

GRAND AUSTRALIA

PART II: QUEENSLAND, VICTORIA & PLAINS- WANDERER

OCTOBER 17- NOVEMBER 3, 2007

Leader: Dion Hobcroft

Compiled By: Dion Hobcroft

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TOUR REPORT

As if the fabulous, colorful, and rare birds of Australia weren't enough, we also enjoyed great mammals, reptiles, amphibians, wildflowers, and camaraderie on Part II of our Grand Australia tour.

We commenced our tour in sunny Queensland just south of Brisbane in the Lamington National Park, based at the marvelous O'Reilly's Guesthouse. Exploring the Kerry Valley with good friend Tim O'Reilly turned up the elusive White-eared Monarch, Speckled Warbler, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, some surprise Banded Lapwings, and a wonderful encounter with a pair of Glossy Black-Cockatoos. In the mountain rainforest we had the most astonishing views of a male Albert's Lyrebird, a pair of Paradise Riflebirds, and a sensational Marbled Frogmouth.

Winging our way to the tropical north, our stay at Kingfisher Park was excellent, with good food, accommodations, and birds. One of our best sightings was of a Masked Owl—one of Australia's toughest nocturnal birds—sitting in a tree hollow at dusk. We especially enjoyed great views of Chowchilla, Fernwren, Pied Monarch, Lovely Fairywren, Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, Tooth-billed Bowerbird at the display ground, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, male Victoria's Riflebird, male Golden Bowerbird, responsive Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, Squatter Pigeon, flocks of Sarus Crane and Brolga, and Papuan Frogmouth to mention a few, while our super view of a platypus was a great bonus.

Our day on the Barrier Reef produced terns aplenty, while the snorkelers enjoyed fish-watching with sightings ranging from black anemone fish to the superb titan triggerfish and hump-headed parrotfish, with a small black-tipped reef shark thrown into the mix.

Arriving in Melbourne, we made our way to Deniliquin. Now it was time for a really huge day as we kicked off proceedings with good

friend Phil Maher. Megabirds came fast and furious all day, including Superb Parrot; Australian Spotted, Spotless, and Baillon's crakes; Musk Duck; White-backed Swallow; Gilbert's Whistler; and Diamond Firetail in the morning session. After lunch we scoped delicate Australian Pratincoles and cobalt-blue White-winged Fairywrens, and had great views of the rare Australasian Bittern.

During the evening, after a rather epic search, we eventually turned up a stunning female Plains-wanderer—thank goodness! Other good sightings included the delicate carnivorous marsupial known as the fat-tailed dunnart, plus a Stubble Quail. One of the great birding days in the world!

Up to Hattah Lakes we found Emus with striped chicks, delicate Mallee Emuwrens, unbelievable Splendid Fairywrens, colorful Mulga and Regent parrots, and enjoyed a superb encounter with the wonderful Major Mitchell's Cockatoo. On the drive south we turned up the cryptic Southern Scrub-Robin and Shy Heathwren.

Our final birding stop was the Little Desert National Park. There were lots of great birds here, with pride of place going to the Malleefowl—the enigmatic desert megapode. Other great sightings followed in rapid succession including point-blank views of Rufous Fieldwren, the rare Slender-billed Thornbill, cooperative Purple-gaped Honeyeaters, and a fence line covered in dapper White-fronted Chats.

We finished our trip with 351 species of birds (half of the birds of Australia) in two weeks—an excellent result.

Sadly our tour was over, but it was a very special group, and I would like to thank all of the participants for the good laughs and special moments we enjoyed in the field. So special thanks to Dixie Coleman, Jim and Karol DeVries, Anne Kahle, Bob Purnell, Lisa Thurston, and Mary Walters for a top trip. I look forward to traveling with you again in the future.

Dion Hobcroft

ITINERARY

- 20 October:** Brisbane to the Kerry Valley and then O'Reillys
21 October: O'Reillys
22 October: O'Reillys till 1130 then drive to Brisbane and fly to Cairns.
23 October: Cairns to Centenary Lakes to Kuranda and then Kingfisher Park.
24 October: AM Mount Lewis. PM Mount Carbine and Mareeba Wetlands.
25 October: AM Daintree River PM Julatten State Forest
26 October: AM Cassowary House PM Atherton Tablelands
27 October: Great Barrier Reef trip to Michaelmas Cay
28 October: Fly Cairns to Melbourne and then drive to Deniliquin.
29 October: Full day birding Deniliquin
30 October: Deniliquin to Ouyen birding Hattah Lakes
31 October: Full day Hattah Lakes
1 November: Ouyen to Little Desert via Hopetoun
2 November: Little Desert to Melbourne
3 November: Tour concludes Melbourne. Some folks continue onto Tasmania.

