

AUSTRALIA: THE BEST OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA October 13th ~ November 1st 2006

Tour Report

Leaders:

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Commencing in the tropical warmth of Cairns in northern Queensland, we searched for wintering shorebirds from Siberia and found such goodies as Pacific Golden Plover, Lesser and Greater Sandpipers, Terek and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Great Knot and Eastern Curlew amongst them. The upland rainforest brought a whole host of northern Queensland specialities including Southern Cassowary, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Great-billed Heron, Papuan Frogmouth, Mountain Thornbill, Grey-headed and Pale-yellow Robins, Scarlet Honeyeater, Victoria's Riflebird, Spotted Catbird and Tooth-billed Bowerbird, many of which are endemic to this unique region. Before leaving north Queensland we took a boat out to the Great Barrier Reef, stepping ashore at tiny Michaelmas Cay where we found Great Frigatebird and both Black Noddy and Bridled Terns attending the breeding colony of Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies.

All too soon we dragged ourselves way from this exciting part of Australia, flying south to Brisbane to stay at the incomparable O'Reilly's in the rainforests of extreme southern Queensland. The unique combination of splendid scenery, good food and wonderful wildlife gave another exciting element to the tour; here feeding tables attracted masses of colourful Crimson Rosellas and King Parrots, alongside plump Wonga Pigeons and stunning Regent and Satin Bowerbirds. In the adjoining rainforest however we had to work harder to see such specialities as Noisy Pitta and Logrunner, with Australian Owlet-nightjar sitting at the entrance to its nest hole providing a bonus. Crossing the border into New South Wales we embarked on a fascinating journey across the state, a combination of rolling farmland, dotted with stock-ponds, reservoirs, hidden creeks and patches of eucalypt forest. Here we were able to sample many species typical of the Australian interior, ie White-winged Chough, as well as being well off the tourist route. Many interesting mammals, including Koalas were also encountered. Eastern Grey Kangaroos were especially abundant about Oakhampton and further west at Coonabarabran, where they associated with Emus. Finally arriving in Wollongong, the highlight for most of us was a full-day pelagic trip, where we had five species of albatross (nine species if you are an albatross splitter!), as well as hundreds of shearwaters and petrels of nine species, a sight almost eclipsed by Humpback Whales right next to the boat. Even more remarkable was having albatrosses in the hand, as a seabird research team came out with us and netted 36 wandering albatrosses!

Australia's fascinating mammals were well represented, with excellent views of such elusive 'cuddlies' as platypus, koala, pademelons, sugar-glders, rat-kangaroo and even Humpback Whales! With 369 species recorded (only 10 were heard-only) we certainly saw the great majority of the birdlife of eastern Australia, including a high number of specialities and difficult species. An idea of this biodiversity is indicated by the five species of albatrosses, 12 species of terns, 17 wildfowl species, eight thornbills and no less than 35 honeyeaters! This tremendous variety reflected Glen's intimate knowledge of Australian birds, their calls and where to find them; he was also an extremely competent botanist. It certainly was a most memorable and satisfying tour.

Annotated List of Species Recorded

The many endemics are stated as such. A total of 369 bird species was recorded during the tour, of which only 10 were 'heard only'. These are indicated by an (H) after the bird's name. Those species which are endemic to Australia are marked with an (E).

Southern Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius*

First a male, then the bigger and more colourful female, appeared like black apparitions by the path beside us as we approached a 'feeding station' (disguised as a blue bucket) in the forest at Mission Beach on 16th. A great start to the tour.

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae* (E)

Wonderful views of this haystack of a bird, with 25 in the Warrumbungles NP on 26th and eight in the Pilliga 'scrub' next day.

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathamii* (E)

Remarkably numerous in the rain-forest at Cairns, Lake Barrine, Chamber's lodge and at O'Reilly's; many birds being extremely confiding!

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*

Several seen in the Cairns area and about the tablelands forests.

Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis* (H) (E)

Brief outbursts of calling heard at Beady Waters near Glen Innes and by Dangar's Lagoon, both on 24th.

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

One flushed from rough grassland by Tinarroo Waters on 17th, a covey of 7 near Mareeba on 18th and two flushed at Dangar's Lagoon on 24th. Sometimes separated as *C. australis* with *C. ypsilophora* being restricted to Tasmanian population (Swamp Quail).

Magpie-goose *Anseranus semipalmata*

Spectacular gathering of some 3000+ at Hasties Swamp on 18th.

Plumed Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna eytoni* (E)

Another avian spectacle: 4000+ in tight masses on shores of Lake Tinarroo on 17th plus 200 at Hasties Swamp on 18th.

Wandering Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

Some 15 at Portsmouth sewage ponds on 15th, 15 at Hasties Swamp on 18th and 5 at Yorkies Knob on 19th.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* (E)

Some 70-100 at Lake Mitchell on 18th, total of 50 on Beady Waters near Glen Innes and by Dangar's Lagoon on 24th, and 30 near Gunnedah on 26th. Endemic to Australia but introduced New Zealand.

Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*

14 at sewage ponds near Mareeba on 18th.

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus* (E)

Few this year with 12 on Dangar's Lagoon on 24th, and 40 on several lakes in the vicinity of Gunnedah on 26th.

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata* (= Australian Wood Duck) (E)

Common by farm stock ponds and lakesides throughout trip.

Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

20 by Lake Tinarroo on 17th.

Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus*

20 at Lake Mitchell on 18th and 6 at Yorkies Knob on 19th.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Widespread and numerous.

Australian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*

30 on small lakes in the Glen Innes - Uralla areas on 24th and similarly in the vicinity of Gunnedah on 26th.

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

Widely recorded. Formerly included in *A. gibberifrons* which is now restricted to Sunda Teal of Indonesia.

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea* (E)

A very smart drake on Dangar's Lagoon on 24th. A good bit of spotting by Heather here as everyone else had passed it over and moved on.

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

Widely recorded throughout tour; at most deeper water bodies visited.

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* (E)

A nice surprise, presumably due to dry conditions forcing birds out of the Victorian hinterland: four at Beady Waters and six at Dangar's Lagoon on 24th, one at Gunnedah sewage ponds on 26th and one at Wallace Lake on 28th.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata* (E)

Six at Beady Waters on 24th, two at Rangiri Dam on 26th and four at Wallace Lake on 28th. A particularly large male at Wallace Lake put on a fine display for us, looking quite un-bird-like when in full kick mode !

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

The highlight of our 29th October pelagic from Wollongong on the "Sandra-K" was the presence of at least 50, perhaps as many as 80, 'wandering albatrosses'. The bonus was that also on board was a team from the Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association (SOSSA) headed by Lyndsay Smith; by the end of the day they had captured and 'processed' 26 'wanderers', giving us the unique opportunity of seeing these immense birds in the hand. Some taxonomists advocate treating the various populations as true species; the SOSSA considered that we had had four 'species' on our day trip (blood samples were taken for DNA study):-

Gibson's Albatross *D. (e.) gibsoni*: the most numerous form.

