



*This gorgeous Western Yellow Robin serenaded us in the Stirling Ranges (Simon Mitchell).*

# **WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCLUDING CHRISTMAS ISLAND**

**17 SEPTEMBER - 7 OCTOBER 2015**

**LEADERS: SIMON MITCHELL**



*These fantastic Gouldian Finches were one of the highlights of the trip! (Simon Mitchell).*

Once you've visited Australia it becomes a mystery as to why the region does not appear at the very top of many 'most-wanted' birding destinations for more birders. Perhaps, since there is little crossover with Palearctic and Nearctic species it's avifauna remains 'off the radar' of many European and American birders. However, for the sheer variety of habitats, climates, genera and different types of birding the Western Australian trip matches anything in even the most diverse parts of South America, Africa and Asia have to offer. This year's tour again exemplified that, as we found ourselves birding seashores, dry forests, monsoon forests, desert out-back and warm tropical islands, all within the space of 3 weeks!

Commencing in Perth, we spent a couple of days birding the *dryandra* forests and rocky coasts close to the city, before moving on to the hot, humid, and seabird-filled Christmas Island. We then returned to Perth and the relief of temperatures in the low twenties of Celsius as we explored expansive heathlands and forests alive with spring birdsong. From here we headed north to the blistering heat of and desert-like outback around Kununurra, Mitchell Plateau and Broome, where day time temperatures reached as high as 43°C!

Yet again, just about every major target species was seen, and nearly all of them were seen very well. From the Abbot's Boobies and Christmas Boobooks of Christmas Island, to the clean sweep of southwest endemics (which included great views of the notorious trio of Noisy Scrubbird, Western Whipbird and Western Bristlebird), to the northwest, where goodies such as Yellow Chat, Gouldian Finch and Black Grasswren all obliged, we enjoyed success after success. We also marveled at some stunning landscapes, saw some other fascinating mammals and reptiles and enjoyed (!) some good Aussie hospitality (especially the chats about the cricket).



*Restaurant-side Red-tailed Tropicbirds were part of the amazing Christmas Island scenery (Simon Mitchell).*

After assembling at our accommodation at a reasonable 8am (many of the group having only arrived the previous day), we headed north to Lancelin, where our first target species awaited. Upon arrival it took only a short walk before we spotted our quarry on telegraph wires – a cute little Rock Parrot. This sleek emerald-green parrot is a declining species, now mostly limited to offshore islands. At Lancelin the birds nest on an offshore islet, but feed on the grass verges of the village. Eager for more views, and photographic opportunities we scoured the estates, but we rewarded with only one more brief view. We also encountered many of the common species of Western Australia. Numerous Singing Honeyeaters and Red Wattlebirds flicked around the gardens and a single White-cheeked Honeyeater showed well. Offshore our first Caspian, Gull-billed and Greater Crested Terns flew past as well as a several distant Brown Noddys and a surprise in the form of a single Kelp Gull. A pair of White-browed Scrubwrens showed well, but a Southern Emu-wren was uncooperative.

After a good lunch we began our journey south towards Narrogin, making frequent stops on the way south. North of Perth a trio of Emu and a pair of Black-faced Woodswallows and moving south we added Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Rainbow Lorikeets, Long-billed Corella. South of Perth more stops included our first Splendid Fairy-wren, which impressed us all with its outrageous electric blue. Also seen were Western Gerygone, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo, Grey Teal, Common Bronzewing, Crested Pigeon, and best of all a chunky Western Corella (of the race butleri). The absence of any Black Cockatoos made us a little nervous, but we hoped to find them the following day.

We made a very early start for some pre-dawn at Dryandras forest night birding the following morning. This paid off with excellent views of Bush Thick-knee in the early dawn light. As the first sunlight hit the trees we began encountering a number of common species. Ring-necked Parrots were seemingly everywhere, as were Weebills, Singing and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters. A pair of flighty Western Rosellas eventually showed well, but a pair of Western Thornbills were immediately co-operative. More goodies included our first Blue-breasted Fairy-wrens (which performed wonderfully), multiple Rufous Treecreepers, Grey Shrikethrush, Inland Thornbill, Scarlet and Red-capped Robins, Brown Honeyeater, White-naped (Swan River) Honeyeater and a single feeding flock of over 25 Elegant Parrots.



*Brightly coloured Eastern Rosellas performed well in the early morning light at the Dryandra Forest (Simon Mitchell).*

After a packed breakfast we headed back to town for a late lunch feeling satisfied by the variety of species we'd seen. Our only slight worry was the complete absence of Black Cockatoos. As the weather was fairly hot we decided by heading back towards a site nearer to Perth could maximise the productive part of the day for birding. This turned out to be an excellent move as a productive afternoon produced our first Red-winged Fairy-wrens as well as several more showy Splendid Fairy-wrens. We also added Rufous Whistler, Australian Little Grebe and Pacific Black Duck and a number of showy Red-tailed Black Cockatoos. It seemed the regionally endemic Short-billed and Black-bill had eluded us, at least for the day, with only two flyover 'other Black-Cockatoo sp., having been seen. With the remaining light we hoped we might find a group as we headed along the exit road. Amazingly we were in luck. Firstly we found more incredibly showy Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos drinking from a roadside puddle. Immediately after this we spotted 5 Long-billed Black-Cockatoos a low, fruiting eucalypt. Amazingly the flock also included a single pair of Short-billed right alongside them for comparison! A fitting end to an excellent day.



*Some spectacular dusk scenes made the South-west even more enjoyable (Simon Mitchell).*

The day we planned our schedule around our midday departure to Christmas Island. We visited a variety of water bodies around Perth. These yielded a good selection of duck and other waterbirds. Australian Shoveler, Australian Shelduck, Grey Teal, Hardhead, Blue-billed Duck, Musk Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Maned Duck, Hoary-headed Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Eurasian Coot, Dusky Moorhen, Black Swan, Australian Swamphen were all new birds. We also gained improved views of some of the commoner Perth residents including Australian Raven, Rainbow Lorikeet, Long-billed and Little Corellas, Australian Reed Warbler, New Holland Honeyeater. Checking one final pool before making our way towards the airport we found White-headed Stilt, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, White-faced Heron, Little Egret and Great Egret.



*Australian Swamphens were exceptionally confiding around Perth (Simon Mitchell).*

Our trip to Christmas Island included a quick stop on the Cocos Islands (a destination never before visited by a Birdquest group), which unfortunately meant no extra birds, but an extended flight time meaning we reached Christmas Island itself a little too tired and hungry to think about owling.

The next morning we were ready to head out shortly after first light. From the veranda of our accommodation the first of the island's wonderful myriad of seabirds greeted us. Red-footed and Brown Boobies steam purposefully passed, whilst Great, Christmas Island and a few Lesser Frigatebirds lurked just offshore waiting to maraud unsuspecting birds bringing food back for their young. Best of all were the 'Golden Bosunbirds' – the golden race of White-tailed Tropicbird and 'Silver Bosunbirds' the resident Red-tailed Tropicbirds. The former whipped across above us with great agility, commuting between the sea and the cliffs behind our hotel, whilst the latter flapped and cackled closer to the waves, occasionally breaking into bouts of

Behind our hotel we spotted our first island endemic – a confiding Christmas Island Thrush, together we an equally bold Emerald Dove. Heading out from Settlement (the only significant settlement on the island), we gained good views of Christmas Island Pigeons perched atop some dead trees. These impressive, all-dark, hulking pigeons were a prominent feature throughout our stay. During our roadside stop our first flock of Christmas Island White-eyes flitted through just feet away in the scrub.



*Christmas Island Thrush (top), Christmas Island Goshawk (bottom left) and Christmas Island White-eye (bottom right) (Simon Mitchell).*

Next up we headed out to an area of the best remaining old-growth forest on the island. Here we found a small loose colony of Abbott's Boobies making low passes along the road and landing in the trees to collect nesting materials and gradually add to their shabby nests. These bizarre birds, in their own genus -



*The bizarre Abbot's Booby is in its own genus *Papasula*. An almost albatross-like wing-structure means landing in trees can be rather tricky! (Simon Mitchell).*

Papasula, have to be seen to be believed. Their extremely long, stiff wings gave us the impression of half-gannets, half-albatrosses clumsily landing on precarious branches.

After a late breakfast we slowed our pace a little as the day warmed up. We dedicated more time to enjoying the species we'd already seen and encountered some ridiculously confident Christmas Island Thrushes and White-eyes. We also pottered around the edges of town in the hope of encountering a Goshawk in the same spot as the previous tour – alas it wasn't to be. After a good lunch, we spent some more time enjoying seabirds, before heading off to our evening stakeout.



*The endemic Christmas Island Boobook was so impressive we went back for second helpings (Simon Mitchell).*

During our evening walk on the West side of the island didn't take long until one of remaining targets silently glided onto a branch just a few feet ahead of us – a Christmas Island Goshawk. After enjoying walk away views of the bird in the gradually fading light we waited for darkness proper, and our final target species. Our first Christmas Island Hawk-Owl flew in at dusk before we had even tried playing its call. Unfortunately it seemed to an un-cooperative female as it disappeared quickly and refused to give more than a few shrill calls to our attempts to lure it back. Not to be perturbed we attempted to track down a bird we'd heard giving a distant advertising call. For another hour we played cat and mouse with this bird, which remained elusive and called only very occasionally. Eventually (a battered telescope later), the bird propped itself in a tree high above the track. Here it showed well for a few minutes leaving us all feeling we'd seen the species more than adequately.

