ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Australia

South West Extension III

3rd October to 9th October 2021 (7 days)

East Coast III

9th October to 30th October 2021 (22 days)

Tasmania Extension III

30th October to 3rd November 2021 (5 days)



Regent Bowerbird by Jonathan Rossouw

Australia is a vast continent harbouring many fabulous, endemic birds and bizarre wildlife found nowhere else on our planet. During this exciting trip, we will cover an incredible range of habitats, travelling across the eastern portion of the country, ranging from lush expanses of dense tropical rainforest to the dry endless stretches of the desolate outback and we can expect a fantastic collection of endemic birds and incredible mammals.

We will commence the main tour by exploring northern Queensland in search of Victoria's Riflebird from the bird-of-paradise family, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, rare Golden Bowerbird, Beach Stone-curlew, and the outrageous Southern Cassowary! Later on, we continue to the world-famous Lamington NP in search of Albert's Lyrebird, Australian King Parrot and the strikingly plumaged Regent Bowerbird, amongst numerous other potential highlights. Flying south, we then stop in at Sydney, birding into the interior for several dry-country species, including the strange Plains-wanderer, endangered Regent Honeyeater, and a plethora of colourful parrots that include Galah, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and Long-billed Corella.

The south-west corner of Western Australia is an ecological hotspot, hosting a superbly high diversity of endemic plant, animal and bird species. Our short extension concentrates on the region's endemic species and commences in the state's capital of Perth, situated on the Swan River. We will explore a range of habitats, from the eucalypt forests of the Darling Ranges to the extensive woodlands of Dryandra, the Stirling Ranges, semi-arid mallee woodlands and the rugged windswept heathlands of the south coast. In six days, we hope to encounter all twelve endemic bird species plus a chance for the strange Malleefowl, with a probable trip total of between 120-150 species. We also hope to encounter several fabulous mammals such as Echidna, Western Grey Kangaroo and Southern Right Whale.

Our Australian adventure culminates on the island of Tasmania, where our extension will see us searching for several extremely localised endemic species, including Tasmanian Nativehen, Yellow Wattlebird, Green Rosella and Dusky Robin; while Bruny Island will hopefully provide us with Forty-spotted Pardalote, Black Currawong, Scrubtit and maybe even the nocturnal Tasmanian Devil!

THE TOUR AT A GLANCE…

SOUTH WEST EXTENSION

Day 1	**Pre-tour arrival day in Perth & transfer to Sullivan's Hotel**
Day 2	**Perth to Cheynes Beach via the Darling Ranges & Rocky Gully**
Days 3 & 4	**Albany & surrounds - South Coast, Cheynes, Bettys Beach**
Day 5	**Albany to Narrogin via Stirling Range**
Day 6	**Dryandra Woodlands to Perth**
Day 7	**Herdsman Lake and departure (or flight to Cairns for East Coast tour)**

EAST COAST

Day 1	**Arrival in Cairns (if time allows, pm birding esplanade & surrounds)**
Day 2	**Cairns area**
Day 3	**Cairns to Atherton Tablelands**
Days 4 & 5	**Atherton Tablelands**
Day 6	**Atherton Tablelands to Daintree**
Day 7	**Daintree River cruise, and on to Cairns**
Day 8	**Fly from Cairns to Brisbane and on to Lamington National Park**
Days 9 & 10	**Lamington National Park**
Day 11	**Lamington National Park to Brisbane, fly to Sydney and on to Jamberoo**
Day 12	**Barren Grounds and Jamberoo surrounds**
Day 13	**Jamberoo to Lithgow**
Day 14	**Capertee Valley**
Day 15	**Lithgow to Melbourne via Sydney**
Day 16	**Melbourne to Deniliquin (night excursion for Plains-wanderer)**
Day 17	**Deniliquin to Ouyen**
Day 18	**Ouyen area**
Day 19	**Ouyen to Bendigo area**
Day 20	**Bendigo to Lorne**
Day 21	**Lorne to Geelong**
Day 22	**Geelong to Melbourne for departure (or flight to Launceston for Tasmania Ext)**

