

Tasmania: The Wilderness Isle

Naturetrek Tour Report

30 October - 15 November 2009



The 2009 Group in front of Cradle Mountain



Cradle Mountain



Between Strahan and Cradle Mountain



Wine Glass Bay in Freycinet National Park

Report and images compiled by Ruth Brozek



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leader:	Ruth Brozek
Participants:	David Ashby Carole Barrett Debra Dinnage Martin Dinnage Sally Davies Carole Jones Andrew Rest

Day 1

Sunday 1st November

Arrive Hobart, Tasmania

Arrival of most of the group was delayed due to the Emirates flight late departure from Dubai. One client arrived on time from Melbourne and was met and taken to Hadleys Hotel where another client was already in residence. After introducing them and sharing a preliminary bite of lunch, I returned to Hobart Airport to meet the rest of the group, which came in on a Qantas flight from Melbourne. Lunch was therefore later than anticipated, and most welcome! There was plenty of time for the afternoon trip to Mount Wellington, and the cloud which had lain low over the mountain for most of the day showed signs of clearing. While David opted to stay and explore the city of Hobart, the rest of us set off in our minibus, the drive out passing homes of some of the more affluent colonial settlers of the 19th century, their lands now subdivided and occupied by more recent dwellings. The road then entered bushland, at first Silver Peppermint *Eucalyptus tenuiramis* canopy with low shrub understorey, pea family species in golden bloom, growing on Permian sedimentaries, then Stringybark *E. obliqua* and Tasmanian Bluegum *E. globulus*, which here are much larger eucalypts (hereafter often spoken of as Gum Trees) with a tall sclerophyll understorey of Dogwood *Pomaderris apetala* and Blanketleaf *Bedfordia salicina* in the more sheltered gullies. The suburb of Ferntree surrounds the first section of the Pinnacle Road which was built as an employment project during the Great Depression. Here many gardens were filled with rhododendrons and other cool-climate exotic shrubs and trees in new leaf and bloom, although some gardeners favour an Australian native plant theme.

The road sidled upward, and our first stop was at The Springs, cleared green lawns marking the site of a previous hotel on a geological divide between Permian sedimentary and Jurassic dolerite. Water percolates down the joints of the dolerite, and then flows along the sedimentary layer, emerging as springs seen clearly in the road cutting. Another endemic eucalypt, Yellow Gum *E. johnstonii* which grows in just a few areas of SE Tasmania occurs here, and in one was perched Endemic Bird No. 1, Black Currawong. Whilst walking towards a lookout over the city we watched some Superb Fairy-wrens foraging low, one handsome blue-plumaged male with a couple of females and immature males. A pair of Masked Lapwings became very vocal, warning their fluffy chicks to take cover in our presence. The loud call of Crescent Honeyeater was all around, the bird itself proved difficult but the persistent were rewarded with some good but brief views of it, high in the foliage. Our first mammal appeared, a feral Rabbit, the first of many.

After viewing the city on the Derwent River, the convoluted coastline and hinterland of the South East, and some of the flowering plants, notably white *Bauera rubioides*, pink Common Heath *Epacris impressa* and yellow *Richea procerata*, we continued in the bus towards the summit.

Dolerite boulder screes predominate here, and are clad with Silky Hakea *H. lissosperma*, Pink Mountain Berries *Leptecophylla juniperina subsp. parvifolia* and the striking large-leafed Dragon Heath *Richea dracophylla* in spectacular bloom. With altitude the eucalypts came and went, Gum-topped Stringybark *E. delegatensis subsp tasmaniensis*, smooth spotted trunked Urn Gum *E. urnigera* and finally Snow Gum (actually not in the Gum group but the Peppermint group of eucalypts) *E. coccifera*, which is the eucalypt of the highest altitudes.

We parked at the summit car park and made the “arduous climb” (maybe 3 metres over 50 metres) to the trig marker at (note correction from 1295m) 1270m ASL. Views to the East were obscured by the cloud lying across the East face of the mountain, but there were excellent views into the South West wilderness and north as far as Mount Olympus, along the valley of the Derwent River and to the western and southern edges of the Central Plateau. On a clear day, about one fifth of the State can be seen from this point. A third species of Richea, *R. scoparia* is present here, its spiky nature hated by bushwalkers for making expensive Goretex rainwear rapidly non-waterproof! It was a little early in the season for the small alpine plants to be in bloom. However, a pair of Flame Robins added colour to the scene, the brilliant red of the male counterpointed by his mate's plain brown. An occasional grasshopper hopped off the Zig Zag Track which we followed until it dropped off into the cloud, and a skink lizard, most likely a Southern Snow Skink *Niveoscincus microlepidotus* basked near to cover on a rock. Cloud had broken and before leaving the summit we had views to the city and it's Tasman Bridge, northern suburbs, the airport area, Bruny Island and Maria Island off the East Coast.

The afternoon was drawing to a close and we descended to the base of the mountain for a short walk in the Fern Glade, hoping to find the endemic LBJs and perhaps a Pink Robin. It took a while for the eyes to adjust to the gloom, and there was not much bird activity. Endemic birds No. 2 Tasmanian Thornbill appeared briefly above us, and and No.3 Tasmanian Scrubwren foraged about rotting, mossy logs, eventually giving us all at least a glimpse. The glade is dominated by tall Soft Treeferns *Dicksonia antarctica*, with Hard Water Fern *Blechnum wattsii*, Mother Shield Fern *Polystichum proliferum*, and Leathery Shield Fern (Plastic Fern!) *Rumohra adiantiformis* the other prominent fern species.

Our early dinner time was approaching so we returned to our hotel for a tasty meal, the menu offering Tasmanian scallops and kangaroo fillet among other more conventional courses. Not long afterwards, we were all asleep, making up for lost time.

Day 2

Monday 2nd November

Hobart to Bruny Island

We left the city via the Southern Outlet and Channel Highway to Kettering to await the 9.30am vehicular ferry to Bruny Island. It was fine and sunny and birds were out and about, but we didn't stop until reaching the ferry terminal...it pays to be in the queue well before boarding as reservations are not possible. We were able to wander about once there, and several bird species were easily identified. Black-faced Cormorants and a White-faced Heron were on a pontoon near the ferry, Welcome Swallows and House Sparrows around the building, a Masked Lapwing on nest on the shore, and in nearby gardens Eurasian Greenfinch, New Holland Honeyeater and Little (Brush) Wattlebird were feeding. Once on board we watched from the upper deck, but not much more than Crested Terns were about.

Bruny Island was lush and green after good winter and spring rainfall. We stopped at the information booth in case Swift Parrots could be found, but the Blue Gums were not in bloom, and bird calls seemed rather distant. A short way along we stopped for some Yellow-rumped Thornbills, which promptly made off, but a Pallid Cuckoo stayed. Australian Magpies were foraging on the ground, and further on a shallow waterhole held a pair of Pacific Black Ducks with one duckling visible, Chestnut Teal, and on the far shore a wary Tasmanian Native Hen (endemic bird No. 4). Another stop and short walk in an area of Black Gum *Eucalyptus ovata* with low shrubby understorey revealed our first “real” mammal, a marsupial Tasmanian Pademelon, uncharacteristically active in warm, sunny conditions. Birds here were Endemic No. 5 Dusky Robin, some Flame Robins, and a tiny Spotted Pardalote male. At the long isthmus between North and South Bruny there were Pacific, Kelp and Silver Gulls, Pied Oystercatchers, and Black Swans.

We rolled into our cabin accommodation right on time, and discovered we'd hit the jackpot. Amidst profusely flowering Blue Gums, Swift Parrots were foraging for nectar and chattering animatedly all around us. These lovely little parrots are a breeding endemic, spending winter on the Mainland of Australia, and returning each Spring in the hope of a good flowering of Black and Blue Gum to provide food for the seasons offspring. Many eucalypts have irregular flowering patterns, some years covered in bloom, and other years having just a few blossoms scattered over the canopy. Some populations don't bloom at all some years, or just a few individual trees might bloom. Couple this with forestry activities, landclearing for housing in Tasmania and for farming on the mainland and it becomes clear why the species is listed as threatened. In lovely sunshine we enjoyed our picnic sandwiches at an outdoors table surrounded by the Swifties, Yellow Wattlebirds (Endemic No. 6), Yellow-throated Honeyeaters (Endemic No. 7) and bubbly little Brown Thornbills.

Taking the current lovely weather and the forecast that it wasn't going to last into account, we decided we'd visit the extreme SW of the island, Cape Bruny, followed by a visit to the private property “Inala” where we'd been kindly invited to search for the rare Forty-spotted Pardalotes. There were not many birds to be seen roadside this early afternoon, but as we drove via the villages of Alonnah and Lunawanna we had vistas of the peaks of the Southern Ranges of Tasmania across the blue waters of D'entrecasteaux Channel. After 20kms or so of gravel road we stopped at a lookout for views of The Friars, rocky islets which we were to visit on the next day's cruise. Just as I made the comment that the stop was not noted as a good bird spot, a magnificent Wedge-tailed Eagle soared past below us, soon returning at eye level and with a Forest Raven in pursuit!

