TRIP REPORT: EASTERN AUSTRALIA, TOP TO BOTTOM

DATES: 13-31 OCTOBER 2010

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The Tropical Birding Eastern Australia trip is an epic adventure. The birds in Australia are spectacular in every sense but they are very spread out, and to get as many of them as possible requires a lot of travel. It can be tough, but it pays dividends when birds like Emu, Superb Parrot, Regent Bowerbird, Plains-Wanderer, Paradise Riflebird, Painted Honeyeater and Pink Robin are finding their way into your bins! This year things were made even more testing. An early wet season in north Queensland and large amounts of rain in New South Wales had the effect of dispersing the birds and making them more difficult to find. Additionally, some of those inland birds which had been recorded on this trip over the past few years as drought pushed them to the coast were now retreating inland to the deserts to breed. Still, we set off from Cairns with high hopes to see what we could find, and we weren’t disappointed!

The beautiful Galah is one of the most common birds in south-eastern Australia, with flocks of this beautiful pink and grey cockatoo a regular sight on the tour.
Day 1: Wednesday, 13th October 2010 – Arrival in Cairns

The tour began at 3pm, and our first trip was to Centenary Lakes in the city of Cairns. None of the group had birded Australia before, so this was an ideal location to ease ourselves into the action with some regular local birds.

The liquid call of a Green Oriole was the first sound to greet us as we stepped off the bus, and we soon had everyone onto their first lifer for the trip. As we worked our way through the grounds we picked up a Black Butcherbird with his menacing bill, and a flowering eucalypt gave us our first chance to admire some of Australia’s famous parrots, as we picked up both Rainbow Lorikeets and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets in the ‘scope. While getting through some of the common species, we also made some good finds around the lake. An immature Rufous Night-Heron was roosting cryptically in a melaleuca, and a female Cicadabird provided good views as she foraged surprisingly low in a nearby tree. A common bird by voice, the Cicadabird can be difficult to see, so we were happy to get this one in the bag!

We left the lakes and made a quick stop at the Cairns Cemetery (we know all the best places to take tourists!), where the hoped for Bush Thick-knees immediately showed themselves. A Double-eyed Fig-Parrot was a bonus here, seen perched instead of rocketing by like a little green missile as usual. We left the cemetery and headed for the world famous Cairns Esplanade for some wader watching, where unfortunately the tide and some inconsiderate locals made birding difficult. Still, we picked up a few of the common waders, and would have a chance to return later in the tour for a better crack.

Our final twitch for the night was an unsuccessful attempt at Rufous Owl, but nonetheless we had got off to a flying start, and with nearly everything being a lifer, we were all happy.

Day 2: Thursday, 14th October 2010 – Michaelmas Cay to Mareeba

Our cruise out to the Great Barrier Reef is one of the most popular days on the tour. Unfortunately, we rose to find the rain pouring and not a ray of sunshine in sight. Still, at
7:30am we were cruising out of Cairns Harbour on our way to Michaelmas Cay, hoping to get some seabirds on our list and do some snorkelling on the reef. The trip out took a little over an hour, and while the rain didn’t stop, we still came across a few terns as we approached the cay. We made our way ashore in rubber dinghies, and it was only minutes after arriving on the sand that the rain started to abate, before stopping completely and making conditions ideal.

We were immediately confronted with thousands of nesting seabirds, all allowing extremely close approach. The most obvious residents were the Brown Noddies, many on eggs, and the Sooty Terns which seemed to have chicks in various stages of development. Standing sentinel over the colony were a few Great Frigatebirds, perched regally on some dead snags around the island. We sorted through the terns and managed to pick out a pair of Bridled Terns and a single Black Noddy, while peering skyward revealed an unexpected reward, an overflying Red-footed Booby! We spent a successful couple of hours on the island and were able to pick out amongst others, Black-naped Terns, Roseate Terns and for a few lucky birders, a lone Lesser Frigatebird.

With our seabird list nearly full we reluctantly left the island, and boarded our boat for a delicious buffet lunch, before getting on our way to Hastings Reef. Here, our sole aim for the afternoon would be to enjoy the Great Barrier Reef. For those feeling intrepid there were some amazing snorkelling opportunities, while for those who didn’t want to get wet, a glass-bottomed boat provided a comfortable way to view the kaleidoscope of fish and coral that hide just below the surface. Our reef viewing complete, we boarded the boat again for the couple of hours back to Cairns, where instead of being beautiful and sunny as it had been on the reef, we entered a gloomy overcast.

After jumping into our bus back at the harbour we set off for Mareeba, our home base for the next couple of days. We had time for a quick stop at Yorkey’s Knob, where we picked up Chestnut-breasted Munia and Crimson Finch, as well as a Tawny Grassbird. From there it was the express service to Mareeba, where after a delicious dinner at the local bistro we were all happy to flop into bed with a big day behind us.

Day 3: Friday, 15th October 2010 – The southern Atherton Tableland

After focussing on seabirds yesterday, today we were really getting into it. Our first stop was Bromfield Swamp at dawn, where we added the impressive Sarus Crane and Brolga to our list. We then moved on to our first patch of highland rainforest, Mt Hypipamee. Our ears were immediately assaulted by the loud ‘whip-crack!’ of the elusive Eastern Whipbird, while Grey-headed Robin and Bridled Honeyeater both proved more easy to see. We birded the access road and steadily piled on the lifers, with the star being a male Victoria’s Riflebird, executing his spectacular display in the gloom of the forest. Some non-bird highlights
included a few impressive Cairns Birdwing butterflies, the largest in Australia, and a cute Red-legged Pademelon, a type of miniature kangaroo which bounded across the road.

We left Hypipamee and had time for a stop at Hasties’ Swamp, where we picked up some of the local waterfowl. We managed to find both Plumed and Wandering Whistling-Ducks, while a pair of Glossy Ibis foraged on the shoreline, and an amazing electric blue Ulysses Swallowtail butterfly danced around our heads. In the nearby fields we picked up our first Black Kites, as well as a Golden-headed Cisticola. After an excellent morning, we left Hasties’ and made our way into Atherton for lunch.

Following a deserved break we headed for the Curtain Fig Tree, a small reserve near Yungaburra which would prove to be very productive. After a slow start we soon had our first rainforest pigeons, a spectacular pair of Wompoo Fruit-Doves. We could hear Superb Fruit-Doves calling, but just couldn’t find them in the canopy. We did get Pied Monarch, Bower’s Shrike-Thrush and Pale-yellow Robin though, and finished off with a beautiful Pacific Baza as we got to the car park.

