

1) Short-beaked Echidna

Dryandra Woodland, Western Australia:

During a two day visit (18-19 August) I saw seven Echidnas, most of them during the day.



Telowie Gorge, Southern Australia:

One seen during the day in the gorge. Much darker than the individuals in Dryandra.



Bruny Island, Tasmania:

One seen crossing the road during the day. The Tasmanian form has much shorter spines.

2) Platypus

Eungella National Park, Queensland:

Saw three individuals at the Broken River Platypus Viewing Platform on the 8th of December. The first was seen at 3:30 PM! Nearing dusk I had prolonged views of two around the bridge, briefly seeing three together.



Kingfisher Park Lodge:

Saw one briefly in the creek in the back of the area while spotlighting on the 17th of December. Because the rains were a bit late the water was clear and the water level was not too high. It can be more difficult to see after the rains as the water level is higher and more muddy.

Lake Tinnaroo, Yungaburra, Queensland:

I saw one at 8:30 AM on the 15th of December at the edge of the lake while looking for Eastern Yellow Wagtail at the end of Harper Avenue. There is also a Platypus Viewing Platform in Yungaburra itself. I was told however I was too late in the year. Also overheard of a resident group of Platypuses at the end of a boat ramp at Lake Tinaroo.

Hasties Swamp, near Yungaburra, Queensland:

Also on the 15th of December, I saw a lone Platypus at around 7 AM from the bird hide. A local told me there were around three of them in the lake every year when it gets cut off from the stream during the drought.

Scottsdale, Tasmania:

Near Scottsdale on private property. I spend three months in the area while working for a potato harvester. I had access to an area where at least three Platypus lived. Every time I saw at least one on the four visits to the area. Local guides from Pepperbush Adventures also visit this site.

3) Tasmanian Devil

Arthur River, Tasmania:

This area is one of the last strongholds of the Devil. I spend a night there on the 20th of Februari. The infectious cancer hasn't reached the area yet, but it is unstoppable. It spreads on average 8 km per year, and supposedly it has already reached Smithton. The Devils reproduce before they die of the disease, so they won't disappear from the area, but they persist in small numbers. I overheard that there is some evidence that this favours cats, which is alarming to say the least. The C214 (Arthur River Road) runs north out of Arthur River, and is a good place to start your search. Roadkill is best, find one before you get close to Arthur River, as Devils find it fast. I found a dead Possum full of maggots which I took with me in three garbage bags. Still the maggots got out... Anyway, tied the dead Possum behind my car at night and drove along the road, lost it twice so might check now and then if it's still behind the car. Then tied the Possum on a dead tree, but you can also pin it down in the ground with eg a metal pole on a secluded spot so the Devils won't run away with it. Position yourself out of the wind and wait. I waited for four hours at the end of West Point Road which is running from the the Arthur River Road and nothing happened. Possibly I was too close to the ocean. I decided to drive up and down the road. I met a drunken man on the road at night who killed two Possums which I found afterwards. They were gone in less then two hours, found by Devils no doubt. During my drive I had two seperate encounters with Devils, both fairly young individuals. One crossed the road and the second one I got some fairly good views as it freezed in my headlights for a while.



Tarkina Wilderness Lodge, Meunna, Tasmania:

This Lodge is run by a lady, and I heard about it in a Visitor's Centre along the coast. I called her and, while she normally didn't do it, I could spend an evening in her house waiting for the Devils. Afterwards she did tell me to spread the word though. She feeds them twice a week or so. The Devils don't show every time, but the Spot-tailed Quolls do. Off course this can change so check beforehand. I paid her 70 AUD. I found another more fresh Possum next to the road and brought it with me. She pinned it in the ground with a metal pole and I positioned myself in her house in a comfy chair. After the Quolls arrived and left a small Devil arrived on the scene around 8:15 PM. It fed for 30 minutes in the spotlight, his tummy gradually growing up to the point it looked like it could explode anytime. Then it defecated to make more room... Also chased of the bigger Quoll one time. Then, al of a sudden, a big adult Devil arrived, growled at the not so poor little Devil (it had enough...), teared the Possum from the pole and ran off. Wow!



4) Northern Quoll

Shipton's Flat, near Cooktown, Queensland:

In July 2015 I returned to the Roberts Brothers at Shipton's Flat (for more info see under Striped Possum). July is the best month to see Northern Quolls in the area, as this is the breeding season. But they are not guaranteed. We set two traps at a shed and caught one using dry dog food. We released it within a minute. After the breeding season all the males die of exhaustion, unlike the other Quoll species (in Australia at least).



5) Spot-tailed Quoll

Tarkine Wilderness Lodge, Tasmania:

Same spot as the Devil. I was very happy to see two Spot-tailed Quolls arriving while it was still light at around 7:45 PM. A very big one, which had a white back left foot, took control and fed on the Possum. The second smaller one had to be content with some chicken on the veranda. Inquisitive and bold as they are known to be, it tried to enter the house on several occasions. Both were no match against the little Devil who arrived around 30 minutes later.



6) Eastern Quoll

Mathinna, Tasmania:

In Februari 2015, I was broke which forced me to work in Scottsdale in north-eastern Tasmania. It used to be a good area to find Eastern Quolls, but after a four hour drive around the town on the 22nd of Februari I couldn't find any. I called a local ranger the next day which told me of a population crash because of the cats in the area. I tried around the little town of Mathinna the next night, around 2 hours drive south-east of Scottsdale. I saw my first Eastern Quoll (a black form) briefly as it crossed the Mathinna Plains Road. I saw another two (brown morphs) on the tarmac section of the C401, which leads from Mathinna to Ben Lomond National Park. One was running away into a pine tree plantation. I quickly got out of the car with my flashlight and started squeaking, which supposedly helps to call in Quolls. I saw two eyes in the plantation, and slowly walking closer I had great views. The second brown morph which I saw was running away from a roadkill, I easily could have waited because they tend to return, but it was already late and I had great views of the first one. I identified seven mammals that night, including a Southern Bettong.



7) Numbat

Dryandra Woodland, Western Australia:

A hotspot for this endangered marsupial, which likes the heat of the day, when his staple diet which consists of termites are closest to the surface. So your best bet to find one would be on a sunny day! After the foxes in the woodland were taken care of with 1080 (harmless for local species as it derives from a Western Australian plant) the native

animals of the reserve, including the Numbat, thrived for a few years. But then the cats took over and a lot of species are getting harder and harder to find. Fortunately a new bait has just been developed and tested, which killed 70-80 % of the cats in a certain area. So lets hope for a brighter future. As of 2014, I think I read somewhere that you have to drive around the woodland for an average of 60 hours to encounter a Numbat. The best thing is to drive around the prime spots with an average speed of 25 km/h. I saw one cross the road after just four hours driving like that. I have to count myself lucky! The preferred habitat for Numbats in Dryandra are Wandoo flat valleys that provide sufficient amounts of hollow log litter. It also occurs in Mallett plantations with hollow logs litter. Try these following Facebook pages for more up-to-date information: Numbat Task Force and Dryandra Woodland Group.

8) Yellow-footed Antechinus

Dryandra Woodland, Western Australia:

I was lucky enough to bump in some scientists who were trapping in the area on the 19th of August. They showed me a Yellow-footed Antechinus they had trapped, called a Mardo in Western Australia.



Mount Lewis, Queensland:

I had a close encounter with one foraging in the morning in the forest just left of the Blue Parrot-finch clearing when facing the clearing.

Gulpa Island, near Deniliquin, New South Wales:

I saw one running up and down a big dead tree while it was collecting nesting/roosting material during the late morning. To my knowledge this is the only species of Antechinus which is also active during the day.



9) Subtropical Antechinus

Lamington National Park, Queensland:

I saw several of this recently split Antechinus (from Brown Antechinus) while spotlighting in the rainforest around O'Reilly's on the 10th of October.

10) Fat-tailed Dunnart

Phil Maher's Plains-wanderer trip, near Deniliquin, New South Wales:

I went on a successful Plains-wanderer trip with Phil (saw two Plains-wanderers and two Inland Dotterels) on the 29th of January. While looking for the birds we saw around eight Dunnarts, scurrying through the low vegetation. It seemed none of them had a particularly fat tail, but I could be wrong. Maybe something seasonal?



11) Northern Brown Bandicoot:

Saw quite a few. E.g. some on a road at night near Noosa Heads, Queensland. Some in a garden in *Walligan near Hervey Bay*.



Lamington National Park, Binna Burra section, Queensland:

I saw one in the Beech Forest on the track that connects both the O'Reilly's and the Binna Burra sections during the day. Rainforest is more heavily populated with the Long-nosed Bandicoot, but both occur there. I don't know about Beech Forest but I had good views of this one. Long-nosed Bandicoot also make a squeek when startled, never heard it with Northern Brown.

12) Southern Brown Bandicoot

Saw quite a few, but much less then the Northern Brown. These are the ones I remember the spots from. Also saw several roadkills of this species when travelling through Tasmania.

Perth Botanical Garden, Western Australia:

This was my first Australian mammal I saw. It was foraging in thick vegetation next to Low Walk which runs parallel to the river and will lead to a lookout as I remember correctly.

Cheynes Beach, Western Australia:

I saw one in the heath when walking in an area full of Banksias, around two km's before reaching Cheynes Beach.





13) Eastern Barred Bandicoot

Porth Arthur =» Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania:

In the evening of the 15th of Februari, I drove from Port Arthur to the town of Eaglehawk Neck, taking a few side roads here and there. In half an hour I saw around six Eastern Barred Bandicoots next to the road, so they seemed pretty common in that area.

Mathinna, Tasmania:

When looking for Eastern Quolls, I saw only one Eastern Barred Bandicoot in 5 hours. It was on the Mathinna Plains Road.

14) Long-nosed Bandicoot

Lamington National Park, O'Reilly's, Queensland:

I had good views of one at the end of the Treetop Walk near O'Reilly's on the 10th of October.

Dharug National Park, New South Wales:

I didn't see any, but I heard several squeeking in the undergrowth while I was looking for owls in the evening.

Ravenhoe, Queensland:

When driving back after a succesful night's out with Alan Gillanders (see under Musky Rat-kangaroo) whe almost hit one on the road towards Yungaburra.

(Bilby)

Dryandra Woodland, Barne Mia, Western Australia:

Several seen in this enclosed section of the woodland, where native animals are being captive bred to be released into the wild. A tour goes there, and it was pretty cheap.



15) Koala

Saw and heard a few more, but these are the ones I remember the location from:

Mick Hanfling Park, Narangba, Queensland:

I saw my first Koala in this small park about an hours drive north of Brisbane on the 16th of October. It was a tip from a local birder. Trees are few and far between which makes it easier to check them all. The forest opposite the road is also a good spot to concentrate your search on.



Sheep Station Creek Conservation Area, near Brisbane, Queensland:

I found one grunting in the middle of the day because it was being mobbed by Magpies or Currawongs (don't really recall) near one of the entrances of the forest. Anywhere should be worth checking out.