Having seen all the islands endemic species the following two days were a more sedate affair. We made the best of the early morning light, photographing seabirds and decided to attempt the Boobook at a site closer to town where we gained even better views than the previous views. A few bits and pieces were tracked down and provided some interest bird-wise Pacific Reef Egret, Intermediate Egret, Whimbrel, Common Sandpiper, Oriental Pratincole, Grey Wagtail, Barn Swallow, Asian House Martin all added interest and other wildlife impressed, particular the endemic Christmas Island Flying-Foxes, Robber Crabs and Christmas Island Red Crabs. On our final day there was even time for some of the group to visit the geyser-like Blowholes on the North of the island, whilst others opted to spend the morning snorkeling, making for no doubt the most fish species ever recorded on a Birdquest trip!

After a very late arrival back in Perth we began our journey South rather late the following day. Making our way along the Northern fringe of the Stirling Ranges we encountered our first White-fronted Chats flicking around in an area of dry saltbush. Continuing on we made a stop at a nearby lake where a pair of smart Hooded Plovers, (an increasingly difficult and scarce bird in Australia), were in residence. Further excitement was added by a showy Australian Hobby, which gave excellent views perched out on a dead tree.



*Hooded Dotterel and Australian Hobby (Simon Mitchell).*

Arriving at our accommodation shortly before dark we were greeted by a plethora of new birds in every direction. Purple-crowned Lorikeets zipped around in the canopy before a few birds showed well as they clambered around flowering gum trees in search of nectar. A nesting Restless Flycatcher was extremely confiding and best of all a pair of Western Shrike-Tits performed well just above our heads!

The next morning a dawn start at Mount Trio produced an excellent range of Western heathland species. Rufous Whistler and a couple of Golden Whistlers (now split by the IOC as Western Golden Whistler) gave good views, but a stunning pair of Western Spinebills quickly took our attention. We were all very taken by these technicolor honeyeaters, which looked more like they belonged in a Salvador Dali painting than on the pages of the Pizzey & King field guide!

A little further down the track we heard the bell-like notes of a Western Whipbird. As always this species proved challenging to see – perching up (though seldom in view) to sing for thirty seconds at a time before falling silent for minutes and moving position completely. Eventually we were quick enough to be able to scope up one bird during a bout of song, allowing whole group to gain good views of this the ‘oberon’ sub-species, sometimes referred to a Mallee Whipbird – a likely future split. Another bonus came in the form of our first Southern Emu-wrens which showed their powder-blue throats as they popped in and out of the low shrubs.

Heading back for breakfast near our accommodation we picked up a number of new species in the dryandras woodlands nearby. Our first Red-capped Parrots showed well eventually and we soon encountered Inland, Western and Yellow-rumped Thornbills. We also spent a good amount of time with a beautiful and showy Western Yellow Robin, which gave an excellent performance. The afternoon saw us spend more time searching for Fieldwrens, which although not forthcoming, did result in gaining excellent views of more Western Spinebills, Red-capped Robins, Blue-breasted Fairywrens, Rufous Treecreepers, Swan River Honeyeaters and our first Brown-headed Honeyeaters. The outstanding highlight of the day for many of us however, came after dinner, when an excellent spotlighting session produced arms-length views of Australian Outlet-Nightjar.



*Cute Australian Owlet-Nightjars showed right down to arms length! (Simon Mitchell).*

The next day we made our from the dry woodlands surround the Stirling Ranges we made our way across green rolling farmlands dotted with Emus and Australian Ibis, to the more verdant expansive heathlands of the South-west coast around Cheyne's Beach. Our first port of call here was a ocean-side road through a dense thicket. Waiting patiently we were entertained by our first Western Wattlebirds and a showy White-breasted Robin before are main target bird sprinted across the track – a Noisy Scrub-bird. Brief as our initial view was it didn't take two long until the bird made two more crossings, at one point pausing for a few seconds on the fringe of the path. Having got our first target so quickly we headed out onto the heaths where an hour or so walk eventually produced good views of Western Bristlebird for everyone! As morning turned to afternoon we gained more views of Southern Emu-wrens and a brief encounter with a smart Red-eared Firetail.

After lunch we sheltered from the heat of the day in the caravan park. Both Common and Brush Bronzewing gave us good view here. Another short walk out onto the heaths produced excellent views of yet more Emu-wrens but also a fantastic view of a Western Whipbird – this time of the nominate nigrogularis race. Along the beach front we also managed to locate another slightly showier Red-eared Firetail, allowing good views at close quarters.



*Spectacularly coloured birds of the South-west heathlands included Western Spinebill and Southern Emu-wren (Simon Mitchell).*

Having picked up most of the range-restricted South-western endemics we spent the following day between Two People's Bay and Cheyne's Beach. At the former we gained incredible views of Rock Parrots – much improving on what we'd managed at Lancelin, as well as a pair of smart Sooty Oystercatchers and a party of spectacular Red-winged Fairy-wrens. The latter produced more Western Whipbirds and Western Bristlebirds a few commoner species.

With a brisk onshore wind overnight we took the opportunity to do a little seawatching off the gap at Albany the following day. This proved very productive. As well as several hundred Flesh-footed Shearwaters we picked up at least 7 Indian Yellow-nosed Albatrosses, including a couple of birds which alighted nearby on the sea. Added to this were two or more close Black-browed Albatrosses and a few slightly more distant Shy Albatrosses.



*A land-based sea watch near Albany produced some surprisingly close Albatrosses (Indian Yellow-nosed - left, juv. Black-browed right) (Simon Mitchell).*

After a sedate brunch we made our way to the next accommodation in Pemberton. Our key stop here was along the Muir Highway, where we found a good number of 'Muir's Cockatoos' – the 'pastinator' race of Western Corella, which may be better treated as a separate species. In this area we also found good concentrations of waterbirds and a more co-operative Western Golden Whistler. That evening we headed out for a little post-dinner owling in the Karri Forest. Although we couldn't locate any Southern Boobooks (although one was heard distantly) we gained several absolutely stunning views of Tawny Frogmouths, including a family group sat on roadside fenceposts, which showed down to arm's length!



*Tawny Frogmouths were common and confiding in the Karri Forest. (Simon Mitchell).*

The next morning we returned to the Karri Forest where a good selection of commoner birds showed well. The cool morning air and shafts of sunlight through the impressively tall gum trees where hundreds of Purple-crowned Lorikeets were zipping around. A group of Blue-breasted Fairy-wrens performed beautifully and a few showy we bills were also appreciated. A Mistletoe bird which came in close was the first one many of the group had been able to properly connect with.

From Pemberton we made our way to Lake McLarty where we hoped to find Regent Parrots – one of the few species, which had so far eluded us. A good selection of parrots in the area included Little Corellas, Galahs, Red-capped Parrots and eventually great views of Regent Parrot. Continuing towards Perth we called in at another small suburban lake closer to the city where a wonderful variety of water birds were present. As well as a good mix of commoner ducks we also found our first Pink-eared Ducks, a few Australian Shoveler and a single Royal Spoonbill though. A brief Brown Snake was added interest, but the undoubted highlights were our first Little Grassbird and, best of all, a pair of Spotless Crakes, which gave good views on a small reed-fringed pool.



*McLarty Lake was our last-ditch success with Regent Parrot, whilst Spotless Crake at Lake Bibra was an excellent bonus.  
(Simon Mitchell).*

The following morning we spent a little more time exploring the area around Herdsman's Lake prior to our late-morning flight to Kunnanura. Although we didn't find the hoped for Freckled Duck there were still plenty of close encounters with commoner species and plenty of excellent photographic opportunities to keep us all well entertained.

After a long flight to Kunannura we settled into our accommodation. Along the side of the lake we found a good variety of new species. Raja Shelduck and Glossy Ibis showed close by in the late evening sun, whilst a number of Comb-crested Jacanas trotted across the lilies. Best of all however was a roosting juvenile and adult Barking Owl. This parent and offspring sat out in full view and even gave us a bout of their bizarrely dog-like hooting.

The next morning we headed out on the Gibb River Road before dawn. Our first significant stop was at the Pentecost River where we stopped off for a wonderful packed breakfast. As we did we picked up an brilliant array of outback species both coming down to drink and feeding around the more lush vegetation associated with the river. Good numbers of finches included Crimson Finch, Star Finch, Masked Finch, Long-tailed Finch, Double-banded Finch and Zebra Finch, whilst a good number of new Honeyeater species included Rufous-throated, White-gaped, Yellow-tinted, Banded and White-throated as well as Northern races of previously encountered species such as Singing and Brown. Additionally a few Little Friarbirds showed well and a Black-breasted Buzzard quartered over the road. A few waterbirds included Red-necked Stint, Caspian and Gull-billed Terns, but the show-stopper were a pair of Australian Bustards that came down to drink right on the middle of the road ford.

