

Australia 2005 (South-East)

11 July Departure on Sunday July 10, 14.00 from Schiphol Airport (Amsterdam, Netherlands). Flight CX 270 (Cathway Pacific). Arrived with one hour delay at Hong Kong International Airport (July 11). Bus transfer to hotel, arrived at about 11.00. Picked up by Karin at the hotel lobby for some local birding and sightseeing (yankarin@graduate.hku.hk).



12 July Flight CX 103 from Hong Kong International Airport (23.25) to Brisbane International Airport (QLD). Arrived on Tuesday July 12, about 10.00. Luggage and car collected (Ford Territory, 2WD; Hertz). Rain in Brisbane. Weather improved slightly while driving to Lamington National Park (NP).



13 July Cloudy. Python Rock Trail, a.o. Albert's Lyrebird, Bassian Thrush and several Paradise Riflebirds. At lunch time, Tim O'Reilly showed us a pair of Tawny Frogmouths at Luke O'Reilly's Farm. In the afternoon, Annelien and I walked to Morans Falls. Lots of rain. In the trees bordering the toilet block of the campground, we had close views of a Marbled Frogmouth. During the evenings, we played cards and had some drinks at O'Reilly's Guesthouse.

14 July A male Albert's Lyrebird ("George") displaying near the Python Rock Trail. At 08.00 we walked the Border Track to the Antarctic Beech Forest. Nice weather, but hardly any birds. Dinner at lunchtime. Early evening (dark at 19.00) a "spotlight" tour near O'Reilly's (Ringtail Possums).



15 July Pre-breakfast tour with Annelien. No displaying lyrebirds due to rain. Met Sid Curtis, a birdwatcher who has been recording lyrebird songs since 1984. Then, we walked the Box Forest Circuit, including several exciting river crossings. Good weather. At the end of the day, we walked major part of the Python Rock Trail.





16 July Very cold and windy night. We were all very tired and slept to 07.30. We left Lamington NP about 10.30. Imie was crying, she would like to stay! Several stops along the road, including a lake approximately 13 km for Inglewood. Beautiful but cold weather, hardly any wind. Overnight stayed at the Olympic Motel, Inglewood.



17 July Left at 07.15 and drove via St. George and Cunnamulla to "Bowra". After Goondawindi, we stopped at a small lake. Lots of Cockatiels and Red-rumped Parrots. In Bollon we found a Koala in the gums bordering the river (behind the school). Beautiful spot and a very nice campfire at 'Bowra' (julie@birdingatbowra.com)!



18 July Morning walk along the little stream at "Bowra", seeing our first Major Mitchell's of the trip. In the afternoon, shopping in Cunnamulla (including a butcher) and a swim in the (very warm) artesian pool. Some afternoon birding and BBQ. During the night one of the dogs, who lay down on the tent and chewed on the lines.... Beautiful weather. Since we could use the bunkhouse for cooking and during the (long) evenings, we again played cards in the very cold bunkhouse.



19 July Frost last night. Walked the 16 km walk at "Bowra". Weather good, even warm. Again shopping in Cunnamulla and BBQ.



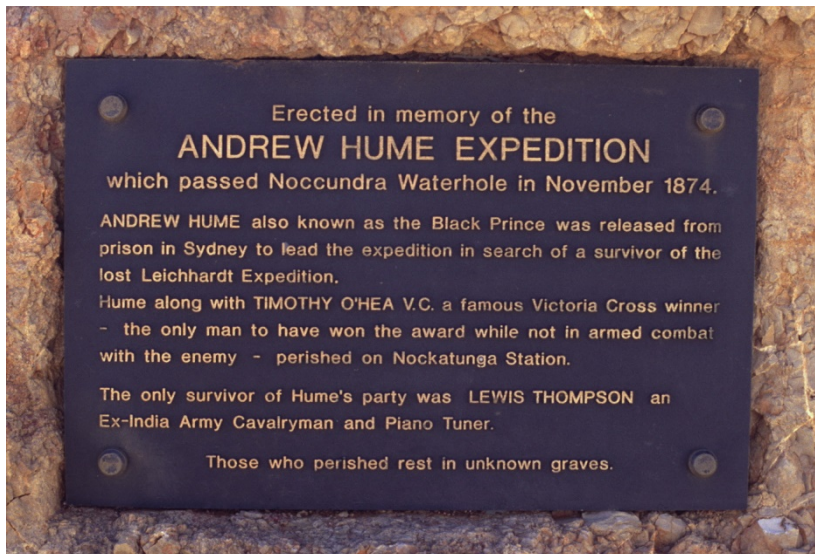
20 July Annelien and I dipped on the quail thrush, while the children were playing cards close to the car. Played cards at lunchtime. During the afternoon, Ian took me and the kids (in the trunk) for a drive (Emu-hunting). Beautiful views of Bourke's Parrots and Banded Lapwing. Ian showed us also old fireplaces of aboriginals. Collected various artefacts.



