

AUSTRALIA: EASTERN AUSTRALIA – FROM THE OUTBACK TO THE WET TROPICS SET DEPARTURE TOUR TRIP REPORT

3 - 20 NOVEMBER 2022

By Andrew Walker



Our evening watching four **Plains-wanderers** under a total lunar eclipse was rather special!

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Overview

This exciting Australian birding tour covered the eastern portion of this vast continent country. The first leg of the tour started in Melbourne, Victoria on the 3rd of November 2022, and from there we commenced a circuit of central, western, and northern Victoria and across the border for a brief foray into south central New South Wales. The second leg of the tour saw us fly to Brisbane, southern Queensland for a long weekend of birding around the famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. The third and final leg of the trip had us commencing a circuit around Far North Queensland and the Atherton Tablelands, starting and ending in Cairns, this also included Great Barrier Reef and Daintree River boat trips. The tour ended in Cairns on the 20th of November 2022.

We recorded 379 species (seven heard only) and enjoyed a long list of endemic species and families during the tour. The list of highlights is long, and there are way too many to list here, but you can't go too far wrong with top-quality birds like **Southern Cassowary**, **Malleefowl**, **Plains-wanderer**, **Spotted Nightjar**, **Papuan Frogmouth**, **Great-billed Heron**, **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo**, **Superb Parrot**, **Cockatiel**, **Budgerigar**, **Squatter Pigeon**, **Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher**, **Rufous Bristlebird**, **Superb Lyrebird**, **Albert's Lyrebird**, **Pilotbird**, **Fernwren**, **Chowchilla**, **Australian Logrunner**, **Noisy Pitta**, **Paradise Riflebird**, **Victoria's Riflebird**, **Regent Bowerbird**, **Great Bowerbird**, **Green Catbird**, **Spotted Catbird**, **Striated Grasswren**, **Splendid Fairywren**, **Mallee Emu-wren**, **Painted Honeyeater**, and **Diamond Firetail**, to name just a few. As is usual for this tour, we found some remarkable endemic wildlife beyond all the birds, with major highlights including Koala (mother and joey), **Red Kangaroo**, **Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo**, **Short-beaked Echidna**, **Platypus**, and **Saltwater Crocodile**. We also enjoyed stunning butterflies and impressive wildflowers, particularly orchids. Trip lists follow the report.



Major Mitchell's Cockatoo was one of 28 cockatoo/parrot species recorded during the tour.



Detailed Report

Day 1, 3rd November 2022. Arrival in Melbourne

The group arrived in Melbourne, and we met for a welcome dinner in the evening and discussed the plans for the next few weeks of exciting birding in the east of Australia.

Day 2, 4th November 2022. Melbourne to Airey's Inlet

We met up with Simon our local guide and commenced our journey out of Melbourne to the west of the city, ending up along the <u>Great Ocean Road</u> at Airey's Inlet. We called in at multiple sites made up of various habitats during the day and as a result ended up with a large day list of over one hundred species, featuring many Australian endemic birds and families.

Most of our day was spent around the famed <u>Werribee Western Treatment Plant</u> and wider area. Given the record high levels of water around, the site wasn't as productive as usual for waterbirds (we would be looking for those throughout the rest of the tour), so we actually concentrated our efforts on some woodland and lakes in the vicinity during the morning. Our first stop gave us **Little Eagle**, **Brown Goshawk**, **Long-billed Corella**, **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**, **Galah**, **Crimson** (Crimson) **Rosella**, **Eastern Rosella**, **Red-rumped Parrot**, **Purple-crowned Lorikeet**, **Shining Bronze Cuckoo**, **Crested Pigeon**, **Superb Fairywren**, **Striated Pardalote**, **Black-faced Cuckooshrike**, **Varied Sittella**, **Red-browed Finch**, and **Diamond Firetail**. The first wetland site we visited produced **Little Grassbird**, **Australasian Grebe** (on a nest), **Australasian Swamphen**, **Grey Teal**, **Chestnut Teal**, **Maned Duck**, and **Australian Shelduck**.



We had some excellent views of several juvenile Australian Hobbies hunting dragonflies over wet areas. They were very successful in their pursuits, catching their prey with ease.



After lunch we found **Cape Barren Goose**, **Black-fronted Dotterel**, and **Australian Pelican** in a residential area. Visiting some of the nearby water treatment works areas we found **Royal Spoonbill**, **Yellow-billed Spoonbill**, **Australian Hobby**, **Brown Falcon**, **Swamp Harrier**, **Black Swan**, **Golden-headed Cisticola**, **Australian Reed Warbler**, **Striated Fieldwren**, **White-fronted Chat**, and one of the stars of the afternoon, a family group of **Brolgas**.

Late in the afternoon, the coast presented us with a new set of birds too, **Hooded Dotterel**, **Red-capped Plover**, **Red-necked Stint**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Little Tern**, **Silver Gull**, and **Kelp Gull**. **Peregrine Falcon**, **Black-shouldered Kite**, and **White-bellied Sea Eagle** were overhead. A rather pretty pair of nesting **Blue-winged Parrots** proved a fitting end to a great first day birding in Australia as they were illuminated by the glorious late afternoon sunlight.