The lighthouse at Cape Bruny is the second oldest in the nation, and the surrounding heathlands and long-established pastures around the keeper's houses are great for birds (even more so for rabbits, by far the most numerous mammal of today). Rabbits of every hue abound here, descendants of early food supplies and later children's pets. A family trio of White-fronted Chats was seen foraging nearby. There were plenty of House Sparrows; New Holland Honeyeaters frequently topping the Silver Banksias *Banksia marginata* had to be checked in case one was a Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, closely related to New Holland but much scarcer and found in only a few windswept areas of coastal Tasmania. None were found, but we enjoyed a sunny stroll up to the lighthouse on the well-worn path, lined with several species of flowering shrubs including Slender Honeymyrtle *Melaleuca gibbosa*, two species of Rice Flower *Pimelea nivea* and *Pimelea linifolia*, Tea Tree *Leptospermum scoparium var eximeum*, Button-leaf Everlastingbush *Ozothamnus scutellifolius* with tiny round leaves appressed against the stem, and a common shrub the Necklace Sheoak *Allocasuarina monilifera*. These “Casuarinas”, named for a resemblance of their foliage to the plumage of the Cassowary, are among the most hardy and drought tolerant species, with leaves appearing as green lines on the branchelets, with only the leaf tips free.

Some other plant species in these exposed locations have thick coatings of silvery hairs to protect the leaf surfaces from cold, strong and salt-laden winds. We saw the appropriately named Blanketleaf *Bedfordia salicina* again, in this area as a dominant shrub of steep coastal screes rather than as wet sclerophyll understorey.

At the lighthouse we could see two dolerite rocks far out to sea - at the edge of the continental shelf. Pedra Branca is the larger, and the hardy Pedra Branca Skink *Niveoscincus palfreymanii* inhabits the island with a breeding colony of Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta cauta*. The skinks number only about 300, and live on fish remains and small invertebrates. The other rock is Eddystone named for its resemblance to the original Eddystone. Below us was Court's Island, with rookeries for Short-tailed Shearwaters (we were able to scope streams of these birds at sea, as well as a couple of Australasian Gannets and Kelp Gulls but no albatross), a few Sooty Shearwaters, and Little Penguins. While we watched, a mature White-bellied Sea-eagle glided in to perch atop a dolerite column. We enjoyed a leisurely time up here, in sunshine and light breeze.

We returned by the vehicle track, alongside which was a patch of Native Pigface *Carpobrotus rossii*, named for the appearance of its ripe fruits, but presently in delightful pink bloom. A sudden movement alerted us to the presence of a Mountain Dragon *Tympanocryptis diemensis*, a harmless little rough-scaled lizard, in fact. So well camouflaged, a second one was impossible for some to see until it too moved, and a bit further on were another two healthy-looking (perhaps egg-bearing) specimens. A bit of wandering about near the carpark and the gate gave us a few calls, including a frustratingly close Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo, a Dusky Robin or two and an Australasian Pipit. Of the flowers, the pea family were bright as was a Spreading Golden Guinea Flower *Hibbertia procumbens*, but sadly there were no Christmas Bells *Blandfordia punicea*. These flower best in the two or three years following a bush fire, as do the white Flag Lilies *Diplarrhena moraea* which we saw on many Tasmanian roadsides.

As the afternoon was racing by, we headed straight for "Inala", where we parked the bus and walked along to the White Gums *Eucalyptus viminalis* bordering the creek. White Gums provide valuable habitat for a large number of creatures, not only birds, and Forty-spotted Pardalotes live almost exclusively in them. Mature gums provide nest hollows as well as food, the lerp covering of psyllid insects. With a cool breeze blowing it was a challenge to pick out any birds among the foliage of the towering gums. Black-headed Honeyeaters were present (Endemic no. 8) as were Striated Pardalotes, Superb Fairy-wrens, Flame and Dusky Robins. Green Rosellas flew in to feed here too (Endemic No. 9). We went in search of the pardalotes in some smaller White Gums, and continued into tall forest with Stringybarks and White Gums, and a nice waterhole (but uninhabited except for a Tasmanian Native Hen sneaking in and out of the Cutting Grass *Gabnia grandis* on the bank). Ruth saw a male Scarlet Robin which made itself scarce before many others had located him on his tree branch. However, endemic No. 10, a Strong-billed Honeyeater was located and viewed in a tall Stringybark before we returned to the creek for a second time. The breeze had dropped a bit, and a single call from a Forty Spot was heard, but no birds could be found. Grey Fantails performing low over the creek, and a female Golden Whistler were new birds for the trip. With an early dinner nigh, we had to leave "Inala", watching a flock of European Goldfinches move through the hay paddock as we went.

The early dinner was a treat. Mhyrlyn had taken our orders for a choice of pasta sauce, and had fettucine on the boil in the campers' kitchen to serve with it. We curbed hunger pangs with a Tasmanian produce antipasto platter, and cups of tea and coffee were readily available. Fresh green salad came from her garden, served with Tasmanian olive oil and an organic balsamic vinegar. Delicious dessert followed.

A shower of rain came and went, but instead of relaxing and digesting the meal and the day so far, most of us went off with our red cellophane covered torches in the bus to the Isthmus. There is a mixed rookery of Short-tailed Shearwaters and Little Penguins, both of which species returns to burrows at dusk. First in were the Shearwaters, wheeling in and zooming low over our heads as they left the sky for their sandy burrows. Soon their raucous calls could be heard, as they contacted mates or disputed territory. We waited and waited until it seemed it couldn't get any darker, not shining our torches or Ruth's spotlight out over the wide beach as this alarms and disorients the penguins. Eventually, nearby movement was detected "from the corners of our eyes", and the spotlight illuminated a small huddle of penguins in the tall grass beside the viewing platform. Several groups came up and stopped to preen in the safety of the grass before continuing up to the rookery. We went back up the walkway to where some shearwaters could be seen resting near burrows or scuttling awkwardly towards them. Many penguin voices joined the shearwater chorus, but only a few birds could be seen. Some were passing right beneath the walkway. Before we left, we turned our attention to the Southern Cross, low in the Southern sky. Clouds passing made it a little difficult, but there it was, mostly.

We returned to the bus, glad of no more rain, and spent the next couple of hours driving the almost vehicle-free main road, spotlighting any marsupials that showed up. Being a mild evening, there was plenty of insect activity, and two Tawny Frogmouths were hunting roadside, well seen by all. Most of the animals, especially the carnivorous and active Eastern Quoll, were fairly prompt at leaving the road and disappearing into the bush. We saw both light and dark colour forms of the Quoll, dark being the rarer. One feisty little fellow was feeding on something desirable, and was loath to leave it. With great effort he/she dragged it off the road - safer by far to eat there than in the middle of the road! One dark-furred Common Brushtail Possum went up a nearby tree, but straight around the back out of the spotlight. Also seen were Tasmanian Pademelons, and a Bennetts (Red-necked) Wallaby or two. Not far from our cabins we found one of Bruny Islands special creatures, a white Bennett's Wallaby in the company of several normal-coloured ones.

Day 3

Tuesday 3rd November

Bruny Island Eco-Cruise

In the early hours thunder was heard and frequent heavy showers poured on our cabin roofs. A hardy trio joined me for a pre-breakfast walk. It wasn't raining when we set off to the beach across the road, but we were well drenched by the time we returned rather too much later to drip-dry at breakfast. The beach was missing, sand having been washed away in heavy weather, and the tide was high. All three gull species were present, as were Masked Lapwings, and five Sooty Oystercatchers. On the creek a pair of Black Swans glided, and upstream both a Great and a Little Black Cormorant rested on a favourite dead tree. Greenfinches mingled with House Sparrows, Tasmanian Native Hens and chicks ran for cover, yet stopping often enough for photos. A few Bennett's Wallabies both grey and white grazed pastures in the drizzle. A Grey Shrike-thrush was seen probing along the branches of a gum for its breakfast before we dashed back to camp for our own.

Rain eased then stopped and we set off to search for Hooded Plovers on the sheltered beaches of Adventure Bay. Driving through the village, we saw Dusky Woodswallows hawking from powerlines. The first beach we tried had two pairs of "Hoodies", standing a little apart at the far end, and we were able to get close enough to see these attractive little birds, which are listed as a Threatened species. Pied Oystercatchers and Masked Lapwings also rested nearby, and a perfect little Big-bellied Seahorse *Hippocampus abdominalis* was beach-washed on the high tide line.

