

TASMANIA EXTENSION

NOVEMBER 3 – 9, 2007

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VENT TASMANIA EXTENSION

TOUR REPORT AND ANNOTATED CHECKLIST

November 3-9, 2007

Tasmania, 42° .00 S 147° .00 E: at the northern end of the famed Roaring Forties lies a stunning island paradise. Lush and green it reminds visitors of the verdant luxury of an English country garden yet has some of the most dramatic and windswept scenery imaginable. As a result of its isolation, Tasmania supports a number of exciting endemic birds and provides some great habitat for mainland Australian species that are easier to see here. It also provides safe haven to a number of mammalian species and some of these are very easy to observe in the security of this island state.

VENT's exploration of this little piece of heaven will begin in and around its capital, Hobart. We'll visit several reserves and enclaves of safety for such birds as the Forty-spotted Pardalote (now numbering under 2,500 individuals) and travel by ferry to the now mostly protected Bruny Island. From Hobart we wind our way northwards to Cradle Mountain National Park and make a day trip to the exciting west coast town of Strahan. If you left Strahan heading west by boat, indeed if you could get out safely of the notorious Hell's Gate, then the next landfall you'd make would be the South American continent and the small Argentinean town of Puerto Lobos at 65° .00 W!

From Cradle Mountain we head to the north coast of Tasmania before re-tracking partly down an adjoining valley to visit the Mountain Valley Wilderness Lodge and witness some serious mammalian action. After our night-time sojourn with the animals that visit our cabins to dine with us it's on to the charming town of Launceston.

Some of the special birds we hoped to see on this trip included the not so secretive and very large Tasmanian Native-hen; Hooded Plover; Pacific Gull with its massive bill; rare and endangered Swift Parrot; Green Rosella; the exquisite Pink Robin; Dusky Robin; the elusive and rare Scrubtit; Tasmanian Thornbill; Yellow Wattlebird; Yellow-throated, Strong-billed, and Black-headed honeyeaters; the rare Forty-spotted Pardalote; Beautiful Firetail and Black Currawong. Sadly Ground Parrot was to elude us this year. Mammals include Platypus, Short-beaked Echidna, Spotted-tailed Quoll, Eastern Quoll, Tasmanian Devil, Common Wombat, Tasmanian Pademelon and Red-necked Wallaby.

Our intrepid group, some of whom were fresh from four weeks of the Grand Australia Tour arrived raring to go at Hobart's domestic terminal at 10.00.

After collecting the vehicle, baggage and Bob, Mary, David and Linda we were then on our way, first to the hotel to check in and then to our first destination: lunch and a get to know you coffee in a delightful Hobart bakery in Sandy Bay. A good time to catch up with just what had been seen on the earlier part of the tour for two of the group and discuss just what we would be doing for the next 6 days.

After lunch, time to bird: we were off to the Waterworks Reservoir in suburban Hobart. One of the delights of Tasmania is the ease with which most birds make their way onto the checklist. Soon we were enjoying our first endemic: Black-headed Honeyeater. The first of four honeyeaters endemic to Tasmania and try as we may we couldn't spread them out over the first few days, recording all 4 of them in our first afternoon. Numerous Kelp Gull circled the reservoir as we got onto Spotted and Striated Pardalotes and Superb Fairy-wren. Eastern Spinebill and New Holland Honeyeater allowed our honeyeater tally for the afternoon to go up to 6 while a stunning ♂ Scarlet Robin performed admirably along the walk. Our first Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo came in when instructed too.

Wanting to record Satin Flycatcher for the group, Truganini Track located in the riverside suburb of Taroona, was the second of our three stops today. Sadly this Satin Flycatcher was out when we arrived but Tasmanian Scrubwren, Common Golden Whistler and our third endemic honeyeater, a resplendent and very loud Yellow Wattlebird were quickly added.

The Peter Murrell Reserve in Hobart's south was next: long known as a site for the endangered Forty-spotted Pardalote because of its extensive stands of White Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis* we were welcomed there by Australasian Pipit along the entrance way with Eurasian Skylark serenading, if not us, then another lark, from high above. Tasmanian Native-hen and young were by the first pond with Forest Raven and a couple of the Tasmanian version of Grey Currawong called Clinking Currawong locally. Welcome Swallow was found nesting in the small Lions shelter alongside the pond where we later had the delights of watching native-hens swimming!

