

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO AUSTRALIA
Tasmania & Southern Victoria

19 November – 08 December 2015



Leader: Mark Hanger

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A Personal Diary

19th – 20th November

The group departed from London and was in transit to New Zealand.

21st November 2015

The group arrived from all points into Hobart, Tasmania in the late afternoon and met up with me before transferring to our hotel. Dinner was taken at the hotel restaurant and everyone quickly became aware that they would not starve while in Tasmania!

22nd November 2015

Mount Wellington was initially shrouded in light cloud first thing this morning so we visited the local Waterworks Reserve on the lower slopes of the mountain that provides such a spectacular backdrop to Hobart and the Derwent Harbour.

As we climbed out of the bus the noise of Black-headed Honeyeaters feeding in the eucalypts was immediately apparent. Typically they spend much of their time hanging upside down searching for invertebrates. We were then diverted by a Striated Pardalote flying into and out of a hole on a nearby rock wall. This nesting pair continued to go in and out throughout our stay at the reserve.

On the adjacent reservoirs Hoary-headed Grebes, Wood Ducks, and Pacific Black Duck were viewed, while Tasmanian Native-hens squawked and squabbled on the far bank. The daily encounter with the delightful and vibrantly patterned Superb Fairy-Wrens was had near the lake edge.

From the summit we enjoyed the spectacular views down over Hobart. Plants included the suitably-named Rock Daisy Bush *Olearia ledifolia* and the cream spikes of Mountain Rocket *Bellendenia montana*, and isolated bushes of the spectacularly blossomed Tasmanian Warratah (*Telopea truncata*)

Our lunch stop was in the shade at Three Springs, from where we observed the endemic Tasmanian Thornbills and Yellow-throated Honeyeater. A very noisy and (eventually) showy Grey Shrike-Thrush spent quite a bit of time around the restrooms and coffee caravan, although shyer were the Superb Fairy-Wren, and Grey Fantail, all of which flitted through very quickly. The endemic Forest Ravens were observed while driving both up and down the mountain.

Making our way to the ferry to Bruny Island at Kettering, Black-faced Cormorant could be seen in the bay. Once we got onto Bruny, we headed slowly south, passing sandy beaches and shallow bays home to Black Swans and Australian Pied Oystercatcher.

No-one was present at Inala Lodge when we arrived. On driving through the dry forest and grasslands a Tawny-crowned Honeyeater was observed by some on a tree trunk adjacent to the roadway. Tasmanian Pademelons abounded in both the grasslands and forest. While I sorted the rooms for our two-day stay on the island, the group walked to the viewing platform for pardalotes but none were in evidence.

Dinner at the local Bruny Hotel was a revelation with all enjoying wonderful meals centred on local produce and seafood. As darkness descended we drove north from South Bruny to North Bruny, stopping at The Neck for returning Short-tailed Shearwaters and Little Penguins. The cacophony of noise from the shearwaters was fascinating, and in the fading light birds could be seen spraying sand as they re-cleared their burrow entrances. In near dark, but still visible in the better light 'pulling' binoculars up to seven Little Penguins at a time were seen walking up the beach, and crossing a small pool, en route to the burrows. To round off a fascinating

diverse day we had brief views of three Eastern Quolls in the headlights, feeding on flying insects on the road, and Brushtailed Possum.

23rd November 2015

After a little too short a sleep, we reconvened at Inala for breakfast. Local Inala guide, Martin took us on a walk around the property. We started in a grove of tall Manna Gum trees, where with a little patience we all got great views of one of the real specialities of the area, the tiny Forty-spotted Pardalote. Also in the same and nearby trees were families of Striated Pardalotes, and more Tasmanian endemics, in the form of both Black-headed and Strong-billed Honeyeaters, and two or three pairs of Green Rosellas showing well as they fed on the grass seeds in the paddock. Walking on past the ponds into the forest, more Tasmanian endemics came in the form of a Yellow-throated Honeyeater and a pair of Dusky Robins, while a male Flame Robin brightened up the telephone wires, and alerted us to a Fantail Cuckoo also sitting on the wires. This was the first of several encounters with this cuckoo species. We also obtained views of the smaller Shining Bronze-Cuckoo.

