Australia Photo Tour

Tour Leaders: Lisle Gywnn and Ben Knoot

Bird of the Trip: **Pink (Major Mitchell's) Cockatoo (Above)** Our group enjoyed close views and great photographic opportunities as a group of Pink and Sulfur-crested Cockatoos fed on a patch of Paddy Melons in Charleville.

*All photos in this report were taken by guide ***Ben Knoot*** unless otherwise stated.

Introduction

Australia is a vast and incredibly diverse country, and this dedicated photo tour is designed to take in as much of the diversity found along this enormous island's east coast as possible. As such, we cover a huge range of habitats and landscapes, from the tropical rainforest of north Queensland to the cool and windy shores of Tasmania. Along the way we will photograph as much of its environmental riches as possible. Given Australia's level of development, we also enjoyed extremely comfortable accommodations, great food and easy journeys throughout the tour.

Our tour took in three very different climates over the stretch of this enormous coast. We started in the tropical climate of north Queensland where we headed out to the Great Barrier Reef for a refreshing dip in the ocean. Next, we moved into the forests and along the fringe of the outback. Then, when we were ready to brave the heat and dry conditions, we made our way towards Brisbane and into the outback for the specialty species like Pink Cockatoo.

Making our way back east we had several impromptu shoots, all ending with spectacular results. We ended our time in mainland Australia in the dense rainforests of O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. This was undoubtedly photography at its most gluttonous – the subjects are bright and beautiful, they're entirely unafraid of humans, and the accommodations and food are simply top notch.

The third and final part of our journey took us to the storm-beaten shores of Tasmania. Here we explored the areas surrounding Hobart and we eventually made our way to Bruny Island. Bruny is home to most if not all of Tasmania's endemic species. Overall, we covered several habitats and saw a large variety of birds but most importantly, everyone had an amazing time, exploring and experiencing just a sliver of what this great country had to offer.

Top Five Birds

- Pink (Major Mitchell's) Cockatoo
- Regent Bowerbird
- Pink Robin
- Green Rosella
- Wonga Pigeon

Top Five Photographic Opportunities

- 500+ Flock of Little Corella's
- Group of Pink and Sulfur-crested Cockatoo's feeding on Paddy Melons
- Mareeba Rock Wallaby colony
- Dancing Brolga
- Milky Way Laser Writing

Top Five Mammals

- Lumholt'z Tree Kangaroo
- Mareeba Rock Wallaby
- Platypus
- Albino Bennett's Wallaby
- Humpback Whale

Itinerary

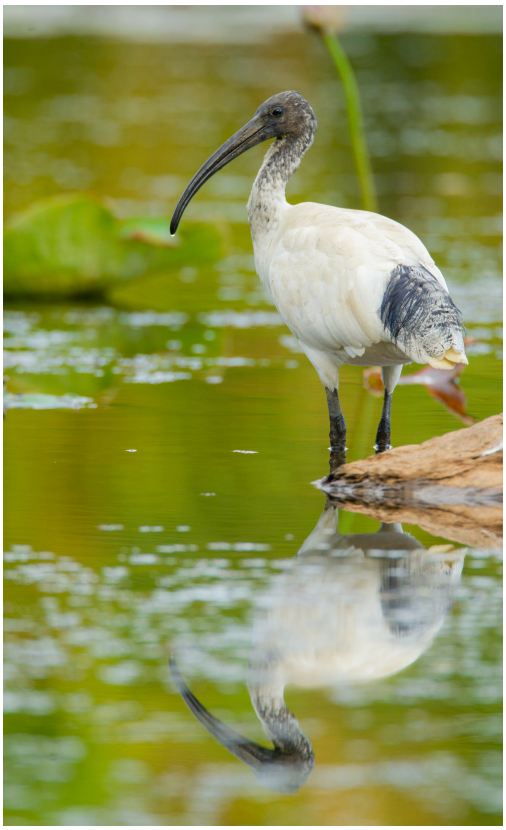
August 21st	Day 1: Arrival day, Cairns Esplanade
August 22nd	Day 2: The Great Barrier Reef
August 23rd	Day 3: Cassowary House to Daintree
August 24th	Day 4 Daintree River Cruise to the Outback
August 25th	Day 5: Rainforest and the Outback
August 26th	Day 6: Hypipamee NP to Cairns
August 27th	Day 7: Cairns to Goondiwindi
August 28th	Day 8: To the Southern Outback
August 29th	Day 9: The Southern Outback
August 30th	Day 10: Outback to the Western Plains
August 31st	Day 11: Rangelands to Lamington National Park
September 1st	Day 12: Lamington National Park
September 2nd	Day 13: Lamington NP to Tasmania
September 3rd	Day 14: Tasman Peninsula and Mt. Wellington
September 4th	Day 15: Bruny Island
September 5th	Day 16: Departure from Hobart

Tour Summary

Day One (August 21st) - Around 3pm in the afternoon, the group got together and met for the first time. After a quick introduction we were off, eager to start our 16 day Australian journey. Our first stop, ***The Cairns Botanical Gardens***, gave us glimpses of birds such as: Radjah Shelduck, Straw-necked Ibis, Australasian Darter, Magpie Goose and Little Pied Cormorant.

Radjah Shelduck (Above) We focused on getting water level shots of this stunning bird in the botanical garden.

Exploring the gardens further, the group was able to locate species such as: Spangled Drongo, Rainbow Bee-eater, Willie Wagtail, Collared Kingfisher, Torresian Imperial Pigeon, Olive-backed Sunbird, Magpie Lark and Brown Honeyeater. This botanical garden is truly an amazing place for wildlife photography. The birds are relatively tame, and the combination of lakes, grass fields, dense forest and river vegetation leads to a very diverse group of birds: a fantastic first introduction to Australian bird life.



