quail. The Chiltern forest is an excellent place for this species, and we found some evidence of recent activity, their platelets left in the leaf litter from their feeding

Back in town and after a break and an excellent pub dinner, a few of us headed out along the river for a bit of casual spotlighting. Well we were in for a treat as we located a family of Barking Owls, the youngster begging whilst the adults flew around catching prey to feed it. We also encountered large numbers of Common Brushtail Possum (including a coppery individual) and Common Ringtail Possum. The Krefft's and Squirrel Gliders were hiding tonight, with poor views of a couple. An entertaining hour's walk



Day 6 – North-East Victoria to the NSW Riverina – 101 species recorded today

A travel day today with plenty of time for stops along the way. Our first stop was at Winton wetlands. We found a nice area with shallow water and plenty of birds. Close views of Red-kneed Dotterel and Australian Spotted Crake was excellent. Lots of ducks about included a single Musk Duck. A flock of Glossy Ibis cruised past, and a Little Egret was a notable sighting for such an inland site.

Further west we put in some time around the Broken Boosey State Park hoping for some Superb Parrots. The birding was a bit quiet with no Superbs seen but plenty of stunning Eastern Rosellas and an enormous Lace Monitor was a highlight



Further along the back roads, we made a pit stop at a large freshwater cane grass swamp which had incredible numbers of White-necked Heron (430), Great Egret (60 plus) , 2 Brolga and our only sighting of Plumed Egret (formerly Intermediate Egret) for the tour.

At the Murray river near Barmah we encountered our first Long-billed Corellas, and we made it to Deniliquin in good time for a rest before a big night out on the Hay plains (that's virtually two birding days in one !!)

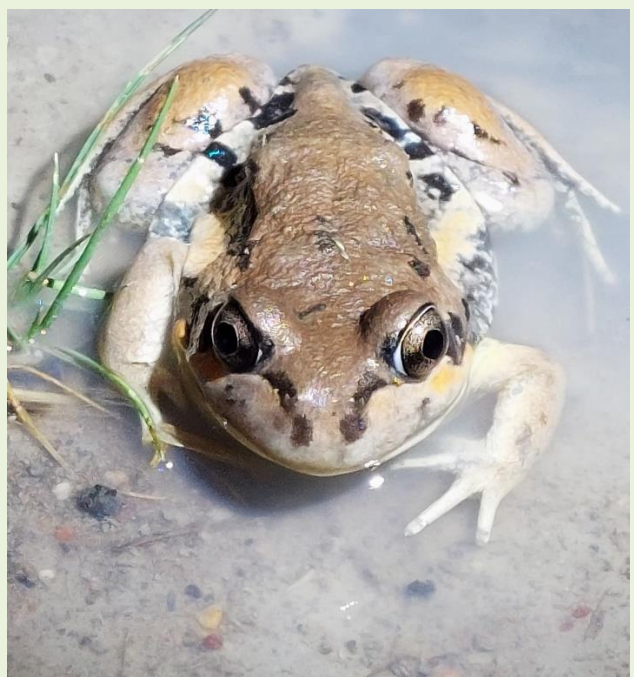
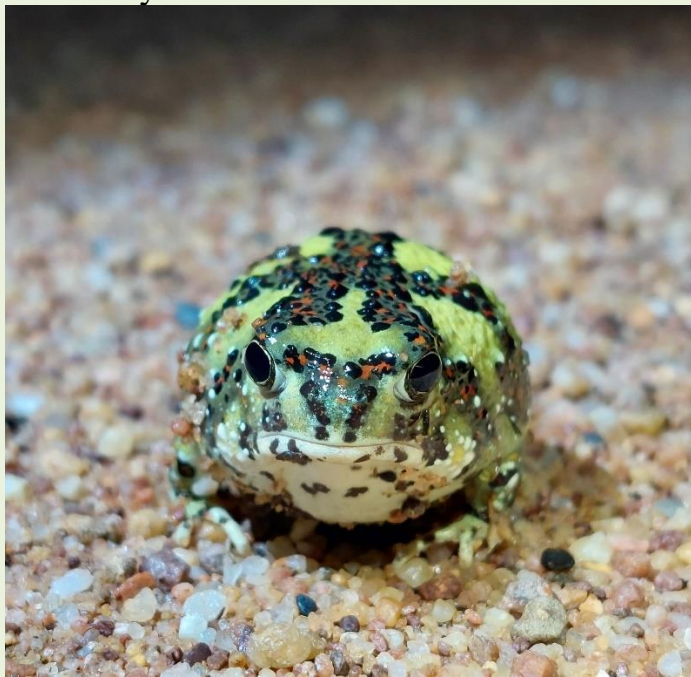
Driving north from Deniliquin we were seeing lots of new species for the tour so far. The vast open station country has its own appeal, and many inland species were added to our tally. Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Black-faced Woodswallows and White-winged Fairy-wrens, more Emus, Eastern Blue Bonnets, Black Kites and a sub adult Spotted Harrier, plus 3 species of Kangaroo (Eastern Grey, Western Grey and Red). And on a dam at sunset flocks of Black-tailed Nativehen and Red-kneed Dotterel.

A picnic dinner whilst waiting for the sun to set was followed by the main game for today, a spotlighting session in the native grasslands. Good rains over the last two years, plus some quality grasslands with a variety of structures had us enjoying everything from Banded Lapwings and Australian Pratincoles, Stubble Quail, Little Button-quail, Singing Bushlark and Brown Songlark, Eastern Barn Owl and Tawny Frogmouth, through to Plains-wanderers and Red-chested Button-quail, quite an extraordinary night. Particularly nice was when a pair of Plains-wanderer posed together, and later on a pair of Red-chested Button-quail did the same.