21 July Tried to show Annelien the fireplaces, but unable to relocate. Still, we saw three Bourke's Parrots. Shopping in Cunnamulla and via the Eulo Bore (no birds) to Eulo, where we visited the general store and had lunch/diner at the famous Eulo Queen. Drove to Lake Bindegolly, which had been dry since 2001. When we stopped at the "visitor center", we startled a Grey Falcon at close range which flew off. One of the best birds of the tour. Stayed at the Thargomindah campground with excellent facilities including a special building for cooking and playing cards.



22 July A brief walk (trail) towards/along the river. Shopping in Thargomindah and collected information about the road conditions (Shire Council). Since it had been raining lately, it was surprisingly green while driving to Noccundra (population 4). Children had fun with 4 or 5 dogs at the "pub" and a "stalking" calf. Since the public "campground" was opposite the road, near the river, quite some mosquitoes.



23 July Started for Tibooburra at about 08.00. After 5-10 km, the paved road ended. Some 80-90 km's of dirt roads, that continued as a (very wet) clay road for many km's. Only very few birds: white-backed Swallows were the only inland species seen. At one stop near a small river, we found large numbers of flint artefacts. Drive to Sturt NP (mallee). Walked a 3.5 km trail, where we saw lots of dead Kangaroos, Black Honeyeater, Pied Honeyeater and Cinnamon Quail-Thrush. Again we found several flint tools. Camped at Olive Downs (Sturt NP), being the only guests.





24 July During a prebreakfast walk, again 2 Black Honeyeater. Left early (08.15) to search for the Grey Grasswren. Unfortunately, the road was flooded. Lots of gibberplane crossed by small creeks. Around 14.00 we arrived in Tibooburra. Brief visit to the local playground. Drive to Dead Horse Gully, part of Sturt NP for a walk. In Tibooburra we stayed in a local motel.



"Drive-through cinema" and Sturt's Desert Pea at Tibooburra (above).

25 July Travelling to Broken Hill - 300 km of partially sealed road, where we arrived at lunch time. Then 140 km drive to Wentworth, where the Murray and Darling Rivers meet each other (each being > 2 500 km long). After a good hamburger, we travelled to Hattah Kulkygne NP. A very nice campground, Yellow Rosella and a warm fire.

26 July Day started with a brief drizzle. Breakfast at the visitor's centre, where we saw Regent Parrot. Walked part of the Norawingi track. Drove the Nature Trail. In a small lake, we saw Australian Shelducks and saw Emu tracks. We almost killed an Emu (crossed within 1-2 meter in front of the car) .



27 July Revisited the small lake. Then walked the Bugle Ridge Track (10 km) through “riverine” forests with many old gum trees. Lots of parrots. Nice weather. In Hattah, we bought hamburgers and tried to find Emu-wrens. Again we visited the Norawingi track, where we saw White-eared Honeyeater and Chestnut Quail-Thrush. At dinner time, we were visited by a mixed flock of Apostlebirds and White-winged Choughs.



28 July Left Hattah Kulkygne NP (about 08.45) and headed for Ooyen. Nice little village with many flowering eucalypts and fruit trees. Many honeyeaters. Did some shopping and drove to Wyperfield NP. Camped at the Wonga campsite. Nice afternoon walk (Tyakil Trail).

29 July Around 07.30 we drove the Eastern Lookout Nature Drive. We walked twice the Malleefowl Track, but only saw an old and deserted breeding mount. Walked (part of the) Lowan Track. Again no Malleefowl, but nice views of a Chestnut Quail Thrush. In the afternoon, we walked the 4.4 km long "Discovery Track". Lots of Fairywren, but no "Splendids". At the end of the day found another deserted Malleefowl breeding mount (Lowan Track). Today lots of Emu's and Kangaroos.



30 July Again an early (and very cold) start at 07.30, but again no Malleefowl, although Annelien found a third breeding mount. Played a few games of "rummycub" and again walked the "Discovery Track". We finally found a male Splendid Fairywren and White-fronted Chats. Around 13.30 we left Wyperfield NP and drove towards Deniliquin. Just before Lake Bolga, we saw lots of waterfowl in a little lake. After re-entering NSW, the landscape became much dryer and more open and we started to see Brown Falcons and Australian Kites. Stayed in the Riverview Motel. Lots of Long-billed Corella's.

31 July Picked up by Philip Maher (pmmah@patash.com.au) at about 07.30. Cold but very good weather (sun and no wind). Tried to find Crested Shrike Tit, but dipped. Nevertheless, we found lots of good birds, including Diamond Firetails, 2 Rail species, Australasian Bittern,

Superb Parrots, Freckled Duck etc. Stopped for lunch (13.15-14.30) and then drove to salt plains (North of Delinquin). Tried another stake out for Crested Shrike Tit, but again dipped. Beautiful views of Orange Chat and lots of White-winged Fairywrens at the salt plains. At another stake out (farm plus little lake), we saw a.o. Owlet Nightjar and Black-tailed Native Hen. After a brief "dinner", we started looking for the Plains Wanderer. After 30-45 minutes, we saw a pair (< 5-10 m). Stunning views, calling female. Returned at 21.30 and stayed overnight in the Riverview Motel.