While we had excellent views of these species it took much of the morning to get glimpses of the rare Swift Parrots. They do not sit still for long and swoop across the sky at a rapid rate of knots. In complete contrast the Laughing Kookaburra gave us prolonged and repeated views from all angles as they flew from tree to tree and back again near the ponds. Both Olive and Golden Whistlers obliged with views, after hearing them again and again until at last we spotted them amongst the eucalypt leaves.

After lunching in the property's former woolshed we said thank you to Martin for a great morning and drove south towards Cape Bruny, part of South Bruny National Park. Gale like winds and stunning coastal views were provided at the South Bruny lighthouse where, despite the winds, Superb Fairy-Wrens frolicked seemingly oblivious to the breeze! Bright pink trigger flowers covered the ground leading up to the lighthouse. With the day rapidly disappearing we made a short visit to Jetty Beach. Here, among the burned understory were abundant red spikes of Tasmanian Christmas Bells, *Blandfordia punicea*, in full flower, and we were fortunate to have great views of another endemic, Scrubtit, and briefer views of Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike and Beautiful Firetail.

This afternoon also brought the treat of Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring high above the forest, and the equally spectacular White-bellied Sea-Eagle.

Another great meal at the Bruny hotel was followed by a short night drive, this time quickly proving much more productive, with all of the group getting great views of Eastern Quoll.

24th November

A straight forward drive across the island brought us to Adventure Bay. The sandy beaches there are home to the rare Hooded Plover. On the first beach we stopped at a pair of Hooded Plover obliged and wandered along the beach in front of us. At one stage they scurried very close and gave us all excellent views of their distinctive head markings.

The winds out on the bay were strong and it was with some trepidation that we checked in for our three-hour trip along the eastern coast of Bruny Island. Bundled up in all our own warm gear, and almost hidden under the large red ponchos, we headed out in the semi-open outboard motored vessels. The ride was exhilarating but fun, and at times windy with small amounts of spray coming across the bow. Luckily we travelled in the lee of the westerly wind all the way down to the southern tip. Black-faced Cormorants were roosting on several rock stacks along the coast. New Zealand Fur-Seals were resting up on the rocks near the south end of the island. Sadly, due to very strong winds and a severe swell coming around the end of the island, we were unable to cross to the southern islands for the Australian Fur-Seals, or go out to seas for pelagic species.

A smoother return trip brought us all back to Adventure Bay, then by coach and ferry back to the mainland. A short ensuing drive brought us to New Norfolk, a small largely paper milling town north of Hobart. Stopping off at Gould's Lagoon en route out of Hobart provided excellent views of several waterfowl, and waterbirds – Freckled, Blue-billed and Pacific Black Ducks, Hardhead, Australian Shoveler, Chestnut Teal, Hoary-headed Grebe, and about half the group saw a Latham's Snipe on the edge of the reeds.

Our final, very unexpected, treat for the day, if not the culinary highlight of the trip was this evening's meal – a six course Asian banquet superbly cooked and presented and including local scallops, oysters, prawns, and other meats. A five course vegetarian banquet was also provided.

25th November

After breakfast, we bade farewell to the Junction Motel and made our way north-west along the Derwent Valley, travelling across parched sheep grazing land. Mount Field National Park lay an hour distant from New Norfolk. By the time we had arrived it was beginning to rain, the first of three days of bleak weather to come. There was little wind so it was a pleasant walk through to the Russell Falls. Tasmanian Pademelons darted through the tree ferns, but in the cool damp weather little else was moving or calling. Around the visitor centre there was considerably more life. Superb Fairy-Wrens were as active as they are throughout Tasmania. Higher in the eucalypts Black-headed Honeyeaters suspended themselves as they flittered through the branches searching for invertebrates. Strong-billed Honeyeaters also occurred, and a Shining Bronze-Cuckoo gave us all excellent views as it jumped through the branches. Laughing Kookaburra and Brown Thornbill completed the picture. For lunch we took a gamble and drove up to near treeline and Lake Dobson. As a Crescent Honeyeater sat in the tree above and called regularly, we sought shelter in the picnic shed, before travelling back down and on to Lake St Clair. There was no let-up in the rain.

By the time we arrived at the lodging, strong winds had led to widespread power cuts. With just candles and torches we managed to dine, and get to our rooms, before, thankfully, the power returned at about 10.30pm.