Great Ocean Road, Victoria:

While driving the Great Ocean Road, I walked into a visitor's centre when I noticed a Koala in a tree in near the entrance. Supposedly it is always in the vicinity of the information centre and the staff are well aware of its presence. I think it was Lornee Information Centre. If not, they can call other information centres along the route.



Lamington National Park, Duck Road near O'Reilly's, Queensland:

Heard at least two males grunting while spotlighting, I didn't see them.

16) Common Wombat

Dharug National Park, near Sydney, New South Wales:

There is a small colony at the large group camping area. I saw one while looking for owls at night on the 23rd of Januari. Later, some of my friends told me they saw plenty there.

Mathinna, Tasmania:

This is a small village in the north-east of Tasmania. I saw around ten Wombats while driving at night around the village on the 23rd of Februari. On the last section of the Mathinna Plains Road when nearing the village from the north but most of them on the tarmac section of the C401. I didn't drive on the dirt section of the road.



17) Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat

Epping National Forest, Queensland:

Apart from a recently established small colony out of Epping National Forest (and a second soon to be established) this is the only place where you can see this highly endangered species. I think the all-time low in numbers hung around 40 animals around 30 years ago. Now the numbers have climbed to around 200 animals. The reserve is off limits for the general public, unless you apply to work there as a volunteer (or as caretakers, which means you have to live in the reserve for a month or more). The ranger in charge, Alan Horsup, takes out volunteers once a month for five days. Work includes all the things which are deemed necessary to keep the reserve in prime condition. Contact Alan Horsup by phone (0749360549 or 0419642545) or email (alan.horsup@ehp.qld.gov.au). As for the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat, they are easy to see nowadays. On the first night out, after less than 10 minutes, we saw a Wombat stretched out in the middle of a dirt track. There are several burrows near the headquarters. I think I saw 5 different Wombats, not even going out every night.



18) Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat

Nullarbor Roadhouse, Southern Australia:

I had two brief and rather poor views of probably the same individual on the 6th of September near the Nullarbor Roadhouse. From the roadhouse, when looking east, you see a dirt road which runs parallel with the highway. Follow this track until you reach a fence. Follow this fence on another track which runs parallel to this fence (going north). When driving this road (which is also good for Nullarbor Quail-thrush, plus I saw an Inland Dotterel on this track) look especially to the right for large burrows. Some of them are occupied, some are deserted. Check for fresh droppings. When you have found an active burrow, quietly check it out at night. I positioned myself near such a burrow, then I saw the silhouette of the Wombat. I quietly reached for my flashlight, but it ran off, grunting from the burrow. Then I wandered around, without another sighting. When I returned to the same burrow, it ran off again. I only saw his hindquarters when using my flashlight. This is a defence mechanism against Dingo's, which are very plentiful in the area. Maybe that explains their shy behaviour.

19) Short-eared Brushtail Possum

Bunya Mountains National Park, Queensland:

I spent an evening on the 6th of October spotlighting in the rainforest. I saw one Short-eared Brushtail Possum scurrying on the ground and upon my arrival it quickly climbed into a tree. Supposedly Short-eared and Mountain Brushtail Possums spend more time on the ground than Common Brushtail Possum.

Lamington National Park, O'Reilly's, Queensland:

After spotlighting around the lodge I walked into the lodge. The main building is build around a tree, this is where the staff leave food every night. There was a Short-eared Brushtail Possum at the tree when I arrived.

Both of these individuals were predominantly black.



20) Mountain Brushtail Possum

Forests above Melbourne, Victoria:

Unfortunately I can not be more precise (even if I wanted to). I joined a biologist while we were searching for Leadbeater's Possum (which I missed on a few seconds that attempt). The Mountain Brushtail Possum was very common in these mountainous forests. Again, like with the Short-eared Brushtail Possum, most were very low or on the ground. They make quite a noise when foraging. All of them were predominantly greyish.



21) Common Brushtail Possum

As the name suggests, this possum is very commonly encountered where it occurs. In Western Australia they were all greyish, in the Northern Territory (subspecies *arnhemensis*) rufous buff (and on average smaller) and in Tasmania most were blackish-rufous (and indeed larger). Former subspecies *johnstonii* has been elevated to species status in Handbook of the Mammals of the World Volume 5.

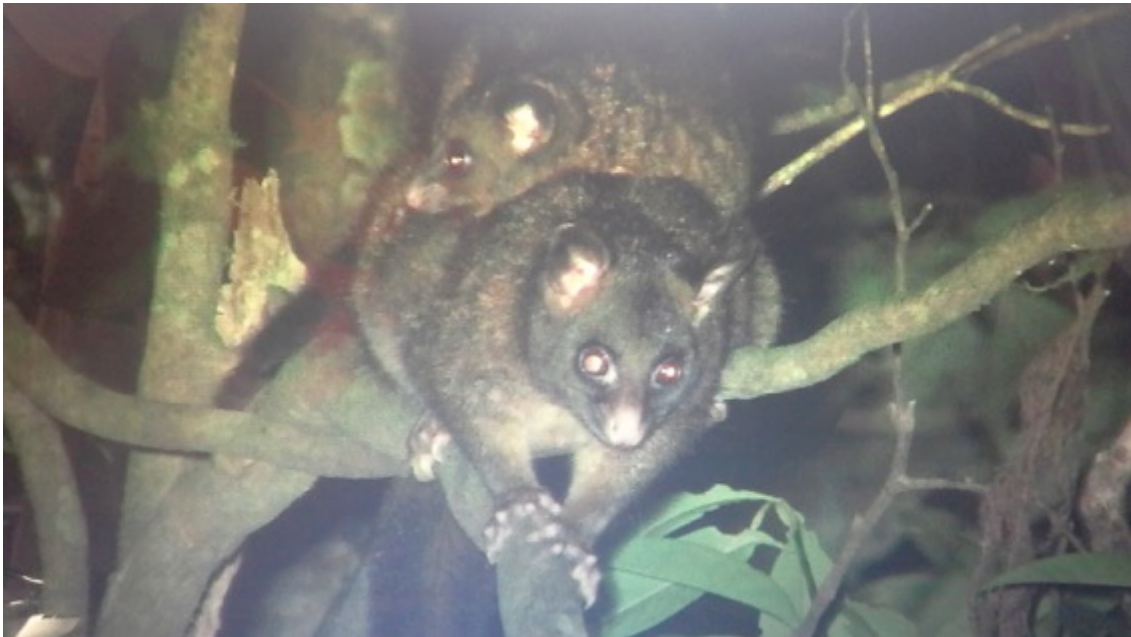


22) Copper Brushtail Possum

In the recently published Handbook of the Mammals of the World 5, former subspecies *johnstonii* of the Common Brushtail Possum has been elevated to specific level.

Mount Hypipamee, Queensland:

In the possum infested rainforest at this location (mostly along the entrance road) Copper Brushtail Possum is the most encountered form. There are also Common Brushtail Possums present. Copper Brushtail Possums should be common at many sites in the Atherton Tablelands.



23) Western Pygmy Possum

Cheyne's Beach, Western Australia:

One of the caravans of Cheynes Beach had three tubes attached to a tree next to one of the caravans. The reason for this are the Pygmy Possums who previously used the roof of the caravan for roosting. When I checked the tubes one of them was occupied. I quickly realised the possum had around four baby possums hanging from her tits (I think they don't have a pouch) so after around 10 seconds I closed the tube again and selfishly advised the campground owner to keep it quiet for a little while. I was there on the 27th of August. I don't know how regular these possums are at this location.



24) Broad-footed Feathertail Glider

Ravenshoe, Queensland:

These normally rather difficult to see species is doable (with a very high succes rate) in winter near Ravenshoe with Alain Gillanders (see under Musky Rat-kangaroo, <http://www.alanswildlifetours.com.au/>). It is then that Yellow-bellied Gliders chew on trees to feed on the tree sap. Sugar Gliders and Broad-footed Feathertail Gliders profit by visiting these trees on a regular basis. Sugar Gliders sometimes feed on Feathertail Gliders, so Feathertails may be a bit more wary when a Sugar Glider is present. Within the hour we had magnificent views of a family of Yellow-bellied Gliders, a Sugar Glider and a Broad-footed Feathertail Glider in the same tree!





25) Striped Possum

Kingfisher Park Lodge, Queensland:

This species is not guaranteed anywhere to my knowledge. I went out one evening spotlighting at the lodge where I found a Striped Possum in the clearing in a particular tree species which they favour. I do not remember the name but I'm sure the owners of the lodge can tell you.



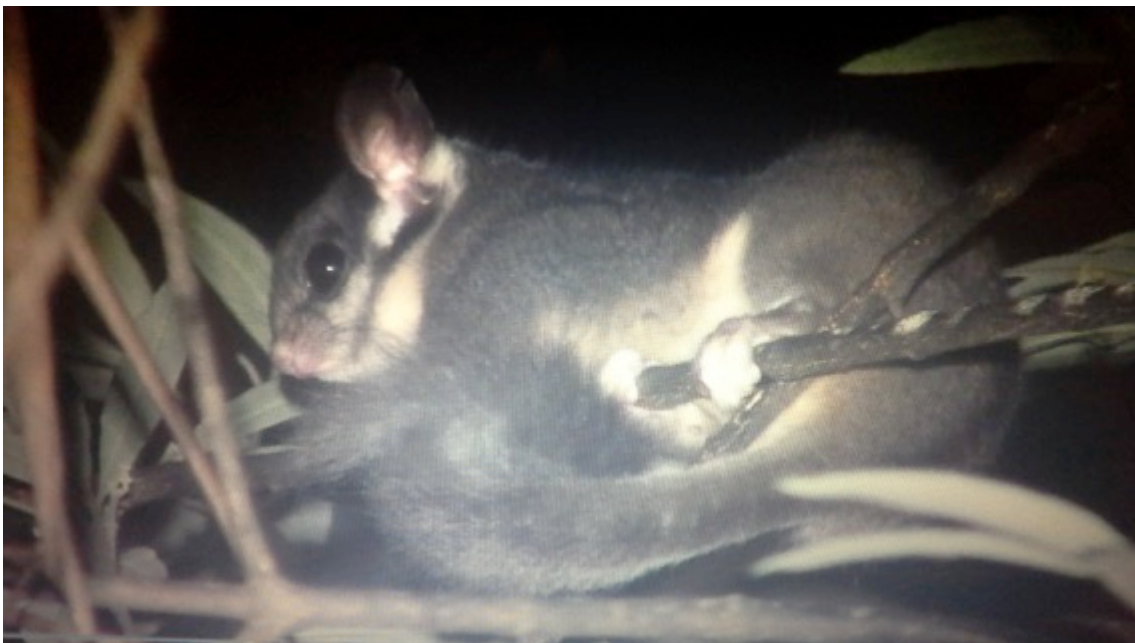
Shipton's Flat, Queensland:

I spent an evening spotlighting in this area with Charlie Roberts, one of two legendary brothers (the other is called Lewis) who got several species of reptiles named after them. They are experts in finding wildlife and are keen to show people around if they have the time. On top of that they are fantastic and warm people. You can easily find them when asking at the Lions Den Pub near Black Mountain. I spent three days with them looking for Bennet's Tree Kangaroo, and although they did their utmost best, we failed to find them during the Christmas days of 2014. In July I returned and we succeeded. Something they never had before since they started in the 80's for people who have more than a day to search. Lucky me... Anyway, saw a Striped Possum when I sat in a chair which Charlie attached atop his hood using a big flashlight. Something of an adventure in itself.