Next on our program was an exhilarating 3 hour boat cruise from Adventure Bay around the uninhabited, rugged South East coastline. We wore all the clothes we had, and more that were issued by the crew.....long red hooded capes. The open boat provides excellent viewing and photography opportunities as it speeds close inshore under massive dolerite cliffs, into sea caves and near to blowholes and rocky islets. A highlight was a White-bellied Sea-eagle, perched in a big gum above its huge stick nest.

Finally rounding Tasman Head we entered the Southern Ocean and approached the Friars, a number of rocky islets where we came in on the lee side to view a number of Australian Fur Seals, all males, which use the area as a haul out. Several were in the water, lolling about with flippers waving. The majority of seals which use the area were at the breeding areas in Bass Strait, between Tasmania and the Mainland. On another islet were many nesting Black-faced Cormorants. Due to the rough seas and with regard to the comfort of the passengers, the captain didn't venture as far out to sea as usual on the return leg, so the number of pelagic birds sighted was low. Many were Short-tailed Shearwaters, with a few Australasian Gannets and at least one Shy Albatross coming close enough to give us a thrill. Crested Terns were seen, and Welcome Swallows swooped low over waves closer inshore.

Our first priority on return was to warm up, and we headed to our cabins nearby to make hot drinks and eat our salad rollups and home-made cake. We decided to have another crack at the Forty-spots, but were thwarted by the weather which became drizzly and generally more unpleasant the further south we drove. No sight or sound of the little birds at "Inala", so we made for the exposed shores of Cloudy Bay, a renowned surf beach with wide, wild and rugged views. A flock of Kelp Gulls and a few Pied Oystercatchers were on the beach, and it didn't take us long to scan them and retreat to North Bruny, where there was no rain and the breeze was gentle as we searched fruitlessly again for Forty-spots in a dry gully. The Grass Trees *Xanthorrhoea* occasionally scattered in some parts of the dry eucalypt woodland were a feature of this part of the trip.

On returning to Adventure Bay we went in search of white wallabies in the remaining daylight. Two were approached quite closely by our photographers, and as we drove on, a pair of Fantailed Cuckoos was closely observed as they perched on a fence. By then it was time to return to Adventure Bay for dinner; more delicious antipasto, a scrumptious Spanakopita Pie or a warming Seafood Curry, and a fresh fruit salad with ice-cream. A short spotlighting trip unearthed a lovely golden possum which is a pale form of Common Brushtail Possum, a dark phase Eastern Quoll and a few Little Penguins dithering dangerously on the road near the rookery.

Day 4

Wednesday 4th November

Bruny Island to MT Field and New Norfolk

As we left the Swift Parrots behind, someone spotted a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo in trees behind houses, which turned out to be a Grey Goshawk, white phase (in Tasmania, all are white phase). As we watched, its mate flew in as well. At the isthmus some of us climbed the steps to the top of the dune above the rookery, where there is a seat and a remembrance of the Tasmanian Aboriginals who were present on Bruny Island at white settlement. And some went on to the beach to look for shells and flotsam. A Brown Falcon flew by as we boarded the bus, and later as we awaited the ferry we saw our first Grey Butcherbird. All vehicles fitted on the lower deck so we had the top deck to ourselves, but it didn't bring any new birds around. Once back on "mainland" Tasmania we headed for the Peter Murrell Reserve at Huntingfield, in a last attempt to find Forty-spotted Pardalotes. Success!

Although remaining rather too high in the gumleaves to allow successful photography. (Endemic No. 11). There were some photogenic Tasmanian Native Hens in the sunshine, a Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo, a Swamp Harrier and several other "familiar". We stopped to eat our picnic lunch in a small park at Granton. This is usually a good site in the Derwent for waterfowl, however extensive and ongoing roadworks had seen most of them leave for calmer waters. Hot (very!) drinks from the information kiosk were a bonus of a different type.

We called in at the hotel at New Norfolk to leave luggage in our rooms, and continued on to Mount Field National Park. As we approached, clouds gathered, but our host's prediction of "bucketing down by 4.30" proved wrong. We first took the 14km narrow gravel road to Lake Dobson in the subalpine part of the park, donned our warm jackets and rainwear and took a short walk around the small tarn. Pencil Pines *Athrotaxis cupressoides* fringe the lake, Snow Gums *Eucalyptus coccifera* and Alpine Yellow Gums *E. subcrenulata* with richly coloured bark clothe the steeper slopes and shelter a lovely subalpine shrubbery of various berried and flowering shrubs. The dolerite boulders and lower trunks and roots were rich with mosses and spectacular lichens. Towards the far end of the tarn we entered the Pandani Grove, where Giant Heath *Richea pandanifolia* and ancient Pencil Pines provided shelter from the keen breeze and occasional sleety drizzle that kept us moving along. On the first stretch of the track a Bennett's Wallaby allowed us to approach quite closely before it hopped away. However, the tarn's platypus were not forthcoming, nor many birds. A Tasmanian Thornbill and a Black Currawong put in a brief appearance.

On the return drive we stopped for a short walk on the boulder scree where the old foot track to the ski fields is bordered by shrubs and trees including Australia's only winter deciduous tree, Deciduous Beech *Nothofagus gunnii*, just in new leaf. Lower down, we had another stop at the roadside for a look at Horizontal Scrub *Anodopetalum biglandulosum* which by its growth habit creates almost impermeable thickets. The clear sweet notes of a Scrubtit were heard, but it failed to appear, so we moved on again to walk the Tall Trees circuit. Swamp Gum *Eucalyptus regnans* grows on the better soils and sheltered slopes of gullies in the higher rainfall areas of Tasmania and Victoria. It is the tallest flowering plant on Earth, some have been measured at 120m.. There are several magnificent trees here around 90 metres tall, their huge, buttressed trunks rising from an open forest floor of mosses and ferns, and towering above tall understorey shrubs. A couple of raucous Sulphur-crested Cockatoos were seen in the treetops, but the real highlight was the Pink Robin, a handsome male making himself nicely available to our photographers. Everyone, with or without binoculars, had great views.

It was time for dinner, and our host Tim had set out a feast complete with wineglasses, crockery and cutlery in one of the Park picnic shelters, had lit the open fire, and was about to cook mountains of steak, salmon and veggie goodies on the BBQ. Flame Robins, a Black Currawong cleaning up the remains of someone's picnic, good food, the warm fire and a glass of wine made for a pleasant interlude. Yummy desserts were set out in a separate shelter near the Tyenna River, where we were once again to watch fruitlessly for platypus. We walked off dessert gently along up to Russell Falls, a pretty cascade over sedimentary rock shelves in a green gully of towering treeferns and many other ferns and mosses. Some of us saw a Tasmanian Scrubwren in the gloom, and some days later, someone revealed that they had been looking in the opposite direction and seen a Scrubtit! Needless to say we watched for platypus as dusk was approaching. Tasmanian Pademelons were grazing the mossy lawns at the edge of the forest. As darkness fell we drove back to New Norfolk to sleep off a long day and good dinner. Our rooms were warm, and treats in the form of a cheese and fruit platter and fudge were found.

Day 5

Thursday 5th November

New Norfolk to Queenstown

After a good breakfast and collection of our lunch packs, we said farewell to our generous host Tim, who had added to our treats with free entry passes to The Salmon Ponds. This place provided a pleasant walk amongst a number of fish ponds holding huge Brown, Rainbow and Brook Trout, and one of albino fish. Mature Northern Hemisphere deciduous and coniferous trees provide shade in what can sometime be the warmest place in Tasmania. Behind the hawthorn hedges a pathway follows the Plenty River for a short way, but again, playtpus failed to appear. As well as the introduced birds we saw Forest Ravens, Tasmanian Native Hens, and a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. The museum and hatchery at Salmon Ponds tells of the beginnings of Tasmania's world famous wild trout fishery. The first eggs were imported from the Northern Hemisphere, hatched here, then the fingerlings carried in buckets and cans to stock rivers and lakes.

The weather was overcast, but there were only tiny flurries of dampness as we continued on the secondary road to the west of the Derwent River. At the crossing, Lake Meadowbank was almost free of waterfowl; only distant swans, Little Pied Cormorants, White-faced Herons and a female Musk Duck were seen. Beside the Lyell Highway near Ouse a farm dam held our first Hoary-headed Grebes, a Eurasian Coot and Chestnut Teal. We passed by many road-side wildflowers, including several yellow Pea family shrubs and Glandular Pink Bells *Tetratheca labillardieri*, and we saw one bird of the Clinking race of the Grey Currawong and later a Bassian Thrush which shot across the road and disappeared before most had even heard of it. At a roadside picnic area by the Nive River where two hydro-electric power stations sit, we found glorious red Tasmanian Waratah *Telopea truncata* in full bloom.