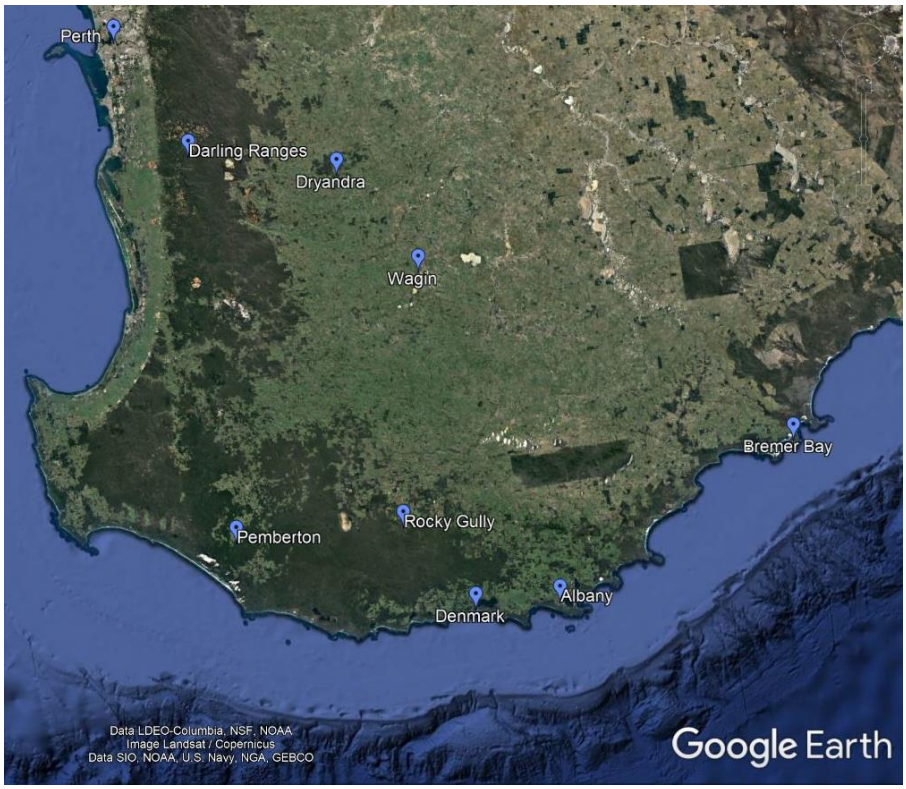
TASMANIA EXTENSION

Day 1	**Arrival in Launceston and drive to Cradle Mountain**
Day 2	**Cradle Mountain**
Day 3	**Cradle Mountain to Bruny Island**
Day 4	**Bruny Island**
Day 5	**Bruny Island to Hobart and departure**

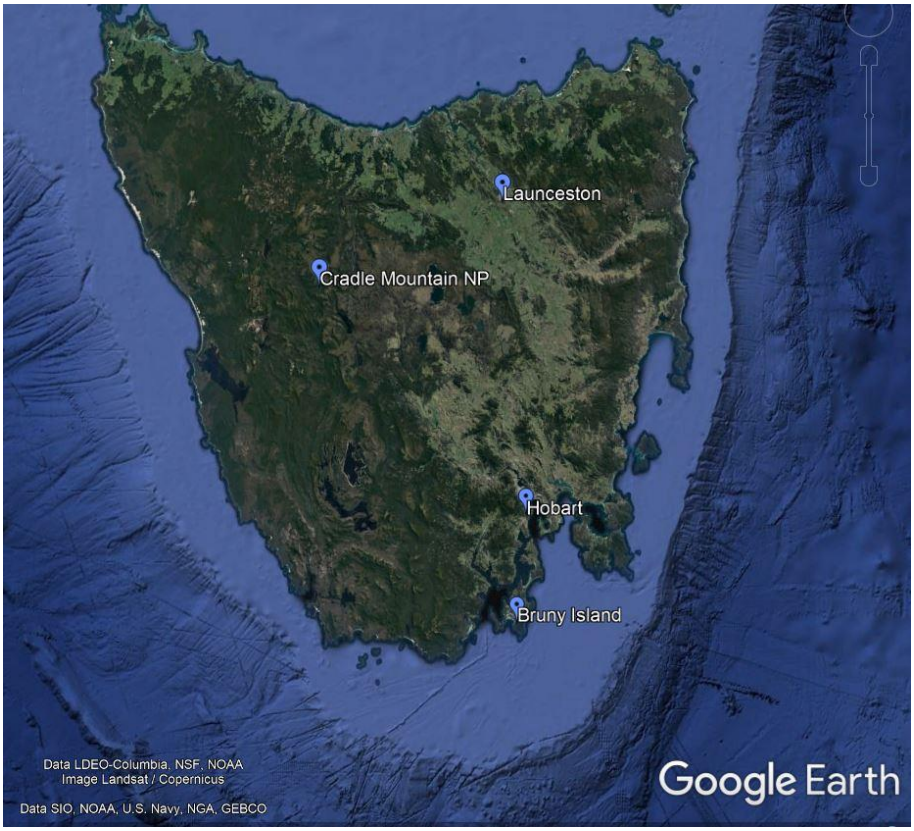
TOUR MAP – EAST COAST



TOUR MAP – SOUTH WEST



TOUR MAP – TASMANIA



South West Extension



Galah by Jonathan Rossouw

Day 1. Pre-tour arrival day in Perth & transfer to Sullivan's Hotel. Since we have a full day's birding scheduled to start early on Day 2, it is imperative that you arrive in Perth today. Tonight's accommodation is **included** in the tour price, but NOT any meals, which will be at your own expense. As today has been set aside as an arrival day, you are free to arrive at any time that you wish.



Mistletoebird by Jonathan Rossouw

Day 2: Perth to Cheynes Beach via the Darling Ranges & Rocky Gully. Our exciting South West Australia endemics extension will commence this morning in Perth. Departing the city, we'll begin our drive to Cheynes Beach, which lies to the south. Ascending into the Darling Ranges, we will begin our search for some of south-western Australia's very special endemics, including Long-billed Black Cockatoo, Red-capped Parrot, Western Rosella, Western Spinebill and White-breasted Robin.

Open areas may produce Wedge-tailed Eagle, Black-shouldered and Whistling Kites, Swamp Harrier, Brown Falcon, Nankeen Kestrel, Crested Pigeon, lively Willie Wagtail, Masked and Dusky Woodswallows, Magpie Lark, Australian Magpie, Australian Raven and Little Crow, Welcome Swallow, Tree and Fairy Martins and Rufous Songlark.