KEY

Little Desert National Park=LDNP

Hattah Lakes National Park=HLNP

Deniliquin = Deni

O'Reillys=OR including Duck Creek Road and Kerry Valley

Kingfisher Park=KP

Mt. Lewis=ML

Mt. Molloy=MM

Quaid Dam=QD (also called Lake Mitchell)

Daintree River=DR

Cairns Esplanade=CE

Cassowary House, Kuranda=CH

Michaelmas Cay=MC

E=Endemic

BIRDLIST

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*: E (12) HLNP and (3) Deni.

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*: E (1) at Nhill Sewage Farm on 1 Nov; (1) at HLNP on 30 Oct and (10) Deni on 29 Oct.

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*: Recorded on 3 days with max. (10) at Deni.

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*: Recorded on 7 days with max. (10) on 27-28 Oct.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*: (20) MC

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*: Recorded on 3 days with max. (2) CL

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: (1) 26 Oct and (5) Deni.

Little Black Cormorant *P. sulcirostris*: Recorded on 3 days with max. (2) Deni.

Little Pied Cormorant *P. melanoleucos*: Recorded on 6 days with max. (15) on 29 Oct.

Greater Frigatebird *Fregata minor*: (5) MC

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*: Singles recorded on 2 days.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*: Recorded on 6 days with max. (20) CE.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*: Recorded on 3 days with max. (5) on 23 Oct.

White-faced Heron *Ardea novaehollandiae*: Recorded on 7 days with max. (2).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: Recorded on 4 days including (1) Deniliquin where they are quite scarce.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Recorded on 4 days with max. (20). This is the eastern subspecies *coromandus* sometimes given full species status.

Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*: (2) DR

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus*: (2) Deni-possibly the same bird that flushed twice gave a great flight view of this threatened species.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*: (1) at Lake Tinaroo on 26 Oct.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: (1) on 23 Oct and a flock of (20) at Deni.

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*: Recorded on 8 days with max. (20) on 23 Oct.

Straw-necked Ibis *T. spinicollis*: Recorded on 7 days with max. (50) at KV on 20 Oct.

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*: Recorded on 4 days with max. (10) on 27 Oct at CE.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *P. flavipes*: E (2) in Deni on 29 Oct.

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmatus*: (20) CL and (50) Lake Tinaroo.

Plumed Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytonii*: E (1000) Lake Tinaroo.

Wandering Whistling Duck *D. arcuata*: (1) KV and (4) CL.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*: E Recorded on 3 days with max. (10) with cygnets at Deni on 29 Oct.

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*: E (3) Deni on 29 Oct.

Green Pygmy-Goose *Nettapus pulchellus*: (4) at Quaid Dam on 23 Oct.

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*: Recorded on 5 days with max. (50) on 26 Oct at Lake Tinaroo.

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*: E (2) Deni and (2) HL.

Australian Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*: Recorded on 4 days with max. (50) Deni.

Pacific Black Duck *A. superciliosa*: Recorded on 7 days with max. (200) Deni

Hardhead *Aythya australis*: Recorded on 5 days with max. (50) Deni.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*: E (5) mostly males at Deni on 29 Oct. Always a bizarre bird.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*: (2) Cairns Cemetery on 23 Oct gave a good flight view.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*: E (2) on 26 Oct whilst we refuelled in Atherton was the only sighting of this beautiful raptor.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: Recorded on 9 days with max. (10) on several days in north Queensland.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*: (1) DR was our only sighting.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*: Recorded on 7 days with max. (10) on 26 Oct.

White-bellied Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*: (1) on 26 Oct at Lake Tinaroo expended a lot of energy trying to catch a whistling duck in a spectacular hunting effort.

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*: Recorded on 2 days with max. (4) at Deni where hunting rabbits in plague proportions seemed the primary focus.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*: E (1) near Julatten on 25 Oct was a bonus sighting of this scarce bird.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*: Singles seen on three dates.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*: Recorded on 5 days with max. (10) between Deni and Ouyen on 30 Oct.

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*: E Single seen on 30 Oct at HL was our only sighting. Now endemic as split from New Guinea species.

Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*: E (1) in flight over Mount Molloy on 23 Oct was a good sighting of a rare endemic.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: (1) on 28 Oct at CE.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*: Recorded on 5 days with max. (5) on drive between Ouyen and Nhill.

Australian Kestrel *F.cenchroides*: Recorded on 7 days with max. (10) between Deni and Ouyen on 30 Oct.

Black Falcon *F. subniger*: E (1) gave an excellent flight view as it hunted over a wheat paddock north of Nhill on 1 Nov. Always a good bird to see as naturally scarce.

Peregrine Falcon *F. peregrinus*: (1) DR on 25 Oct.

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*: (5-10) daily at KP.

Australian Brush Turkey *Alectura lathami*: E OR (10-20) daily, KP (5-10) daily

Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata*: E (2) in LDNP in Whimpey's fox proof sanctuary on 2 Nov.

