

**FIELD REPORT**

**GRAND AUSTRALIA:  
TASMANIA EXTENSION**

**OCTOBER 21–27, 2023**



Pink Robin © Max Breckenridge

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Eight of us departed Melbourne for the island state of Tasmania, set for a week of exploring a variety of habitats home to twelve endemics and a selection of specialties, enjoying some excellent accommodation and food along the way, as well as the unpredictable “Tassie” weather! Arriving into Launceston, Cape Barren Goose were quickly located at a dam close to the airport, as was a self-found vagrant Pied Stilt from mainland Australia (only the 3<sup>rd</sup> record for the state on eBird). After a particularly delicious lunch by the river in Launceston, we enjoyed a stroll along the boardwalk at Tamar Island, seeing a good variety of waterfowl as well as numerous Little Grassbirds and a couple of European Greenfinches. Our destination for the evening was the wonderful Mountain Valley Wilderness lodge, tucked away in the secluded upper Leven Valley at Loongana. Later that evening, several of us were fortunate to observe the enigmatic Tasmanian Devil outside our cabins—the key reason for our visit here.

The birding is also especially good at Loongana, and we had a couple of great sessions the following morning in-between showers. Scarlet, Flame, Dusky, and even Pink robins performed; Tasmanian Thornbill, Green Rosella, striking Yellow-throated Honeyeater, and the scarce Strong-billed Honeyeater were seen at close range; while a couple of calling Olive Whistlers proved tricky. Winding uphill to the beautiful Cradle Mountain, it wasn’t long before we encountered one of the many confiding and diurnal Common Wombats. An afternoon walk in the sunshine quickly yielded another male Pink Robin, as well as the secretive and endemic Scrubtit, great looks at Tasmanian Scrubwren, sharp Crescent Honeyeater, and a couple of huge Yellow Wattlebirds.



**Crescent Honeyeater from Cradle Mountain © Max Breckenridge**

A visit to the northern coast was marked by sunny but windy weather as a strong system centered itself over Tasmania for a few days. It made for nice looks at numerous close White-capped Albatross skirting the rocky headland at Boat Harbour Beach, where we enjoyed yet another excellent meal. Black-faced Cormorants, beautiful Pacific Gulls, Sooty Oystercatchers, and Red-capped Plovers were all noted around Wynyard. At Hellyer Gorge, a short walk through the forest provided another Scrubtit and a pair of Pink Robins, while out in the picnic area a couple of nicely posing Green Rosellas were quickly forgotten when a stunning male Flame Robin began to hop around at our feet.

Crossing the Tasmanian Midlands to reach Hobart was mostly highlighted by an impromptu roadside Platypus and a couple of lovely male Blue-billed Ducks at Oatlands. After settling into our harbourside hotel in Hobart, some of us opted for a spotlighting session at the nearby Waterworks Reserve. Despite

the strong winds, we had great success on the marsupial front, with wonderful looks at several Eastern Barred Bandicoots, alongside countless Red-necked Wallabies, Tasmanian Pademelons, and Common Brushtail Possums.

Our full day on Bruny Island unfortunately coincided with the brunt of the weather system, but despite this we did very well with our targets, and it certainly beat dealing with the snow that had now fallen on Cradle Mountain! Along Missionary Road we had unbelievably good views of several critically endangered Swift Parrots drinking from a small creek, and nearby a pair of the highly localized Forty-spotted Pardalotes performed at eye level. Dainty Blue-winged Parrots, smart White-fronted Chats, clinking Gray Currawongs, and several endemic Black-headed Honeyeaters also showed well here. At Adventure Bay, the resident Hooded Plover pair was a crowd-pleaser despite the tough conditions, and a New Zealand Fur Seal marooned in a nearby field was most unexpected!



**One of several Swift Parrots observed drinking on Bruny Island © Barry Zimmer**

Our final day in Tasmania was spent mopping up a few targets around Hobart. Starting with the very scenic Marion Bay, we found more Hooded Plovers along the beautiful beachfront, Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-bellied Sea-Eagle hunting a Little Black Cormorant, large numbers of Pied Oystercatchers, and a brief Australian Spotted Crake. At Orielton Lagoon, another vagrant from the mainland, this time a Yellow-billed Spoonbill, was the highlight, along with Musk Duck and Great Crested Grebe. In historic Richmond, a pair of singing Australian Reed Warblers were setting up a territory below the famous town bridge, and at Risdon Brook Park two pairs of Tasmanian Nativehens had a vicious territorial battle right in front of us.