After Curtain Fig we made a short stop at Lake Barrine, our final rainforest birding for the day. We were able to pick up a few new ones here, with the highlight being several Tooth-billed Catbirds, calling incessantly from their leaf adorned stages. We also got good views of a Spotted Catbird which we had been unable to see well until that point, and a dapper little Spectacled Monarch in the undergrowth was a crowd favourite. We left Lake Barrine to return to Mareeba, making one final stop at Davies Creek, where we saw White-browed Robin and our first Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-Shrike, another bird which can be tough. On that note we had called it a day and were winding down on our way to the motel, before we spied a stately Australian Bustard strolling across an open paddock. Screeching to a halt, we made a quick stop to admire him, and a nearby pair of Pheasant Coucals, before getting back to Mareeba where we ended another successful day.
Day 4: Saturday, 16th October 2010 – Mareeba to Cassowary House

We were up early again, as we made our way up to the northern end of the Atherton Tableland, trying for some dry country specialties. Hurricane Road which is about twenty kilometres past Mount Carbine was our destination, and after breakfast in the field we started birding this road. We quickly picked up some of the more common species like *Pied Butcherbird* and *Great Bowerbird*, including a bower that was under construction in a dry creek bed. We found the northern race of *Brown Treecreeper*, as well as a couple of new parrots; *Pale-headed Rosella*, and the gaudy *Red-winged Parrot*. We also got good views of a pair of *Channel-billed Cuckoos*, huge birds with toucan like bills.

After some searching we eventually came across a party of about fourteen *Squatter Pigeons*, one of our targets here, and from the bus were able to get very close and take some excellent photos. We rounded out our dry-country list with Australia’s smallest bird, *Weebill*, and a small party of *Grey-crowned Babblers*.

We found a group of fourteen *Squatter Pigeons* in the dry open woodland on Hurricane Road, at the northern end of the Atherton Tableland.

We left Hurricane Road for Mount Molloy, where we birded a couple of different locations in between showers of rain. We found a very obliging Frill-necked Lizard on Wessell Road, along with our only party of *Varied Sitellas* for the trip. We had lunch in Mount Molloy before heading to Carr Road near Julatten, where we had immediate success tracking down a *Yellow-breasted Boatbill*. We also heard *Noisy Pitta*, and got great views of a *Pied*
Monarch foraging right in front of us. We left Carr Road in the rain again and continued south, making a quick stop beside Lake Mitchell for Black-necked Stork, plus a selection of other more common waterbirds. An Australian Hobby near Biboohra was a good find, before we made it to Mareeba and packed up the bus.

Our next stop was the famous Cassowary House, where unfortunately we had to settle for the verandah, with torrential rain keeping us from birding. Still the occasional Macleay’s Honeyeater and Helmeted Friarbird at the feeders kept us interested. Finally the rain let up enough for us to get out to Black Mountain Road where there wasn’t a lot of activity, but a few things to add to the day list. We then heard the dogs barking back at the house, and when my phone rang, it confirmed our suspicions that a Southern Cassowary had arrived. We bolted for the house, arriving to find a magnificent female, completely ambivalent to our presence just a few feet away. We admired this fantastic bird for what seemed like hours, before she melted away into the forest, leaving us to enjoy dinner then head to bed.

Day 5: Sunday, 17th October 2010 – Cassowary House to the Daintree

We were up early to bird Black Mountain Road again, and after a frustrating start we ended up with some success. We finally got brief views of a Superb Fruit-Dove, after being forced to listen to them call all around us throughout the morning. We also had incredible views of a Grey Goshawk, preening in the crown of a tree. We picked up a few of the common birds eluding us so far, before heading back to

The pucker factor was high as this male Southern Cassowary and his three chicks walked past within metres of us. Check out the size of those incredible feet!
the house where we ran into the male cassowary with his three inquisitive chicks. Keeping an eye on that incredible elongated claw, we watched him sidle past unconcerned. We tucked into a delicious breakfast while watching the comings and goings from the feeding station, including Victoria’s Riflebird, Black Butcherbird and Spotted Catbird; none of these new, but all impressive birds so close up.

We regretfully left Cassowary House and made our way to Daintree and Red Mill House, our stopover for the night. On arrival we received some exciting news. Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfishers had just started to arrive, and were being seen at Jindalba just up the coast! These birds migrate to north-eastern Queensland to breed from New Guinea and usually don’t arrive until early November. They have never been recorded on the Eastern Australia trip before because it runs in October, so we immediately made the decision to go for them that afternoon.

We left straight after lunch, making a quick stop for Lovely Fairywren on the way, and getting to Jindalba boardwalk on the northern side of the Daintree River with plenty of time to search. It turned out we didn’t need that much time, as within ten minutes we had heard the kingfishers, and within another ten we had all had ‘scope views of this incredible beauty, the Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, an absolute bonus for the trip!

After a successful day we made our way back to Red Mill House, deciding at the last minute to make a final detour along the way for Beach Thick-knee. It was high tide, and as we walked down on to the beach I was not confident until one of the group called ‘three Willets flying away!’ When you are not familiar with a bird, you revert to what you know, and the Beach Thick-knee’s upperwing

Surprise bird of the tour was this Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, an early arriving migrant.

At our last stop for Beach Thick-knee we were lucky to find a trio of this elusive species.
pattern is not dissimilar to that of the Willet. Ecstatic at finding this difficult bird, we were soon being treated to ‘scope views of a party of three birds at close range. The day complete, we continued to Red Mill House where under the supervision of owners Andrew and Trish Forsyth we had a fantastic meal, even celebrating a spectacular few days of birding with a beer or three!

Day 6: Monday, 18th October 2010 – The Daintree to Mareeba

Typically one of the highlights of this tour is the early morning Daintree River boat cruise, and this was to be no exception. We got underway at 6:30am, cruising down Barratt Creek, and within minutes of leaving the dock had an enormous Great-billed Heron giving its guttural grunting call only metres above our heads. Incredibly we would go on to see three more of these very rare birds along the river! Next we had the beautiful little Shining Flycatcher, before we hit the main river and soon found our first nesting Papuan Frogmouth, cryptically peering at us through its ever-so-slightly opened eye. As we continued up the river we spied an Estuarine Crocodile resting on the bank, while an impressive White-bellied Sea-Eagle soared overhead. Our eagle-eyed captain Glen spotted a Black Bittern in the riverside foliage which we all managed to see. Unfortunately not everyone was quick enough to get onto the next bird, a tiny Azure Kingfisher which true to form, streaked past the boat like a miniature blue exocet missile. We completed the boat trip with one last target bird as we approached the dock, a Large-billed Gerygone.

We returned to Red Mill House where Trish had prepared a delicious breakfast, before getting on our way to Mount Lewis. This major birding destination had been inaccessible the
previous week due to rain, but Andrew’s information suggested we should be able to get up there now. We made it easily, and our persistence paid dividends as we were finally able to track down a very shy Fernwren, and two parties of Chowchillas, including one very vocal group of three birds which gave great views in the gloomy forest.

We left Mount Lewis very pleased with ourselves, and had lunch at Mount Molloy before birding Sides Road. We added a few new ones here, but nothing very exciting, before moving on to Lake Mitchell where we spent a good couple of hours. By this stage we had most of the specialty birds, so we used the spare time to mop up some of the species we had simply not connected with to this point such as Blue-winged Kookaburra, Brush Cuckoo and Double-barred Finch. With an excellent but long day of birding complete, we were happy to head for Mareeba, where we again enjoyed dinner and a few beers while tallying our impressive total for the day.

Day 7: Tuesday, 19th October 2010 – Mareeba to Cairns

Our plan was to spend today mopping up the species we had missed as we criss-crossed the Wet Tropics over the past six days. We planned a tight schedule which got off to a flying start as we scored Northern Fantail within seconds of leaving the bus at Abbatoir Swamp. Unfortunately we then had to spend an unplanned hour in the car park because the van’s auto-lock mechanism worked perfectly, the problem being that some idiot (me) had left the keys on the front seat! It wasn’t a waste though. While waiting to be rescued we picked up Scarlet Honeyeater and found the fantail’s delicate wineglass shaped nest.