- 1 Aug Travel day, drive to Lithgow (Blue Mountains). Still good weather. Again we stayed in a motel very cold at night.
- 2 Aug Drive to the downtown Blue Mountains Information Center. Spectacular walk (Grand Canyon Track, including the extension to Beauchamp Falls) to 14.30. Revisited the Information Center and did some shopping. Visited the Zig Zag Railway station. Again stayed in the Lithgow Valley Motel. Best bird of the day was the Origma, which was present at the parking lot of Evens Lookout. Still beautiful weather.



- 3 Aug Started early today and left at about 06.45 for Glen Devis, which should be one of the best spots for Regent Honeyeater (dipped). Walked a trail, which start along a pipeline and where we found a lot of petrified wood. Although Glen Devis is still part of the Blue Mountains, the vegetation was much dryer than yesterday. Lost the children during the walk due to confusing signs indicating the direction of the trail. Drive via Lithgow and Richmond to Wollongong. Stayed in a motel at Albion Park Rail. Dinner at a Chinese/Thai Restaurant.

- 4 Aug Started early at Barren Grounds NP. Weather was very good but very windy. Wessel spotted a Beautiful Firetail. I may have seen a glimpse of a Ground Parrot, but not sure. Some showers. In the afternoon we drove to Minnamurra NP, a very small patch of “subtropical rainforest” and very close to Barren Grounds. Stunning views of Superb Lyrebirds. At the end of the day we visited the Beach at Kiama. Very strong SW wind., lots of Albatrosses and Giant Petrels. Motel in Jamboree. Decided to stay here also for the coming night.
- 5 Aug Last day of the trip. Revisited Barren Grounds. A Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo was the best bird. Then to the beach at Kiama, where also still lots of seabirds were present. Around 14.00 we started packing, which was rather complicated since I had to stay another week in Sydney. Dinner again at the Chinese restaurant in Albion Park Rail.



- 10 Aug On the afternoon of August 10, I met Keith Brandwood (kbrandwood@hawknet.com.au), a keen birdwatcher who is a member of the NSW rarity panel. Visited several local nature reserves, and saw Rose Robin and Little Grassbird.
- 13 Aug Pelagic trip from Rose Harbour (hepstein@bigpond.net.au). Very nice weather, a swell of “only” 2-3 meters!. Many people seasick. Beautiful views of seven species of Albatross.

Annelien, Wessel and Imie flew back on August 6 from Kingsford Smith Airport (Sydney) with CX100 (15.00). They arrived in Hong Kong at 22.25, and departed with for Amsterdam with flight CX271 on August 7 (00.05). They arrived at Schiphol as scheduled (06.40). I left Sydney on Sunday August 14 (same schedule).

BIRDS

CASURARIIDAE

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae* - Much less common than in 2001. Seen on 13 days, highest numbers (30+) on July 29 in Wyperfield NP.

MEGAPODIIDAE

Australian Brush-Turkey *Alectura lathamii* - Common in Lamington NP.

PHASIANIDAE

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis* - Seen at the Plains Wanderer site (6+) near Delinquin on August 31.

PEDIONOMIDAE

Plains-Wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus* - Beautiful views of a pair at very close range (< 5-10 m) on July 31. Very small, posture is aberrant, particularly female resembles a dwarf Emu. Female started calling, a low and very soft sound. Habitat: salt flats with little bushes. Status: critically endangered (IUCN, 2016).



ANATIDAE

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* - Seen on 6 days of the tour in good numbers.



Australian Wood Duck *Chenonetta jubata* - Common, seen on many days of the tour.

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa* - Good views of a single bird in a mixed flock with Hardhead and Shoveler on July 31.

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* - Seen (10+) on a small lake before Lake Bolga when traveling from Wyperfield NP to Deliniquin (July 30).

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata* - Seen on 2 occasions, highest counts (50+) at the same small lake as the Blue-billed Ducks.

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* - Seen in low numbers (1-2/day) in both Hatta Kulkynge NP and Wyperfield NP (July 26-31).

Hardhead *Aythya australis* - Seen on 6 days during the tour.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* - By far the most common duck, seen throughout the tour.

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos* - Seen on 5 days during the tour, common.

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus* - Seen (10+) on the lake before Inglewood (July 16) and another 2 birds on the lake before Lake Bolga (July 30).

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis* - Seen on 6 days during the tour (2-20+ birds/day).

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea* - Only seen near Sydney (Aug 10).

PODICIPEDIDAE

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae* - Common, seen on 5 occasions.

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus* - Only a single bird seen at 'Bowra' near Cunnamulla (July 20).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* - This relatively rare 'Australian' bird was present (3 birds) on the lake before Inglewood (July 16).