One final delicious dinner marked the end of a wonderful visit to the “Apple Isle” and, for some of us, the end of five very enjoyable weeks of touring around Australia.





**Short-beaked Echidna beside the road near Cradle Mountain © Max Breckenridge**

## **ITINERARY**

| <b>Date</b>                    | <b>Locations</b>   |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct  | AM: MEL-LCS, Hadspen<br>PM: Tamar Island, Loongana   |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct    | AM: Loongana<br>PM: Cradle Mountain  |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct    | AM: Lake Lea, Hellyer Gorge<br>PM: Boat Harbour Beach, Table Cape, Wynyard                   |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct   | AM: Gowrie Park<br>PM: Ross, Lake Dulverton, Waterworks Reserve (spotlighting)               |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct | AM: Bruny Island – Missionary Rd, Adventure Bay<br>PM: Bruny Island – Alonnah, Missionary Rd |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct  | AM: Marion Bay, Sorrell – Orielson Lagoon; Richmond<br>PM: Risdon Brook Park                 |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct    | AM: HOB-SYD  |

### **TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TRIP (ranked):**

1. SWIFT PARROT (26)
2. PINK ROBIN (23)
3. HOODED PLOVER (11)
4. FLAME ROBIN (10)
5. GREEN ROSELLA (8)

### **KEY**

- <sup>H</sup> – Heard only
- <sup>L</sup> – Leader only
- <sup>I</sup> – Introduced species
- <sup>TE</sup> – Species is endemic to Tasmania
- <sup>E</sup> – Species is endemic to Australia
- <sup>e</sup> – Species is endemic to Australasia (Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Oceania)

## **BIRDS**

**Species total: 111**

Heard only: 4

Leader only: 1

## **DUCKS, GEESE & WATERFOWL (*Anatidae*)**

1. Cape Barren Goose <sup>E</sup> (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*) – Great looks at 12 individuals (including a gosling) at a dam in the vicinity of Hadsden.
2. Black Swan <sup>e</sup> (*Cygnus atratus*) – Hundreds/tens seen most days on fresh and saltwater, many with cygnets of varying ages.
3. Australian Shelduck <sup>E</sup> (*Tadorna tadornoides*) – Tens/singles seen on several occasions on wetlands, but mostly in fields or farm dams.
4. Maned Duck <sup>E</sup> (*Chenonetta jubata*) – Tens seen most days, usually by farm dams rather than wetlands.
5. Australian Shoveler <sup>e</sup> (*Spatula rhynchotis*) – At least 40 individuals on a lake near Longford.
6. Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) – Tens/singles seen most days.
7. [Australian] Gray Teal <sup>e</sup> (*Anas gracilis*) – Hundreds at Tamar Island and singles seen most other days.
8. Chestnut Teal <sup>E</sup> (*Anas castanea*) – Hundreds/tens seen most days.
9. Hardhead <sup>e</sup> (*Aythya australis*) – At least 50 individuals on a lake near Longford and singles at Lake Dulverton.
10. Blue-billed Duck <sup>E</sup> (*Oxyura australis*) – Two males showing well at Lake Dulverton.
11. Musk Duck <sup>E</sup> (*Biziura lobata*) – Singles observed on several occasions.

## **GREBES (*Podicipedidae*)**

12. Australasian Grebe (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*) – A pair observed on a farm dam while driving north of Launceston – uncommon in Tasmania.
13. Hoary-headed Grebe <sup>E</sup> (*Poliocephalus poliocephalus*) – Tens near Longford and at Lake Dulverton, singles seen elsewhere.
14. Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) – At least 12 individuals observed on Orielton Lagoon.

## **PIGEONS & DOVES (*Columbidae*)**

15. Spotted Dove <sup>I</sup> (*Streptopelia chinensis*) – Singles observed around Launceston and Hobart.
16. Common Bronzewing <sup>E</sup> (*Phaps calcoptera*) – Single flushed off the road on North Bruny.
17. Brush Bronzewing <sup>E</sup> (*Phaps elegans*) – Single seen briefly beside the road and then in flight near Great Bay on Bruny Island.

## **CUCKOOS (*Cuculidae*)**

18. Shining Bronze-Cuckoo <sup>eH</sup> (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*) – Common and vocal during our time in Tasmania. With singles heard most days.
19. Pallid Cuckoo <sup>eH</sup> (*Cacomantis pallidus*) – A couple heard distantly on occasions.
20. Fan-tailed Cuckoo <sup>eH</sup> (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*) – Singles heard most days.