Winding up through Mountain White Gum *E. dalrympleana* and Gum-topped Stringybark *E. delegatensis* subsp *tasmaniensis* forest we levelled out into native Poa grassland, interspersed with hydro-electric lagoons, pipelines, flumes and pockets of forest. Suddenly Ruth spotted our first echidna at the roadside. Luckily there was a spot to pull off, and we all went chasing after it as it trundled briskly along the fenceline. When it reached a fallen fencepost it chose to dig itself into the ground and in no time only a few spines and fur on the back and tail were visible. It was in a good spot for a long seige, as its basic food, i.e. ants, were crawling about on its fur! Next stop was for wildflowers, patches of intense purple pea *Hovea montana*, bright white *Epacris gunnii* and taller shrubs cream *Hakea lissosperma* and *H. microcarpa* with yellow flowers. A Dusky Woodswallow was also seen here. The fact that most had chosen to stay on the bus indicated that lunch was perhaps overdue! ...so after crossing the Derwent River again we took a side road to its source, Lake St Clair.

At the southern end of the famous 5 day walk on the Overland Track from Cradle Mountain, and at 600ft deep it is Tasmania's deepest lake, formed by glaciers which also shaped the surrounding dolerite peaks, including Mount Olympus which we'd seen from the summit of Mount Wellington. Today all were under cloud. An echidna crossing the road provided a brief stop, but it soon disappeared into the scrub. Hot drinks from the kiosk helped chicken sandwiches and rich chocolate cake on its way while we watched a Black Currawong choosing the cheese and leaving the lettuce from table scraps and carrying them off to its nest. We spent a short time exploring the lakeside and open forest before climbing on the bus for the afternoon drive to Queenstown.

Not far from Lake St Clair the road crosses Tylers Line, an ecological NW to SE division of the island into wetter/drier climate, ancient/younger geology, more/less endemism.

If we could have seen the mountain peaks....but the change in the forest and the roadside cuttings told the story well. After sidling down Mt Arrowsmith we stopped at the famous Franklin River for a circuit walk in a superb patch of rainforest. Here we almost immediately saw Scrubtit, (Endemic No. 12) our final endemic bird. Other bird highlights were Tasmanian Scrubwrens, a Pink Robin and a pair of Flame Robins, the male brilliant against his mossy green backdrop. At the end of the walk the Scrubtit was busy again, as were Grey Fantails, Tasmanian Thornbills and Silvereyes of the Tasmanian race with russet flanks.

As we drove westwards, the roadsides were a mass of frothy white Bauera *Bauera rubioides*, golden yellow peas *Oxylobium* spp and several colour forms of Common Heath *Epacris impressa*, with shady roadside cuttings through the quartzite rocks clothed in shades of green moss and grey lichens. Gullies were filled with Smithton Peppermints *Eucalyptus nitida*, and where fire had not yet intruded, Myrtle Beech *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, Sassafras *Atherosperma moschatum*, and Leatherwood *Encryphia lucida*. Roadside plains, too wet and acidic for trees, were either pink from Rushes *Restio* spp. and Swamp Heath *Sprengelia incarnata*, or yellow with Buttongrass *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus*. Several clearings with warning signs indicated spots for apiarists to place beehives for the collection of leatherwood honey.

Another leg stretch was taken with a short walk to Nelson Falls where there was another Pink Robin, Tasmanian Scrubwrens and Grey Fantails and dainty white flowers of Pretty Grass-flag *Libertia pulchella*, then after crossing the Hydro-electric impoundment of Lake Burbury on the King River we drove into the West Coast Range in view of the open cut Mount Lyell Mine. The landscape was changing and not for the best. Copper mining over a long period has seen the forest cleared to feed the smelters, the remainder poisoned by smelter fumes, and the heavy rainfall erode all soil from the surrounding multi-coloured and heavily mineralised slopes. We stopped at a look out high above the little town of Queenstown to take in the devastation, and the efforts of nature to heal the land. Sedges, Snowberries *Gaultheria hispida* and some hardy Acacias have germinated and grow on in rock crevices, the smelters long defunct and ore now trucked out.

Queenstown was home for the night, and after Ruth drove past the hotel and around the town to help us get our bearings, the manager was waiting in the driveway to greet us, hand us our keys, warn us about the colour of the water and show us the dining room. We had our early buffet dinner, and relaxed in the lounge to complete our bird and mammal lists for the day!

Day 6

Friday 6th November

Queenstown to Strahan on the ABT Railway

The day started with a brisk breakfast, with bowls, plates and surplus cutlery whisked away promptly after each bite! The sky though still grey, was clearing, and there had been no rain since the drizzle early yesterday. We loaded our luggage into the bus and drove to the railway station in plenty of time to look at the platform displays, historic information, cafe and gift shop. David had been exploring through the town and met us in plenty of time to board the steam train. One client opted to fast track to Strahan with Ruth in the bus. But first, whilst waiting to wave the train passengers on their way, they saw three Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos fly past. In Strahan it was warm and sunny and Ruth spent time in People's Park cleaning the bus, walking the foreshore path to the Station and watching Strong-billed Honeyeaters noisily gleaning insects from the bark of the tall Black Gums *Eucalyptus ovata*.

Meanwhile, the train travellers enjoyed a day of travel on the restored track, with a steam engine pulling several carriages up to Dubbil Barril, including over a steep rack and pinion section. The other train from Strahan, carrying the lunches, arrived. Dubbil Barril is high above the King River, and as well as eating lunch there is an opportunity to take a short walk in the forest whilst the engines are turned by hand for their return journeys. Some now familiar birds were seen, including another Scrubtit. The trip down to Strahan followed, with the final part along the King River as it reached MacQuarie Harbour illustrating the power of mankind to destroy nature, the banks of the King River denuded by poisons from the upstream mines and laden with silt.

The afternoon was spent individually enjoying our accommodation with its harbour views, going to the People's Park for birdwatching, and visiting shops and the laundry. At 5pm we went out to the heathlands near the Strahan Airport to search for Ground Parrots and Southern Emu-wrens. There were some recently slashed firebreaks providing access to the thick, low vegetation, but even with a bit of cavorting in the scrub by Ruth, the Parrots and Wrens failed to show. However as the sun moved lower, some small birds showed up which turned out to be Striated Fieldwrens, and soon there was some honeyeater activity and amongst the New Holland Honeyeaters were Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters, topping the shrubs, allowing for good views and photography. Also present in the area were Grey Fantails, Welcome Swallows, Superb Fairy-wrens and the ubiquitous Common Starlings. It was a perfect, sunny and calm evening, a rare combination in this part of the world.

For dinner we walked up to the View 42 Restaurant on the scenic boardwalk above the harbour, and enjoyed a generous buffet-style meal. We retired to the lounge to do our lists, then as darkness fell we did a short spotlighting walk along the Esplanade in the hope of finding Common Ringtail Possums. After a fruitless search for the Tasmanian Froglets calling at a roadside puddle, we turned the spotlight to the eucalypts behind the Post Office, and we did find a Ringtail, high above us but easily identified. On the opposite side of the road was a Common Brushtail Possum, great for comparison. A good day, with prospects for more sun and blue skies tomorrow...

Day 7

Saturday 7th November

MacQuarie Harbour and Gordon River Cruise

A beautiful, calm and sunny morning as we walked up to the restaurant for breakfast. Three Swift Parrots flew past, quite unexpected here, although there are a few of their favourite Blue Gums in the area, and plenty of Black Gum. At 8.30 we were ready to board the cruise boat for our day on the water. Macquarie Harbour has several rivers entering, the Gordon being the largest, all bringing clean but tannin-stained fresh water, which floats on top of the salt water to a depth of 12 feet. This brackish water is ideal for salmon and ocean trout farming, and three companies tend many circular fish pens in various parts of the harbour. We watched some of the pens being sprayed with food slurry, and saw some Australian Fur Seals, not common in the West, but sometimes troublesome to fish farmers. But all this was after we'd been out through the impossibly narrow entrance channel to the harbour, known as Hell's Gates. It was so calm on the Southern Ocean that our captain took us as far as the Cape Sorell lighthouse, where we saw Saturday fishermen haul a craypot containing a decent-sized Rock Lobster which he held up for our admiration. We saw many Pacific Gulls, a few Kelp and Silver Gulls, Great and Little Black Cormorants, a Caspian Tern. From the fish farms we cruised to Sarah Island, where the worst of the colonial convicts were sent to work in appalling conditions cutting and retrieving the valuable timber Huon Pine which was once common along the Western rivers.

A top-class guide, actor Richard Davey enthralled us with his depiction of life in the settlement, pointing out places and structures of significance and explaining the system and some significant events in a series of puzzles he worked through as we progressed. There was some bird life along the way, extreme close-up views of Tasmanian Thornbill, and there was a Black Currawong calling near the shore. Some trees and shrubs had grown up over the years; old Blackwood *Acacia melanoxylon* festooned with Kangaroo Fern *Phymatosorus pustulatus*, Dogwood *Pomaderris apetala*, and some Soft Tree Ferns. Along the shoreline grew tall Swamp Paperbarks *Melaleuca ericifolia*.

