

Endemics of Western Australia

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 20 September 2010



Western Rosella at Pemberton



Carnaby's Black Cockatoos in the Stirling Range



Crested (Western) Shrike-tit at Dryandra



Rufous Night Heron, Busselton



Straw-necked ibis at a colony in Vasse Wonnerup



New Holland Honeyeater on a Banksia sp.

Report and images compiled by Peter Taylor



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Day 1

Sunday 12th September

Perth and the Darling Ranges

I (Peter) and my partner, Rose, met Philip and Sally at a B&B in a leafy suburb of inner Perth near Hyde Park Lake, where we watched a pair of Black Swans tending their six fluffy grey cygnets. A Laughing Kookaburra flew down on to the grass next to them and posed briefly. This iconic Australian bird however is in fact introduced to Western Australia, brought in allegedly to control snakes in the 1880s and now well established throughout much of the south west.

After a drive through Perth's eastern suburbs and out into the semi-rural foothills, we arrived in the Darling Ranges proper and began our birdwatching adventures at Bungendore Park. As soon as we walked in the through the gate we could hear birds and immediately a male Scarlet Robin appeared, quickly followed by White-naped Honeyeaters, Striated Pardalotes, Western and Inland Thornbills, Weebills and a Western Gerygone, with its discordant trill. Then a pair of Western Spinebills fluttered into view, posing ever so briefly before flitting off only to reappear seconds later. A male Rufous Whistler called and was quickly tracked down as he moved through the eucalypts. A beautiful Galah, resplendent in its pink and grey, landed by a hollow in a marri tree and after some hesitation disappeared head first before reappearing at the entrance and posing for photographs.

As we walked on we noticed a group of Donkey Orchids, tucked away in the shelter of tree trunks, their yellow and brown petals combining to mimic a donkey's head and ears. Yellow buttercup flowers of native Hibbertias and the typical yellow pom-poms of various wattles (acacias) were everywhere and in some places the strands of pink and orange coral vine Kennedias draped over anything they could climb. A pair of Common Bronzewing wandered on to the track in front of us and the male with his cream coloured forehead climbed on to a low rock where he proceeded to puff himself up and show off to his adoring mate.

Further on along the Albany Highway we stopped at the Gleneagles Rest Area, a semi-forgotten picnic area, planted long ago with exotic trees and shrubs. We heard the short whistle of a Golden Whistler and were thrilled to see a stunning male fly in on cue, his striking gold and black plumage so unbelievably in contrast to that of his mate. Australian Ringnecks, here the race known as "28" because of their distinctive call, foraged close by in the pine trees while an endemic White-breasted Robin glided low from shrub to shrub, where it sat motionless watching for insect prey on the ground. A Grey Fantail flitted around us, fanning its tail to disturb the insects then wheeling acrobatically through the air to catch them.

We picked up some sandwiches for lunch from the Yule-Do Roadhouse and proceeded to the picnic area at Wungong Dam, one of Perth's main water supplies. No sooner had we sat down than we were serenaded by a family of Australian Magpies, carolling away for any titbits. As we sat a pair of Red-tailed Black-cockatoos sailed overhead, giving their characteristic raucous call but failing to stop for us. A stroll across the road appeared to be in vain until Rose called out "fairywrens" and before we knew it we were transfixed by a male Splendid Fairywren, decked out in a dozen shades of luminescent blue.

It was then time to bid farewell to Rose as she began her drive back down south while we continued westward across the Swan coastal plain to the coast at Woodman Point. Here the wind was blowing a gale and the Kitesurfers were out in force. Still, the Point proved to be a haven for Crested Terns, Pied and Little Pied Cormorants and of course hundreds of Australia's ubiquitous Silver Gulls. A solitary Australian Pied Oystercatcher huddled behind the rocks out of the wind along with a Ruddy Turnstone, now out of breeding plumage and a lone Grey Plover, still very much in remnant breeding plumage with its black face and belly.