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*: (1) crossing road on 25 Oct near KP.

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis*: E (1) juvenile female spotlighted at Deni gave a great view.

Brolga *Grus rubicundus*: (2) on 26 Oct near Atherton

Sarus Crane *G. antigone*: (50) on 26 Oct at various sites near Atherton.

Red-necked Crake *Rallina tricolor*: Heard only at KP on three dates.

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*: Singles seen daily 23-25 Oct.

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*: (3) Deni

Australian Spotted Crake *P. fluminea*: E (2) Deni

Spotless Crake *P. tabuensis*: (1) Deni gave a typical fleeting view scurrying between clumps of Typha in response to playback. Also heard on 25 Oct at Abbatoir Swamp.

White-browed Crake *P. cinerea*: (1) CL on 23 Oct and (2) Abbatoir Swamp near Julatten on 25 Oct.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*: Recorded on 3 days with max. (30) at Deni on 29 Oct.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*: (1) KV on 20 Oct and (2) Deni on 29 Oct.

Black-tailed Native-hen *G. ventralis*: E (10) Deni

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*: Recorded on 5 days with max. (100) at Lake Tinaroo on 26 Oct.

Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis*: (1) East Maryfarms Rd near Mount Carbine on 24 Oct.

Plains-wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus*: E (1) a stunning female popped up as we nearly ran out of time. A huge relief for everyone.

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*: Recorded on 2 days with max. (10) Quaid Dam on 23 Oct.

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*: (4) Cairns Cemetery, (1) Mareeba Wetlands and (10) at different sites near Atherton on 26 Oct.

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris*: (1) on the coast near Mossman on 25 Oct was a great bird.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: (1-2) seen on three days.

Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*: E (15) on the small ponds between Nhill and LDNP.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*: (1) MC

Greater Sand Plover *C. leschenaultii*: (2) CE on 28 Oct.

Red-capped Plover *C. ruficapillus*: E (1) CE

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyornis melanops*: E Recorded on 3 days with max. (3) DR.

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*: E (5) Deni and (6) on the small ponds between Nhill and LDNP on 1 Nov.

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*: E (2) KV on a turf farm and (10) Deni.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*: Recorded on 6 days.

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*: (1) DR on 25 Oct.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*: (10-20) on every visit to CE.

Bar-tailed Godwit *L. lapponica*: (20-40) on every visit to CE.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: (2-10) CE of the Siberian breeding subspecies *variegatus*.

Eastern Curlew *N. madagascariensis*: (10) CE

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: (1-3) CE

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*: (6) CE

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: (1) DR

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*: (10) (10) CE

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*: (10) MC

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*: (10) CE

Red-necked Stint *C. ruficollis*: (100) CE

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *C. acuminata*: (10) QD on 23 Oct and (20-50) CE

Curlew Sandpiper *C. ferruginea*: (1-20) CE

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*: (4) Deni on 29 Oct.

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*: Recorded on 6 days with max. (50).

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*: (1-2) CE

Caspian Tern *S. caspia*: (1-10) CE

Lesser Crested Tern *S. bengalensis*: (100) MC

Crested Tern *S. bergii*: (20) MC

Black-naped Tern *S. sumatrana*: (10) MC

Common Tern *S. hirundo*: (2) MC

Little Tern *S. albifrons*: (4) MC-CE

Bridled Tern *S. anaethetus*: (20) MC

Sooty Tern *S. fuscata*: (200) MC

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*: (5) QD on 23 Oct and (5) Deni on 29 Oct.

Common Noddy *Anous stolidus*: (500) MC

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: Recorded on 8 days with max. (20) in Ouyen.

White-headed Pigeon *C. leucomela*: E (10) near Julatten on 25 Oct with (2) at this same site the following morning. Heard at OR.

Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: Recorded on 4 days with max. (10) Brisbane on 20 Oct.

Brown Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia phasianella*: E Recorded on 6 days with max. (4) near Julatten.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*: (2-5) KP daily

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*: E Recorded on 6 days with max. (10) HLNP on 31 Oct.

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*: E Recorded on 6 days with max. (50) on at least three dates.

Squatter Pigeon *Geophaps scripta*: E (20) found in the late afternoon near Mareeba Wetland Centre on 24 Oct.

Peaceful Dove *G. striata*: Recorded on 9 days with max. (10) on 23-24 Oct.

Bar-shouldered Dove *G. humeralis*: Recorded on 4 days with max. (10) near KP.

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*: E (4-6) OR daily.

Wompoo Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*: (1) Kerry Valley scoped in a fruiting fig; (1) in flight across DR on 25 Oct and (3) at CH included watching one calling in perfect light from the balcony. Also heard OR, ML and JSF.

Superb Fruit-dove *P. superbus*: (2) ML included a stunning perched male for those who were quick with (1) leader only JSF.