Antipodean Albatross *D. (e.) antipodensis*: a small scattering.

Wandering Albatross *D. (e.) exulans*: one very large bird, dwarfed nearby Gibson's.

Tristan Albatross *D. (e.) dabbenena*: one caught was a rather 'chunky' bird, with the characteristic tail pattern of this taxon.

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*

One seen well during our pelagic off Wollongong on 29th.

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*

Next down in size from the Wandering group and much fewer in number during our pelagic off Wollongong on 29th. Two forms identified, the tendency by recent researchers being to split them into separate species:-

Shy Albatross (= White-capped Albatross) *T. (c.) cauta*: at least three seen.

Salvin's Albatross *T. (c.) salvini*: 2 together, an adult and a third-year bird. The adult was deftly netted, being the first that Lyndsay had encountered and was drooled over by the SOSSA scientists.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*

At least 30 during our pelagic off Wollongong on 29th. The only ones seen well enough to be critically placed were of the nominate form. Subspecies *impavida* also occurs here and is sometimes given specific status as Campbell Albatross *T. (m.) impavida*.

Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*

Two of race *bassi* seen well during our pelagic off Wollongong on 29th.

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

Two well offshore with Wedge-tailed Shearwaters off Wollongong on 29th.

Fluttering Shearwater *Puffinus gavia*

Hundreds flying south closer inshore than the all-dark shearwaters; off Wollongong on 29th.

Hutton's Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni*

A few (ca30) picked out flying south with Fluttering Shearwaters off Wollongong on 29th.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica*

Thousands offshore from Wollongong on 29th plus two or three moving south off Kiama next day.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

Only one identified: on water with the Salvin's Albatrosses off Wollongong on 29th.

Short-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna tenuirostris*

Hundreds with Wedge-tailed Shearwaters off Wollongong on 29th, but rather closer inshore than Wedge-tails.

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes*

10-20 scattered with Wedge-tailed Shearwaters off Wollongong on 29th.

Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

At least 20 scattered over edge of continental shelf off Wollongong on 29th.

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae* (= Australian Little Grebe)

Frequent throughout the trip; usually solitary or in pairs.

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus* (E)

About 20 at Dangar's Lagoon on 24th, with another 20 on a couple of pools near Gunedah next day; more sociable than the last.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Some very large gatherings this year, included 150 on Lake Barrine on 15th, and 250 at Split Rock Dam (near Manilla) on 25th; further south in NSW were 2 to 4 at several water-bodies.

Australian Ibis *Threskiornis molucca* (= Australian White Ibis)

Common and widespread. Formerly lumped with Oriental White or Black-headed Ibis *T. melanocephalus* under Sacred Ibis *T. aethiopicus* of Africa.

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

Common and widespread.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Four at Fred Bucholz Park (TamBorahe) on 21st, two near Legume on 23rd and six at Dangar's Lagoon on 24th.

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

Up to 20 along the esplanade at Cairns, plus 4 at Dangar's Lagoon on 24th.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes* (E)

Two singles near Legume on 23rd, 10 at Dangar's Lagoon on 24th and one flying about, trying to find water, at Pilliga Scrub on 27th.

Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus* (= Nankeen Night Heron)

Three in trees at Hasties Swamp on 18th, two in trees by Borah Creek on 25th and two by a tiny pond in the Pilliga scrub on 27th.

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*

Singles at Cairns esplanade on 15th, Cairns marina on 29th, near Kiama on 30th and five along Mossman River mangroves on 19th.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Widely recorded, in the early part of the trip - several birds were in full breeding plumage with wholly orange head and neck, typical of Asian birds. The race concerned is sometimes treated as a full species: Eastern Cattle Egret *B. coromandus*.

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica* (= Pacific Heron)

Six singles scattered throughout the trip.

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

One of these massive, and rare, herons flapped out of the mangroves during our boat ride on the Mossman River on 19th.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* (= Great White Egret)

Widely recorded in small numbers.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedea*

Widely recorded in small numbers, chiefly in Queensland.

Pied Heron *Egretta picata*

One at Portsmouth sewage ponds on 15th was unusual so far south.

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

Widely recorded in small numbers; often in dry grassland.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Widely recorded in small numbers. The Australian populations might be specifically distinct as *E. nigripes*.

Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra* (Eastern Reef Heron)

A white bird on shore Michaelmas Cay on 20th.

Great Frigatebird *Fregatta minor*

Two (adult and immature females) at Michaelmas Cay on 20th. John's photo of the adult clearly showed the bluish eye-ring, seemingly typical of the tiny population breeding on the Herald Cays some 400kms E of Cairns in the SW Pacific.

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Widely recorded in small numbers, both in coastal waters and inland.

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

At least five singles seen well during our pelagic off Wollongong on 29th, plus two or three more distant off Gerringong next day.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

A total of about 10 en route to, and about, Michaelmas Cay on 20th.

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Frequent in small nos. throughout.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Frequent in small nos. throughout.

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

Total of ca200 at Split Rock Dam near Manilla on 25th, and a singleton on rocks at Black Head Reserve on 30th.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Frequent in small nos. throughout.

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Frequent. Often separated from African and Asiatic forms as Australian Darter *A. novaehollandiae*.

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides* (= Nankeen Kestrel)

Widely scattered throughout the tour.

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

Four singles: at mouth of Mossman River on 19th, Tinterfields on 23rd, Split Rock Dam on 25th and near Coonabaraban on 26th.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

A total of nine scattered through the tour, mostly in New South Wales.

Black Falcon *Falco subniger* (E)

Two singles of this scarce falcon: near Mt Lindsay on 23rd and near Mudgee on 28th.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

A pair on a hotel roof by Cairns esplanade on 20th and one by Split Rock Dam on 25th.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Up to 4 in vicinity of Cairns on 15th and 20th, plus 2 by Mossman River on 19th.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

One low over Cairns Botanical Gardens on 15th, plus much better views of one soaring low at Chamber's Wildlife Lodge on 17th.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris* (E)

Frequent.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Quite common about Cairns and locally abundant on the Atherton tablelands.

Whistling Kite *Milvus sphenurus*

Frequent in Queensland but only one in New South Wales.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Five singles in the Cairns area on 15th, with 3 singles on the Atherton tablelands.

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Single adults seen well at Hasties Swamp on 18th and off Cairns esplanade on 19th.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

Very fine views of a male near Wondecla on 16th, 2 near Atherton on 17th and another at Oakhampton on 25th.

Variable Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* (= Grey Goshawk)

A beautiful wholly white phase bird flew onto a roadside pole for us to admire him, near Jamberoo on 30th.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

Excellent views of one soaring near Wondecla on 16th, with more fleeting views of singles at Mother of duck's lagoon (now dry) on 24th and at Borah Creek on 25th.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

Two singles in then north, over Atherton on 17th and near Mareeba on 18th. Much more numerous in the south where 23 counted during our stay in New South Wales.