26th November

We woke to further cold damp weather. Many made the most of the shop in the national park visitor centre and stocked up on cold weather clothing. With little wind we spent the morning walking through Black Peppermint Gum Forest adjacent to Lake St Clair. Noisy Yellow Wattlebirds characterise the forest, but other birds were more elusive. With time however we saw Silvereye, Tasmanian Thornbill, Tasmanian Scrubwren, and good views of a Scrubtit. On driving over King William Saddle, a short walk in the lush rain forest yielded an intensely coloured male Pink Robin.

For the remainder of the afternoon we drove the many hundred twists and turns through the West Tasmanian landscape, past several former and present mines (gold, silver, tin, copper), then climbed once again to 1,000 metres to the Cradle Valley. Endearing Common Wombats obliged on the turf plains in the lower valley, and close to our lodgings a Short-beaked Echidna was feeding close to the driveway.

27th November, Cradle Valley.

The morning dawned grey and wet, but better things were promised, so we headed up into the national park for some short walks. We started our walk with a Wombat bumbling through the tussocks, and the calls of Tasmanian Froglet, sounding like a bleating sheep, coming from swamp near to an impressive grove of the very distinctive Richea bushes, with their long recurved leaves covering every part of the shrub.

We walked down the boardwalk back to the visitor centre. Echidnas were one of the few brave souls out this morning. Despite that some of group managed to get a good view of a Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

More noisy Crescent Honeyeaters and Grey Shrike-Thrushes called and sang from the scrub, and in the darker forest near the end of the walk a small flock of Tasmanian Scrubwren showed themselves. Among the subalpine forest trees were some wonderful old pines: King Billy Pine and Pencil Pine as well as a species of southern Beech: *Nothofagus cunninghamii* with the small, evergreen leaves.

During our after-dinner night drive, we found plenty of the now-usual nocturnal species plus a Brush-tailed Possum beside the road. But of the marsupial predators, there was not a sight.

28th November

Today couldn't have been any more different to yesterday: blue skies with barely a cloud as the day improved. Tasmanian Froglets, Metallic Skinks, and Crescent Honeyeaters dominated the walk along the Ronny Creek Boardwalk, then up through the button grass to Weindorfer Forest. Here Bennet's Kangaroos lay soaking up the sun's warmth for the first time in a few days.

In the early afternoon we took the opportunity to visit the *Devils on Cradle* Breeding Centre for threatened carnivorous marsupials such as Tasmanian Devils and Spotted-tailed and Eastern Quolls. In addition to learning of their ecology, it provided great photographic opportunities for these otherwise nocturnal species. A winding and spectacular road took us down from the now very clearly visible and spectacular Cradle Mountain to the coast at Stanley, via the Hellyer Gorge.

With time against us we enjoyed another evening meal looking out on the sunset on The Nut. Time was key as we hoped to get onto the summit of The Nut just before dark. Over half the group were keen to make the steep climb to the summit plateau. We just made it in time with darkness upon us as we caught our breath on the top. As soon as we neared the plateau we heard the cacophony created by returning and chattering Short-tailed Shearwaters. Some 13,000 pairs live on the plateaus, and we saw hundreds swooping low over and around us in the gloom. The Nut is also home to dozens and dozens of Tasmanian Pademelons. These were all grazing on the turf near the carpark, and many more on the summit plateau. As we arrived on the plateau we also spotted a paler looking small marsupial but only caught a glimpse. Fortunately, after a short search en route back from the shearwaters we again saw what appeared to be a Southern Brown Bandicoot. Several more of these lively little marsupials were spotted in the torch beam as we descended from the plateau. They made the steep climb and descent very worthwhile. On my previous trip to the Nut I had only seen one dead one in the carpark, so this was a considerable improvement!

Once back at the bus, we drove down to the shore to collect the last two members of the nocturnal group. They had sought out Little Penguins which nested at the eastern end of the beach. Before we could even park the bus, a small group of penguins walked across the road in front of us. Several other close sightings of these endearing animals were had in the next few minutes. It was nice to see clearly in good light the birds we had heard and seen in the gloom at The Neck on Bruny Island. These views rounded off a special evening in the north-west corner of Tasmania.