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*: Recorded on 2 days with max. (100) DR and CL. Sometimes split as Torresian Imperial Pigeon *D. spilorrhoea*.

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*: E Recorded on 3 days with max. (20) Julatten always flight views.

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*: E (3-10) in dry woodlands centred on Mareeba in FNQ on three days gave some good scope perched views.

Glossy Black Cockatoo *C. lathami*: E (2) OR on 21 Oct gave a great view, thanks to Tim.

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*: E Recorded on 9 days with over (200) on at least three dates.

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*: (10) HLNP on 31 Oct.

Long-billed Corella *C. tenuirostris*: E Recorded on 4 days with max. (50) on drive from Melbourne to Deni on 28 Oct.

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *C. leadbeateri*: E (3) HLNP on 31 Oct gave an incredible crest up perched view right next to us in response to playback. The next morning we saw a pair from our hotel in Ouyen.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *C. galerita*: Recorded on 13 days with max. (200) on 26 Oct.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*: Recorded on 7 days with max. (50) in KV.

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *T. chlorolepidotus*: E (20) KV with (2-10) on 4 dates in FNQ.

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*: E (20) feeding in flowering Eucalypts in the town of Nhill on 1 Nov.

Purple-crowned Lorikeet *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*: E (2) feeding in with the Musk Lorikeets in Nhill on 1 Nov.

Little Lorikeet *G. pusilla*: E (3) in the Kerry Valley on 20 Oct took a while to track down.

Double-eyed Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*: Recorded on 4 days with best views of (5) at CL on 23 Oct.

Australian King Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*: E (10-20) OR on both days landing on your head if necessary for close views. A magnificent bird.

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*: (1) MM on 24 Oct.

Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii*: E (20) Deni on 29 Oct

Regent Parrot *Polytelis anthopeplus*: E (8-10) HLNP on 30-31 Oct with (15) at Lake Hindmarsh a good sighting on 1 Nov.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*: E (20-30) OR daily landing on your head and shoulders for a snack.

Yellow Rosella *Platycercus flaveolus*: E (4) in Redgum forests at Deni and (10) at HLNP. Often considered a subspecies of Crimson Rosella.

Eastern Rosella *P. eximius*: E Recorded on 4 days with max. (10) Deni.

Pale-headed Rosella *P. adscitus*: E Recorded on 4 days with max. (10) in the Kerry Valley below OR.

Mallee Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius*: E (6-10) both days HLNP.

Mulga Parrot *Psephotus varius*: E (5) HLNP

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*: E Recorded on 5 days with max. (50) Deni.

Blue Bonnet *Northiella haematogaster*: E Recorded on 2 days with max. (8) Deni.

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*: (1) showed well on 29 Oct in Redgum woodland near Deni.

Brush Cuckoo *C. variolosus*: (1) whistled in and in the scope in Kerry Valley below OR on 20 Oct.

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *C. castaneiventris*: (2) taped in Julatten SF gave great scope views.

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*: (1) Deni on 29 Oct and (2) on fence wires in LDNP on 1 Nov.

Shining Bronze Cuckoo *C. lucidus*: (1) OR on 21 Oct. Heard on a couple of other dates.

Little Bronze Cuckoo *C. minutillus*: (3) Kerry Valley on 20 Oct.

Gould's Bronze Cuckoo *C. russatus*: (1) Kuranda State Forest on 23 Oct with (2) CH on 26 Oct.

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*: (5) DR where exceptionally conspicuous and obliging. Often heard.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*: (1-2) seen in flight on 4 dates.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*: E Seen on 3 days with max. (2) near KP on 25 Oct.

Southern Boobook *N. novaeseelandiae*: E Heard only at night at ML on 25 Oct.

Lesser Sooty Owl *Tyto multipunctata*: E ML: heard only on 25 Oct.

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*: (1) spotlighted at dusk at the entrance to a Eucalypt hollow at KP on 23 Oct was a great bird to see and gave a superb view. Always scarce.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*: (1) gave a great view whilst spotlighting for the Plains-wanderer near Deni on 29 Oct.

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*: E (1) OR on 21 Oct and (1) Deni on 29 Oct.

Papuan Frogmouth *P. papuensis*: (1) KP on 23 Oct and (1) DR on a nest was a good spot.

Marbled Frogmouth *P. ocellatus*: (1) male OR was responsive to playback and gave a mega view just after dusk on 21 Oct.

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*: (1) found by Tim in the day was a great piece of spotting at OR on 21 Oct.

White-rumped Swiftlet *Collocalia terraereginae*: Seen on 3 days with max. (20) DR.

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*: (2) DR

Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*: (1) DR in the scope after a concerted search effort was a lucky break of a very recently returned migrant on 25 Oct.