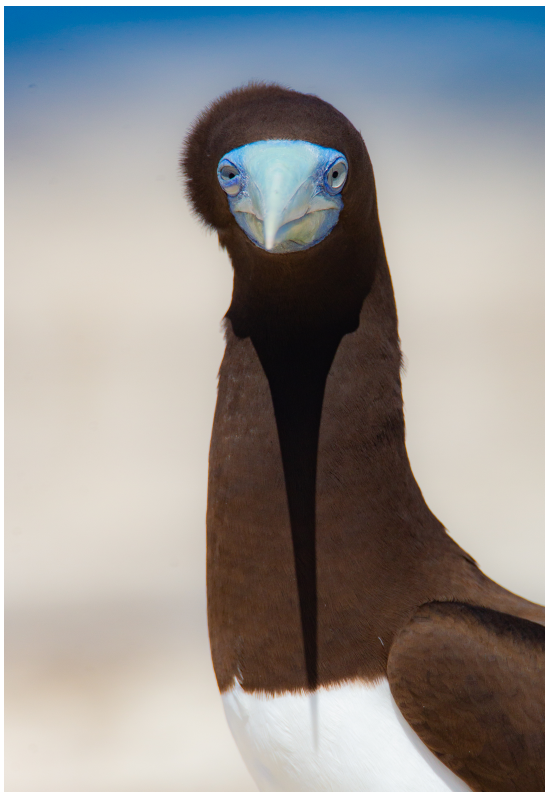
Australian White Ibis (Left)
A common bird throughout much of the trip. The Centennial Lakes of the botanical gardens offer an amazing opportunity to photograph this stunning species up close, with terrific water color and if the wind cooperates, a great reflection.

Magpie Lark (Right)
A very common species on our trip. We saw one on every day of the trip. The trick is getting them off of the ground. Luckily, we knew a few tricks to get them up on a perch for some proper photography.

Spangled Drongo (Above)
This stunning fork-tailed species can be seen very well in the botanical gardens. If the light hits this bird just right, the “spangled” look really pops! We would get a few more opportunities at this bird, but the gardens offered a great first look.

Day Two (August 22nd) - Today we journeyed out into the warm coastal waters towards ***Michaelmas Cay.*** The hour and a half boat ride was calm and the staff of the Sea Star were awesome. We filled up with warm muffins just before reaching the cay where we could already hear our targets for the day. Large flocks of Sooty Terns, Brown Noddy and Greater Crested Terns inhabit this small cay, making for quite a special photographic experience. While on the cay, we also managed great looks at Brown and Masked Booby. We also managed great looks at Greater Frigatebird and Black-naped Tern.

Brown Booby (Above) A male and female tend to their nest. Several nests carried eggs with another four or so pairs that were actively building. It was a real hoot to watch the male waddle over to another nest and steal material.



Brown Booby (Left)

So cool to be just a few meters away from these comical birds. It is a true photographic dream to be able to take your time with subjects and to be so close, you can photograph them with a wide angle!

Brown Noddy (Right)

The Brown Noddy is likely the second most common species on the cay. Tricky bird to get alone as they were usually flying in small groups. By noticing specific flight patterns, we were able to position ourselves for some great photographic opportunities.

Sooty Tern (Above)

The most abundant bird on the cay is the Sooty Tern. The group worked on various technics to capture bank shots of these fast flyers. We also worked on properly exposing for a white and black bird and shooting during the middle of the day…tricky!

After an hour or so of photographic heaven, the boat came to pick us up so we could make the 20-minute trip over to Hastings Reef. Hasting's Reef had truly some of the most amazing snorkeling. The Sea Star snorkel tour was extremely educational and we were able to see some amazing species of fish, turtle, coral and other general ocean life. After we returned to land, we made the move to ***Cassowary House***.

Day Three (August 23rd) - The group woke up early for a morning walk around ***The Cassowary House.*** Highlights included Double-eyed Fig Parrot, McClay's Honeyeater, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater and a split second look at a Noisy Pitta. We returned to the house for the legendary homemade breakfast. While eating, we heard the unmistakable call of one of our main targets, the Victoria Riflebird. We waited patiently and sure enough, in it came to the fruit feeder for some amazing looks. Other birds included Spotted Catbird, Australian Bush Turkey, Helmeted Friarbird and Black Butcherbird.

Black Butcherbird (Left)

It was a really wild experience watching a pair of these large birds come into the feeder to eat cheese. The owner of the house said it is their favorite and he wasn't kidding. The photographic situation was tough, but with a slightly higher ISO and a steady hand, we were all able to get some shots.

After the delicious breakfast, we traveled over to Daintree. We stopped at ***Abattoir Swamp*** to see if we could see some more honeyeaters and cuckoo's. We were able to hit all of our targets: Yellow, Brown and White-throated Honeyeater and the absolutely striking Little Bronze Cuckoo. Such an awesome little place. Continuing on towards Daintree, we stopped at a small cafe for a much needed beverage break. Here we were able to locate and photograph Black Kite, Rainbow Lorikeet and Blue-faced Honeyeater.

Rainbow Lorikeet (Left)

Not the easiest birds to photograph. Usually, they are found high in the trees or in dark situations, but luck was with us and we found some fairly low and in terrific light.

Black Kite (Right)

This was a very common species on the trip. They can be difficult to photograph. Taking advantage of every opportunity our group eventually had several individuals fly by nice and low, providing excellent views.

When we arrived in Daintree, we checked into the adorable ***Red Mill House.*** We took an hour rest and headed straight to ***Steward Creek Road***. Highlights included Pacific Baza, Forest Kingfisher, Silvereye and an awesome photoshoot with a group of Rainbow Bee Eaters. The rest of the afternoon was spent wandering around Daintree. Highlights included Rainbow Lorikeet, Green Oriole, Olive-backed Sunbird, White-bellied Wood-swallow and Bush Thick-knee.

Rainbow Bee-eater (Above)

It was great to get this beautiful species low enough for a good photo opportunity. Usually they hunt insects from high in the trees or from barbed wire.

Bush Thick-knee (Above)

Though fairly common during the first week or so, it can be difficult to capture an interesting photo. We tried some different angles and most of the group really enjoyed getting down to ground level with this roosting individual.