Day 3, 5th November 2022. Airey's Inlet to central Victoria

We had another fantastic day birding in Australia as we made our way from the Great Ocean Road through to central Victoria and the town of Wedderburn. We started our birding at <u>Airey's Inlet</u> where we visited a small pond and the lighthouse. Here we found our main target, **Rufous Bristlebird** with ease, along with other targets such as **Black-faced Cormorant**, **Australasian Gannet**, **Latham's Snipe**, **Singing Honeyeater**, and **Little Wattlebird**.



Rufous Bristlebird belongs to one of several Australian-endemic families seen on the tour.

After breakfast we drove up and onto <u>Anglesea Heath</u>. We were greeted with near-perfect mild and windless conditions. Here we found **Southern Emu-wren**, **Striated Fieldwren**, and **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren** with minimal effort, and also enjoyed seeing **Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo**, **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo**, and **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, to name a few of the goodies.



A short drive to another spot saw us getting more top birds, and these included **Brush Cuckoo**, **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, **White-throated Treecreeper**, **Crested** (Eastern) **Shriketit**, **Australian Golden Whistler**, **Rufous Whistler**, **Striated Thornbill**, and a host of honeyeaters, including **Eastern Spinebill**, **Yellow-faced Honeyeater**, **New Holland Honeyeater**, **White-eared Honeyeater**, and **Brown-headed Honeyeater**. After the success of these morning stops, which included excellent views of great birds, we decided to get the majority of our long drive north under our belts.

After lunch, our luck continued as we called into a variety of different wooded habitats. One of the big highlights of the afternoon, and the whole day, was seeing a family party of roosting **Powerful Owls**, they are such huge birds and very impressive to see! Our next stop was a bonanza of birds, and we found **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**, **Fuscous Honeyeater**, **White-naped Honeyeater**, **Olive-backed Oriole**, **Black-faced Cuckooshrike**, **Spotted Pardalote**, **Grey Shrikethrush**, **Eastern Yellow Robin**, **Dusky Woodswallow**, **Musk Lorikeet**, and **Common Bronzewing**.

Our final stop of the day gave us even more new birds, and we really couldn't have asked for more, with great views of **Square-tailed Kite**, **Shy Heathwren**, **White-winged Chough**, **Tawny-crowned Honeyeater**, **White-fronted Honeyeater**, **White-eared Honeyeater**, and **White-backed Swallow** rounding off another excellent day, with over one hundred species recorded again (and no wetland birding today to inflate the list either!).



Crested Shriketit gave excellent views. This species complex is likely to be split by the IOC very soon (it has already been split by some authorities). Birds here becoming Eastern Shriketit.

Day 4, 6th November 2022. Central Victoria to the mallee at Mildura

Our first stop of the day was at Mount Korong Nature Conservation Reserve. It was a beautiful morning, and the birding was excellent. We found our main targets, displaying **Painted**



Honeyeater and nest-building and courtship-dancing **Diamond Firetails**. Several other top birds seen included **Painted Buttonquail**, **Gilbert's Whistler**, **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater**, **White-winged Chough**, **Mistletoebird**, and **Rufous Songlark** (doing well in the perfect conditions).

We called in to <u>Lake Tyrrell Wildlife Reserve</u> for our picnic lunch and in doing so connected with **Rufous Fieldwren**, **White-winged Fairywren**, **Black-faced Woodswallow**, **Australian Pipit**, **White-fronted Chat**, and **Brown Songlark**. It was incredible seeing the lake full of water, not the usual sight here. After this brief yet productive stop, we drove across the short distance to <u>Wyperfeld National Park</u>.

Birding for the majority of the afternoon at Wyperfeld was great fun. We saw our first **Emu** of the trip, always a highly anticipated moment, and a dad with five chicks was a great start. Raptors abounded and one of the highlights was watching a dueling **Spotted Harrier** and **Wedge-tailed Eagle** at fairly close range, we also saw plenty of **Nankeen Kestrels** and **Brown Falcons**, along with **Black-shouldered Kite**. Parrots were frequently seen, and we got our first **Cockatiel**, **Regent Parrot**, **Australian Ringneck**, **Eastern Bluebonnet**, and **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo** of the trip. Smaller birds seen included the stunning **Splendid Fairywren**, **Yellow-throated Miner**, **Striped Honeyeater**, **Southern Whiteface**, **Pied Butcherbird**, and **Grey Butcherbird**.

It had been a long afternoon in increasing temperatures, and due to the recent heavy rains and floods, increasing numbers of mosquitoes. However, the day had one final surprise for us as we commenced our drive out of the national park towards our accommodation. As we were slowly driving along a road, the much hoped for shape of a **Malleefowl** was observed feeding along the side of a road in the distance. We stopped to get scope views of the bird and then gradually crept forward in the vehicle, the bird remained, and everyone got good, much closer views as it continued to feed unconcerned by our presence. A big target in the bag.