PROCELLARIIDAE

Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli* - Unexpectedly, by far the most common immature Giant Petrel (10+) seen during the pelagic trip (Aug 13).



Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* - At least 5 Giant Petrels that could not be identified seen at Kiama (Aug 4 and 5). At least one immature Southern seen during the pelagic trip (Aug 13).

Cape Petrel *Daption capense* - Good views of 8 single birds (Aug 13).

Providence Petrel *Pterodroma solandri* - The most common petrel, probably seen >10 birds during the pelagic trip (Aug 13).

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur* - Rather distant views of a single bird (Aug 13).

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* - Two single birds, the first returning migrants, during the trip (Aug 13).

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia* - Likely seen at Kiama (Aug 4-5). Small flocks of 2-4 birds seen during the pelagic trip (total of 10+ birds) on August 13.

Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni* - A single bird during the pelagic trip (Aug 13).

DIOMEDEIDAE

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* - Stunning views of immature, intermediate and full adult birds ('snowy stage'), possibly 20+ different individuals, on Aug 13. Adults seen at very close range. Largest flying birds in the world (wingspan 3.50 meter)!



Northern Royal Albatross *Diomedea sanfordi* - Beautiful views of an (almost) adult bird! One of the best (and rarest) birds of the Pelagic tour.



Northern Royal Albatross (top, left); *immature Wandering Albatross* (top, right); *Antipodean Albatross* (centre, left); *Cambell Island Albatross* (centre, right); *Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross* (bottom, left); *Shy Albatross* (bottom, right).

Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis* - A single bird, almost adult, seen at close range together with adult exulans. Smaller and somewhat less massive than Wandering.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* - Common at both Kiama (70+ birds, Aug 4-5) and the pelagic trip (100+; Aug 13).

Cambell Island Albatross *Thalassarche impavida* - At least 2 birds that could be identified from Black-browed Albatross by their different expression and light iris.

Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* - At least one bird could be identified at Kiama (Aug 4). Common (100+) at Aug 13.

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta* - Larger in flight than Black-browed and Yellow-nosed. One could be identified at Kiama (Aug 5). Less common (about 20 birds) than Black-browed and Yellow-nosed during the pelagic trip (Aug 13).

SULIDAE

Australian Gannet *Morus serrator* - Common (total of 60+ birds) at Kiama on Aug 4-5. At least 50+ birds seen during the pelagic trip (Aug 13).

ANHINGIDAE

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* - Low numbers (1-3 birds) near Inglewood and near Deliniquin.

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius* - Seen only (20+) on the lake before Inglewood (July 16).

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucus* - Low numbers (1-2 birds/day) from July 31 onwards.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* - Like previous species.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* - Common before Inglewood (100+) on July 16 and from July 31 onwards.

PELECANIDAE

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* - Common, seen on at least 13 days during the tour.

ARDEIDAE

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica* - Common during the first part of the trip.

White-faced Heron *Ardea novaehollandiae* - Common throughout the trip.

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis* - Only seen near Kiama (2 birds) on Aug 5.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* - Relatively rare, seen on 4 days (1-2 birds/day).

Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* - Yes! Two single birds flew up from a small lake near Deliniquin (July 31). Status: endangered (IUCN 2016).

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis facinellus* - A single bird near Deliniquin (July 31).

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis* - By far the most common Ibis seen throughout the trip.

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca* - Seen on 5 days, highest counts (200+) in downtown Sydney.

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia* - Seen on 4 days, most common (20+) near Inglewood (Aug 16).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes* - Also quite common, seen on 6 days.

ACCIPITRIDAE

Australian Kite *Elanus axillaries* - One of the common raptors, particularly when traveling from Inglewood to 'Bowra' (Aug 17) and near Deniliquin (Aug 31).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* - Common in the 'outback', up to 20+ birds/day.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus* - Common in the first half of the tour.

Black-breasted Buzzard *Hamirostra melanosternon* - Good views of a pair at 'Bowra' (July 18) and while traveling between Thargomindah and Noccundra (July 21).

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus* - Single birds on July 24 (Tibooburra) and Aug 3 (Glen Davis).

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus* - A single bird in Cunnamulla (July 19).

White-bellied Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* - An immature bird near Inglewood (July 16).

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides* - Single birds on July 25 (Hatta Kulkygne NP) and July 28 (Wyperfield NP).

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax* - Beautiful views on several occasions, often in pairs, of this very large eagle on at least 15 days (1-4 days/day).

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis* - Distant views of a single bird when traveling from Lamington NP to Inglewood (July 16).

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans* - Seen on July 31 (3 birds) near Deniliquin and a single male on Aug 2 (Lithgow).

FALCONIDAE

Black Falcon *Falco subniger* - A single bird flying overhead near Deniliquin (Aug 1).

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora* - Most common near Deniliquin, e.g. 20+ birds near Deniliquin (July 31).