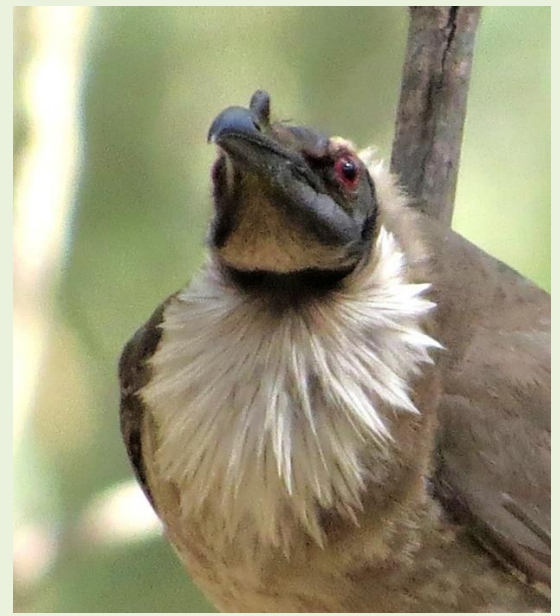


And to add to the night we encountered 4 species of Frog including the remarkable Crucifix Frog and a young Giant Banjo Frog recently emerged from their underground hibernation after some early summer rain.



Day 7 – Riverina to the Mallee –97 species recorded today

After a huge day yesterday we had a decent lie-in this morning, and a hearty breakfast before some birding around Deniliquin and hitting the road again. Birding the river country close to town we enjoyed a lovely range of birds. Fabulous close views of Noisy and Little Friarbirds, Brown Treecreepers, Yellow Rosellas and a small skink that was id'd later as Ragged Snake-eyed Skink



Although one in our group spied two Superb Parrots fly through, this is the first Megatour that we've basically missed this species, time meant we needed to move on.

With some kms to chew through our aim was to arrive in the mallee country of NW Victoria with some birding time later this afternoon

Crossing the Murray river back in Victoria we dropped into an open brackish wetland near Kerang. Following last year's floods, the lake was teeming with birds, particularly vast numbers of various duck species. Lots of new birds for our trip included Australian Shelduck, Red-necked Avocet, a lone Banded Stilt, and a distant Red-capped plover. We saw yet more Black-tailed Nativehens, and a few Whiskered Terns, plus a single Marsh Sandpiper was a good pick up amongst a loose group of Pied Stilt.

After loading up with a picnic lunch we visited a freshwater wetland with surrounding red gum forest. A lively family group of Grey-crowned Babbler entertained us over lunch, and a Rakali (native Water Rat) was spotted in the channel. Royal Spoonbills were a new bird here also.



The long drive through the wheat belt of north west Vic was punctuated with some nice birds. Eastern Blue Bonnets here and there, raptors had already featured today and more appeared with Black Kites, Swamp Harriers, our first Little Eagle and a lightning fast Australian Hobby. A highlight was a small flock of Cockatiel roadside, perhaps feeding on spilt grain



We made it to a large area of virgin mallee country not far from our accommodation for the night, with a bit of time to play with late afternoon. Well the birding was next level, and in the space of a couple of hours we enjoyed fabulous views of Budgerigar feeding in an open grassy area, a close range Striped Honeyeater, a showy pair of Splendid Fairy-wrens, flyby Australian Ringneck, our first small flocks of White-browed Woodswallows, a Black Falcon cruising past, and perhaps best of all a couple of Malleefowl seen on the edge of the track. We enjoyed decent views for a couple of minutes, and were going to edge closer for photos when an untimely and very large semi-trailer roared by spooking our bird. Still all were grateful to see this elusive and iconic mallee specialty



A night in tonight ready for a relaxed day in the mallee country tomorrow

Day 8 – The Mallee – 82 species recorded today

Today started with a surprise visitor to one person's motel room. Curled up in the corner of the bathroom behind the bin was a small skinny brown reptile, which after we removed it and set it free turned out to be a very young Eastern Brown Snake. This is not something that happens often, actually the first one I've ever encountered inside our accommodation !!

Our main mallee birding day started well with good but fairly brief views of a Pink Cockatoo close to our accomodaion. That is a big target species for any sojourn to the mallee



Driving up towards Hattah National Park where we would spend the day we spotted a pair of Black Falcons cruising near a large silo, which they decided to land on, providing scope views for all



At our first location in the park we were targeting Striated Grasswren, perhaps the toughest mallee speciality to see well. Whilst we connected with some Grasswrens which were calling loudly, and briefly seen darting from spinifex clump to clump, these ones didn't show well, however whilst waiting patiently we were well rewarded with close views of Chestnut Quail-thrush and Crested Bellbird, two more tough birds to find
A great start to the day, and it was still early morning !



Our second targeted stop in the park was to check on an active Malleefowl nest. This particular nest mound can be carefully viewed from the right spot without disturbing the birds if they are present and this morning our luck was IN.

A bird appeared on the side of the mound and spotted us, but stayed there keeping a wary eye on us. After a while we noticed sand flicking up from inside the mound. The male was in there, opening the nest mound for the female to lay in. We enjoyed this extraordinary bit of good luck for a few minutes, seeing both birds well and even hearing them call. So as to not interrupt their important business we left them be, a rare experience to witness these behaviours, Didn't try for decent photos as moving around too much would have disturbed them

Remarkably we only had to walk around within 50 metres from there to see a Mallee Emu-wren, an Owlet-Nightjar, a small group of Budgerigar, our first Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters and our first Masked Woodswallows all while the Malleefowl called behind us. The birding had reached next level.

For much of the rest of the day we enjoyed a relaxed drive through the park, taking in the great variety of habitats, and making more targeted stops along the way.

First up we managed good views of both Regent and Mulga Parrot. The Regents were flighty and didn't hang around, the Mulga's sat quietly in the shade of a tree. Rainbow Bee-eaters kept appearing, and both White-browed and Masked Woodswallows were scattered throughout.

We had a beautiful Sand Goanna on the side of the track, and a Regal Striped Skink near some fallen timber



A family of Emus wandered past, a typically shy group of Chestnut-crowned Babblers gave us fair views, Yellow and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills were both seen as was a Jacky Winter on a nest, and a female Red-capped Robin.

Yet more Splendid Fairy wrens were pushed out into view, and a couple of Purple-backed Fairy-wren appeared with them.