A well-camouflaged Malleefowl was a fitting end to another excellent day of birding in Victoria.



Day 5, 7th November 2022. Birding Hattah-Kulkyne National Park

We enjoyed a wonderful day birding in the mallee. During the morning we connected with our three main targets, as well as many other great birds that were new for the trip. As we drove towards <u>Hattah-Kulkyne National Park</u> from our accommodation we saw a small flock of **Cockatiel** fly over the road. We stopped to see if we could find any others and to our joy found a flock of seven birds perched up in trees and feeding along a dirt track below. We also got better perched views of **Eastern Bluebonnet, Sacred Kingfisher**, and **Black-shouldered Kite** here.

Our first target in the national park gave itself up with little effort when we found a gorgeous **Chestnut Quail-thrush**, one of several singing birds heard during the early morning period. While here we were teased by a **Mulga Parrot** that flew in and landed practically out of sight for most. Luckily, we saw some others that showed better later in the day. We also had a flyover by a small flock of **Budgerigars**, which was a really nice surprise. As we left the quail-thrush area we got excellent views of a pair of **Mallee Emu-wrens**. This Endangered (<u>BirdLife International</u>) species has a tiny, highly precarious global range and we were thrilled to find them, the spinifex grass they live in was looking incredible this year after all rainfall too.



Chestnut Quail-thrush gave some incredible views as it sang from a perch that was just visible through the unusually long spinifex flowers (a result of bumper rains). The whole region was looking stunning, with tons of growth and birds breeding all over the place!

After a quick cup of tea/coffee and some snacks, we dropped down to another spot in the dunes, where we found our third main target of the day, with surprising ease (again)! After getting into position out of sight (as much as possible given the sparse vegetation) we waited for our target bird to appear, suddenly we were face-to-face with a **Striated Grasswren**. The bird performed excellently for everyone, which was a nice surprise given how tough they can be at times.

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The shy and localized Striated Grasswren showed remarkably well for us.

Covering off some different areas in the park during the middle of the day resulted in yet more top birds, including **Southern Scrub Robin**, **Chestnut-rumped Thornbill**, **Inland Thornbill**, **Splendid Fairywren**, **Weebill**, **Regent Parrot**, **White-browed Babbler**, and many more.

During the afternoon and early evening, we did some birding around the town of Ouyen. We had some excellent views of **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo** (see photo in tour summary section), **White-backed Swallow**, **Purple-backed Fairywren**, **Southern Whiteface**, and **Spotted Nightjar**. The sunset and moonrise were spectacular too.

Day 6, 8th November 2022. Mildura to Deniliquin

We had a very long day, somewhat extended by the serious floods going on in northern Victoria and southern New South Wales, which resulted in some changed plans and flexibility in our route between our start and end points! The majority of the morning and afternoon was spent traveling, though we picked up several new birds along the way, including **Apostlebird**, **Chestnut-crowned Babbler**, **Australian Owlet-nightjar**, **Crimson** (Yellow) **Rosella**, and **Red-capped Robin**. It was quite incredible driving past hundreds of kilometers of flooded land, with many trees getting water for the first time in over 30 years in some cases, as the unprecedented (in recent times) flood waters were rising. We picked up several ducks (but only ones we had seen before), herons (our best view of White-necked Heron so far), and raptors (plenty of **Nankeen Kestrels, Brown Falcons, Black Kites, Whistling Kites**, and **Little Eagle** sightings) along these areas.

The main event for the day, however, was our evening trip out onto the <u>Hay plains</u>, north of Deniliquin in New South Wales. We met up with Phil, our local guide and drove north. There was lots of flooding along the road and a few stops produced **Magpie Goose**, **Hardhead**, **Australasian**



Shoveler, Black-tailed Nativehen, Hoary-headed Grebe, Australian White Ibis, Strawnecked Ibis, and Little Pied Cormorant.

We arrived at a specific spot in the vast plains where we enjoyed watching a stunning sunset and just as impressive moonrise at the same time. As the evening progressed, we got to witness the rare sight of a total lunar eclipse while we were birding. As we commenced walking, we could hear singing Horsfield's Bush Lark and soon were watching a couple of Stubble Quails at close range. We spent about the next hour walking circuits around a huge paddock on the plain, finding Fat-tailed Dunnart (a carnivorous marsupial), Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo, Red Kangaroo, and House Mouse. Suddenly however we found our main target, Plains-wanderer. The bird was a male so not as colored as the female, but we were happy to see one given how tough they can be to see. The bird showed brilliantly, but we wanted a bit more, so we continued walking and not very far away we found ourselves looking at a gorgeous female bird, she too showed wonderfully, and we all got great views (see trip report cover image).



Watching multiple **Plains-wanderers** under the total lunar eclipse was rather unique.