Before we knew it we were back on the road and on our way to Longlands Gap where our target was Golden Bowerbird. A local guide had found us a bower, and
This female Platypus was foraging in broad daylight only metres from the bank!

although we had to wait nearly an hour, it didn’t disappoint as we all got good views of the male Golden Bowerbird. Dragging ourselves away, our next stop was at Tarzali Lakes, not for a bird, but for an Australian icon; the Platypus. Here they have a lake which has the highest density of Platypuses (Platypi?) known in the world, and what’s more, they can easily be seen foraging during the day. They put on quite a show, and we got to see two female Platypuses foraging within a few metres of the bank.

We left the lakes and after lunch made our way down off the tableland. We stopped briefly for White-cheeked Honeyeater near Lake Tinaroo, then Noisy Pitta at Goldsborough Valley, before heading for the Cairns Esplanade where the waders were cooperatively roosting only metres away. We were able to directly compare Lesser and Greater Sand-Plovers, Curlew Sandpipers, Great Knots, and many more; we were even able to pick out a loan Broad-billed Sandpiper huddled in the flock. After the waders departed on the incoming tide we made a quick stop at the Cairns Mangrove Boardwalk for Collared Kingfisher, before scoring our last bird for the Wet Tropics, Nutmeg Mannikin at Yorkey’s Knob. So ended a very successful first leg of the trip.

Day 8: Wednesday, 20th October 2010 – Cairns to Brisbane

Instead of birding, this morning saw us heading off to the airport to catch our early morning flight to Brisbane. We arrived around 8:30am, and after a quick stop for breakfast we were straight into the birding. Some mangroves near the airport were our first destination, where after a short break for a rain shower we soon had our targets, Mangrove Gerygone and Mangrove Honeyeater. A couple of bonus birds were Striped Honeyeater, and better views of Collared Kingfisher than yesterday. Our next stop was Daisy Hill, where in between continuing rain showers we managed to see a Square-tailed Kite peering at us over the rim of its nest, far up in a eucalypt.
After a quick stop in Canungra for lunch we made the drive up nearby Mount Tamborine, hoping for Albert’s Lyrebird. Unfortunately we drew a blank, so drove down of the mountain and made a steady climb up the Macpherson Range towards the famous O’Reilly’s Guesthouse. We caught a few birds on the way, including Wonga Pigeon and Russet-tailed Thrush, as well as a new mammal tick, a Whiptail Wallaby.

We arrived just on dusk, and after settling in to our rooms then enjoying a three-course meal, headed off owling. Our first target was the range restricted and elusive Marbled Frogmouth. We thought we were in luck, when we heard a bird calling immediately, but even some judicious use of playback couldn’t induce the bird to show itself. We had the same luck with a Southern Boobook, which unfortunately called, but wouldn’t come out! So, with two new heard birds on the list we closed the curtain on a very long day, and happily headed off to bed.

Day 9: Thursday, 21st October 2010 – O’Reilly’s and Lamington National Park

We were back into the birding this morning, having our first crack at the rainforests of south-east Queensland’s scenic rim. We hadn’t even hit the trail before we had our first views of the magnificent male Regent Bowerbird, colourful Crimson Rosellas, and the impressive Australian King-Parrot. We made our way out onto the trail, with not much time to

Some people rate the incredible male Regent Bowerbird as one of Australia’s most beautiful, and it’s hard to argue!
stop for birds as we made top speed for an Albert’s Lyrebird stakeout. When we arrived we found a section of the track closed, and of course we could hear the male lyrebird in full song, tantalisingly near down the closed section! Still we managed to get onto some great birds. **Southern Logrunners** were working the forest floor like little wind-up toys, and a **Rose Robin** called and flitted above us. A young male **Paradise Riflebird** practised his display in the canopy, while a vocal **Noisy Pitta** perched high up in a tree, eventually giving good views after we had to search for him. As we returned to the lodge for breakfast, a lyrebird called from just off the track. Although we all strained to see him, only a couple of us were lucky enough to see a male **Albert’s Lyrebird** fleeing through the undergrowth.

Back at O’Reilly’s we enjoyed a full breakfast spread, before heading back out on the trails again. An **Australian Owlet-Nightjar** perched at the entrance to its day roost was very obliging, and we also got to enjoy some of the more common species such as **Yellow-throated** and **White-browed Scrubwrens** as they foraged at our feet. We even managed to see a **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**, whose incessant calling had accompanied us from northern Queensland.

After stopping for lunch we made our way out onto the Duck Creek Road. This road steadily descends off the Lamington plateau, passing through a variety of drier habitats, so we spent the afternoon birding our way to the bottom. We had a few targets and picked up most of them, including **Bell Miner** and **White-naped Honeyeater**. We also got a couple of added bonuses; a nesting **Tawny Frogmouth**, and incredibly, a Koala climbing up a tall eucalypt. As I pointed out to everyone, even more special than seeing a Koala, is actually seeing a Koala move! He quickly resumed his usual position, sleepily wedged into the fork of a tree, waiting to digest his lunch.
Our birding for the daylight hours complete, we went back to the lodge for dinner before heading out again owling, this time with more success. We went back to our frogmouth stakeout where we found a trail into the forest. This time the bird was calling, but also flying around over our heads, where we could see a large dark shape moving around above us. Finally, the bird landed right above our heads, an amazing Marbled Frogmouth, giving killer views before slipping away silently into the night once more. Elated, we decided to call it a night and head to bed.

**Day 10: Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010 – Brisbane to Sydney**

For our final morning in Queensland we returned to Duck Creek Road trying to hunt down a couple of last birds. This time the Red-browed Treecreeper obliged, as we got good views of a pair. Our next target was a little trickier. After spending about thirty minutes searching for Spotted Quail-Thrush, we had abandoned hope, when on the way back to the car we accidentally flushed a lone bird. Unfortunately it fled into some long grass, so we spent another twenty minutes trying to hunt it down, finally spotting the bird some distance away sheltering under a fallen tree. Trying to edge closer frightened the bird away again, but on moving to where it was last seen, we were surprised to see it fly back up the steep slope towards us, and perch on top of a rock in long grass! After a frantic thirty seconds trying to get everyone onto it, only two people were able to see this little beauty, but just when it looked like the bird was going to head off for the last time it relented and flew up into a nearby tree. We all got crippling views of this delicately patterned bird.

Our mission here complete we went back to O’Reilly’s where there was time for one last turn on the trails. We scored an impressive male Paradise Riflebird and better views of Green Catbird than we’d had to that point, but made no further additions to our list. We had breakfast then left the mountain, making one final but ultimately unsuccessful attempt for the Albert’s Lyrebird on Mount Tamborine. Next stop was the airport where we flew out for Sydney to commence the New South Wales leg of our trip.