## **RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS (*Rallidae*)**

21. Tasmanian Nativehen <sup>TE</sup> (*Tribonyx [Gallinula] mortierii*) – Common and conspicuous, tens seen every day, some with fluffy black chicks.
22. Australian Crake <sup>EL</sup> (*Porzana fluminea*) – Single seen briefly at Marion Bay.
23. Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) – Singles/tens seen on several occasions.
24. Australasian Swamphen (*Porphyrio melanotus*) – Singles/tens at a few wetlands/dams.

## **OYSTERCATCHERS (*Haematopodidae*)**

25. Pied Oystercatcher <sup>E</sup> (*Haematopus longirostris*) – Commonly observed at most coastal sites, with at least 80 individuals roosting in the saltmarsh at Marion Bay.
26. Sooty Oystercatcher <sup>E</sup> (*Haematopus fuliginosus*) – A pair observed along the shoreline at Wynyard, and a single along ‘The Neck’ on Bruny Island.



Hooded Plover from Marion Bay © Max Breckenridge

#### **PLOVERS & LAPWINGS (*Charadriidae*)**

27. Masked Lapwing <sup>e</sup> (*Vanellus miles*) – Hundreds/tens seen every day.
28. Red-capped Plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*) – A few singles observed on different occasions.
29. Hooded Plover <sup>E</sup> (*Thinornis cucullatus*) – Wonderfully close views of a confiding pair on the beach at Adventure Bay on Bruny Island, and at least seven individuals at Marion Bay.
30. Black-fronted Dotterel <sup>e</sup> (*Elseya melanops*) – Two birds observed at Tamar Island and one near Hadsen.

#### **GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS (*Laridae*)**

31. Silver Gull <sup>e</sup> (*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*) – Hundreds/tens seen most days.
32. Pacific Gull <sup>E</sup> (*Larus pacificus*) – Tens of this attractive gull observed at most coastal sites.
33. Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*) – The common dark-mantled gull around Hobart, with tens seen at most locations near the city, including Bruny Island.
34. Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – A single observed at Marion Bay.
35. Great Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bergii*) – Tens observed along the north coast and singles elsewhere.

#### **ALBATROSSES (*Diomedidae*)**

36. White-capped [Shy] Albatross (*Thalassarche cauta*) – At least 60 individuals observed from shore along the north coast, with some very close views at Boat Harbour Beach.

#### **SHEARWATERS & PETRELS (*Procellariidae*)**

37. Short-tailed Shearwater (*Ardenna tenuirostris*) – Hundreds observed distantly offshore along the north coast. The common breeding shearwater around Tasmania.



### **BOOBIES & GANNETS (*Sulidae*)**

38. Australasian Gannet <sup>e</sup> (*Morus serrator*) – Hundreds/tens seen from shore along the north coast and around Hobart.

### **CORMORANTS & SHAGS (*Phalacrocoracidae*)**

39. Little Pied Cormorant (*Microcarbo melanoleucos*) – Singles/tens observed on farm dams and at several wetlands.
40. Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – Singles/tens observed most days.
41. Little Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) – Singles/tens observed most days.
42. Black-faced Cormorant <sup>E</sup> (*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*) – Great looks at up to 40 individuals at Boat Harbour Beach and Wynyard. Also seen at several sites around Hobart, including Bruny Island.

### **PELICANS (*Pelecanidae*)**

43. Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) – Four birds observed at Orielton Lagoon.

### **HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS (*Ardeidae*)**

44. Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) – A single near Launceston and six individuals at Marion Bay.
45. White-faced Heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*) – Singles observed most days, with at least 40 individuals at Marion Bay.
46. Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) – A single observed at Marion Bay.
47. Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*) – At least 50 birds observed in fields while driving to Loongana, and another five birds near Marion Bay.

### **IBISES & SPOONBILLS (*Threskiornithidae*)**

48. Yellow-billed Spoonbill <sup>E</sup> (*Platalea flavipes*) – A previously reported individual observed loafing on an island in Orielton Lagoon. A major rarity from the mainland.

### **HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES (*Accipitridae*)**

49. Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*) – Great views of a single battling the wind while hunting over the saltmarsh at Marion Bay.
50. Swamp Harrier (*Circus approximans*) – Singles observed most days while driving through open country.
51. Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus*) – Single seen distantly at Risdon Brook Reserve.
52. White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) – A single seen briefly at Tamar Island and great looks at an adult successfully hunting a Little Black Cormorant at Marion Bay.