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguinae*: E Recorded on 9 days with max. (10) on 20 Oct.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *D. leachii*: Seen well on 2 days with singles at Mount Carbine and Mareeba Wetlands.

Forest Kingfisher *Todirhamphus macleayii*: common in north Qld with up to (10) daily.

Sacred Kingfisher *T. sanctus*: Seen well on 4 days with max. (4) Kerry Valley.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*: Seen on 8 days with max. (20) Kerry Valley.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*: Seen on 5 days with max. (20) Kerry Valley.

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*: (1) taped in at ML and was pretty timid-unusual up this high; (1) the next day at KP showed very well for everyone.

Albert's Lyrebird *Menura alberti*: E (1) male gave a great view OR on 22 Oct; with a more typical fleeting view of a runaway bird on 21 Oct.

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaeus*: E Seen on three dates including a pair of the subspecies *minor* at ML on 24 Oct.

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptera*: E (1) OR: gave a good view on 21 Oct.

Brown Treecreeper *C. picumnus*: E Seen on 4 days with max. (6) Deni. (2) of the subspecies *melanota* at Mareeba Wetland Centre on 24 Oct.

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*: E Seen on 5 days with max. (10) OR.

Splendid Fairy-wren *M. splendens*: E (1) stunning male HLNP on 30 Oct. One of the great birds in the world.

Variegated Fairy-wren *M. lamberti*: E (2) on both days in OR district with (3) LDNP on 1 Nov.

Lovely Fairy-wren *M. amabilis*: E (2) DR took considerable patience to track down in dense vine tangles. Everyone finally managed a good view of this scarce species.

White-winged Fairy-wren *M. leucopterus*: E (3) Deni including great males.

Red-backed Fairy-wren *M. melanocephalus*: E (2) in Kerry Valley on 20 Oct including a super male with (1) DR.

Mallee Emu-wren *Stipiturus mallee*: E (2) HLNP gave great views of this scarce skulker on 31 Oct.

Striated Grasswren *Amytornis striatus*: E (2) HLNP gave poor glimpses of this lightning fast megabird.

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*: E Recorded on 6 days with up to (10) LDNP on 1 Nov.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*: E Recorded on 4 days with max. (10) Ouyen on 1 Nov.

Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*: E (2) showed well in Kerry Valley; Heard only on 4 days in Victoria-Deni.

Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*: (2) on 23 Oct and (1) on 26 Oct.

Noisy Friarbird *P. corniculatus*: E Recorded on 4 days with max. (10) Kerry Valley on 20 Oct.

Little Friarbird *P. citreogularis*: Recorded on 4 days with max. (10) on 24 Oct in dry woodlands near Mount Carbine and Mareeba Wetland Centre.

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*: Seen on 6 days-lots of good views of this handsome almost jay-like species.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*: E (10) OR on 21 Oct in one of their typically tinkling colonies.

Noisy Miner *M. melanocephalus*: E Recorded on 6 days, a common bird in disturbed habitats.

Yellow-throated Miner *M. flavigula*: E (5) Deni on 29 Oct with (5-10) around Ouyen daily.

Macleay's Honeyeater *Xanthotis macleayana*: E KP (10) daily, CH (10)

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*: E Recorded on 5 days with max. (10) OR. A couple at KP and ML.

Yellow-spotted Honeyeater *M. notatus*: E Recorded on 4 days with max. (5) KP.

Graceful Honeyeater *M. gracilis*: (2-5) daily KP

Bridled Honeyeater *Lichenostomus frenatus*: E ML (2) Longlands Gap (1)

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *L. chrysops*: E Recorded on 4 days with best views OR.

Singing Honeyeater *L. virescens*: E (1-2) on 3 days mostly in Ouyen.

Varied Honeyeater *L. versicolor*: CE (10).

Yellow Honeyeater *L. flavus*: E (5) CL on 23 Oct and (2) Mount Molloy School on 25 Oct.

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis*: E (1) LDNP on 2 Oct.

Purple-gaped Honeyeater *Lichenostomus cratitius*: E (2) at LDNP on 2 Oct gave a great view even showing the purple gape on this typically shy species.

Yellow-plumed Honeyeater *L. ornatus*: E (10-20) HLNP both days.

Fuscous Honeyeater *L. fuscus*: E (1) in roadside box woodlands on drive from Melbourne to Deni on 28 Oct.

White-plumed Honeyeater *L. penicillatus*: E Recorded on 3 days with max. (5) Deni on 29 Oct.

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*: (1) Kerry Valley gave a great view with (2) on 26 Oct.

White-naped Honeyeater *M. lunatus*: E OR (10) on 21 Oct.

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*: E (2) HLNP on 31 Oct and (1) near Hopetoun on 1 Nov.

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*: E Recorded on 3 days with max. (10) on 23 Oct at CL.

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*: E Recorded on 2 days with max. (5-10) LDNP.