**Day 11: Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2010 – Capertee Valley to Forbes**

After a late night drive to our hotel at Lithgow, followed by an early start to make it to the famous Capertee Valley, we were ready for some spectacular birding, and the valley didn’t disappoint. We were getting into some completely different habitats than we had seen thus far, and within minutes of breakfast we were piling on the ticks. Fuscous and Black-chinned Honeyeaters were obliging, and a Horsfield’s Bronze-Cuckoo also came to say hello. As we birded the main road in the valley we picked up a few new parrots; the colourful Eastern Rosella, the common Red-rumped Parrot, a crowd favourite, and also the Little Lorikeet.
We also picked up a few new finches, with perhaps the favourite being the exquisite little Diamond Firetail.

We spent an easy morning birding throughout the valley, continually adding new birds. While our target, the Regent Honeyeater, eluded us we still picked up some good birds typical of the drier habitat west of the Dividing Range. A pair of cryptic Painted Buttonquail scurrying through the undergrowth and a small group of boisterous White-browed Babblers eventually gave good views. Our final new bird for the morning was a Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, which after much effort finally showed well.

Leaving the valley, we made our way to Forbes, our stop for the night. Having birded longer in the Capertee than we expected we were a little late, and this was compounded by the birds we kept finding along the way. A small dam with White-eyed Duck and Australian Shelduck was followed by a fly-by from perhaps this author’s favourite Australian bird, the stunning Superb Parrot. We jumped out hoping for better views, and when it looked like we were out of luck, a pair of these streamlined green torpedoes landed right near us and posed for photos. Does it get any better? I think not.

Day 12: Sunday, 24th October 2010 – Forbes to Lake Cargelligo

Backyamma State Forest just outside Forbes was our destination this morning, and we all enjoyed a relative sleep-in, as it was only a ten minute drive to our first birding stop. We continued to work our way through the birds, with a pretty male Red-capped Robin being the first of many. We also picked up some new parrots, with fleeting views of a pair of Blue Bonnets, and perhaps the prize of the morning, a nesting Tawny Frogmouth, just above the trail. Another fantastic bird was the Crested Shrike-Tit, which responded very well to a whistled imitation of its mournful contact call and came in to investigate.

We unfortunately had to leave Backyamma behind, to head for our next stop, Gum Swamp. Our first real wetland for this leg of the tour, it didn’t disappoint. We soon completed the
trio of Australian grebes, with a dainty Hoary-headed Grebe close to the shore, and the sometimes elusive Pink-eared Ducks seemed to be everywhere, many with ducklings in tow. Perhaps the most difficult bird was the Blue-billed Duck; they would keep diving every time we got one in the ‘scope! Eventually though everyone had good views of this special little duck.

We left the swamp behind and got on our way to Lake Cargelligo. We were really hitting the inland now, and the birds were changing. Our first Spotted Harrier coursing low over the fields was a good sighting, and a sign we had reached the dry interior. After checking into our motel and having a short rest, we made straight for Lake Cargelligo’s sewage treatment plant. A small oasis, the plant turned into a birding hotspot as we added White-winged Fairywren, Red-kneed Dotterel, Little Grassbird and Baillon’s Crake to the list in quick succession.

We left the waterbirds behind and made a dash for Round Hill Nature Reserve, our real reason for visiting this part of the state. Round Hill is a large swathe of mallee habitat, a vegetation type that reaches its eastern most point here, and consequently, so do a raft of specialist species. We would be back here in the morning, but these mallee birds can be shy, so we were keen to get a few under our belt straight away.

It proved to be a good decision. Within an hour of arriving we had bagged the very shy Southern Scrub-Robin, incredibly having a bird bouncing around at our feet, as well as White-fronted Honeyeater, the not-so-shy Shy Heathwren, and that little jewel of the outback, the Splendid Fairywren. We had intended to stay until dark to spotlight some Spotted

Watching us through narrow slits, we were lucky to see this cryptically patterned Tawny Frogmouth.

The amazing Splendid Fairywren is a little blue jewel in the Australian outback.
Nightjars, but when we flushed a pair up of the ground, we earned ourselves an early bedtime! Dinner in the mallee at sunset was a special way to finish a special day.

Day 13: Monday, 25th October 2010 – Round Hill to Leeton

A foggy sunrise found us back in the mallee, but unfortunately our luck didn’t hold. Yesterday it seemed that the birds had been jumping out at us, while this morning we had to work for everything. Crested Bellbirds were calling all around us but wouldn’t show, and it was only after hours of effort that we got fleeting glimpses of Gilbert’s Whistler. We stalked, crept, crawled and crouched trying to get glimpses of Chestnut Quail-Thrush, but they simply wouldn’t come out, continuously calling from just beyond sight. We did come across a pair of Mallee Ringnecks though, another of Australia’s beautiful parrots, and got better views of some of the birds we’d seen yesterday. Finally, when we thought we’d have to give up, a Chestnut Quail-Thrush responded to our tape, flying straight in and wandering around on the ground to the constant sound of camera shutters and ‘oohs’ and ‘aahs’ from the gallery!

We left the mallee behind and headed for a nearby patch of mulga, a more open habitat with different birds. We had immediate success, with good views of White-winged Triller, more Mallee Ringnecks and a pair of Mulga Parrots. The highlight though came as we rounded a tree, only to spy two enormous......

Emus! Clearly puzzled they stared at us, and then even approached to within fifteen metres before realising what we were and fleeing, their comical gait with its high knee lifts making everyone laugh.

We reluctantly left Round Hill behind and returned to Lake Cargelligo, where we stopped for lunch before moving on to Leeton. On leaving town a large, sleek raptor sent us flying out of the car, and rightly so; it would be our only Black Falcon for the trip. A couple of hours later we arrived in Leeton, quickly making our way out to the local wetland, Fivebough Swamp. Unfortunately the wet conditions had changed things considerably. Not only did we have to
wade through knee deep water at times, but the birds had dispersed as well. Still we were able to see most of what we had come for. A lone Red-necked Avocet was new for the list (usually there would be many more), as was a pair of Swamp Harriers cruising about. We heard Spotless Crakes but there were no muddy edges to try and entice them onto, so we finally called it quits at the end of another long and bird-filled day.

Day 14: Tuesday, 26th October 2010 – Leeton to Hay

This morning was to be a big day for the tour, as we made our way out to Binya State Forest on our quest to find the rare and elusive Painted Honeyeater. They had been absent on a trip a few weeks earlier, and we were concerned the rain had perhaps sent the birds elsewhere this year. While eating breakfast though, we heard the unmistakable high pitched ‘tor – teee, tor – teee’ of a singing Painted Honeyeater, so dropped our cornflakes and charged off into the scrub. The bird never called again, unusual behaviour for this normally vocal bird. We finished our breakfast and then started wandering through the dry woodland with our ears straining to pick up that call again.

This Painted Honeyeater was the first in an avalanche of fantastic birds we saw in Binya State Forest.

We approached a clearing, and thought we could make out the faint call again. We couldn’t see the bird though, until a shout of ‘Painted Honeyeater!’ rang out as we saw a bird flying high overhead. Fortunately this one came plummeting down to a whistled imitation of his
call, perched just above our heads, then started singing its heart out. We soaked up this
enigmatc bird as it gave crippling views, and it turned out to be a sign of things to come. We
had just began perhaps the best session of birding for the trip! Within the next hour we had
amazing views of some very difficult birds; Speckled Warblers, a Black-eared Cuckoo,
MulgaParrots and then a trio of Pink Cockatoos flying past so close we could touch them.
What a way to finish the morning. After we had picked up our last target, Southern
Whiteface, we gave ourselves an early mark and went in to Griffith for some morning tea.