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

Singles near Bingara on 24th and near Jamberoo on 31st.

Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis*

Some superb views of males in full display: 18 of mixed sexes and ages counted in an area of open country near Mt Molloy on 18th.

Red-necked Crake *Rallina tricolor*

Heather's persistence paid-off at Kingfisher Lodge where she obtained views of one at dusk on 18th.

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

Two singles at Tinaroo Waters on 17th, and superb views of a very close bird from the hide at Hasties Swamp next morning.

White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*

One gave unusually prolonged views at the Centenary Park Lakes in Cairns on 15th.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* (= Purple Gallinule)

Locally numerous. Some authorities split this bird into several species, with the Australian form being known as Black-backed Swamphen *P. melanotus*.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

Quite widely scattered in ones and twos.

Black-tailed Native-hen *Gallinula ventralis* (E)

One out of range bird, at a relict pond in the Pilliga scrub on 27th.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Locally common, or even abundant on certain lakes. The Australian ssp *australis* noticeably differs from Eurasian populations in bill colour (bluish-white) and has a rather small frontal shield, the few calls heard were somewhat lower in pitch. Clearly this begs investigation.

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*

Flocks totalling several hundred on the Atherton tablelands.

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

Carefully scrutiny of the large flocks of Sarus on the Atherton tablelands generally revealed two or three birds in each gathering.

Painted Buttonquail *Turnix varia*

Two flushed by Duck Creek Road at O'Reilly's on 22nd, although only seen in flight the longer, more pointed, wing-tip than other buttonquails was surprisingly apparent. It is also the only buttonquail to be found there!

Bush Thick-knee *Burhinus grallarius* (= Bush Stone-curlew)

Superb views, with three at Cairns botanical gardens on 15th, one at Mission Beach on 16th and the remarkable family of five which took food from the hand of one of the residents at Lake Tinaroo on 17th.

Beach Thick-knee *Esacus magnirostris* (= Beach Stone-curlew)

One in mangroves at mouth of the Mossman River on 19th.

Australian Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

Pair off Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th, 4 at mouth of the Mossman River on 19th and 8 at Black Head near Gerringong on 30th.

White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*

Quite widely recorded. Often lumped within Black-winged Stilt *H. himantopus*.

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor* (E)

Party of four in fields near Legume on 23rd was a complete surprise, they appeared to be a family party.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

Very common and widespread. Differences between the northern and southern populations were striking, the southern form *novaehollandiae* possessing a black shawl and semi-collar and has darker legs.

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus* (E)

Party of three Dangar's Lagoon near Uralla on 24th.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Up to four off Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* (= Mongolian Plover)

Up to four off Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Up to 20 off Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elsyornis melanops*

A good scatter throughout the tour, most notable being a bird with three minute chicks at Borah Creek on 25th.

Comb-crested Jacana *Irideparra gallinacea*

At least two by Lake Tinaroo on 17th, five at Hasties Swamp on 18th and one at Fred Bucholz Park (TamBorahe) on 21st.

[Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii* (= Japanese Snipe)

One flushed and only seen by Glenn at Dangar's Lagoon near Uralla on 24th.]

Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*

Two flushed from waterside grassland by Lake Tinaroo on 17th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

10 off Cairns esplanade on 20th. The race concerned is smaller and darker than western forms and is perhaps best treated as a species: Eastern Black-tailed Godwit *L. melanuroides*.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Up to 10 off Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th, 75+ at mouth of Mossman River on 19th and two at Shoalhaven Heads on 30th.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Up to 20 off Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th, and 6 by Mossman River on 19th.

Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

12 off Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Three at Dangar's Lagoon near Uralla on 24th.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

At least four along Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th, with two or three scattered singles by inland waters elsewhere in Queensland.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Up to 10 off Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th, and one by Mossman River on 19th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One by Lake Tinaroo on 17th and 2 in mangroves by Mossman River on 19th.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

Six along Cairns esplanade on 15th and one in mangroves by Mossman River on 19th.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Four at Michaelmas Cay on 20th were the only ones.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

Up to 20 off Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th, and about 12 at mouth of Mossman River on 19th.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Up to 100 off Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th, 8 by Lake Tinaroo on 17th and about 30 at mouth of Mossman River on 19th.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

Up to 10 off Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th, six by Lake Tinaroo on 17th and about six at Dangar's Lagoon near Uralla on 24th.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Up to 20 along Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th.

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

A very elegant pratincole and a nice bonus bird with three at Edmonton turf farm on 15th.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

Five adults accompanied us back to port during our pelagic off Wollongong on 29th.

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

Common in all coastal areas visited, plus substantial numbers inland at Split Rock Dam.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*

Hundreds breeding on Michaelmas Cay on 20th.

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

At least 30 at Michaelmas Cay on 20th. These were surprisingly difficult to separate from Sooty in bright light when both appear brownish above - you have to rely on forehead pattern. Nearly all were in flight or perched on mooring buoys.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

20 at mouth of Mossman River on 19th, 10 off Cairns on 20th and one off Wollongong on 29th.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

10 along Cairns esplanade on 15th, with singles at Lake Mitchell on 18th and in Cairns harbour on 20th.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Eight along Cairns esplanade on 15th and 20th; with one at Lake Tinaroo on 17th.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

25 (mostly adults in winter plumage) at Fred Bucholtz Park (TamBorahe) on 21st, 100+ at Dangar's Lagoon on 24th and 5+ at Rangiri Dam on 26th.

Great Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* (= Swift Tern)

Numerous in all coastal areas visited.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

40 at Michaelmas Cay on 20th, two at mouth of Mossman River on 19th and, most unusual, one inland at Lake Tinaroo on 17th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

20 at Michaelmas Cay on 20th, and one at mouth of Mossman River on 19th. These were of the black-billed and greyer eastern race *longipennis* which gives the impression of looking 'odd' for a Common Tern.

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*

30 at Michaelmas Cay on 20th. Beautiful snowy streamlined birds that did not linger.

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* (= Common Noddy)

Hundreds breeding on Michaelmas Cay on 20th.

Black Noddy *Anous minutus* (= White-capped Noddy)

Four on deck of moored boat, with about 20 Brown Noddies, off Michaelmas Cay on 20th. Often included in Lesser Noddy *A. tenuirostris*.

Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus* (= Subantarctic Skua)

One attended boat for some time during our pelagic off Wollongong on 29th. The form concerned (*lonnbergi*) is sometimes treated as a race of Great Skua *S. skua*.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

One, sometimes two, visited boat during our pelagic off Wollongong on 29th; another close inshore at Kiama on 30th.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

One, sometimes two, visited boat during our pelagic off Wollongong on 29th.

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Frequent. Introduced.

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela* (E)

Heard at Lake Eacham and at O'Reilly's with brief flight views of two singles at the latter site on 21st and 22nd.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Frequent in towns, notably about Cairns and Sydney. Introduced.