Last stop for the day was Perth's premier urban wetland, Herdsman Lake but before we arrived there we noticed a group of corellas feeding on the grass at the edge of the highway as we sped by. We made a quick detour around the block and pulled up close by to establish that these were almost all Eastern Long-billed Corellas with just a single Little Corella keeping them company. Once at Herdsman Lake, we were overwhelmed by the sheer numbers and closeness of so many water birds; Great-crested, Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebes, Purple Swamphen, Eurasian Coot and Dusky Moorhen; a myriad of ducks - Pacific Black, Australian Wood, Blue-billed, Australian Shoveler, Hardhead and Grey Teal not to mention White Ibis, Great Egret, Yellow-billed Spoonbill and White-faced Heron. A Swamp Harrier made a couple of close passes, swooping low over the reed-beds and creating havoc. An Australian Reedwarbler was spotted low down at the edge of the reeds, calling incessantly while Singing Honeyeaters and Red Wattlebirds competed for foraging rights in the teatree blossom. The wind was now getting quite chilly so it was time reluctantly to head for our hotel where we enjoyed our first dinner together and the odd glass of Western Australian red.

Day 2

Monday 13th September

Dryandra

After an earlyish breakfast we were on the road by 7:45am and heading out of Perth along the Albany Highway. As we climbed up into the ranges the sound of black-cockatoos was heard and we pulled off into a makeshift lay-by and eventually caught sight of a number of Baudin's Black-cockatoos heading away from us. A quick stop to refuel and pick up lunches at North Bannister and we were again on our way, heading for the Dryandra Woodlands. Cool and overcast when we arrived, few birds were evident but we gradually started to see more as we travelled deeper into the woodlands. Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters were everywhere then the extraordinary scissor-grinding sound of a pair of Restless Flycatchers distracted us for ages before we noticed the distinctively plumaged Rufous Treecreepers foraging on the ground. Like many Australian treecreepers these birds are more often than not found on the ground, unlike their northern cousins.

We opted for an early lunch at a picnic table at the Arboretum and with several of the eucalypts in flower we were soon exchanging our sandwiches for binoculars and watching five species of honeyeater take turns at the nectar laden blossom. New Holland, Brown, Brown-headed, White-naped and Yellow plumed were all present when they all uttered the typical hawk-alarm and a Brown Goshawk sailed overhead, shortly followed by an Australian Hobby.

After lunch we stopped to admire the weird Shrubby Mottlecah trees, a type of eucalypt with massive flower pods, before heading off to investigate the Ochre Trail. Before we'd gone 50m from the car we heard the thin trill of wrens and immediately a beautiful turquoise, black and chestnut male Blue-breasted Fairywren appeared with his mate. Some Dusky Woodswallows dropped to the ground nearby then soared up to perch on low dead branches. Their diagnostic white leading edges to the wings were clearly visible as they sat and wiggled their tails from side to side.

Back at the car, we could hear the soft double-note call of a Crested Shrike-tit coming from nearby. Quickly we tracked down the source and soon a male close and perched for us, his white belly, characteristic of the western race, was clearly visible. Behind the Old Mill Dam we watched several Grey Shrike-thrushes as they fed and chorused so melodiously while a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles soared impossibly high above the trees. Western Grey Kangaroos were grazing on the open grasslands around the village but as we watched them Sally noticed the statuesque silhouette of a Bush Stone-curlew sitting in the leaf litter under the shade of a group of trees. As we walked closer, making sure not to disturb the watchful bird we spotted a second bird only a metre or so away. Dryandra is one of the few places left in southern Australia where these wary waders can be found these days so it was a great privilege for all of us.

The afternoon was by this stage wearing on so we moved to a patch of heathland, dominated by dryandras and banksias. Here we had great views of Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters and an Echidna that waddled across the track down the hill. We caught up with it but had to retreat when it curled up into a ball and proceeded to dig itself in. Once we were at a safe distance the echidna set off again on its travels and disappeared into the undergrowth.

Eventually we rejoined the bitumen and headed for Narrogin, our base for the evening. We stopped to look at a couple of big eucalypts set amongst the canola crops where a number of parrots were feeding noisily. Both Red-capped and Elegant Parrots were there as well as a number of Black-faced Woodswallows, lining up in a huddle ready for the approaching cold night. The cooling wind signalled an end to our efforts too so we travelled the remaining few kilometres into Narrogin and our motel. As we unpacked, a flock of Carnaby's Black-cockatoos wheeled over our rooms, screaming loudly on their way to their evening roost. No doubt we would see them again in the morning!