We will then deviate towards Rocky Gully, where we'll find the geographically limited population of Western

Corella (known as Muir's Corella). Time permitting, we may drop in at the Wagin Sewage Ponds where we could find Black-fronted Dotterel and a host of waterbird species, including Pink-eared Duck, Australasian Shoveler, White-faced Heron, and possibly also Wood Sandpiper and Black-tailed Native-hen, White-fronted Chat and perhaps even Stubble Quail. We arrive at Cheyne's Beach in the late afternoon for a three-night stay. In the evening we will take a walk to look for the shy and very localized Noisy Scrubbird.



Western Grey Kangaroo by Adam Riley

Days 3 & 4: Albany & surrounds - South Coast, Cheynes, Bettys Beach. We have the next two days to explore this area to look for some of Australia's rarest endemics. One of these is the Noisy Scrubbird, which was believed to be extinct until it was rediscovered at Two People's Bay in 1961. Western Bristlebird is another threatened species, as is Western Whipbird. With a concerted effort, we should see all of these scarce birds and will try our best to obtain good views of these three very elusive endemics! On one of the days, we will visit the Waychinicup Nature Reserve, an area of extensive mallee, where with carefully scanning of the roads and a huge dash of luck, we may find the strange Malleefowl, a ground-dwelling species that is rare and threatened throughout its range. Other more common birds in this habitat that we hope to see include Southern Scrub Robin, Purple-gaped Honeyeater and the "mallee" forms of Western Whipbird and Striated Pardalote.

The majestic Stirling Range is the best area to search for Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Hooded Robin and Western Fieldwren, while White-fronted Chat, Black-faced Woodswallow, Australian Pipit and the huge Emu are likely here too. Other noteworthy species that we hope to add to our tally include the aptly-named Splendid Fairywren, Western Wattlebird, Brush and Common Bronzewings, Brown Quail, Southern Emu-wren, Red-winged Fairywren, Australian Golden Whistler and Red-eared Firetail. We will also have time to look for coastal species in the bay, and new birds may include Pacific and Silver Gulls, Greater Crested and Caspian Terns, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers, Pacific Reef Heron on the rocks and White-bellied Sea Eagle and Eastern Osprey over the estuaries.



Spotted Pardalote by Jonathan Rossouw

Depending on weather conditions, we may have the opportunity to sea-watch for species such as Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross, Great-winged Petrel and Australasian Gannet, which come in close to shore on windy days. Southern

Right Whales are present from April to October and Humpbacked Whales pass by on migration, often coming in very close to the rocks. Wetlands in this area hold a host of species and we will look for Musk, Freckled, Blue-billed and the bizarre looking Pink-eared Ducks, Black Swan, Australian Shelduck, Hoary-headed Grebe, Red-necked Avocet and Banded Stilt, Dusky Moorhen, Red-capped Plover, Red-kneed Dotterel and Australian Crake.



Laughing Kookaburra by Jonathan Rossouw

Other specialties that we hope to encounter over the next two days include Horsfield's Bronze, Pallid, Black-eared and Fan-tailed Cuckoos, Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters, White-winged Triller, White-browed Babbler and Grey Fantail. Rufous Fieldwren can be found in the low heath and we will also search for Inland Thornbill, White-browed Scrubwren and the beautiful Mistletoebird.

Nocturnal forays may produce Southern Boobook, Eastern Barn and Australian Masked Owls, Tawny Frogmouth and the tiny Australian Owlet-nightjar. We will also undertake at least one night drive that might yield some exciting mammals, with possibilities including Western Quoll, Western Barred Bandicoot, Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat, Common Brushtail Possum, Western Grey Kangaroo and Western Brush Wallaby. We may even see the marsupial Quenda or Brown Bandicoot, which is often active during the day.

Day 5: Albany to Narrogin via Stirling Range. Early this morning we travel to the Porongurup National Park to visit the karri forest. We will look for Baudin's Black Cockatoo, Western Rosella, Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Gilbert's Honeyeater, Western Whistler, Red-winged Fairywren, White-breasted Robin, Scarlet Robin, Rufous Treecreeper and our first chance of Crested (Western) Shriketit.



Emu by Jonathan Rossouw

We then begin our journey to Narrogin, birding the Stirling Range en route to search for Regent Parrot, Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Rufous (Western) Fieldwren and more chances for the endemic Short-billed Black Cockatoo, Western Spinebill, White-naped Honeyeater (often regarded as a separate species: Swan River Honeyeater) and a first opportunity for the near endemic Western Whipbird, which can be very difficult to see.

In the evening, we'll try our luck with the spotlight, hoping to see Tammar Wallabies, Woylies, Possums, Phascogales, and nocturnal birds such as Bush Stone-curlew, Southern Boobook and Tawny Frogmouth.



Red-necked Avocets by Jonathan Rossouw

Day 6: Dryandra Woodlands to Perth. The Dryandra Woodlands are our main focus today and it is here that we will look for the endangered Short-billed Black Cockatoo, Blue-breasted Fairywren, Crested Shrike-Tit, Western Thornbill, Elegant Parrot and Purple-crowned Lorikeet. We'll most likely come across the large Western Grey Kangaroo or the diminutive Western Brush Wallaby.

Other noteworthy species that we hope to see today include Little Eagle, Laughing Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, beautiful Rainbow Bee-eater, White-winged Fairywren, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes, Western Gerygone, Weebill (Australia's smallest bird), Jacky Winter, Rufous Whistler, Grey Butcherbird, Grey Currawong, Silvereye, Rufous Treecreeper, Scarlet and Western Yellow Robins, Varied Sittella and Restless Flycatcher, as well as a host of honeyeaters including New Holland, White-cheeked, Brown-headed, White-eared, Yellow-plumed and Red Wattlebird.