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides* - Common, seen until Aug 1 almost daily (1-7 birds/day).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* - Singles on July 29 (Wyperfield NP) and on Aug 4 (Barren Grounds NP).

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis* - A single bird on July 28 (between Ouyen and Wyperfield NP) and a pair near Deniliquin (July 31).

Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos* - One of the best birds of the tour! Possibly a single bird seen at 'Bowra' (July 17). An adult bird flew off from the visitors center at "Lake" Bindegolly (July 21).

According to Phil Maher, due to the persistent draught in inland Australia since 2001, many inland species have become rare and scattered. Status: vulnerable (IUCN, 2016).

GRUIDAE

Brolga *Grus rubicundus* - Pairs seen at 'Bowra' (July 21), and while traveling to Noccundra (July 22) and near Deliniquin (July 31).

RALLIDAE

Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis* - Good views of 2 birds near a small lake near Deliniquin (July 31).

Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea* - At least 4 different birds at the same lake as the previous species (July 31).



Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* - Five birds at a small lake near Deliniquin (July 31).

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* - Seen on 2 days, most common (200+) near Inglewood.

Black-tailed Native Hen *Gallinula ventralis* - Three birds at the end of the day along the edge of a small pond 9 (July 31) near Deliniquin.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* - Seen on 4 days, common near Deniliquin (July 31) and Sydney (50+) on Aug 10.

CHARADRIIDAE

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonyx cinctus* - Two birds at 'Bowra' (July 18).

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyaornis melanops* - Seen on 8 days of the tour.

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor* - A single adult bird at 'Bowra' near Cunnamulla (July 20).

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles* - Common throughout the tour.

LARIDAE

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae* - Common near Inglewood, Kiama and Sydney.

Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* - Seen at Kiama (Aug 4-5) and Sydney (Aug 13).

COLUMBIDAE

Feral Pigeon (introduced) *Coluba livia* - Common in towns and cities.

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata* - Very brief views of a single bird flying off when traveling from Noccundra to Sturt NP (July 23).

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata* - Common at 'Bowra'.

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis* - Only seen on July 17 (before 'Bowra') and on Aug 10 (near Sydney).

Brown Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia amboinensis* - Seen in Lamington NP (3 birds on July 15).

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus* - Only seen in Lamington NP (e.g. 10 birds on July 15).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera* - Seen at 'Bowra', Hatta Kylgyne NP and in Wyperfield NP.

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca* - Seen near O'Reilly's Guesthouse in Lamington NP (Aug 13-14).



Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes* - Common, seen almost daily.

CACATUIDAE

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus* - Two birds flying overhead at Barren Grounds NP (Aug 5).

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri* - Seen at 'Bowra', up to 20 birds/day.

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla* - Seen on almost everyday of the tour, up to 50+ birds/day.

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris* - Seen at Deniliquin (200+) on July 31 and Aug 1.

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea* - Common, especially at downtown Cunnamulla (approximately a flock of 500-1000 birds).



Long-billed Corella (top); *Little Corella* (centre, left; bottom); *Major Mitchell's Cockatoo* (centre, right).

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cactua galerita* - Seen on many days of the tour, up to 20+ birds/day.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* - Seen at Jamboree (Aug 5) and almost daily in Sydney.

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla* - Brief views during the 'pipe-line' walk at Glen Davis (Blue Mountains, Aug 3).

Australian King-parrot *Alisterus scapularis* - Seen at Lamington NP (at least 10-20 birds/day).

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* - Only seen at 'Bowra', up to 10 birds/day.

Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii* - Two birds seen near Deliniquin (July 31).

Regent Parrot *Polytelis anthopeplus* - Seen in Hatta Kulgyne NP (July 26-28), with a maximum of about 18 birds on July 26.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus* - Only seen near Inglewood (10 birds) on July 17.



Regent Parrot (top, left); Cockatiel (right); Eastern Ringneck (bottom, left).

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans* - Common in Lamington NP (July 12-16) and in the Blue Mountains (Aug 1-5).

Yellow Rosella *Platycercus elegans flaveolus* - Common in Hatta Kulgyne NP and in Wyperfield NP (July 25 – Aug 1).

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius* - Seen almost daily in low numbers (up to 10 birds/day) from July 31 – Aug 4.

Eastern Ringneck *Barnardius barnardi* - Common at 'Bowra' and in Hatta Kulgyne NP.

Blue Bonnet *Northiella haematogaster* - As the previous species, seen in reasonable numbers at the same locations.

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus* - See both previous species.

Mulga Parrot *Psephotus varius* - Few birds seen at 'Bowra' and more common Hattah Kulgyne NP (small flocks up to 10 birds).

Blue-winged Parrot *Neophema chrysostoma* - Two birds flying overhead at the playground in Tibooburra (July 24).

Bourke's Parrot *Neopsephotus bourkii* - Good views of these elegant parrots at 'Bowra', 2 birds on July 20 and 3 birds on July 21.