29th November Stanley, Fernglade, Mountain Valley

We had a couple of hours in the morning to explore the pretty little town of Stanley. Driving east along the coast was pretty uneventful, with a short stop at the Detention River bridge where Red-capped Plovers were spotted on the muddy shore. It was a beautifully calm afternoon, with barely a ripple in the water, until a Duck-billed Platypus obliged and swam right past our spot on the bank. We had quite a show from this animal as it slowly swam upstream. Continuing to walk up the river, birdlife became much more vocal and abundant. Despite helicopters swooping overhead working to control a forest fire a short distance inland, birds became easier to see. Distinctive in their calls and their plumage the Eastern Spinebill was a highlight of the afternoon. With several views along the riverside almost all the group got great views. A Yellow-throated Honeyeater, a Golden Whistler, and a Scarlet Robin, added to our enjoyment of this delightful gorge walk.

A further drive into the hills brought us to Mountain Valley Retreat at Loonaganna. Nestled near the base of the Northern Tiers, this small lodge was to be home for the next two nights. Spotted Pardalote nested in the dead tree outside one of the units, but the reason for being there was for the night-time visitors.

While I stayed in a nearby B&B, the group had opportunities to see Tasmania's unique Tasmanian Devils coming out to feed near to midnight. All but one couple managed to see at least one devil this evening, while a repeat search the following night resulted in all the group seeing Tasmanian Devil, and a few catching a glimpse of the larger quoll, the Eastern Quoll. While the Spotted-tailed Quoll viewed on Bruny lives mainly on invertebrates, the Eastern Quoll is a true hunter of other mammals, although not with quite the bone crunching of the Tasmanian Devil.

30th November

Duck-billed Platypus were readily seen on the nearby river this morning and by some the previous evening at dusk as well. The views were equally as rewarding as those near Burnie yesterday.

With more devils likely this evening and so a late night likely, the day was a relaxing one, with a riverside walk, 'elevenses' birdwatching from the armchair, and echidna watching by lying on the grass in front of the hotel. It was a very demanding day!!!! For some just photographing the echidna was not enough, but they had to lie on the ground and let it nearly kiss them as it poked around looking for sustenance. Mountain Valley lived up to its promise.

Bonuses by the river in the morning were a Grey Goshawk and an Australian Hobby. A further Eastern Spinebill allowed the final member of the group to see this delightful species. On the butterfly front we were able to watch Mcleays Swallowtail on the vegetation beneath the bridge.

1st December

Travelling through an area of Tasmania with very English names (Cam, Forth, Mersey to add to Somerset, and Surrey from yesterday), took us to Narawntapu National Park (once known by the less appealing name of Asbestos Range National Park).

We were diverted at one point by an irresistible need for chocolate!! The 'chocolatrie' proved a very worthwhile stop for both coffee-holics and chocolate lovers. We were now revived for the birdwatching ahead. Here we ambled through the sandy coastal bush and marsupial-grazed 'lawns', checking out the bird hide overlooking a large lagoon. Within the light forest cover on the back of the dunes a Scarlet Robin was viewed, but little else. As several large and impressive Forrester's Kangaroos lazed on the short turf east of the lake, many of the group has the spectacular sight of a Peregrine Falcon fly directly at us and pass overhead at just a few feet. A Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike also put in an appearance and Black-fronted Dotterel scurried along the shoreline.

While walking by the shallow lake we had the bizarre sight of a pademelon feeding in the water on vegetation growing in the lake. Then right next to the path we found a spectacular Lowland Copperhead Snake. Deadly poisonous but not aggressive, this individual just slowly meandered through the low vegetation. A pair of White-fronted Chats performed a short distance behind the snake. For those that did not complete the lake circuit another two chats were seen by the roadside as we arrived at the national park. The lagoon was home to the usual array of waterbirds including Eurasian Coot, Chestnut Teal, Masked Lapwing, Hoary-headed Grebes and a cormorant or two.

Lunch was taken in the little town of Coleraine, before we headed to the Tamar Island Wetlands, just north of Launceston. Here we wandered out along the boardwalk through the reed-beds and lagoons along the western side of the Tamar. Grey and Chestnut Teal abounded, with a few each of Pacific Black Duck and Australasian Shoveler. Great Egrets and pelicans were spotted in the far distance. Splendid Fairy-Wrens flitted through the reeds in noisy fashion. Not quite so visible were the Little Grassbirds which could be heard, their song a very mournful tri-syllabic whistle, but alas none came out into the open.