Day 3

Tuesday 14th September

Stirling Ranges

Before breakfast we went for a walk through Foxes Lair, a nature reserve opposite our motel. We could hear Carnaby's Black-cockatoos calling in the distance and it wasn't long before we caught sight of a group feeding noisily in a grove of Dryandras. The pink eye ring of the male was clearly visible and the pale bill of the females as we edged closer. Once the cockatoos had moved on we saw a smaller and darker wattlebird fly in, its obvious chestnut coloured wing panels showing. A characteristic squawk confirmed it as a Western, the only one we were to see all day. As we walked back to the motel along the road, a male Red-capped Robin flitted across in front of us and perched up for all to see. Across the road, Red-capped Parrots and Western Rosellas foraged in the eucalypts while a pair of Australian Magpies tended their nest which overhung the road. Philip spotted a yellow parrot flying swiftly through the trees – our first Regent for the trip but not a particularly identifiable view!

After eating a hearty breakfast and checking out of the motel, our first stop for the day was the Wagin Sewage Ponds (the trip just wouldn't be complete without a sewage pond!). In amongst an array of duck species we spotted several Pink-eared Ducks, their zebra stripes and weirdly-shaped bills making them so distinctive. Australian Shelduck were there too and a Black-shouldered Kite hovered nearby looking for small prey. In the overflow swamp we noted a few Black-winged Stilts and Black-fronted Dotterels as well as a couple of Wood Sandpipers which engaged in some weird display behaviour – not normally encountered in Australia with non-breeding birds! At the edge of the reeds we caught a glimpse of an unusual crane, identified later as an immature Spotted.

As we drove out a brilliant red and black male Mistletoebird appeared perched on the power-line above the road. As we studied him we noticed his mate in a bush nearby, hardly noticeable in dull grey with a pale red vent. A little further south we stopped at Lake Parkeyerring, no waterbirds were evident but a party of White-browed Babblers tumbled across the ground in front of us and a group of Crested Pigeons balanced uneasily on the overhead power-lines.

We picked up some take-away food and drinks in Katanning and continued southwards, finding a suitable picnic area for lunch in Broomehill along the way. Just before Cranbrook, with the Stirling Ranges coming into view we turned eastwards onto the gravel and began our search for some of the birds typically found in the North Stirlings. Yellow-throated Miners, Australasian Pipits and a lone Emu were added to the list quickly followed by a pair of White-fronted Chats. A male Chestnut Teal with three females was seen swimming on a small farm dam with Grey Teal and a pair of Pacific Black Ducks already tending six ducklings. Honeyeaters such as Brown, New Holland, White-cheeked, Tawny-crowned and Brown-headed were ever present in the flowering eucalypts but one of our target species, the Purple-gaped Honeyeater, eluded us. At one point we counted five huge Wedge-tailed Eagles, all low to the ground or standing in paddocks surrounded by sheep and lambs. Suddenly, we had to screech to a halt as a Bobtail Lizard wandered slowly across the road in front of the car. Being such a slow mover gave us the opportunity to examine this prehistoric looking reptile up close. Unfortunately, these large skinks with their pine-cone scales all too often end up as road-kill for ravens and magpies as they warm themselves up on roads.

We finally arrived at the Stirling Range Retreat where our host, Brian, immediately took us to a favourite perch of an Owllet-nightjar. It had already left for the evening so we vowed to return early next morning. News that the café over the road was closed on Tuesdays and the Borden Tavern was not cooking that night meant a quick sortie to the Retreat's shop for a selection of TV dinners and ice-creams for dinner.

Day 4

Wednesday 15th September

Cheynes Beach

At the first opportunity we revisited the perch that Brian had showed us the previous night and sure enough, there was a large pair of eyes staring back at us! The Owllet-nightjar had returned and remained there as we watched, sunning itself at the edge of its hollow. After breakfast we took a walk around the grounds eventually tracking down some Western Yellow Robins and a Little Eagle which sat bolt-upright in the early morning sunshine, high in an old eucalypt.