Brown Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia phasianella* (E)

Seen very well at Mission Beach, Lake Eacham and O'Reilly's, but heard more than seen. Often included with Slender-billed Cuckoo-dove in *M. amboinensis*

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

This shy forest species was very tame and confiding about Kingfisher Lodge bird table, and again at Cassowary House on 19th, thanks to the feeders there. It was only glimpsed elsewhere in Queensland. Australian populations are probably specifically distinct from Asian forms as Green-winged Dove *C. longirostris*.

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera* (E)

Ones and twos at several shady spots in New South Wales.

Crested Pigeon *Geophaps lophotes* (E)

Widely recorded, but commonest in the 'interior'.

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleucos* (E)

Several seen very well at O'Reilly's during 21st-23rd; also heard and one seen at Jamberoo on 30th-31st.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*

Widely-recorded throughout.

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

Scattered pairs in Queensland.

Wompoo Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus* (= Wompoo Pigeon, Magnificent Fruit-dove)

A fabulous sound which we heard in the forest at Mission Beach on 16th, even managing to see a couple of birds too.

Torresian Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa*

Common about Cairns with small parties even flying at sea as we were en route to Michaelmas Cay. Sometimes lumped with Pied Imperial Pigeon *T. bicolor* of south-east Asia and Indonesia.

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus* (E)

Seen chiefly in flight at several places, with best views during walk to Python Rock on 22nd.

Glossy Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami* (E)

An elusive bird by reputation, this was a real surprise: a pair quietly feeding by the track to the view-point at Sublime Point near Leura on 28th.

Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla* (E)

Widely recorded, but absent from northern part of Queensland.

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea* (E)

Another surprise, flocks in farmland in the Mt Lindsay and Manilla areas on 23rd and 25th, and again but only in very small numbers in the Coonabarabran area on 27th and 28th.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Common and widespread.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Several flocks in the Coonabarabran area, max 75 on 27th.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Locally common and widespread.

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus* (E)

A widespread lively little parrot, always zipping overhead - all-green with orange underwings.

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna* (E)

About 50 in the Uralla to Bingara area on 24th, with two at Oakhampton next day.

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla* (E)

Eight in trees by Rangira Creek near Manilla on 25th with two near Coonabarabran on 26th.

Mallee Ringneck *Barnardius barnardi* (= Eastern Ringneck) (E)

Total of about 30 in the Pilliga Scrub near Coonabarabran on 27th.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans* (= part of Blue-checked Rosella) (E)

Another gorgeous garish parrot, common at O'Reilly's and over New South Wales.

Pale-headed Rosella *Platycercus adscitus* (= part of White-checked Rosella) (E)

Three at Atherton on 17th, three at TamBorahe on 21st and one near Legume on 23rd. This is sometimes lumped within Eastern Rosella as part of White-checked Rosella complex.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius* (= part of White-checked Rosella) (E)

Widely recorded in New South Wales; a delightful colour combination.

Bluebonnet *Northiella haematogaster* (E)

Total of about 50 in the Pilliga Scrub near Coonabarabran on 27th, with 25 en route to Mudgee next day.

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematotus* (E)

Widely recorded in the interior of New South Wales from Uralla to Coonabarabran during 24th-27th.

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella* (E)

Fine views of two of these rare parrots (eventually) at Borah Creek on 25th, plus two which came to drink at our lunch pool of Trapyard Dam in the Pilliga Scrub on 27th.

Australian King Parrot *Alisterus scapularis* (E)

A beautiful bird, a few scattered throughout the trip but most memorable at O'Reilly's!

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* (E)

Five singles, invariably seen in flight: at Mareeba on 18th and four from Uralla to Coonabarabran during 24th-27th.

Double-eyed Fig Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*

Several heard and glimpsed as dart-like blips in the Cairns and Mossman River areas, with excellent views of a couple feeding on figs at Cairns botanical gardens on 15th.

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*

Remarkably conspicuous for a cuckoo, a total of about eight seen during 23rd-25th in the Uralla to Manilla stretch of the tour.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus* (H)

Heard on five days, chiefly in N Queensland but also near Mt Lindsay on 23rd.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

Seen very well along track at Barren Grounds on 30th, also heard at O'Reilly's Python Rock trail on 22nd and near Jamberoo on 29th.

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*

One heard daily at Oakhampton homestead, was finally seen by Heather on 27th.

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* (H)

One heard in the Pilliga Scrub near Coonabarabran on 27th.

Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

Two males seen well by Wangetti Beach on 19th. Sometimes split as Gould's Bronze Cuckoo *C. russatus*.

Shining Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

Seen extremely well at Mission Beach (2) on 16th and near Jamberoo on 29th, a few others heard.

Australian Koel *Eudynamys cyanocephala*

Heard at Mt Molloy on 18th by Mossman River on 19th, at Shoalhaven Heads on 30th, and one actually seen in a park at Botany Bay on 31st. Formerly lumped within Asian Koel *E. scolopacea*.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

A magnificent cuckoo seen extremely well this year with a total of 16 birds scattered throughout trip.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

A roadside bird which proved hard to see this year, with one near Mission Beach on 16th, two at mouth of Mossman river on 19th and two near Legume on 23rd.

[Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

One dead in road near Mission Beach on 16th.]

Australian Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*

Superb views of one spotlighted as it stood at the entrance to its tree hole by Kingfisher Park on 18th. O'Reilly's on 21st

Southern Boobook *Ninox boobook*

One spotlighted at O'Reilly's on 21st, another heard near Jamberoo on 30th.

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*

Fabulous views of a grey morph sitting on its nest in a garden on north side of Cairns, on 19th, with its rich dark brown and buff mate sitting upright in another tree nearby.

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides* (E)

Remarkable birds that have to be seen to be believed. We watched one sitting on its nest in a roadside tree en route to and from O'Reilly's on both 21st and 23rd. Kathryn admirably spotted one from the bus, also sitting on its nest (which appeared to contain two chicks) near Coonabarabran on 27th, both adults were grey morph birds.

Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

Superb views of one in daylight peering out of its tree-hole by Border Trail at O'Reilly's on 22nd and 23rd.

Australian Swiftlet *Collocalia terraereginae* (E)

Quite numerous at Cairns and on the Atherton tablelands. Formerly lumped with White-rumped Swiftlet *C. spodiopygius*.

White-throated Needle-tail *Hirundapus caudacutus* (= Needle-tailed Swift)

Some 25 birds flew rapidly south in about 4 parties at mouth of Mossman River on 19th; two were over the Pilliga Scrub on 27th.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* (= Pacific Swift)

Alan reported seeing three or four flying about airport buildings at Brisbane on 21st.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Small numbers almost daily throughout the trip.

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae* (E)

Frequent throughout.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*

Two on wires near Mareeba on 18th.

Forest Kingfisher *Todirhampus macleayii*

Frequent about the Atherton tablelands; also two near TamBorahe on 21st.

Collared Kingfisher *Todirhampus chloris* (= Mangrove Kingfisher)

One in mangroves by Centenary Lakes on 15th, another by the Mossman River on 19th.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todirhampus sanctus*

Frequent throughout.