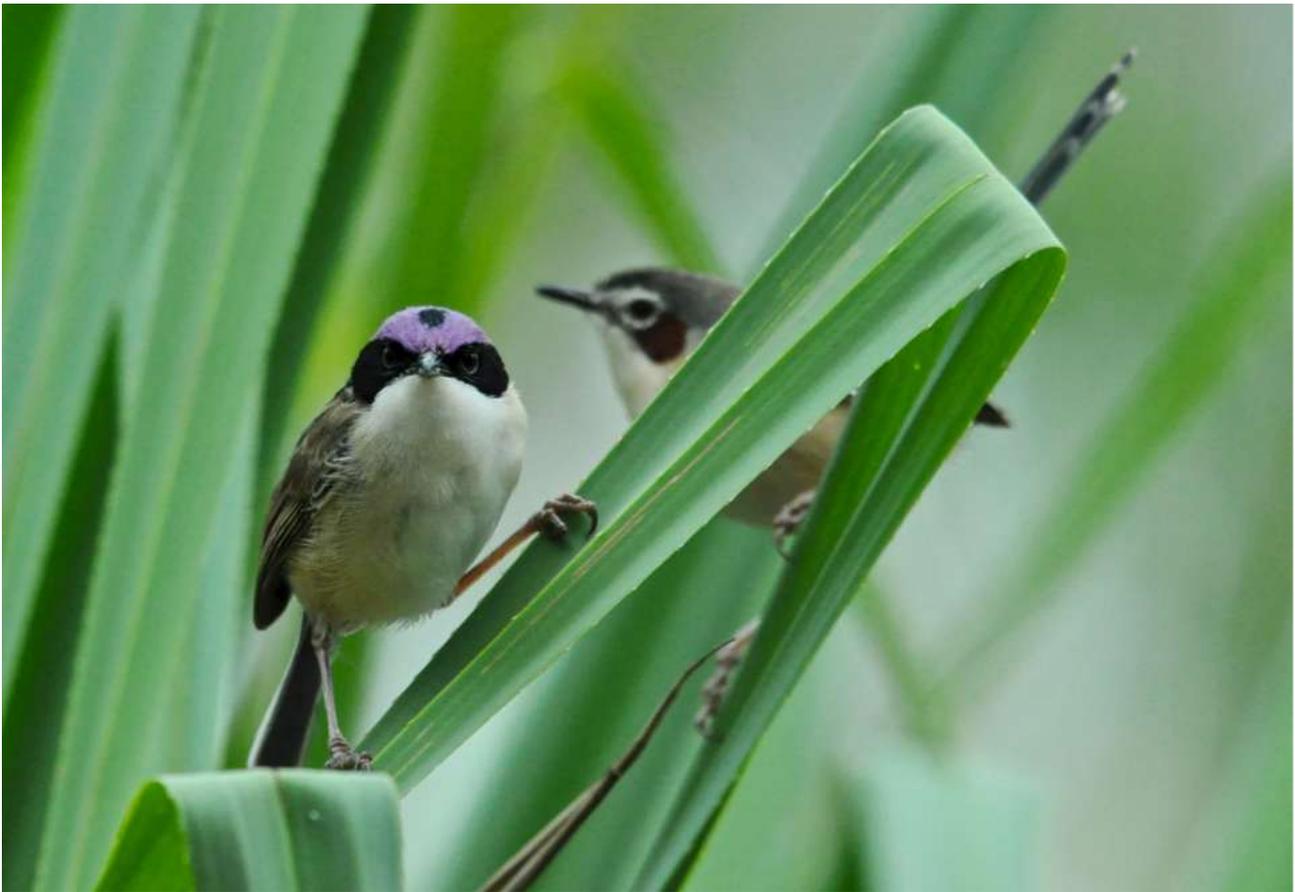


*This juvenile Barking Owl eyed us up in the evening light (Simon Mitchell).*

After a long drive to our accommodation at Gibb River station we headed down to the river itself. Here we encountered a few more new species including our first Blue-faced Honeyeaters. In the evening light we also gained our first performance of several from a confiding group of Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens.

An extremely early departure at 2am the next morning saw us arrive at the Mitchell Plateau campground four hours later. After a brief search for Partridge Pigeons around the campground we headed along a short trail through the boulder-strewn grasslands. It didn't take too long before we heard our key target – Black Grasswren. Although at times frustrating the next few hours saw most of us gain good views of this difficult to find mega. A pair of quietly feeding Northern Rosellas were a bonus.

Despite the increasing heat (and navigation problems for some!) a post-breakfast walk along the dried river towards Mitchell falls was very productive. Here we gained excellent views of a nesting pair of Silver-backed Butcherbirds and at least 10(!) White-quilled Rock-doves. The most persistent among us were even able to attract in a Kimberley Honeyeater, which though somewhat elusive, eventually gave reasonable views. With all our targets seen and the soaring temperatures we made our way back towards Gibb River Station where, after a long return drive we settled down for a well-earned rest. An nocturnal spotlight trip onto the airfield gave us views of a somewhat flighty Oriental Plover.



*Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens gave stunning views at Drysdale River (Simon Mitchell).*

We were out early again the following morning in an attempt gain even closer encounters with Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens. This was achieved fairly easy and we also enjoyed excellent views of two good bonus birds in the forms of Black Bittern Little Bronze Cuckoo and White-throated Gerygone. Heading back towards Kunnunura we picked up a nice selection of bird including a few Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Spinifex Pigeons, Spotted Nightjar and best of all a flock of Pictorella Manikins.

Another early start was in store for us the following day as we headed to Lake Argyle. As we headed out on to the lake shortly after dawn a spectacular variety an number of waterbirds greeted us. We spent a very enjoyable morning cruising around the lake enjoying the many spectacles on offer. The numbers of birds were quite incredible with literally thousands of ducks including spectacular groups of Hardhead. As we cruised around, we gradually added new species including Wandering and Plumed Whistling-Ducks, Pallid Cuckoo, several White-browed and a skulky Baillon's Crake. Smart Pied and White-necked Herons stood sentry to gaggles of Magpie Geese. A few Brolga patrolled the shorelines of steeper islands and a stately Black-necked Stork was spotted doing the same.

Landing on a shallow island we encountered incredible numbers of shorebirds including multiple Masked Lapwing, Pacific Golden Plover, over 50 Red-capped Plover, a staggering 200 Oriental Plover, Black-fronted Dotterel, Comb-crested Jacana, 10 Little Whimbrel, Marsh Sandpiper, Greenshank, about 75 Wood Sandpiper, over 100 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Long-toed Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Australian Pratincole – as diverse a set of freshwater waders as any of us could ever remember seeing.

As well as the water birds the other exceptional highlight of the island was the sheer number of Yellow Chats. At least 50 birds were seen, including a good number of neon-yellow males. A few other passerines added further interest, including good numbers of Golden-headed Cisticolas and a single Tawny Grassbird.

Heading back to land we called at some steeper rocky islands where a pair of Sandstone Shrike-thrushes performed very well and a number of super-cute Short-eared Rock Wallabies came within a few meters of the boats. Having rounded off a fantastic morning we headed back towards Kunnnunura.



*Our modes of transport ranges included planes, boats and very dusty automobiles! (Simon Mitchell).*

An afternoon run out to some of the Golf Course lagoons and agricultural plains around town was highly productive. A few Yellow-rumped and Chestnut-breasted Mannikins were found amongst the flocks of Crimson Finch whilst Red-tailed and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos squawked noisily overhead and Azure Kingfisher and Pheasant Coucal also held our collective attention, giving much improved views compared to our previous encounters.



*Rainbow Bee-eater, a pair of Crimson Finches and a Yellow-rumped Mannikin share a single stem near Kunnnunura (Simon Mitchell).*

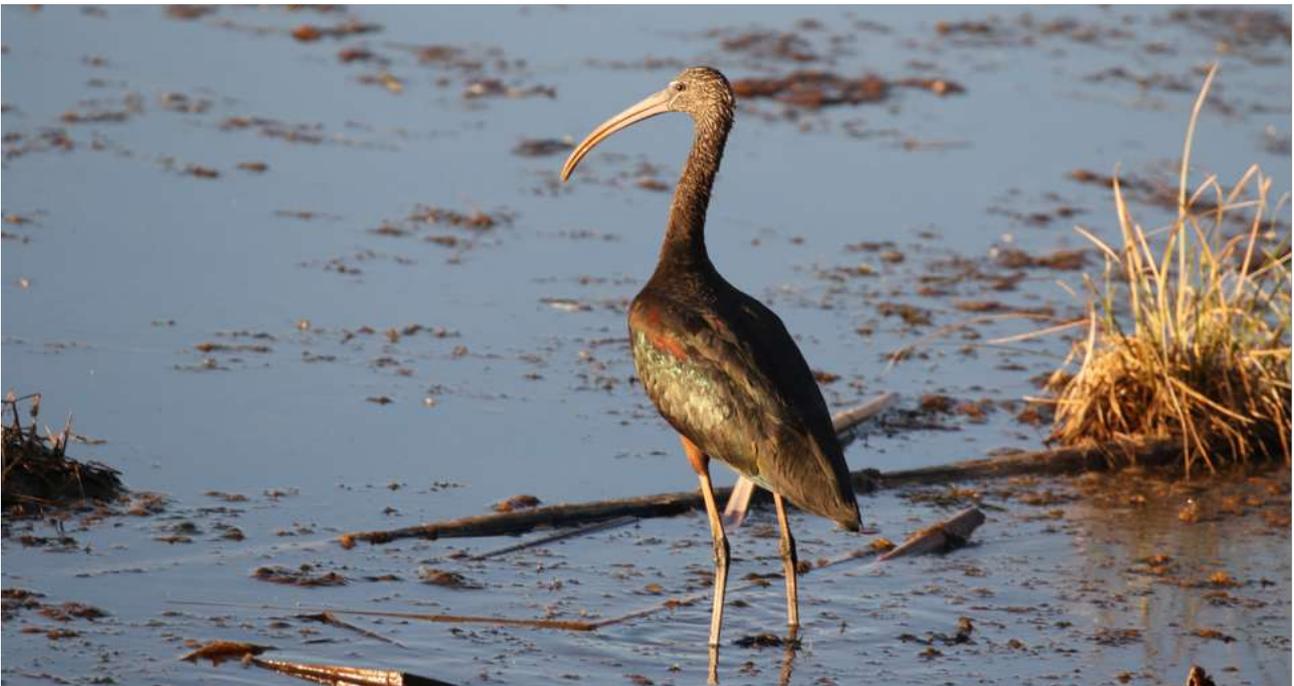
With one key target bird remaining in the Kunnnunura area, we altered our planned itinerary a little to guarantee success heading to Parry Creek Farm early the next morning. After our arrival it wasn't long before a number of finches began visiting the various sprinkler systems. We quickly realised that the majority