White-fronted Honeyeater *Phylidonyris albifrons*: E (2) Ouyen in town park on 31 Oct.

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *P. melanops*: E (4) LDNP in sandplain heathland.

Brown-backed Honeyeater *Ramsayornis modestus*: E (10) DR and (10) CL.

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*: E (2) OR on 21 Oct.

Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela obscura*: E (10) CL and (1) CH.

Scarlet Myzomela *M. sanguinolenta*: E (1) striking male Kerry Valley gave a good view for all. Heard on three other days.

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*: E (10-20) on both 1-2 Nov in LDNP perching on fence lines gave great views of this beautiful little bird.

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*: E (1) yellow-rumped subspecies *xanthopygus* seen in HLNP on 31 Oct. Heard on 4 other days.

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*: E Recorded on 4 days with max. (8) seen in Deni on 29 Oct.

Fernwren *Oreoscopus gutturalis*: E (4) including watching a pair nest building ML.

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*: E Seen on 4 dates with max. (10-20) at both OR and ML.

White-browed Scrubwren *S. frontalis*: E (1) Deni and (10) OR daily.

Atherton Scrubwren: *S. keri*: E (4) ML, responded well to playback.

Large-billed Scrubwren *S. magnirostris*: E Seen on 4 days with max. (5) OR.

Speckled Warbler *Chthonicola sagittarius*: E (3) Kerry Valley gave great views of this uncommon bird.

Rufous Fieldwren *Calamanthus campestris*: E (1) LDNP on 2 Nov responded to playback well.

Shy Heathwren *Hylacola cauta*: E (1) near Hopetoun on 1 Nov gave a great view. Also heard LDNP.

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*: E Recorded on 6 days with max. (3) on 29 Oct, Deni.

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*: E (2-6) OR both days.

Western Gerygone *G. fusca*: E (1) Deni.

Large-billed Gerygone *G. magnirostris*: (5) DR and (1) CL on 23 Oct.

Fairy Gerygone *G. palpebrosa*: (5) near Julatten on 25 Oct.

White-throated Gerygone *G. olivacea*: E (1) tracked down by song in Kerry Valley gave a great view.

Mountain Thornbill *Acanthiza katherina*: E (6) ML

Brown Thornbill *A. pusilla*: E (2) OR.

Inland Thornbill *A. apicalis*: E (2) LDNP, (4) HLNP

Chestnut-rumped Thornbill *A. uropygialis*: E Recorded on 3 days with max. (10) HLNP.

Buff-rumped Thornbill *A. reguloides*: E (3) Deni

Slender-billed Thornbill *A. iredalei*: E (2) of the rare subspecies *hedleyi* responded to playback in LDNP and gave a great view.

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *A. chrysorrhoa*: E Recorded on 5 days with max. (4) Deni.

Yellow Thornbill *A. nana*: E (10) Deni on 29 Oct.

Striated Thornbill *A. lineata*: E (2) OR and (2) Deni.

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*: E (5) HLNP on 30 Oct.

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascians*: (1-4) seen on three dates including HLNP, LDNP and Deni.

Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *M. flavigaster*: Heard only on 24 Oct.

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*: E (4) Deni

Rose Robin *P. rosea*: E (1) male, OR on 21 Oct.

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*: E (2) Deni on 29 Oct and (1) HLNP on 31 Oct.

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregallasia capito*: E (4-10) KP daily.

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*: E (10) OR daily.

White-browed Robin *Poecilodryas superciliosa*: E MM (1) on 23 Oct of the nominate subspecies now split from Buff-sided Robin.

Grey-headed Robin *Heteromyias albispecularis*: E (6) ML and (2) Longlands Gap.

Southern Scrub-Robin *Drymodes brunneopygia*: E (1) near Hopetoun on 1 Nov; also heard LDNP.

Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*: E (2) OR great views on two days.

Chowchilla *O. spaldingii*: E (4) ML gave great views.

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*: E (10) Deni with (1-2) daily HLNP and LDNP.

Grey-crowned Babbler *P. temporalis*: E (10) Deni on 29 Oct.

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*: E (3-5) both days OR; (1) JSF on 25 Oct. Heard on 2 other days.

Varied Sittella *Daphoensitta chrysoptera*: (5-10) OR of white-headed subspecies and (2) Deni of orange-winged subspecies.

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontalis*: E (2) Deni gave great views.

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis*: E Great views of (2) HLNP including singing male in the scope.

Gilbert's Whistler *Pachycephala inornata*: E (1) male gave a great view Deni on 29 Oct. Also heard LDNP.

Golden Whistler *P. pectoralis*: Recorded on 4 days with max. (4) OR on 21 Oct.

Grey Whistler *P. simplex*: Heard only this year on 23 and 25 Oct but not responsive.