Day Four (August 24th) - ***The Daintree River Cruise*** lead by Murray the boatman is a sensational trip packed with wildlife. The highly anticipated morning began with epic scenery as the mist creeped along the river and the water was still as glass. Highlights on the river were Shining Flycatcher, Papuan Frogmouth, White-faced Heron, Nankeen Night Heron and a last minute Great-billed Heron. The real highlight of the river cruise had to be a giant Salt Water Crocodile with what appeared to be a Cattle Egret. Over the course of our tour, we saw three of these ancient beasts.

Salt Water Crocodile (Above) A huge male crocodile was sunning himself on the bank. It was awesome to see all those teeth!

Papuan Frogmouth (Above) Our boat captain Murray was great at finding these secretive and elusive birds. They are not shy, but are often concealed in vegetation. With a little maneuvering a photo is possible.

Little Egret (Right)
The misty morning allowed our guests to play around with some more artistic and dramatic photography. Being in a boat allowed for close access to these graceful waders.

Little Pied Cormorant (Above)
While common in small parks, it was nice to see these awesome little cormorants on natural trees all along the edges of the Daintree River.

White-faced Heron (Left)
The morning light combined with the dense dark riverside vegetation, can create an artistic photograph if you play the shadows and highlights correctly.

After the cruise we traveled to Mareeba. While in Mareeba, we visited the famous ***Mareeba Rock Wallaby Colony***. Here you can get up close and personal with the utterly adorable Mareeba Rock Wallaby. The true joy comes from watching these graceful and at the same time clumsy little marsupials interact with each other. If you're lucky a joey or two may peek out. Along with the wallabies, Peaceful Doves are very easily photographed.

Peaceful Dove (Left) Common throughout the trip, this area is definitely one of the best places to photographic this gorgeous species.

Mareeba Rock Wallaby (Right) It was so awesome to see a small joey peeking out of his mama's pouch. There were several moms with joeys but this was the only curious one of the bunch. We thought for sure he was going to leap out at one point! If you want to get creative, you can do some wide angle photography…yes, they are that tame and close!

Day Five (August 25th) - Today we went into the ***Tablelands***. This area is very much a buffer zone going into the outback, so the group was eager to see the new variety of species. The day started with amazing looks at Great Bustard, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Red-winged Parrot and Golden-headed Cisticola.

Great Bustard (Above) The group got some awesome views and great photo opportunities of this majestic bird.

We took a quick break for lunch and then traveled to see a Great Bowerbird bower. We got great looks at the bird but no display within the bower. Also in the area were Pale-headed Rosella, Gala, Rainbow Lorikeet and Apostlebird. Once we had our fill, we headed off towards one of the trips most anticipated mammals, the rather peculiar Duck-billed Platypus.

Duck-billed Platypus (Right)
Normally nocturnal, these peculiar little creatures have become accustomed to fisherman and as such, do not mind the presence of people. This provided us an excellent opportunity to get great views and photos of this extremely unique species.

Duck-billed Platypus (Left)
Occasionally, the curious little creatures do stop eating and go out into the open for a clear photo.

Great Bowerbird (Left)
These huge bowerbirds create stunning bowers from which to display from. Their bower is a strong “U” shaped stick structure filled with glass and red plastic. All for the sole purpose of impressing his mate.

Next on our journey, we went to see the awesome Lumholt’z Tree Kangaroo. We arrived at the ***Nerada Tea Plantation*** at precisely the right moment. A beautiful Lumholt’z Tree Kangaroo was relaxing just outside the gate about 30 feet in a tree. It then slowly proceeded down the tree and came within about fifteen feet! After this awesome experience, we headed back to Mareeba. On the way, we stopped off at a favorite ice cream location and had great looks and photographic opportunities with a few Chestnut-breasted Manakins.

Lumholt'z Tree Kangaroo (Left)

It was incredible to first witness this species roughly 30 feet up in a tree and then to have him make his way "fireman style" down the tree, and eventually scurry off on the forest floor.

Chestnut-breasted Manakin (Right)

These awesome little birds were very keen to get into the feed bucket designated for the farm chickens. Luckily they were keen to use the same perch over and over, so with just a little patience we were able to get a few on the branch at a time.

To end this awesome day, we ventured to the ***The Mareeba Golf Course.*** In the area, we found Eastern Gray Kangaroo, Red-necked Wallaby and a Pheasant Coucal.

Pheasant Coucal (Left)

These large birds are quite unique. We spotted this male running across the road and lucked out when he decided to spend a few seconds on a low branch. A very tricky bird to get out into the open, but with a little maneuvering we got a slightly clearer view.

Eastern Gray Kangaroo and Joey (Right)

The golf course in Mareeba is a great place to photograph this species. We saw a fair number of mother kangaroos carrying joeys but the hard part is finding a joey that is curious enough to poke its head out.

Day Six (August 26th) - Today we woke up early in order to arrive at ***Hypipamee National Park*** around sunrise. In the area of the carpark, we found Gray-headed and Pale-yellow Robin, Wompoo Fruit Dove (On Nest), Gray Fantail, Bridled, McClay's and Lewin's Honeyeater. Though we spent hours of searching, we were not able to locate the local Southern Cassowary. We believed the male to be sitting on eggs and as such, they traveling less frequently during the day, making them difficult to find in the dense forests.

Lewin's Honeyeater (Left) What may look like a plain bird from afar is actually quite lovely when you get up close and really pay attention to the mask. Lovely bird and very photogenic.

After Hypipamee, we made our way over to ***Hasties Wetlands*** to target wetland species. Here we got great looks at Magpie Goose, Plumed-whistling Duck, Pink-eared Duck, Pacific Heron and we had an amazing photo session with a Little Kingfisher.

Little Kingfisher (Left) The smallest kingfisher in Australia and the second smallest in the world. Truly an awesome little fella. The blind allowed for a relatively close photo session with this awesome species.

Magpie Goose (Right) Though they are numerous, they can be tough to single out. When you really stop to look at one, they are quite beautiful.