of these were 70 or more Gouldian Finches! We were treated to a spectacular display of these birds drinking and splashing around close to us, which included a good number of black-headed adult males, and even a few red-headed birds!



*Side-by-side views of the two male morphs of Gouldian Finch were spectacular (Simon Mitchell).*

Some exploration along the nearby creek was also highly productive. A pair of Buff-sided Robins soon came to investigate us after a brief bout of their song was played giving fantastic views for all. Less expected were a single Shining Flycatcher and Lemon-bellied Flycatcher. Good views of Red-backed Fairy-wrens and Brush Wallabies entertained us further before we headed Marglu Billabong. A sedate breakfast at the here gave us great views of Brolgas, Black-necked Storks, Black-fronted Dotterels, Golden-headed Cisticolas. A brief Eastern Yellow Wagtail was the only one of the trip.



*Glossy Ibis just outside our accommodation at Kununnura (Simon Mitchell).*

After stopping quickly at our hotel we headed directly for the high tide along the mudflats at Broome Observatory. Shorebirds were the major highlights here, with incredible totals amounting to over 50,000 birds of 21 species. The breakdown of these were 10+ Grey Plover, 80+ Red-capped Plover, 80+ Mongolian (Lesser) Sand Plover, 250+ Greater Sand Plover, 40 Black-tailed Godwit, 15,000+ Bar-tailed Godwit, 50+ Little Curlew (mostly at the airport), 40+ Eurasian Whimbrel, c20 Eastern Curlew, 30+ Marsh Sandpiper, 30 Common Greenshank, 100+ Grey-tailed Tattler, 400+ Terek Sandpiper, 50+ Ruddy Turnstone, over 30,000

Great Knot, a few Red Knot, 1000+ Red-necked Stint, c50 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 600+ Curlew Sandpiper and best of all c10 Broad-billed Sandpiper and 3 separate Asiatic Dowitchers! There was of course some additional interest from passerines including a few White-gaped Honeyeaters and Yellow White-eyes.



*Mangrove specialities abounded around Broome clockwise Broad-billed Flycatcher, Red-headed Myzomela, Dusky Gerygone and Mangrove Fantail (Simon Mitchell).*

Our final two days of the tour began saw us focus on the Mangroves both within Broome itself and also slightly to the North of town. Over the course of the day and a half we caught up with multiple White-breasted and Mangrove Golden Whistlers, with good views of both males and females of both. Dusky Gerygones showed well in the Mangroves whilst Mangrove Gerygones were eventually found in the adjacent paperbark forests here. Several Broad-billed Flycatchers and Mangrove Fantails also provided interest and a good selection of Variegated and Red-winged Fairy-wrens allowed us some more good photographic opportunities Broome sewage works held a few more interesting species too, with a flock of over 80 Pink-eared Ducks and a fly-over Lesser Frigatebird.

With flights out to multiple locations on afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> we said our goodbyes. Those of us heading home commented on the wonderful and memorable birdlife we'd seen as we conferred over our individual 'best of the tips' list. The rest of us, carrying on to other locations in Australia, enjoyed a brief respite and reminiscence of our first leg longer trips to take stock of the incredible number of exciting and beautiful species and landscapes we'd encountered.



Getting a good view over Kunnunura Sewage Works (left) and dawn at Lake Argyle (right) (Simon Mitchell).

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

(E)= Endangered, (V) = Vulnerable, (NT) = Near Threatened, (DD) = Data Deficient.

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment.

**Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*** Good numbers in the Stirling Ranges, and a few others in the southwest (*rothschildi*).

**Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*** Three flushed from roadside grassland near Drysdale River.

**Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*** Feral chickens everywhere on Christmas and Cocos Islands where introduced.

**Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*** Common in the Kununurra area. 500+ at Lake Argyle.

**Plumed Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*** Common in the north.

**Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*** First seen on the Lake Argyle boat trip. A few elsewhere (*australis*).

**Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*** First seen on the way to the Stirling Ranges, and then plenty at several sites.

**Raja Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*** Fairly common in the Kununurra area. A smart duck (*rufitergum*).

**Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*** Common in the southwest where first seen in Perth.

**Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*** Two at Bibra Lake and over 80 at Broome Sewage Works.

**Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*** Common and widespread. First seen in Perth, 25/9.

**Green Pygmy Goose *Nettapus pulchellus*** A beautiful duck that was common in the Kununurra area.

**Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*** A dubious introduced trio at Herdsman Lake in Perth.

**Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*** Common and widespread. First seen in Perth (*rogersi*).

**Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*** A few very well seen at sites in Perth (n nominate).

**Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*** Common and widespread. First seen in Perth.

**Hardhead *Aythya australis*** First seen in Perth, but larger numbers on the Lake Argyle boat trip (n nominate)

**Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* (NT)** Several seen at various sites in Perth. A good bird to see.

**Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*** Several at Herdsman and Monger Lakes, including some displaying birds.

**Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* (EN)** Three noted off The Gap at Albany.

**Shy Albatross** *Thalassarche cauta* (VU) Two off The Gap at Albany.

**Yellow-nosed Albatross** *Thalassarche carteri* A total of 7 including some very close birds of The Gap, Albany.

**Flesh-footed Shearwater** *Puffinus carneipes* Common off the Gap

**Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae* First seen in Perth, we enjoyed many great views (nominate).

**Hoary-headed Grebe** *Poliocephalus poliocephalus* First seen in Perth with small numbers at various sites there.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* First seen at Herdsman Lake. Great views of this potential split **australis**.

**Red-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon rubricauda* Great views of several on a daily basis on Christmas Island (*westralis*).

**White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* Good numbers daily on Christmas Island (*fulvus*). See note.



Magnificent 'Golden Bosuns' the local race of White-tailed Tropicbird, were a prominent feature on Christmas Island (Simon Mitchell).

**Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* (NT) First seen on Lake Argyle and a few others noted (*australis*).

**Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis moluccus* First seen in Perth and common for much of the trip (nominate).

**Straw-necked Ibis** *Threskiornis spinicollis* First seen in Perth and common for much of the trip.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* First seen at Herdsman Lake, and a few others noted, especially in the north.

**Black Bittern** *Dupetor flavicollis* One found along the Drysdale River was a complete surprise.

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia* Fifteen at Broome Sewage Works were the only group.

**Yellow-billed Spoonbill** *Platalea flavipes* First seen near Cheyne's Beach, with 1 other at Bibra Lake.

**Nankeen Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus* Several around the lakes in Perth (*hilli*).

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* A few seen around Broome and on Christmas Island.

**Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus* Seen on the Lake Argyle boat trip, and commonly near to Kununurra.

**White-necked Heron** *Ardea pacifica* Reasonably common in the North, but almost absent in the SW this year.

**Eastern Great Egret** *Ardea modesta* 1 on Christmas Island and a few at various mainland sites. Not yet split by IOC.

**Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia* One on C.I and fairly common in the north (*plumifera*).

**Pied Heron** *Egretta picata* First seen on Lake Argyle and also seen at the around Kunnunura . Smart bird!

**White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae* First seen in Perth, and widespread in small numbers.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* Common in the north, and a couple of singles near Perth (*nigripes*).

**Pacific Reef Heron** *Egretta sacra* A couple seen on Christmas Island and 1 or 2 at Broome (nominate).

**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus* First seen in Perth, and fairly widespread in suitable habitat thereafter.

**Christmas Frigatebird *Fregata andrewsi* (CR)** Small numbers daily on Christmas Island, including a few males daily.

**Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*** The common frigatebird with 100s seen daily on Christmas Island (nominate).

**Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*** A few males over Settlement on Christmas Island and one over Broome (nominate).

**Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*** A few off the Gap and Cape Leeuwin in the southwest.

**Abbott's Booby *Papasula abbotti* (E)** Great views of up to 100 on a daily basis on Christmas Island - superb!

**Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*** Very common and photogenic on Christmas Island (*rubripes* - Hawaiian R-f B).

**Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*** Hundreds daily on Christmas Island and a single north of Broome (*plotus*).

**Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*** First seen in Perth and a few at various other sites (nominate).

**Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*** Widespread in small numbers. First seen in Perth.

**Australian Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*** First seen at Cape Leeuwin where 100s were present (*hypoleucos*).

**Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*** A grand total of around 15 noted (*novaeollandiae*).

**Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*** Common in the north. First seen at Broome (nominate)

*Australian Darters were common to many bodies of water throughout the trip (Simon Mitchell).*



**Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus*** First seen at Cheyne's Beach, and about 10 more noted during the trip.

**Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*** First seen in Perth, with 2 or 3 more noted during the tour.

**Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*** Fantastic views in the Stirling Ranges.

**Black-breasted Buzzard *Hamirostra melanosternon*** Seen well on the way to and from the Mitchell Plateau.

**Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*** Good views of one at Mitchell Plateau (nominate).

**Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*** One in the Stirling Ranges, and another near Pemberton.

**Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*** First seen near to Dryandra Forest and several more in the southwest (nominate).

**Christmas Island Goshawk *Accipiter [fasciatus] natalis*** One seen extremely well on Christmas Island.

**Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*** Two forms seen: nominate in the southwest and *didimus* in the northwest.

**Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus*** Two at Cheyne's Beach were the only ones.

**Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*** Two in the Stirling Ranges.

**Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*** A single seen in the Stirling Ranges.

**Black Kite *Milvus migrans*** Common in the north where first seen around Kunnunura (*affinis*).



*Eastern Osprey (Simon Mitchell).*

**Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*** Widespread, especially in the north. First seen in Perth.

**Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*** Common in the north, especially Broome. First seen at Lake Argyle (*girrenera*).

**White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*** First seen at Two Peoples Bay, common along the coast in the SW.

**Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*** Common on Christmas Island and widespread on the mainland.

**Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*** A few noted, including a showy individual in the Stirling Ranges. (nominate).

**Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*** First seen around Mt Trio, but more common in the north (*occidentalis*).

**Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis*** Two birds at Pentecost crossing en route to Mitchell Plateau showed brilliantly.



*This Australian Bustard came down to drink right in the middle of the road-ford at the Pentecost Crossing (Simon Mitchell).*

**White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis pheoniceus*** Two brief sightings of one close to the accommodation on CI.

**Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*** A single at Lake Argyle showed very well.

**White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*** At least 3 different birds were seen at Lake Argyle.

**Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio [porphyrio] melanotus*** Two forms; *melanotus* in the north and *bellus* in the south.

**Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*** Most common and conspicuous in the wetlands around Perth (nominate).  
**Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*** Most common around Perth. Another potential split *australis* - Australian Coot.  
**Brolga *Grus rubicunda*** A total of about 25 birds including at Broome, Lake Argyle and Drysdale River.  
**Bush Stone-Curlew *Burhinus grallarius*** Several seen at Dryandra Forest, a pair at Drysdale and others heard.  
**Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*** Small numbers around the Broome Bird Observatory.  
**Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*** Seen at the Gap, Two People's Bay and Roebuck Bay, Broome.



Sooty Oystercatchers roosted on the rocks at Two People's Bay (Simon Mitchell).

**White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*** Fairly common, first noted in Perth.  
**Red-necked Avocet *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*** c12 distantly on Lake Muir were the only ones.  
**Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*** One seen on the way South from Perth (NL).  
**Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*** Common in the north. First seen in Broome (nominate).  
**Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*** Three at Lake Argyle.  
**Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*** Only seen near Broome Bird Observatory (nominate).  
**Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*** Common at Lake Argyle and Broome with a few elsewhere.  
**Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mongolus*** First seen near to Broome Bird Observatory, in Roebuck Bay.  
**Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*** First seen at Broome Bird Observatory, in Roebuck Bay (nominate).  
**Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*** 1 by Drysdale Station and over 200 at Lake Argyle were spectacular.  
**Hooded Dotterel *Thinornis cucullatus* (VU)** A stunning on the salt lake in Stirling Ranges NP.  
**Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyornis melanops*** First seen at the crossing on Gibb River Road. Common in North.  
**Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*** A very attractive species that was seen regularly around Kununurra.  
**Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* (NT)** Three different birds at Broome Bird Observatory. Phew!  
**Eastern Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa [limosa] melanuroides* (NT)** At least 30 at Broome Bird Observatory.  
**Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*** Good numbers at Broome Bird Observatory, (Siberian B-t G - *baueri/menzbieri*).  
**Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*** Over 10 at Lake Argyle and at least 50 at Broome Airport / Oval.  
**Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*** One on C.I (NL) and around 50 in Roebuck Bay.  
**Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* (VU)** About 20 seen near to Broome Bird Observatory.  
**Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*** A couple seen on the Lake Argyle boat cruise and 30 or so in Roebuck Bay.  
**Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*** About 30 were at the Broome Bird Observatory.  
**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*** Fifty or more at Lake Argyle, and a few around Kununurra

**Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*** Surprisingly numerous at Roebuck Bay where we estimated over 100 in total.

**Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*** Perhaps as many as 400 at Broome Bird Observatory and Barred Creek.

**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*** Heard on Christmas Island. Small numbers almost daily in the North.

**Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*** First seen near to Broome Bird Observatory (nominate).

**Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* (VU)** 100s seen near to Broome Bird Observatory, in Roebuck Bay. Excellent to see.

**Red Knot *Calidris canutus*** 10 or more seen near to Broome Bird Observatory, in Roebuck Bay.

**Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*** c1000 seen near to Broome Bird Observatory, and a few at other sites.

**Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*** As many as 20 showed well during the Lake Argyle boat cruise.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*** First seen near Broome Bird Observatory (c120) and c50 at Lake Argyle.

**Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*** About 600 around Roebuck Bay and Broome Bird Observatory.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*** 10 seen well near to Broome Bird Observatory (*sibirica* - Eastern B-b S).

**Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*** Many seen on Lake Argyle and others seen at Kununurra sewage ponds. Smart!

**Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*** A handful were seen briefly at Christmas Island airport (NL).

**Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*** Common on Christmas Island and a few seen off Lancelin (*pileatus*).

**Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*** Common in all coastal areas (nominate).

**Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*** Several seen well along the south coast. Monstrous beaks! (*georgii*).

**Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*** One seen from Lancelin was a surprise.

**White Tern (Common W Tern) *Gygis alba*** One seen well during our re-fuel stop on the Cocos Islands! (*candida*)

**Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*** Many around Broome Bird Observatory, including 2 *affinis*..

**Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*** First seen in Perth, a maximum count of c30 at Broome.

**Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*** The commonest tern along the coasts, including the southwest (*cristatus*).



*Gulls and terns were relatively unconcerned by the presence of locals at Cheyne's Beach (Simon Mitchell).*

**Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*** A few seen near to Broome Bird Observatory (*torresii*).

**Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*** About 30 around Broome Bird Observatory and Barred Creek (*sinensis*).

**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*** One at Broome Bird Observatory (*longipennis* Siberian C T)

**Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*** First seen at Broome Sewage Ponds, (*javanicus*).

**Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*** Available.

**Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*** Introduced in the South-west.

**Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*** Common in the Perth area.

**Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica natalis*** A few daily on Christmas Island, some of which showed well.

**Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*** First seen on the drive to Narrogin, and generally fairly common.



*Common Bronzewings were seen throughout - a very smart bird when seen close-up (Simon Mitchell).*

**Brush Bronzewing *Phaps elegans*** Fantastic views of a few at Cheyne's Beach. A really smart bird (*occidentalis*).

**Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*** Nominate in the south, *whitlocki* in the north.

**Spinifex Pigeon *Geophaps plumifera*** Small groups on the way to and from the Mitchell Plateau (nominate).

**White-quilled Rock Pigeon *Petrophassa albipennis*** Seen well at the Mitchell Plateau (nominate).

**Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*** Generally fairly common in the north.

**Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*** First seen on the Gibb River Road, and again, common in the north (nominate).

**Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*** First seen around Kunnunura and common in the north (nominate).

**Christmas Imperial Pigeon *Ducula whartoni* (NT)** Common on Christmas Island with good views of several daily.

**Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*** Two forms: *naso* in the south and *macrorhynchus* in the north.

**Short-billed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (EN)** Two at Wongung and common in Stirling Ranges.

**Long-billed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* (EN)** Only found at Wongung Gorge where 6 were seen.

**Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*** Two forms, nominate in the south and *kuhli* in the north, both common.

**Western Corella *Cacatua pastinator*** See note.

**Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*** First seen in Perth. The first 'genuine' ones near to Broome (nominate).

**Long-billed Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*** Up to 20 in Perth, mostly in the Herdsman's Lake area.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*** First at Gibb River Road and two more in Kunnunura (*fitzroyi*).

**Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus moluccanus*** Common around Perth where introduced (nominate).

**Red-collared Lorikeet *Trichoglossus rubritorquis*** Fairly common in the north, first seen over Kunnunura.

**Purple-crowned Lorikeet *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*** Showed well in the Stirling Ranges and Karri Forest.

**Red-capped Parrot *Purpureicephalus spurius*** A real beauty, first seen along Salt River Road in Stirling Ranges NP.

**Australian Ringneck *Barnardius zonarius*** First seen in Perth where the form is *semitorquatus* - Twenty-eight Parrot.