After the two great **Plains-wanderer** sightings we started our walk back to the car and after a short way, remarkably, picked up another pair of birds, this time the female was calling, an incredible sight and haunting sound. We enjoyed watching and listening to this bird and then continued on our way back. We even had **Pink-eared Ducks** calling as they flew over us here. The rest of the walk back and journey to town was fairly uneventful, though we did spot an **Eastern Barn Owl** along the road. After a rather long day we got back to our hotel in the early hours of the morning. Having seen **Plains-wanderer** so well was a real highlight of the tour, however, to get to see them in the strange red glow of the total lunar eclipse and a heavily flooded landscape was something else entirely, a unique experience and one that probably won't be forgotten for a long time.



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Day 7, 9th November 2022. Deniliquin to Chiltern

We afforded ourselves a lay in after our late finish yesterday and had a late and tasty breakfast in Deniliquin, still all rather excited about events from the previous evening. We had a relaxing day birding our way from Deniliquin in New South Wales to Chiltern, back in Victoria. A few stops near Deniliquin gave us our first **Superb Parrots** of the tour and we also found **Little Friarbird**, **Jacky Winter**, **Western Gerygone**, and a few other species. A perched **Wedge-tailed Eagle** at the side of the road was rather regal (and massive).

Our afternoon birding took us to the <u>Warby-Ovens National Park</u>. Here we got brief views of **Turquoise Parrot**, along with **Restless Flycatcher** (living up to its name), **Noisy Friarbird**, **White-throated Gerygone**, **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, and **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**.

Day 8, 10th November 2022. Chiltern to Healesville

An enjoyable pre-breakfast birding session in <u>Chiltern-Mt. Pilot National Park</u> gave us perched views of **Turquoise Parrot**, our main avian target. What a stunning bird and we really enjoyed the sighting of an adult male looking resplendent in the early morning sunlight. Just prior to the parrot sighting we had one of the mammal highlights of the whole tour when we saw a mother **Koala** and her joey (baby) up in a tree, they gave some great views for us.



As far as Koala sightings go, this one was pretty much perfect!

Our morning birding gave us several other good birds, including Square-tailed Kite, Pallid Cuckoo, Sacred Kingfisher, Fuscous Honeyeater, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, Olive-backed Oriole, Noisy Friarbird, White-throated Gerygone, Western Gerygone, and Little Lorikeet.



As we drove to Healesville, we made a few strategic stops along the way. These stops gave us yet more new birds, including some absolute belters like **Pilotbird**, **Red-browed Treecreeper**, **Gang-gang Cockatoo**, **Flame Robin**, **Eastern Spinebill**, **Bell Miner**, and an excellent Victoria bird in the form of a vocal male Common Cicadabird.



It is not every day that a **Pilotbird** hops out into the open on the top of a tree fern!

Day 9, 11th November 2022. Healesville to Melbourne

A productive pre-breakfast walk, near to the town of Healesville, gave us lots of birds, with further looks at **Red-browed Treecreeper** and our first **Rufous Fantail** and **Satin Flycatcher** of the tour. Bird activity was high, with lots of parrots moving around, including **Gang-gang Cockatoo**, **Long-billed Corella**, **Crimson** (Crimson) **Rosella**, and **Australian King Parrot**. Small birds like thornbills, pardalotes, and scrubwrens were also in evidence.

After breakfast we visited a different area and had brief views of **Superb Lyrebird**. Later we would hear one singing, an impressive sound as it mimicked at least eight other species! We also had good views of **Grey Currawong**, several pairs of the attractive **Flame Robin**, along with **Rose Robin**, more **Rufous Fantails**, a pair of **Olive Whistlers** and pair of **Australian Golden Whistlers**, with **Pilotbird**, and many more. We also got to see some leeches, always a highlight!

Unfortunately, it was time to head back into Melbourne to complete our southern circuit of this eastern Australia birding tour. Before we said our goodbyes and thank you to Simon, we visited some hills on the outskirts of the city where we found our final new bird of this section of the tour, a stunning male **Scarlet Robin** which showed exceptionally well. Here we also found some beautiful and interesting orchids, including the bizarre **Large Flying Duck Orchid** – a highlight all on its own!





A Scarlet Robin showed well and was our final "new" bird in Victoria.

Day 10, 12th November 2022. Melbourne to Brisbane and birding Brisbane mangroves

We took our morning flight from Melbourne to Brisbane, where we arrived around noon. We moved across to the coastal area for lunch before commencing our birding in this new and very different region of Australia. After lunch we visited a few mangrove and wetland sites around Brisbane and got good views of all our main targets, these being Mangrove Honeyeater, Mangrove Gerygone, and Torresian Kingfisher. While looking for these birds we found plenty of other new birds for the trip, including Red-backed Fairywren, Tawny Grassbird, Greycrowned Babbler, Brown Honeyeater, and Leaden Flycatcher. A few shorebirds were still hanging around a roost site and we noted Common Greenshank, Pacific Golden Plover, Far Eastern Curlew, Eurasian Whimbrel, Pied Oystercatcher, and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Out in the bay we found Australian Tern, Little Tern, Caspian Tern, and several species of herons and egrets.