And around the lakes Pelicans were soaring, a Yellow-billed Spoonbill was swishing in the shallows, and a group of 12 (yes exactly 12) Apostlebirds hopped and chattered around



Our last stop for the day was a walk into some tea tree covered dunes in search of the Southern Scrub-robin. This birding session went like most of the others today, exceptionally well !. In just one location we had Southern Scrub-robin, Shy Heathwren, Splendid Fairy wren, Inland Thornbill and Gilberts Whistler all showing well. A fitting end to a top day's birding in the mallee and all in perfect weather



Day 9 The Mallee to Central Victoria – 93 species recorded today

Our last day of mallee birding, and a chance to target some birds not yet encountered. Early morning around town we connected with some nice birds. We had some decent views of Purple-backed Fairy-wrens, another brief encounter with the Pink Cockatoos, Rainbow Bee-eaters warming up in the early sun, and a White-fronted Honeyeater showed briefly, our only one for the trip.

After breakfast we headed down to Timberoo FFR, a beautiful block of mixed Pine and mallee habitat. Our walk here was exceptional with fabulous views of Mulga Parrots, Splendid Fairy-wrens, Gilberts Whistler and our main target the White-browed Treecreeper



Taking some back roads from Timberoo we located a Red-backed Kingfisher near a railway cutting, a regular site for this locally rare species, and also had a small flock of Cockatiel perching nicely



Time was moving on so we started the drive south, with time to explore a small oasis in the otherwise dry wheatbelt. This small freshwater lake is a magnet for birds, and we finally had perched views of an Australian Ringneck, our last chance to see this one and normally not a difficult bird to enjoy. A nice mix of waterbirds were present including Musk Duck, Chestnut Teal and Australian Shelduck.

Along the way we were encountering raptors, which included Wedge-tailed and Little Eagle, and yet another Black Falcon.

Our last birding location for the day was another site targeting a rare and localized species, the Painted Honeyeater. The granite hills here are always lively and we enjoyed sightings of Diamond Firetails, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, Mistletoebird and eventually our main quarry, the Painted Honeyeater.



Tracking down such quality birds had seen the day fly by, and we just made it to Bendigo in time to check in and order our pub meal in time, phew !! Another solid day out in the field.

Day 10 – Central Victoria to the Otways – 80 species recorded today

As with yesterday, we would be targeting some of the rarer birds that we hadn't seen so far as well as some travel time to make it down to the coast. We made a dawn trip into a nearby state forest before breakfast, to check a roost site for Square-tailed Kite, and a good job we arrived early as we did see the Kite for a few minutes before he flew off to hunt for his growing family. We then hightailed it south (with a coffee stop of course) to a drying wetland that had been home to up to 3 Australian Painted Snipe for some months. The most recent sighting was 4 days previously, so our hopes were high then dashed as we arrived to see the swamp now virtually completely dry. We did scour the few remaining pools for any signs but except for Black-fronted Dotterels the throngs of waterbirds had departed. Heading back to the car however a couple of quality sightings were had right by the road and low down, both Black-chinned Honeyeater and Eastern Shrike-tit provided eye level views, a nice consolation prize.





After a big breakfast in a nearby historic town we visited some classic box ironbark country, concentrating our efforts along a gully where the trees were more mature. Plenty of action here, with Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters and White-browed Babblers showing well, Olive-backed Oriole and Grey Currawongs also seen and Brown Treecreepers a plenty. I had seen Painted Button-quail here quite recently, so we started a search for them close to my last sighting and sure enough we had two birds calling and another seen also. One bird even came into the open for great viewing



The morning was rapidly disappearing so we pressed on checking a couple of areas that Powerful Owls use as roosting sites. Unfortunately, the Owls were elsewhere today, but we did find pellets and bones under one tree, and saw some Red-browed Finches, Crimson Rosellas, and a variety of other commoner species.

With quite some distance still to travel we continued our journey south, and back over the Great Dividing range. Descending down to the foothills we visited the Brisbane Ranges NP, with a localised skulker as a target bird here, the Chestnut-rumped Heathwren. More Grey Currawongs greeted us here, but otherwise the birding was a little quiet. We searched for Scarlet Robin, a bird we still needed for the trip, but a no show. Then in an area of Grass Trees and beautiful heathy woodland we caught some views of the secretive Heathwren, One bird remained perched for some time, still a little hidden, but good views for this species !!



As we completed our walk here, a strange sound from the forest gave away the presence of a Koala, and lucky for us this furry tree hugger was close to the track

Finally arriving on the coast, the wind was getting up, and blowing in from the south-east. It seemed to have good potential for some sea-watching so we stopped at Pt Addis to admire the views and soak up some sea air. Not a lot on the move, but bits and pieces kept it interesting. Australasian Gannet and Greater Crested Tern, a few Short-tailed Shearwaters, one or two of which were very close in, and a random Caspian Tern appeared too. Birds of the coastal scrub were keeping themselves very hidden in the wild winds, and the forecast for tomorrow was looking iffy, only time would tell.

Another big day came to an end, and time for some r and r, a pub meal, a glass of red and the bird list, ready for whatever tomorrow held for us

Day 11 – The Otways – 71 species recorded today

Stepping out of the accommodation this morning and we knew things were going to be difficult. The weather forecast was all about gale force winds and flooding rain, with the Otways being one area with the worst predicted outcomes. The rain had started and the winds were constant and strong. We headed for a nearby wetland and quickly connected with a rather wet looking Blue-winged Parrot feeding on the grass. Much better views than the previous one.



Then we headed out to a coastal lookout which is a good place to see the local endemic Rufous Bristlebird. The wind was absolutely ripping through us, and it was almost impossible to stand up and look out to sea. A Black-faced Cormorant flew past, and a couple of Gannets, but we had to find some shelter, and figured that's where the Bristlebirds would be. Despite sneaking about into every nook and cranny out there, the Bristlebirds were definitely not coming out today, and who could blame them.