2nd December

The early birds joined me on a pre-dawn visit to the Cataract Gorge. As daylight beckoned we strolled through the trails close to the Chairlift and swimming basin on the river. Tasmanian Pademelons abounded, and Bennett's Wallabies frequented the gardens, and although the region was quiet, with none of the expected runners trudging the trails in the gorge, we were unsuccessful in viewing any Potoroos. However, as the sun hit the trees above the restaurant and band stand in the park, we had great views of Grey Butcherbird, both adult and immature darting in and out of thick undergrowth behind the gardens. Grey Shrike-Thrush accompanied us most of the way with their distinctive calls resonating across the basin and Brown Thornbills. Upon arrival back at the bus park two Little Wattlebirds were heard then viewed well by all, flitting and chortling among the carpark plantings.

The coffee and birds theme continued as we later travelled south through Campbelltown. Many of the group studied the fascinating bricks along each side of the street, each describing a person convicted and sent from England to Tasmania. Others opted for the excellent cakes and coffee in the café.

The remainder of the morning drive took us through dry sclerophyll eucalypt woodland to arrive on the eastern Tasmanian coast. Spectacular views overlooking Oyster Bay were had as we neared the vineyards of the Freycinet region. But those views were beaten by those from our lunch spot on the Bicheno coast. As the blowhole performed through the local granite, we enjoyed an unsurpassed lunch venue. A short distance closer to town around the coastal path we overlooked some small rocky islands, where a busy seabird colony included a few hundred Crested Terns, all three species of gull, and Black-faced Cormorant all going about their noisy business. Most of the group then walked up to the local Whaler's Lookout, but in the heat of the day little birdlife was seen. As we were about to board the bus again there was a buzz of activity in the adjacent park.

Striated Pardalote flitted amongst the branches, as Brown Thornbill flew through beneath. Black-headed Honeyeaters completed the scene.

3rd December

A day spent in the Freycinet National Park, with stunning views from the lookouts overlooking Coles Bay and Wineglass Bay and at the lighthouse at Cape Tourville, and a leisurely time on the beach by Freycinet Lodge. The renowned walk to Wineglass Bay lookout lived up to its hype, with the views as good as they could possibly be.

A haul out of Australian Fur-Seals was viewed on the Nuggets, offshore from Cape Tourville, surrounded by the guano-splattered breeding colonies of Australasian Gannet, Caspian Terns and Black-faced Cormorants and way out offshore, were Shy Albatrosses

Below Cape Tourville several Caspian Terns and Australasian Gannets flew over the calm sea, and further out to sea Shy Albatrosses could still be seen.

4th December

After a leisurely breakfast in Bicheno, our drive back down to Hobart went smoothly. An afternoon flight took us to Melbourne with connections to our downtown hotel.

5th December

Martin, our guide for the next two days met us at the hotel, and we drove out from the city towards the You Yangs Hills, about an hour west of the city. At the Little River comfort stop, just before the hills, we could differentiate the Long-billed and Short-billed Corellas, once into the reserve proper it immediately became apparent that the diversity of birds is much greater on mainland Australian sites than in Tasmania. Within a short space of time Galahs, corellas, Red-rumped Parrots, and Purple-crowned Lorikeets were identified amidst a much wider range of woodland birds including Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Striated Pardalote, White-plumed Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Rufous Whistler, Dusky Woodswallow, White-winged Chough, Eastern Yellow Robin, Mistletoebird, Restless Flycatcher and Firetail Finch. As lunch was being laid out we marvelled at a family of five Tawny Frogmouths all scrunched together motionless on a branch near the picnic site. They rivalled the views had a few minutes before of Koalas sitting slumped in the crotch of eucalypt trees.

From the You Yangs we drove south to Geelong, to view a large colony of Grey-headed Flying Foxes by the Geelong Golf Course. Then it was back to the sanctuary sitting in the middle of the agricultural lands, so dominant west of Melbourne. Serendip is a veritable oasis in the true sense of the word. There are active springs in the reserve and these enable large ponding areas to be maintained even in severe droughts. Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Swamp Wallabies were viewed late afternoon emerging from their shady retreats from the daytime heat and sun. More lorikeets teased us for views until we finally got great views near one of the ponds of water. These areas of water held a vast number of waterfowl and associated birds. Of special interest were Red-kneed Dotterel, Dusky Moorhen, Black Tailed Native-hen, Magpie Geese, Pink-eared Duck and Straw-necked and Australian White Ibises. Soaring overhead at various times through the late afternoon were Black Kite, Little Eagle, Whistling Kite, and Spotted Harrier.

A brilliant day was completed with a barbeque dinner provided in the sanctuary for us, accompanied by a chorus of honeyeaters and parrots.