Heading south again along Chester Pass Road, we entered the Stirling Ranges proper, admiring the majesty of these peaks, not high by world standards but dramatic because of the flatness of the surrounding countryside from which they emerge. At one point we stopped to view a group of emus feeding in a roadside paddock, the Stirlings now darkened by approaching storm clouds providing a stunning backdrop.

By late morning, we had reached the city of Albany, the largest regional city on the south coast. Here we visited Lake Seppings, formerly both a botanic garden and a rubbish dump in its chequered history! A Buff-banded Rail obligingly came out to feed on the edge of the grass and male Musk Ducks displayed, their strange whistles and "pong"s echoing across the open water. Turning eastwards towards Cheynes Beach we encountered a Caspian Tern at the King River estuary and a flock of Straw-necked Ibises busily feeding in a field.

The sun was shining as we came over the last rise and the calm blue waters of the bay at Cheynes Beach suddenly came into view. And to add to this beautiful sight a pod of female Southern Right Whales was close inshore, wallowing in the shallows with their pale calves breaching spectacularly. As we sat transfixed one of the females engaged in a tail-slapping ritual, the thunderous claps clearly audible where we stood above the bay but seemingly out of sync with the massive plumes of spray despatched after each mighty blow. Somewhat delayed after this experience we checked in at the Caravan Park and grabbed some late lunch before setting out to explore the grounds for what remained of the afternoon. Brush Bronzewing, smaller pigeons than their Common cousins were abundant and easily recognised by their chocolate coloured mantles as they foraged on the lawned areas of the park. White-browed Scrubwrens were very tame, sometimes coming too close to even focus the camera on! Then we came across a party of fairywrens and quickly identified them as being the south west endemic Red-winged. The sky-blue head of the male is so distinctive in this, the largest of Australia's fairywrens. But by now it was getting late and time for some dinner – pizza tonight!

Day 5

Thursday 16th September

Cheynes Beach

Despite some heavy overnight rain, conditions seemed fine for a pre-breakfast walk. The Noisy Scrub-bird that we'd heard the day before was calling again from the same patch of bush. This time it sounded like it was on the move so we waited patiently at the end of the famous "crossing" track and sure enough, within just a few minutes, a male raced across in front of us, tailed cocked. Getting just a glimpse of this notorious skulker is considered a triumph and just a glimpse it proved to be as we waited unsuccessfully for a second crossing!

More rain started to sweep in so we went back in for breakfast, delaying our walk out to Back Beach. It was rather windy on the Bald Island track but by this time the showers had abated. We heard both Western Bristlebird and Western Whipbird calling in the distance but none close enough to track down. The Back Beach lookout faces straight out on to the Southern Ocean and we braced ourselves against the full brunt of the wind. It was worth the effort however as the strong winds had brought in several Great-winged Petrels and Australian Gannets along with at least 20 Yellow-nosed Albatrosses. A couple of Sooty Oystercatchers was feeding on the rocks, effortlessly avoiding the roiling surf that crashed around them. Out in the channel, more Southern Right Whales could be seen breaching. We continued on the loop track back towards the caravan park and observed Western Wattlebirds, New Holland Honeyeaters and Western Spinebills probing the Banksia flowers for nectar. Most banksias are yellow flowered but here the hillside is dominated by the bright red of *Banksia coccinea*.

We opted for an early lunch and then drove to nearby Waychinicup Nature Reserve even though it was still rather cold and windy. Over the estuary a Wedge-tailed Eagle soared and a Brown Goshawk flew up in an attempt to drive him off. A couple of Common Sandpipers patrolled the rocky shore line, periodically flitting from one side to the other. As we returned to Cheynes Beach we noted our first Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and heard our first Shining Bronze-cuckoo. Searching around the park for elusive firetails, Sally discovered a pair of Brown Quails which magically appeared from garden beds behind the chalets and then as quickly disappeared, ushering along their brood of six fluffy chicks. As it drew dark at 6pm we went spotlighting along Cheynes Beach Road but the wind and rain soon had us retreating to the comfort of our chalet for dinner and a glass of the local red!