Red-backed Kingfisher *Todirhampus pyrrhopygius* (E)

Two singles in roadside scrub of Warrambungles NP on 26th, with another in the Pilliga scrub next day.

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*

One seen on the boat trip on the Mossman River on 19th.

Little Kingfisher *Alcedo pusilla*

Remarkably fast and tiny, always a challenge. One heard by Centenary Lakes on 15th and another flashed like a dart through the forest at Mission Beach next morning.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Frequent throughout the tour.

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

Two seen well at Kingfisher Park on 19th and two seen by start of Border Trail at O'Reilly's on 22nd; several others heard at O'Reilly's during our stay there.

Prince Albert's Lyrebird *Menura alberti* (E)

What a frustrating bird, we must have heard a good five or so during our stay at O'Reilly's, but none were near the trails. Only Glenn and John obtained split-second views of one on the Border Trail on 23rd.

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae* (E)

Superb by name, superb by nature. Almost as bad as Albert's, with one heard by trail to Sublime Point near Leura on 28th, at least one heard at Jamberoo where another crossed the road on our pre-breakfast walk on 31st. An hour later we visited nearby Minnamurra Rainforest NP where we had wonderful, prolonged close views of a foraging female and more obscured views of two displaying males prior to our journey to Sydney - this was an excellent climax to the tour.

Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus melanotis*

Great views at Lake Barrine, Chamber's, Kuranda and elsewhere on the tablelands. Formerly lumped within Green Catbird.

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris* (E)

Some fine views of this one too, at O'Reilly's.

Tooth-billed Catbird *Scenopoeetes dentirostris* (E)

Seen well at Chamber's resort (Lake Eacham) on 16th-18th, feeding on figs there.

[Golden Bowerbird *Prionodura newtoniana*

No sign of the bird at its bower at Crater National Park on 25th, the old male believed to have perished in the March cyclone which brought many trees down. There was however some evidence of the bower being visited by a younger male.]

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus* (E)

Common at feeders at O'Reilly's, what wonderful colour and texture in the male.

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* (E)

An O'Reilly's special, plenty there and bowers to watch as well; also glimpses of the odd bird in flight near Crater National Park and several at Jamberoo.

Spotted Bowerbird *Chlamydera maculata* (E)

Excellent views of a bower but only flight views of a couple of birds crossing the road near Baradine on 27th.

Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis* (E)

Great views of several about Mt Molloy on 18th, plus a bower in a flower-bed at the school.

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaea* (E)

Ones and twos at several places, those in N Queensland (ie at Chamber's Wildlife Resort at Lake Eacham) were of the northern subspecies sometimes given full species status as Little Treecreeper *C. minor*. Those by Duck Creek Road at O'Reilly's and in New South Wales were true White-throated.

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptis* (E)

Two seen in dry open slopes by Duck Creek Road at O'Reilly's on 23rd.

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus* (E)

Two or three near Mission Beach on 16th, several in Borah Creek and elsewhere in Manilla area on 25th, and several in the Pilliga Scrub on 27th.

Variegated Fairywren *Malurus lamberti* (E)

Pair at Barren Grounds near Jamberoo on 30th.

Superb Fairywren *Malurus cyaneus* (E)

A few pairs about O'Reilly's guest house; but most numerous in the New South Wales part of the tour, where noted almost daily.

Red-backed Fairywren *Malurus melanocephalus* (E)

Three at Wondecla (bus break-down site) on 16th.

Southern Emuwren *Stipiturus malachurus* (E)

Another skulking little beauty, glimpsed by half the group, but only seen well by Alan in thickets on Barren Grounds on 30th.

Macleay's Honeyeater *Xanthotis macleayana* (E)

Numerous at Kuranda, with very tame birds at Cassowary House feeders. Also seen at several other forest sites on the tablelands.

Bridled Honeyeater *Lichenostomus frenatus* (E)

A few seen about Chamber's resort and Kingfisher Park on 17th-18th.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops* (E)

Noted about Longlands Gap NP on 16th, Duck Creek Road at O'Reilly's and almost daily in small numbers in New South Wales.

Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor*

A pair seen well along Cairns esplanade on 15th, and heard there on 20th.

Yellow Honeyeater *Lichenostomus flavus* (E)

Frequent about Cairns and on the tablelands.

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis* (E)

One seen by Glenn and Toby near the motel at Coonabarabran on 26th.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops* (E)

A lovely honeyeater, two or three seen well on our rock walk at Bomaderry on 30th.

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus* (E)

Frequent in the interior of New South Wales from Glen Innes to Coonabarabran, also a few at edges to Atherton Tablelands.

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus* (E)

Frequent in the interior of New South Wales from Glen Innes to Coonabarabran.

Graceful Meliphaga *Meliphaga gracilis*

A few at Cassowary House and Chamber's resort during 16th-19th - very similar to the next but calls differ.

Yellow-spotted Honeyeater *Meliphaga notata* (E)

Found about Cairns and forest at edges of tablelands during 15th-18th; occurs alongside Graceful but differs vocally and in bill size.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii* (E)

Common in rainforest of the north and at O'Reilly's; the very loud machine-gun rattle being one of the characteristic sounds of the forest but the bird itself was very difficult to see; however at O'Reilly's they almost perched on our binoculars!

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys* (E)

'Colonies' by Duck Creek Road on 22nd and near Mt Lindsay next day, where few seen but heard calling all over adjoining trees - hard to spot them in the foliage. Also heard en route on 28th.

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala* (E)

Widely recorded throughout the trip.

Yellow-throated Miner *Manorina flavigula* (E)

Much more localised; a few near Coonabarabran on 27th-28th.

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis* (E)

Widely recorded throughout the trip.

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis* (E)

Three at a roadside stop near Oakhampton on 24th, with two at Rangira Creek next day.

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris* (E)

Two in trees by motel at Coonabarabran on 27th-28th.

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*

Heard at Longlands State Forest on 16th, one seen at Kingfisher Park on 18th.

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus* (E)

Two seen at a scenic view-point well north of Wallace Lake on 28th; also heard earlier in trip by Python Rock trail at O'Reilly's on 22nd and at McHugh lookout on 16th.

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

Singles at Atherton, Mareeba and near Cairns at the start of the tour; up to five daily in the Oakhampton-Coonabarabran stretch of the latter part.

Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*

Frequent about Cairns. The Queensland population is sometimes separated as New Guinea Friarbird *P. novaeguineae*.

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus* (E)

A few about Cairns and quite numerous over the New South Wales part of the tour.

Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata* (E)

Seen well at Warrumbungles NP on 16th, including one building a nest.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* (E)

Small numbers daily between Glen Innes and Coonabarabran, 24th-27th.

Brush Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera* (E)

The drought in NSW must have shifted the local population elsewhere, the only one recorded flew over the road near Jamberoo on 30th. Eastern population now split from the western Little Wattlebird *A. lunulata*.