The plan then was to drive west along the Great Ocean road and into the more mountainous and higher sections of the Greater Otway NP, looking for Flame, Scarlet and Pink Robin, Crescent Honeyeater and Olive Whistler etc, but with such dire warnings and the consistent rain and gale force winds I made the call to turn around. With one road in and out we didn't want to get stuck out there, and conditions higher up in the mountains would undoubtedly have been worse

So we travelled back towards Anglesea on some back roads to an area of forest that was a little more sheltered. We had a nice walk here, seeing a range of commoner forest species such as Dusky Woodswallow, Red-browed Finch, White-throated Treecreeper and Eastern Yellow Robin.



We decided given the conditions to focus on coastal and wetland birds, less affected by rain, and where we didn't need to walk far from the vehicle.

Driving down to the beach at Breamlea, the wetlands there had Swamp Harrier, and our first Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. I offered to go and check the beach to see if it was worth everyone having a look. We were hoping to get closer looks at Hooded Dotterel amongst others.

I could only just manage walking into the wind blowing in off the ocean and got blown back to the car park ! **ABANDON THE BEACHES!!**

There was some discussion of abandoning the day at this point, but I offered to drive us to some more sheltered wetlands back towards Geelong, where we should have a chance Freckled Duck and Banded Stilt. Well we managed a couple of nice little sessions, seeing a wide range of Duck species including Blue-billed and Freckled Duck, more Latham's Snipe, and also some shorebirds at an old saltworks with some fairly close flocks of Banded Stilt and our second Marsh Sandpiper of the tour





It was time to start heading back, so once again we took some back roads, and it proved worthwhile. Although we had seen Gang Gang Cockatoos well earlier in the trip, you can never get enough of Gang Gangs, so when a small flock appeared we were straight out of the bus. It was a lovely way to end a tough day on the road, and the weather was clearing tomorrow for our big day out at Werribee.

Day 12 The Surf Coast and WTP (Werribee) –96 species recorded today

With much better conditions this morning, we returned to our Rufous Bristlebird spot, for one last go. I have never failed to see this species on this tour and didn't want this to be the first. The Bristlebirds were a lot more vocal this morning, we were hearing them from multiple locations, but they were still not showing. We spent over an hour slowly walking up and down, our group was fragmenting, and gradually one by one we were getting sightings. By the time we needed to move on all but one of us had seen the bird, so almost complete success, plus we'd seen some more Short-tailed Shearwaters glide by.

We left the Surf Coast early, to head out to Werribee WTP where we would spend the bulk of the day. Getting supplies in Lara we saw our first Cape Barren Geese for the tour, and had our best views of Musk Lorikeets too.

As is usually the way, as soon as you get close to the WTP the birds start appearing at a faster rate! First up was a Little Eagle which decided to circle above our car, a much better view



After this the birds were coming thick and fast for the rest of the day. We logged over 80 species whilst inside the permit area.

New shorebirds included Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Red Knot, Great Knot, Common Greenshank, Bar-tailed Godwit and Black-tailed Godwit, plus a guide only view of a Pectoral Sandpiper which unfortunately flew off before we could get the scope on it.

Amongst the many hundreds of Whiskered Terns we picked out a couple of the much rarer White-winged Black Tern.



Australasian Shoveler, Little Egret, Pied Oystercatcher, Australian Hobby, Blue-billed Duck, Musk Duck, more Banded Stilts and Red-necked Avocets, the list goes on and on.

In the famous “crake pond” the water levels were perfect for us and we enjoyed close views of both Australian Spotted and Baillon’s Crake



A pair of Brolga were conveniently close to the road at one point too with the You Yangs behind them for photographic effect



And lurking in the grasses, sedges and reeds were Golden-headed Cisticolas, Little Grassbirds, Australian Reed Warblers, White-fronted Chats and Eurasian Skylarks amongst others. A Striated Fieldwren was our first and only for the tour, a localized endemic to the south so another good one to see before the inevitable good byes at the end of the tour.

And so the tour came to an end, I think we all could have kept going! Thanks to the group for your excellent camaraderie during this trip

BIRD LIST

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SUB SPECIES	1
Emu	Dromaius novaehollandiae		seen on 5 days, alps, mallee and inland plains
Malleefowl	Leipoa ocellata		4 seen, 2 roadside and a pair on a nest mound
Stubble Quail	Coturnix pectoralis		many seen on Hay plain
Brown Quail	Coturnix ypsilophora	australis Mainland ypsilophora Tasmanian	heard Winton wetlands
Blue-billed Duck	Oxyura australis		seen 3 of 12 days
Musk Duck	Biziura lobata		seen 3 of 12 days
Freckled Duck	Stictonetta naevosa		Many seen at Lake Lorne
Black Swan	Cygnus atratus		seen 7 of 12 days
Cape Barren Goose	Cereopsis novaehollandiae	novaehollandiae Eastern	Near Lara day 12
Australian Shelduck	Tadorna tadornoides		4 of 12 days, 10's of thousands at WTP
Maned Duck	Chenonetta jubata		seen 11 of 12 days
Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa	rogersi	seen 11 of 12 days
Australasian Shoveler	Anas rhynchotis	rynchotis Australian	Winton wetlands and WTP
Grey Teal	Anas gracilis		10 of 12 days
Chestnut Teal	Anas castanea		7 of 12 days
Pink-eared Duck	Malacorhynchus membranaceus		5 of 12 days, huge numbers at WTP
Hardhead	Aythya australis		7 of 12 days
Australasian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae	novaehollandiae Australian	6 of 12 days
Hoary-headed Grebe	Poliiocephalus poliocephalus		10 of 12 days - last year only one was seen
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	australis Australian	one sighting at Metung
Short-tailed Shearwater	Puffinus tenuirostris		seen from the Surf coast
Australasian Gannet	Morus serrator		seen from the Surf Coast