We had to drive a couple of hours after lunch to our next birding stop, and as we crossed
the flat and desolate Hay Plains we kept our eyes peeled. We picked up a couple more Emus
and some distant Black-tailed Native-Hens, but not much else. On arrival at Hay we checked
in, then got on our way south towards Booroobin. There we met local guide Phil Maher,
who was taking us out see Plains-Wanderer. He had a couple of other stakeouts for us
though, and before dark we had added Ground Cuckoo-Shrike and Chestnut-crowned
Babbler to our list, both excellent birds.

As night fell we loaded into some four-wheel drives to start our
search for the secretive Plains-Wanderer. This very shy quail-like
bird, actually an aberrant wader,
has very particular habitat
requirements. It is restricted to
grasslands of a specific height,
structure and density. With much of
Australia’s native grasslands
destroyed for grazing, this gorgeous
little bird is now restricted to only a
few small areas of suitable habitat.
Still, we were in good hands, and as
we headed out across the paddocks
our hopes were high. After about
thirty minutes bouncing across the
ground, we flushed our first bird,
but unfortunately couldn’t relocate
it after it landed. The second time
though we had more luck, and soon
had an immaculate female Plains-
Wanderer posing in the spotlight,
apparently oblivious to the
excitement she was causing.

The delicately patterned female Plains-Wanderer.
After leaving our female to her devices we continued across the paddocks, seeing an incredible six Plains-Wanderers in total. Possibly the highlight of the night though, was a nest with four eggs, one of the first nests Phil had found after several years of drought. The birding wasn’t over though, as Phil also managed to find us a pair of Little Buttonquail, a Stubble Quail, and also a pair of Banded Lapwings, a bird we thought we’d probably dip due to the wet conditions. Our night then complete, a very satisfied group of birders returned home.

Day 15: Wednesday, 27th October 2010 – Hay to Robertson

After a well deserved sleep-in, we had no appointments before breakfast at 7:30am. It couldn’t all be easy going though, as following breakfast there were still a few birds to get. We headed back out onto the plains, searching for the nomadic Orange Chat, and while searching picked up a bonus bird, another inland specialty, the White-backed Swallow. Following the swallow, a slow drive across the grassy plains eventually revealed a bright orange splash perched on a low fence wire. Jumping out of the car we were all treated to brilliant views of this most attractive little bird, a male Orange Chat.

Dragging ourselves away we had to hit the road, with a big drive ahead of us as we worked our way back towards Sydney. We made a quick stop to pick up Long-billed Corella, a bird at the edge of its range here in southern New South Wales, but otherwise there was not much else to see until we arrived at Robertson. Unfortunately we’d left the nice weather inland and here closer to the coast things were windy and wet. We braved the elements though, and squeezed in an hour of birding on the windswept Budderoo Plateau. Our first find was a beautiful example of a rare flower, the blood red Waratah, state flower of New South Wales. We also picked up a couple of new birds, including a Fan-tailed Cuckoo and fleeting glimpses of a pair of Southern Emuwrens. The weather made things difficult, but we would get back here tomorrow, so we called it a day and returned to the warmth of our rooms and dinner.
Day 16: Thursday, 28th October 2010 – Robertson to Hobart

The wind had abated overnight, but conditions were still cool and fairly wet as we arrived at Barren Grounds Nature Reserve for breakfast. As we moved out into the heathlands the birds were quiet, except for one of our targets, the Eastern Bristlebird. Just like the Chestnut Quail-Thrush of Round Hill though, it refused to show itself. After an hour, we found a bird singing very close to a break in the foliage, and decided to give it one last go. Luckily this skulking bird revealed itself, not giving great views, but showing well enough to be identified as an Eastern Bristlebird.

We left the heath and moved into some wet woodland which paid dividends as we quickly picked up Pilotbird, and a cooperative Brush Bronzewing. We decided to try another area of heath, the same area we had visited yesterday afternoon. On arrival we immediately had a singing Chestnut-rumped Heathwren which most of us saw flitting through the low heath, before we set out to chase the Southern Emu-Wrens again. It was while closing down on these birds that we made the sighting of the day, as one of the group flushed up a Lewin’s Rail. This extremely elusive bird is very rarely seen, and when the guide started pumping his fist in the air, everyone knew how lucky we had been! This was followed by amazing views of the Southern Emu-Wrens, before we returned to Barren Grounds.

On the entrance road we all got a surprise as we frightened a female Superb Lyrebird who was foraging on the edge of the trail. We got views from the car as she galloped down the road before taking a hard left off into the scrub, unfortunately never to be seen again. Our last new bird for the morning was a delicate little Beautiful Firetail, which we picked up before we left for Bass Point.

Beside the road out to Bass Point we scored a small flock of the enormous Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos feeding in banksia trees right beside the road, before setting up on the point for a thirty minute sea-watch. Most of the birds were well out from the point, but we managed to pick up three species of shearwater and a handful of Australasian Gannets as they came close to the coast. Our last bird in New South Wales was a family party of these gorgeous Variegated Fairywrens.

Our last birding stop for the day was Royal National Park, where we made straight for the Mount Bass trail. It only took ten minutes before we had our target bird, the Tawny-
crowned Honeyeater, but unfortunately we were on a tight schedule, so we all piled back into the car. We had time for a quick walk along Lady Carrington Drive, which produced an obliging male Variegated Fairywren and a Cicadabird, but at that point we had to call our New South Wales leg of the trip closed, and head for the airport. We had surpassed expectations given the wet conditions throughout the state, and with some incredible birds on the list, we rested up for our final assault in Tasmania.

Day 17: Friday, 29th October 2010 – Bruny Island and Tinderbox

Our search for the Tasmanian endemics started early at Peter Murrell Reserve on the outskirts of Hobart. We only had a short time here, but birding around the small lake near the entrance was productive, and we soon ticked Yellow Wattlebird, Tasmanian Native-Hen and Yellow-throated Honeyeater. We then flushed a small crake from some reeds, which after much searching we were able to confirm as a Spotless Crake. Soon after we had another endemic, the Green Rosella, but our next bird was the highlight. Over a period of ten minutes we were able to watch a fairly uncooperative Forty-spotted Pardalote, but with persistence we all got reasonable views of this very rare Tasmanian endemic.

We left the reserve and drove to Kettering, where after spotting Black-faced Cormorants and Kelp Gulls around the wharf, we boarded the ferry to Bruny Island. A large island off the south-east coast of Tasmania, Bruny holds all the Tasmanian endemics, plus a number of other sought-after species. Within minutes of arriving on the island we had picked up our first Black-headed Honeyeaters, and shortly after, a treble of robins, Dusky, Scarlet and Flame Robins.

On Bruny Island we ended up finding several pairs of one of Australia’s rarest waders, the Hooded Plover.