A host of smart parrots can also be expected during the course of the day and these include Red-tailed Black and Short-billed Black Cockatoos, Galah, Western Corella, Regent Parrot, Cockatiel, Western Rosella and Australian Ringneck. We'll also look out for other native animals such as the rare, termite-eating Numbat, Western Australia's faunal emblem, and the charming, hedgehog-like Echidna, both species unusual in being diurnal in habit.

Day 7: Herdsman Lake and departure (or flight to Cairns for East Coast tour). Depending on flight times, we may make a quick visit to one of Perth's best urban wetlands where we can see Blue-billed and Musk Ducks, along with many other birds such as Glossy and Australian White Ibis, Purple Swamphen, Little Grassbird, Swamp Harrier, Whistling Kite, Little Corella and Singing Honeyeater. We may quite possibly also encounter coiled Tiger Snakes sunning themselves on the grassy banks! From there we will then head to the airport where our endemic-filled south-western Australia birding tour will conclude. Those joining the main Eastern Australia trip will connect with their domestic flight to Cairns for the start of this exciting birding and wildlife adventure.

East Coast



Splendid Fairywren by Dave Semler

Day 1: Arrival in Cairns (if time allows, pm birding esplanade & surrounds). Today is essentially an arrival day and those who are not doing the pre-tour are free to arrive, sight-see and bird this wonderful city at leisure. Those coming in from the South West Extension will most likely only arrive in the evening, well after dark. For those with time on their hands in Cairns, some of the possible birding areas include the mangroves, boardwalks, tidal mudflats and adjacent gardens of The Esplanade. Here you can enjoy a good number of more widespread Australian birds, with probable species including White-faced and Pacific Reef Herons, Little Egret, Straw-necked Ibis, Brahminy Kite, the huge White-bellied Sea Eagle, Silver Gull and Great Crested Tern, aptly named Rainbow Bee-eater, Magpie-lark, Australasian Figbird, Black-faced and White-bellied Cuckooshrikes, Helmeted Friarbird, Welcome Swallow and



Southern Cassowary by Andrew Sutherland

a whole host of waders if the tides are high, such as Far Eastern Curlew, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers, Red-necked Stint, Great Knot, Pacific Golden and Red-capped Plover, Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Grey-tailed and Wandering Tattlers, Terek Sandpiper and, if you are fortunate, maybe even a Beach Stone-curlew.



Noisy Pitta by Jonathan Rossouw

Day 2: Cairns area. Early this morning we will drive to Etty Bay, an area of coastal forests just over an hour from Cairns. Our main target here is the incredible Southern Cassowary, which still occurs in small numbers in this area. We will spend a good deal of time searching for this enigmatic species, especially on the beach alongside the campsite for fresh tracks and scat, as the birds are known to feed on fallen fruit from the surrounding trees.

After Lunch, we will bird around the Botanical Gardens to look for Australian Brushturkey, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Bush Stone-curlew, Grey and Brown Goshawks, Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, Green Oriole, Common Cicadabird, Black-backed Butcherbird, Helmeted Friarbird, Magpie-lark and Varied Honeyeater. Wetlands here hold Australian Pelican, Magpie Goose, Hardhead, Maned Duck, Common Moorhen and Striated Heron.

Day 3: Cairns to Atherton Tablelands. This morning we have an early departure from Cairns as we make our way to the Atherton Tablelands. We will have another opportunity to stop at Etty Bay and search for Southern Cassowary if not seen the previous day. Later in the morning we will traverse the Kuranda Range, birding en route in a diversity of habitats including upland rainforest, dry sclerophyll woodland, arable/pasture lands and extensive freshwater (billabong) wetlands. Areas that we will visit today (depending on time) should include Emerald Creek and Lake Eacham. The tropical forests here are home to a host of gems, including the terrestrial Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Grey Goshawk, boldly-patterned Pacific Baza, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Common Emerald Dove, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Little Lorikeet, noisy Laughing Kookaburras, Topknot Pigeon, Superb Fruit Doves, Black Butcherbird, Barred Cuckooshrike, Eastern Whipbird, Graceful and Yellow-spotted Honeyeaters, Pied, Spectacled and White-eared Monarchs, Red-backed and Superb Fairywrens and, with some luck, Noisy Pitta! In the late afternoon, we will reach our lodge situated on the very edge of Crater Lakes National Park, where we will be based for 4 nights. In the lodge gardens,



Golden Bowerbird by Erik Forsyth

there is a night-lit viewing platform, where several nocturnal mammals visit, including Musky Rat Kangaroo, Red-legged Pademelons, Sugar Glider, Striped Possums and Long-nosed Bandicoots.



The unusual headdress of the Topknot Pigeon by Erik Forsyth

Days 4 & 5: Atherton Tablelands. We will spend the next two days birding through a diverse range of habitats. We will begin by exploring the highland rainforest and eucalypt woodland of the Atherton Tablelands where targets include Brown Goshawk, Pale-headed Rosella, Tooth-billed and stunning Golden Bowerbirds, delightful White-throated Treecreeper, the localised Chowchilla, unique Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Macleay's Honeyeater, Grey-headed Robin and Victoria's Riflebird, the latter being one of the few members of the exquisite birds-of-paradise family represented in Australia.