### **KINGFISHERS (*Alcedinidae*)**

53. Laughing Kookaburra <sup>IE</sup> (*Dacelo novaeguineae*) – Introduced from the mainland. Singles seen every day. Typically observed from the car while driving through open country.

### **FALCONS & CARACARAS (*Falconidae*)**

54. Brown Falcon (*Falco berigora*) – A few individuals observed while driving.

### **COCKATOOS (*Cacatuidae*)**

55. Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo <sup>E</sup> (*Calyptrorhynchus funereus*) – Singles/tens observed in flight most days, with some decent views at Risdon Brook Reserve.



56. Galah <sup>E</sup> (*Eolophus roseicapilla*) – Singles/tens observed most days.
57. Long-billed Corella <sup>IE</sup> (*Cacatua tenuirostris*) – Introduced from the mainland. Singles observed while driving between Longford and Ross.
58. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo <sup>E</sup> (*Cacatua galerita*) – Tens/singles observed each day.



Blue-winged Parrot from Bruny Island © Max Breckenridge

#### OLD WORLD PARROTS (*Psittaculidae*)

59. Blue-winged Parrot <sup>E</sup> (*Neophema chrysostoma*) – Excellent views of at least 12 individuals along Missionary Rd on Bruny Island.
60. Swift Parrot <sup>E</sup> (*Lathamus discolor*) – Unbeatable views of these critically endangered parrots at eye-level and drinking in front of us at Missionary Rd on Bruny Island. Tens also heard/seen in flowering eucalypts at Adventure Bay.
61. Green Rosella <sup>TE</sup> (*Platycercus caledonicus*) – Singles/tens observed every day of the trip with good views at Hellyer Gorge.
62. Eastern Rosella <sup>E</sup> (*Platycercus eximius*) – Singles observed around Orielton Lagoon.
63. Musk Lorikeet <sup>E</sup> (*Glossopsitta concinna*) – Singles observed around Orielton Lagoon.
64. Rainbow Lorikeet <sup>EH</sup> (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) – A couple heard in Launceston.

#### FAIRYWRENS (*Maluridae*)

65. Superb Fairywren <sup>E</sup> (*Malurus cyaneus*) – Singles/tens seen every day.

#### HONEYEATERS (*Meliphagidae*)

66. Eastern Spinebill <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*) – Singles heard/observed at Loongana and Hellyer Gorge.
67. Noisy Miner <sup>E</sup> (*Manorina melanocephala*) – Singles observed on a few occasions.
68. Little [Brush] Wattlebird <sup>E</sup> (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*) – Singles around Hobart and Bruny Island.
69. Yellow Wattlebird <sup>TE</sup> (*Anthochaera paradoxa*) – Australia's largest honeyeater that gives meaning to the name 'wattlebird'. Seen most days, usually located by its loud coughing/choking call. Good views at Cradle Mountain.

70. White-fronted Chat <sup>E</sup> (*Epthianura albifrons*) – Good views of a cracking male along Missionary Rd on Bruny Island. A few other singles at Marion Bay.
71. Crescent Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*) – Another striking honeyeater, at home in tall mountain forests. Heard regularly around Cradle Mountain and seen well on a couple of occasions near the lodge.
72. New Holland Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*) – Singles observed on several occasions.
73. Yellow-throated Honeyeater <sup>TE</sup> (*Nesoptilotis flavicollis*) – Good looks at several of these striking endemic honeyeaters at Loongana and Cradle Mountain.
74. Black-headed Honeyeater <sup>TE</sup> (*Melithreptus affinis*) – Singles seen well along Missionary Rd on Bruny Island.
75. Strong-billed Honeyeater <sup>TE</sup> (*Melithreptus validirostris*) – Fortunate to find a party of these scarce honeyeaters on our first morning at Loongana, where they afforded great views.



Tasmanian Scrubwren from Cradle Mountain © Max Breckenridge

#### **PARDALOTES <sup>E</sup> (*Pardalotidae*)**

76. Spotted Pardalote <sup>E</sup> (*Pardalotus punctatus*) – Singles observed at Loongana and heard on Bruny Island.
77. Forty-spotted Pardalote <sup>TE</sup> (*Pardalotus quadragintus*) – Truly excellent views of a pair of these tiny and endangered endemics along Missionary Rd on Bruny Island.
78. Striated Pardalote <sup>E</sup> (*Pardalotus striatus*) – Singles heard/seen most days.