As we moved south along the island we managed to find many Pied Oystercatchers, then an unexpected bonus, a pair of Blue-winged Parrots. We continued to The Neck, a thin spit of land which joins the northern and southern sections of the island. From here, good views out over the ocean produced a couple of distant Shy Albatross. Leaving The Neck, we arrived in a section of forest where we hoped to pick up some more endemics. We soon had a Crescent Honeyeater, followed shortly by a very cooperative male Pink Robin. Neither bird is endemic, but both are more common on Tasmania than on mainland Australia.
Shortly after the robin we picked up three more endemics, Tasmanian Thornbill, Tasmanian Scrubwren and the difficult Strong-billed Honeyeater.

After a break for lunch, we spent a little while searching for Hooded Plover, eventually coming across three pairs. This was the last bird we really needed on the island, so we decided to leave for the ‘mainland’ and try for Swift Parrot. After returning on the ferry we made our way to the southern tip of the Tinderbox peninsula, where it looked like windy conditions would defeat us. The continually swaying canopy made it very difficult to spot small green parrots feeding in the topmost branches, but after thirty minutes we were eventually able to pick out a lone Swift Parrot, a fitting end to a productive day.

Day 18: Saturday, 30th October 2010 – Hobart to Eaglehawk Neck

Daybreak on our final morning of the tour found us searching the wet forests of Mount Wellington, trying to track down our last two Tasmanian endemics. At the first site we heard Black Currawongs calling, but had no luck finding the secretive Scrubtit, although a party of three Shining Bronze-Cuckoos was a good consolation prize. Our second location was much more productive, and within minutes we had seen both Black and Grey Currawongs, an Olive Whistler, then our final endemic, a very cooperative Scrubtit.

We continued up Mount Wellington, getting Striated Fieldwren on the way, before enjoying the magnificent vistas over Hobart, the mouth of the Derwent River and the complex system of bays and islands of Tasmania’s south-east coast. We left the top of the mountain and headed north out of Hobart, making a stop at the airport for the very classy Musk Lorikeet.

North of Hobart we drove out through Eaglehawk Neck looking for our last staked out bird for the trip, and as hoped, a pair of Cape Barren Geese didn’t let us down. After a short stop for lunch we still had time for some birding, but now everything would be a bonus. After an unsuccessful search for Fairy Tern, we found an excellent spot near Eaglehawk Neck for a sea-watch. The weather had turned a little nasty making conditions less than ideal for us, but perfect for bringing seabirds close to the cliffs we were perched atop. We soon had very close views of more Shy Albatross, before a large dark seabird wheeled past to shouts of ‘Giant-Petrel!’ It was a little way out, but thankfully returned again soon after, allowing us to identify it as a Northern Giant-Petrel. Next was a tiny little seabird struggling into the wind not far offshore. This guy was a complete surprise; a Wilson’s Storm-Petrel! Combined with the other usual seabirds this made it a very productive stop. We commenced our return to Hobart, making a couple of lucky stops for Red-capped Plover, and then our very last bird for the trip, an unexpected Peregrine Falcon.

And so, after an epic few weeks our incredible tour came to a close. At dinner on our last night we did our final list and tallied up our total number of species, coming up with an amazing 418 birds recorded. This included just one guide only species, and only two species
that were heard only. Perhaps the most pleasing statistic though, was that everyone had a personal list of at least 410 species, so no-one missed much. Given the wet conditions during the New South Wales leg of the trip which saw us miss several species seen in previous years, it was satisfying to make up the numbers with some other very rare and unexpected birds.

**BIRD LIST**

This list includes all the bird species that were recorded by at least one member of the group. Taxonomy and nomenclature closely follow Clements (2007). Parentheses denote an alternate name used by some checklists.

Total: **418** species, including two heard only (H) and one heard only by the leader (L).

**CASSOWARIES: Casuariidae**
1. Southern Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius*

**EMU: Dromaiidae**
2. Emu *Dromaius novaehollandia*

**DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae**
3. Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*
4. Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*
5. Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*
6. Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandia*
7. Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*
8. Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*
9. Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*
10. Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus*
11. Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*
12. Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
13. Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*
14. Australian Shoveler *Anas rhynchotis*
15. Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*
16. Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*
17. Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*
18. White-eyed Duck *Aythya australis*
19. Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*
20. Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

**MEGAPODES: Megapodiidae**
21. Australian Brush-Turkey *Alectura lathami*
22. Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*
PHEASANTS, GROUSE AND ALLIES: Phasianidae
23. Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*

GREBES: Podicipedidae
24. Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*
25. Hoary-headed Grebe *Podicephalus podicephalus*
26. Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

ALBATROSSES: Diomedeidae
27. White-capped Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*

SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS: Procellariidae
28. Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli*
29. Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*
30. Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*
31. Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavial*

STORM-PETRELS: Hydrobatidae
32. Wilson’s Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

BOOBIES AND GANNETS: Sulidae
33. Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*
34. Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*
35. Australian Gannet *Morus serrator*

PELICANS: Pelecanidae
36. Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: Phalacrocoracidae
37. Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*
38. Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
39. Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*
40. Black-faced Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscescens*
41. Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae
42. Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae
43. Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*
44. Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS: Ardeidae
45. Black Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*
46. Pacific Heron *Ardea pacifica*
47. Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*
48. Great Egret *Ardea alba*
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Intermediate Egret</td>
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<td>White-faced Heron</td>
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<td>Baillon’s Crake</td>
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84. Spotless Crake
85. Purple Swamphen
86. Dusky Moorhen
87. Black-tailed Native-hen
88. Tasmanian Native-hen
89. Eurasian Coot

BUSTARDS: Otididae
90. Australian Bustard

CRANES: Gruidae
91. Sarus Crane
92. Brolga

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae
93. Bush Thick-knee
94. Beach Thick-knee

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae
95. Banded Lapwing
96. Masked Lapwing
97. Red-kneed Dotterel
98. Lesser Sand-Plover
99. Greater Sand-Plover
100. Red-capped Plover
101. Hooded Plover
102. Black-fronted Dotterel

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae
103. Pied Oystercatcher
104. Sooty Oystercatcher

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae
105. Pied Stilt
106. Red-necked Avocet

JACANAS: Jacanidae
107. Comb-crested Jacana

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae
108. Terek Sandpiper
109. Common Sandpiper
110. Grey-tailed Tattler
111. Whimbrel
112. Far Eastern Curlew
113. Black-tailed Godwit
114. Bar-tailed Godwit

Porzana tabuensis
Porphyrio porphyrio
Gallinula tenebrosa
Gallinula ventralis
Gallinula mortierii
Fulica atra
Ardeotis australis
Grus antigone
Grus rubicunda
Burhinus grallarius
Burhinus magnirostris
Vanellus tricolor
Vanellus miles
Erythrogonys cinctus
Charadrius mongolus
Charadrius leschenaultii
Charadrius ruficapillus
Thinornis cucullatus
Elseyorhins melanops
Haematopus longirostris
Haematopus fuliginosus
Himantopus leucocephalus
Recurvirostra novaehollandiae
Irediparra gallinacea
Xenus cinereus
Actitis hypoleucos
Tringa brevipes
Numenius phaeopus
Numenius madagascariensis
Limosa limosa
Limosa lapponica
115. Ruddy Turnstone  Arenaria interpres
116. Great Knot  Calidris tenuirostris
117. Red-necked Stint  Calidris ruficollis
118. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  Calidris acuminata
119. Curlew Sandpiper  Calidris ferruginea
120. Broad-billed Sandpiper  Limicola falcinellus