We were soon back on board, and having a delicious buffet lunch, slowly passing vistas of craggy mountain ranges and entering the wide mouth of the Gordon River, lined to the shores with dense forests of many species and fringed with Ribbon Weed *Triglochin sp.* At the limit of navigation for cruise boats we landed for a short boarded circuit walk in the rainforest. This was true cool temperate rainforest, which originated in the supercontinent Gondwana and persists only in higher rainfall areas where no fires have penetrated. The tangled and dense nature of the forest made us wonder at the desperation of those convicts who, even knowing what it was like, chose to attempt escape by land. We saw the mud towers thrown up by Burrowing Crayfish *Engaenus sp.*, a huge ancient Huon Pine *Lagarostrobus franklinii* whose trunks were actually branches of an even more ancient fallen pine, many mosses and lichens, Tasmanian Laurel *Anopterus glandulosus* and the similar looking Native Plum *Cenarrhenes nitida*, and the West Coast local Whitey Wood *Acradenia franklinii* was in bloom. Now and again a Macleay's Swallowtail Butterfly *Graphium macleayanum* appeared above us. Apart from two White-bellied Sea Eagles, and three unidentified ducks flying past at the landing, bird life was very quiet, and an Azure Kingfisher failed to appear.

It continued to elude us on our 5pm trip, first to a creek in the town where kingfishers and platypus have sometimes been seen, and then out to the Ocean Beach, a wide, wild beach on which waves arrive unimpeded from South America. It was tame today, and people were driving vehicles on it, playing with dogs in the wavelets and collecting shells and stones. Birds were understandably absent, except for the beach-washed Southern Fulmar, a few Silver Gulls, Forest Raven and Pied Oystercatcher. A male Superb Fairy-wren displayed on pink Pigface, and Shearwater burrows were evident in the greenery. A final check of the creek in town gave us a young Grey Fantail, Crescent Honeyeater, Black-headed Honeyeater, Striated Pardalote and Grey Shrike-thrush.

After another generous buffet dinner, we dallied in the mild evening air on the walkway and picked out the stars of the Southern Cross as they appeared.

Day 8

Sunday 8th November

Strahan to Cradle Mountain

We left Strahan about 8.30 on another beautiful morning, taking the Henty Road from Strahan to Zeehan, which uses the route of the old railway which linked the mining town of Zeehan with the port of Strahan. The first part travels through plantations of *Pinus radiata*, some of which had been felled. A small bird zipped across the road, which was identified as a Beautiful Firetail, so we pulled onto the verge and walked back in the hope it would return to feed on the roadside. It did, and we had good views of this sometimes elusive finch.

Next stop was at Henty River, a quiet reach of dark water reflecting densely forested banks, where we hoped again for platypus and Azure Kingfisher.

The same at the Little Henty, after a sighting of Grey (White) Goshawk, and a short stop at a look-out over the extensive coastal dunes and as far as the Cape Sorell lighthouse, nor any sign of Southern Emu-wren in a vast expanse of heathland. Further up we stopped at a site where Christmas Bells grow on a steep bank near an old slag heap. There were none in bloom yet. Some small Pink Sun Orchids *Thelymitra rubra* complemented the larger blue *Thelymitra sp.* seen at the Little Henty, where there were also lovely Short Purple-flag irises *Patersonia fragilis*. We passed Mounts Heemskerk and Zeehan, named for the ships used by Dutch navigator Abel Tasman when he discovered Tasmania (which he named Van Diemen's Land) in 1642.

We spent half an hour in the “almost ghost town” of Zeehan, once the third largest in Tasmania. It was almost too long to see what remains of this town, still victim of the ups and downs of the mining industry. The road passed through dense forest, sometimes rainforest with young Myrtle Beech regrowth dense on the roadside cuttings, and where fires had burned, Smithton Peppermint, Stringybark and an understorey of Acacias, Pea-flowers, Teatree and other fire-adapted flora. The only bird seen was a Swamp Harrier. After passing through the mining towns of Rosebery and Tullah, and more Hydro-electric impoundments we turned onto the Cradle Mountain Link Road, and began to think of a shady spot for lunch.

We pulled off into a young eucalypt plantation and while we ate, Olive Whistlers called constantly nearby. Finding them proved impossible, although we tried hard they remained in the depths of thick understorey regrowth. So we continued towards Cradle, stopping next at the highest point of the road and walked up to a knoll topped by an electricity transmission tower to view mountains and plains to the west and northwest, the high plateau of Black Bluff traversed by the pole line marking the Penguin to Cradle Trail, the western edge of the Central Plateau, and not far off, Cradle Mountain and Barn Bluff. Below us stretched the Lake Lea and the Vale of Belvoir, a karst valley filled with rare grassland and pristine pools and streams. Lemon-scented *Boronia Boronia citriodora* was still in bud, but olive green mosses and tiny Mountain Anemones *Anemone crassifolia* were growing on the white quartzite underfoot. Grasshoppers kept on the move and small, colourful butterflies flitted about the sedgey slopes. We later identified these as Hobart Browns of the darker subspecies *Argynnis hobartia subsp tasmanica*. We soon turned off on to Cradle Mountain Road, and before long an echidna was seen. It was almost unbelievable that it managed to disappear without trace in such open country, but it had. Not much further on a second one was seen, and this one didn't get away. It was eventually quite photogenic and went about foraging without being too concerned with our attention.

At Cradle Mountain Lodge our cottages were set amongst a natural shrubbery of Mountain Pepper *Tasmannia lanceolata*, Mountain Teatree *Leptospermum rupestre*, *Richea scoparia* and other shrubs over native grasses and under scattered mature Cider Gums *Eucalyptus gunnii* (familiar in the UK as a foliage plant for floral arrangements). A footpath led to the Lodge and dining room, and later in the afternoon marsupials came out to graze nearby. Stepping out of the cottage to see a wombat quietly munching was such a thrill, as was the presence of a pademelon with joey in pouch gently hopping between grazing stops below the open decks. A fierce-looking Black Currawong with a damaged bill visited some of the cabins. Ruth glimpsed an Olive Whistler in a thicket, but once again it eluded us. After a short rest some of us went walking alone or together on the nearby tracks. We watched in Pencil Pine Creek for a platypus as we walked up through the myrtle forest and back on the buttongrass boardwalk, where some of us saw a small White-lipped Whip Snake. There were many pink-flowered Hairy Rainforest-heath *Archeria eriocarpa* bushes in the myrtle forest, and a good number of wombat burrows tunnelled between the roots.

We also walked the track to Pencil Pine and Knyvet Falls, where basalt flowed in recent geological time, in a gully of myrtle trees below a button grass slope where a couple of wombats browsed the tough leaves. The predominant birds were Yellow Wattle Birds, Black Currawongs and Crescent Honeyeaters, with an occasional Tasmanian Scrubwren and Green Rosella.

Then it was time for dinner, a drawn-out process with rather small quantities of delicious, perfectly cooked and delicately presented food, and after dinner, tea masquerading as coffee, which was disappointing as we'd waited long for it. Time then for a spotlighting tour from the bus - we followed the road away from the park, seeing many Bennett's Wallabies and Pademelons, an occasional wombat, a Common Brushtail Possum, but no Tasmanian Devils or Spotted-tailed Quolls or night birds.

Day 9

Monday 9th November

A Day at Cradle Mountain

Weather: Beautiful! Sunny, warm, occasional light breeze. Before breakfast we gathered hopefully by the pool at the Lodge, as rumour had it that a platypus had been seen there the day before. Not by us. After a hearty breakfast we collected out picnic lunchboxes and set off at 8.15 in order to secure a parking place in Dove Lake car park. Cradle Mountain was picture postcard, without the snow (there were some small patches on the edge of the plateau), towering above the blue and sparkling lake. Of course it was a photo opportunity. We took the Lake Circuit Track, together at first, then each at our own pace. The track passes through many types of vegetation, and we were becoming familiar with the subalpine flora by this time. A few birds were heard, and fewer seen, including the Black Currawong and a Pink Robin. Other walkers overtook us and we could see them later high up on the mountainside or getting to the end of their lake circuit. Canoeists and kayakers could be seen on the lake and from time to time the track descended to the water's edge. A Tasmanian variety of Eyebright *Euphrasia* sp. with relatively large flowers was growing in a rock crevice, and Deciduous Beech formed pale green swathes high on the steep slopes. A short section of the track passes through a forest of tall Myrtle Beech and King Billy Pines *Athrotaxis selaginoides*, with the Plateau Creek winding through. This attractive area is the Ballroom Forest. Soon after that the track traversed open sedgey country with some ups and downs. We reapplied our sun protection before tackling that bit, and eventually found ourselves at the historic boatshed not far from the car park. Many people were cooling their feet in the lake.