Day 6

Friday 17th September

Cheynes Beach

If there's one thing you can predict at Cheynes Beach it's that the weather will be unpredictable! By morning the sun was shining again and the wind had eased. The Noisy Scrub-bird was calling again from his favourite patch of bush but we went in search of Red-eared Firetails and a Fantailed Cuckoo, both of which were heard calling nearby. Firetails are generally very inquisitive and this pair showed beautifully as we whistled to them. The cuckoo was less obliging but once we tracked him down he sat long enough for us to get good close views and to watch him make his mournful trill. After breakfast we took another track into the heathland, this time further to the south. A Western Bristlebird was singing periodically and we eventually saw the bird, low in a shrub then briefly again as it darted across the sandy track. From here we could also hear another scrub-bird calling and from time to time a distant Whipbird.

A change of scenery now as we decided to head for the "Mallee", drier country dominated by multi-stemmed eucalypts. We bought some take-away lunches at Boxwood Hill then drove to Corackerup Nature Reserve, a large patch of largely uncleared mallee. Within minutes we'd seen several Purple-gaped Honeyeaters, a Southern Scrub-robin and a Shy Heathwren and it looked like there would still be time to get to Bremer Bay for the rest of the afternoon. Bremer Bay is situated at the mouth of the Bremer River near the western edge of the massive Fitzgerald Biosphere. The wind was up again when we arrived but flocks of waders could still be seen feeding on the mudflats. Migratory summer visitors such as Common Greenshanks and Red-necked Stints mingled with the native Red-capped Plovers and Australian Pied Oystercatchers. We had hoped to see the unusual Rock Parrots here, small green parrots never found more than a few hundred metres from the sea, and were about to give up when we heard a plaintive peep over the roaring surf. High above us a couple of small parrots appeared and miraculously dropped down into the dunes next to us and perched on the fence! We watched for several minutes as one foraged on low vegetation while the other kept watch from the wire, swinging precariously in the wind.

Now late in the afternoon it was a long drive back to Cheynes Beach. As we prepared to turn-off the highway on to Cheyne Road the sun had already set so we drove slowly using the car headlights as a spotlight. How different it was from the previous night when it rained! Within only a few metres, an Eastern Barn Owl swooped down on to the road edge then back up on to a post where we could observe it clearly. Minutes later another owl flew down on to the road, this time a Southern Boobook, catching and devouring what was probably a moth. Again we got great views in the headlights from the comfort of the vehicle as the bird went about its activities apparently unconcerned by our presence. As if that wasn't enough, just as we approached the caravan park, a Quenda or Southern Brown Bandicoot rushed across the road in front of the car, giving us brief views of one of Australia's lesser known marsupials. Exhilarated by our great experiences we reminisced over dinner and another glass or two of local red.

Day 7

Saturday 18th September

Pemberton

Our final morning at Cheynes Beach dawned favourably, with the sound of a Western Whipbird calling near where we had first seen the Noisy Scrub-bird. After some patient stalking and scanning through the groves of hakeas, we were lucky enough to spot not one, but two whipbirds singing from perches. Buoyed by our success at having seen all three of the notorious skulkers we returned to our chalets to prepare for our longish drive to Pemberton.

We picked up some lunches from a bakery in Mt Barker then continued our journey westward. High on our wish list today was the geographically limited race of the Western Corella, known locally as Muir's Corella, and found only in the Lake Muir area. It didn't take long to find a few of these raucous cockatoos roosting in eucalypts along a secluded back road. More flew in and the entire flock then descended on a nearby paddock where they proceeded to dig up and eat corms, allowing us excellent views of their large upper mandibles and erect crests. Further along the Muir Highway we stopped at a favourite haunt of Hooded Robins. Appearing on cue, a splendid male flew up on to the power lines and was soon joined by his dowdy mate. Below them, a lone Red-eared Firetail came close to check us out as we stood by the side of the highway.

Before checking into the motel in Pemberton, we paid a visit to the Gloucester Tree, one of three fire lookout trees that are accessible to the public to climb. Around the base of the tree there were plenty of birds that have become relatively tame due to the number of visitors. Western Rosellas, Grey Shrike-thrushes, Red-winged Fairywrens and White-browed Scrubwrens all showed well and an Australian Ringneck even came and perched on my outstretched arm! Now it was time for me to leave Sally and Philip at the motel for the rest of the evening while I stayed with my partner Rose, who lived nearby.

