

WESTERN AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES (AUSTRALIA)

November 9th to December 11th 2017

During this trip I concentrated my time looking for species I missed before. I didn't try to see all the species I saw during my former trips in this country. My target were Numbat and Western Pygmy Possum in Western Australia, Mountain Brush tailed Possum, Yellow bellied Glider and Leadbeater's Possum in Victoria and Parma Wallaby in New South Wales. I didn't try to see phascogales.

As always I used the informations provided by mammalwatching, plus Mammals of Australia of David Andew. I must thank specially Jon Hall for the informations he provided me, Jimmy Lamb for the Numbat and Rohan Clark for explained me where and how to look for Leadbeater's Possum.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

I stayed 2 days in Dryandra looking mainly for Numbat, again without success. I saw 2 Wollies, 4 Common Brush-tailed Possums, plenty Western Grey Kangaroos, 2 Echidnas and 2 Western Pygmy Possums.

I visited for the 2nd time Barna Mia, and this time was very disappointed: 30 tourists, very few animals (3 Wollies, 1 Rufous Hare-Wallaby, 1 Burowing Bettong and 1 Southern Brown Bandicoot). I wasted my time.

I had found by day 2 places with flowers. It is at one these places that I saw the Pygmy Possums. As I was there spotlighting a car stopped and I was lucky to meet Jimmy Lamb who told me he had seen the day before a Numbat at Boyaging reserve. He explained me exactly where he saw it (Lorikeet drive-by 7h20am). Before my departure to Australia I had decided to visit this reserve in case I missed again the Numbat in Dryandra and Perup. I had seen in Mammalwatching a report concerning a sighting of Numbat in this reserve. The writer of this report was Jimmy Lamb who explained me he had seen Numbat there several times and that there is a better chance to see one there because there is a higher density: 250 in Perup, 100 in Dryandra and 50 in Perup. Jimmy even gave me a map of the reserve. The following morning I was there by 7h30 and even I spent the full morning in the reserve I dipped again.

In the afternoon I drove to Albany, spotlighting in Cheynes Beach and a little in 2 People Bay. In Cheynes Beach I saw only Western Grey Kangaroos. No Southern Bandicoot this time and no better chance for Honey Possum. I didn't stay at the camping for Western Pygmy Possum as I saw it in Dryandra. There were just a few Banksia flowers (not the best season). Later I went to 2 People Bay where again I saw very little: Western Grey Kangaroos and 3 Quokkas. It is true that I was tired and didn't stay long.

The following morning I went to Torondup NP where last time I saw 1 Honey Possum. But it was even worst that Cheynes Beach with only a handful of flowers. Apparently because of disease most of Banksias have died. So I didn't stay for the night and left to Perup.

In Perup I stayed only 1 day missing again Numbat. I saw at least 9 Tammar Wallabies, Western Grey Kangaroos, 1 Western Brush Wallaby and 2 Common Brushtailed Possums. Again I didn't spotlight late, the target being Numbat. Near a house in the forest I met a local who told me he sees them often and had even a photo of a pair who last year was always near a log close to his house. I checked the area morning and afternoon, but it was the same story.

Disappointed I drove back to Boyaging where late afternoon and the following morning I didn't see anything. The second day in the afternoon I got a lot of rain. A few roads were flooded. I had to push trees which had fallen on the road, but I finally reached Lorikeet road. It was my last chance for the Numbat and by 6h20pm I got one running in front of the car (fortunately I didn't touch it), climbing a log just 15m from the car, then walking and even laying on the log (the legs stretched on both sides of the log). After a while it went down and began to walk, always very wary, sometimes afraid and running, sometimes standing on its hind feet. I was so glad!!! Many thanks Jimmy.

For my last day I drove to Mt Stirling south of Kellerberrin where there is an isolated population of Black-flanked Rock Wallabies. I arrived in the middle of the afternoon. It was very hot. By climbing the southern part of the rock I saw a lot of droppings of the Wallabies but also of large macropods (maybe of Common Wallaroos; but I don't know if they are present there). I couldn't stay too late as I had to approach Perth, returning the car the day after. By around 6pm 1 Wallaby appeared and left.

VICTORIA:

I went 1 afternoon to Philip Island to see the colony of Australian Fur Seals. Otherwise I spent all my time either in Bunyip NP or the Big Creek Road of Yarra Range State Park, east of Powelltown where Rohan Clark explained me where to look for Leadbeater's Possum.

Along Big Creek Road I dipped to see Leadbeater's Possum, nevertheless I heard two apparently in response to my pishings. I saw several times Mountain Brush-tailed Possums and Black Wallabies, plus 1 Common Ringtail Possum and heard 1 Yellow bellied Glider.

Close to Gembrook I saw 1 Echidna.

In Bunyip I heard 1 and saw 5 Yellow-bellied Gliders. I saw also 2 Common Wombats (1 dead and 1 alive), 3 Black Wallabies and heard 1 Koala..

Eastern Grey Kangaroos were uncommon in this area.

Near or in Chiltern NP I saw Common Brush tailed Possums, many Eastern Grey Kangaroos, 9 Black Wallabies (very confident and approachable) and 1 Koala. It is a place where there is a population of Brush Tailed Phascogales, but I didn't spend enough time spotlighting.

Red Foxes and European rabbits are common and I saw 2 European Hares.

NEW SOUTH WALES:

Near Deniliquin, in Gulpa Forest I saw 1 Eastern Grey Kangaroos and a group of Superb Parrots.

At Leeton Swamp Western Grey Kangaroos were common.

Near Glen Davis (S/E of Kandos I saw Eastern Grey Kangaroos, apparently a few Western Grey Kangaroos, 1 Common Wallaroo, 33 Red necked Wallaby, 1 Black Wallaby and 2 dead Common Wombat (a local told me that people kill them and I didn't see any by night). I dipped with Turquoise Parrot. I tried to see Brush tailed Rock Wallabies in the northern part of Wollemi NP (between Widden and Bareami) but I arrived a little late and they are said to be rare there.

Barrintops NP and State Parks: I spent a lot of time there looking for Parma Wallaby, but was not helped with the daily rains. I finally got 1 during my last night there, approaching it by walking. The place is near Allyn River (look in Mammals of Australia). I saw also several Short eared Possums, a few Eastern Grey Kangaroos (rare), Red Necked Wallabies (at the border of the forest), a lot of Red-Necked Pademelons (the best place is a meadow south of Allyn campsites where I got more than 40), 2 Greater Gliders and 1 Northern Brown Bandicoot (plus 2 dead). Outside of the park and lower down I saw a Common Dunnart.

Near Dungog I saw 1 Echidna.

Near Kangaroo Valley after seeing 30 Common Wombats, I stopped to look for them. Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Red necked Wallabies were also common.

Thanks to the Friends of the Brushtailed Rock Wallaby I got the information to go to Jenolan Cave NP to see Brush Tailed Rock Wallabies and it was a good place with:

-Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby: 13 including a male copulating and a female with a young.

-Echidna:1

-Platypus: 1 in Blue Lake

-Black Wallaby: 1

-Red necked Wallaby: several

-Eastern Grey Kangaroos (many in the meadows)

-Common Wombat: several

Barren Grounds:

Disappointing place with 1 Eastern Grey Kangaroo, 3 Black Wallaby, 1 Bush Rat in 2 evenings (I walked 12km the first night).

On the slopes I saw 2 Common Wombats including a female with a baby in the pouch.

During my visit in New South Wales I saw many Red Fox and Eurasian Rabbit, plus at least 50 dead Common Wombats.

I am sure I have forgotten some sightings, but the most important is here.

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