One of our front runners had followed the pathway over to small Lake Lilla and returned before the last of us arrived. We decided not to walk to the original accommodation house "Waldheim", but to drive over and enjoy our lunch in the shade. The day use hut provided the best shade. One person who had stopped to take a photo or two soon joined us with the sad news that a currawong had stolen his sandwich, and to do so had opened his lunchbox. All in the space of a photo or two! Well, those birds have seen a good number of lunchboxes of that type! After lunch a dispersal took place. A couple more energetic folk walked up to Crater Falls, on to Crater Lake, and one even made it up to Marion's Lookout, an short but steep climb which is the first real test on the Overland Track. One decided to sit and sketch at a shady picnic table and watch the progress of the more energetic. One took the shuttle bus back to the Lodge. A group of us wandered down to Ronny Creek, its grassy banks dotted with picturesque *Richea pandanifolia* plants. The possibility of surprising a Latham's Snipe was diminished by the numbers of walkers including quite small children enjoying the wonderful weather.

We followed the boardwalk to the road and creeks junction. The local wombats were deep in their burrows, though later we saw one or two grazing in the sunshine, and a Bennett's Wallaby with joey were resting under an eroded roadside bank. We lost another of our group to the lure of the valley boardwalk leading back to the Lodge and Visitor Centre. For the rest of us the birds were fairly quiet, and we couldn't locate the Shining Bronze-Cuckoo. We took the short walk through magnificent King Billy, Myrtle Beech and Deciduous Beech forest known as Weindorfer's Forest, adjacent to his historic home "Waldheim". Next we wandered through the restored house and listened to a presentation of the story of how Gustav Weindorfer and his wife Kate settled here, working to have the area made a National Park, always welcoming visitors and guiding them around this magnificent high country.

We returned to the Lodge for rest and cool shade, spa baths, and animal spotting. Someone saw mother wombat with a young one at foot, and there were several pademelons around our cottages as the shadows lengthened. After dinner we did a short spotlighting tour on foot near the Lodge and Visitor Centre, the highlight of which was a Common Brushtail Possum with baby riding on her back as she scampered off up a tall Cider Gum.

Day 10

Tuesday 10th November

Cradle Mountain to Launceston

Today dawned cloudy but still warm. We left after an early breakfast, to negotiate the hills and valleys of the Forth and Mersey Rivers which flow north to Bass Strait, and visit a limestone karst area. The birds were familiar until we began to pass through some clearings and small farms at the base of Mount Roland, a towering range of ancient conglomerate rock, surrounded by fertile farming land of quite recent volcanic origin. We added Purple Swamphen and Australian Shelduck to our bird list, and had another sighting of Striated Fieldwren, not renowned for appearing near bus windows.

We had a brief stop at the Mersey River where there may have been platypus but we couldn't spend long as we were due to meet our cave guide at Marakoopa Cave. Here we spent an enthralling hour underground, with the sound of an underground creek accompanying the guide's information. Not far inside the cave entrance he showed us a Tasmanian Cave Spider *Hickmania troglodytes*, and a small Cave Cricket nearby which could become the spider's next meal. There were many beautiful formations and reflective pools in the cave, and the walk to the entrance provided a chance to search for LBJs; Tasmanian Thornbill and Tasmanian Scrubwren were seen but the Shining Bronze-Cuckoo again eluded us.

We were keen for another chance to find a platypus, so back to the river we went. En route we stopped to identify Australasian Pipit and Eurasian Skylark and while doing so a Brown Falcon flew by. Ruth saw a trio of brown birds fly across the road and thought of Olive Whistlers. We spent a frustrating period following a bush track and trying to get one to respond to whistling. In the meantime good views of Grey Shrike-thrush and Yellow-throated Honeyeater were had. Olive Whistler made a dash across the track when our backs were turned and went far into the thickets on the opposite side, so we returned to the bus. As we were boarding, a Satin Flycatcher called, and this one didn't get away, a handsome male was seen performing in a gum not far above. Back at the platypus bridge on a lovely stretch of river with many fish rising and a tribe of lizards basking on the bridge timbers, Welcome Swallows swooped and rested below us, Grey Fantails zipped erratically around, and an Eastern Spinebill called briefly and was seen by all. But platypus failed to appear, and we were thinking of lunch.

We drove to the large country town of Deloraine where we had a choice of eateries and a walk up and down the main street. In the river-side park was a motley collection of ducks and the usual introduced species with the addition of Feral Pigeon. On the edge of town a large pond had a few waterbirds including Pacific Black Ducks and Hoary-headed Grebes. We took the scenic route to Westbury and a longer secondary road to the West Tamar, however birds were few and far between, and roadside wildflowers (Guinea Flowers *Hibbertia* sp., Rice Flower *Pimelea nivea* and Candles *Stackhousia monogyna*) though colourful could not keep some of us alert. On the West bank of the Tamar River we pulled in to Brady's Lookout (Brady having been a notorious bushranger in early colonial times) for the view up and down the river estuary and a few Tasmanian plants that had been planted in the reserve, including South Esk Pine *Callitris oblonga*, one of only two Tasmanian conifers not of Gondwanan origin.

Next stop was the Tamar Wetlands Centre. Chief attraction here was an Echidna, which was attempting to climb onto the boardwalk. The birdlife was not very prolific, but varied. Many Black Swans had cygnets; also present were Australian Shelduck families. A Swamp Harrier harried, and later we saw a Whistling Kite, an uncommon sight in Tasmania. A solitary Eastern Great Egret had appeared by the time we were on the return leg from Tamar Island, there were Australian Pelicans, Masked Lapwings, Great Cormorants, Kelp Gulls, Chestnut Teal and Purple Swamphens. Little Grassbirds were present but remained hidden in the tall *Phragmites* reeds. Metallic Skinks warmed themselves on the boardwalk.

We spent the night in Launceston, (with the “ces” pronounced) at the Penny Royal Hotel close to Cataract Gorge. The stone for the hotel complex came from a colonial water-driven corn mill. Dinner at the comfortable and modern Cataract Bistro next door was welcome and tasty.

Day 11

Wednesday 11th November

Launceston to Bucheno

Today we had the luxury of a late breakfast and leisurely departure. Some of us took an early walk in the nearby park, but most took advantage of extra snooze time. We left around 9am and took an alternative route to Campbell Town, using the main highway for the last few kilometres. The possibility of seeing introduced wild Fallow Deer and Banded Lapwing was higher on this route, as was the chance of being able to stop and pull off the road. We didn't get lucky with the deer, but a single Banded Lapwing put on a great display for us. A large waterhole with more waterfowl than we had seen in days proved to be too far off the road to see properly, but a little further along was a mass of wildflowers. Lowland native grasslands are now quite rare in Tasmania, and landholders have been encouraged to fence out livestock from any remaining areas. Here an area of Black Peppermint *Eucalyptus amygdalina* had been preserved, and the wildflowers spilt out onto the roadside, where we stopped to find delicate annuals and perennials...massed purple Chocolate Lilies *Arthropodium strictum*, Tiger Orchids *Diuris sulphurea*, pale blue Flax Lilies *Dianella longifolia*, Trailing Native-primrose *Goodenia lanata* included. Also here, a Noisy Miner became somebody's 100th bird!

We rolled into Campbell Town a bit before 11 am and this being 11 November we set our departure time to allow for personal remembrance. It was sunny and warm, the gardens lovely with roses and other perennials and several coffee shops smelling good. There is also a form of memorial to Tasmanian convict ancestors in the town.

People were invited to purchase a brick to have imprinted with the name, dates, transport ship, crime and other details of their life. Many were keen to participate, and the single line of bricks is a feature each side of the main street and provides interesting reading.

We left town and turned towards the East Coast. The road climbed through the Eastern Tiers, first farmland, then forest. We watched for Forester Kangaroos which occur rarely in this area, and Wedge-tailed Eagles. A stop for a Brown Falcon gave us a look at a brave little Striated Pardalote singing in spite of the Common Starlings menacing it. Once on the Eastern side of the Tiers we stopped for more wildflowers, the eye being caught by Ground Clematis *Clematis gentianoides* and Trigger Plant *Stylidium graminifolium*, but once parked safely we discovered a lovely little plant of Blushing Bindweed *Convolvulus erubescens*, some Bluebells *Wahlenbergia sp.*, Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*, beautifully perfumed Black Wattle *Acacia mearnsii*, Dwarf Riceflower *Pimelea humilis*, Scaly Buttons *Leptorhynchus squamatus* and Everlasting Daisy *Helichrysum scorpioides*. At this stop, someone had the only sighting of Eastern Rosella for our trip. After turning north on the Tasman Highway we saw our sixth and final Tasmanian mainland melaleuca *M. pustulata*, unfortunately most of the flowering period was over for this species.