Day Seven (August 27th) - Today was a big travel day. We woke up very early to catch our flight to Brisbane. After we landed, we headed straight for a grove of mangroves close to the airport to pick up Mangrove Gerygone and a pair of lovely Australian Pelicans. We also got our first good looks and photo opportunity at Noisy Miner.

Noisy Miner (Above) - A young bird lives up to its name by continuously calling to its parents in a nearby bush.

We then started our long drive to ***Warwick*** hoping to get looks at more of Australias iconic parrot and parrot-like species. Though the area was very dry (due to an ongoing drought) we managed some great birds. In a small local park with a slough we

managed to find and get great looks at Red-rumped Parrot, Galah, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Little Corella, Little Black Cormorant. Then we had an awesome photo shoot with an Australian Water Dragon. We ended the day with a very curious Emu!

Little Corella (Left) Little Corella's are famous for doing funny things like spinning around wire, hanging upside down and contorting their bodies into odd positions.

Red-rumped Parrot (Right) These birds can be somewhat difficult to approach but if you find them feeding in the grasses, they can be quite cooperative.

Little Black Cormorant (Left) A few Little Black Cormorants took refuge from the hot and dry conditions by hanging out in the parks slough. This opportunity gave us a great lesson in shooting a black bird into the sun.

Galah (Right) These already striking birds heavily contrast the reddish Australian dirt. They were a common sight throughout much of our trip.

Emu (All)
This Emu was very curious and actually came over to investigate us as we stood by the fence.

Day Eight (August 28th) - We spent the morning in the ***Goondiwindi Botanical Garden***. It was very cold but we managed great looks at Double-barred Finch, Little Friarbird, Superb Fairy-wren, White-plumed Honeyeater and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater. While exiting the garden, we had an amazing photoshoot with a pair of Scaly-breasted Lorikeets.

Superb Fairy-wren (Left) An absolutely superb (pun intended) species. We saw many couples foraging in the grass and in large thickets piled up around the gardens.

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (Left) Amazing to have these stunning parrots feeding so low, sometimes just a foot or two off the ground.

Little Friarbird (Left) The smallest of the friarbird species in Australia and the only species with its head covered in feathers.

Double-barred Finch (Left) This stunning bird came down to forage alongside the Superb Fairy-wrens. With a little maneuvering and trade craft, we got them to perch nicely.

After we had finished in the gardens, we started our long drive to ***Charleville***. This seven hour trip started very well when just outside of town we had a lovely photoshoot with 500+ Little Corella.

Little Corella (Left) It was so fun watching this individual perform antics on the edge of this branch. It was even funnier watching the one next to it not care one bit that their colleague was in a state of bother.

Little Corella (Right) With groups coming from the opposite bank, it was great flight practice for the group.

We kept busy on our long drive by playing bird ID games, talking about camera techniques and other various methods for improving our photographic skills. We stopped in the town of Roma for a nice lunch and got back on the road, continuing on to ***Charleville***. Once in town, we had about 10 minutes of light and opted to use that time as a quick scouting mission for the next day's photoshoots.

Day Nine (August 29th) - We grabbed a quick breakfast and headed to ***Charleville Waste Water Treatment Plant*** with the hopes of scoring a few key target species. The morning started with an awesome display of three Brolga dancing away in the warm glow. Around the ponds, we were able to locate and photograph Variegated Fairy-wren, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill and an absolutely stunning Red-capped Robin.

Red-capped Robin (Above) These birds respond very well to a bit of playback. Used with respect to the subject, it is a very powerful tool to get them where you want.

Variegated Fairy-wren (Left) Though the males were looking a bit rough, it was still an absolute joy to see these spectacular birds.

Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (Left) How could you resist that little face? Our group certainly couldn't during our awesome photo session with a pair of territorial adults.

Brolga (Left) It was a real treat to watch three of these individuals forage and dance in the morning sun. They made our chilly morning quite lovely.

Australian Ringneck - Mallee (Right) The very aqua blue base of these parrots is one you must see to believe. They are absolutely stunning as they fly across the red Australian dirt.

While driving along the road we spotted one of the most wanted species of the trip, the Pink (Major Mitchell's) Cockatoo. They were feeding on Paddy Melon with a group of Sulfur-crested Cockatoos. We spent an hour or so photographing these sensational birds.

Pink Cockatoo (Left) Their short flights to various Paddy Melon patches gave our group an opportunity for some flight shots.

Pink Cockatoo (Left) A pair share a Paddy Melon meal on a dirt hill. It was fun watching these two interact with each other.

After this amazing photo session, we wandered into the outback to photograph some more specialties. We were able to find Restless Flycatcher, Striated Paradotle, Hall's Babbler, Jacky winter, White-browed Treecreeper, a very cooperative Streaked Honeyeater and an extremely cooperative pair of Hooded Robin.

Hooded Robin (Left) This stunning pair of Hooded Robin were very territorial and were showing off nicely for our group.

Striped Honeycreeper (Right) This medium sized honeycreeper is a common inhabitant of the dry outback. They enjoy large thickets but will commonly forage on the edges of large bush and trees.

Australian Magpie (Left) Though common along our entire trip, it can be difficult to get them perching. Our group jumped at the opportunity to photograph this individual with the lovely spring colored background.

White-browed Treecreeper (Right) This stunner was a real treat when it flew almost directly in front of us and landed nice and low. Better yet, it posed for a few photos! Sometimes you just get those cooperative species.

We ended the night with a fun session of Milky Way photography. The guests were eager to witness “laser painting” where you can use a green laser to write words or draw pictures on your target, in our case a tree. The moon was out in full strength so the Milky Way wasn’t too bright but it was a great time had by all.

Laser Writing (Above) Unfortunately, it wasn’t until afterwards when we realized if you point the laser at the exact angle that the camera is shooting, you can avoid the lines. It simply reads “Australia 2018”.

Day Ten (August 30th) - We returned to the area where we saw the Pink Cockatoos but no luck this morning. Instead, we were treated to a stunning Common Bronzewing and Rufous Whistler. The rest of the day was dedicated to driving seven hours towards Dolby. A quick stop in Roma for lunch and a birthday dinner for one of the guests and it was off to bed to prepare for the next day.