26) Leadbeater's Possum

Mountainous areas above Melbourne, Victoria:

When in Melbourne in Februari, I was invited by a biologist to look for Leadbeater's Possum, now regarded as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Feared extinct by 1939, this species was rediscovered in 1961. Logging and a recent massive fire have resulted in the upgrading on the threatened list. The biologist took my for an hour's drive north of Melbourne where we saw a few goodies. Unfortunately I was a few seconds too late for a Leadbeater's Possum. But I was very lucky I could join the biologist again in late May. This time we drove 2,5 hours to a better spot. Continous pishing seems to work well with this species, as we found a record breaking 16-18 individuals! And good views too!



27) Sugar Glider

Mountainous areas above Melbourne, Victoria:

I can't be more precise, see Mountain Brushtail Possum for the explanation. I spotted around four Sugar Gliders in one evening of spotlighting. Perhaps a bit strange but true they were my first sighting of this species, commonly hearing them previously.



Waterworks Reserve, Hobart, Tasmania:

Heard several ("jipp jipp" alarm call), but only saw one when spotlighting at night on the 9th of Februari.

Capertee Valley, New South Wales:

I heard several but I just couldn't get one into my flashlight around the free campground of Glen Davis. It was the first reasonably serious attempt to see one, but I heard it at many more places (although I didn't knew the call for long).

Ravenshoe, Queensland:

See under Broad-footed Feathertail Glider.

28) Squirrel Glider

Lamington National Park, Duck Creek Road, Queensland:

I went spotlighting on this road on the 11th of October. I filmed a glider which I got identified later as being a Squirrel Glider. It had a very bushy tail. It was also silent. Squirrel Gliders don't call contrary to Sugar Gliders (or at least if they would call, they would sound differently).



Walligan, near Hervey Bay, Queensland:

Squirrel Gliders were being fed on someones property. I saw them there on several nights.

29) Yellow-bellied Glider

Ravenshoe, Queensland:

During an evening of spotlighting with Alan Gillanders (see under Musky Rat-kangaroo and Broad-footed Feathertail Glider) we had excellent views of a family of Yellow-bellied Gliders on their feeding tree.



Mountainous areas above Melbourne, Victoria:

I visited Melbourne on two occasions. Both times a biologist took me out to two different spots in search of Leadbeater's Possum, in which we succeeded on the second attempt, 2,5 hours north of Melbourne. See under Leadbeater's Possum. We also came across a family of Yellow-bellied Gliders, with lots of calls heard. The only sighting was of a probable Yellow-bellied Glider who glided from one tree to the next.

Dharug National Park, near Sydney, New South Wales:

See under Common Wombat. I heard several in the forest in the first section of the big loop walk, which starts from near the group camping area. I took the path on the right (walking the loop anti-clockwise). Some of my friends who visited the site a few months later saw one there.

30) Greater Glider

New England National Park, Queensland:

A ranger told me to look for the Greater Glider in this park so I decided to give it a go. I started my walk at night at Thungutti Campground and soon enough I ran into two very bright white eyes, a distinctive feature for this species. I had good views so I went to bed early. This is the only sighting of this species I had during my travels but my time in his centre of abundance (south-east Australia) was short. After getting back to the Netherlands I found out the Greater Glider has been split in the Handbook of the Mammals of the World Volume 5 into three species. I only saw the southern (more widely distributed) species. Alan Gillanders (see under Musky Rat-kangaroo and Broad-footed Feathertail Glider) can look for the northern species but it is not easy.



31) Rock Ringtail Possum

Umbrowarra Gorge, Northern Territory:

After unsuccessfully looking for Rock Ringtail Possums at several locations in Kakadu National Park I got the tip to look for them at Umbrowarra Gorge from Mike Jarvis, a highly recommended guide for the Top End (<http://www.experiencethewild.com.au/>). Umbrowarra Gorge is about half an hours drive west of Pine Creek. During the daylight hours I surveyed the gorge. The first section of the track takes you parallel to the river on the left. On the right side are some big rocks, the first really big ones already gave me fantastic views of a family of seven Rock Ringtail Possums just after dark! The track then follows the gorge, where lots of droppings seen during the day indicated a large population of Wilkins's Rock Wallabies.



32) Common Ringtail Possum

Lamington National Park, O'Reilly's, Queensland:

This is where I saw my first Common Ringtail Possums, and they were dripping from the trees here. This is the rufous subspecies pulcher, other subspecies being more greyish-black.



Other places where I remember seeing this species include Hypipamee National Park (The Crater), New England National Park and the *mountains just north of Melbourne*.



33) Green Ringtail Possum

Curtain Fig Tree, Yungaburra, Queensland:

In my experience, the commonest encountered possum with a restricted range in north-eastern Queensland. I just had to walk ten meters from my car before I saw my first one. That said, it isn't that common as for instance Common Ringtails further south, but with a reasonable effort quite findable.



Mount Hypipamee National Park (The Crater), Queensland:

Also readily found here at night. My experience during my three nightly visits there is that the possums (I saw three species) start to be more obvious an hour after sunset.



Mount Lewis, near Kingfisher Park Lodge, Queensland:

During two evenings of spotlighting I found three or four, so it appeared less common here as on the Atherton Tablelands.

34) Daintree River Ringtail Possum

Mount Lewis, near Kingfisher Park Lodge, Queensland:

I only found one during two evenings of spotlighting on this road. I found it about 45 minutes of slow walking on the 27th of December further up the road from the Blue-faced Parrot-finch clearing.



35) Herbert River Ringtail Possum

Mount Hypipamee National Park (The Crater), Queensland:

I had three visits to Mount Hypipamee in my year Down Under. The first two visits, both in December, yielded all the possible possum species with the exception of the Herbert River Ringtail. I returned in July, and saw three individuals within the hour, including the all black individual in the following picture.



36) Lemuroid Ringtail Possum

Mount Hypipamee National Park (The Crater), Queensland:

Lemuroid Ringtail Possums make a lot of noise while they are foraging. So if they are around, they are fairly easy to find. It certainly seemed they were dropping from the trees during the two evenings I spent at The Crater (14th and 30st of December).



37) Rufous Bettong

Mareeba Wetlands, near Mareeba, Queensland:

I had the privilege to spend a few nights in a caravan from and at the caretakers home. Officially the reserve had just closed for the Wet Season, it was on the 16th of December. In the evening Rufous Bettong was common around the house. I think normally the reserve closes after sunset though. It might be worth it to check it. Perhaps they are also common in the grass just outside of the reserve.



38) Northern Bettong

Tinaroo Creek Road, Mareeba, Queensland:

Be advised, there are at least two roads in the greater area with the same name! The Northern Bettong is an endangered species of which only around 600 are left in the wild. Take the Tinaroo Creek Road near Mareeba, cross the big dam and you will quickly see the entrance to a scout camp on your right. On the left of the road is a track, I can't really remember if it was just before or just after the entrance but it's unmissable. It's a pretty steep track and it will meander through Eucalypt forest with a grassy understorey, the preferred habitat for the Northern Bettong. During the day I left a piece of Mango and peanutbutter every 50 meters on the track or so. In the evening I walked for a few hours only hearing macropods rushing of. Actually the first macropod I saw was a Mareeba Rock Wallaby (lots of rocks abound next to the track). I saw three of them in total. After a possible sighting of a Bettong after a few hours I walked back, planning to get back to the car. Then, all of a sudden I saw a Bettong about thirty meters away. I slowly moved to the right, disappearing behind a ridge. I tried to cut it off by slowly moving over the ridge. And then out of nowhere I stood face-to-face with the Northern Bettong. After a minute it slowly wandered off, leaving me behind feeling very satisfied!



39) Southern Bettong

Waterworks Reserve, Hobart, Tasmania:

Southern Bettongs are pretty scarce on Tasmania. And they have become extinct on the mainland. The Waterworks Reserve is a good spot to look for them. Like the other Bettongs, it favours forest with a grassy understorey. Throughout the reserve are numbered barbeque spots. I saw my Southern Bettong at spot number 9, where a large clearing is evident and borders the hilly forest with a grassy understorey. That is the general area where they can be found. They are not always there though.



Mathinna, Tasmania:

While driving around at night on the C401, which runs from the little town of Mathinna to Ben Lomond National Park, I briefly saw a Bettong running into a pine plantation on the right side of the road. It was approximately ten kilometers from the village next to a lone large tree.

(Burrowing Bettong)

Dryandra Woodland, Barne Mia, Western Australia:

As with the Bilby. The commonest captive bred animal at this facility.



40) Woylie

Dryandra Woodland, Western Australia:

Now difficult to find at Dryandra, for the same reasons as for the Numbat. While I was driving around during the day while looking for Numbat on the 19th of August, I was fortunate enough to bump into two biologists who were trapping animals to monitor the populations density. They allowed me to join them for a while they were checking the traps. I saw two Woylies after checking around ten traps. The animals were taken "into custody" for some research for a few hours. I was also allowed to join them for a while later in the day when they releasing five Woylies, around the same amount of Common Brushtail Possums and one Yellow-nosed Antechinus.



41) Long-nosed Potoroo

Lamington National Park, Duck Road, Queensland:

Duck Road runs away from the entrance road to O'Reilly's. It starts off being surrounded by rainforest, but after a while it chanches into an Eucalypt forest with a grassy understorey. I parked my car at the start of the Eucalypt forest and after it got dark went out for some spotlighting. I barely had walked for more then twenty meters when I flushed something from the edge of the road. Fortunately it stopped and freezed on the road so that I could have a good look at it, Long-nosed Potoroo! After walking down the road a bit and back again I found what was probably the same individual hopping around in the long grass. No good views that time though.

42) Musky Rat-kangaroo

Lake Barrine, near Yungaburra, Queensland:

Due to my connections which I had build up in Australia during my travels I had the fortune to spend a day with Alan Gillanders (12th of December), a fabulous nature guide who lives in Yungaburra. He is a true naturalist guide, all too willing to show people his little corner of the planet. This is his website: <http://www.alanswildlifetours.com.au/> We started the day at Lake Barrine, this is were I saw a Musky Rat-kangeroo, my first of this diurnal species.