Day 8

Sunday 19th September

Busselton

An early start today as we made our way out of the forest and down the escarpment towards the Margaret River. The birds seemed to be having a leisurely start due probably to the overcast conditions but we did come across a male emu with an unusual 15 chicks in tow! Our plan was to visit Redgate Beach, a known site for Hooded Plover, just south of the township of Margaret River. When we arrived however we were surprised to find the car park full and literally hundreds of people armed with surfboards milling about. Oh no, a junior surf carnival! Undaunted we fought our way down to the beach and after a quick scan with the binoculars were amazed to see a pair of Hooded Plovers by the little creek, just behind the beach itself! They seemed unconcerned and even let us approach reasonably closely.

Next stop was the mouth of the Margaret River, often a good spot for seabirds. Being a weekend it was busy with surfers and beachgoers but on the edge of the dunes we again found a pair of Hooded Plovers this time with three youngsters. Out beyond the breakers we could see a few Australasian Gannets, showing brightly as they turned in the sunlight and dropped like spears into the sea.

Loaded up with take-away lunches from the Margaret River Subway we carried on up the coast to Sugarloaf Rock, previously the most southerly site where Red-tailed Tropicbirds have bred. The tropicbirds haven't been seen for a few years now but the spectacular stack of rock is worth a visit and the lookout is a great place to scope for seabirds and whales etc. As we watched, a pod of dolphins passed gracefully by and further to the south we could also make out some seals (either Australian Sea Lions or NZ Fur Seals) playing in the shallows. Philip spotted a Humpback Whale way out in the distance but it failed to reappear for the scope. An Eastern Reef Egret flew over the rocks below us and vanished then and as we drove back out, a Square-tailed Kite soared into view, and stayed long enough for us to watch as it swept back and forth over the coastal scrubland searching for nests to raid.

We checked into the resort then made our way out to the Ramsar-listed Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands, famous for the huge numbers of waterbirds that feed and breed there.

Immediately we arrived we spotted an Eastern Osprey and a pair of Whistling Kites high above. In a patch of flooded Tea-trees, a massed colony of mainly Straw-necked Ibises was quite a sight, each bird precariously perched on its own branch and eternally squabbling with its neighbours. Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants tried to compete for space and below them hundreds of ducks swam about, trawling and diving for food. They were mainly Grey Teal and Pacific Black Duck but also present were many Pink-eared Ducks, their weirdly shaped bills and zebra stripes making them stand out from the crowd.

The Malbrup Creek bird hide was comparatively devoid of birds but as we departed a White-bellied Sea Eagle explained why, as it patrolled menacingly along the waterways before being seen off by several Whistling Kites. A quick tour of some other parts of these massive wetlands then it was time for us to return to Busselton for a sumptuous dinner at our resort!

Day 9

Monday 20th September

Back to Perth

With the restaurant not open until 8am for breakfast we opted for an early walk along the riverbank at the start of our final day. Dozens of Australian Wood (Maned) Ducks were foraging over the lawned areas with their recently hatched broods. One pair had an amazing number of young, (20 was the number that we eventually agreed on!) and were particularly aggressive towards any other ducks that came too close. Blue-billed Ducks idled in the slow moving river and tucked away in the eucalypts along the river's edge we found a couple of Nankeen Night Herons getting ready to settle into their daytime roost.

After breakfast and repacking the car we began our drive back towards Perth. We detoured to Lake McLarty where the water level was well up and hundreds of Black Swans and various ducks were feeding. With no muddy edges present for waders we tried further around the Peel Inlet at South Yunderup where we found our first Red-necked Avocets, Bar-tailed Godwits and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. There were also some Grey Plovers that appeared to have only recently arrived after their trans-equatorial migration, some still showing extensive amounts of black on their bellies.

Last stop for the trip was at Alfred Cove in Perth. The resident pair of Eastern Ospreys was present, having recently bred there and through the telescope we could see an impressive line of cormorants roosting on a sand spit. In fact we identified all four of the possible species there, Great, Pied, Little Pied and Little Black! On the waters edge, a group of Australian Pelicans sat in formation like a guard of honour, a fitting end to a wonderful tour of this lesser known corner of Australia.