(Male)

Common Bronzewing (All) It was such a treat to see such an amazing species of dove. Those wings really pop against the Australian dirt and with these birds being relatively shy, it was great to get some great looks and photographic opportunities.

(Female)

Day Eleven (August 31st) - Today the group visited ***Broadwater Lake Park.*** Down by the lakeside we got great looks at Black-fronted Dotterel and distant views of Little Stint.

Willie Wagtail (Right) These large flycatchers were very common during our trip.

Black Kite (Left) Though common, the group wanted to stop when this Black Kite was composed nicely with the almost full moon.

Our next stop was ***Highfields Falls.*** This place was full of Lewin's, White-naped and White-throated Honeyeaters. We also got our first look at Eastern Yellow Robin and Striated Thornbill. It was time to head over to ***O'Reily's Rainforest Retreat.*** A quick lunch, then up the mountain we went. During this time, the guests got some free time to roam around the grounds and enjoy the local species. The birds here have been habituated to people so species like Australian King Parrot, Crimson Rosella, White-browed Scrub Wren, Australian Logrunner, Red-browed Finch, Yellow-throated Scrub Wren and Superb Fairy-wren are very tolerant and can provide some excellent photo opportunities. Red-necked Pademelon are the local mammals and my goodness they are cute.

Crimson Rosella (Above) Though they will eat out of your hand on a regular basis, it is still nice to try and get them naturally perched.

Red-necked Pademelon (Right) These little marsupials usually steal the show. They are often found feeding on the grounds in the morning and late evening.

Australian King Parrot (Left) This species will eat out of your hand without a problem. Though it is always nice to get them perched in a natural setting.

Day Twelve (September 1st) - Today was our full day at ***O'Reily's Nature Retreat***. We began the morning with a bird feeding just outside the main reception area. There were several key species that came to this feeding. Those species included Regent and Satin Bowerbird, Australian Bush Turkey and Pied Currawong.

Satin Bowerbird (Right) This absolutely stunning species is easily photographed as it comes into the raisin feeder.

Regent Bowerbird (Left) This species of bowerbird is very easily photographed during the morning and evening feedings.

While walking around the grounds we were able to locate more of the same species but added Albert's Lyrebird, Emerald Dove and a Topknot Pigeon.

Topknot Pigeon (Left) We caught a rare glimpse of a species that usually inhabits the tops of fruiting trees.

Emerald Dove (Right) It was a real treat to have this dense forest dwelling species pose out in the open for the group.

Day Thirteen (September 2nd) - Today was our last morning in ***O'Reily's Nature Retreat.*** We visited an active Satin Bowerbird bower and added the absolutely stunning Wonga Pigeon to our list. The guests were able to get some great shots of this forest bird.

Satin Bower at Bower (Left) This particular bowerbird prefers the color blue as the decor theme for its bower. We had a great discussion about what this bird may have used before humans and the invention of plastics. We ended up concluding that they probably used the luminescent backs of blue beetles, some type of blue berry and any blue flower petals they could find. Just one of the many conversations our group had over the course of our trip.

We left towards the airport bound for ***Hobart, Tasmania.*** We arrived just before sunset, had a lovely Thai dinner near our hotel and went to bed, eager to explore all that Tasmania had to offer.

Day Fourteen (September 3rd) - The morning started off very cold but we were able to find Green Rosella, Scarlet Robin, Tasmanian Thornbill and we had our first looks at the stunning New Holland Honeyeater. However, the highlight of the morning was an absolutely incredible photo session with a male Pink Robin.

Pink Robin (Above) The group enjoyed an awesome photo shoot with this male.

We drove up ***Mount Wellington*** to experience the highest peak of Tasmania and boy, oh boy was it pretty.

Mount Wellington (All) The small amount of remaining snow meant there was an absence of birds but the views more than made up for that. Both of these photos were taken with an iPhone.

After a quick lunch, we headed over to ***Goulds Lagoon.*** We were able to find all of our target species: Freckled Duck, Chestnut Teal, Australasian Swamphen and Tasmanian Native Hen.

Chestnut Teal (Left) It was great to get so close to this beautiful duck. The hide in the lagoon allowed our group to sit and photograph the birds of the lagoon without becoming a bother.

Australasian Swamphen (Left) With so many individuals hanging around, this location can be a great place to practice flight photography.

When we had our fill, we headed over to the ***Waste Water Treatment Plant,*** colloquially known as the ***"Water Works".*** Here we had several amazing photographic sessions. The first was with a pair of Green Rosella that were feeding on Fern Tree buds. The second was with a group of New Holland Honeyeater feeding in a flowering bush. The third was with an adult Yellow Wattlebird that was actively feeding its young. A truly epic first hour in this location.

New Holland Honeyeater (Above) Our group found a flock of these lovely birds feeding in this lavender type bush. We quickly realized the small hill behind us would give us a better angle to photograph this iconic species.

Yellow Wattlebird (Left) Using our awesome Kia minivan as a blind allowed us to sit close to the bush this rather odd bird was using to feed its young.

Green Rosella (Left) A pair of these stunning parrots was feeding quite comfortably as we watched them from the minimum focus range of our cameras.

Green Rosella (Above) The back pattern of this species is a subtle beauty.

Laughing Kookaburra (Above) Two of these iconic birds provided our group with great lessons in patience, quiet stalking and background selection.

We ended our stay at the ***"Water Works"*** with another amazing photography session. This time with a pair of Laughing Kookaburra. We also added Yellow-throated and Crescent Honeyeater, Flame Robin, Black Currawong, Dusky Robin and a quick glimpse of Brush Bronzewing. We had a lovely dinner and then it was off to bed, eager for our last day on ***Bruny Island***.

Day Fifteen (September 4th) - Today was our last full day. We woke up early so we could catch the ferry over to ***Bruny Island.*** On the ferry we got distant looks at Little Penguin and good looks at Kelp Gull and Black-faced Cormorant. Once on the island we had a great session with a Pied and Sooty Oystercatcher and White-faced Heron.