Rufous Whistler *P. rufiventris*: Recorded on 5 days with best views of (2) in OR on 20 Oct.

Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*: (2-5) daily KP

Bower's Shrike-thrush *C. boweri*: E (1) ML

Grey Shrike-thrush *C. harmonica*: Recorded on 8 days with max. (2) OR on 21 Oct.

Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*: (1) stunning male near Julatten on 26 Oct.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*: (2) OR on 21 Oct.

Spectacled Monarch *M. trivirgatus*: (1) OR on 20 Oct; (1-2) daily at KP.

White-eared Monarch *M. leucotis*: E (2) OR on 20 Oct gave great views of this scarce and elusive species.

Pied Monarch *Arses kaupi*: E A good year for this species with (1) Kuranda SF, (1) DR and (2) JSF. A real crowd pleaser-stunning bird.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*: (1) Kerry Valley.

Shining Flycatcher *M. alecto*: (4) DR including at nest.

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*: common, recorded almost daily

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*: (2-4) OR daily.

Grey Fantail *R. fuliginosa*: Recorded on 3 days with max. (6) of the dark subspecies *keasti* ML.

Willie Wagtail *R. leucophrys*: common, recorded daily

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*: (2-6) recorded daily in Queensland.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*: Recorded on 8 days with max. (20) on 20 Oct.

Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike *C. lineata*: (3) CH on 26 Oct.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *C. papuensis*: (1) Mount Carbine on 24 Oct.

Cicadabird *C. tenuirostris*: (1) male OR on 21 Oct and (2) on 26 Oct at CH.

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*: (2) Deni and (3) on 1 Nov.

Varied Triller *L. leucomela*: (1) Kerry Valley on 20 Oct and (1-3) seen on 25-26 Oct.

Yellow Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*: (2) CL on 23 Oct and (2) DR.

Olive-backed Oriole *O. sagittatus*: (2) OR on 20 Oct.

Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*: Recorded on 5 days with max. (20) DR.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*: Recorded on 5 days with max. (10) DR.

Masked Woodswallow *A. personatus*: E (10-20) both days HLNP.

White-browed Woodswallow *A. superciliosus*: E Seen on 5 days with max. (100) HLNP.

Dusky Woodswallow *A. cyanopterus*: E (5) Deni and (1) LDNP.

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*: (1) CL and (1) CH.

Grey Butcherbird *C. torquatus*: E (1) HLNP.

Pied Butcherbird *C. nigrogularis*: E Recorded on 5 days with max. (4) HLNP.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*: E Recorded on 10 days with max. (20) on 30 Oct.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*: E Recorded on 3 days with max. (20) OR.

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*: E (5) HLNP on 31 Oct was a good result for the scarce subspecies *melanoptera*.

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*: E (2) OR gave a sensational view of the male with female nearby.

Victoria's Riflebird *P. victoriae*: E (1) female DR with great views of male at CH on 26 Oct.

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*: E Recorded on 5 days in Victoria.

Little Raven *C. mellori*: E Recorded on 6 days in Victoria.

Torresian Crow *C. orru*: E Recorded on 6 days with max. (20) in Kerry Valley on 20 Oct.

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphus*: E Recorded on 6 days with max. (20) at Deni.

Apostlebird *Struthidea cinerea*: E (8) found fortuitously on roadside drive near the town of Kyalite, NSW on 30 Oct.

Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus melanotis*: (1) ML; (2) CH.

Green Catbird *A. crassirostris*: E (4) OR

Tooth-billed Bowerbird *Scenopoeetes dentirostris*: E (1) ML watched singing from his stage after a bit of patient stalking.

Golden Bowerbird *Prionodura newtoniana*: E (1) male seen quite well twice at Longlands Gap SF on 26 Oct. Unfortunately quite shy and not everyone had a sighting.

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*: E (20-30) OR daily; sometimes feeding from our hands. Sensational.

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*: E (30-40) OR daily including watching a male renovating his bower.

Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis*: E (1) on 24 Oct near Mount Carbine and (5) on 25 Oct at MM, where we studied the bower of this amazing bird.

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*: (5) Deni: spotlit at night whilst plains-wandering.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*: Recorded on 5 days with max. (10) Deni.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: Recorded on 6 days with max. (20) Deni.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*: (2) Deni

Double-barred Finch *Taenopygia bichenovii*: E (2) Kerry Valley on 20 Oct and (30) near Mount Molloy on 25 Oct.

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*: E Recorded on 6 days with max. (20) daily KP.

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*: E (1) gave great views Deni on 29 Oct. A declining species.

Chestnut-breasted Munia *Lonchura castaneothorax*: (1) Kerry Valley on 20 Oct.

Scaly-breasted Munia *L. punctulata*: (2) CE on 23 Oct.