- Red Wattlebird** *Anthochaera carunculata* (E)
Quite numerous, noted daily during NSW portion of tour.
- Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*
Frequent on the tablelands, but especially numerous in the Cairns area.
- Painted Honeyeater** *Grantiella picta* (E)
A real beauty, and rare too; 4 at Rangira Creek on 24th.
- New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae* (E)
Frequent in coastal gardens at Kiama and Gerringong on 30th.
- White-cheeked Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris nigra* (E)
Three in Glenn's garden at Atherton, on 17th.
- Brown-backed Honeyeater** *Ramsayornis modestus*
Four at Centenary Lakes at Cairns on 15th; one by mouth of Mossman river on 19th.
- Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* (E)
Very small numbers throughout the tour.
- Dusky Myzomela** *Myzomela obscura*
Frequent about Cairns and in gardens of the tablelands.
- Scarlet Myzomela** *Myzomela sanguinolenta*
A superb bird of flowering trees, there several about Mission Beach and Chamber's wildlife resort on 16th, one at Tinterfields on 23rd and two at Jerrara Dam on 30th.
- Eastern Bristlebird** *Dasyornis brachypterus* (H) (E)
Two calling very close at Barren Grounds on 30th not even a glimpse of this notorious skulker.
- Spotted Pardalote** *Pardalotus punctatus* (E)
Widely scattered in ones and twos throughout, although far more heard than seen.
- Striated Pardalote** *Pardalotus striatus* (E)
Less often encountered than the last, but widely recorded from Glen Innes to Coonabarabran, 24th-27th.
- Speckled Warbler** *Pyrrholaemus sagittatus* (E)
Pairs by roadside near Legume on 23rd and in the Pilliga Scrub on 27th.
- Atherton Scrubwren** *Sericornis kerri* (E)
Just one, by Lake Barrine on 17th.
- White-browed Scrubwren** *Sericornis frontalis* (E)
Frequent skulker, but remarkably tame at O'Reilly's; also found at Borah Creek on 25th and at Jamberoo and Jerrara Dam on 30th.
- Yellow-throated Scrubwren** *Sericornis citreogularis* (E)
Several glimpsed in the Atherton tablelands but 'shy' there; common and remarkably tame and confiding at O'Reilly's; also one at Jerrara Dam on 30th.
- Large-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis magnirostris*
Frequent, both on the tablelands and at O'Reilly's.
- Weebill** *Smicornis brevirostris* (E)
Several in the Pilliga Scrub and by our motel at Coonabarabran, 27th-28th.
- Brown Gerygone** *Gerygone mouki* (E)
Frequent on the tablelands, and positively common at O'Reilly's.
- White-tailed Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca* (E)
One heard and seen near Trapyard Dam in the Pilliga Scrub on 27th.
- Large-billed Gerygone** *Gerygone magnirostris*
At least two by the Mossman river mouth on 19th.
- White-throated Gerygone** *Gerygone olivacea* (E)
One heard near Mt Molloy on 18th; ones and twos almost daily in New South Wales.
- Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa* (E)
Two seen and heard by Kingfisher Park on 18th-19th.
- Mountain Thornbill** *Acanthiza katherina* (E)
Seen well at the McHugh lookout and in Longlands Gap State Forest on 16th.
- Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusillus* (E)
Frequent at O'Reilly's and again in southern New South Wales.
- Inland Thornbill** *Acanthiza apicalis* (= **Broad-billed Thornbill**) (E)
Singles at Coonabarabran on 26th and 27th. Formerly lumped within Brown Thornbill.
- Chestnut-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza uropygialis* (E)
Four near Trapyard Dam in the Pilliga Scrub on 27th.
- Buff-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza reguloides* (E)
Quite numerous in the Coonabarabran-Pilliga Scrub area, 26th-28th.
- Yellow-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* (E)
Roadside flitting 'butter-bums' in the drier parts of New South Wales, especially in the Oakhampton area.
- Yellow Thornbill** *Acanthiza nana* (E)
Two near Yungaburra on 16th, several in the Coonabarabran-Pilliga Scrub area, 26th-28th and 4 at Barren Grounds on 30th.
- Striated Thornbill** *Acanthiza lineata* (E)
Good views of 2 by Duck Creek Road at O'Reilly's on 22nd, small numbers also in Jamberoo area on 30th.
- Grey-crowned Babbler** *Pomatostomus temporalis* (E)
Two or three conspicuous parties in the Pilliga Scrub on 27th.
- White-browed Babbler** *Pomatostomus superciliosus* (E)
Smaller and shyer than the last, a party of four in the Pilliga Scrub on 27th.

Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii* (E)

Frequent at O'Reilly's, a lovely little bird, some great family interactions too.

Chowchilla *Orthonyx spaldingii* (= Northern Logrunner) (E)

Difficult to see, but three briefly at Longlands Gap State Forest on 16th and one calling by Lake Barrine next day.

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus* (E)

Frequent, especially at Chamber's and O'Reilly's where several seen well.

Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*

A smart little bird, seen well at Chamber's Wildlife Resort on 17th and 18th.

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*

Good views at Centenary Lake at Cairns on 15th and at Mission Beach next day.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus* (E)

Seen regularly through New South Wales part of tour.

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis* (E)

Ones and twos on the tablelands, much more regular through New South Wales part of tour.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Common and widespread.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* (E)

Seen regularly throughout the tour.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Common throughout Queensland part of tour.

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus* (E)

Migrating party of at least 30 high over Borah Creek on 25th.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus* (E)

Noted daily during run through between Glen Innes and Coonabarabran, 23rd-25th.

Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor* (E)

A single bird about cliffs of Split Rock Dam on 25th was a nice surprise.

Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

Widely recorded, several small flocks encountered. Formerly this species was enlarged to include various other Asiatic and Oceanic species.

Yellow-eyed Cuckooshrike *Coracina lineata*

Two on tree-tops at Cassowary House on 19th.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis*

A small scatter about Cairns, Mission Beach and the tablelands.

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

At least two flying over at Mission Beach on 16th and three at Cassowary House on 19th.

White-winged Triller *Lalage tricolor*

Small numbers (2-5) from Mt Lindsay area to Coonabarabran, 23rd-27th.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

Four about Cairns on 15th, with singles about Kingfisher Lodge on 18th-19th.

Varied Sitella *Neositta chrysoptera* (E)

This lively little nuthatch impersonator doesn't wait to pose, but moves through trees at high-speed, most of us missed six at Mission Beach on 16th and had to wait until the Bingara Road picnic stop on 26th to catch up with a party of five.

Eastern Shrikebill *Falcunculus frontatus* (E)

One eventually seen well in forest by Python Rock Trail at O'Reilly's on 22nd; much better views of a female in Borah Creek on 25th. Recently split into three species, all in Australia, the three formerly combined as Crested Shrikebill.

Grey Whistler *Pachycephala simplex*

One in forest at Mission Beach on 16th.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

Frequent throughout the tour.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

Frequent on the Atherton tablelands and central New South Wales.