**BUTTONQUAIL: Turnicidae**
121. Painted Buttonquail  Turnix varius
122. Little Buttonquail  Turnix velox

**PLAINS-WANDERER: Pedionomidae**
123. Plains-wanderer  Pedionomus torquatus

**GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS: Laridae**
124. Silver Gull  Larus novaehollandiae
125. Pacific Gull  Larus pacificus
126. Kelp Gull  Larus dominicanus
127. Brown Noddy  Anous stolidus
128. Black Noddy  Anous minutus
129. Sooty Tern  Onychoprion fuscatus
130. Bridled Tern  Onychoprion anaethetus
131. Little Tern  Sternula albifrons
132. Caspian Tern  Hydroprogne caspia
133. Whiskered Tern  Chlidonias hybridus
134. Roseate Tern  Sthenura dougallii
135. Black-naped Tern  Sthenura sumatrana
136. Common Tern  Sterna hirundo
137. Great Crested Tern  Thalasseus bergii
138. Lesser Crested Tern  Thalasseus bengalensis

**PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae**
139. Rock Pigeon  Columba livia
140. White-headed Pigeon  Columba leucomela
141. Spotted Dove  Streptopelia chinensis
142. Brown Cuckoo-Dove  Macropygia phasianella
143. Emerald Dove  Chalcophaps indica
144. Common Bronzewing  Phaps chalcoptera
145. Brush Bronzewing  Phaps elegans
146. Crested Pigeon  Geophaps lophotes
147. Squatter Pigeon  Geophaps scripta
148. Wonga Pigeon  Leucosarcia melanoleuca
149. Peaceful Dove  Geopelia placida
150. Bar-shouldered Dove  Geopelia humeralis
151. Wompoo Fruit-Dove  Ptilinopus magnificus
152. Superb Fruit-Dove  Ptilinopus superbus
153. Torresian Imperial-Pigeon  Ducula spilorhoo
154. Topknot Pigeon  
Lopholaimus antarcticus

**COCKATOOS: Cacatuidae**
155. Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo  
Calyptorhynchus banksii
156. Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo  
Calyptorhynchus funereus
157. Galah  
Eolophus roseicapilla
158. Long-billed Corella  
Cacatua tenuirostris
159. Little Corella  
Cacatua sanguinea
160. Pink Cockatoo  
Cacatua leadbeateri
161. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
Cacatua galerita
162. Cockatiel  
Nymphicus hollandicus

**PARROTS: Psittacidae**
163. Rainbow Lorikeet  
Trichoglossus haematodus
164. Scaly-breasted Lorikeet  
Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus
165. Musk Lorikeet  
Glossopsitta concinna
166. Little Lorikeet  
Glossopsitta pusilla
167. Double-eyed Fig-Parrot  
Cyclopsitta diophthalma
168. Mallee Ringneck  
Barnardius barnardi
169. Green Rosella  
Platycercus caledonicus
170. Crimson Rosella  
Platycercus elegans
171. Yellow Rosella  
Platycercus flaveolus
172. Eastern Rosella  
Platycercus eximius
173. Pale-headed Rosella  
Platycercus adscitus
174. Red-rumped Parrot  
Psephotus haematonotus
175. Mulga Parrot  
Psephotus varius
176. Bluebonnet  
Northiella haematogaster
177. Blue-winged Parrot  
Neophema chrysostoma
178. Swift Parrot  
Lathamus discolor
179. Budgerigar  
Melopsittacus undulatus
180. Australian King-Parrot  
Alisterus scapularis
181. Red-winged Parrot  
Aprosmictus erythropterus
182. Superb Parrot  
Polytelis swainsonii

**CUCKOOS: Cuculidae**
183. Pallid Cuckoo  
Cuculus pallidus
184. Brush Cuckoo  
Cacomantis variolosus
185. Fan-tailed Cuckoo  
Cacomantis flabelliformis
186. Black-eared Cuckoo  
Chrysococcyx osculans
187. Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo  
Chrysococcyx basalis
188. Shining Bronze-Cuckoo  
Chrysococcyx lucidis
189. Little Bronze-Cuckoo  
Chrysococcyx minutilius
190. Australian Koel  
Eudynamys cyanocephalus
191. Channel-billed Cuckoo  
Scythrops novaehollandiae
192. Pheasant Coucal  
Centropus phasianinus
BARN-OWLS: Tytonidae
193. Barn Owl Tyto alba

OWLS: Strigidae
194. Southern Boobook (H) Ninox boobook

OWLET-NIGHTJARS: Aegothelidae
195. Australian Owlet-Nightjar Aegotheles cristatus

FROGMOUTHS: Podargidae
196. Tawny Frogmouth Podargus strigoides
197. Marbled Frogmouth Podargus ocellatus
198. Papuan Frogmouth Podargus papuensis

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES: Caprimulgidae
199. Spotted Nightjar Eurostopodus argus

SWIFTS: Apodidae
200. White-throated Needletail Hirundapus caudacutus
201. Australian Swiftlet Aerodramus terraereginae

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae
202. Azure Kingfisher Alcedo azurea
203. Laughing Kookaburra Dacelo novaeguineae
204. Blue-winged Kookaburra Dacelo leachii
205. Forest Kingfisher Todiramphus macleayii
206. Collared Kingfisher Todiramphus chloris
207. Sacred Kingfisher Todiramphus sanctus
208. Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher Tanysiptera sylvia

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae
209. Rainbow Bee-eater Merops ornatus

ROLLERS: Coraciidae
210. Dollarbird Eurystomus orientalis

PITTAS: Pittidae
211. Noisy Pitta Pitta versicolor

LYREBIRDS: Menuridae
212. Albert's Lyrebird Menura alberti
213. Superb Lyrebird Menura novaehollandiae

BOWERBIRDS: Ptilonorhynchidae
214. Spotted Catbird Ailuroedus melanotis
215. Green Catbird Ailuroedus crassirostris
216. Tooth-billed Catbird Ailuroedus dentirostris
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Bird Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>217.</td>
<td>Golden Bowerbird</td>
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<td>Great Bowerbird</td>
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<td>Climacteris picumnus</td>
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<td>Helmeted Friarbird</td>
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258. Noisy Friarbird  Philemon corniculatus
259. Orange Chat  Epithianura aurifrons
260. White-fronted Chat  Epithianura albifrons
261. Crescent Honeyeater  Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus
262. New Holland Honeyeater  Phylidonyris novaehollandiae
263. White-cheeked Honeyeater  Phylidonyris niger
264. White-fronted Honeyeater  Phylidonyris albifrons
265. Tawny-crowned Honeyeater  Phylidonyris melanops
266. Brown-backed Honeyeater  Ramsayornis modestus
267. Striped Honeyeater  Plectorhyncha lanceolata
268. Painted Honeyeater  Grantiella picta
269. Eastern Spinebill  Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris
270. Blue-faced Honeyeater  Entomyzon cyanotis
271. Bell Miner  Manorina melanophrys
272. Noisy Miner  Manorina melancephala
273. Yellow-throated Miner  Manorina flavigula
274. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater  Acanthagenys rufogularis
275. Red Wattlebird  Anthochaera carunculata
276. Brush Wattlebird  Anthochaera chrysoptera
277. Yellow Wattlebird  Anthochaera paradoxa