NIGHT: Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart and fortunately Sunday night is seafood buffet night and a chance to tick off some severely good Tasmanian seafood with prawns, Atlantic Salmon (now commercially farmed in Tasmania) amongst other delicacies.

Day 2: A return visit to Peter Murrell Reserve in Hobart's south to see if the Platypus was awake saw us with terrific views of calling Pallid Cuckoo. At least three were around the ponds causing havoc to nesting birds everywhere and add in the Shining Bronze-cuckoo and Fan-tailed Cuckoo it's a wonder there are any Tassie birds left! We didn't see the platypus on his morning patrol but with the rather murky water that was probably just as well. We have another opportunity later for this most unique of mammals. Galah's gaudy as ever were a treat as was the calls of a melodious but secretive Grey Butcherbird.

On to Kettering and we were soon on board the 09.45 ferry to Bruny Island. This is a good spot to see Black-faced Cormorant and Kelp Gull and both obliged with decent views. Once on Bruny we headed south towards Adventure Bay with some roadside birding along the way through the showers. Some of the birds of the drive included Green Rosella, Silver and Pacific gull to go with our Kelp Gull, Laughing Kookaburra, Brown Thornbill and some very sweet, Dusky Woodswallows.

As we entered Adventure Bay the flowering Eucalypts mostly White Gum or Messmate Stringybark *E. obliqua* were alive with Swift Parrots. Now if only we could see them! Noisy and inconspicuous don't sit easily together, fortunately Swift Parrot's don't sit

easily either and we were soon on to good views of varying members of this party as they moved about the flowers busily feeding and generally causing chaos.

Tasmania being essentially English, morning tea was taken with some Superb Fairy-Wren's for company amidst some interesting whalebone displays from another time when Bruny Island was a site for a whaling station.

On then to the wet forest behind Adventure Bay, where Alan had a hoped for encounter set up with a Scrubtit or two. While we were parking the vehicle the raucous calls of Black Currawong were heard and soon three or four of these were hopping around us, albeit reasonably high up the gum trees. Olive Whistler was heard calling as we entered the forest trail but he'd have to wait until after the Scrubtit. Some tantalizing views of Tasmanian Scrubwren for Mary and David were a distraction as we wandered along collecting leeches. Not intentionally of course but they were soon to form the basis for a competition, eventually won by David, of who could get the most leeches in a one hour walk. David 23, Alan 9, rest 2's and 3's! At last two of the Scrubtit's came into view and offered good views for all which was a relief for Alan who knew only too well how furtive they could be at times. Returning along the track a splendid Crescent Honeyeater was heard, "*E-gypt*" he bellows, seemingly to anyone who will listen. Eventually seen although not well we returned to the open area at the roadside to entice him out into full view along with the aforementioned Olive Whistler and our first good looks at Tasmanian Thornbill showing off his whiter belly and more chestnut primaries than the Brown Thornbill earlier.

Lunch was taken at the Hothouse Café that actually is a converted Hothouse and provides really great food with some magnificent views over The Neck of Bruny and back to Mt Wellington, towering above Hobart. A beach walk for Hooded Plover was in order after lunch so off to Two Tree Bay we went. A decent wind was now blowing so it was good to see two magnificent Hooded Plovers head down behind the washed up kelp only fifty metres distant. My type of beach walk!

Time to return to the ferry area around Robert's Point but not before a quick search for Dusky Robin and Beautiful Firetail. Dusky Robins were eventually found with good views and although we locked onto a firetail we still had the better views desired category with them. A small dam on the way to the ferry was kind enough to offer up Flame Robin with a young ♂ and a ♀ on show. Some of those small "black & white birds" turned out to be White-fronted Chat, thanks Mary.

Another night in Hobart with dinner in one of Hobart's many great quayside restaurants. Shortly after, we headed off with the spotlight, to the north of Hobart and the countryside around Sorrell. No birds in this countryside tonight but a Common Brush-tailed Possum or two comically waddling along; Red-necked Wallaby seemingly bolting out of view at every corner and the odd Tasmanian Pademelon doing likewise. However the real quarry tonight was a search for one of the two native-cats on Tassie: Eastern Quoll. This remarkable carnivorous marsupial is, pound for pound, a very ferocious beast often taking on prey much larger than him. The force was with us as we encountered not one or even two of these but in the end over 15 of them. Squeaking them up is brilliant as mostly they will come running over to within a few metres, often standing tall on their

back legs while we watch them easily. As Linda so aptly said at the end of this night: "What a Quoll(ity) Day"!