#### **THORNBILLS & ALLIES (*Acanthizidae*)**

79. Tasmanian Scrubwren <sup>TE</sup> (*Sericornis humilis*) – Singles observed most days at forested sites in the north, with especially good views at Cradle Mountain.
80. Scrubtit <sup>TE</sup> (*Acanthornis magna*) – Excellent repeat views of a single and then a pair at Cradle Mountain. Also seen more briefly the following day at Hellyer Gorge.
81. Striated Fieldwren <sup>E</sup> (*Calamanthus fuliginosus*) – At least two birds at Lake Lea, with one responding beautifully, perched up and calling.

82. Brown Thornbill <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthiza pusilla*) – Singles observed near Gowrie Park and at Risdon Brook Reserve. Generally in less forested areas than Tasmanian Thornbill.
83. Tasmanian Thornbill <sup>TE</sup> (*Acanthiza ewingii*) – Distinguished from Brown Thornbill by song, reduced streaking on the breast and plainer cap. Several observed at Loongana, Hellyer Gorge and around Cradle Mountain.
84. Yellow-rumped Thornbill <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) – Singles observed on Bruny Island and near Hobart.

#### **CUCKOO SHRIKES (*Campephagidae*)**

85. Black-faced Cuckooshrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*) – A pair observed on Bruny Island.

#### **WHISTLERS & ALLIES (*Pachycephalidae*)**

86. Gray Shrikethrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*) – Singles heard/seen on several occasions.
87. Olive Whistler <sup>E</sup> (*Pachycephala olivacea*) – Tough to see well at times, we eventually had decent views of a couple of individuals at Loongana and Lake Lea.
88. Golden Whistler <sup>E</sup> (*Pachycephala pectoralis*) – A few singles observed around Loongana and Hellyer Gorge.

#### **WOODSWALLOWS, BELLMAGPIES & ALLIES (*Artamidae*)**

89. Dusky Woodswallow <sup>E</sup> (*Artamus cyanopterus*) – Singles observed near Gowrie Park and on Bruny Island.
90. Gray Butcherbird <sup>E</sup> (*Cracticus torquatus*) – Singles observed on several occasions.
91. Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) – Singles/tens observed each day.
92. Black Currawong <sup>TE</sup> (*Strepera fuliginosa*) – Common around Cradle Mountain with good views at the lodge and along the road. Observed on several other occasions.
93. Gray Currawong <sup>E</sup> (*Strepera versicolor*) – Heard on several occasions before seeing several birds on Bruny Island.

#### **FANTAILS (*Rhipiduridae*)**

94. Gray Fantail (*Rhipidura albiscapa*) – Singles observed each day.

#### **CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES (*Corvidae*)**

95. Forest Raven <sup>E</sup> (*Corvus tasmanicus*) – The only corvid in Tasmania - making life very easy! Tens observed each day.

#### **AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS (*Petroicidae*)**

96. Scarlet Robin <sup>E</sup> (*Petroica boodang*) – Lovely looks at a good number of individuals across several sites, including on our first morning at Loongana.
97. Flame Robin <sup>E</sup> (*Petroica phoenicea*) – A female at Loongana, then a cracking male hopping around in front of us at Hellyer Gorge. A couple of singles on Bruny Island also.
98. Pink Robin <sup>E</sup> (*Petroica rodinogaster*) – Remarkably common this year in northern Tassie. We saw more males than females, with several very confident individuals at Cradle Mountain and Loongana.
99. Dusky Robin <sup>TE</sup> (*Melanodryas vittata*) – Brief, but clear views of a single at Loongana, and several showy birds along Missionary Rd on Bruny Island.



Flame Robin © Max Breckenridge

#### **LARKS (*Alaudidae*)**

100. Eurasian Skylark <sup>1</sup>(*Alauda arvensis*) – Commonly heard and occasionally seen over agricultural country.

#### **REED WARBLERS & ALLIES (*Acrocephalidae*)**

101. Australian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*) – A pair specifically looked for and found beside the famous old bridge in Richmond, near Hobart. Uncommon in Tasmania.

#### **GRASSBIRDS & ALLIES (*Locustellidae*)**

102. Little Grassbird (*Poodytes gramineus*) – Multiple individuals heard/seen at Tamar Island.

#### **SWALLOWS (*Hirundinidae*)**

103. Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) – Singles/tens observed most days.  
104. Tree Martin (*Petrochelidon nigricans*) – Great looks at up to 100 individuals along Missionary Rd, a few incidentals elsewhere.