6th December

Martin whisked us away from the city again this morning for our final foray into the hinterland of Melbourne. At Werribee the former sewage treatment ponds cover thousands of hectares, and these are now home to a vast array of water fowl and shorebirds. While each ponding area looks much as the others there are obviously significant variations as the birds varied widely from pond to pond.

Good roadside viewings of Golden-headed Cisticola began our day's viewing. Thousands of ducks live on the waterways although no new species were spotted. It was good however to get close, clear views of Musk and Pink-eared Ducks. Around the reed edges of some ponds it was exciting to view both Australian Spotted and Baillon's Crakes. Larger wading birds were very conspicuous – in particular Brolga Crane, that now thrive

after nearly vanishing from southern Australia, then both Royal and Yellow Billed Spoonbill, while we spotted one Little Egret in the distance feeding mid channel.

Periodic intrusions by raptors sent the waterfowl into a tiz, and while that in itself was fascinating to watch it was equally good to get longer views of Whistling Kite, Brown Falcon, Swamp Harrier and Black-shouldered Kite.

As we drove closer to the coast more and more shorebirds and coastal species became prevalent. A solitary White-winged Black Tern was spotted among a large flock of roosting Whiskered Terns. On the nearby tidal flats Double-banded Plover scurried along, not to be outdone by Red-necked Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, and the much more numerous Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Black-winged Stilts and a few Red-necked Avocets

In shrubs and reeds around the ponds we heard many Little Grassbirds and Clamorous Reed Warblers. It took persistent watching and listening but most of group eventually saw both these elusive species. It was particularly pleasing to see the grassbird as wind and weather made it trickier in Tasmania.

As we headed back towards the main highway to return to Melbourne our final stops resulted in Fairy Martins as they departed an abandoned shed, and Zebra Finches flocking through a small gully engulfed in thick shrublands.

These two final days in the Melbourne region certainly complemented well the birding in Tasmania, and it was wonderful to round off the trip with large numbers of a wide variety of species.

7th December

The group departed at various times for international flights back to the UK, or to other connections to meet family and friends in other parts of Australia.

Acknowledgements

I hope you all enjoyed the tour. It was great to show you the birds and animals of Tasmania. A special thanks you must go to Malcolm and Sue C for the photos used in this report.

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February 2016

Itinerary

19 November	Depart London
20 November	In transit
21 November	Arrival at Hobart Airport. Visit to harbour
22 November	Waterworks reserve and mid slopes Mt Wellington, Bruny ferry and Inala Reserve. Evening drive
23 November	Inala, South Bruny Lighthouse, and Jetty Beach. Evening drive
24 November	Bruny cruise, Adventure Bay, Goulds Lagoon
25 November	Mt Field National Park, Russell Falls, Lake Dobson, Lake St Clair
26 November	Watersmeet Track Lake St Clair, Donaghy's Creek Walk., Cradle Mountain Rd
27 November	Cradle Mtn, Ronny Creeek to Nat Park Centre, night drive
28 November	Ronny creek to Waldheim House, Lake Lilla, Devils at Cradle, Hellyer Gorge, Night on the The Nut and Stanley beach.
29 November	Stanley, Daytime The Nut, Detention River, Fernglade near Burnie, Mountain Valley
30 November	Mountain Valley, Leven Gorge
01 December	Mountain Valley, Narawntapu National Park, Tamar wetlands
02 December	Cataract Gorge, Campbelltown, Bicheno coast and viewpoint
03 December	Bicheno, Moulting Lagoon. Frecinet Peninsula –Wineglass Bay, Cape Tourville Lighthouse
04 December	Bicheno, Hobart Airport, flight to Melbourne
05 December	Little River, You Yangs Ranges, Geelong Gardens, Serendip Reserve
06 December	Western treatment ponds, Lake Borrie
07 December	Depart Melbourne
08 December	Arrival in London



Cradle Mountain

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

No. of days recorded	Abundance Scale
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	1 = 1-4 individual 2 = 5-9 3 = 10-99 4 = 100+