Australasian Darter	Anhinga novaehollandiae		seen 6 of 12 days
Little Pied Cormorant	Microcarbo melanoleucos	melanoleucos Australasian	seen 11 of 12 days
Black-faced Cormorant	Phalacrocorax fuscescens		2 sightings, Surf coast and Lakes Entrance
Australian Pied Cormorant (Pied Cormorant)	Phalacrocorax varius	hypoleucos Australian	seen on 3 days
Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris		7 of 12 days
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	novaehollandiae/carboides Australian	10 of 12 days
Australian Pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus		6 of 12 days
White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae		9 of 12 days
White-necked Heron (Pacific Heron)	Ardea pacifica		11 of 12 days
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	nigripes Australasian	one seen Winton wetlands another WTP
Great Egret	Ardea alba	modesta Eastern	7 of 12 days
Intermediate Egret	Egretta intermedia	intermedia Eastern	2 seen Moodie swamp
Eastern Cattle Egret (Cattle Egret)	Bubulcus coromandus	coromanda Eastern	2 sightings
Nankeen Night Heron	Nycticorax caledonicus	hilli Torresian	seen on 3 of 12 days
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus		one flock Winton wetlands
Australian White Ibis (Australian Ibis)	Threskiornis moluccus		10 of 12 days
Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis spinicollis		9 of 12 days
Royal Spoonbill	Platalea regia		3 of 12 days
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Platalea flavipes		5 of 12 days
Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus axillaris		7 of 12 days
Square-tailed Kite	Lophoictinia isura		fly by in Gippsland and 4 seen near Bendigo
Black Kite	Milvus migrans	affinis Torresian	3 of 12 days
Whistling Kite	Haliastur sphenurus		7 of 12 days
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster		2 sightings in Gippsland
Spotted Harrier	Circus assimilis		2 sightings on day 6
Swamp Harrier	Circus approximans		4 of 12 days
Brown Goshawk	Accipiter fasciatus	fasciatus Southern	4 of 12 days
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Aquila audax	audax Mainland	4 of 12 days
Little Eagle	Hieraaetus morphnoides	morphnoides Australian	3 sightings
Brown Falcon	Falco berigora	berigora Australian	6 of 12 days

Australian Hobby	Falco longipennis	longipennis Southern murchisonianus Inland	2 brief sightings
Black Falcon	Falco subniger		3 sightings inc a pair perched
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	macropus Australian	one flyby day 1
Nankeen Kestrel	Falco cenchroides	cenchroides Australasian	7 of 12 days
Brolga	Grus rubicunda		distant pair Moodie swamp, 4 at WTP
Buff-banded Rail	Gallirallus philippensis	mellori Australian	1 seen well near Sale
Baillon's Crake	Porzana pusilla	palustris Torresian	many at close range WTP
Australian Crake	Porzana fluminea		seen on 3 of 12 days
Spotless Crake	Porzana tabuensis	tabuensis/plumbea Australasian	heard WTP
Australasian Swamphen	Porphyrio melanotus	bellus/melanotus	6 of 12 days
Dusky Moorhen	Gallinula tenebrosa	tenebrosa Australian	8 of 12 days
Black-tailed Native-hen	Tribonyx ventralis		6 of 12 days
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	australis Australian	9 of 12 days
Little Button-quail	Turnix velox		flushed twice in the mallee, also seen Hay plain
Red-chested Button-quail	Turnix pyrrhothorax		a pair Hay plain
Painted Button-quail	Turnix varius	varia/varius Australian	2 or 3 seen near Maldon
Plains-wanderer	Pedionomus torquatus		3 or 4 seen Hay plain
Latham's Snipe	Gallinago hardwickii		some numbers seen on 3 of 12 days
Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa	melanuroides Eastern Siberian	2 WTP
Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lipponica	menzbieri Northern Siberian	Marlo and WTP
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis		seen near Kerang, Moolap saltworks and WTP
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia		WTP
Great Knot	Calidris tenuirostris		1 at WTP
Red Knot	Calidris canutus		1 at WTP
Red-necked Stint	Calidris ruficollis		WTP
Pectoral Sandpiper	Calidris melanotos		probable sighting WTP - flew off before scoped
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Calidris acuminata		seen at Breamlea and WTP
Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea		WTP
Pied Oystercatcher	Haematopus longirostris		2 sightings
Sooty Oystercatcher	Haematopus fuliginosus	fuliginosus Southern	one sighting Cape Conran
Pied Stilt	Himantopus leucocephalus		4 of 12 days
Banded Stilt	Cladorhynchus leucocephalus		3 of 12 days
Red-necked Avocet	Recurvirostra novaehollandiae		3 of 12 days

Red-capped Plover	Charadrius ruficapillus		distant view near Kerang
Black-fronted Dotterel	Elseyaornis melanops		6 of 12 days
Hooded Dotterel (Hooded Plover)	Thinornis rubricollis	rubricollis Eastern	one sighting Lakes Entrance
Red-kneed Dotterel	Erythrogonys cinctus		Winton wetlands and Hay plain
Banded Lapwing	Vanellus tricolor		Hay plain
Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles	novaehollandiae Southern	seen on 11 of 12 days
Australian Pratincole	Stiltia isabella		Hay plain
Parasitic Jaeger	Stercorarius parasiticus		1 guide only view Cape Conran
Pacific Gull	Larus pacificus	pacificus East Coast	seen in Gippsland
Silver Gull	Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae	novaehollandiae Australian	7 of 12 days
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia		2 sightings
Greater Crested Tern (Great Crested Tern)	Thalasseus bergii	cristatus Australasian	5 of 12 days
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida	javanicus Eastern	3 of 12 days
White-winged Tern	Chlidonias leucopteras		2 seen WTP
Rock Dove (Rock Pigeon)	Columba livia		7 of 12 days
White-headed Pigeon	Columba leucomela		3 seen at Marlo
Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis		6 of 12 days
Common Bronzewing	Phaps chalcoptera		8 of 12 days
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	lophotes Eastern	8 of 12 days
Peaceful Dove	Geopelia placida	placida Eastern	4 of 12 days
Wonga Pigeon	Leucosarcia melanoleuca		2 seen in flight only Gippsland
Top-knot Pigeon	Lopholaimus antarcticus		seen twice in Gippsland
Glossy Black-Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus lathami	lathami South-eastern	family of 3 seen near Lakes Entrance
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus funereus	funereus Eastern xanthonotus w.vic	one sighting Tarra Bulga
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Callocephalon fimbriatum		3 separate sightings
Galah	Eolophus roseicapilla	albiceps Eastern	Every Day Bird
Long-billed Corella	Cacatua tenuirostris		5 of 12 days
Little Corella	Cacatua sanguinea	gymnopsis Eastern	8 of 12 days
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (Pink Cockatoo)	Lophochroa leadbeateri	leadbeateri Eastern	brief but good views in Ouyen
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Cacatua galerita	galerita Eastern	11 of 12 days
Cockatiel	Nymphicus hollandicus		seen 3 or 4 times in the mallee, small flocks
Rainbow Lorikeet	Trichoglossus moluccanus	moluccanus Eastern	9 of 12 days