Even the well-forested grounds of our lodge support some good birds, including Spotted Catbird, Wompoo Fruit Dove and Spectacled and White-eared Monarchs. At the Crater Lake National Park we will scan the few trees surrounding the edges for Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo – a reliable site for this species. While birding the more open country and grasslands, we will search for Spotted Harrier, stately Brolga and Sarus Cranes (often gathering in large numbers), Bar-shouldered Dove, and Little and Dusky Woodswallows. A visit to a well-known creek in the area will give us an excellent chance of seeing the amazing Duck-billed Platypus. We will also do a night excursion to Warrigal Forest Reserve to look for nocturnal birds and mammals. Species we may encounter include the localised and rarely-seen Sooty Owl, Southern Boobook, Australian Owlet-nightjar and various possums, including Lemuroid Ringtail and Herbert River Ringtail.



Victoria's Riflebird by Lee Hunter

Day 6: Atherton Tablelands to Daintree. After some final morning birding, we will head further north towards the Daintree River. Wetland habitats en route could yield Magpie Goose, striking Black-necked Stork, Latham's Snipe, Raja Shelduck and, in surrounding grasslands, huge Emus, Diamond Dove, Squatter Pigeon, Apostlebird and stately Australian Bustard. We will arrive in Daintree in the late afternoon.

Day 7: Daintree River cruise, and on to Cairns. This morning we will embark on an exciting riverboat trip through winding mangroves, allowing us access to some

unique habitat. Here we will be looking for the huge Great-billed Heron a scarce resident, Black Bittern, flocks of Scaly-breasted and Rainbow Lorikeets, Torresian Imperial Pigeons, the incredible, Papuan Frogmouth, the huge Channel-billed Cuckoo, Pacific Koel, Pheasant Coucal, Shining Bronze, Little Bronze and Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoos, Rose-crowned and Superb Fruit Doves, Little, Forest and Azure Kingfishers, Large-billed Gerygone and Metallic Starling. We might also be fortunate to see Spectacled Flying-Fox as well as large Estuarine Crocodiles. After our boat trip, we will return to Cairns where we will settle into our now familiar hotel. If time allows, we will again check the esplanade near the hotel for waders.



Australian Logrunner by Adam Riley

Day 8: Fly from Cairns to Brisbane & on to Lamington National Park. This morning we will take a flight south to Brisbane in the south-east of Queensland. We will then immediately begin our transfer to discover the riches of Lamington National Park, where we will be staying at the world famous O'Reilly's Guesthouse. In the late afternoon, we are likely to find good numbers of brightly coloured Australian King Parrots, dozens of stunning Crimson Rosellas and immaculate male Regent Bowerbirds, among a whole host of other specialities as we begin our explorations of the region.

Days 9 & 10: Lamington National Park. O'Reilly's Guesthouse combines a unique mixture of subtropical rainforest and wet Eucalypt woodland, creating a natural haven for wildlife. The area protects vast tracts of forested mountains and offers charming waterfalls, spectacular views of the rugged escarpment, and a birding experience second to none! We will especially target the specialities of the area, which include the very localised Albert's Lyrebird, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Paradise Riflebird, Eastern Rosella, the distinctive Australian Logrunner, Blue-faced Honeyeater and sleek Satin Bowerbird. Other species in the area include the awesome Green Catbird, Rufous Fantail, Black-faced Monarch, Topknot Pigeon and the secretive Russet-tailed Thrush. In the evening we have a chance to look for Marbled Frogmouth and the enigmatic Australian Owlet-nightjar.



New Holland Honeyeater by Jonathan Rossouw

Day 11: Lamington National Park to Brisbane, fly to Sydney and on to Jamberoo. This morning we return to Brisbane where we will catch a flight to Sydney, the capital of New South Wales and arguably the most beautiful city in the world! This afternoon we will make our way south to the village of Jamberoo, near Kiama.

Day 12: Barren Grounds and Jamberoo surrounds. Early today, we will visit the unique scrubby heathland in the vicinity of Barren Grounds Nature Reserve, which provides a specialised habitat for some interesting bird species. Target species will include Diamond Firetail, Southern Emu-wren, scarce Pilotbird (which might give away its location with a distinctive piercing song), amusing Eastern Spinebill, and perhaps the rare Eastern Bristlebird and Eastern Ground Parrot. We will need a large slice of luck for the latter two though! More numerous species may include Galah, Fantailed Cuckoo, Black-faced Cuckooshrike, New Holland and Lewin's Honeyeater, Australasian Raven, Striated and Spotted Pardalote, Brown Thornbill and perhaps Little and Wedge-tailed Eagle.



Red-backed Fairywren by Erik Forsyth

Day 13: Jamberoo to Lithgow. Today we will visit the forested gullies of the vast Blue Mountains and then up to the mountain's more open habitat in the upper regions near the town of Katoomba. En route we will search for a wide range of additional birds found in these habitats, including Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Eastern Rosella, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Lewin's, Crescent and New Holland Honeyeaters, Satin Bowerbird and Bell Miner. Here we will be able to visit one or more of the nearby lookouts to sample the incredible scenery that brings so many people to the Blue Mountains area. We will be hoping for a chance encounter with a Superb Lyrebird, walking through the woodland, Glossy Black Cockatoo or the localised Rock Warbler on the sandstone cliffs. In the late afternoon, we will head to the nearby Lake Wallace for a wide selection of waterbirds, including Grey Teal, Pink-eared, the strange Musk, and Blue-billed Ducks, Australian Shoveler, Dusky Moorhen and Great Crested Grebe, while Little Grassbirds and Australian Reed Warblers occur in the reedbeds.