Regretfully it was time to part and so after we'd made a final check of the list, I dropped Philip and Sally back at their hotel where they were to stay overnight before flying east to continue their Australian holiday.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded; h = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
1	Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
2	Stubble Quail	<i>Coturnix pectoralis</i>			H							
3	Brown Quail	<i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>					✓					
4	Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>				✓				✓	✓	
5	Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Australian Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Australian Wood Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Pink-eared Duck	<i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>			✓					✓		
9	Australasian Shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchos</i>	✓		✓					✓	✓	
10	Grey Teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	
11	Chestnut Teal	<i>Anas castanea</i>			✓							
12	Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
13	Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>	✓							✓		
14	Blue-billed Duck	<i>Oxyura australis</i>	✓			✓					✓	
15	Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>	✓			✓			✓	✓		
16	Hoary-headed Grebe	<i>Poliiocephalus poliocephalus</i>	✓			✓				✓		
17	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓			✓					✓	
18	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓			✓				✓	✓	
19	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	✓		✓					✓	✓	
20	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓								✓	
21	Common Bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Brush Bronzewing	<i>Phaps elegans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
23	Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
24	Australian Owllet-nightjar	<i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>				✓						
25	Yellow-nosed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>				✓	✓					
26	Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>					✓					
27	Australasian Gannet	<i>Morus serrator</i>					✓			✓		
28	Australasian Darter	<i>Anhinga novaehollandiae</i>	✓								✓	
29	Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓			✓		✓		✓	✓	
31	Little Black Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	✓			✓				✓	✓	
32	Pied Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	✓							✓	✓	
33	Australian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>	✓			✓		✓		✓	✓	
34	Eastern Great Egret	<i>Ardea modesta</i>	✓							✓	✓	
35	White-faced Heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
36	Eastern Reef Egret	<i>Egretta sacra</i>								✓		
37	Nankeen Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>									✓	
38	Australian White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>	✓			✓				✓	✓	
39	Straw-necked Ibis	<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>	✓			✓				✓	✓	
40	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	<i>Platalea flavipes</i>	✓					✓		✓		
41	Eastern Osprey	<i>Pandion cristatus</i>								✓	✓	
42	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>			✓	✓		✓			✓	
43	Square-tailed Kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>								✓		
44	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>								✓		
45	Whistling Kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>								✓	✓	
46	Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>		✓			✓					
47	Swamp Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>	✓			✓				✓		

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			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
48	Wedge-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila audax</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
49	Little Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>				✓					
50	Nankeen Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Australian Hobby	<i>Falco longipennis</i>		✓		✓					
52	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	✓			✓				✓	✓
53	Buff-banded Rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>				✓					
54	Australian Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana fluminea</i>			✓						
55	Dusky Moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>	✓								✓
56	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
57	Bush Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>		✓							
58	Australian Pied Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>	✓			✓		✓			✓
59	Sooty Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>					✓		✓		
60	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓			✓		✓	✓
61	Red-necked Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra novaehollandiae</i>									✓
62	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	✓								✓
63	Red-capped Plover	<i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>						✓			
64	Black-fronted Dotterel	<i>Euseyornis melanops</i>			✓						
65	Hooded Plover	<i>Thinornis rubricollis</i>								✓	
66	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>									✓
67	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					✓				
68	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>						✓		✓	✓
69	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			✓						
70	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	✓								
71	Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>						✓			
72	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>									✓
73	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>				✓	✓				✓
74	Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Pacific Gull	<i>Larus pacificus</i>				✓	✓	✓			
76	Silver Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii</i>	✓						✓		
78	Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓
79	Baudin's Black-Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus baudinii</i>		✓							
80	Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Long-billed Corella	<i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i>	✓								✓
82	Western Corella	<i>Cacatua pastinator</i>							✓		
83	Little Corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>	✓							✓	
84	Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	✓								✓
85	Purple-crowned Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta porphyrocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓					
86	Regent Parrot	<i>Polytelis anthopeplus</i>			✓	✓					
87	Western Rosella	<i>Platycercus icterotis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
88	Australian Ringneck	<i>Barnardius zonarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Red-capped Parrot	<i>Purpureicephalus spurius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
90	Elegant Parrot	<i>Neophema elegans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					
91	Rock Parrot	<i>Neophema petrophila</i>						✓			
92	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chalcites lucidus</i>			H	H	H	H	H	H	
93	Pallid Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis pallidus</i>		H							
94	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>			H		✓	✓			
95	Southern Boobook	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>						✓			
96	Eastern Barn Owl	<i>Tyto javanica</i>						✓			
97	* Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Noisy Scrub-bird	<i>Atrichornis clamosus</i>				H	✓	H	H		