Tasmanian endemics in bold

SPECIES	No. of days recorded	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Emu	1		<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>
Indian Peafowl (Peacock)	1		<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Musk Duck	3		<i>Biziura lobata</i>
Freckled Duck	1		<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>
Blue-billed Duck	2		<i>Oxyura australis</i>
Cape Barren Goose	2		<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>
Black Swan	9		<i>Cygnus atratus</i>
Australian Wood Duck	9		<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>
Magpie Goose	1		<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>
Australian Shelduck	4		<i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>
Hardhead	5		<i>Aythya australis</i>
Pink-eared Duck	2		<i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>
Northern Mallard	4		<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Pacific Black Duck	7		<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Australasian Shoveler	3		<i>Anas rhynchotis</i>
Grey Teal	4		<i>Anas gracilis</i>
Chestnut Teal	6		<i>Anas castanea</i>
Australasian Grebe	1		<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>
Hoary-headed Grebe	5		<i>Poliiocephalus poliocephalus</i>
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	4		<i>Columba livia</i>
Spotted Dove	3		<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
Common Bronzewing	2	2h	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>
Brush Bronzewing	1		<i>Phaps elegans</i>
Tawny Frogmouth	1		<i>Podargus strigoides</i>
Shy Albatross	1		<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>
Short-tailed Shearwater	2		<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>
Little Penguin	2		<i>Eudyptula minor</i>
Australasian Gannet	4		<i>Morus serrator</i>
Great Cormorant	8		<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Little Black Cormorant	7		<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>
Little Pied Cormorant	3		<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>
Pied Cormorant	1		<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>
Black-faced Cormorant	4		<i>Phalacrocorax fuscescens</i>
Australian Pelican	5		<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>
White-necked Heron	1		<i>Ardea pacifica</i>
White-faced Heron	9		<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>
Little Egret	1		<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Cattle Egret	1		<i>Ardea ibis</i>
Great Egret	1		<i>Ardea modesta</i>
Australian White Ibis	2		<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>
Straw-necked Ibis	2		<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>
Royal Spoonbill	1		<i>Platalea regia</i>
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	1		<i>Platalea flavipes</i>
Black-shouldered Kite	1		<i>Elanus axillaris</i>
Black Kite	1		<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Whistling Kite	2		<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>
Brown Goshawk	1		<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>
Collared Sparrowhawk	1		<i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>
Grey Goshawk	2		<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	3		<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>

Wedge-tailed Eagle	2	<i>Aquila audax</i>
Little Eagle	1	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>
Spotted Harrier	1	<i>Circus assimilis</i>
Swamp Harrier	10	<i>Circus approximans</i>
Nankeen Kestrel	1	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>
Brown Falcon	6	<i>Falco berigora</i>
Australian Hobby	2	<i>Falco longipennis</i>
Peregrine Falcon	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Baillon's Crake	1	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>
Australian Spotted Crake	1	<i>Porzana fluminea</i>
Purple Swamphen	5	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Dusky Moorhen	1	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>
Eurasian Coot	6	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Tasmanian Native-hen	12	<i>Tribonyx mortierii</i>
Black-tailed Native-hen	1	<i>Tribonyx ventralis</i>
Australian Pied Oystercatcher	5	<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>
Sooty Oystercatcher	3	<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>
White-headed (Black-winged) Stilt	1	<i>Haematopus leucocephalus</i>
Red-necked Avocet	1	<i>Recurvirostra novaehollandiae</i>
Red-capped Plover	4	<i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>
Double-banded Plover	1	<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>
Red-kneed Dotterel	1	<i>Erythrogonys cinctus</i>
Black-fronted Dotterel	2	<i>Elseyornis melanops</i>
Hooded Plover	1	<i>Thinornis rubricollis</i>
Banded Lapwing	1	<i>Vanellus tricolor</i>
Masked Lapwing	13	<i>Vanellus miles</i>
Latham's Snipe	1	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>
Red-necked Stint	2	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	1	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>
Caspian Tern	1	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Crested Tern	2	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Whiskered Tern	1	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
White-winged Black Tern	1	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Pacific Gull	5	<i>Larus pacificus</i>
Kelp Gull	10	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Silver Gull	9	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	8	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>
Galah	6	<i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>
Long-billed Corella	1	<i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i>
Little Corella	1	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	8	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	1	<i>Glossopsitta porphyrocephala</i>
Swift Parrot	1	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>
Green Rosella	10	<i>Platycercus caledonicus</i>
Eastern Rosella	2	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>
Red-rumped Parrot	1	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	3	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	6	<i>Chalcites lucidus</i>
Laughing Kookaburra	10	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>
Superb Fairy-Wren	13	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>
Tasmanian Scrubwren	6	<i>Sericornis humilis</i>
Scrubtit	3	<i>Acanthornis magna</i>
Brown Thornbill	3	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>
Tasmanian Thornbill	7	<i>Acanthiza ewingii</i>
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	2	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>
Yellow Thornbill	1	<i>Acanthiza nana</i>
Weebill	1	<i>Smicrornis brevirostris</i>
Spotted Pardalote	3	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>
Striated Pardalote	3	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>
Forty-spotted Pardalote	2	<i>Pardalotus quadragintus</i>
Eastern Spinebill	3	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	1	<i>Glyciphila melanops</i>