Blue-faced Parrot-finch *Erythrura trichroa*: Heard only at ML and near Julatten.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*: (2) as we drove into Melbourne on 2 Nov.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*: (1-2) on three days in north Queensland.

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*: (1) 20 Oct and (1) 28 Oct.

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*: Recorded on 9 days.

Tree Martin *H. nigricans*: Recorded on 5 days with max. (10) Deni.

Fairy Martin *H. ariel*: E (10) Deni

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternus*: E (2) Deni

Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*: E (10) Deni.

Little Grassbird *M. gramineus*: (2) Deni.

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*: E (2) Ouyen on 1 Nov.

Brown Songlark *C. cruralis*: E (1) male in Kerry Valley; (5) including some spotlit in Deni and (2) LDNP.

Silvereeye *Zosterops lateralis*: Recorded on 7 days with max. (10) Kerry Valley.

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*: E (1-2) OR.

Russet-tailed Thrush *Z. heinei*: E (1-4) OR on 21-22 Oct.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*: (2-10) daily in Deni and Victoria.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*: (50-100) KP, DR daily

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*: Recorded on 4 days with max. (20) near Deni on 29 Oct.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*: Recorded on 4 days with max. (10) near Brisbane on 20 Oct.

NATIVE MAMMALS

Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*: (1) KP on 24 Oct gave a great view.

Fat-tailed Dunnart *Sminthopsis crassicaudata*: (2) whilst spot-lighting for the Plains-wanderer in Deni on 29 Oct gave great views.

Northern Brown Bandicoot *Isoodon macrourus*: (1-2) KP came in around the feeders at night.

Long-nosed Bandicoot *Perameles nasuta*: (1) KP came around the feeders at night.

Mountain Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus caninus*: (1-2) OR came around the restaurant at night.

Striped Possum *Dactylopsila trivirgata*: (1) road-killed at Bushy Creek near Julatten was a rare sighting.

Common Ringtail *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*: (1) seen by several folks at OR.

Musky Rat Kangaroo *Hypsiprymnodon moschatus*: (10) CH

Red-legged Pademelon *Thylogale stigmatica*: (1) road-killed in Julatten SF had attracted a Lace Monitor.

Red-necked Pademelon *T. thetis*: (10-20) daily OR

Red-necked Wallaby *Macropus rufogriseus*: (10) Kerry Valley

Agile Wallaby *M. agilis*: (20) near Lake Tinaroo on 26 Oct with a couple of singles on the two days preceding.

Eastern Grey Kangaroo *M. giganteus*: (20) Kerry Valley; (2) Mareeba Wetlands and (2-10) Deni.

Western Grey Kangaroo *M. fuliginosus*: (2-5) daily HLNP.

Red Kangaroo *M. rufus*: (4) Deni

Spectacled Flying-fox *Pteropus conspicillatus*: Several flying around CE after dark.

White-tailed Giant Rat *Uromys caudimaculatus*: (2) KP seen by Dion only.

NATIVE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Fleay's Barred Frog *Mixophyes fleayii*: This threatened frog was heard calling at OR whilst we searched for the Marbled Frogmouth on 21 Oct.

White-lipped Tree Frog *Litoria infrafrenata*: (2) found whilst spotlighting at ML on 25 Oct. Australia's largest tree frog—a spectacular animal.

Northern Lesueur's Tree Frog *Litoria willcoxi*: (1) found whilst spot-lighting at ML on 25 Oct.

Pearson's Tree Frog *Litoria pearsoniana*: Heard at OR.

Saltwater Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*: (1) DR was a large individual and definitely best avoided in the water!

Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas*: (1) seen on trip out to MC.

Broad-shelled River Turtle *Chelodina expansa*: (1) presented to us by a local whilst having lunch in the KV on 20 Oct. He later released this rarely seen giant species he had caught whilst fishing.

Eastern Shortneck Turtle *Emydura signata*: (3) at a dam in Kerry Valley on 20 Oct.

Common Scalyfoot *Pygopus lepidopodus*: (1) Kerry Valley being consumed by a Laughing Kookaburra.

Lace Monitor *Varanus varius*: (1) Julatten State Forest was attracted to a road-killed wallaby. Many clients were impressed by the size of this giant lizard.

Frilled Dragon *Chlamydosaurus kingii*: (1) near Mount Carbine on 24 Oct was a rare sighting of a female of this well camouflaged species.

Eastern Water Dragon *Physignathus lesueurii*: (1) Kerry Valley on 20 Oct.

Coastal Bearded Dragon *Pogona barbata*: (1) near Kyalite on 30 Oct.

Mallee Dragon *Ctenophorus fordii*: (2) HLNP on 31 Oct.

Shingleback *Tiliqua rugosa*: (1) 31 Oct on drive from Ouyen to LDNP.

Major Skink *Egernia frerei*: (1) KP

Eastern Brown Snake *Pseudonaja textilis*: (1) Deni