*Though introduced, local Long-billed and Little Corellas around Perth gave us a good comparison with the Western Corellas seen later in the trip (Simon Mitchell).*

**Northern Rosella *Platycercus venustus*** A pair seen well near to the Mitchell Falls campground (*hilli*).

**Western Rosella *Platycercus icterotis*** Two forms seen: *xanthogenys* in Dryandra Forest and nominate near the coast.

**Elegant Parrot *Neophema elegans*** A flock of 26 Dryandra Forest and a few in the Stirling Ranges (*carteri*).

**Rock Parrot *Neophema petrophila*** Two brief birds at Lancelin but excellent views at Two Peoples' Bay. (nominate).



*Rock Parrots were seen at Lancelin and then very well at Two Peoples' Bay(Simon Mitchell).*



*Gorgeous Red-winged Parrots were common in the North (Simon Mitchell).*

- Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*** Common north of Broome and around Kununurra (*coccineopterus*).
- Regent Parrot *Polytelis anthopeplus*** A no-show in several spots meant we re-routed for great views at McLarty Lake.
- Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*** Five sightings of singles in the North. Huge! (*melanurus*).
- Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*** One seen well in Kununurra. Amazing birds!
- Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*** One at Drysdale River showed extremely well eventually.
- Pallid Cuckoo *Cacomantis pallidus*** One seen well on at Lake Argyle.
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*** Three singles in the South-west.
- Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*** Vocal in the north, finally seen at Kununurra Golf Course (nominate).
- Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*** Brilliant views of a pair at the Drysdale River, superb! (*peninsularis*).
- Southern Boobook *Ninox boobook*** Great views of 1 in Dryandra Forest, and others heard (*ocellata*).
- Christmas Boobook *Ninox natalis* (VU)** Great views of 2-3 and 1-2 more heard on Christmas Island. A smart endemic.
- Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*** Four or five in the Karri Forest and two more in Kunnunura.
- Spotted Nightjar *Eurostopodus argus*** Two brief birds on the Gibb River Road.
- Australian Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus* (H)** Two seen exceptionally well at Stirling Ranges, others heard.
- Christmas Island Swiftlet *Collocalia [esculenta] natalis*** Common on Christmas Island. Not generally split yet.
- Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*** A great migrant at least 15 over Kununurra (nominate).
- Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*** Common in the north, especially at Kununurra.
- Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*** Very common in the southwest.
- Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*** Common in the north with up to 10 each day (nominate).
- Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*** First seen at Lancelin and a few around Kununurra (nominate).
- Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus*** A total of 7 between sites on the Gibb River Road and around Kununurra (*ruficollaris*).
- Rainbow Bee-Eater *Merops ornatus*** Common in the north, with many great views.
- Noisy Scrubbird *Atrichornis clamosus* (EN)** Good views of a pair on the road twice at Cheyne's Beach.
- Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis*** Common in the north, first seen near to Broome Bird Observatory (*orientalis*).
- Rufous Treecreeper *Climacteris rufus*** Great views in Dryandra Forest and in the Stirling Ranges. Often on the ground!
- Black-tailed Treecreeper *Climacteris melanurus*** Three along the Gibb River Road (nominate).
- Variegated Fairywren *Malurus lamberti*** A few near the Mitchell Falls and at Barred Creek (*assimilis* - Purp-backed F).
- Blue-breasted Fairywren *Malurus pulcherrimus*** Great views in Dryandra Forest and around at Stirling Range Retreat.
- Red-winged Fairywren *Malurus elegans*** Brilliant views of a pair at Two Peoples Bay. Real stunners.
- Splendid Fairywren *Malurus splendens*** A real cracker, first seen en route to Narrogin (nominate).



*Blue-breasted Fairy-wrens are a wonderful South-western endemic (Simon Mitchell).*

- Purple-crowned Fairywren *Malurus coronatus*** Brilliant views of several at the Drysdale River. Superb birds!
- Red-backed Fairywren *Malurus melanocephalus*** These little crackers were common around Kununurra.
- Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus*** Another corker, seen well at several sites in the southwest (*westernensis*).
- Black Grasswren *Amytornis housei* (NT)** Reasonable views of a pair near to the Mitchell Falls campground.
- Red-headed Myzomela *Myzomela erythrocephala*** Seen well in the mangroves at Broome.
- Tawny-crowned Honeyeater *Gliciphila melanops*** Common in the heaths of the southwest (nominate).
- Western Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*** First seen at Mt Trio and several more seen well. A stunner.
- Banded Honeyeater *Cissomela pectoralis*** Twelve en route to Drysdale River. A few others seen.
- Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*** First seen in Perth, and common for much of the tour.
- New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*** First seen in Perth, common in the southwest (*longirostris*).
- White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris niger*** Common in Perth and in heaths around the southwest (*gouldii*).
- Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*** First seen around Broome and then common in the north (*sordidus*).
- Silver-crowned Friarbird *Philemon argenticeps*** First seen around our accommodation in Kununurra.
- Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*** Common in the North especially around Drydale River (*albipennis*).
- Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*** A few seen well at Mt Trio (*leucogenys*).
- White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*** First seen along the Gibb River Road (nominate).
- Swan River Honeyeater *Melithreptus chloropsis*** First seen in Dryandra Forest and many more seen well later.
- Yellow Chat *Epthianura crocea*** Brilliant views of 20+, including several males at Lake Argyle (nominate).
- White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*** A couple seen along the Slat River Road in Stirling Ranges NP.
- Rufous-throated Honeyeater *Conopophila rufogularis*** Common in the north, especially around Kununurra.
- Bar-breasted Honeyeater *Ramsayornis fasciatus*** Several showed well near to the Mitchell Falls campground.
- Western Wattlebird *Anthochaera lunulata*** First seen at Cheyne's Beach and common in extreme South-west.
- Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*** Common throughout the South-west
- White-gaped Honeyeater *Stomiopera unicolor*** Common in the Broome and Kununurra areas.
- Singing Honeyeater *Gavicalis virescens*** Two forms: nominate in the southwest and *forresti* in the northwest.
- Yellow-tinted Honeyeater *Ptilotula flavescens*** Common on the Kununurra leg of the tour (nominate).
- Grey-fronted Honeyeater *Ptilotula plumula*** Three on the return leg of our trip to Mitchell Plateau.
- Yellow-plumed Honeyeater *Ptilotula ornata*** Common in Dryandra Forest, and in the Stirling Ranges.
- Kimberley Honeyeater *Meliphaga fordiana*** Decent views of a one at Little Mitchell Falls.
- Western Bristlebird *Dasyornis longirostris* (EN)** Brilliant views of a few at Cheyne's Beach and Two People's Bay.
- Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*** Just one seen in Dryandra Forest (*nominate*).

**Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*** Two forms: *substriatus* in the southwest and *uropygialis* in the northwest.



*Yellow Chats were extremely common at Lake Argyle this year (Simon Mitchell).*

- White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*** Very common in the southwest (*maculatus* - Spotted S).
- Weebill *Smicronis brevirostris*** Two forms: *occidentalis* in the southwest and *flavescens* (Yellow W) in the northwest.
- Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster*** Good views of a few in paperbark forest north of Broome (nominate).
- Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*** First seen in Perth, and several more seen. Sweet song (nominate).
- Dusky Gerygone *Gerygone tenebrosa*** Several seen well at various mangrove sites around Broome (nominate).
- White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*** Seen well at Drysdale River (nominate).
- Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis*** Several in the southwest, first seen at Dryandra Forest, (*apicalis* - Broad-tailed T).
- Western Thornbill *Acanthiza inornata*** Great views in Dryandra Forest and Striling Ranges.
- Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*** First seen en route to Narrogin with a couple more later.
- Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*** Common in the north - conspicuous and untidy nests (*rubeculus*).
- Western Whipbird *Psophodes nigrogularis*** Great views at Mt Trio (*oberon*) and at Cheyne's Beach (nominate).
- Silver-backed Butcherbird *Cracticus argenteus*** A nesting pair seen well near Mitchell Falls.



*Silver-*

*backed Butcherbirds (left) are endemic to the Kimberley Ranges whilst Pied Butcherbirds (right) are widespread (Simon Mitchell).*

**Grey Butcherbird** *Cracticus torquatus* Common in the southwest – great fluty song (*leucopterus*).

**Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis* A couple in the southwest but more common in the north (*picatus*).

**Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen* Two forms: *dorsalis* (Western M) in the sw and *uropygialis* (Northern M) in NW.

**Grey Currawong** *Strepera versicolor* Frequent along the roadsides in the southwest (*plumbea*).

**White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus* Common in the north (*leucopygialis*).

**Black-faced Woodswallow** *Artamus cinereus* Small numbers around Lancelin and seen well in the north (*melanops*).

**Dusky Woodswallow** *Artamus cyanopterus* Great to see them snuggling up together in Dryandra Forest (*perthi*).

**Little Woodswallow** *Artamus minor* Up to a dozen seen well on the way up and down the Gibb River Road (*derbyi*).

**Black-faced Cuckooshrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae* Pretty common throughout (*melanops*).

**White-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina papuensis* Common for the last few days in the north (*hypoleuca*).