Red-capped Robin by Glen Valentine

Day 14: Capertee Valley. Early this morning we will head north into the dry sandstone hillsides and mixed Eucalypt woodland pockets of the Capertee Valley. This region on the western edge of the Great Dividing Range supports a wide variety of bird life, including Wedge-tailed and Little Eagles, Swamp Harrier, Brown Falcon, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Red-rumped and Turquoise Parrots, Musk and Little Lorikeets, Fuscous, White-plumed and Black-chinned Honeyeaters, White-browed Babbler, Scarlet and Hooded Robins, Speckled Warbler, Red-browed and Brown Treecreepers, Striated and Spotted Pardalotes, Restless Flycatcher, Rufous Whistler, Grey-crowned Babbler, White-winged Triller, Brown and

Rufous Songlarks, Varied Sittella, the simply stunning Superb Fairywren, Speckled Warbler, Dusky Woodswallows, Plum-headed Finch, Diamond Firetail and potentially the endangered Regent Honeyeater. The latter species is nomadic in response to the flowering of its favourite tree species, with the Capertee area being one of its last national strongholds.



Plains-wanderer
by Jonathan Rossouw

Day 15: Lithgow to Melbourne via Sydney. Depending on time this morning, we will drive to a nearby rocky escarpment to look for Rock Warbler and if we are lucky, Superb Lyrebird. From here we will depart for Sydney in time to catch our flight to Melbourne for a night's stay.

Day 16: Melbourne to Deniliquin (night excursion for Plains-wanderer). We leave Melbourne driving north into farming areas before hitting the outback near Hay. The mix of habitats, including pine and mallee vegetation may produce several exciting new species for the trip. Possibilities on the drive may include Superb Parrot, Australian Ringneck and Red-rumped Parrot, the strange Apostlebird, White-winged Chough, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Eastern Rosella, Grey Shrikethrush, Laughing Kookaburra, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Australian Raven and the huge Wedge-tailed Eagle, to name just a few. We should arrive in Hay in the late afternoon.

After our evening meal, we will be heading out for a spotlighting excursion on the open- plains country near Hay, where the endemic Plains-wanderer occurs. This species is the world's only member of the bird family *Pedionomidae*, and the stubble grasslands of New South Wales and Victoria are their stronghold. A night on the plains also gives us the chance to locate other grassland species, such as Stubble Quail, Little Buttonquail, Banded Lapwing, Australian Pratincole and Inland Dotterel.



Apostlebird by Dennis Braddy

Day 17: Deniliquin to Ouyen. After last night's late finish, we can start with a relaxed pace this morning, spending the day birding the area known as the Hay Plain. Here we will experience the vast landscape and wide open skies of this fascinating outback region. A variety of habitats, including inland woodlands, wetlands and plains country, have the potential to turn up some rare and interesting birds. Depending on the water levels, wetland species may include Australasian Shoveler and Pink-eared Duck, Australian Shelduck, Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebes, Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterels and

potentially large numbers of the nomadic Black-tailed Nativehen. Open woodlands in the region hold Bluebonnet, Superb Parrot, Grey-crowned Babbler and the rare and nomadic Black and Painted Honeyeaters. The flightless Emu and the enormous Red Kangaroo roam the open plains, and other possibilities include Black Falcon, Peaceful and Diamond Doves, Long-billed Corella, Galah, Cockatiel, Musk Lorikeet, Common Bronzewing, Gilbert's Whistler, Striped, White-eared, Brown-headed and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, the brilliant White-winged Fairywren, White-fronted Chat, plus a variety of thornbills and gerygones, White-winged Chough, Australian Pipit, Zebra and Red-browed Finches and Mistletoebird are all present. With a large slice of luck, we may find the nomadic Pink Cockatoo.



Koala by Jonathan Rossouw

Day 18: Ouyen area. Early this morning, we will visit the Murray-Sunset National Park, which is the second largest park in Victoria (6,332.km^2) and harbors a large area of Mallee. This unique habitat is home to several special birds including the Malleefowl, a large terrestrial, megapode like-bird. The Malleefowl, excavate large mounds, where they lay their eggs and allow the heat in the mound to hatch the eggs. The best time of day to find these birds is early morning or in the late afternoon and we will search hard for this species.

Other special birds that we will be on the lookout for include Regent Parrot, Cockatiel, Eastern Ringneck, Blue Bonnet, Mulga and Red-rumped Parrot, Budgerigar, Red-backed Kingfisher, Splendid Fairy Wren,, Mallee Emu-Wren, Rufous Fieldwren, Inland and Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Purple-gaped, Grey-fronted, Black and Pied Honeyeaters, Southern Whiteface, Orange and the nomadic Crimson Chat, Chestnut-crowned Babbler, Chestnut Quail-Thrush, Gilbert's Whistler, Ground Cuckooshrike and Southern Scrub Robin.



Magpie-lark by Jonathan Rossouw

Day 19: Ouyen to Bendigo area. Depending on how we do the previous day, we may return to the Murray-Sunset National Park or start our journey to Bendigo. In the late afternoon, we have the chance to visit more wetlands in the Kerang area to look for Red-necked Avocet and the nomadic Banded Stilt before travelling south to the central Victorian region of Bendigo with its mallee and box-ironbark country. Bendigo grew as a major centre during the gold rush of the 1850's and features many grand colonial buildings. Evidence of gold digging is still there in the bush, as is the harvesting of Blue mallee trees for eucalyptus oil production.