Mount Lewis, near Kingfisher Park Lodge, Queensland:

Opposite the Blue-faced Parrot-finch clearing is a track which leads through some fine rainforest. I walked this track for a bit in the late morning on the 28th of December. Musky Rat-kangaroos were quite common here.

43) Bennet's Tree Kangaroo

Shipton's Flat, near Cooktown, Queensland:

During the Christmas Days 2014 I visited the Roberts Brothers (seen under Striped Possum). With both of them involved, during three days, we looked for around 30 man hours but we couldn't find them. It never happened to them before, since they were first looking for the Bennet's Tree Kangaroo in the early 80's, that they couldn't show them to visitors with time on their hands. I felt so lucky! It had the result that I visited the Roberts brothers again in July 2015. This time it took the lot of us only two hours to find the Bennet's Tree Kangaroo. We observed one mother with a joey in her pouch for half an hour before we saw her previous young a little bit higher in the tree, emphasizing the possible difficulty of seeing the kangaroos when hiding in thick foliage.



44) Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo

Yungaburra, Queensland:

Alan Gillanders, (see under Musky Rat-kangaroo and Broad-footed Feathertail Glider) took me out for the day on the 28th of December. We went spotlighting on a road near Yungaburra. I don't now where it is but even if I knew I couldn't post in on the internet out of respect of Alan. We saw two Tree-kangaroos after dark, a magical experience!



Curtain Fig Tree, near Yungaburra, Queensland:

I slept in my car on the parking lot of the Curtain Fig Tree, opening my door to enjoy the morning chorus and breakfast from the convenience of my bed. Suddenly, in clear view some 20 meters away, I saw a mother Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo slowly climbing down a trunk, followed by a joey. By seeing the Bennet's Tree Kangaroo the next morning at Shipton's Flat I had seen two species of Tree Kangaroos in 26 hours!

Mount Hypipamee (The Crater), Queensland:

When spoltighting for possums in July 2015 I somewhat unexpectedly stumbled upon a Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo along the entrance road. The density in dense rainforest is lower than normal, so a bit of luck was involved.



45) Spectacled Hare-wallaby

Epping National Forest, Queensland:

This reserve is only accessible when applying as a volunteer. See the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat for more info. I spent four nights at the reserve. The first night we went out for some spotlighting. We had barely walked for more than fifty meters from the headquarters before we saw a Spectacled Hare-wallaby! Thirty meters to the right we saw a second individual, followed by a Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat another fifty meters lying on the track. This reserve is known as being a good spot to see the Hare-wallaby, but it isn't necessarily always easy to find.



(Mala)

Barne Mia, DryandranWoodland, Western Australia:

I saw a few individuals at this breeding facility during a short tour in the evening. For more details, see under Bilby.



46) Agile Wallaby

Tropical coastal Queensland and the Top End:

Very common along the tropical coast of Queensland and in the Top End. I saw plenty of them, my first sighting being at Tyto Wetlands at Ingham.



47) Antilopine Wallaroo

Litchfield National Park, Northern Territory:

When driving in the early morning on the main road through the park a mother and a large joey crossed the road in front of my car. The Antilopine Wallaroo is easily recognized in comparison with the much more common Agile Wallaby. If it looks more like a Red Kangaroo than an Agile Wallaby you got it.

Gunlom, Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory:

In the morning I saw a small group foraging in the long grass south of the escarpment behind the Gunlom Campground.



48) Whiptail Wallaby

Lamington National Park, O'Reilly's, Queensland:

When driving up the mountain towards O'Reilly's, look for the Wallabies to the lower road is surrounded by Eucalypt forest. Early morning (and probably early evening) is best, although I also saw a mother and her joey in the middle of the day. This wallaby is locally common, and I did see it a couple of times more in hilly areas but I just can't recall where exactly. I didn't see them in the numbers which occur on this road though.



49) Tamar Wallaby

Kangaroo Island, South Australia:

During my travels I heard to late about Perup Forest, in Western Australia, to be a good place to see this otherwise difficult to see species. Some of my friends saw them there a few months later without much difficulty. Dryandra being a more difficult place to see them nowadays left me with the only other option to my knowledge, Kangaroo Island. Tamar Wallabies are still abundant on the island. I went there without my car, but with a tent. I placed my tent in the hilly forest east of the small town of Penneshaw. At dusk, Tamar Wallabies emerged from their hiding places en masse.



50) Western Brush Wallaby

Stirling Range National Park, Western Australia:

It was on the 28th of August that I saw my first of only two sightings of this wallaby for me. At the time of writing it was a while since, but I do think I roughly remember where I saw it. When standing on the Chester Pass Road and facing the Stirling Range Campsite, there runs a loop on the right which starts from the campground of several kilometers. I saw a Western Brush Wallaby in the forest roughly when halfway on this track. The owners of the campground can surely tell you better directions.

Fitzgerald River National Park, Western Australia:

I saw my second Western Brush Wallaby along the Fitzgerald River close to the Fitzgerald River Bridge, 34,5 kilometers east of Jerramungup. I was following the river looking for birds.

51) Eastern Grey Kangaroo

Common within its range. A big part of its distribution coincides with that of the Western Grey Kangaroo, but they are easily separated by their colour, the Eastern Grey being more lightly coloured than the much darker Western Grey's. When I arrived in Terrick Terrick National Park, Victoria I immediately noticed the Grey Kangaroos looked different after spending a few months of birding west of Terrick Terrick National Park.



52) Western Grey Kangaroo

Common within its range, more so in the Western part of its distribution. Also overlaps with Eastern Grey Kangaroo, see this species for more info.



53) Red Kangaroo

Nullarbor Plain, Southern Australia:

Common across its range, which I didn't traverse often during my travels. I did see quite a lot while crossing the Nullarbor Plain, especially when moving away from the main Highway (probably because the population has been depleted close to the Highway because of the intense traffic), eg along the Cocklebiddy-Rawlinna Road.



Flinder's Ranges National Park, Southern Australia:

I also saw a lot of Red Kangaroos in this park, which was fairly green during my visit (15th-18th of September).



54) Euro

Flinder's Ranges National Park, Southern Australia:

Subspecies *erubescens*. Quite common in the park. I especially remember then from the Stokes Hill Lookout, but that's probably because I spent hours and hours there looking for Short-tailed Grasswren (which I failed to find because the population has crashed, probably due to predation by cats).



Probably near Border Ranges National Park, New South Wales:

Subspecies *robustus*. I'm having trouble remembering where I saw this subspecies, but I nearly hit one and saw several more on a dirt track somewhere... The reason I include it is because people should be mindful of this quite differently coloured (black males and grey females) and shorter haired subspecies of Euro (called Eastern Wallaroo). Judging by reading the book, it looks like the colour of subspecies *erubescens* is gradually grading into several colours, so probably not worthy of a future split?

Top End, Northern Territory:

Subspecies *woodwardi*. Basically from Tennant Creek northwards I encountered many Euro's, as far west as Lake Argyle and north to Kakadu National Park. Some people confuse Euro's with Antilopine Wallaroo, but they look distinctly different, the latter more reminding of a Red Kangaroo.

55) Black Wallaroo

Nourlangie Rock, Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory:

On a nights spotlighting at Nourlangie Rock I heard some rustling in the forest next to the rock wall proved to be a female Black Wallaroo. Despite seeing many droppings above Gunlom Falls the next day I didn't see any Wallaroos, despite waiting from a high point until dark.



56) Red-necked Wallaby

Mainland Australia:

Subspecies *banksianus*. Very common within its range. My first ones were hanging around the campground of Bunya Mountains National Park, Queensland in large numbers. They were very approachable and it was here that I killed a joey when I was driving away from the campground at 30 km/hour. I felt bad for two days :(



Tasmania:

Subspecies *rufogiseus* (Bennet's Wallaby). Also quite common, I saw my first at the Waterworks Reserve, Hobart. They look more fat because of the more thick fur. And unbelievably my second and last macropod roadkill during my year was a second Red-necked Wallaby when driving back to our shed after dark after a days work...



57) Black-striped Wallaby

Bunya Mountains National Park, Queensland:

Beware of confusion with the very numerous Red-necked Wallabies in the area!

Black-striped Wallabies mostly come out at night and even then stay (mostly?) inside the rainforest. I saw at least one certain, one probable and a lot of maybe's when spotlighting on the 7th of October.



58) Quokka

Rottneest Island, near Perth, Western Australia:

This species is rare on the mainland, but common on Rottneest Island. Dutch explorers were the first Europeans to set foot on this island. They mistook the omnipresent Quokka's for big rats. They also found the Quokka's nests, hence they dubbed the island Ratneest Eiland (as spelled in modern Dutch) which speaks for itself. I visited the island on the 15th of August and I did see both very tame Quokka's in villages and more shy Quokka's in the less populated areas on the island. I did feed one of them the only food I had with me, which was white bread. Not very healthy for the animals as I found out much later... Feeding in general of these animals is also not recommended.



59) Black Wallaby

I saw this species quite regularly, but these are the ones I remember the locations from:

Bowra Station, Queensland:

This is where I saw my first one while it crossed one of the roads on the station grounds. It was the only one during my two day stay (2nd-3rd October) so I reckon they are not very plentiful there.

Drive Bowra Station =» Dalby, Queensland:

Somewhere on this drive I came across an area which was loaded with Black Wallabies along the road.



Epping National Forest, Queensland:

This reserve is only accessible as a volunteer, see the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat for more info. Black Wallabies were abundant in the reserve.



60) Bridled Nailtail Wallaby

Tennant Creek, Northern Territory:

Local guide Mark Carter from Alice Springs (<http://www.birdingandwildlife.com/>) gave me the tip to look for the Nailtails along Warrego Road. This road runs west just north of the town of Tennant Creek and leads to an abandoned mine site after, if I remember correctly, some 40-50 km. He told that after the first 10 km on this road you can expect to see them, but the animals are few and far between. It took me a few hours to finally see one crossing the road in front of me.

61) Short-eared Rock Wallaby

Lake Argyle, West Australia:

While I was travelling in Australia came the news that the Short-eared Rock Wallaby was split into two species, the newly named taxon being the Wilkins's Rock Wallaby (<http://focusingonwildlife.com/news/new-species-of-rock-wallaby-discovered-in-australia/>). Lake Argyle Cruises, just 200 meters down the road after passing Lake Argyle Resort, offers the best views of this species in this area (<http://lakeargylecruises.com/>) during their daily cruises. Lake Argyle Resort also offer a chance to see this species, but the views are not as good as with the more experienced Lake Argyle Cruises.



62) Wilkins's Rock Wallaby

Litchfield National Park:

As explained under the Short-eared Rock Wallaby, this is a newly named species in 2014 from the Top End. I found my first one after dark at Florence Falls at the loop walk somewhere next to the little stream on a big rock wall.



Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory:

From the Ubirr Border Store, take the second road southwards while driving back to Jabiru. It leads to the Bardedjilidji walk where you can walk in a loop around the rocks. It is here where I found a lot of Wilkins's Rock Wallabies after dark. The screenshot below is of an individual which I encountered along the track at Ubirr.