White-faced Heron (Above) We encouraged all of the guests to think about artistic photography as well as trying to get that “perfect” magazine cover photo. The ripples in the water made for a cool “oil painting” look.

The group continued down the road until we reached an area known as ***"Honeyeater Bend".*** Here we got great looks at Black-headed and Strong-billed Honeyeater, Golden and Olive Whistler and a nesting pair of Tasmanian Thornbill. We eventually ended up in ***Adventure Bay.*** Here we were greeted by a lovely pair of Hooded Plover. In the surrounding area, we were treated to views of Brown Quail and a really neat sighting of an Albino Bennett's Wallaby.

Hooded Plover (Left) The group had a lovely photo session with two of these incredible little shorebirds.

Brown Quail (Left) A group of about eight of these birds took shelter on a little moss island in a small wetland. With a little stalking, our group was able to get some decent looks at this skittish little birds.

Albino Bennett's (Red-necked on Tasmania) Wallaby (Above) Being completely blind and very unique, we wanted to give this little fella enough room to remain comfortable. We did not approach too closely or try to maneuver it out of the shrubbery. So cool to see this rarity.

Yellow-throated Honeyeater (Right) We had a very cooperative pair of these beautiful honeyeaters as our final photo session of the trip. It was great to get photos after just barely getting glimpses the previous day.

We ended our ***Bruny Island*** trip by visiting the ***Queens Neck Reserve.*** Here we had a great session with a Yellow-throated Honeyeater. We did our best to locate Beautiful Firetail but the little finch proved difficult and evasive during our search. With the day drawing to an end, we caught one of the last ferries back to mainland Tasmania. We then had a lovely dinner, said our goodbyes and went to bed early. A lovely trip was had by all.

Bird List

CASSOWARIES AND EMU: Casuariidae		
	Emu (E)	Dromaius novaehollandiae
MAGPIE GOOSE: Anseranatidae		
	Magpie Goose	Anseranas semipalmata
DUCKS, GEESE AND WATERFOWL: Anatidae		
	Plumed Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna eytoni
	Freckled Duck	Stictonetta naevosa
	Chestnut Teal	Anas castanea
	Pink-eared Duck	Malacorhynchus membranaceus
	Black Swan	Cygnus atratus
	Radjah Shelduck	Tadorna radjah
	Maned Duck (E)	Chenonetta jubata
	Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa
	White-eyed Duck	Aythya australis
	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos
	Australian Shoveler	Spatula rhynchotis

MEGAPODES: Megapodiidae		
	Australian Brushturkey (E)	Alectura lathami
	Orange-footed Scrubfowl	Megapodius reinwardt
PHEASANTS, GROUSE AND ALLIES: Phasianidae		
	Brown Quail	Coturnix ypsilophora
GREBES: Podicipedidae		
	Australasian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae
	Hoary-headed Grebe	Poliocephalus poliocephalus
PENGUINS: Podicipedidae		
	Little Penguin	Eudyptula minor
STORKS: Ciconiidae		
	Black-necked Stork	Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus
FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae		
	Great Frigatebird	Fregata minor
BOOBIES AND GANNETS: Sulidae		
	Brown Booby	Sula leucogaster
	Masked Booby	Sula dactylatra
CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: Phalacrocoracidae		
	Little Pied Cormorant	Phalacrocorax melanoleucos
	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo
	Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris
	Pied Cormorant	Phalacrocorax varius
	Black-faced Cormorant	Phalacrocorax fuscescens

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae		
	Australasian Darter	Anhinga novaehollandiae
PELICANS: Pelecanidae		
	Australian Pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus
HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS: Ardeidae		
	Pacific (White-necked) Heron (E)	Ardea pacifica
	Great-billed Heron	Ardea sumatrana
	Great Egret	Ardea alba
	Intermediate Egret	Mesophoyx intermedia
	White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae
	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
	Pacific Reef Heron	Egretta sacra
	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis
	Nankeen Night Heron	Nycticorax caledonicus
IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae		
	Australian Ibis	Threskiornis moluccus
	Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis spinicollis
	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Platalea flavipes
	Royal Spoonbill	Platalea regia
OSPREY: Pandionidae		
	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus
HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES: Accipitridae		
	Australian Kite	Lophoictinia isura

Pacific Baza	Aviceda subcristata
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Aquila audax
Swamp Harrier	Circus approximans
Spotted Harrier	Circus assimilis
Grey Goshawk	Accipiter novaehollandiae
Brown Goshawk	Accipiter fasciatus
Black Kite	Milvus migrans
Whistling Kite	Haliastur sphenurus
Brahminy Kite	Haliastur indus
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster
BUSTARDS: Otididae	
Australian Bustard	Ardeotis australis
RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS: Rallidae	
Australasian Swamphen	Porphyrio melanotus
Dusky Moorhen	Gallinula tenebrosa
Tasmanian Native-hen (TE)	Tribonyx mortierii
Black-tailed Native-hen	Tribonyx ventralis
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra
CRANES: Gruidae	
Brolga	Antigone rubicunda
Sarus Crane	Antigone antigone
THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae	
Bush Thick-knee	Burhinus grallarius
STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae	
Pied Stilt	Himantopus leucocephalus

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae		
	Pied Oystercatcher	Haematopus longirostris
	Sooty Oystercatcher (E)	Haematopus fuliginosus
PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae		
	Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles
	Hooded Plover (E)	Thinornis cucullatus
	Black-fronted Dotterel	Elseyornis melanops
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae		
	Lantham's Snipe	Gallinago hardwickii
GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS: Laridae		
	Silver Gull	Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae
	Pacific Gull (E)	Larus pacificus
	Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus
	Brown Noddy	Anous stolidus
	Sooty Tern	Onychoprion fuscatus
	Black-naped Tern	Sterna sumatrana
	Great Crested Tern	Thalasseus bergii
PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae		
	Rock Pigeon	Columba livia
	Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis
	Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Macropygia phasianella
	Pacific Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps longirostris
	Common Bronzewing	Phaps chalcoptera
	Brush Bronzewing	Phaps elegans