**White-winged Triller** *Lalage tricolor* Seen briefly in the southwest but much more common in the north.

**Varied Sittella** *Daphoenositta chrysoptera* Groups in SW (*pileata*) and along the Gibb River Road (*leucoptera*).

**Northern Shriketit** *Falcunculus [frontatus] whitei* (H) Sadly, once again only heard along the Drysdale River.

**Western Shriketit** *Falcunculus [frontatus] leucogaster* See note.

**Western Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala fuliginosa* Several great views in the southwest. See note.

**Mangrove Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala melanura* Best were the pair at Barred Creek, north of Broome (*robusta*).

**Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris* Two forms: nominate in the southwest and *falcata* in the northwest.

**White-breasted Whistler** *Pachycephala lanioides* Superb males at Barred Creek and Streeter's Jetty (nominate).



*White-breasted Whistlers use their enormous bills for cracking open small crabs (Simon Mitchell).*

**Grey Shrikethrush** *Colluricincla harmonica* Two seen in the South-west (*rufiventris*).

**Sandstone Shrikethrush** *Colluricincla woodwardi* Excellent views of a pair during the Lake Argyle boat cruise.

**Olive-backed Oriole** *Oriolus sagittatus* Two or three sightings in Kununurra (*affinis*).

**Green Oriole** *Oriolus flavocinctus* One on our final morning in Kununurra (nominate).

**Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys* Common and widespread. First seen in Perth (nominate).

**Northern Fantail** *Rhipidura rufiventris* A few seen near to the Mitchell Falls campground, (*isura*).

**Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura albiscapa* Quite common in the southwest, first seen in Dryandra Forest (*preissi*).

**Mangrove Fantail** *Rhipidura phasiana* The commonest of the mangrove specialities around Broome.



Scarlet Robins were one of several of Australia's stunning chats which we encountered (Simon Mitchell).

**Maggie-lark** *Grallina cyanoleuca* Two forms: nominate for much of the tour and *neglecta* around Kununurra.

**Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula* Seen well along the Gibb River Road and at Mitchell Plateau.

**Broad-billed Flycatcher** *Myiagra ruficollis* Our best views were at Streeter's Jetty in Broome (*mimikae*).

**Shinning Flycatcher** *Myiagra alecto* One found at Parry Creek Farm was a species missed last year.

**Paperbark Flycatcher** *Myiagra nana* Very common in the north. First seen at Kununurra.

**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta* A pair were nesting in the grounds of the at the Stirling Range Retreat.

**Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru* Common on the northern leg of the tour (*cecilae*).

**Australian Raven** *Corvus coronoides* Common on the southwest leg of the tour (*perplexus*).

**Buff-sided Robin** *Poecilodryas cerviniventris* Great views of 2 at Parry Creek Farm and 1 at Kununurra Golf Course.

**Western Yellow Robin** *Eopsaltria griseogularis* Seen well at Stirling Ranges (*rosinae*).

**White-breasted Robin** *Eopsaltria georgiana* A smart endemic robin. Our best views were at Cheyne's Beach.

**Lemon-bellied Flyrobin (Flycatcher)** *Microeca [f] flavigaster* One showed extremely well at Parry Creek Farm

**Kimberley Flyrobin (Flycatcher)** *Microeca [f] tormenti* Great views north of Broome. Unresponsive to calls of former.

**Jacky Winter** *Microeca fascinans* Two forms: *assimilis* in the southwest and *pallida* along the Gibb River Road.

**Scarlet Robin** *Petroica boodang* A cracker, seen at Dryandra and in the Stirling Ranges (*campbelli*).

**Red-capped Robin** *Petroica goodenovii* At least one male seen well in Dryandra Forest. Another cracker.

**Horsfield's Bush Lark** *Mirafrja javanica* Several showed well near Marglu Billabong (*halli*).

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* One seen on Christmas Island and a couple more at Kununurra (*gutturalis*).

**Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena* Common, for much of the tour. First seen in Perth (*carteri*).

**Asian House Martin** *Delichon dasypus* One, possibly 2 spent some time flying around Settlement at C.I (NL)

**Fairy Martin** *Petrochelidon ariel* Small numbers in the South-west, but common in the north.

**Tree Martin** *Petrochelidon nigricans* Common, first seen in Perth (nominate).

**Australian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus australis* Two forms: *gouldi* in the southwest and *carterae* in the northwest.

**Rufous Songlark** *Megalurus mathewsi* Unfortunately, heard only in the Stirling Ranges.

**Little Grassbird** *Megalurus gramineus* Seen well at the Bibra Lake in Perth (*thomasi*).

**Tawny Grassbird** One eventually showed well on an island at Lake Argyle.

**Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis* First seen at on Gibb River Rd and several around Kununurra (*lineocapilla*).

**Christmas White-Eye** *Zosterops natalis* (NT) Very common, with 100s seen daily on Christmas Island.

**Canary White-eye *Zosterops luteus*** Common around Broome especially in mangrove areas (*balstoni*).

**Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*** Common in the southwest. The distinctive *chloronotus* lacks grey and buff tones.

**Christmas Island Thrush *Turdus [poliocephalus] erythropleurus*** Common on Christmas Island. Not yet split.

**Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*** Quite a few seen in the north of the country (*hirundinaceum*).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*** Small numbers on Christmas Island where introduced (*malaccensis*).

**Red-eared Firetail *Stagonopleura oculata*** Good views of a 2 separate males at Cheyne's Beach. Stunning!

**Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*** Common, in the north. First seen in Kununurra (nominate - Black-bellied C F).

**Star Finch *Neochmia ruficauda*** Great views of a flock of c10 near to Kununurra (*subclarescens*).

**Masked Finch *Poephila personata*** First seen at the Pentecost River and many more in the northwest (nominate).

**Long-tailed Finch *Poephila acuticauda*** Common in the north. Nominate yellow-billed birds throughout.

**Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*** 45 at Parry Creek was the biggest flock with others at Pentecost River. (*castanotis*).

**Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*** Common in the north, where seen almost daily (*annulosa*).

**Gouldian Finch *Erythrura gouldiae* (NT)** Excellent views over 80 at Parry Creek, including stunning males. Awesome!

**Yellow-rumped Mannikin *Lonchura flaviprymna*** Good views of up to 10 on the Weaber Plains.

**Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*** A few at Weaber Plains and 30, Mitchell Plateau (nominate).

**Pictorella Mannikin *Heteromunia pectoralis*** Good views of 20 at Gibb River Road until flushed by overland tour group!

**Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*** One briefly at Marglu Billabong.

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*** Several on Christmas Island including some which showed well.

**Australian Pipit *Anthus australis*** Several seen very well. First seen in Perth (*bilbali*).



*Crimson Finches were regularly found picking around in weedy fringes and roadsides around Kununurra (Simon Mitchell).*

**TOP 5 BIRDS OF THE TRIP:**

- 1) GOULDIAN FINCH
- 2) AUSTRALIAN OUTLET NIGHTJAR
- 3) SPOTLESS CRAKE
- 4) TAWNY FROGMOUTH
- 5) RED-BACKED FAIRYWREN



*Agile Wallabies were common in the North (Simon Mitchell).*

#### **MAMMALS**

**Woylie (Brush-tailed Bettong) *Bettongia penicillata*** One on the road pre-dawn in the Stirling Ranges, seen by some.

**Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*** Common in the north.

**Western Grey Kangaroo *Macropus fuliginosus*** Many seen in the southwest.

**Western Brush Wallaby (Black-gloved W) *Macropus irma*** A couple seen on the heaths at Cheyne's Beach.

**Euro (C Wallaroo) *Macropus robustus*** A handful seen in the North, the only large Kangaroo encountered there.

**Short-eared Rock Wallaby *Petrogale brachyotis*** Great views of several on the boat trip at Lake Argyle.

**Moujou (Monjon) *Petrogale brachyotis*** A brief sighting between the rocks near the Mitchell Plateau Campground.

**Black Flying-fox (Central F-f) *Pteropus alecto*** Hundreds on the outskirts of Kununurra.

**Christmas Flying-fox *Pteropus natalis*** Several seen well on Christmas Island. A rare and declining mammal.

**European Rabbit (introduced) *Oryctolagus cuniculus*** Introduced of course.

**Dingo *Canis familiaris*** Single 'Dingos' of uncertain providence along the Gibb River Road

**Red Fox (introduced) *Vulpes vulpes*** One en route to Cheyne's Beach.

**House Cat *Felis catus*** One at Mt Trio was certainly living feral.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

### **Grey Teal** *Anas gracilis*

This form was formerly lumped in Sunda Teal *A. gibberifrons*, with the name Grey Teal being used for the enlarged species.

### **Salvin's Albatross** *Thalassarche salvini*

This species was formerly lumped in Shy Albatross *T. cauta*.

### **Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross** *Thalassarche carteri*

This species was formerly lumped in Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. chlororhynchus*, with the name Yellow-nosed Albatross being used for the enlarged species.

### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

The form concerned *australis* may represent a separate species: Australian Crested Grebe.

### **White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus*

The very distinctive form, *fulvus*, which is endemic to Christmas Island, may represent a distinct species, the Golden Tropicbird. The two forms are probably best treated as allospecies, but the situation is complicated by the fact that a very small percentage of birds on Christmas Island (perhaps as few as 1-2%) are white rather than golden, so look like typical White-tailed Tropicbirds.