Day 11, 13th November 2022. Birding Brisbane and travel to Lamington National Park

Our morning birding took us to the western suburbs of Brisbane. Our first stop was near our accommodation, where we saw a **Pale-vented Bush-hen** (thanks Rob!), not an easy task as this is usually one highly secretive species.

After arriving at our first proper birding location, some rainforest, new birds arrived thick and fast. We enjoyed our first **Spangled Drongos**, **Topknot Pigeons**, **Brown Cuckoo-Doves**, and **Rufous Shrikethrushes**, although our main targets were monarchs, and we had fabulous looks at both **White-eared Monarch** and **Spectacled Monarch**. To top off a great short birding session, we got to observe a pair of **Rose-crowned Fruit Doves** at close range and the male displaying to the female, those colors!



After a delightful breakfast (and the best coffee to date) we ventured into some drier eucalyptus forest, where we found **Channel-billed Cuckoo**, **White-throated Honeyeater**, **Lewin's Honeyeater**, **Pacific Baza** (displaying), **Oriental Dollarbird**, and **Double-barred Finch**. However, the real highlight was probably the flock of over 300 **White-throated Needletails** that were wheeling about above us. We could hear these giant swifts screaming their heads off, and the noise they made when flying was rather loud too!



Rose-crowned Fruit Dove was a riot of color in the greens of the rainforest.

After our morning birding session, we headed south and into the mountains at Lamington National Park, noting our first **Pheasant Coucal** along the way. On our arrival in the beautiful rainforest of the national park we spend a couple of hours birding a productive trail. Here we found some great birds, including a male **Paradise Riflebird** and several foraging **Green Catbirds**, two of our main targets. Plenty of other new birds were found, such as **Eastern Whipbird**, **Black-faced Monarch** (our third monarch of the day!), **Yellow-throated Scrubwren**, **Large-billed Scrubwren**, **Brown Gerygone**, and the highly anticipated **Australian Brushturkey**! We also gained improved views of **Rose Robin**, **Australian Golden Whistler**, and **Rufous Fantail**. It was a fantastic introduction into the avifauna of the area. As we checked into our rooms at the famous <u>O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat</u>, we were greeted by a riot of color from **Regent Bowerbird**, **Satin Bowerbird**, **Crimson** (Crimson) **Rosella**, and **Australian King Parrot**, all showing at close range.

Day 12, 14th November 2022. Birding Lamington National Park

An early start saw us hitting the trails out from O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. Around the lodge we saw plenty of **Regent Bowerbirds**, **Satin Bowerbirds**, and the other usual suspects like



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Australian Brushturkey, Pied Currawong, Crimson (Crimson) Rosella, and Australian King Parrot.

Our first real highlight of the morning was a pair of **Australian Logrunners** that were busily moving leaves looking for grubs. They have a very interesting foraging method that involves flicking their legs out sideways to move the leaf litter as they hunt for insects. **Yellow-throated Scrubwren** and **White-browed Scrubwren** were constantly at our feet, as were several pairs of **Eastern Whipbirds** and a couple of very vocal **Wonga Pigeons**. Plenty of other species we had seen the previous afternoon gave further views, such as **Paradise Riflebird** and **Green Catbird**.

After breakfast we heard two **Albert's Lyrebirds** calling, and after a bit of a wait and by repositioning ourselves we all got to view this most wanted and very localized endemic. While looking for the lyrebird, we also noted a **White-headed Pigeon** quietly sitting above us. Walking onto the canopy walkway gave us an interesting perspective on the forest and we saw **Rose Robin** (our best view of the tour), **Eastern Spinebill**, **Lewin's Honeyeater**, **Large-billed Scrubwren**, **Brown Thornbill**, and **Silvereye**.



Another localized endemic, Australian Logrunner, showed well on the dark forest floor.

After exploring the canopy walkway, we heard and them glimpsed a **Noisy Pitta**, but not great views for most. However, a short while later (after more logrunners, whipbirds, fantails, and other small birds) we heard another **Noisy Pitta** calling. We got into a position where we had a better view of the forest and after a short while located the male, getting great views of this attractive species. As we made our final walk of the morning back to the lodge for lunch, we got further views of **Albert's Lyrebird**, this time feeding and a little more out in the open. While watching the lyrebird we had a pair of **Bassian Thrushes** crossing the trail with food and then continue to show wonderfully until we had had our fill, it was hard to know which way to look!



After lunch we enjoyed more of the same wonderful birds we had seen over the past 24 hours in Lamington National Park, with the addition of a brief **Russet-tailed Thrush** sighting (this after seeing three **Bassian Thrushes** on the afternoon walk too!).



We enjoyed some excellent views of Noisy Pitta while birding at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat.



A gorgeous male Satin Bowerbird sat near his bower.