63) Black-flanked Rock Wallaby

Simpson's Gap, West MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory:

It is a short walk from the parking lot to the Gap itself. Just before you reach the Gap you will see a lot of boulders on your right. I intended to stay there until dusk, but several individuals were sunning themselves on the rocks.



64) Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby

Warren Gorge, Southern Australia:

This is a very reliable place to see the Yellow-footed Rock Wallabies. There is a loop track which I walked to survey the area. A nice walk but I think the best spot is the gorge itself, very close to the entrance gate. It is not very long but I saw three separate individuals just before sunset. They are very "confiding" and are reasonably approachable. It is essential to look for them early evening or early morning, as they hide under rock crevices during the day, occasionally sunning themselves in the sun on cold days.



Flinder's Ranges National Park, Southern Australia:

I cannot pinpoint where I saw a Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby, but it was on a bumpy 4-wheel drive road which traverses the National Park from one end to the other. I saw it in a big rocky gorge (quite logically).

Telowie Gorge, South Australia:

When walking into the gorge looking for birds I also found a lone Rock Wallaby. It was easy to walk in the dry riverbed on the 18th of September, but I'm not entirely sure about the ease of walking there during the wet (although there was some sort of track, but I also saw a broken bridge).

65) Cape York Rock Wallaby

Artemis Station, near Musgrave, Queensland:

Artemis Station is owned by the Shepherd family, known and even awarded for their work to help save the endangered Golden-shouldered Parrot. Sue Shepherd sometimes takes out people to look for these parrots for a small fee. You can contact her by calling Musgrave Roadhouse. I spent two days around Musgrave on the 20th and 21st of December. I was lucky the rains hadn't started yet so the long dirt road to Musgrave was very drivable. The road also looked recently graded, if so it helped me a lot, only having a 2-wheel drive car. If you drive this road and the rains start, you have to wait for up to three months to drive back to the east! The first day I spent a few hours with Sue looking for the parrots, not at all easy in December, but we succeeded. They also have Cape York Wallaby on their property, I spent an afternoon and early evening around the rocks which are close to a road (ask Sue for permission and location, but do it in advance because they could be away from home). I surveyed the area to see how to walk and waited a few hours in the car. I used the rocks to reduce noise and saw my first Cape York Wallaby very well. I saw a few more but very poorly. Some people have had difficulties to see them in the past.



66) Godman's Rock Wallaby

Black Mountains, near Cooktown, Queensland:

A difficult Rock Wallaby to get. It has declined at Black Mountains although it is still there. The mountains consists of piled up boulders so the wallabies are probably mostly out of sight. The Roberts brothers from Shipton's Flat (see under Striped Possum) gave me directions to a place where they knew it could be seen, although many had failed before me. When driving towards Cooktown on the Mulligan Highway, just before the Black Mountains, is the turn-off towards before Rossville (Shipton's Flat road) on the right. From here on the Mulligan Highway moving away from Cooktown you will soon cross a bridge over the Annan River. This river runs through a rocky gorge, when driving from Cooktown walk the rocks to the right of the road. You can just walk a fairly short distance but when positioned on one of the big rocks it is possible to scan the surrounding rocks in the early evening (and perhaps also in the early morning). I saw one kn the 23rd of December just before dark so I must count myself lucky.



67) Mareeba Rock Wallaby

Granite Gorge, near Mareeba, Queensland:

One of the easier eastern Queensland Rock Wallabies to see. Granite Gorge is a small privately run reserve where you can see the Rock Wallabies throughout the day because they are being fed by the tourists there.



Tinaroo Creek Road, near Mareeba, Queensland:

See under the Northern Bettong. I also saw Mareeba Rock Wallabies here with relative ease at night when looking for the Bettong. A bit more of a wildlife experience compared with Granite Gorge.



68) Sharman's Rock Wallaby

Mount Claro, near Ingham, Queensland:

This Rock Wallaby has a very small distributional area. Mount Claro is a very reliable place to see them. It is a jagged hill top on the left hand side of the Mount Fox Road, around eight kilometers after the crater and just before the road drops off sharply. It is private property so I asked for permission to look for the Rock Wallabies at Kilcloonie Station on the 5th of Januari (my birthday), about ten kilometers down the road from Mount Claro, like many before me. I read several reports on the internet that they were granted access. I was stunned when the owner told me "I don't want people poking about". He pressed I only stay on the road, not even driving on tracks that lead to the mountain. The land was for sale, maybe that had something to do with it, or maybe people went there without asking for permission, or maybe hunters had been tress passing, only guesses... I drove back, I could see the mountain in the distance. I could have waited hoping for a glimpse in the distance, but I just couldn't after having to drive hundreds of kilometers for this Rock Wallaby, and my quest was to see all eight of the eastern Queensland Rock Wallabies! I decided to walk along the road, sometimes venturing 100 meters or so on the property, and fortunately enough I bumped into three Sharman's Rock Wallabies after just 20 minutes late midday. I enjoyed their presence for a while and quickly got out. Hopefully permission to look for the wallabies will be possible again in the future, or another location will become known.



69) Allied Rock Wallaby

Magnetic Island, Queensland:

Also one of the easier eastern Queensland Rock Wallabies to see. They are also being fed by the tourists. I don't know the exact location anymore but it was at the small town of ETTY Bay. The locals would know where they are. I asked the bus driver and he pointed me in the right direction. When I was there during midday they were nowhere to be seen. After a minute two lovely young German ladies stopped by, they had some carrots with them. All of a sudden, many Allied Rock Wallabies started to appear.



70) Unadorned Rock Wallaby

Apricorn Caves, Mount Etna National Park, near Rockhampton, Queensland:

These Rock Wallabies start to appear in fair numbers along the short road towards the parking lot for the Capricorn Caves. They come out in the early evening on the grassy patches. The caves close before that but I could stay in the parking lot.



71) Herbert's Rock Wallaby

Westwood, near Rockhampton, Queensland:

The last of the eight eastern Queensland Rock Wallabies I wanted to see. Westwood is a very small town west of Rockhampton. When passing through the town when travelling from Rockhampton the hill is very evident on your right hand side. It is private property, so I seeked out the carekeepers on the 10th of Januari who called the owners. They gave me permission to look for the Rock Wallabies, as long as I closed all the gates. The caretaker asked me where I got the information so I just told him "I got it from the internet". He didn't particularly liked that but lets hope that future visitors will get permission as well. I drove to the back of the big hill and the Herbert's Rock Wallaby was very plentiful, if not a tad bit cautious.



72) Proserpine Rock Wallaby

Airlie Beach, Queensland:

From all the eight eastern Queensland Rock Wallabies, this one has the most limited distribution. Furthermore, it lives in the rainforest with scattered rocks/boulders, difficult habitat to look through. For me this was indeed the hardest Rock Wallaby to find, and the only one I didn't get on film. Near Airlie Beach is Mandalay Road. Supposedly driving this road at night will give you a chance to see the Rock Wallaby on the grassy patches next to the road. I drove it twice without seeing any on the 8th of Januari, but not before seeing one at the following location. At the end Mandalay Road is a private road, with a picnic spot next to the water on the left. A bit back are some houses. This is were I asked if they knew where to look for the Rock Wallabies. They told me to walk back a bit in the direction of Airlie Beach, on the left are two roads that lead into the forest (on the left when walking towards Airlie Beach). The first one leads to a closed gate, the second one to a small clearing. I walked the small clearing, which was meant to be build upon. I was told to pass the gate, they saw the Rock Wallabies quite regularly when walking their dogs in the evening. It is a tarmac/bitumen road with several slots which were all meant to be build upon. According to the locals it was a mistake, and nobody bought any of the slots yet. I walked the road at night but I only heard several macropods running off in the thick undergrowth. Now the hard part to explain: there were several sections of small rocks under metal netting running through the rainforest between some of the slots and the road which looked they were meant to discard of excessive water. I could walk fairly quietly on these and this is where I startled my only Proserpine Rock Wallaby, which ran on the rocks for a bit (showing his white tail tip), turned around to face me for a few seconds at about forty meters distance before it dissapeared into the rainforest. Good luck...

73) Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby

Perseverance Dam, near Pechey, Queensland:

About eight kilometers east of Pechey is Perseverance dam. It is here that a small colony of Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies can be seen in the early evening on the landward side of the dam. This species has declined severely at many places but they are very reliable here. I saw around five of them and could watch them with my telescope from around twenty minutes before sunset while they were relaxing on the rocks.



74) Purple-necked Rock Wallaby

Mount Isa, Northern Territory:

After a tip of a local I visited the local Bowhunters Club in town. I saw around 8 Rock Wallabies sunning themselves during midday in July. A cold front had just passed through the area. They were on the first rocky hill on the right when arriving at the Bowhunters Club. There is also a location near the water towers close to the local Backpackers. The staff can show you the way. Also, when looking for Grasswrens out of town I found lots of droppings on the rocks, so it seems they are common in the general area. The purplish wash on the back of their heads is very evident.



75) Rufous-bellied Pademelon

Tasmania:

Formerly also occurring on the nearby mainland, where it is extirpated now. Fortunately it is still abundant on Tasmania. When working on a potato farm for three months we always left very early in the morning. I had to close my eyes on some dirt roads as the farmers hit a lot of Pademelons. And they were laughing about it :(



76) Red-legged Pademelon

Lamington National Park, O'Reilly's and Binna Burra sections, Queensland:

This is where I recall seeing them. Almost certainly also seen at other locations but I don't really recall which species of the two overlapping Pademelons I've seen where. I probably have seen too many species to remember everything ;) At O'Reilly's I only saw two individuals, compared to the abundant Red-necked Pademelons there. At Binna Burra, strangely enough, it was the other way around. Although I don't recall seeing the Red-necked Pademelon there. It looked a bit drier at Binna Burra, which could possibly have something to do with it?





77) Red-necked Pademelon

Lamington National Park, O'Reilly's, Queensland:

Abundant in Lamington National Park in the O'Reilly's section. Of all the Pademelons I've seen there in three days only two were certain Red-legged Pademelons. In the Binna Burra section of Lamington I don't recall seeing Red-necked, but Red-legged was abundant there.



78) Eastern Tube-nosed Bat

Seen on several other locations, but these are the ones I clearly remember.

Kingfisher Park Lodge, Queensland:

I was spotlighting at the lodge with two other birders on the 17th of December one of the other birders pointed out the Eastern Tube-nosed Bats which were flitting about. There were quite a few flying around, but this is dependent on the amount of fruiting and flowering trees on the property I reckon.

Mount Lewis, Queensland:

When spotlighting in search of possums around on two nights two weeks apart on the road above the Blue-faced Parrot-finch clearing I also saw several Tube-nosed Bats flying around on both evenings.