Musk Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>	concinna South-eastern	4 of 12 days
Little Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>		2 encounters, heard only
Australian King-Parrot	<i>Alisterus scapularis</i>	scapularis Southern Australian	recorded 5 of 12 days but only brief views
Superb Parrot	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>		brief sighting by one person
Regent Parrot	<i>Polytelis anthopeplus</i>	monarchoides Eastern	a few small flocks seen in the mallee
Crimson Rosella	<i>Platycercus elegans</i>	elegans South-eastern flaveolus Yellow	10 of 12 days, both ssp
Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>	eximius South-east	6 of 12 days
Australian Ringneck	<i>Barnardius zonarius</i>	barnardi Mallee	seen on 3 days in the mallee, one good view
Eastern Blue Bonnet	<i>Northiella haematogaster</i>	haematogaster South-eastern	4 of 12 days
Red-rumped Parrot	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>	haematonotus South-eastern	7 of 12 days
Mulga Parrot	<i>Psephotus varius</i>		seen well 2 days in mallee
Budgerigar	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>		a few flocks seen well in mallee over 2 days
Blue-winged Parrot	<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>		one at Hotham heights, others near Anglesea
Turquoise Parrot	<i>Neophema pulchella</i>		family group in Warby ranges
Pacific Koel	<i>Eudynamys orientalis</i>	cynocephalus South-east Eastern	heard only, on first three days
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>	flabelliformis Australian	recorded 5 of 12 days, 2 seen
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i>		just one heard in 12 days !
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>	plagosus Australian	2 good sightings in Gippsland
Barking Owl	<i>Ninox connivens</i>	connivens Southern	fmaily of 3 seen in NE Victoria
Australian Boobook	<i>Ninox boobook</i>	boobook South-eastern leucopsis Tasmanian	heard once
Greater Sooty Owl	<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>		one seen well in Gippsland
Eastern Barn Owl (Barn Owl)	<i>Tyto deliculata</i>	delicatula Australian	sightings on the Hay plain
Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>	strigoides coastal/"eastern" brachypterus inland/"western"	3 seen daytime Metung, one on Hay plain at night
White-throated Nightjar	<i>Eurostopodus mystacalis</i>	mystacalis "eastern"	one seen quite well Cape Conran
Australian Owlet-nightjar	<i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>	cristatus mainland	one seen daytime in Hattah
Azure Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx azureus</i>	azureus/azurea Southern	seen once Nowa Nowa
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	novaeguineae Southern	11 of 12 days

Red-backed Kingfisher	Todiramphus pyrrhopygius		one sighting near Ouyen
Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus	sanctus Australian	recorded 9 of 12 days
Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus		seen 4 of 12 days
Superb Lyrebird	Menura novaehollandiae	victoriae Southern	2 sightings
White-throated Treecreeper	Cormobates leucophaea	leucophaeus South-eastern	recorded 7 of 12 days
White-browed Treecreeper	Climacteris affinis	affinis Eastern	one sighting in the mallee
Red-browed Treecreeper	Climacteris erythroptus		one sighting in Gippsland
Brown Treecreeper	Climacteris picumnus	victoriae South-eastern picumnus North-Eastern (inland Vic)	7 of 12 days
Superb Fairy-wren	Malurus cyaneus	cyanochlamys Northern leggei South Australian/w.vic	10 of 12 days
Splendid Fairy-wren	Malurus splendens	melanotus Eastern	seen 3 days in the mallee
Purple-backed Fairy-wren	Malurus assimilis		2 good sightings in the mallee
White-winged Fairy-wren	Malurus leucopterus	leuconotus Mainland	brief sightings of brown birds day 6
Southern Emu-wren	Stipiturus malachurus	malachurus East coast polionotum Glenelg w.vic/grampians	male seen well Cape Conran
Mallee Emu-wren	Stipiturus mallee		2 seen briefly Hattah
Striated Grasswren	Amytornis striatus	striatus Sandplain	heard Hattah, guide only views
Spotted Pardalote	Pardalotus punctatus	punctatus Coastal xanthopyge Inland/nw vic	recorded 8 of 12 days
Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus	ornatus South-eastern/coastal substriatus Western/inland striatus Tasmanian	recorded 9 of 12 days
Rufous Bristlebird	Dasyornis broadbenti	caryochrous Otways broadbenti Coorong/swVic	elusive in strong winds, good views for most
Pilotbird	Pycnoptilus floccosus	sandlandi Lowland	only heard once
White-browed Scrubwren	Sericornis frontalis	frontalis South-eastern harterti Southern Mainland/otways/s.gipps	recorded 8 of 12 days
Large-billed Scrubwren	Sericornis magnirostra	magnirostra East Coast	one good sighting
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	Calamanthus pyrrhopygius	pyrrhopygius Eastern	one fair sighting for most
Shy Heathwren	Calamanthus cautus	cauta Eastern mallee	seen well near Hattah
Striated Fieldwren	Calamanthus fuliginosus	boumeorum Western/w.vic albiloris Eastern/e.vic	WTP