Day 3: An early morning start with bags loaded for our travel day to the north of Tasmania and we were soon climbing through several temperature changes on the drive up Mt Wellington. Sitting proudly behind Tasmania's capital Mt Wellington is home to a number of species that can be difficult elsewhere. Notable among these though is Pink Robin and some splendid views were eventually obtained of one about halfway up. Also gracing us with their presence where a couple more ♂ Flame Robin which in the dank, misty morning provided a welcome splash of colour. No, much more than a splash, rather an explosion of colour. More Tasmanian Thornbills gave better views, as did a couple of Tasmanian Scrubwren while Eastern Spinebill again flitted noisily around.

On to breakfast in Sorrell for our drive north and a quick visit out to Orielton Lagoon where Brush Wattlebird greeted us although as with most wattlebirds it wasn't a quiet greeting. Some nice views of Little Black, Great and one Little Pied cormorant were fun along with a Royal Spoonbill. Most importantly though a Great Crested Grebe pair was of interest to all as this was a species surprisingly missed on the main tour.

From here it was a long drive to our lunch stop in Deloraine with morning tea taken along the way in Ross, another pretty little Tasmanian village this time with Scottish heritage. Just before Deloraine we were fortunate to watch an Echidna cross the road and as Echidna are want to do when surrounded by curious tourists we stood in awe as he buried his head between his front paws and remained motionless in the grass. Given his size and bright rufous colouring this had to be a young one on one of his first forays: where was mum? A Brown Falcon gave us superb views further along the road. We arrived at Cradle Mountain Lodge in the Cradle Mountain - Lake St. Clair National Park in mid-afternoon to be greeted by a Common Wombat wandering across the road just inside the park. This was as good as it gets with these animals as a daytime view of this or any Australian nocturnal mammal is always a bonus. Top that with another pair of Echidna outside the lodge and it was turning into another quality day: remarkable for any driving / travel day!

Cradle Mountain National Park is home to some wild alpine country that has been sculpted by enormous glaciers to produce some of the most stunning scenery in Australia. Before dinner we managed "The Enchanted Stroll" along the Pencil Pine River around some of the well laid out boardwalks that make up a number of the walks here, though an onset of light rain meant an early wash and brush up was in order.

Day 4 and it was off to bird the Strahan Area on Tasmania's wild and rugged west coast. The good news is, it wasn't wild and rugged. We were blessed with beautiful weather for our Ground Parrot search and it can only be assumed that the Ground Parrot's were scared of the bright blue sky because about six hours of tromping through their button-grass heathland habitat alongside Strahan airport failed to produce a single bird. Very occasionally we were able to elicit a response but were singularly unsuccessful in flushing one. Must have been the blue sky and 28°C temperatures. Still not daunted we did manage to get some great views of Southern Emu-Wren, Striated Fieldwren and Tawny-

crowned Honeyeater and another baby echidna but this time with Mum. Some splendid orchids and sundews were seen on the plains too.

Alan had close views of a very large Tiger Snake, in fact so close that he almost landed on David's head when he jumped back with the snake only inches away. This large beast was up to 2 metres in length and just to show us he meant business started writhing and thrashing around six feet in front of David and I. Needless to say, as that was the length of him too, a retreat was the order of the day. We can assume he'd been eating Ground Parrot for lunch and was finding it hard to digest! Naturally this sighting reduced the number of volunteers for heath bashing yet Dave and I still managed another couple of hours. Four Red-capped Plover were consolation on the roadside gravel piles.

Back to Cradle Mountain Lodge and after dinner it was time to visit the "commercial" devil show that now exists there. Sadly the Tasmanian Devil is infected with DFTD: Devil Facial Tumour Disease that has wiped out around 80% of the Tasmanian Devil population on the island. Because of this and other factors due to being within the National Park the opportunity to see devils here is mostly commercial. Maybe a nights spotlighting would produce the goods but the rain was still persisting so a decision was made to at least see the devils. Our next stop is also a place where we should see Devils but as in all cases "should" is a big word.