79) Black Flying-fox

Beechmont Road, near Lamington National Park Binna Burra section, Queensland:

On this road while driving towards the Binna Burra section of Lamington National Park there is an evident mixed colony of Flying-foxes along this road. In memory the colony was a kilometer or so past a military base of some sorts, just look out of the window and you can not miss them. Black Flying-foxes are pretty common here, although greatly outnumbered by Grey-headed Flying-foxes (at least when I visited on the 12th of October). Supposedly there is also a chance for Little Red Flying-fox, but I didn't find any, although they might be seasonal, me being too early for them.



Pielbe, near Hervey Bay, Queensland:

Along the road next to the ocean, you will come across this large colony of Flying-foxes. Most of the Flying-foxes here on my visit on the 24th of October were Black, but Little Red was also common. I do not recall seeing Grey-headed, but I could have just forgotten about them. Species diversity and density varies seasonally, Spectacled also possible after big storms in the north.

80) Spectacled Flying-fox

Common in his range, these are some of the locations:

Cairns CBD, Queensland:

There are several big roosts of Spectacled Flying-foxes in the CBD, where they are very evident, eg around the Cairns Library.

81) Insular Flying-fox

Ouvea, Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia:

I visited the small island of Ouvea primarily for the endemic Ouvea Parakeet. But when I was driving back after some snorkeling a lot of Flying Foxes were flying about. When I later checked it on the internet there was only one possibility, Insular Flying-fox (aka Pacific Flying-fox).



Atherton Tablelands, Queensland:

Basically every rainforest patch on the Atherton Tablelands seems to hold Spectacled Flying-fox, eg Curtain Fig Tree near Yungaburra and Mount Hypipamee (The Crater).

Kingisher Park Lodge and Mount Lewis, Queensland:

Both spots had many Spectacled Flying-foxes foraging around at night.

81) Grey-headed Flying-fox

Seen at many locations, but my memory only truly brings me back to the following locations:

Lamington National Park, Duck Creek Road, near O'Reilly's, Queensland:

When looking for Marbled Frogmouth in the rainforest section of the road I encountered several Grey-headed Flying-foxes. There are some colonies around O'Reilly's, and they take tourists out to see them.

Lamington National Park, Binna Burra section, Queensland:

Saw many flying around in the evening at some of the clearings.

Beechmont Road, near Lamington National Park Binna Burra section, Queensland:

See under Black Flying-fox.



82) Little Red Flying-fox

Pielbe, near Hervey Bay, Queensland:

See under Black Flying-fox. The large colonies of this species are seasonal (October-November). I was at Pielbe on the 24th of October 2014.



83) Ghost Bat

Pine Creek, Northern Territory:

This is a large carnivorous bat, which is surprisingly shy and easy to disturb. There is an accessible colony in an old mine shaft at the town of Pine Creek. The locals know about it so feel free to ask them. When following the road towards the town dump (the road bears a name which is something like Chinaman Street or something). Before reaching the dump you can see the mine shaft on your right. It is indeed dug by Chinese so me being a tall Dutch guy I had to bend the whole time. The Ghost Bats were found after only 200 meters, but they are extremely shy and fly away the instance I pointed my light on them, with the exception of the individual on the screenshot below. It just stayed long enough to get a film of a few seconds before it flew off. I only visited the colony for about 2-3 minutes. It is probably a good idea to use a red filter.



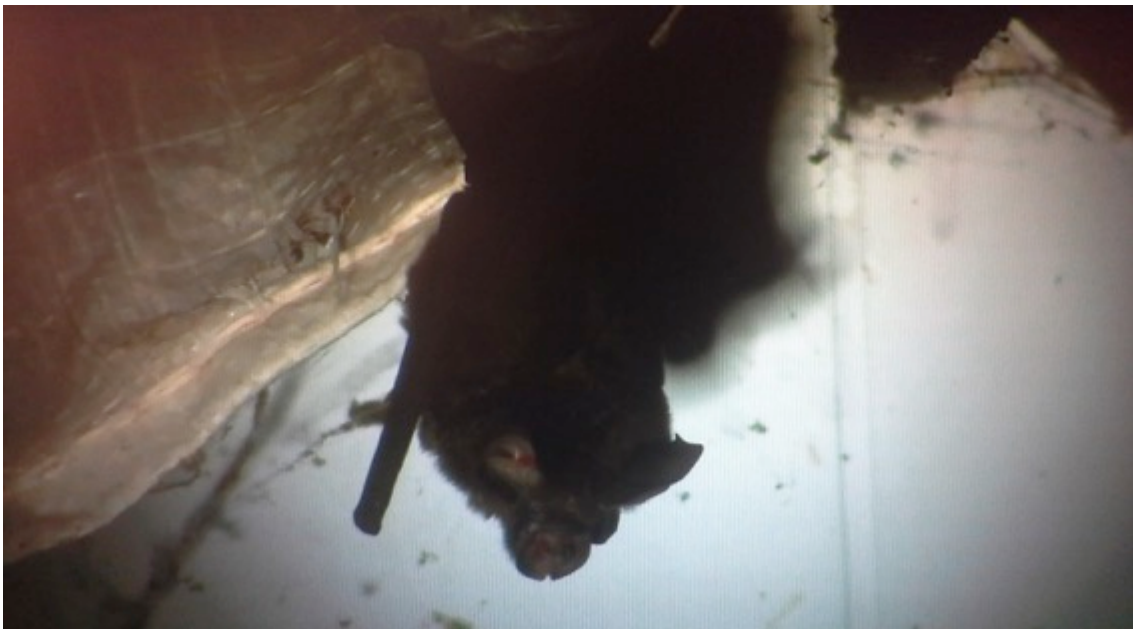
Nourlangie Rock, Kakadu National Park:

When spotlighting at Nourlangie Rock a lone Ghost Bat made a brief appearance. The gate towards the rock is supposedly never closed after the site closes after the sun has set.

84) Eastern Horseshoe Bat

Shipton's Flat, near Cooktown, Queensland:

During the Christmas days I spent two evenings spotlighting with Charlie Roberts, one of the two legendary naturalists brothers who live in Shipton's Flat, see under Striped Possum. Both times we went to a mine (I forgot what they were mining) which was closed due to bankruptcy. Charlie had a permit to go in there. We saw a single Eastern Horseshoe Bat in one of the buildings, and hundreds of them in a mineshaft. Charlie told me that the mine was to reopen in the near future, so I can imagine the bats will abandon this shaft (but a few may linger, who knows).



Bramston Beach Caravan Park, near Babinda, Queensland:

At the back of this caravan park is a small cave with Dusky Leaf-nosed Bat. I also saw a few Eastern Horseshoe Bats amidst them. They are much bigger than the Dusky. For more info see under Dusky Leaf-nosed Bat.



85) Orange Leaf-nosed Bat

Tolmer Falls, Litchfield National Park:

This location practically guarantees seeing this scarce species, albeit the views are a bit distant. The gorge is closed for the public, but you can see the easily recognizable bats at dusk (and probably dawn) from the lookout when they leave their roosts and hunt above the pool. There is also an information board present.

86) Dusky Leaf-nosed Bat

Bramston Beach Caravan Park, near Babinda, Queensland:

At the back of this caravan park is a small cave. Note that there are two campgrounds at Bramston Beach. I called the bigger one by mistake and asked for the cave, he didn't know what I was talking about which nearly made me to skip this species by mistake! The owners of the caravan park in question know about the cave and happily let me check it out. I went in on the 2nd of Januari and saw many Dusky Leaf-nosed Bats, including many young. They are born from October-December and are weaned by mid-Januari. There was also a big Carpet Python, no doubt waiting for some young to fall down to the ground. A large part of the Dusky's were orange (half or more of them) which confused me for a short while. Then I read in Peter Menkhorst's guide that a small part of the individuals are orange.



87) Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat

Chillagoe Caves, Queensland:

These caves consist of several caves for which you have to join a tour, and three smaller ones where you can venture in yourself. These are The Archways (easy access), the Pompeii and Bauhinia Caves (difficult access). I visited Chillagoe Caves on the 17th of December for a swift but decided to look for bats as well. I found three species. One Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat was found in one of the two caves with difficult access, unfortunately I do not remember which of the two. Bring a flashlight!



Shipton's Flat, near Cooktown, Queensland:

I saw a few Diadem Leaf-nosed Bats in the abandoned mineshaft with Charlie Roberts. See under Eastern Horseshoe Bat.



88) Arnhem Leaf-nosed Bat

Nourlangie Rock, Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory:

This species has recently been split off from the Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat. I saw one flying around on the Bardedjilidji walk while spotlighting. Supposedly Madrugal Campsite is also a good spot to look for them.

89) Yellow-bellied Sheattail Bat

Northern Territory:

A broad locality description, but this is a common, conspicuous and widespread species. This bat utters an audible echo location, together with the White-striped Freetail Bat the only species of bat in Australia to do so. These species overlap greatly in range, but the latter doesn't reach the Top End. In addition, when in the spotlight, these species are easily separated.

90) Troughton's/Common Sheattail Bat

Chillagoe Caves, Queensland:

When looking in Peter Menkhorst's guide it should be Troughton's. The ranger told me the local bat expert said they were Common Sheat-tail Bats. With all due respect, not many rangers were very knowledgeable during my travels. On the other hand, much debate about these species distributions seem to circulate. When pressed into a corner, I would say Troughton's, purely because I trust Peter Menkhorst and Frank Knight did their research. Anyway, for more info on the caves, see under Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat. I saw quite a lot hiding in crevices and hanging from the ceiling in the Archways Cave.



91) White-striped Freetail Bat

Southern Australia:

Again a pretty broad location description. This species, together with the Yellow-bellied Sheattail Bat, are the only Australian bats with an audible echo location. Their ranges overlap but they look distinctly different. When I noticed the calls I suddenly found the White-striped Freetail Bat quite common when traveling from Birdsville to Coober Pedy and Alice Springs.

92) Chocolate Wattled Bat

Bunya Mountains National Park, Queensland:

There is a small whitish house on the Parks and Wildlife campground which used to be used as a school and a storehouse if I remember correctly. It is out of use now and thankfully being utilised by the Chocolate Wattled Bats. There is a sign telling about the bats, and you can smell it. I found out about it on my second night at Bunya, the 7th of October. In addition to the adults leaving the house, I also saw two young just under the roof.



93) Finlayson's Cave Bat

Alice Springs, Northern Territory:

There is a bat cave just south of Alice Springs where, in one hour, I found three separate Finlayson's Cave Bats. To reach the cave, drive south from Alice Springs on the Stuart Hwy. You will reach a hill with a railway running under it (they were constructing it when I was there in June 2015). After that you will find a track which leads west of the Hwy, just before some sort of building. It is a 4wd track so I couldn't take that one. I guess you will have to drive over the railway and follow the track south until you cross a creek on a large bridge. Remember that bridge as it is the same bridge people will have to find if they don't have a 4wd, like I did. I drove past the track on the Stuart Hwy until I reached Roe Creek. Park your car just south of the creek and then climb or crawl under the fence. Walk along the creek until you reach a large railway bridge which crosses the creek. Follow the railway for around 1 km. During the walk you will cross an opening under the railway which is too small for cars to pass. Then you will reach an opening under the railway which is passable by car. Normally there are some car tracks visible. Follow

the track for a total of around 150/200 meters when it goes north and bends to the west. The cave entrance will be visible on your left. It seems the cave is fairly regularly visited by people. I just stayed on the “main track” of the cave.