Crescent Honeyeater	7	<i>Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus</i>
New Holland Honeyeater	9	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>
Yellow-throated Honeyeater	4	<i>Lichenostomus flavicollis</i>
White-plumed Honeyeater	1	<i>Lichenostomus penicillatus</i>
Strong-billed Honeyeater	3	<i>Melithreptus validirostris</i>
White-naped Honeyeater	1	<i>Melithreptus lunatus</i>
Black-headed Honeyeater	5	<i>Melithreptus affinis</i>
Red Wattlebird	2	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>
Little Wattlebird	2	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>
Yellow Wattlebird	10	<i>Anthochaera paradoxa</i>
White-fronted Chat	2	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	6	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
Olive Whistler	2	4h <i>Pachycephala olivacea</i>
Golden Whistler	2	1h <i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>
Rufous Whistler	1	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>
Grey Shrike-Thrush	12	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
Dusky Woodswallow	2	<i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>
Grey Butcherbird	2	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>
Australian Magpie	12	<i>Cracticus tibicen</i>
Black Currawong	12	<i>Strepera fuliginosa</i>
Forest Raven	14	<i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>
Little Raven	2	<i>Corvus mellori</i>
Willie Wagtail	2	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Grey Fantail	14	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>
Restless Flycatcher	1	<i>Myiagra inquieta</i>
White-winged Chough	1	<i>Struthidea cinerea</i>
Magpie Lark	2	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>
Eastern Yellow Robin	1	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>
Scarlet Robin	4	<i>Petroica boodang</i>
Flame Robin	4	<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>
Pink Robin	1	<i>Petroica rodinogaster</i>
Dusky Robin	3	<i>Melanodryas vittata</i>
Australasian Pipit	5	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>
Eurasian Skylark	4	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Golden-headed Cisticola	1	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>
Australian (Clamorous) Reed Warbler	2	<i>Acrocephalus australis</i>
Little Grassbird	2	<i>Megalurus gramineus</i>
Silvereye	7	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>
Welcome Swallow	12	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>
Tree Martin	6	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>
Common Blackbird	15	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Common Starling	16	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Common Myna	2	<i>Sturnus tristis</i>
Mistletoebird	1	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>
Red-browed Finch	1	<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>
Beautiful Firetail	1	<i>Stagonopleura bella</i>
House Sparrow	13	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
European Goldfinch	12	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Common Greenfinch	4	<i>Chloris chloris</i>

MAMMALS

Duck-billed Platypus	3	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>
Short-beaked Echidna	12	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>
Koala	1	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>
Spotted-tailed Quoll	1	<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>
Eastern Quoll	2	<i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i>
Tasmanian Devil	2	<i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i>
Southern Brown Bandicoot	1	<i>Issodon obesulus</i>
Common Wombat	3	<i>Vombatus ursinus</i>
Common Brushtail Possum	2	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>
Tasmanian Pademelon	12	<i>Thylogale billardierii</i>
Red-necked Wallaby	1	<i>Macropus rufrogriseus</i>
Swamp Wallaby	1	<i>Wallabia bicolor</i>
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	2	<i>Macropus giganteus</i>
Grey-headed Flying Fox	1	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>
Australian Fur-Seal	1	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus doriferus</i>
New Zealand Fur-Seal	1	<i>Arctocephalus forsteri</i>
Bottlenose Dolphin	1	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
European Rabbit	10	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>

This list represents those birds and other animals as seen by party members of this tour.

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Eastern Grey Kangaroo



Short-beaked Echidna



Eastern Quoll



Tasmanian Pademelon



Eastern Rosellas



Flame Robin



Striated Pardalote



Hooded Plover



Tasmanian Native-hen



Macleay's Swallowtail



Wine Glass Bay, Freycinet, Tasmania

Front cover: Tawny Frogmouths

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