



TOGETHER FOR NATURE

Australia -- Optional Victoria Extension

November 14-19, 2019

Tentative Trip Itinerary

Day 0 - Arrive in Melbourne late from Cairns or other destination We will meet in Melbourne at the hotel in the evening to sync up with the group. Overnight in Melbourne.

Lodging: Melbourne

Day 1 - Melbourne We will explore the city at a leisurely pace today. The most important thing will be to catch a breath and relax. We will take a city tour and/or visit the beautiful Royal Botanical Garden.

Lodging: Melbourne

Day 2 - Dandenong Ranges to Lorne We begin the day by travelling to Dandenong Ranges National Park. Here we will concentrate on seeing the Superb Lyrebird, a fabulous beast able to perfectly imitate chainsaws and camera shutters. As well as this target species we may also see some of the other wet forest specialists such as Rose Robin, Eastern Whipbird, Large-billed Scrubwren, Crimson Rosella, Striated Thornbill, Laughing Kookaburra and the colorful King Parrot. After spending several hours here we will travel to the Western Treatment Plant where we will spend the rest of the afternoon. We will then travel to Lorne for dinner and spend the night there.

Lodging: Lorne

Day 3 - Lorne, Anglesea to Bendigo Today we will spend several hours along the famous and beautiful Great Ocean Road. We will visit several sites and search for species such as the rare Hooded Plover, Rufous Bristlebird, the cute Southern Emu-wren, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Striated Fieldwren

and also have a good chance of seeing a Koala. In the early afternoon we will travel to Bendigo for dinner and overnight.

Lodging: Bendigo

Day 4 - Bendigo to Deniliquin Today we will begin by birding at the Kamarooka section of Greater Bendigo National Park. We will have the chance of seeing Variegated Fairy-wren, White-fronted Honeyeater, Shy Heathwren and Purple-gaped Honeyeater. After lunch we will head to Deniliquin, searching on the way for Superb Parrot. We will join Philip Maher in the evening for a chance at seeing Plains Wanderer and Inland Dotterel. The endangered Plains Wanderer is not only rare, but also extremely difficult to see as is it very fuzzy about its habitat and nocturnal. This will definitely be one of the highlights of an Australia trip!

Lodging: Bendigo

Day 5 - Deniliquin to Ouyen

Today we will travel to Hattah-Kulkyne National Park. We will search for some of the Mallee specialists such as Chestnut Quail-thrush, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, the elusive Malleefowl, Striped Honeyeater, Apostlebird, Striated Grasswren, Chestnut-crowned Babbler, Mallee Emu-wren and Splendid Fairy-wren. If we fail to see Malleefowl we can travel to another site after an early dinner. Dinner at the Ouyen Pub.

Lodging: Ouyen

Day 6 - Ouyen to Melbourne

Today we head back to Melbourne via Lake Tyrrell where we will search for Rufous Fieldwren and White-winged Fairy-wren. We will stop at Wedderburn on the way for lunch.

Lodging: Melbourne

Day 7 - Fly out

International flights home in the morning.

Trip Leaders

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