94) Eastern Cave Bat

Hervey Range Road, near Townsville, Queensland:

This road, which runs for quite a long distance from Townsville, had many road culverts. The sizes differ, I just checked every one of them from road culvert number 30. Before I reached 40 I saw a small group of Eastern Cave Bats. Furthermore, just before where the road bends to the right, and where you face some mountains, was a set of three very big culverts. Somewhere close to number 50. I didn't write the culverts down because my car broke down and had to be towed away for repairs. Anyway, at the three culverts there were around fifteen Eastern Cave Bats. They liked to roost in the abandoned swallow nests. They were joined by what looked like Common Bentwing Bats (but this needs confirmation).



95) Common Bentwing Bat

Darwin University, Darwin, Northern Territory:

There is a colony of Common (Northern) Bentwing Bats under a culvert on the grounds of Darwin University. I read on mammalwatching.com that it was next to Lakeview Drive. I found out it was Lakeside Drive so there was a bit of confusion at first. I drove Lakeside Drive but I couldn't find any obvious culverts. I looked at a map of the University Grounds (which is probably present at every entrance into the grounds) and saw that Rapid Creek runs through the grounds in the south of the grounds. I drove Lakeside Drive north until a roundabout when I turned left on Dripstone Road until I reached another roundabout. I again turned left on University S Dr. and quickly reached Rapid Creek which was on the left hand side of the road. I got out and found several big culverts from which I heard the bats. I was lucky it was a Saturday, otherwise they might have thrown me into the local madhouse. I changed into my swimming pants and slipped down the concrete wall of the creek. The bottom was also concrete and the water was only 30-40 cm deep. Don't ask me what was in the water though, I don't want to know either! The left culvert was where I heard the bats from and it was large enough for me to stand straight. I found the bats but they were easily startled so I left quickly. Maybe a red filter on the flashlight helps.



Hervey Range Road, near Townsville, Queensland:

For more information on this road, see under Eastern Cave Bat. Some of the bats that roosted together with the Eastern Cave Bats under the set of three big culverts (+/- number 50) looked very much like Common Bentwing Bats to me. However, this needs confirmation, other possibilities being Little Bentwing- and Chocolate Wattled Bat I think. Both screenshots could help. If anybody can ID them, I would appreciate feedback.



96) Little Bentwing Bat

Chillagoe Caves, Queensland:

For more information on this location, see under Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat. In either Pompeii or Bauhinia Cave I found a single individual of this species. There are huge colonies elsewhere in the area, but they might be off limits. Check with the local Parks and Wildlife officers.



Shipton's Flat, near Cooktown, Queensland:

When checking an abandoned mineshaft with Charlie Roberts we found three species of bats, including around forty Little Bentwings. They cluster in cohesive groups when roosting.

97) Large-footed Myotis

Mareeba Wetlands, near Mareeba, Queensland:

I visited these wetlands on the 16th of December, even though the reserve was just closed for the Wet Season. See under Rufous Bettong for further details. There is a restaurant at the shore of the lake. In the nooks and crevices of this building I found around twenty roosting Large-footed Myotis.



98) Lesser Long-eared Bat

Near Barrington Tops, New South Wales:

Said to be one of Australia's most abundant mammals, I must have seen a lot of them hawking for insects at night during my stay. The only definitive sighting however was when I spent a night at a birdwatchers home. In the morning he opened his garden coat because he said that a lone bat was sometimes roosting in there. And I was lucky, it proved to be a Lesser Long-eared Bat.



99) Fawn-footed Melomys

Kingfisher Park Lodge, Queensland:

I went for some spotlighting on the property on the 17th of December. Fawn-footed Melomys were quite common, especially near the caretakers house. They feed the animals at night. Take care where you walk though, as I think I walked through their garden without knowing :o

100) Giant White-tailed Rat

Yungaburra, Atherton Tablelands, Queensland:

I spent an evening with the excellent guide Alan Gillanders (see under Musky Rat-kangaroo) looking for Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo somewhere around Yungaburra. Minutes before we got back to the car a Giant White-tailed Rat was climbing in the trees. Alan said he sees more tree kangaroos than these rats around Yungaburra.

Kingfisher Park Lodge, Queensland:

These rats are common on the property, appearing in good numbers after dusk.

Shipton's Flat, near Cooktown, Queensland:

When entering the abandoned mineshaft with Charlie Roberts (see under Striped Possum) a cornered Giant White-tailed Rat gave some nice views as we let it pass us.



101) Brush-tailed Rabbit Rat

Madrugal Campsite, Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory:

This species is in steep decline. On the mainland it is almost totally confined to 30 km inland in the Kimberley. Madrugal Campsite in Kakadu is also a know haunt for them. After a spotlight session at Nourlangie Rock I was tired but decided to try for an hour at the campsite, finding a few Northern Brushtail Possums but no rats. I decided to take a shower at the toilet/shower block with a leaking watertank. I heard some rustling and expecting to see another of those damn Cane Toads I was pleasantly surprised to see a Brush-tailed Rabbit Rat walking down a very low branch on the ground before disappearing into a large clump of pandanus. I ran back to my car for my camera but despite hearing some rustling from within the pandanus thicket I couldn't get a second view. I don't know if there are more than one toilet/shower blocks on the campground.

102) Arnhem Land Rock Rat

Bardedjilidji walk, Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory:

For directions to this walk, see under Wilkins's Rock Wallaby. In two hours I saw one Arnhem Land Rock Rat at the foot of the rocks. The walk is a loop, when walking anti clockwise you will go through a small arch between two rocks. Follow the track until a second much larger arch. Walk back until the track and rock bends sharply to the right. It is here where I saw the rat at the foot of the rock wall. It came back several times but I couldn't get it on film and the mosquitoes got the better of me.

103) Bush Rat

I possibly have seen this species on more locations, but the next location is were I've first seen them:

Bunya Mountains National Park, Queensland:

When walking along a stream somewhere along the Scenic Circuit Walk (four kilometers) in the middle of the day I found a foraging Bush Rat in the undergrowth. When spotlighting in the evening of that same day Bush Rats were reasonably common in the rainforest.





104) Prehensile-tailed Rat

The Prehensile-tailed Rat of Australia is probably a separate species, so a name change will probably happen in the near future.

Kingfisher Park Lodge, Queensland:

When spotlighting on the property at night on the 17th of December a small group of birders, obviously including me, found at least one, possibly two Prehensile-tailed Rats foraging around. Supposedly Kingfisher Park Lodge is a very good place to look for it.

105) Australian Fur Seal

Bruny Island, Tasmania:

In order to see the Australian Fur Seals near Bruny Island, one has to book a spot on one of the boats of Bruny Island Cruises. They depart twice a day from Adventure Bay. I took the three hour trip along the rugged coastline which brings you to the fur seals. Not exactly my kind of trip, more for the average tourist, but I did had great views of the colony.





Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania:

I had the fortune to join a pelagic trip on the 15th of Februari because someone else had canceled her spot on the boat. This trip was being organized by Rohan Clarke, a biologist who is the co-author of the new and excellent Finding Australian Birds. Most trips leave port during the Australian winter. Normally they cruise along the Hypolites, which harbours a colony of the fur seals. However, on the day we went out to the edge of the continental shelf the weather was too wild so we had to take another route. We did see two fur seals shortly after leaving port, almost certainly belonging to this species. There are also monthly trips run by locals. Try Google using the name Paul Brooks and combine it with Eaglehawk Neck Pelagics. After having worked for three months on a potato farm in Scottsdale. I joined a boat trip with Paul Brooks on the 24th of May and this time we had nice views of the Fur Seals on the Hypolites.

106) New Zealand Fur Seal

Neptune Islands Marine Park, near Port Lincoln, South Australia:

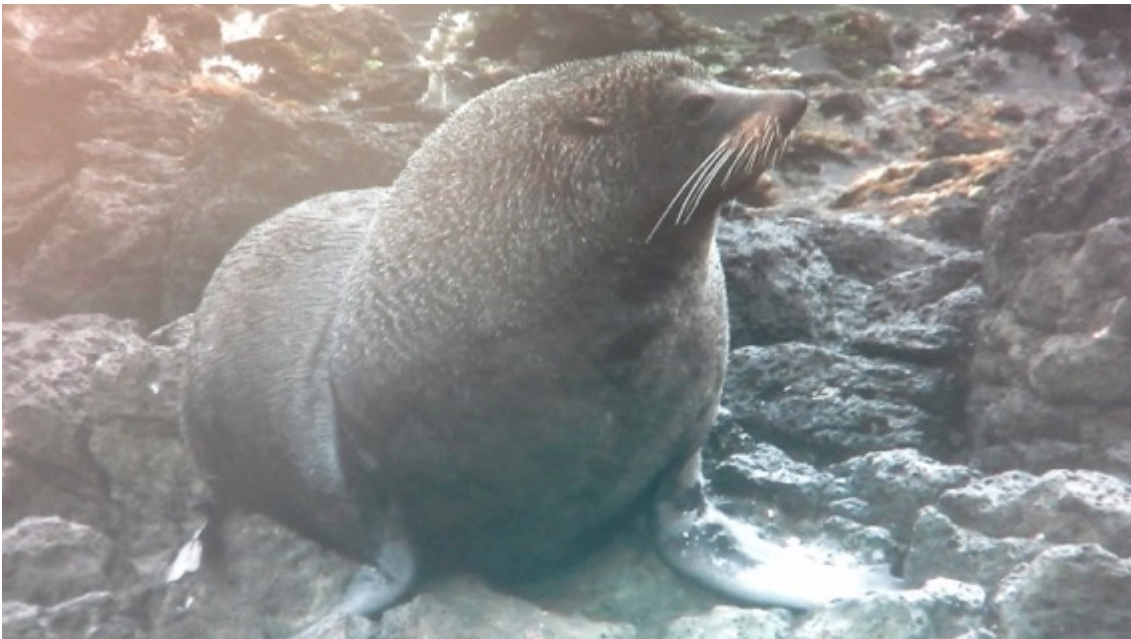
On leaving the Netherlands to fly to Perth, my friends treated me with enough money to do a Great White Shark cage dive with Calypso Star Charters. This company is the only one with a permit to visit Neptune Islands Marine Park. I left the shore on the 10th of September, normally a good time to see the sharks. On the rocky shores where we laid anchor were groups of my first New Zealand Fur Seals. I was a bit preoccupied with the Great White's though, the biggest one of five sharks seen being 4,5 meters long (according to the skipper).