Speckled Warbler	<i>Pyrrholaemus sagittatus</i>		one seen Warby Ranges
Weebill	<i>Smicronis brevirostris</i>	<i>brevirostris</i> Eastern <i>occidentalis</i> Southern/nw vic	recorded 4 of 12 days
Brown Gerygone	<i>Gerygone mouki</i>	<i>richmondi</i> Southern	seen twice in Gippsland
Western Gerygone	<i>Gerygone fusca</i>	<i>exsul</i> Eastern woodlands	one good sighting in the Warby ranges
White-throated Gerygone	<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>	<i>olivacea</i> Eastern	one good sighting in the Warby Ranges
Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>	<i>pusilla</i> South-eastern	5 of 12 days
Inland Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza apicalis</i>	<i>apicalis</i> Southern/w.vic <i>albiventris</i> Southern Inland/central vic	e good sighting in the mallee
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i>		seen 3 days in the mallee
Buff-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza reguloides</i>	<i>reguloides</i> South-eastern <i>australis</i> South Australian(swVic)	one good sighting in the Warby Ranges
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	<i>leighi</i> South-eastern	5 of 12 days
Yellow Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza nana</i>	<i>modesta</i> Western	3 of 12 days
Striated Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza lineata</i>	<i>lineata</i> South-eastern <i>clelandi</i> South Australian/sw vic	just one good sighting
Southern Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	<i>leucopsis</i> South-east	one good sighting in the mallee
Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>	<i>carunculata</i> Eastern <i>woodwardi</i> Western/w.vic	11 of 12 days
Little Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>	<i>chrysoptera</i> South-eastern	3 days in Gippsland
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>		4 of 12 days
Striped Honeyeater	<i>Plectorhyncta</i>		recorded on 3 days in the mallee
Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>	<i>monachus</i> Southern	seen on 2 days
Little Friarbird	<i>Philemon citreogularis</i>	<i>citreogularis</i> Eastern	recorded on 3 days
Blue-faced Honeyeater	<i>Entomyzon cyanotis</i>	<i>cyanotis</i> Eastern	recorded on 4 days all brief views
Bell Miner	<i>Manorina melanophrys</i>		one good sighting in Gippsland
Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>	<i>melanocephala</i> Southern	9 of 12 days
Yellow-throated Miner	<i>Manorina flavigula</i>	<i>flavigula</i> Eastern	3 of 12 days
Lewin's Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga lewinii</i>	<i>lewinii</i> Southern	recorded for the first three days, one good sighting
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus chrysops</i>	<i>chrysops</i> South-eastern	6 of 12 days
Singing Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>	<i>sonorous</i> South-eastern	recorded 6 of 12 days

White-eared Honeyeater	Lichenostomus leucotis	leucotis South-eastern/coastal novaenorcae Western/inland	seen well, 3 of 12 days
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Lichenostomus melanops	meltoni Western/inland melanops Eastern/coastal cassidix Helmeted	seen in the Warby ranges and also near Maldon
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus ornatus		seen in Hattah
Fuscous Honeyeater	Lichenostomus fuscus	fuscus Southern	good views n the Warby ranges
White-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus penicillatus	penicillatus Eastern	6 of 12 days
Black-chinned Honeyeater	Melithreptus gularis	gularis South-eastern	one sighting at Bells swamp
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Melithreptus brevirostris	brevirostris South-eastern wombeyi Promontory/otways/wgipps pallidisceps Northern/nwvic	recorded on 3 days, only one decent sighting !
White-naped Honeyeater	Melithreptus lunatus	lunatus Eastern	one good sighting at Cape Conran
Painted Honeyeater	Grantiella picta		seen at Mt Korong
Crescent Honeyeater	Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus	pyrrhoptera Eastern	heard twice in Gippsland, Otways day washed out
New Holland Honeyeater	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae	novaehollandiae Eastern	6 of 12 days
White-fronted Honeyeater	Purnella albifrons		heard and seen by guide in mallee day 9
Eastern Spinebill	Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris	tenuirostris South-eastern	recorded 4 of 12 days
Scarlet Myzomela	Myzomela sanguinolenta	sanguinolenta Australian	good views near Lakes Entrance
White-fronted Chat	Epthianura albifrons		seen twice , most at WTP
Jacky Winter	Microeca fascinans	fascinans Eastern assimilis Southern/nw vic	2 sightings one nesting in the mallee
Red-capped Robin	Petroica goodenovii		females and juveniles seen Hattah and Timberoo
Flame Robin	Petroica phoenicia		guide only fly bys at Mt Hotham
Rose Robin	Petroica rosea		seen well twice
Pink Robin	Petroica rodinogaster	inexpectata Mainland	heard Tarra Bulga, rain stopped play in the Otways
Hooded Robin	Melanodryas cucullata	cucullata South-eastern	family group in Warby Ranges
Eastern Yellow Robin	Eopsaltria australis	australis South-eastern	recorded 8 of 12 days
Southern Scrub-robin	Drymodes brunneopygia		good sighting at Hattah
Grey-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus temporalis	temporalis Eastern	seen near Kerang