Starting day 5 the next morning we ventured around the King Billy walk so named because of a very large King William Pine at the summit passing as we went many lichen and moss covered myrtle, sassafras trees and other King Billy Pines up to 1,500 years old. Bird wise another ♂ Pink Robin was a little more elusive, preferring to call from up high while Fan-tailed Cuckoo's called and also remained hidden. Maybe it was too early as the sun was yet to rise over the mountains. Red-necked Wallaby and Tasmanian Pademelons also offered us some early morning company while Forest Raven and endemic Black Currawong were common around our cabins during our time here as was Crescent Honeyeater. It wasn't too early for the Platypus who was feeding around the trout lake as we went in for breakfast. Good views too!

A drive north to Burnie for a seawatch and we were fortunate in seeing at least three Shy Albatross around a 100 metres offshore both loafing and soaring along on the not quite roaring forties. Black-faced Cormorant was also in evidence sallying back and forth. Lunch was taken at the appropriately named coastal town of Penguin before we ventured back inland along the valley to Loongana and the Mountain Valley Wilderness Lodge. Pretty much what a lodge was like when they were invented, Mountain Valley is set at the end of a long and winding road (sorry John & Paul) in some spectacularly lush riverine forest.

Stopping on the way at Preston Falls we encountered at last, a co-operative Fan-tailed Cuckoo. Arriving at Mountain Valley we checked into our rooms and went on a short walk and immediately encountered a co-operative ♂ Satin Flycatcher and a mostly helpful Beautiful Firetail. Tasmanian Native-hens feed around the cabins during the day while once darkness descends they are replaced with Tasmanian Pademelons. An early dinner was in order with some local Tasmanian wine before we were down to the river with host Len to look for Platypus where up to four or five were seen very well. After this it was all

back to one of the cabins where a roaring log fire was going while Len placed dinner for the devils on the deck outside. Doing the bird list while quietly waiting until nightfall was a little anti-climatic, particularly for Alan as he knew what to expect. Soon after dark we were visited by a Spotted-tailed Quoll, which came hopping up the cabin steps (our second 'cat' for the trip, well third if you count the feral ones). This truly stunning little beast didn't stay long, although long enough for all to have a good view. Shortly after, some rather gruff and fearsome noises heralded the arrival of our first Tasmanian Devil. Thankfully the Devils here are still disease free although the DFTD has reached devils in the adjoining areas. A second devil came along later and goodness knows what was going on out there after the clients had retired to their own accommodation, suffice to say there was no food left over the next morning.

Day 6 means a drive to Launceston and the final night of the tour is looming. On the way though a stop at Narawntapu NP on the north coast hoping to pick up a Cape Barren Goose or even a Blue-winged Parrot. We did pick up another stunning Satin Flycatcher on the coastal dunes walk. Some interesting waterbirds were added such as Black Swan, Australasian Shoveler, Musk Duck, Pacific Black Duck and Eurasian Coot. Also Australian Shelduck, White-faced Heron, Swamp Harrier and Scarlet Robin were good to see again.

After lunch a visit to the Tamar Island Wetland Reserve added Australian Reed Warbler and Little Grassbird and a stunning Shining Bronze-cuckoo, really shining in the afternoon sunlight to almost end the day.

Talk about saving the best till last though when Bob Purnell uttered those immortal words: "What's this grey looking goose thing here"? Cape Barren Goose made it to the list that night in the restaurant of the Launceston Country Club, our final venue for this years participants visiting Tasmania.

Thanks David, Linda, Bob & Mary, loved the company, hoped you loved the birds.

An Annotated List of the birds seen on the Tasmania extension follows the expected listing in the new Checklist of the Birds of Australia and its Territories by Les Christidis and Walter E Boles. Due for publication Nov 2007

NL - Not leader
H - Heard

Anatidae

1. Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*: One male seen well at Narawntapu NP on the lagoon. A neat duck (or whatever) is this one!
2. Cape Barren Goose *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*: Bless you Bob. One found by Bob as we were preparing to leave Tamar Island Wetlands was most appreciated by all.
3. Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*: Good numbers at Orielton and on the journey with large numbers at Tamar Island.

4. Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*: Good views at Orielton Lagoon and Narawntapu NP.
5. Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata*: A few on a couple of days, one would normally expect them daily on dams and small pools?
6. Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*: Females only seen at Orielton and Narawntapu NP.
7. Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*: Two only seen at Orielton Lagoon.
8. Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*: Many views of this very attractive teal were had including a very large number rafting and loafing at Tamar Island.
9. Northern Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*: A number of this and its resultant hybrids seen on a few days.
10. Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*: Good numbers most days near dams and water.
11. Hardhead *Aythya australis*: Two of this rather neat and our only *Aythya* seen distantly at Orielton Lagoon.