Crested Pigeon (E)	Ocyphaps lophotes
Wonga Pigeon (E)	Leucosarcia melanoleuca
Peaceful Dove	Geopelia placida
Bar-shouldered Dove	Geopelia humeralis
Wompoo Fruit-Dove	Ptilinopus magnificus
Topknot Pigeon (E)	Lopholaimus antarcticus
Torresian Imperial Pigeon	Ducula spilorrhoa
CUCKOOS: Cuculidae	
Pheasant Coucal	Centropus phasianinus
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Cacomantis flabelliformis
Little Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx minutillus
Horsefield's Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx basalis
FROGMOUTHS: Podargidae	
Tawny Frogmouth (E)	Podargus strigoides
Papuan Frogmouth	Podargus papuensis
SWIFTS: Apodidae	
Australian Swiftlet (E)	Aerodramus terraereginae
KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae	
Azure Kingfisher	Ceyx azureus
Little Kingfisher	Ceyx pusillus
Laughing Kookaburra (E)	Dacelo novaeguineae
Blue-winged Kookaburra	Dacelo leachii
Forest Kingfisher	Todiramphus macleayii
Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus
Collared Kingfisher	Todiramphus chloris

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae

Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae

Brown Falcon	Falco berigora
Nankeen Kestrel	Falco cenchroides
Australian Hobby	Falco longipennis

COCKATOOS: Cacatuidae

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (E)	Calyptorhynchus banksii
Pink (Major Mitchell's) Cockatoo (E)	Lophochroa leadbeateri
Galah (E)	Eolophus roseicapilla
Little Corella	Cacatua sanguinea
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Cacatua galerita
Cockatiel (E)	Nymphicus hollandicus

OLD WORLD PARROTS: Psittaculidae

Australian King-Parrot (E)	Alisterus scapularis
Red-winged Parrot	Aprosmictus erythropterus
Australian Ringneck (E)	Barnardius zonarius
Green Rosella (TE)	Platycercus caledonicus
Crimson Rosella (E)	Platycercus elegans
Pale-headed Rosella (E)	Platycercus adscitus
Greater Bluebonnet (E)	Northiella haematogaster
Red-rumped Parrot (E)	Psephotus haematonotus
Double-eyed Fig Parrot	Cyclopsitta diophthalma
Mulga Parrot (E)	Psephotus varius

Rainbow Lorikeet	Trichoglossus haematodus
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (E)	Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus

PITTAS: Pittidae

Noisy Pitta (E)	Pitta versicolor

LYREBIRDS: Menuridae

Albert's Lyrebird (E)	Menura alberti

BOWERBIRDS: Ptilonorhynchidae

Spotted Catbird (E)	Ailuroedus maculosus
Green Catbird (E)	Ailuroedus crassirostris
Regent Bowerbird (E)	Sericulus chrysocephalus
Satin Bowerbird (E)	Ptilonorhynchus violaceus
Spotted Bowerbird (E)	Chlamydera maculata
Great Bowerbird (E)	Chlamydera nuchalis

AUSTRALASIAN TREECREEPERS: Climacteridae

White-throated Treecreeper (E)	Cormobates leucophaea
Brown Treecreeper (E)	Climacteris picumnus
White-browed Treecreeper	Climacteris affinis

FAIRYWRENS: Maluridae

Variegated Fairywren (E)	Malurus lamberti
Splendid Fairywren (E)	Malurus splendens
Superb Fairywren (E)	Malurus cyaneus
White-winged Fairywren (E)	Malurus leucopterus
Red-backed Fairywren (E)	Malurus melanocephalus

HONEYEATERS: Meliphagidae

Eastern Spinebill (E)	Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris
Yellow-spotted Honeyeater (E)	Meliphaga notata
Lewin's Honeyeater (E)	Meliphaga lewinii
Yellow Honeyeater (E)	Stomiopera flava
Yellow-faced Honeyeater (E)	Caligavis chrysops
Noisy Miner (E)	Manorina melanocephala
Yellow-throated Miner (E)	Manorina flavigula
Bridled Honeyeater (E)	Bolemoreus frenatus
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (E)	Acanthagenys rufogularis
Little (Brush) Wattlebird (E)	Anthochaera chrysoptera
Yellow Wattlebird (TE)	Anthochaera paradoxa
Varied Honeyeater	Gavicalis versicolor
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater (E)	Ptilotula ornata
Scarlet Myzomela (E)	Myzomela sanguinolenta
Dusky Myzomela	Myzomela obscura
Brown Honeyeater	Lichmera indistincta
Crescent Honeyeater (E)	Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus
New Holland Honeyeater (E)	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae
Yellow-throated Honeyeater (TE)	Nesoptilotis flavicollis
Singing Honeyeater	Gavicalis virescens
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Entomyzon cyanotis
White-naped Honeyeater (E)	Melithreptus lunatus

White-plumed Honeyeater	Ptilotula penicillata
White-throated Honeyeater	Melithreptus albogularis
Brown-backed Honeyeater	Ramsayornis modestus
Black-headed Honeyeater (TE)	Melithreptus affinis
Strong-billed Honeyeater (TE)	Melithreptus validirostris
Macleay's Honeyeater (E)	Xanthotis macleayanus
Striped Honeyeater	Plectorhyncha lanceolata
Little Friarbird	Philemon citreogularis
Noisy Friarbird	Philemon corniculatus
Helmeted Friarbird	Philemon buceroides

PARDALOTES: Pardalotidae

Forty-spotted Pardalote (TE)	Pardalotus quadragintus
Striated Pardalote (E)	Pardalotus striatus