### **Black-backed (or Australian Little) Bittern** *Ixobrychus dubius*

This species, which is endemic to Australia, was formerly lumped in Little Bittern *I. minutus*.

### **Eastern Cattle Egret** *Ardea coromandus*

This form was formerly lumped in Western Cattle Egret *A. ibis*, with the name Cattle Egret being used for the enlarged species.

### **Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

The form concerned, *modesta*, may be better treated as a separate species Eastern Great Egret.

### **Australian Darter** *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

This form was formerly lumped in Oriental Darter *A. melanogaster*, with the name Darter being used for the enlarged species.

### **Eastern Osprey** *Pandion cristatus*

This form, along with other closely related forms, is sometimes lumped in Eurasian Osprey *P. haliaetus*, with the name Osprey being used for the enlarged species.

### **Black-shouldered (Australian) Kite** *Elanus axillaris*

Confusingly, the IOC use the name Black-shouldered Kite for this species, but it may be better to avoid this for *axillaris* as it has long been used for the widespread *E. caerulescens* of Eurasia and Africa, from which *axillaris* was split, though the latter is now often called Black-winged Kite.

**Christmas Island Goshawk** *Accipiter [fasciatus] natalis*

The endemic form *natalis* of Christmas Island has typically (as in the IOC) been lumped in Brown Goshawk *A. fasciatus*, but even a cursory examination of its morphology makes it clear that this was likely a mistake. More recently, some authors have lumped it in Variable Goshawk *A. hiogaster*, which is probably an improvement, but probably the better solution for this extremely isolated island form is species status, a treatment already followed by some authors.

**Australian Swamphe**n *Porphyrio [porphyrio] melanotus*

The IOC include this distinctive form in Purple Swamphen *P. porphyrio*, but morphological and genetic studies have shown that it is probably better treated as a distinct species.

**Eurasian (or Common) Coot** *Fulica atra*

The Australian form *australis* is much smaller than its Eurasian cousin, with a bluish bill and very little white on the trailing edge of the wing. It may be split in the future, together with forms occurring in Java and New Guinea, as Australasian Coot.

**White-headed Stilt** *Himantopus leucocephalus*

This species was formerly lumped in Black-winged Stilt *H. himantopus*.

**Mongolian (Sand) Plover** *Charadrius [mongolus] mongolus*

The IOC refer to this species as Lesser Sand Plover, but Lesser Sand Plover *C. atrifrons* (including *pamirensis*) is now sometimes treated as a distinct species, with the residual *mongolus* being renamed Mongolian Sand Plover. Only *mongolus* in the strict sense has been recorded during this tour.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

The form concerned, *melanuroides*, is sometimes split off as a separate species, Eastern Black-tailed Godwit.

**(Eurasian) Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

The IOC lump Hudsonian Whimbrel *N. hudsonius* in this species, using the name Whimbrel for the enlarged species, though Hudsonian Whimbrel is proposed as a split.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

The form concerned, *longipennis*, may merit specific status.

**Brown Skua** *Catharacta lonnbergi*

This form was formerly sometimes lumped in Great Skua *C. skua*.

**Common Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*  
and **Pacific Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps longirostris*

Formerly, Pacific Emerald Dove was lumped in Common Emerald Dove with the name Emerald Dove being used for the enlarged species.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida*

Some authors lump this form in Zebra Dove *G. striata* of southeast Asia, using the name Peaceful Dove for the enlarged species.

**Torresian Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula spilorrhoa*

Some authors lump this species in Pied Imperial-Pigeon *D. bicolor*, using the name Torresian Imperial-Pigeon for the enlarged species.

**Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea*

This form was formerly lumped in Western (or Bare-eyed) Corella *C. pastinator*, with the name Little Corella being used for the enlarged species.

**Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus [haematodus] haematodus*

See the entry for Red-collared Lorikeet below.

**Red-collared Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus [haematodus] rubritorquis*

Some authors lump this form in Rainbow Lorikeet *T. haematodus*.

**Australian Ringneck** *Barnardius zonarius*

The various forms in the Australian Ringneck complex are sometimes treated as separate species. The form seen on this tour, *semitorquatus*, is colloquially known as the Twenty-eight Parrot.

**Glossy Swiftlet** *Collocalia esculenta*

Some authors consider the form on Christmas Island, *natalis*, as part of Cave (or Linchi) Swiftlet *C. linchi*.

**Western Whipbird** *Psophodes nigrogularis*

The two sub-species the nominate *nigrogularis* numbers less than 500 individuals and is restricted to the coast around Albany, whilst the form *oberons* 'Mallee Whipbird' is more throughout South-Western Australia. Other forms *lashmari* (Kangaroo Island) and *leucogaster* (NW Vict.) could also constitute distinct species.

**Kimberley Honeyeater** *Meliphaga fordiana*

This species was formerly lumped in White-lined Honeyeater *M. albilineata* of the Arnhem Land sandstone region.

**Swan River Honeyeater** *Melithreptus chloropsis*

This species is often lumped in White-naped Honeyeater *M. lunatus* of southeast Australia.

**Western (or Little) Wattlebird** *Anthochaera lunulata*

This species is now restricted to southwestern Australia following the splitting off of the southeastern Australian form *chrysoptera* under the name Brush Wattlebird. Rather confusingly, at least one Australian field guide uses the name the name Little Wattlebird for *chrysoptera*!

**Inland Thornbill** *Acanthiza apicalis*

This form was formerly lumped in Brown Thornbill *A. pusilla*.

**Silver-backed Butcherbird** *Cracticus [torquatus] argenteus*

The IOC include this isolated form of the Top End and Kimberley in Grey Butcherbird *C. torquatus*, though some authors have treated it as specifically distinct.

**White-winged Triller** *Lalage tricolor*

Some authors lump this form in White-shouldered Triller *L. sueurii* of Indonesia, using the name White-winged Triller for the enlarged species.

**Western Shriketit** *Falcunculus [frontatus] leucogaster*  
and **Northern Shriketit** *Falcunculus [frontatus] whitei*

The IOC include these two forms in Eastern Shrike-tit *F. [f.] frontatus*, using the name Crested Shrike-tit for the enlarged species, but they are probably better treated (as by some other authors) as allospecies.

**Australian Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala pectoralis*

This species was formerly known as Golden Whistler, but has been renamed following the splitting-off of several closely related forms.

**Western Whistler** *Pachycephala occidentalis*

This species was split by the IOC from the above in version 5.1 (January 2015). It is not currently recognised as a subspecies by most other authorities and fall within the umbrella of the above taxon. Details: <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/updates/proposed-splits/>

**Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus*

This form is sometimes lumped in Hair-crested Drongo *D. hottentottus*, with the name Spangled Drongo often being used for the enlarged species.

**Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura albiscapa*

The IOC treat the *albiscapa* group of Australia and Melanesia as distinct from the *fuliginosa* group of New Zealand and Lord Howe Island, which they name New Zealand Fantail.

**Mangrove (Grey) Fantail** *Rhipidura phasiana*

This species was formerly lumped in Grey Fantail *R. fuliginosa*.

**Paperbark Flycatcher** *Myiagra nana*

Some authors lump this form in Restless Flycatcher *M. inquieta*.

**Buff-sided Robin** *Poecilodryas cerviniventris*

This species, which is restricted to the Kimberley and the Top End was formerly lumped in White-browed Robin *P. superciliosa* of northeast Australia.

**Kimberley Flyrobin** *Microeca [flavigaster] tormenti*

The IOC include this form in Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *M. flavigaster*. However, the apparent reasons for lumping them (supposed overlap in distribution and hybridization) appear to be erroneous and it seems more sensible to revert to treating this mangrove-inhabiting form of the southern Kimberley and Broome area as a distinct species from the tropical woodland-dwelling *flavigaster*.

**Scarlet Robin** *Petroica boodang*

The IOC and most recent authors split the Australian mainland forms (the *boodang* group) as a species distinct from the *multicolor* group of Melanesia, Polynesia and Norfolk Island, which they name Pacific Robin.

**Horsfield's (or Australasian) Bushlark** *Mirafra javanica*

This form was formerly lumped in Singing Bushlark *M. cantillans*.

**Australian Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus australis*

This species was formerly lumped in Clamorous Reed-Warbler *A. stentoreus*.

**Silvereye** *Zosterops lateralis*

The endemic form in southwestern Australia, *chloronotus*, is unusual for a Silvereye in having an olive-yellow rather than grey mantle and may represent a distinct species, Western White-eye.

**Christmas Island Thrush** *Turdus [poliocephalus] erythropleurus*

The IOC include this form in Island Thrush, but this 'species' is a disparate assemblage of forms in need of taxonomic reorganization. Some forms currently included in *T. poliocephalus*, including *erythropleurus* (which is endemic to Christmas Island, where it occurs at sea level, unlike typical 'Island Thrushes') are surely better treated as allospecies.

**Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla tschutschensis*

Formerly, Eastern Yellow Wagtail was lumped in Western Yellow Wagtail *M. flava* with the name Yellow Wagtail being used for the enlarged species.

**Australian Pipit** *Anthus australis*

Some authors lump this species in New Zealand Pipit *A. novaeseelandiae*, using the name Australasian Pipit.