Podicipedidae

12. Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*: Surprisingly not seen until the last day in the north of Tasmania.
13. Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*: Numerous sightings of good numbers over three days. Seen on Bruny Island, Orielton Lagoon and around Burnie.
14. Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*: Two on Orielton Lagoon. These were missed on the main tour so good to catch up with here.

Columbidae

15. Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: This introduction was only around Hobart on first day.
16. Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*: One seen on roadside passing through forest on the drive out of Mountain Valley.
17. Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*: Heard at Truganini Track in Hobart and then 4 seen briefly in flight while we were leaving Mountain Valley.

Diomedeidae

18. Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*: Three of this Tasmanian ssp. Seen off Burnie. Originally loafing on water and then seen flying along.

Phalacrocoracidae

19. Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*: One seen at Orielton Lagoon before around 10 seen on last day at Tamar Island Wetlands.

20. Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*: One seen at Tamar Island Wetland Reserve was the only one?

21. Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: Seen most days in small numbers though not at Cradle Mountain!

22. Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*: Good numbers at Orielton Lagoon and Tamar island.

23. Black-faced Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscescens*: Seen well on Bruny Island, on approaches to Orielton Lagoon and also seaward off Burnie in the north.

Pelecanidae

24. Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*: Only seen at Tamar Island Wetlands with 10 or so birds.

Ardeidae

25. Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*: Reasonable numbers around Deloraine and drive to Cradle Mountain.

26. White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*: Reasonable views of this sp over three days.

Threskiornithidae

27. Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*: One at Orielton Lagoon, roosting with cormorant sp.

Accipitridae

28. Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus*: One flushed near Preston Falls, not good views for anyone really.

29. Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*: Seen commonly on Bruny Island, Orielton and throughout most of the trip.

30. Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*: Only one was on Bruny Island at the start, a wonderful large eagle.

Falconidae

31. Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*: Seen on a couple of days with great views near Deloraine of a perched bird roadside.

Rallidae

32. Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*: Surprisingly not seen until last day at Tamar Island Wetlands.

33. Tasmanian Native-hen *Tribonyx mortierii*: Many views of this large 'hen'. Seen with young in a few places and occasionally seen swimming around Hobart wetland areas. It's really not cut out to swim!

34. Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*: Seven seen in the lagoon at Narawntapu NP were the only ones of the trip.

Haematopodidae

35. Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*: Good views at Bruny, Orielton and the Tamar River estuary. Nice to compare with next sp. on Bruny too.

36. Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*: Up to 11 seen alongside The Neck, Bruny Island.

Charadriidae

37. Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*: Hard to find this year but four were on the gravel workings, roadside near Strahan airport.

38. Hooded Plover *Thinornis rubricollis*: The western end of Adventure Bay again turned up trumps for these delightful plovers.

39. Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*: Seen every day except one when it was heard flying around at night! Common.

Laridae

40. Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*: Only found flying along the coast at Burnie with about ten birds.

41. Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*: Six on Bruny with their massive bills and offering nice comparison with nearby Kelp Gulls. Two seen at Orielton Lagoon.

42. Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*: Seen on most days except Cradle Mountain day. Good numbers circling over Waterworks Reservoir on the first afternoon.

43. Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*: Common and ubiquitous daily. Nevertheless in breeding dress there is nothing finer.

Cacatuidae

44. Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus*: A few seen on Bruny and then later in the north, mostly around towns and lawns.

45. Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*: Two seen in a paddock in the north would be from escaped stock. They are spreading in Victoria and NSW but I would be surprised if these two were natural.

46. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*: Good numbers seen on three days of these very noisy cockatoos.

Psittacidae

47. Green Rosella *Platycercus caledonicus*: Seen well in the first part of the trip. Surprisingly, none were seen on the last two days.
48. Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*: Great views of a good-sized flock at Adventure Bay in the end. Hard to believe such a noisy, gregarious beast can hide so well in flowering eucalypts.
49. Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysostoma*: NL. Two seen near Cradle Mountain Lodge by Bob Purnell.
50. Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*: This sp. heard only at Strahan despite six hours of heath bashing for it. It responded twice to calls during this time and both times proved impossible to flush.