BRISTLEBIRDS: Dasyornithidae
278. Eastern Bristlebird  Dasyornis brachypterus

PARDALOTES: Pardalotidae
279. Spotted Pardalote  Pardalotus punctatus
280. Forty-spotted Pardalote  Pardalotus quadragintus
281. Striated Pardalote  Pardalotus striatus

THORNBILLS AND ALLIES: Acanthizidae
282. Pilotbird  Pycnoptilus floccosus
283. Fernwren  Oreoscopus gutturalis
284. Yellow-throated Scrubwren  Sericornis citreogularis
285. White-browed Scrubwren  Sericornis frontalis
286. Tasmanian Scrubwren  Sericornis humilis
287. Atherton Scrubwren  Sericornis keri
288. Large-billed Scrubwren  Sericornis magnirostra
289. Scrubtit  Acanthornis magna
290. Speckled Warbler  Pyrrholaemus sagittatus
291. Striated Fieldwren  Calamanthus fuliginosus
292. Chestnut-rumped Heathwren  Hylacola pyrrhopygia
293. Shy Heathwren  Hylacola cauta
294. Buff-rumped Thornbill  Acanthiza reguloides
295. Mountain Thornbill  Acanthiza katherina
296. Brown Thornbill  Acanthiza pusilla
297. Tasmanian Thornbill  Acanthiza ewingii
298. Inland Thornbill  Acanthiza apicalis
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CUCKOO-SHIRKES: Campephagidae
330. Ground Cuckoo-shrike Coracina maxima
331. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike Coracina novaehollandiae
332. Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike Coracina lineata
333. White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike Coracina papuensis
334. Cicadabird Coracina tenuirostris
335. White-winged Triller Lalage tricolor
336. Varied Triller Lalage leucomela

SITELLAS: Neosittidae
337. Varied Sittella Neositta chrysoptera

WHISTLERS AND ALLIES: Pachycephalidae
338. Crested Shrike-tit Falcunculus frontatus
339. Crested Bellbird (H) Oreica gutturalis
340. Olive Whistler Pachycephala olivacea
341. Gilbert's Whistler Pachycephala inornata
342. Grey Whistler Pachycephala simplex
343. Golden Whistler Pachycephala pectoralis
344. Rufous Whistler Pachycephala rufiventris
345. Rufous Shrike-Thrush Colluricincla megarhyncha
346. Bower's Shrike-Thrush Colluricincla boweri
347. Grey Shrike-Thrush Colluricincla harmonica

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae
348. Olive-backed Oriole Oriolus sagittatus
349. Green Oriole Oriolus flavocinctus
350. Green Figbird Sphecotheres viridis
351. Australian Figbird Sphecotheres vieilloti

DRONGOS: Dicruridae
352. Spangled Drongo Dicrurus bracteatus

FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae
353. Northern Fantail Rhipidura rufiventris
354. Willie-wagtail Rhipidura leucophrys
355. Grey Fantail Rhipidura albiscapa
356. Rufous Fantail Rhipidura rufifrons

MONARCH-FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae
357. Black-faced Monarch Monarcha melanopsis
358. Spectacled Monarch Monarcha trivirgatus
359. Pied Monarch Arses kaupi
360. Magpie-lark Grallina cyanoleuca
361. Leaden Flycatcher Myiagra rubecula
362. Restless Flycatcher Myiagra inquieta
363. Shining Flycatcher Myiagra alecto
CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES: *Corvidae*

364. Torresian Crow  

365. Little Crow  

366. Australian Raven  

367. Little Raven  

368. Forest Raven  

WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH AND APOSTLEBIRD: *Corcoracidae*

369. White-winged Chough  

370. Apostlebird  

BIRDS-OF-PARADISE: *Paradisaeidae*

371. Paradise Riflebird  

372. Victoria’s Riflebird  

AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS: *Petroicidae*

373. Jacky-winter  

374. Lemon-bellied Flycatcher  

375. Scarlet Robin  

376. Red-capped Robin  

377. Flame Robin  

378. Rose Robin  

379. Pink Robin  

380. Dusky Robin  

381. Pale-yellow Robin  

382. Yellow Robin  

383. White-browed Robin  

384. Grey-headed Robin  

385. Southern Scrub-Robin  

LARKS: *Alaudidae*

386. Australasian Bushlark  

387. Eurasian Skylark  

SWALLOWS: *Hirundinidae*

388. Welcome Swallow  

389. Fairy Martin  

390. Tree Martin  

391. White-backed Swallow  

BULBULS: *Pycnonotidae*

392. Red-whiskered Bulbul  

REED-WARBLERS AND ALLIES: *Acrocephalidae*

393. Australian Reed-Warbler  

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GRASSBIRDS AND ALLIES: Megaluridae
394. Tawny Grassbird  
Megalurus timoriensis
395. Little Grassbird  
Megalurus gramineus
396. Brown Songlark  
Cincloramphus cruralis
397. Rufous Songlark  
Cincloramphus mathewsi

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae
398. Golden-headed Cisticola  
Cisticola exilis

THRUSHES: Turdidae
399. Olive-tailed Thrush  
Zoothera lunulata
400. Russet-tailed Thrush  
Zoothera heinei
401. Eurasian Blackbird  
Turdus merula

BABBLERS: Timaliidae
402. Silver-eye  
Zosterops lateralis

STARLINGS: Sturnidae
403. Metallic Starling  
Aplonis metallica
404. Common Myna  
Acridotheres tristis
405. European Starling  
Sturnus vulgaris

FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae
406. Mistletoebird  
Dicaeum hirundinaceum

SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS: Nectariniidae
407. Olive-backed Sunbird  
Cinnyris jugularis

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae
408. Australasian Pipit  
Anthus novaeseelandiae

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES: Fringillidae
409. European Goldfinch  
Carduelis carduelis

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae
410. House Sparrow  
Passer domesticus

WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae
411. Beautiful Firetail  
Stagonopleura bella
412. Diamond Firetail  
Stagonopleura guttata
413. Red-browed Firetail  
Neochmia temporalis
414. Crimson Finch  
Neochmia phaeton
415. Chestnut-eared Finch  
Taeniopygia castanotis
416. Double-barred Finch  
Taeniopygia bichenovii
417. Nutmeg Mannikin  
Lonchura punctulata
418. Chestnut-breasted Munia  
Lonchura castaneothorax
MAMMAL LIST

Platypus
Northern Brown Bandicoot
Koala
Mountain Brushtail Possum
Common Ringtail Possum
Musky Rat-kangaroo
Agile Wallaby
Whiptail Wallaby
Eastern Grey Kangaroo
Western Grey Kangaroo
Red-legged Pademelon
Red-necked Pademelon
Spectacled Flying-fox
Feral Pig
European Hare
European Rabbit

Ornithorhynchus anatinus
Isoodon macrourus
Phasocolarctos cinereus
Trichosurus caninus
Pseudocheirus peregrinus
Hypsiprymnodon moschatus
Macropus agilis
Macropus parryi
Macropus giganteus
Macropus fuliginosus
Thylogale stigmatica
Thylogale thetis
Pteropus conspicillatus
Sus sp.
Lepus europaeus
Oryctolagus cuniculus