Diamond Island Resort at Bicheno was our home for the next two nights and on arrival we were given a good lunch of soup and sandwiches with juices and hot drinks. After that we were able to access our rooms and unload our luggage before setting off for the wildlife park just out of town. Natureworld has open green lawns on which deer and Forester Kangaroos graze along with the native Cape Barren Geese and their gosling. The gander took exception to the deer and performed much flying and honking when they attempted to come in at feeding time. A lagoon just beyond the perimeter fence gave tantalising views of some small terns, Little? or Fairy? Not near enough, although we could discern Hooded Plovers and Red-necked Stint. Pelicans, Great Cormorants, Australian Shelducks and other waterfowl were there as well as inside the park. But the main interest was in the accessible display pens of shiny-nosed Tasmanian Devils, both adult and young together and separated, spreadeagled in the sunshine or constantly loping around their enclosures with the hopping rear/stepping front gait which leaves distinctive footprints where they have been.

In the nocturnal house were a golden Common Brushtail Possum, a Sugar Glider, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Eastern Quoll Spotted-tailed Quoll and Tasmanian Bettong. These last two are listed as Endangered, mainly due to habitat destruction. In another pen were an Echidna and a young Common Wombat. Further along were enclosures with Bennett's Wallaby, Tasmanian Pademelon and rushy pools where native ducks could hide. Then there were snake enclosures with many Tiger Snakes, and Copperheads (which remained hidden), both species venomous. A Blotched Bluetongue Lizard was also in a secure enclosure. Surprisingly we saw none of those chunky skins in the wild. We enjoyed at least two hours in the park, encouraged to feed the kangaroos and their joeys with proper marsupial pellets sold in small quantities. We finished up with a search in the frog pond, but somehow we couldn't spot any frogs.

Before dinner we had time for a stroll on the beach between granite boulders, where a number of dead Short-tailed Shearwaters lay along the tide line. Lack of food sometimes causes large mortality amongst this amazing migratory bird, and prevailing North-easterly weather brought them ashore. There were also some White-fronted Chats, a Pacific Gull and Pied Oystercatchers, and in a large cypress tree a pair of Scarlet Robins appeared to be feeding young.

From our table in the restaurant we could see Humpback Whales breaching and splashing down a little way out to sea...definitely not your everyday dining experience! But there was more to follow, and as sun set we went out in our warmest clothing to wait under the beachfront cypresses for our local guide to introduce us to the resident Little Penguins. This was an entertaining and informative tour, and it was great to be so near to the little birds when they came out of the sea and paused between the rocks to preen themselves in groups of usually between 6 to 20 or 30 before proceeding up the bank and across our path to their burrows, mates or young. There are a number of artificial burrows in the area and inside one we were shown "Roger", hard at work incubating. His mate was due in to change place with him later. It was nice to know that this colony is in good condition.

Day 12

Thursday 12th November

Freycinet National Park

After a clear starry night (did our hopefuls rise to view the Milky Way?), it was a surprise to find the morning drizzly, with low cloud over the hills. We set off in this weather for our day in Freycinet National Park, but in line with my prediction, by the time we made our first stop at Friendly Beaches Lookout cloud was lifting and drizzle ceasing. This long beach, which we walked on a short time later, consists of fine white sands, and is unspoilt by Marram Grass invasion, so the dune is naturally sloped and low, with native Spinifex Grass *Spinifex sericeus*, and shrubs such as Coastal Wattle *Acacia longifolia subsp. sophorae* and Silver Banksia *Banksia marginata*. We examined shells including a *Neotrignia*, and rock pools with Sea Anemones and tiny fish, before returning to the main road, with a roadside stop to view prolific Wedding Bush *Ricinocarpus pinifolius* with showy white, perfumed flowers, also finding low Pine Heath *Astroloma pinifolium* and a bright yellow local form of Common Wedgepea *Gompholobium buegelii* (formerly with the unfortunate common name of Bladder Pea). Brown Thornbills were about the only bird found there.

A stop at the Visitor Centre was next for comfort, shopping and collecting map and notes, and then it was off to the Wineglass Bay Lookout. This short walk winds upwards between huge granite slabs and boulders to a spectacular view of perfectly curved Wineglass Bay and the rugged backdrop of the Freycinet Peninsula. A few blooms of the uncommon epiphytic Yellow Rock Orchid *Dockrillia striolata subsp. crysantha* were located high on a shady granite boulder. On our return we travelled a short distance to a secluded picnic spot where we enjoyed picnic lunches in a tiny granite cove.

Fortified, we drove out to Cape Tourville where on a short walk between wind-stunted Tasmanian Blue Gums *Eucalyptus globulus*, Black Peppermints *E. amygdalina* and Autumn Teatree *Leptospermum grandiflorum* we watched whales splashing and spouting in the distance, and shifting black clouds of shearwaters low over the Tasman Sea. Closer, on the rocky Nuggets below us were many Kelp Gulls, some Black-faced Cormorants, Pacific Gulls and Caspian Terns, even an Albatross gliding low. A White-bellied Sea Eagle came in from the left, rising effortlessly on the drafts coming up the cliffs. We saw two rock-loving skinks basking, Whites Skink *Ergenia whitei* and Ocellated Skink *Niveoscincus ocellatus*.

Back to the visitor centre, we took a drive through the village of Coles Bay and out to the outflow of Moulting Lagoon. Here we found White-faced Herons, Great Cormorants, Pied Oystercatchers, Crested and Caspian Terns and Australian Pelicans. Further along on mud flats was a pair of Grey Teal, three Bar-tailed Godwits, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers. A Bronze-wing flew from the road as we drove in.

The last stop at Moulting Lagoon was very disappointing. This large area, renowned for its waterfowl, was uninhabited but for a few Black Swans. Good winter and spring rains in the state have refilled many empty or deleted water sources and the birds are now thinly distributed all over.

We returned to Bicheno for a visit to the Blowhole. The chilly South-Easterly breeze kept us on the move, and the Blowhole performed splashingly. There were Australasian Gannets close in, and on shore there was evidence of Little Penguin habitation; the red granites with contrasting and bright lichens were photogenic, as were some garden escapee Nasturtiums *Tropaeolum majus*. A little further on we stopped at the fishing port, sheltered by Governor Island where Silver Gulls and Crested Terns breed. We saw one downy gull chick, and looked into the wonderfully clear water below the wharf at bright green Sea Lettuce *Ulva sp.*, golden-brown Neptune's Necklace *Hormosiras banksii*, Anemones and quite a collection of Seastars, probably *Patiriella calcar*.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent relaxing at the resort, beachcombing, scoping and just enjoying the place. No whales interrupted our dinner tonight, and at dusk a few of us wandered to the bottom of the garden to watch Little Penguins scurrying along behind the beach to their burrows.

Day 13

Friday 13th November

Bicheno to Hobart

Sunshine, calm seas and blue skies welcomed us this morning and stayed with us all day for a taste of summer. Early risers visited penguins in their burrows and some obtained good sunlit photos. The dead beast on the beach was determined by its dental record to be a wallaby, and the usual birds were busy around the resort. We left about 9am and travelled south, enjoying lovely coastal views and a stop at Kelvedon Beach where we discovered scallop shells (King Scallops with one flat and one curved valve), a Razor shell and other bivalves, White-fronted Chats and even Hooded Plovers that had not been scared off by a dog and its companion. Next stop was by a brackish lagoon, here the perfume of introduced Sweet Briar mingled with Black Wattle and the large bluish juvenile leaves of Tasmanian Blue Gum (that's why it's named Blue Gum!). Some Black Swans and a non-descript duck took their broods to water, but not much else was present except a Brown Falcon over the farmland.

A larger fresh water lagoon was more fruitful, and we walked along the banks for good views of many Chestnut Teal, Little Black Cormorant, some Black Swans, Australian Shelduck, Australian Shoveller with ducklings, Eurasian Coot and a Great Crested Grebe. A White-bellied Sea Eagle flew nearby. We had a short stop at the Triabunna wharf and saw Crested and Caspian Terns, before moving on to Orford. The spit at the river mouth is a breeding ground for the uncommon Fairy Tern, and we saw about 20 of these dainty birds, some diving close to shore, and courting in progress on the beach. There were also Caspian and Crested Terns, a Red-capped Plover and some Hooded Plovers. Happy with such good sightings, we retired to a cafe on the opposite bank of the river, and enjoyed lunch at the outdoor tables before continuing our journey.

We stopped at the Tasmanian Bushland Garden, under construction in an area of dry sclerophyll forest, and saw many plants of this habitat in bloom. Grey Fantails, Brown Thornbills, a Laughing Kookaburra, Superb Fairy-wrens and Flame Robins were active. We had another short stop in a shady gully for a Fairy-wren photo opportunity before continuing to Richmond, a historic village with Australia's oldest bridge. Near this bridge over the Coal River were our final two bird species for the trip, Clamorous Reed-warbler and Dusky Moorhen.