Day 13, 15th November 2022. Brisbane to Cairns and birding Cairns Esplanade

We had a final pre-breakfast morning walk at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat before it was time to depart (after another hearty breakfast!) from the mountain down to Brisbane, before catching our afternoon flight to Cairns. The expected **Regent Bowerbird**, **Satin Bowerbird**, **Australian King Parrot**, and **Crimson** (Crimson) **Rosella** greeted us outside the accommodation, they were also joined by a flock of rather cute **Red-browed Finches**. We then headed into the trails for a short walk, finding many of the now familiar species. A **Russet-tailed Thrush** was playing hide and seek and proving difficult to get good views, while **Bassian Thrush** was the total opposite, feeding their young out in the open, giving fantastic views. **Australian Logrunners** were very vocal and again showed well, as did a pair of **Black-faced Monarchs**. After breakfast it was time to leave this piece of paradise and drive back down to Brisbane for our early afternoon flight to Cairns.



Regent Bowerbird is always one of the most popular birds at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat and it is easy to see why, it is absolutely stunning.

We arrived in Cairns in the late afternoon and transferred across to our nearby hotel on the famous <u>Cairns Esplanade</u>. A short walk at dusk in the hour before dinner gave us more new birds, including **Pacific Reef Heron**, **Nankeen Night Heron**, **Varied Honeyeater**, **Torresian Imperial Pigeon**, **Metallic Starling**, **Pacific Swift**, and **Double-eyed Fig Parrot**. After a wonderful fish supper, we walked back to our hotel in dark where we saw plenty of **Spectacled Flying Foxes** flying around, and a single **Bush Stone-curlew** walking along the road! We would hear plenty of them giving their strange calls during the night here and at a few other places over the final few nights of the tour.





Day 14, 16th November 2022. Great Barrier Reef trip

As always, this was an enjoyable trip out onto the sea and over to Michaelmas Cay. However, before we joined our boat trip, our breakfast venue allowed us some shorebird viewing opportunities on the incoming tide. Here we noted Great Knot, Far Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Greater Sand Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Grey-tailed Tattler, and Broad-billed Sandpiper.

Once we got out to <u>Michaelmas Cay</u>, we were greeted by thousands of birds, an impressive sight, sound, and smell! **Brown Noddies**, Lesser Crested Terns, and Sooty Terns appeared most numerous with a big breeding season underway. Greater Crested Terns and Brown Boobies were also present in high numbers, the boobies with some huge white chicks. A few Bridled Terns, Black-naped Terns, and Great Frigatebirds were observed, as was a single Red-footed Booby. Ruddy Turnstones were scattered about around the cay, and Silver Gulls were present and trying to make off with either tern or noddy eggs. As is the case on this trip, plenty of time was spent enjoying the marvels of the underwater reef life, which today included numerous gorgeous tropical fish and Black-tipped Reef Shark (to name a couple of highlights). Once back on land we collected our vehicle and set off south to Mission Beach for the night.

Day 15, 17th November 2022. Mission Beach and Atherton Tablelands

Our morning was spent driving around <u>Mission Beach</u>. It was a hot morning, but eventually we found our main target, the magnificent **Southern Cassowary**. It kept us waiting right up until our time in the area was almost up, but once we found one, we enjoyed fantastic views. A definite bird of the trip contender and a real privilege to see.



Southern Cassowary was a highly anticipated bird for the trip, and we got great views.



While driving around the area looking for cassowaries, we found several new species for the trip and improved views of some others too, such as Fairy Gerygone, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Dusky Myzomela, Black Butcherbird, Green Oriole, Australian Swiftlet, Pacific Swift, White-throated Needletail, Bush Stone-curlew, Osprey, Metallic Starling, Olive-backed Sunbird, and Spangled Drongo either side of breakfast.

By the middle of the morning the temperatures were soaring, so we drove up into the Atherton Tablelands. After lunch and sitting out the hottest part of the day, we visited <u>Mount Hypipamee</u> <u>National Park</u>. Birding here was excellent, and we found several great new birds, like Victoria's **Riflebird**, **Bower's Shrikethrush**, **Orange-footed Scrubfowl**, **Grey-headed Robin**, **Grey Whistler**, and **Bridled Honeyeater**. One of the major highlights of our time here however, involved the sighting of a Lumoltz's Tree Kangaroo that was giving some great views low down.

After some time in the rainforest, we visited <u>Hasties Swamp</u>, where we found **Comb-crested** Jacana, Pied Stilt, Wandering Whistling Duck, Royal Spoonbill, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Red-backed Fairywren, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Scaly-breasted Munia, and Macleay's Honeyeater. After our birding session here we called in at some arable fields where we found Sarus Crane and Horsfield's Bush Lark. As dusk approached, we stopped at a small river where we found our main target, Platypus, and watched as hundreds of Magpie Geese flew overhead to their roost site. This ended a fantastic day's birding in Far North Queensland.



Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo was yet another of the mammal highlights from the tour.