CUCULIDAE

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis* - Singles on July 13 and 15 (Lamington NP), and on Aug 5 (Barren Grounds NP).

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans* - A single of this small and rare inland Cuckoo was seen at 'Bowra' (July 18).

TYTONIDAE

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* - Brief views of a single individual when driving to Deliniquin (July 31).

PODARGIDAE

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides* - Seen in Lamington NP (2 birds, July 13), near Deliniquin (July 31) and a single, sitting on the road, on Aug 10 (near Sydney).



Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus* - One of the unexpected surprises of the tour. A single individual seen on July 13 (Lamington NP).

AEGOTHELIDAE

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus* - A single bird seen very well near Deliniquin (July 31).

HALCYONIDAE

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae* - Seen in low numbers throughout the tour!

MEROPIDAE

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus* - A single bird seen when driving from Lamington NP to Inglewood (July 16).

MENURIDAE

Albert's Lyrebird *Menura alberti* - Best views were a displaying male ('George') near the Python Rock Trail (Lamington NP) on July 13.

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae* - Stunning views of at least 5 different birds at Minnamurra NP.



CLIMACTERIDAE

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaeus* - Good views of 2 birds near Sydney (Aug 10).

White-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris affinis* - Single birds seen at 'Bowra' on July 18 and 19.

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus* - Common and seen almost daily until Aug 1.

MALURIDAE

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus* - Seen on various days during the second part of the trip, for example 10+ birds on July 31 (Deliniquin).

Splendid Fairy-wren *Malurus splendens* - Brief views of a male in breeding plumage and 2 females in Wyperfield NP (July 30).

Variegated Fairy-wren *Malurus lamberti* - Almost seen daily during the first part of the trip.

White-winged Fairy-wren *Malurus leucopterus* - Seen in Sturt NP (July 24) and very common at the salt plains near Deliniquin (July 31).

PARDALOTIDAE

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus* - Seen on 3 days, e.g. 3 birds in Hatta Kulkygne NP (July 26).

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus* - Seen on 4 days, e.g. 1 bird in Hatta Kulkygne NP (July 26).

Eastern Bristlebird *Dasyornis brachypterus* - Heard only at Barren Grounds NP (both Aug 4 and 5).

Rock Warbler (Origma) *Origma solitaria* - Very good views of the only endemic species of NSW near Lithgow (Aug 2).



White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis* - Seen daily in both Lamington NP and in the Blue Mountains.

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis* - Like the previous species.

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostris* - Common in Lamington NP.

Shy Heathwren *Hylacola cauta* - Single birds seen on July 26 (Hatta Kulkygne NP) and July 28 (Wyperfield NP).

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki* - A single bird in Lamington NP (July 13).

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla* - Seen almost daily in Lamington NP and in the Blue Mountains.

Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis* - A single bird in Wyperfield NP (July 29). Possibly, 3 birds of this species seen on July 26 (Hatta Kulkygne NP).

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides* - Seen on 3 days, e.g. 3 birds near Deliniquin on July 31.

Chestnut-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza uropygialis* - Common at 'Bowra'.

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* - Seen at 'Bowra' on July 19 (6 birds).

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana* - Seen during a stop while travelling from Inglewood to 'Bowra' (July 17) and near Deliniquin (July 31).

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris* - Seen almost daily from July 26 (Hatta Kulkygne NP) to Aug 1 (Lithgow).

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis* - Seen almost daily at 'Bowra' in low (2-4) numbers/day.

MELIPHAGIDAE

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* - Seen almost daily from July 28 (Ooyen) until Aug 5 (Jamboree).

Little Fiarbird *Philemon citreogularis* - Two birds seen during an evening walk along the river at Thargominday (July 21).

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus* - Seen on the first day of the trip (Brisbane) and common (20+) at Glen Davis (Blue Mountains) on Aug 3.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* - Common and seen almost daily from July 17 ('Bowra') until July 31 (Deliniquin).

Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata* - Seen on 5 days, e.g. 3 birds at 'Bowra' on July 19.

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis* - Low numbers seen on 5 days of the tour.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys* - Heard only on Aug 2 (Blue Mountains) and near Sydney (Aug 10).

Yellow-throated Miner *Manorina flavigula* - Seen almost daily from July 18 ('Bowra') until July 24 (Tibooburra).

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala* - Common from July 26 (Hatta Kulkygne NP) onwards.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii* - Seen both at Lamington NP (common) and in the Blue Mountains (less common).

Yellow-faced honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops* - Singles on Aug 3 (Glen Davis), 4 (Barren Grounds NP), 5 (Barren Grounds NP) and 10 (near Sydney).

Singing Honeyeater *Lichenostomus virescens* - Seen between July 19 ('Bowra') and 31 (Deliniquin).

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis* - Seen in both Hatta Kulkygne NP (July 27) and in Wyperfield NP (July 28-29).