A pleasant time was spent window shopping and enjoying the riverbank, streetscape and historic buildings, and licking icecreams under shady old deciduous trees. Then it was on to Hobart via Grass Tree Hill, on the first road constructed in Tasmania which linked the growing town of Hobart with its bread-basket, the Coal River Valley. We passed Risdon Cove, the site of Tasmania's first white settlement in 1803, crossed the Derwent River yet again via the Bowen Bridge, and joined the Friday afternoon traffic into the city for our final night at Hadleys Hotel. After relaxing and refreshing, we walked on an unusually balmy and sea-breeze-free evening down to the wharves for our farewell dinner at Mures Upper Deck Restaurant. A delicious meal was accompanied by good Tasmanian Pinot Noir and Pinot Grigio, followed by a pleasant walk back in the same conditions.

Day 14

Saturday 14th November

Depart Hobart

Weather: cool and drizzly, low cloud. A sleep in, a leisurely late breakfast, no thoughts of early-birding today! A little shopping in the city and a trawl through the Saturday-only Salamanca Market, followed by relaxing in the hotel lobby until our guide brought the bus around to take us to the Hobart Airport for our 1.30pm flight to Melbourne. No Eastern Rosellas or Musk Lorikeets hindered our progress, although they inhabit the airport trees. A quick farewell to Ruth (we were disappointed that she wasn't named Sheila, as Australian women should be!), and we were homeward bound...

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

Species Lists

Birds (H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	November													
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Tasmanian endemic species																
1	*Tasmanian native hen	<i>Gallinula (Tribonyx) mortierii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓
2	*Green rosella	<i>Platycercus caledonicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	*Forty-spotted pardalote	<i>Pardalotus quadragintus</i>				✓										
4	*Tasmanian scrubwren	<i>Sericornis humilis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
5	*Scrubtit	<i>Sericornis magnus</i>					✓	✓								
6	*Tasmanian thornbill	<i>Acanthiza ewingii</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
7	*Yellow wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera paradoxa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	*Yellow-throated honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus flavicollis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	H	✓		✓	✓
9	*Strong-billed honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus validirostris</i>		✓					✓							
10	*Black-headed honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus affinis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					✓	
11	*Dusky robin	<i>Melanodryas vittata</i>		✓	✓	✓							✓			
12	*Black currawong	<i>Strepera fuliginosa</i>	✓		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	H
Other Tasmanian species																
1	Cape barren goose	<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>												✓		
2	Black swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Australian shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>											✓	✓		✓
4	Australian wood (Maned) duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓		✓
5	Australasian shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchos</i>														✓
6	Grey teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>													✓	
7	Chestnut teal	<i>Anas castanea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓		✓
8	Northern Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
9	Pacific black duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓
10	Hoary-headed grebe	<i>Poliocephalus poliocephalus</i>					✓						✓			
11	Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>														✓
12	Rock dove (Feral pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓									✓			
13	Brush bronzewing (pigeon)	<i>Phaps elegans</i>			✓	✓									✓	
14	Tawny frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides strigoides</i>		✓												
15	Shy albatross	<i>Diomedea(Thalassarche) cauta</i>			✓									✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	November													
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
16	Southern fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>									BW					
17	Short-tailed shearwater (Muttonbird)	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>		✓	✓									✓	✓	
18	Little penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor novaehollandiae</i>		✓	✓									✓	✓	✓
19	Australasian gannet	<i>Morus serrator</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓			✓	✓	
20	Little pied cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>						✓		✓						
21	Great (Black) cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Little black cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>			✓					✓		✓				✓
23	Black-faced cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscescens</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓				✓	✓	
24	Australian pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>											✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Eastern great egret	<i>Ardea modesta</i>											✓			
26	Cattle egret	<i>Ardea ibis (annual winter migrant)</i>											✓			
27	White-faced heron	<i>Egretta (Notophoxyx) novaehollandiae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓
28	White-bellied sea-eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓				✓	✓	✓
29	Whistling kite	<i>Haliastur (Milvus) sphenurus</i>											✓			
30	Brown goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>				✓										
31	Grey goshawk (white morph)	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>				✓					✓					
32	Swamp (Marsh) harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>		✓	✓					✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
33	Wedge-tailed eagle	<i>Aquila audax fleayi</i>		✓												
34	Brown falcon	<i>Falco berigora (tasmanica?)</i>				✓	✓						✓	✓		✓
35	Purple swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>											✓	✓		
36	Dusky moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>														✓
37	Eurasian coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						✓								✓
38	Australian pied oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓				✓	✓	✓
39	Sooty oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>			✓										✓	
40	Red-capped plover	<i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>												✓		✓
41	Hooded plover	<i>Thinornis (Charadrius) rubricollis</i>			✓									✓		✓
42	Banded lapwing	<i>Vanellus tricolor</i>												✓		
43	Masked lapwing (Spurwing plover)	<i>Vanellus miles novaehollandiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Bar-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>													✓	
45	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>													✓	
46	Red-necked stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>												✓		
47	Fairy tern	<i>Sterna nereis</i>														✓

	Common name	Scientific name	November													
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
48	Caspian tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>									✓			✓	✓	✓
49	Crested tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>		✓	✓	✓									✓	✓
50	Pacific gull	<i>Larus pacificus</i>		✓	✓						✓			✓	✓	✓
51	Kelp gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓		✓	✓
52	Silver gull	<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Yellow-tailed black cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus xanthanotus</i>						✓				✓			✓	
54	Galah	<i>Eolophus (Cacatua) roseicapilla</i>				✓							✓	✓		
55	Sulphur-crested (White) cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>				✓	✓							✓		✓
56	Eastern Rosella	<i>Platyceus eximius diemenensis</i>												✓		
57	Swift parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓					
58	Horsfield's bronze-cuckoo	<i>Chalcites (Chrysococcyx) basalis</i>		H		✓										
59	Shining bronze-cuckoo	<i>Chalcites (Chrysococcyx) lucidus</i>		H	H										H	H
60	Pallid cuckoo	<i>Cuculus pallidus</i>		✓									✓	✓	H	✓
61	Fan-tailed cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis (Cuculus) flabelliformis</i>			✓											
62	Laughing kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Superb fairy wren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Striated fieldwren (Calamanthus)	<i>Calamanthus (Sericornis) fuliginosus</i>							✓				✓			
65	Yellow-rumped thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>		✓	✓		✓							✓		
66	Brown thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla diemenensis</i>		✓		✓			✓						✓	✓
67	Spotted pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>		✓		✓										
68	Striated (Yellow-tipped) pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus striatus</i>		✓		✓					✓		✓	✓		✓
69	Eastern spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>											✓			
70	Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala leachi</i>												✓	✓	✓
71	Little (Brush) wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera tasmanica</i>		✓		✓							✓	✓	✓	✓
72	White-fronted chat	<i>Epithianura albifrons</i>		✓										✓		✓
73	Tawny-crowned honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris (Gliciphila) melanops</i>							✓							
74	Crescent honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera pyrrhoptera</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
75	New Holland honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae canescens</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
76	Black-faced cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
77	Olive whistler	<i>Pachycephala olivacea apatetes</i>									H		H			
78	Golden whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis glaucura</i>		✓												
79	Grey shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica strigata</i>			✓	✓				✓	✓		✓			✓

	Common name	Scientific name	November												
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
80	Dusky woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓								
81	Grey butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus cinereus</i>				✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Australian (White-backed) magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen hypoleuca</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Grey (Clinking) currawong	<i>Strepera versicolor arguta</i>		✓	✓		✓					✓		✓	
84	Grey fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa albiscapa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
85	Forest raven	<i>Corvus tasmanicus tasmanicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Satin flycatcher	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>										✓			
87	Scarlet robin	<i>Petroica multicolor boodang leggii</i>		✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
88	Flame robin	<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		✓
89	Pink robin	<i>Petroica rodinogaster rodinogaster</i>				✓	✓				✓				
90	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis arvensis</i>										✓	✓		✓
91	Australian (Clamorous) reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus australis australis</i>													✓
92	Little grass bird	<i>Megalurus gramineus gramineus</i>										H			
93	Silvereye (Grey-backed silvereye)	<i>Zosterops lateralis lateralis</i>					✓	✓		✓			✓		✓
94	Welcome swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Tree martin	<i>Petrochelidon (Hirundo) nigricans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		
96	Bassian (White's or Ground) thrush	<i>Zoothra lunulate lunulata</i>					✓								
97	Common (Eurasian) blackbird	<i>Turdus merula merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Common starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
99	Beautiful firetail	<i>Stagonopleura bella bella</i>								✓					
100	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Australasian (Richard's) pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>		✓	✓			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
102	European goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Common greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓

PLACENTAL MAMMALS

Australian Fur Seal	Yes
Humpback Whale	Yes
Common Dolphin	?
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	?

INTRODUCED MAMMALS

Rodents

Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Yes
Hare <i>Lepus lepus</i>	Yes
Feral Cat <i>Felis catus</i>	Possibly
Fallow Deer <i>Dama dama</i>	Yes in captivity