Day 20: Bendigo to Lorne. This morning we will be out early as we explore the box-ironbark forests near Bendigo in search of Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeets, Tawny-crowned and White-fronted Honeyeaters, Shy Heathwren, Variegated Fairywren, Brush Bronzewing, Southern Scrub Robin, Crested Bellbird and Inland Thornbill of particular interest. We then travel down towards the coast with a stop near Lara for Cape Barren Geese. We will also make additional stops along the start of the Great Ocean Road for species such as Forest Raven, Olive Whistler, Red-browed Treecreeper and Rufous Bristlebird, before reaching Lorne, our destination for the night.



Rufous Bristlebird by Dennis Braddy

Day 21: Lorne to Geelong. This morning we will explore the coast road and surrounding forest for Koala. There are few places in Australia where Koala can be seen this regularly and we stand an excellent chance of memorable encounters with these endearing mammals here. While in the area, we also have a chance to see Australian King Parrot, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Satin Bowerbird, Southern Emu-wren, Rufous Bristlebird, Crescent Honeyeater and Olive Whistler. We also stand reasonable chances of seeing Shy and Albatross offshore while the range restricted Pacific Gull, Hooded Plover and Black-faced Cormorant will also be looked for. We will then head across to Geelong where we should arrive by late afternoon.



The rare Square-tailed Kite by Erik Forsyth

Day 22: Geelong to Melbourne for departure (or flight to Launceston for those doing the Tasmania Extension). After an early breakfast, we leave Geelong and head towards Melbourne, birding en route where it is possible for a range of water birds. Those doing the Tasmania Extension will fly on to Launceston, Tasmania, for the next leg of this epic Australian birding adventure while those not continuing on to Tasmania will take their international flights home.

Tasmania Extension



Forty-spotted Pardalote by Adam Riley

For our Tasmania birds and wildlife extension, we fly into Launceston to search for the thirteen endemics of this rugged, temperate island. Splitting our time between Bruny Island and Cradle Mountain, we will seek the rare Forty-spotted Pardalote, Beautiful Firetail, Little Penguin, Tasmanian Nativehen and many others. Tasmania is also the stronghold for numerous rare mammals and we stand good chances of finding the Endangered Tasmanian Devil, aberrant Platypus, massive Common Wombat, the attractive Eastern Barred Bandicoot or even both Spotted-tailed and Eastern Quolls.

Day 1: Arrival in Launceston and drive to Cradle Mountain. On arrival in Launceston, we will be collected by our local Tasmanian bird guide before making our way to the Cradle Mountain National Park area. Having checked into our accommodation, we shall bird the grounds with what remaining daylight we have.



Pink Robin by Adam Riley

One of the first birds we may find is the massive (and very loud!) Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, while a number of more widespread Australian species and even the odd endemic could show themselves. Amongst the many highlights, we may find Swamp Harrier, the endemic Tasmanian Nativehen, Masked Lapwing, Laughing Kookaburra, noisy Australian Magpie, both Grey and the endemic Black Currawong, Grey Shrikethrush, Forest Raven, Welcome Swallow and Australian Pipit.

Our lodge is perfectly placed to find a number of incredible Australian mammals with Common Wombat and Tasmanian Pademelons often seen in the late afternoon. After dark, we shall search for wild Tasmanian Devils, Spotted-tail Quolls and Common Brushtail Possums which often attend the veranda in search of food, but are also regularly seen outside our rooms! We spend two nights at this fabulous lodge, affording us excellent opportunities to view and photograph these normally elusive creatures.



Tasmanian Nativehen by Adam Riley

Day 2: Cradle Mountain area. Today we have a full day to explore the nearby Cradle Mountain National Park. The well-preserved habitat makes this a perfect area to find a number of Tasmania's endemic bird species. We have our first opportunity of finding Crescent Honeyeater, endemic Black Currawong, Tasmanian Nativehen and Tasmanian Thornbill. In addition to the great birding, we will also enjoy some of the interesting plants found here. Notables are ancient rainforest species and Gondwana relics such as King Billy Pines, Myrtle and the famous Fagus, which is Tasmania's only deciduous tree.

While admiring the flora, we shall keep our eyes peeled for new birds, with further endemics such as Yellow-throated Honeyeater, Green Rosella, Yellow Wattlebird, Scrubtit, and Tasmanian Scrubwren all viable here. We also have good chances of seeing Brown Falcon, Galah, Laughing Kookaburra, Crescent Honeyeater, Striated Pardalote, Striated Fieldwren, Black-faced Cuckooshrike, Tree Martin, Silvereye, Common Blackbird, Australian Pipit and European Goldfinch.

This is also a good area to find Common Wombat and if we are fortunate, we may locate a Platypus, one of Australia's most bizarre mammals. Time permitting, we will visit the replica of 'Waldheim', the home of the Austrian Gustav Weindorfer, whose love of the area inspired the establishment of the national park.



Short-beaked Echidna by Jonathan Rossouw

Day 3: Cradle Mountain to Bruny Island. After some final birding this morning, we will begin our scenic drive to Hobart. (This drive is roughly 4 to 5 hours in length.) From Hobart, we will then drive to the harbour to catch our afternoon ferry to Bruny Island.