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops* - Only seen (20+) at Glen Davis (Blue Mountains) on Aug 3.

Yellow-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus ornatus* - Common at both Hatta Kulkygne NP and in Wyperfield NP.

Grey-headed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus keartlandi* - Two birds at 'Bowra' (July 18).

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus* - Common throughout the trip.

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris* - Two birds near Deliniquin.

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus* - Only seen in the Blue Mountains (Aug 2-3), where common.

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae* - First seen in Ooyen (July 28). Most common at Glen Davis (30+).

White-fronted Honeyeater *Phylidonyris albifrons* - Nice views of a single bird in Ooyen (July 28).

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* - Quite common in the Blue Mountains and at Barren Grounds NP.

Black Honeyeater *Certhionyx niger* - As the next species, a nice surprise. Very good views of singing males in Sturt NP (both July 23 and 24).

Pied Honeyeater *Certhionyx variegates* - Three singing males on July 23 (Sturt NP).

Orange Chat *Epthianura aurifrons* - Beautiful views of 5-10 birds on the salt plains near Deliniquin (July 31).



White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons* - Two birds in Wyperfield NP and another 3 birds near Deliniquin (July 31).

EOPSALTRIIDAE

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans* - Quite common inland, most common at 'Bowra'.

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii* - Common at 'Bowra'.

Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster* - Close views of a male at the end of the day near Sydney (Aug 10).

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis* - Seen in Lamington NP and in the Blue Mountains.

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capita* - A single bird on the Box Forest Circuit track (July 15, Lamington NP).

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata* - Seen inland, most common at 'Bowra'.

ORTHONYCHIDAE

Southern Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii* - Small flocks (3-5 birds) almost daily in Lamington NP.

POMATOSTOMIDAE

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis* - Seen at 'Bowra' (July 19) and near Deliniquin (July 31).

White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus* - Seen on 4 days in Hatta Kulkygne NP and Wyperfield NP.

Chestnut-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus ruficeps* - Most common at 'Bowra'. Highest counts on July 18 (30+).

CINCLOSTOMIDAE

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus* - Heard on several days in Lamington NP.

Chirruping Wedgebill *Psophodes cristatus* - Seen in Sturt NP on both July 24 (2 birds) and July 25 (another 2 birds).

Chestnut Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma castanotus* - Very good views of 3 birds along the Norawingi track in Wyperfield NP (July 27). A female along the Lowan Track on July 29 (Wyperfield NP).

Cinnamon Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma cinnamomeum* - Brief views of a bird that flew off in Sturt NP (July 23).

NEOSITTIDAE

Varied Sitella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera* - Quite common in Hatta Kulkygne NP, where we saw small (mixed) flocks of 3-6 birds. Another 2 birds near Sydney (Aug 10).

PACHYCEPHALIDAE

Crested Bellbird *Oreoica gutturalis* - Low numbers at 'Bowra'.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis* - Seen in low numbers in Lamington NP, and near Deliniquin and Sydney.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris* - Single birds in Wyperfield NP and near Deliniquin.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica* - Common, seen on most days of the tour (1-3 birds/day).

DICRURIDAE

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta* - Seen at 'Bowra' and in Wyperfield NP in low numbers.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* - Common, seen on most days of the tour.

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa* - A single bird seen in Lamington (July 15), and near Deliniquin (3 birds) and Sydney (2 birds).

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae* - Seen on 8 days of the tour, 1-6 birds/day.

ORIOLIDAE

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus* - A surprise at 'Bowra' (July 19). A single bird, most likely a migrant, calling.

ARTAMIDAE

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* - Seen inland when travelling to Thargomindah and Noccundra (July 21 and July 22).

Black-faced Woodswallow *Artamus cinereus* - The most common Woodswallow seen. Highest counts on the same days as the previous species.

Little Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus* - Seen at Glen Davis (30+) on Aug 3.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus* - Seen on 7 days of the tour (1-2 birds/day), e.g. in Lamington NP.



Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis* - Also seen on 7 days, but somewhat more common than the previous species. Up to 4 birds/day, e.g. in Hatta Kulkygne NP.

Magpie Lark *Grallina cyanoleuca* - One of the most common and most widely distributed birds seen during the trip.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* - Like the previous species, although overall numbers lower.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* - Seen daily in Lamington NP and in the Blue Mountains.

Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor* - Seen in low numbers, particularly in Hatta Kulkygne NP and in Wyperfield NP.

PARADISAEIDAE

Paradise Riflebird *Ptilornis paradiseus* - Good views of both a male and female along the Python Rock trail (July 13). A single female on July 15.

CORVINIDAE

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides* - Seen during the first part of the tour in Lamington NP and at 'Bowra'.

Little Raven *Corvus mellori* - Seen inland near Thargomindah and Noccundra (July 21-23) and near Deliniquin (July 30-31).