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99	Rufous Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris rufa</i>		✓										
100	Splendid Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus splendens</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
101	Blue-breasted Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus pulcherrimus</i>		✓										
102	Red-winged Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus elegans</i>				✓					✓			
103	Southern Emu-wren	<i>Stipiturus malachurus</i>				H			H	H				
104	Western Bristlebird	<i>Dasyornis longirostris</i>				H	H	✓	H					
105	White-browed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis frontalis</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓			
106	Shy Heathwren	<i>Hylacola cauta</i>							✓					
107	Weebill	<i>Smicromnis brevirostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			H			H		
108	Western Gerygone	<i>Gerygone fusca</i>	✓	✓	✓	H						H	H	
109	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	✓		✓	✓								✓
110	Western Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza inornata</i>	✓	✓										
111	Inland Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza apicalis</i>	✓	✓	✓									
112	Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>								H				
113	Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	H						✓	✓	
114	Western Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus superciliosus</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓				
115	Singing Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>	✓		✓									✓
116	Purple-gaped Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus cratitius</i>							✓					
117	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus ornatus</i>		✓	✓	✓								
118	Yellow-throated Miner	<i>Manorina flavigula</i>			✓									
119	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>			H									
120	Western Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera lunulata</i>			✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓				
121	Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
122	White-fronted Chat	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>			✓									✓
123	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	<i>Glyciphila melanops</i>		✓	✓									
124	Brown Honeyeater	<i>Lichmera indistincta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓
125	New Holland Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
126	White-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris niger</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
127	Brown-headed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>		✓	✓									
128	Western White-naped Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus lunatus chloropsis</i>	✓	✓							H			
129	White-browed Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i>			✓									
130	Western Whipbird	<i>Psophodes nigrogularis</i>						H	H	✓				
131	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓				✓
132	Crested Shrike-tit	<i>Falcunculus frontatus</i>		✓										
133	Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>	✓	✓		✓			H					
134	Rufous Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>	✓		✓									
135	Grey Shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓				
136	Black-faced Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cinereus</i>		✓	✓	✓								✓
137	Dusky Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>		✓					✓	✓				
138	Grey Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
139	Australian Magpie	<i>Cracticus tibicen</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
140	Grey Currawong	<i>Strepera versicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
141	Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
142	Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
143	Australian Raven	<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Restless Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra inquieta</i>		✓	✓	✓								
145	Magpie-lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
146	Scarlet Robin	<i>Petroica boodang</i>	✓								✓			
147	Red-capped Robin	<i>Petroica goodenovii</i>			✓									
148	Hooded Robin	<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>								✓				
149	Western Yellow Robin	<i>Eopsaltria griseogularis</i>				✓								

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150	White-breasted Robin	<i>Eopsaltria georgiana</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
151	Southern Scrub-robin	<i>Drymodes brunneopygia</i>						✓			
152	Australian Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus australis</i>	✓			H					
153	Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
154	Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
155	Tree Martin	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
156	Mistletoebird	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>			✓						
157	Red-eared Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura oculata</i>						✓	✓		
158	Australasian Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓

Mammals

1	Short-beaked Echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>		✓							
2	Southern Brown Bandicoot	<i>Isodon obesulus</i>						✓			
3	Western Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	European Rabbit §	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> §			✓			✓			
5	New Zealand Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus forsteri</i>									?
6	Australian Sea-lion	<i>Neophoca cinerea</i>									?
7	Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>									?
8	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>									?
9	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>									✓
10	Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>				✓	✓	✓			

Reptiles

1	Bobtail Skink	<i>Tiliqua rugosa</i>			✓						
2	Quacking (Red-thighed) Frog	<i>Crinia georgiana</i>					✓				

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.

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Emus at the Stirling Ranges



Southern Right Whale calf breaching at Cheynes Beach