White-browed Babbler	Pomatostomus superciliosus	gilgandra Eastern superciliosus Southern/w.vic	seen on 3 days
Chestnut-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus ruficeps		seen in Hattah
Eastern Whipbird	Psophodes olivaceus	olivaceus South-east	seen on day one
Spotted Quail-thrush	Cinclosoma punctatum	punctatum Eastern	a pair seen near Lakes Entrance
Chestnut Quail-thrush	Cinclosoma castanotum	castanotus Eastern	good views at Hattah
Eastern Shrike-tit	Falcunculus frontatus	frontatus Eastern	recorded on 4 days, seen well
Crested Bellbird	Oreoica gutturalis	gutturalis Southern	good views at Hattah
Olive Whistler	Pachycephala olivacea	olivacea South-Eastern/e.vic bathychroa Promontory/otways hesperus Glenelg/sw.vic	heard day one, guide only views
Gilbert's Whistler	Pachycephala inornata		good views at Hattah and Timberoo
Australian Golden Whistler (Golden Whistler)	Pachycephala pectoralis	youngi South-eastern glaucara Tasmanian	recorded on 6 of 12 days
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	rufiventris Southern	recorded 9 of 12 days
Grey Shrike-thrush	Colluricincla harmonica	harmonica Eastern	recorded 9 of 12 days
Leaden Flycatcher	Myiagra rubecula	rubecula South-eastern	seen on 3 days in Gippsland and NE Vic
Satin Flycatcher	Myiagra cyanoleuca		seen on day one in West Gippsland
Restless Flycatcher	Myiagra inquieta	inquieta Southern	recorded on 3 of 12 days
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	cyanoleuca Southern	Every Day Bird
Rufous Fantail	Rhipidura rufifrons	rufifrons Southern	seen day two near Lakes Entrance
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura albiscapa	alisteri South-eastern albiscapa Tasmanian	recorded 7 of 12 days
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	leucophrys Southern	recorded 11 of 12 days
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	melanops Mainland novaehollandiae Tasmanian	recorded 9 of 12 days
White-winged Triller	Lalage tricolor		recorded 6 of 12 days including in Gippsland
Australasian Figbird	Sphecotheres vieilotti	vieilotti	one guide only sighting at Metung
Olive-backed Oriole	Oriolus sagittatus	sagittatus Eastern	heard on five days, seen well once
White-breasted Woodswallow	Artamus leucorhynchus	leucopygialis Torresian	seen in Ouyen
Masked Woodswallow	Artamus personatus		seen at Hattah

White-browed Woodswallow	Artamus superciliosus		good numbers in the mallee over 4 days
Black-faced Woodswallow	Artamus cinereus	melanops Inland	seen on the Hay plain
Dusky Woodswallow	Artamus cyanopterus	cyanopterus Eastern	seen 4 of 12 days
Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus	leucopterus Inland torquatus South-eastern/coastal	recorded 4 of 12 days
Pied Butcherbird	Cracticus nigrogularis	nigogularis Eastern	seen 4 of 12 days
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	terraereginae Eastern/inland tyrannica Southern Victoria	Every Day Bird
Pied Currawong	Strepera graculina	nebulosa South-eastern ashbyi Western Victorian	recorded 7 of 12 days
Grey Currawong	Strepera versicolor	versicolour South-eastern/inc Grampians melanoptera w.vic, Little Desert to coast/Otways	recorded on 4 days, only flight views
Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides	coronoides Eastern	confirmed by call/sight 7 of 12 days
Little Raven	Corvus mellori		confirmed by call/sight 10 of 12 days
White-winged Chough	Corcorax melanoramphos	melanoramphos Eastern	seen 7 of 12 days
Apostlebird	Struthidea cinerea	cinerea Southern	one sighting at Hattah
Satin Bowerbird	Ptilonorhynchus violaceus	violaceus Southern	seen/heard the first three days in Gippsland
Singing Bush Lark (Australasian Bushlark)	Mirafra javanica	horsfieldii Eastern	seen on the Hay plain
Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis	arvensis European	seen at WTP
Australian Pipit (Australasian Pipit)	Anthus australis	australis Central bistriatus Tasmanian	seen on two days
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	domesticus European	10 of 12 days
Red-browed Finch (Red-browed Firetail)	Neochmia temporalis	temporalis Southern	seen on 3 days
Diamond Firetail	Stagonopleura guttata		seen well in the Warby Ranges and Mt Korong
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris		heard and briefly seen day 12
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	britannica British	brief sightings on 2 days
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	hirundinaceum Australian	just two brief sightings, also heard
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena	neoxena Eastern	11 of 12 days
Tree Martin	Petrochelidon nigricans	neglecta Mainland nigricans Tasmanian	seen 6 of 12 days
Fairy Martin	Petrochelidon ariel		seen 4 of 12 days
Australian Reed-Warbler	Acrocephalus australis	australis Eastern	recorded 7 of 12 days

Little Grassbird	Poodytes gramineus	goulburni Eastern gramineus Tasmanian	heard on 3 days, seen well day 12
Rufous Songlark	Cincloramphus mathewsi		recorded 6 of 12 days
Brown Songlark	Cincloramphus cruralis		seen on Hay plain, also heard
Golden-headed Cisticola	Cisticola exilis	exilis South-eastern	best views day 12 at WTP
Silvereye	Zosterops lateralis	lateralis Tasmanian pinarochrous South Australian/w and nw vic westernensis South- eastern/central and e.vic	recorded 7 of 12 days
Bassian Thrush	Zoothera lunulata	lunulata South-eastern	flew across the road day 1
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	merula European	10 of 12 days
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris		Every Day Bird
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	tristis Indian	9 of 12 days

MAMMAL LIST

Koala, Short-beaked Echidna, Krefft's Glider, Feathertail Glider, Common Brushtail Possum
Common Ringtail Possum, Mountain Brushtail Possum, Long-nosed Bandicoot,
Western Grey Kangaroo, Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Red Kangaroo, Rakali (Water Rat)
Swamp Wallaby, Grey-headed Flying Fox, Australian Fur Seal, Burrunan (Bottlenose) Dolphin,
European Hare, European Rabbit, Feral Cat, House Mouse,

REPTILE LIST

Lace Monitor, Yellow-bellied Water Skink, Regal Striped Skink, Murray River Turtle, Stumpy-
tail Lizard, Eastern Bearded Dragon, Southern Mallee Sand Dragon, Red-bellied Black Snake,
Eastern Brown Snake, Ragged Snake-eyed Skink, Garden Skink,

BUTTERFLY LIST

Cabbage White, Australian painted Lady, Yellow Admiral, Common Blue, Saltbush Blue,
Macleays Swallowtail, Dainty Swallowtail, Meadow Argus, Montane Ochre, Spotted Jezebel,
Common Brown,

FROG LIST

Crucifix Frog, Spotted Marsh Frog, Common Spadefoot (Sudells Frog), Giant Banjo Frog,

ALSO

Caladenia alpine (Mountain Caps) – an orchid

Utricularia multifida (Fairies Aprons) – a carnivorous plant