Kaikoura, New Zealand:

The rocky shores a few kilometers above Kaikoura are littered with New Zealand Fur Seals, at least when I visited on the 13th of November. Supposedly somewhere around Kaikoura is also a spot where pups swim a fair bit upstream a creek into the forest. This is the only place in the country where they are known to do this. There they are safe and they can be seen playing in the small pools.

Otago Peninsula, near Dunedin, New Zealand:

I did a day tour with Elm Wildlife Tours on the Otago Peninsula on the 27th of November. These people are dedicated Yellow-eyed Penguin conservation, and part of the proceeds go directly in managing the breeding grounds of this endangered penguin, which is endemic to New Zealand. The tour will give you opportunities to look at a colony of New Zealand Fur Seals. There were a lot of pups around, so it might be seasonal. November is a good month in any case. The fur seals are not the only attraction. Breeding Northern Royal Albatross, Hooker's/New Zealand Sea-lion and both Yellow-eyed - and Little Penguins.





107) Australian Sea-lion

Rottneest Island, Western Australia:

I visited this island near Perth on the 15th of August. When I was waiting on the jetty for the return boat there was a lone female Australian Sea-lion giving away a show for about ten minutes.

Neptune Islands Marine Park, near Port Lincoln, South Australia:

When going on a cage dive with Great White Sharks (see under New Zealand Fur Seal) a small group of Australian Sea-lions were basking in the sun on the rocky shore.



108) New Zealand/Hooker's Sea-lion

Stewart Island, New Zealand:

During the last couple of years this Sea-lion is making a comeback to New Zealand's mainland, previously being wiped out by the Maori. The increase is slow, but consistent. If my memory is correct, there are around ten fertile females and over a hundred fertile males. The number of females is too low to call them colonies yet. When on a pelagic off Stewart Island we passed some sandy beaches. I saw a distant New Zealand Sea-lion. They prefer sandy beaches, the New Zealand Fur-seal preferring rocky coasts.

Otago Peninsula, near Dunedin, New Zealand:

I went on a day trip with Elm Wildlife Tours, see under New Zealand Fur Seal for more information. On their small private beach were two male Sea-lion, patrolling the shore in search of females. The bigger of the two males came ashore for a short while. It was really impressive! At one stage a New Zealand Fur Seal came ashore, rather uncommon

as they prefer rocky coasts. The big male Sea-lion slowly swam towards it, the fur seal got sight of him just in time. The sea-lion attacked but just missed the fur seal, which swam away in a very hasty manner!



109) Sahul Humpback Dolphin

Tin Can Bay, near Fraser Island, Queensland:

I saw two of these recently split (from Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin) at the feeding site at Tin Can Bay. It is the fourth generation of wild (basically they still are) dolphins, which started in the fifties I think I remember them saying. A wounded dolphin swam in the bay, where it got fed by the locals which helped it recover. After a few days it swam away, only to return with some of her group. The feeding never stopped but it is regulated by the Queensland Government. The dolphins visit on their own free will, every morning, before swimming off again. Beforehand I was a bit skeptic, but being so close to these wonderful creatures is quite magical.



Buffalo Creek, Darwin, Northern Territory:

From the boat ramp at Buffalo Creek, which is situated in northern Darwin, I waited for 1,5 day trying to get a glimpse of a Chestnut Rail. I failed as the tides couldn't be more ill-timed (I saw them later by taking a boat trip in Darwin Harbour). I did see a small pod (3-4 individuals) of Sahul Humpback Dolphins on two occasions when they swam into the creek, both at high tide.

110) Dusky Dolphin

Marlborough Sounds, near Picton, New Zealand:

Months prior to my departure to New Zealand I had booked a birdwatching boat trip into the Marlborough Sounds with Dolphin Watch Nature Tours for the 11th of November. When I arrived in Picton I was the only one, so the trip got cancelled. Nevertheless I was very lucky that on the 12th of November a group of Wrybill Birding Tours was doing a trip into the Marlborough Sounds, and it just fit into my itinerary. Wrybill Tours is the best birding tour company New Zealand has to offer. They were focussing on birds more so than a normal birding tour with Dolphin Watch Nature Tours, which suited me just fine! During the trip we encountered two species of dolphin, including a pod of Dusky Dolphins.



Kaikoura, New Zealand:

On the 13th of November I had a boat trip off Kaikoura with Albatross Encounter to look for seabirds. We also encountered two dolphin species, including a pod of Dusky Dolphins.



Bruny Island, Tasmania:

On the 10th of February I was on the highest point on the Isthmus, a sandy dune corridor connecting North and South Bruny Island, waiting for the Little Penguins and Short-tailed Shearwaters to arrive at dusk to breed. Before dusk I did a bit of seawatching when I saw a small pod (3-4 animals) of Dusky Dolphin swimming past. Pretty rare in these waters but one of the dolphins regularly jumped out of the water which made identification easy.

111) Hector's Dolphin

Marlborough Sounds, near Picton, New Zealand:

I went on a boat trip with Wrybill Birding Tours on the 12th of November into the sounds (see under Dusky Dolphin). We saw two species of dolphins, including a pod of Hector's Dolphin. This is the smallest dolphin species in the world, endangered and endemic to New Zealand. I had such good views I decided to cancel my swimming with the Hector's Dolphin trip which leaves from Christchurch (Black Cat Cruises).



112) Short-beaked Common Dolphin

Flight => Melaleuca, Tasmania:

I went on a day trip to Melaleuca in south-west seon the 13th of Februari Tasmania to see the Orange-bellied Parrot, unfortunately seemingly doomed to go extinct in the wild in the next few years. It was a lovely day, a rare occasion in these parts. While flying over Bruny Island we saw a large pod of several hundred Short-beaked Common Dolphins on the landward side of the island. Dolphin numbers can be estimated by estimating all the dolphins you can see at any given moment, and add three more dolphins per dolphin counted.

Pelagic off Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania:

I went on a pelagic (birding) trip off Eaglehawk Neck on the 15th of Februari (see under Australian Fur Seal). We had two close encounters with pods of these beauties during the trip.

113) Offshore Bottlenose Dolphin

Cape Naturaliste, Western Australia:

Cape Naturaliste offers one of the best lanoffersd based seawatching in Western Australia, and maybe for the whole continent. I was doing just that on the 21th of August when a pod of Offshore Bottlenose Dolphins were foraging in the waves very close to shore.

Pelagic off Eaglehawk Neck, Tasmania:

When on the pelagic off Eaglehawk Neck on the 24th of May we encountered a huge pod of these dolphins of at least 500 individuals, probably more. I think this is somewhat unusual for this species.

114) Killer Whale

Kaikoura, New Zealand:

For me, this was bucket-list material fulfilled! I missed Killer Whales on multiple occasions in my life, including just two days prior to my sighting when a mother and her calf were chasing an eagle ray into the marina, just 150 meters from where I was waiting for the day to pass in a backpackers. Anyway, on the 13th of November I was on a boat trip with Albatross Encounter (see under Dusky Dolphin) when I asked the skipper when was the last sighting of Killer Whale in the area. "A week ago", he answered. Killer Whales are seen offshore of Kaikoura on average every seven days. "About time" was my reply. And sure enough, near the end of the trip, someone shouted "Killer Whale!" Immediately the boat set off in the direction of the Killer Whales, and when I first saw the distinctive fin I was simply euphoric! It got better and better as seven individuals swam past and under the boat, which also gave me the magical moment of looking straight into the eyes of a rather playful calf. I can die happy...





115) Short-finned Pilot Whale

Mooloolaba Pelagic, near Sunshine Coast, Queensland:

I joined a Mooloolaba (birding) Pelagic on the 6th of December, which are organized by Greg Roberts. When chumming off the edge of the continental shelf a pod of Short-finned Pilot Whales entertained us for a while.



116) Humpback Whale

Lifou, Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia:

Not seen in Australia, but seen through a scope while sea watching from Lifou, where the island got closest to the sea, on the 26th of July. Of course, there are many opportunities to see this common whale in Australia, especially when on an organized boat trip. From a financial viewpoint, I could have done it but I choose to spend it on other things because I've seen the Humpback Whale in the Netherlands, where it is still rare with 0-5 individuals seen per year. See this clip from Youtube (with more then 33.000 views!): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5doMr9bfW_E

117) Southern Right Whale

Rottneest Island, near Perth, Western Australia:

When visiting this island on the 15th of August I found three distant Southern Right Whales with my spotting scope.

Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse, Western Australia:

When I was looking for sea birds from under the lighthouse on the 22nd of August I found one distant Southern Right Whale.

Cheyne's Beach, Western Australia:

The bay off Cheynes Beach is a known nursing spot for cows and their calves. It was here that I had my first good views of the whales, using my spotting scope. I counted six whales, including cows and calves.

Cape Arid National Park, Western Australia:

I read on a then recent blog on the internet that there was a cow and her calf of were present in Dolphin Cove. A walking track leads to this cove, which I walked on the 4th of September. I was standing high on a lookout when I suddenly heard a whale blow from the bay. A quick scan with my binoculars revealed a cow and her calf very close to shore. I rushed towards it which proved a tad bit unnecessary because I had walk away views of the whales which at times were only at thirty meters from the rocky coast, mostly at forty/fifty meters. The calf was way more playful then the mother, I could often see the tongue and the baleens! At one stage there was another calf next to the mother, with no other adult in sight. I read that twins are rare, but supposedly possible. Another explanation is that the second calf had lost its mother?





Bight Whale Watching Platform, South Australia:

When crossing the highway over the vast Nullarbor Plain, which connects the west with the east, one comes across Bight Whale Watching Platform. You have to pay an entrance fee. I almost skipped because of that while I visited on the 7th of September, after the unrivalled experience with the whales at Cape Arid National Park, but decided to go anyway. The whale platform stretches around hundred meters along the high cliffs, allowing a bit distant but clear views of the whales. I saw around six from this platform in half an hour.

Other notes:

Northern Freetail Bat:

I heard them under the main pier in Darwin Harbour. I climbed down one of the stairs and walked on a ledge under the pier but I couldn't see them.

Dingo:

For me, these are just as exciting as a stray dog. 14.000 years of freedom or not. Fraser's Island Dingoes are the most pure.

Possible Nabarlek:

Bardedjilidji walk, Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory:

When spotlighting at this location I found a Rock Wallaby which was solitary and very small. I filmed it and hit my head later, was it a Nabarlek? Probably a young Wilkins's Rock Wallaby, but if anyone knows someone with more experience with this species, please help!





Pieter de Groot Boersma, birder/naturalist by nature.

More than 3000 bird clips from around the globe:

<http://ibc.lynxeds.com/users/pieter-de-groot-boersma>

Some mammals, of which I like Mammals of the American Midwest the most:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBTfOc_gYUTLHvscj-DeuMQ/videos

For comments and the like, contact me by mail on eagleowl22@hotmail.com