Little Crow *Corvus bennetti* - Seen in low numbers in Hatta Kulkynge NP (July 26-27).

CORCORACIDAE

Apostlebird *Struthidea cinerea* - Seen on 6 days, most common (200+) on July 17 (travelling from Inglewood to Cunnamulla).

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos* - Seen on 11 days. Together with the previous species, very tame at the campsite of Hatta Kulkynge NP.

PTINILORHYNCHIDAE

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris* - Heard (July 14) and seen (2 birds) on July 15 in Lamington NP.

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus* - Seen in Lamington NP almost daily near O'Reilly's guesthouse.

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* - Common in Lamington NP. A single bird seen at Minnamurra NP (Aug 5).

Spotted Bowerbird *Chlamydera maculate* - Seen at 'Bowra' and on July 22 when travelling from Thargomindah to Noccundra.

ALAUDIDAE

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* - As the previous species.

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica* - Seen during the spotlight tour when looking for the Plains Wanderer (July 31).

PYCNONOTIDAE

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* (introduced) - Seen near Sydney on Aug 10 (2 birds).

FRINGILLIDAE

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii* - A single bird on Aug 3 (Glen Davis) and 3 birds near Sydney (Aug 10).

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis* - Near Sydney on Aug 10 (2 birds).

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata* - Very close views of a flock of about 12 birds, perched very close together (July 18). Another 2 birds when travelling to Deliniquin (July 30).

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella* - Good views of a single male along the road to the 'visitors center' of Barren Grounds NP (Aug 4).

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata* - A flock of 10 birds near Deliniquin (July 31).

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* (introduced) - A single bird near Sydney (Aug 10).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (introduced) - Seen on various days, highest count (50+) on July 28 (Ooyen).

DICAEIDAE

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* - Single males at 'Bowra' on July 17 and July 19.

HIRUDINIDAE

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena* - By far the most common swallow, seen almost daily in good numbers.

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoec leucosternus* - This inland species was seen when travelling from Sturt NP to Tibooburra on July 23 (3 birds). Another 3 birds were seen much better near Deliniquin (July 31).

Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans* - Seen on most days of the tour in good numbers.

SYLVIIDAE

Brown Songlark *Cinclorhamphus cruralis* - A single bird near Deliniquin (July 31).

Rufous Songlark *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi* - Two birds during a stop between Thargomindah and Noccundra (July 22).

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus* - Good views of a single bird near Sydney (Aug 10).

ZOSTEROPIDAE

Silveryeye *Zosterops lateralis* - Seen at Barren Ground NP (Aug 4 and Aug 5).

MUSCICAPIDAE

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* (introduced) - Seen at Ooyen (2 birds) on July 28. Singles on July 31 (Deliniquin) and Aug 1 (Lithgow).

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei* - A single bird was seen along the Python Rock trail in Lamington NP (July 13).

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata* - As the previous species.

STURNIDAE

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (introduced) - Seen on 8 days during the tour, common.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* (introduced) - Common in the Blue Mountain area and near Sydney.

MAMMALS

DASYURIDAE

Fat-tailed Dunnart *Sminthopsis crassicaudata*

PHALANGARIDAE

Mountain Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus caninus*

PSEUDOCHEIRIDAE

Common Ringtail Possum *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*

PHASCOLARCTIDAE

Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*



MACROPODIDAE

Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*

Western Grey Kangaroo *Macropus fuliginosus*

Wallaroo (Euro) *Macropus robustus*

Whiptail Wallaby *Macropus parryi*

Red-necked Pademelon *Thlogale thetis*

PTEROPODIDAE

Grey-headed Flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*

CANIDAE

Dingo *Canis lupus dingo*

DELPHINIDAE

Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*



Hong Kong (July 11, 2005)

ARDEIDAE

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

ACCIPITRIDAE

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

COLOMBIDAE

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

CUCULIDAE

Asian Koel *Eudynamys clolopacea*

APODIDAE

House Swift *Apus affinis*

CORVIDAE

Jungle Crow *Corvus levaillantii* (heard)

PARIDAE

Eastern Great Tit *Parus minor*

HIRUNDINIDAE

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

PYCNONOTIDAE

Common Tailedbird *Orthotomus sutorius* (heard)

Chinese Bulbul *Pycnonotus sinensis*

Crested (Red-whiskered) Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

SYLVIDAE

Rufous-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* (heard)

TIMALIIDAE

Black-faced Laughingthrush *Garrulax perspicillatus*

Black-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax chinensis*

Hwamei *Garrulax canorus*

TROGLODYTIDAE

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* (heard)

STURNIDAE

Black-collared Starling *Sturnus nigricollis*

Crested Mynah *Acridotheres cristatellus*

Hill Myna (introduced) *Gracula religiosa*

TURDIDAE

Violet (Blue) Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* (heard)

MUSCICAPIDAE

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*

ESTRILDIDAE

White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*

MOTACILLIDAE

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*