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vielloti*

Quite numerous in Queensland, even a 'treeful' below O'Reilly's on 23rd and several at Oakhampton on 25th. Now split from *S. viridis* which is restricted to Timor Figbird.

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

Singles near Mareeba on 18th, at Borah Creek on 25th and at Warrumbungles NP on 26th.

Green Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus* (= Yellow Oriole)

Several in the Centenary Park area of Cairns on 15th and one on 19th.

Bower's Shrikebill *Colluricincla boweri* (E)

One seen well at Chamber's wildlife resort on 17th.

Little Shrikebill *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

Frequent on the tablelands forests.

Grey Shrikebill *Colluricincla harmonica*

Frequent throughout the tour, although far more heard than seen.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

Quite common and widespread in Queensland. Notable was a very strong southwards migration (hundreds in parties of about a dozen or so) along the coast at mouth of Mossman River on 19th. Formerly lumped with Hair-crested Drongo *D. hottentottus* of S Asia.

Willie-wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Quite common and widespread.

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris* (H)

One heard near Mt Molloy on 18th.

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Frequent throughout the trip.

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

Ones and twos at Chamber's wildlife resort, but more obvious at O'Reilly's.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

Ones and twos at Chamber's wildlife resort, 16th-17th.

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*

A handful at Chamber's wildlife resort, Mt Molloy and Kingfisher Park on 17th-18th, plus singles at O'Reilly's on 22nd and 23rd.

Pied Monarch *Arses kaupi* (E)

Excellent views of these 'trunk-hopping' delights at Chamber's, Kingfisher Park and Cassowary House near Kuranda on 17th-19th.

Magpielark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Common and widespread.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

Two seen well by Wangetti Beach on 19th, and a female at Coonabaraban on 28th.

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

A pair of these also seen at Wangetti Beach on 19th.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

Pair seen well in the mangroves during boat-ride on Mossman River on 19th.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta* (E)

A pair at Borah Creek on 25th.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

Strangely rare in the north, a handful of scattered birds over the tablelands, a few about O'Reilly's but quite widespread south to Manilla area of New South Wales.

Little Raven *Corvus mellori* (E)

The sociable crow, common from the Coonabaraban area southwards.

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides* (E)

Frequent from Glen Innes southwards. The crow with the wailing-baby cry.

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos* (E)

Surprisingly common over central New South Wales, from Bingara Road on 23rd to Mudgee on 28th. A remarkable bird with complex social relationships.

Apostlebird *Struthidea cinerea* (E)

Very common over central New South Wales, a few in the Manilla area and everywhere in the Pilliga Scrub- Coonabaraban area.

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus* (H) (E)

Frustrating bird, several heard at O'Reilly's, but none seen at all !

Victoria's Riflebird *Ptiloris victoriae* (E)

Frequent in forests of the tablelands, with good views of both sexes at Lake Eacham and exceptionally so at Cassowary House near Kuranda. Formerly lumped within Paradise Riflebird.

Ashy Robin *Poecilodryas albispecularis*

Seen frequently at Chamber's and Lake Barrine. Ashy Robin is a largely New Guinea species, the Australian form of which is often split as Grey-headed Robin *P. cinereifrons*, which is then endemic to Queensland.

White-browed Robin *Poecilodryas superciliosa* (E)

A very localised robin, of which we had good views of two in a shady gully at Mitchell Creek on 18th.

Pale-yellow Robin *Tragellasia capito* (E)

Several encountered at Chamber's wildlife resort, Lake Barrine and at O'Reilly's.

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis* (E)

Widely recorded throughout the tour.

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata* (E)

About six in Borah Creek on 25th.

Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster*

Two or three by Mitchell Creek on 18th, with another near mouth of Mossman River on 19th.

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans*

A small scatter (total of 8) in central New South Wales.

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea* (H) (E)

One in song by trail to Python Rock at O'Reilly's on 22nd but too far in forest to see.

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

Common, widespread throughout the tour.

Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel* (E)

Common and widespread especially over New South Wales.

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

Four on fence of sewage pools near Yorkies Knob on 19th, plus another at Dangar's Lagoon on 24th.

Australasian Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

One flushed at Mareeba on 18th, two near TamBorahe on 21st and three at Oakhampton on 25th. Formerly included in Singing Bushlark *M. cantillans* of S Asia.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (H)

Two or three in song when we stopped for white goshawk near Miami on 30th. Introduced.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Several seen well in roadside grasses at Hasties Swamp on 18th.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Common in gardens at Wollongong and Kiama at end of trip. Introduced.

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

Two flushed by Lake Tinaroo on 17th, but better views of one perched on grass at Hasties Swamp on 18th.

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus* (H)

One heard, at Beady Waters near Glen Innes on 24th.

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi* (E)

Numerous in central New South Wales, usually perched pipit-like on fences.

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis* (E)

Three near Oakhampton farmstead on 25th, one of which was a huge male (twice size of female).

Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis* (E)

Seen and heard at several wetlands in central New South Wales, most notable were two or three birds feeding in open along tide-line at Lake Wallace on 28th.

Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

Common and widespread, but heard far more than seen.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*

Several flocks in the Cairns-Mission Beach coastal lowlands.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Common and widespread throughout. Introduced.

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common from Brisbane southwards. Introduced.

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei* (E)

Singles seen of this shy bird by start of Border Trail at O'Reilly's in early mornings of 22nd and 23rd, including one in the botanical gardens. Formerly included in the White's Thrush *Z. dauma* complex, subsequently split off as Australian Ground-Thrush which has more recently been further divided.

Olive-tailed Thrush *Zoothera lunulata* (= Bassian Thrush) (E)

Heather had one of these too, at O'Reilly's on 23rd. See taxonomic comment under Russet-tailed Thrush.

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Singles about Coonabarabran on 27th, and 2 or 3 about Jamberoo on 30th-31st. Introduced.

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Singles scattered throughout the tour, except for the extreme south.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* (= Yellow-bellied Sunbird)

Several good views over the northern part of the tour.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Widespread. Introduced.

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella* (H) (E)

Heard in song on heathland at Barren Grounds on 30th.

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata* (E)

Splendid views of about 10 by Borah Creek on 25th, including a pair at their nest; earlier had been less satisfactory views of three by the roadside near Legume on 23rd.

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis* (=Red-browed Firetail) (E)

Quite widely recorded.

Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*

We were lucky with this one, a pair visiting a nest in a garden in the suburbs of Innisfail on 16th. A nifty bit of spotting by Glenn.

Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta* (E)

A party of about 10 feeding by Rangiri Dam near Manilla on 25th.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata* (E)

A roadside party of 8-10 of these little gems between Manilla and Oakhampton on 25th.

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii* (E)

A roadside party of 10 of these 'owl finches' between Manilla and Oakhampton on 25th, with five the next day.