While heading to Hobart, we will make a few stops at several rivers and lakes to view waterfowl, as well as forest birds in the

surrounding vegetation. Highlights are likely to include a large number of ducks, with previous trips finding Black Swan, Maned Duck, Mallard, Australian Shelduck, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Shoveler, Grey and Chestnut Teals, Hardhead and Musk Duck. A number of widespread Australasian species may also be seen here, including Hoary-headed Grebe, Great and White-faced Herons, Swamp Harrier, Australasian Swamphen, Eurasian Coot and Masked Lapwing.



Flame Robin by Adam Riley

The surrounding forests and scrub may produce large flocks of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Long-billed Corella, Eastern Corella, Musk Lorikeet, Black-headed, Yellow-throated and New Holland Honeyeaters, White-fronted Chat, Galah, Noisy Miner, Pallid and Fan-tailed Cuckoos, Yellow Wattlebirds and Tasmanian Thornbill and the delectable Superb Fairywren.

The ferry crossing to Bruny can be quite productive for birds, and we will be on the lookout for a number of marine species, including a quartet of cormorants, the endemic Black-faced, Little Black, Little Pied and Great. Other species of interest include Silver, Kelp and the huge Pacific Gulls, Australian Pelican and Australasian Gannet.

From here we will drive the short journey to 'INALA', a privately owned 500-acre wildlife reserve on south Bruny Island, which is a refuge for a number of threatened birds and home to all of the Tasmanian endemic birds. This afternoon, if time permits, we will visit Bruny's southern coastline to search for Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Grey Fantail, Grey Butcherbird, Forest Raven, Brown Thornbill, Olive Whistler and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, and possibly the bizarre Short-beaked Echidna (Tasmanian subspecies), among others. Tonight after dinner, we will visit a Little Penguin and Short-tailed Shearwater rookery to view these species at their burrows.



Common Wombat by Adam Riley

Day 4: Bruny Island. This morning we continue our quest to find further Tasmanian endemics. Species we shall be on the lookout for include the delicately patterned Forty-spotted Pardalote, Strong-billed, Yellow-throated and Black-headed Honeyeaters, the skulking Scrubtit, Black Currawong, Green Rosella, Dusky Robin and Tasmanian Nativehen. Other more widespread species we might see include Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, flashy Blue-winged and Swift Parrots, Olive and Australian Golden Whistlers, Grey and Brown Goshawks, Dusky Woodswallow, stunning Scarlet, Flame and Pink Robins, Yellow-rumped and Brown Thornbills, Tasmanian

Scrubwren, Striated Fieldwren, Eastern Spinebill, extravagant Yellow Wattlebird, Striated and Spotted Pardalotes, and Beautiful Firetail.

This afternoon we will then explore a number of different habitats, from coastal beaches where there is a possibility of finding Hooded Plover, Australasian Gannet, Pied and Sooty Oystercatchers and Kelp Gull, to rainforest areas to search for the endemic Scrubtit and Tasmanian Thornbill. We might also come across Red-necked Wallaby and we have further opportunity to stumble across the Short-beaked Echidna. A nocturnal outing tonight will give us a chance of seeing some of Tasmania's nocturnal marsupials, including and Common Brushtail Possum, as well as Eastern Quoll and Tasmanian Pademelon. Tawny Frogmouth, Western Barn Owl and Morepork also occur and we may very well see these nocturnal species.

Day 5: Bruny Island to Hobart and departure. This morning after breakfast we will return to Hobart to connect with our flights back home. En route, we may add a few extra species to the list – keeping our eyes open for Brush Bronzewing and Australian Hobby and Pacific Gull. By now we will undoubtedly have accumulated incredible sightings of many special birds, mammals and unforgettable experiences from our travels across the great red continent of Australia!

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

This includes:

- All meals from breakfast on day 2 to breakfast on day 7 of the **South West Extension**, from breakfast on day 2 to breakfast on day 22 of the main **East Coast** tour, and from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 5 of the **Tasmania Extension**;
- All lodgings as per the itinerary, including the pre-tour night at Sullivan's Hotel;
- All ground transportation;
- Reserve entrance fees;
- All activities as mentioned in the itinerary; and
- All guiding services.

The tour fee does not include:

- Visa fees;
- **ANY flights** (see above);
- Any drinks;
- Transfers;
- Special gratuities (including tips for local guides and services); and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.

b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.

c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.

Tipping: In general, Australians do not expect to be tipped. Therefore, as noted above - gratuities to drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc. are **NOT** included on this tour. However, if you feel your Rockjumper leader has given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them.

Special Notes:

- Tasmania Extension: Please be aware that for two nights at the Inala Cottages on Bruny Island there is limited rooming. We will ensure that everyone has their own room but some people may have to share a bathroom if sharing a two-bedroom cottage.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour **does not** include ANY airfares. The **South West Extension** will depart from Perth immediately after breakfast on day 2; kindly arrive the day before (scheduled as day 1). The tour will conclude at Perth International Airport, Perth (IATA: PER) on day 7 at ±10:30.

Day 1 of the **East Coast** tour has been set aside as an arrival day in Cairns and you are free to arrive at any time on this day. For those on the pre-tour extension, will we likely arrive in Cairns in the late evening. The tour will conclude at Melbourne International Airport, Melbourne on day 22 at ±10:00.

For those on the **Tasmania Extension,** we will take a noon flight to Launceston from Melbourne. The extension will start at ±14:30 in Launceston. Please do arrive in advance of this time. The tour will conclude in Hobart at around midday.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:

Sydney International Airport, Sydney (IATA: SYD) is the main port of entry for international flights in Australia, and is well serviced by all of the world's major airlines. Regular flights linking Australia's major cities are also available. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**