Cuculidae

51. Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites basalus*: Two seen on Bruny first day were the only ones.
52. Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites lucidus*: This bronze-cuckoo was heard everywhere with sightings at the Scrubtit territory (!) and at Tamar Island being memorable.
53. Pallid Cuckoo *Cacomantis pallidus*: Great views around Peter Murrell Reserve and other parts of the island. Also heard a few times.
54. Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*: Finally got good views near Preston Falls on the fifth day after hearing and trying to coax them in most other days.

Halcyonidae

55. Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*: Seen on most days perched along telegraph wires or making a raucous commotion somewhere. A true icon of Australia.

Maluridae

56. Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*: This magnificent fairy-wren was seen every day and often in very large numbers. Practically every garden has one and if it doesn't it should!
57. Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*: A struggle to get everyone onto these very quiet and extremely attractive wrens. Eventually achieved around the button-grass plains at Strahan where Alan saw at least 6 while on the failed Ground Parrot Expedition!

Acanthizidae

58. Tasmanian Scrubwren *Sericornis humilis*: Good numbers seen in most forested areas with eventual good views also obtained.
59. Scrubtit *Acanthornis magnus*: Two seen and obviously on territory near Adventure Bay. This can be the most difficult of Tassie's endemics to get onto so it was great to see

them well. A very suspicious Shining Bronze-cuckoo has probably done them no favours though this year.

60. Striated Fieldwren *Calamanthus fuliginosus*: Great views of a couple of this buffy little songster seen at Strahan. Probably up to 6 for the day there. A veritable treat to hear him sing.

61. Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*: This ground feeding thornbill was well seen on Bruny and around Hobart at the start of the trip.

62. Tasmanian Thornbill *Acanthiza ewingii*: Took a while to get the views but were rewarded on a number of occasions with good views in the end, particularly in the Mt Wellington early morning mist. Rufous primaries, white belly and vent are the best features for separating from next sp. unmarked rufous cap is an indicator but can be difficult to see.

63. Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*: Not seen as often as Tas Thornbill but usually in much greater numbers.

Pardalotidae

64. Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*: A number around Waterworks Res and Bruny Island. Hard to get on to but good views were had at Peter Murrell Reserve with next two sp. also in same hour!

65. Forty-spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus quadragintus*: A cracking little duo, seemingly nesting at Peter Murrell Reserve. Hope the cuckoos weren't able to access their hollow!

66. Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*: Seemingly calling all over Tasmania and seen very well on a number of occasions.

Meliphagidae

67. Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*: A few seen and heard most days, a very active and tuneful little honeyeater.

68. Yellow-throated Honeyeater *Lichenostomus flavicollis*: Good number seen early in the tour with some good views too, particularly our first one at Waterworks Reserve.

69. Brush Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*: A noisy welcome to Orielton Lagoon from a couple of these, also in evidence around Cradle Mountain, Mountain Valley and Narawntapu NP.

70. Yellow Wattlebird *Anthochaera paradoxa*: Started well with one in the car park at Truganini on first afternoon and repeated good views in other areas showing off their long pendulous orange/yellow wattles well. Very noisy!

71. White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*: Good views of a small family group by a roadside dam near Allonah, Bruny. Thanks Mary.

72. Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Glyciphila melanops*: Good views for all while Alan tormented himself with mythical Ground Parrots at Strahan.
73. Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*: Wonderful vocalist even if he does have a very limited repertoire. Seen well and in good numbers on Bruny and around Hobart and Cradle Mountain.
74. New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*: there should be a law against too many of these responding to squeaks. Abundant in most places, lucky they're very cute.
75. Strong-billed Honeyeater *Melithreptus validirostris*: Good views eventually obtained, a couple at Truganini spring to mind as being co-operative.
76. Black-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus affinis*: Calling at Truganini, Bruny island, Mountain Valley and Cradle Mountain. Good views early on. Not quite as many as New Holland's but getting up there.

Pachycephalidae

77. Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea*: Great views of one by roadside parking area at back of Adventure Bay. Five seen that day and also heard a lot.
78. Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*: A few seen or heard most days. Good news is that most were resplendent males.
79. Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*: Heard more often than seen across Tassie.

Artamidae

80. Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*: Good views on Bruny Island and also on the journey north from Hobart. Winner of Very Sweet Category.
81. Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*: Seen on a couple of days only.
82. Australian Magpie *Cracticus tibicen*: Seen on most days. White-backed race *leuconota* is the form found here.
83. Black Currawong *Strepera fuliginosa*: A common and pleasingly interesting bird with its unique two note calls.
84. Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor*: Tasmanian race is *arguata* and locally called Clinking Currawong, Call different than other Grey Currawong races. Seen a couple of times early on.