#### **WHITE-EYES, YUHINAS & ALLIES (*Zosteropidae*)**

105. Silveryeye (*Zosterops lateralis*) – Singles/tens observed most days.

#### **STARLINGS (*Sturnidae*)**

106. European Starling <sup>1</sup>(*Sturnus vulgaris*) – Tens/hundreds observed in open country each day.

#### **THRUSHES & ALLIES (*Turdidae*)**

107. Eurasian Blackbird <sup>1</sup>(*Turdus merula*) – Singles/tens observed most days.

#### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS (*Passeridae*)**

108. House Sparrow <sup>1</sup>(*Passer domesticus*) – Tens observed each day.

#### **WAGTAILS & PIPTS (*Motacillidae*)**



109. Australian Pipit <sup>E</sup> (*Anthus australis*) – Singles observed most days.

**FINCHES, EUPHONIAS & ALLIES (*Fringillidae*)**

110. European Greenfinch <sup>I</sup> (*Chloris chloris*) – Singles observed at Tamar Island and Boat Harbour Beach.
111. European Goldfinch <sup>I</sup> (*Carduelis carduelis*) – Singles/tens of this attractive intro observed each day.

**MAMMALS**

**PLATYPUS <sup>E</sup> (*Ornithorhynchidae*)**

1. Platypus <sup>E</sup> (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) – Although relatively common in Tasmania, it was still quite a surprise to spot one while crossing a small bridge near Gowrie Park. We managed to have good views of it surfacing several times as no other cars passed us on this rural back road.

**ECHIDNAS <sup>e</sup> (*Tachyglossidae*)**

2. Short-beaked Echidna <sup>E</sup> (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) – Several different individuals spotted while driving, most allowing for close views.

**CARNIVOROUS MARSUPIALS <sup>e</sup> (*Dasyuridae*)**

3. Tasmanian Devil <sup>TE</sup> (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) – At least one seen very well (by some) during the night at Loongana.

**BANDICOOTS (*Peramelidae*)**

4. Eastern Barred Bandicoot <sup>E</sup> (*Perameles gunnii*) – At least three individuals observed while spotlighting at Waterworks Reserve. A seriously beautiful marsupial and a joy to see so well. Once common on the mainland, it is now restricted to Tasmania where it is threatened.



Eastern Barred Bandicoot at Waterworks Reserve near Hobart © Max Breckenridge

**WOMBATS <sup>E</sup> (*Vombatidae*)**

5. Common Wombat <sup>E</sup> (*Vombatus ursinus*) – Common around Cradle Mountain, with a number of confiding individuals observed each day.

**BRUSHTAIL POSSUMS (*Phalangeridae*)**

6. Common Brushtail Possum<sup>E</sup> (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) – Frequently observed while spotlighting at Cradle Mountain and Waterworks Reserve. Several “Coppery” individuals also seen alongside the paler, nominate form.

**RINGTAIL POSSUMS & RELATIVES (*Pseudocheiridae*)**

7. Common Ringtail Possum<sup>E</sup> (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*) – Two individuals spotlit at Waterworks Reserve and one at Cradle Mountain.

**KANGAROOS<sup>e</sup> (*Macropodidae*)**

8. Red-necked [Bennett’s] Wallaby<sup>E</sup> (*Macropus rufogriseus*) – Singles/tens observed most days. Abundant around Cradle Mountain and Waterworks Reserve.
9. Tasmanian [Red-bellied] Pademelon<sup>TE</sup> (*Thylogale billardierii*) – Abundant around Loongana, Cradle Mountain, and Waterworks Reserve.

**EARED SEALS (*Otariidae*)**

10. New Zealand Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri*) – A single observed at close range in a field behind Adventure Bay was quite a surprise – seemingly a little lost, but appeared to be in good health.

**RABBITS (*Leporidae*)**

11. European Rabbit<sup>I</sup> (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) – Singles observed on a couple of occasions.

**RODENTS (*Muridae*)**

12. Black Rat<sup>I</sup> (*Rattus rattus*) – A single animal outside Barry and my cabin at Loongana – it somehow managed to carry away at least 10 chicken wings intended for more interesting mammals! Barry was one wing away from going out there and disposing of it.



Common Wombat at Cradle Mountain – probably the easiest place in Australia for this species © Max Breckenridge