Day 16, 18th November 2022. Birding the Atherton Tablelands and arid zone

We spent the morning birding at several rainforest sites on the <u>Atherton Tablelands</u>, before dropping down in elevation to the more arid parts of the area. Across the day we logged a massive list of species, including some restricted-range regional endemics and lots of new trip birds.



Our first birding was at our accommodation, where we enjoyed great views of **Spotted Catbird**, **Victoria's Riflebird**, **Superb Fruit Dove**, **Wompoo Fruit Dove**, **Macleay's Honeyeater**, **Yellow-breasted Boatbill**, **Forest Kingfisher**, and lots more. We would also see most of these birds at our other rainforest sites during the morning. After breakfast we called in at a different site and found **Chowchilla**, **Pale-yellow Robin**, and **Tooth-billed Bowerbird** (impressive views of a male calling from his bower). Our final birding site of the morning gave us **Cryptic Honeyeater**, **Bridled Honeyeater**, and **Atherton Scrubwren**, as well as other species we had seen before, but better views of some, such as **Grey-headed Robin** and **Yellow-breasted Boatbill**. Our mammal list grew with the addition of **Musky Rat Kangaroo** during one of our rainforest birding stops.



Our accommodation in the Crater Lakes area of the Atherton Tablelands was wonderful for observing Victoria's Riflebird.

For the afternoon birding session, we visited a couple of arid zone sites that were both excellent and gave us a load of new birds, including some real goodies! At the first stop we found an **Australian Bustard** with young, and then followed it up with a group of localized **Mareeba Rock Wallabies**. A short while later we were watching a flock of around 20 **Squatter Pigeons**. These birds walked about oblivious to our presence, and we got some fabulous looks. **Bar-shouldered Doves** and **Peaceful Doves** were also feeding with the pigeons. A **Great Bowerbird** appeared too, as did **Scaly-breasted Lorikeet**. Our final birding session of the day was just north of Mareeba. We "twitched" a site that had recently had some **Oriental Pratincoles** reported. Not long after we arrived in the area, we located two birds and enjoyed lengthy views as they foraged in the company of **Pacific Golden Plovers**. While birding here we also found **Blue-winged Kookaburra**, **Redwinged Parrot**, **Magpie Goose**, **Yellow Honeyeater**, **Double-barred Finch**, **Red-backed Fairywren**, **Horsfield's Bush Lark**, **Australian Pipit**, and double figures of **Australian Bustards** looking glorious in the late afternoon sunlight.

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We had incredible looks at a flock of **Squatter Pigeons**. They were walking around right at our feet, totally unconcerned by our presence.

As we pulled into our accommodation for the night, several large flocks of **Red-tailed Black Cockatoos** flew over, **Brush Cuckoo** sang, **Oriental Dollarbird** was catching insects in the security light, and the **Bush Stone-curlews** were getting vocal. It had been another long, but very enjoyable, day birding in the Atherton Tablelands.

Day 17, 19th November 2022. Birding Mt Lewis area and Daintree River cruise

Our final day of birding started in the arid country around Mareeba, included a trip to <u>Mount Lewis</u> <u>National Park</u> for some high elevation birds, and ended on the <u>Daintree River</u> with a dusk boat cruise. It was another long but also a highly rewarding day. Our first birding was right at our accommodation where **Red-tailed Black Cockatoo**, **Great Bowerbird**, **Pacific Baza**, and **Yellow Honeyeater** were noted. A park on the edge of town and some roadside stops proved productive, with Little Bronze Cuckoo, Leaden Flycatcher, Varied Triller, Pacific Koel, Black **Butcherbird**, **Pheasant Coucal**, **Blue-faced Honeyeater**, and **Forest Kingfisher** some of the highlights.

A change in habitats gave us different birds. A patch of rainforest was very busy, and we got one our main tour targets here, with a stunning display put on by a couple of **Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfishers**. They had clearly just arrived from <u>Papua New Guinea</u> and were busy setting up breeding territories. While looking for the kingfishers, we found Northern Fantail, Pale-yellow Robin, Spectacled Monarch, Cryptic Honeyeater, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Brown-backed Honeyeater, and Macleay's Honeyeater. Wetlands here held Magpie Geese, Green Pygmy Geese, Brown Quail, and White-browed Crake.



Gaining some elevation, we took a trail on Mount Lewis. A short walk here was very good, and we found our main targets quickly and had crippling views of all, these being Fernwren, Chowchilla, and Mountain Thornbill. Atherton Scrubwren, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Paradise Riflebird, Spotted Catbird, Barred Cuckooshrike, Eastern Whipbird, Grey-headed Robin, and Bridled Honeyeater were all also recorded during this walk.



There was a bit of a territorial dispute going on with a couple of **Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfishers** that had just arrived from Papua New Guinea and were busy setting up breeding territories.

After our brief mountain birding trip, we dropped down to the coast for a late lunch. We stopped at a beach briefly where we saw an **Osprey** catch a fish and picked up **Caspian Tern**, **Greater Crested Tern**, and **Little Tern**, along with **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Pied Oystercatcher**, and **Far Eastern Curlew**.