Blue-faced Parrotfinch *Erythrura trichroa*

Notoriously hard to see, but most of us eventually saw about five little green birds with red tails in grasses by Mt Molloy on 18th

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* (= Nutmeg Mannikin, Spotted Munia)

Several roadside flocks (total 100+) between Cairns and Mission Beach on 15th. Introduced.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

Several fast-flying groups on the open tablelands, ie 100 on 17th; with excellent views of one or two at the bird table of Kingfisher Park on 17th.

Australian Pipit *Anthus australis*

A sparse scatter throughout the tour, with most in central New South Wales. Formerly this species was enlarged to include various other African and Asiatic pipits, including Richard's Pipit *A. richardi* which gave its English name to the complex. Can also be lumped with New Zealand Pipit as Australasian Pipit *A. noveseelandiae*.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Four or five by Mother-of-ducks lagoon on 24th and about eight from Coonabarabran to Wollongong on 28th. Introduced.

APPENDIX

Our change of planes at Singapore airport on 14th provided two more species:-

House Crow *Corvus splendens*

White-vented Myna *Acridotheres javanicus* (introduced to Singapore)

Mammals

Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*

Three or four at Picnic Crossing on 16th, much better views of about five swimming in daytime at a stock pond near Atherton on 17th, and a fleeting view of one in a roadside pond near Wollongong on 28th.

Northern Brown Bandicoot *Isodon macrourus*

Two seen at Chamber's resort by Heather on 17th.

Long-nosed Bandicoot *Perameles nasuta*

One seen briefly at Chamber's wildlife resort, on 16th.

Common Wombat *Vombatus ursinus*

Two seen on a night walk near Jamberoo on 29th.

Mountain Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus caninus*

A roly-poly individual visited the feeding tables each night at O'Reilly's.

Red-legged Pademelon *Thylogale stigmatica*

Common at Chamber's wildlife resort.

Red-necked Pademelon *Thylogale thetis*

Common at O'Reilly's.

Musky Rat-kangaroo *Hypsiprymnodon moschatus*

One in forest at Mission Beach on 16th and 3 at Cassowary House near Kuranda on 19th - endearing little characters.

Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*

Very common over New South Wales.

Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*

Small numbers almost daily in Cairns-Atherton part of tour.

Whiptail Wallaby *Macropus parryi* (= **Pretty-face Wallaby**)

Several below O'Reilly's on 21st and 23rd.

Red-necked Wallaby *Macropus rufogriseus* (= **Bennett's Wallaby**)

Two between Canungra and O'Reilly's on 23rd.

Common Wallaroo *Macropus robustus* (= **Euro**)

Small numbers daily, mostly singles, over New South Wales part of tour.

Swamp Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor* (= **Black Wallaby**)

Singles near Glen Innes, Manilla and at Jamberoo.

Sugar Glider *Petaurus breviceps*

Some six animals came to sugar mixture at Chamber's resort on 16th.

Koala *Phascolarcos cinereus*

Great views of about five in roadside trees at outskirts of Gunnedah on 26th and one near Coonabarabran next day.

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Small numbers daily in New South Wales. Introduced.

Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*

Total of seven seen in Coonabarabran area. Introduced.

House Mouse *Mus musculus*

In a room at Kingfisher Lodge on 18th.

Australian Bush Rat *Rattus fuscipes*

One at Chambers Wildlife resort on 18th.

White-tailed Giant Rat *Uromys caudimaculatus* (= **Mottle-tailed Giant Rat**)

One at Chambers Wildlife resort on 17th and 18th.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Total of 8 seen during the tour. Introduced.

Spectacled Flying-fox *Pteropus conspicillatus*

Large colony at Mareeba on 18th, some also at Cairns.

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Wonderful views of 3 on pelagic off Wollongong on 29th.

Short-beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

Three on pelagic off Wollongong on 29th.

Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

Three or four on pelagic off Wollongong on 29th.

Amphibians

Cane Toad *Bufo marina*

Several at Mission Beach. Introduced.

Pobble-bonk *Limnodynastes dumerilii*

Very noisy, notably in a ditch by dried-up Mother-of-Ducks lagoon.

Lesueur's Frog *Litoria lesueuri*

In a room at Kingfisher Lodge on 18th.

Reptiles

Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas*

One seen from glass-bottomed boat at Michelmas Cay on 20th.

Eastern Long-necked Turtle *Cheledonia longicollis*

Noted at Dangar's Lagoon on 24th.

Saw-shelled Turtle *Elseya latisternum*

Noted at Yorkies-knob on 19th.

Eastern Water Dragon *Physignathus lesueurii*

Singles at Lake Barrine on 16th and at Bomaderry gully on 30th.

Eastern Bearded Dragon *Pogona barbata*

Total of 10 scattered through New South Wales, chiefly in the middle of the road

House Gecko *Gehyra dubia*

Widespread in rooms in Queensland; heard more than seen.

Lace Monitor *Varanus varius*

Total of six seen over New South Wales.

Eastern Water Skink *Eulamprus quoyii*

One near TamBorahe on 21st.

Eastern Brown Snake *Pseudonaja textilis*

One dead in road on 24th near Uralla; another very much alive at Gunnedah sewage works on 26th.

Amethystine Python *Morelia amethystine*

One at Kingfisher Lodge on 18th

Estuarine Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*

One near mouth of Mossman River on 19th.

Butterflies

Based on list compiled by Kathryn and Roger Jones.

Ulysses *Papilio ulysses*

Orchard Butterfly *Papilio aegeus*

Cairns Birdwing *Ornithoptera priamus*

Common Australian Crow *Euploea core*

Brown Ringlet *Hypocista metirius*

Evening Brown *Melanitis leda*

Meadow Argus *Junonia villida*

Common Brown *Heteronympha merope*

White Nymph *Mynes geoffroyi*

(Varied) Swordgrass Brown *Tixiphone abeona*

Common (Great) Eggfly *Hypolimnas bolina*

Cruiser *Vindula arsino*

Big Greasy Butterfly *Cressida cressida*

Dingy Bush Brown *Mycalesis perseus*

Australian Painted Lady *Vanessa kershawi*

Monarch *Danaus plexippus*

Plain Tiger (Lesser Wanderer) *Danaus chryssipus*

Union Jack (Red-banded Jezebel) *Delias mysis*

Caper White (Pioneer) *Anaphaeis arsinoe*

Cabbage (Small) White *Pieris rapae*

Large (Common) Grass Yellow *Eurema hecabe*

Small Grass Yellow *Eurema briggita*

Common Grass Blue *Zizinia labradus*

Zodiac Moth *Alcides zodiaca*- an honorary butterfly, actually an exotic-looking, swallowtail-like diurnal moth.

Dragonflies

List compiled by Kathryn and Roger Jones.

Red and Blue Damsel *Xanthagrion erythroneumm*

Eastern Billabongfly *Austroagrion watsoni*

Aurora Bluetail *Ischnura aurora*

Blue Skimmer *Ornthretrum caledonicum*

Scarlet Percher *Diplacodes haematodes*

Yellow-striped Flutterer *Rythemis phyllis*

Common Glider *Trapezeostigma lowei*