Rhipiduridae

85. Grey Fantail *Rhipidura albiscapa*: Common, abundant and almost as visible as New Holland Honeyeaters. Very sweet runner up).

Corvidae

86. Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*: Four seen on drive north. Not normally recorded on Tasmania but throat hackles and calls seen and heard.

87. Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*: Everywhere.

Monarchidae

88. Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*: Excellent views in a couple of places in the end after missing them at Truganini Track. Seen at Mountain Valley and Narawntapu NP.

Petroicidae

89. Scarlet Robin *Petroica boodang*: Stunning males seen in many places along with females.

90. Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*: Equally stunning and common.

91. Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster*: Would it surprise if I said this was stunning too! Something about Australian 'Robins' that takes you back for more. Good views on Mt Wellington and a couple of other spots.

92. Dusky Robin *Melanodryas vittata*: No blast of colour from this one but it doesn't need it. Very confiding in the end doing what 'robins' do naturally which is to hop around old machinery piles on Bruny Island.

Alaudidae

93. Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*: Heard singing at Peter Murrell Reserve each visit and in a number of other farmland areas too.

Acrocephalidae

94. Australian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*: Finally seen thanks to David's pish (rather than Alan's squeak, which he just didn't show for). Two in reed-beds at Tamar Island Reserve.

Megaluridae

95. Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*: Good short views of a couple on leaving Tamar Island.

Timaliidae

96. Silvereve *Zosterops lateralis*: Common most days somewhere, missed one day which was the travelling day though no doubt we passed some!

Hirundinidae

97. Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*: A couple of nests in the shelter erected by The Lions at Peter Murrell Reserve. Countless numbers on most days visible somewhere.

98. Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*: Seen over most lowland forested areas.

Turdidae

99. Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*: One seen by Alan on Bruny Island but wouldn't come for the group when summoned.

100. Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*: A better common name would be Ubiquitous Blackbird

Sturnidae

101. Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*: This could change as above. Many!

Estrildidae

102. Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*: Hard work trying to get onto one on Bruny Island, fortunately seen well at Mountain Valley and another heard and glimpsed at Narawntapu NP.

Passeridae

103. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: Yes, introduced.

Motacillidae

104. Australasian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*: Good numbers on most days in open grassland, paddocks, etc.

Fringillidae

105. European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*: Seen in very big groups on most days, only good news is they're very attractive as they flit all around the island.

* **Total of 105 includes one sp. heard only**

Mammals

Ornithorhynchidae

Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*: One seen a couple of times at Cradle Mountain in the trout pool, while four or five were at Mountain Valley in the river.

Tachyglossidae

Short-beaked Echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*: Seen on the way to and at Cradle Mountain. Two more at Strahan, which looked like a mother and child!

Dasyuridae

Spot-tailed Quoll *Dasyurus maculates*: One came up the cabin steps at Mountain Valley Lodge.

Eastern Quoll *Dasyurus viverrinus*: Up to 15 seen on the spotlighting trip from Sorrell to Nugent. On "A Quollity Day"

Tasmanian Devil *Sarcophilus harrisi*: Four seen at the Devils@Cradle set-up. One dined on cabin deck at Mountain Valley and was followed by a second after guests retired for the night. Disease free at Mountain Valley still.

Vombatidae

Common Wombat *Vombatus ursinus*: One ambled across the road at the entrance to Cradle Mountain Lodge area.

Phalangeridae

Common Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*: Up to 4 seen waddling along on night drive to Sorrell.

Macropodidae

Red-necked Wallaby *Macropus rufogriseus*: Seen darting from roadside at night and seen on numerous occasions.

Rufous-bellied Pademelon *Thylogale billardierii*: Similarly darting from road near Sorrell but many more seen – abundant at Mountain Valley Lodge.

Reptiles & Amphibians

Hylidae

Green and Golden Bell Frog (?) *Litoria raniformis*: Probably this species which only slightly differs from mainland Green & Golden Bell Frog. Common name in Tas is this one.

Elapidae

Black Tiger Snake *Notechis ater*: Seen and almost trodden on at Strahan by Alan. Classified as DANGEROUS.

Alan McBride

November 10, 2007.