THORNBILLS AND ALLIES: Acanthizidae

Yellow-throated Scrubwren (E)	Sericornis citreogularis
White-browed Scrubwren (E)	Sericornis frontalis
Tasmanian Scrubwren (TE)	Sericornis humilis
Atherton Scrubwren	Sericornis keri
Scrubtit (TE)	Acanthornis magna
Brown Thornbill (E)	Acanthiza pusilla
Tasmanian Thornbill (TE)	Acanthiza ewingii
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (E)	Acanthiza uropygialis
Yellow Thornbill (E)	Acanthiza nana
Yellow-rumped Thornbill (E)	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa
Striated Thornbill (E)	Acanthiza lineata

Fairy Gerygone	Gerygone palpebrosa
Large-billed Gerygone	Gerygone magnirostris
Mangrove Gerygone	Gerygone levigaster
PSEUDO-BABBLERS: Pomatostomidae	
Gray-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus temporalis
Hall's Babbler	Pomatostomus halli
LOGRUNNERS: Orthonychidae	
Australian Logrunner (E)	Orthonyx temminckii
WHIPBIRDS AND WEDGEBILLS: Psophodidae	
Eastern Whipbird (E)	Psophodes olivaceus
WOODSWALLOWS: Artamidae	
White-breasted Woodswallow	Artamus leucorynchus
BELLMAGPIES AND ALLIES: Cracticidae	
Gray Butcherbird (E)	Cracticus torquatus
Pied Butcherbird (E)	Cracticus nigrogularis
Black Butcherbird	Melloria quoyi
Australian Magpie (E)	Gymnorhina tibicen
Pied Currawong (E)	Strepera graculina
Black Currawong (TE)	Strepera fuliginosa
Grey Currawong	Strepera versicolor
CUCKOOSHRIKES: Campephagidae	
Black-faced Cuckooshrike	Coracina novaehollandiae
White-bellied Cuckooshrike	Coracina papuensis
Varied Triller	Lalage leucomela

SITELLAS: Neosittidae	
Varied Sittella	Daphoenositta chrysoptera
WHISTLERS AND ALLIES: Pachycephalidae	
Gray Shrikethrush	Colluricincla harmonica
Olive Whistler (E)	Pachycephala olivacea
Golden Whistler (E)	Pachycephala pectoralis
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris
OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae	
Olive-backed Oriole	Oriolus sagittatus
Green Oriole	Oriolus flavocinctus
Australasian Figbird (E)	Sphecotheres vieilloti
DRONGOS: Dicruridae	
Spangled Drongo	Dicrurus bracteatus
FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae	
Willie-wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys
Gray Fantail	Rhipidura albiscapa
MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae	
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca
Restless Flycatcher (E)	Myiagra inquieta
Shining Flycatcher	Myiagra alecto
Leaden Flycatcher	Myiagra rubecula
CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES: Corvidae	
Torresian Crow	Corvus orru
Little Crow	Corvus bennetti
Australian Raven (E)	Corvus coronoides

Forest Raven	Corvus tasmanicus

WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH AND APOSTLEBIRD: Corcoracidae

Apostlebird (E)	Struthidea cinerea

BIRDS-OF-PARADISE: Paradisaeidae

Victoria's Riflebird (E)	Ptiloris victoriae

AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS: Petroicidae

Jacky-winter	Microeca fascinans
Scarlet Robin (E)	Petroica boodang
Red-capped Robin (E)	Petroica goodenovii
Pink Robin (E)	Petroica rodinogaster
Hooded Robin (E)	Melanodryas cucullata
Dusky Robin (TE)	Melanodryas vittata
Pale-yellow Robin (E)	Tregellasia capito
Eastern Yellow Robin (E)	Eopsaltria australis
Gray-headed Robin (E)	Heteromyias cinereifrons

SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae

Welcome Swallow (E)	Hirundo neoxena
White-backed Swallow	Cheramoeca leucosterna
Fairy Martin	Petrochelidon ariel

REED-WARBLERS AND ALLIES: Acrocephalidae

Australian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus australis

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae

Golden-headed Cisticola	Cisticola exilis

WHITE-EYES, YUHINAS, AND ALLIES: Zosteropidae

Silver-eye	Zosterops lateralis
THRUSHES AND ALLIES: Turdidae	
Bassian Thrush	Zoothera lunulata
Russet-tailed Thrush	Zoothera heinei
Eurasian Blackbird	Turdus merula
STARLINGS: Sturnidae	
European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis
Metallic Starling	Aplonis metallica
FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae	
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum
SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS: Nectariniidae	
Olive-backed Sunbird	Cinnyris jugularis
WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae	
Australasian Pipit	Anthus novaeseelandiae
FINCHES, EUPHONIAS AND ALLIES: Fringillidae	
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis
OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae	
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus
WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae	
Red-browed Firetail (E)	Neochmia temporalis
Zebra Finch	Taeniopygia guttata
Double-barred Finch (E)	Taeniopygia bichenovii
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	Lonchura castaneothorax

MAMMAL LIST

PLATYPUS: Ornithorhynchidae

Duck-billed Platypus	Ornithorhynchus anatinus

BRUSHTAIL POSSUMS: Phalangeridae

Mountain Brushtail Possum	Trichosurus caninus

RINGTAIL POSSUMS: Pseudocheiridae

Common Ringtail Possum	Pseudocheirus peregrinus

MUSKY RAT-KANGAROO: Potoroidae

Musky Rat-Kangaroo	Hypsiprymnodon moschatus

KANGAROOS, WALLABIES AND TREE-KANGAROOS: Macropodidae

Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo	Dendrolagus lumholtzi
Agile Wallaby	Macropus agilis
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	Macropus giganteus
Red Kangaroo	Macropus rufus
Euro (Common Wallaroo)	Macropus robustus
Red-necked Wallaby	Macropus rufogriseus
Mareeba Rock Wallaby	Petrogale mareeba
Bennett’s Wallaby	Macropus rufogriseus
Red-legged Pademelon	Thylogale stigmatica
Red-necked Pademelon	Thylogale thetis

EARED SEALS: Otaridae

Australian Fur Seal	Arctocephalus pusillus

RORQUALS: Balaenopteridae

Humpback Whale	Megaptera novaeangliae