Our final birding of the tour had us on a small boat exploring the Daintree River. This is always a fun and educational trip and was a wonderful way to end our tour, and we found some great wildlife too! The first channel we explored gave us three of our main targets almost immediately, although two of them were a bit brief, with both **Black Bittern** and **Spotted Whistling Duck** (a recent colonist of Australia from New Guinea) vanishing without giving us good looks. However, **Great-billed Heron**, one of the usually secretive species, perched up for us giving excellent views. Plenty of other small birds were being enjoyed too, such as **Large-billed Gerygone**, **Shining Flycatcher**, and **Green Oriole**. We also saw two **Saltwater Crocodiles** and two **Green Tree Snakes** during the second half of our boat trip. Herons and egrets were busily flying around at dusk and a huge **Black-necked Stork** flew over too, distinctive even at long range! One final highlight, and pretty much the last new bird of the tour, was a **Papuan Frogmouth** sat on its nest, it gave excellent



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views. We left the river and drove back to Cairns where we arrived in the evening after stopping for dinner along the way. The task of selecting bird of the trip was not easy, especially after recording almost 400 species. However, the top picks included **Southern Cassowary**, **Malleefowl**, **Mallee Emu-wren**, and **Spotted Pardalote**.



One of several new birds added to our trip list during our Daintree River cruise, this huge and usually shy **Great-billed Heron** was a real treat.

Day 18, 20th November 2022. Departure from Cairns

The tour concluded with our departure from Cairns. Some of the group had a flock of **Red-tailed Black Cockatoos** feeding in trees right in the airport car park before checking in for their flights.

Tour weather conditions note

Conditions in Victoria and New South Wales were like nothing that has been seen for over 30 years, with vast areas of flooding around most rivers, particularly the major rivers, like the mighty Murray River. Luckily, we were blessed with good weather during the trip, and we had no issues getting across and around the flooded areas. The inland flooding did mean that several species of ducks and shorebirds (waders) we usually easily find while in Victoria on this tour were just not present (they had gone inland to breed in the flooded conditions, which were now perfect for them). The rains had resulted in masses of plant growth, particularly grasses and herbaceous plants, as well as giving trees a drink for the first time in a long time. As a result of this, many species were having bumper breeding seasons and were unusually conspicuous in some cases, which was great for us! Conditions in Queensland were more typical, but these areas had clearly had a good dose of water too, and birdlife was booming everywhere we went, which made for an excellent tour.



Bird List - Following IOC (12.2)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen. The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following <u>BirdLife</u> <u>International</u>: CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Cassowaries, Emu (Casuariidae)	
Southern Cassowary	Casuarius casuarius
Emu	Dromaius novaehollandiae
Magpie Goose (Anseranatidae)	
Magpie Goose	Anseranas semipalmata
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
Spotted Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna guttata
Plumed Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna eytoni
Wandering Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna arcuata
Cape Barren Goose	Cereopsis novaehollandiae
Black Swan	Cygnus atratus
Radjah Shelduck	Radjah radjah
Australian Shelduck	Tadorna tadornoides
Pink-eared Duck (H)	Malacorhynchus membranaceus
Maned Duck	Chenonetta jubata
Green Pygmy Goose	Nettapus pulchellus
Australasian Shoveler	Spatula rhynchotis
Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa
Grey Teal	Anas gracilis
Chestnut Teal	Anas castanea
Hardhead	Aythya australis
Megapodes (Megapodiidae)	
Australian Brushturkey	Alectura lathami
Malleefowl - VU	Leipoa ocellata
Orange-footed Scrubfowl	Megapodius reinwardt
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris



Common Name	Scientific Name
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Brown Quail	Synoicus ypsilophorus
Stubble Quail	Coturnix pectoralis
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Spotted Nightjar	Eurostopodus argus
Frogmouths (Podargidae)	
Papuan Frogmouth	Podargus papuensis
Owlet-nightjars (Aegothelidae)	1
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Aegotheles cristatus
Swifts (Apodidae)	
Australian Swiftlet	Aerodramus terraereginae
White-throated Needletail	Hirundapus caudacutus
Pacific Swift	Apus pacificus
Bustards (Otididae)	
Australian Bustard	Ardeotis australis
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Pheasant Coucal	Centropus phasianinus
Pacific Koel	Eudynamys orientalis
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Scythrops novaehollandiae
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx basalis
Shining Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx lucidus
Little Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx minutillus
Pallid Cuckoo	Cacomantis pallidus
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Cacomantis flabelliformis
Brush Cuckoo	Cacomantis variolosus
Binneng Davier (Calera 111)	
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	Colomba linia dom
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	Columba livia dom.
White-headed Pigeon	Columba leucomela
Spotted Dove Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Spilopelia chinensis
	Macropygia phasianella
Pacific Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps longirostris Phans chalcoptara
Common Bronzewing	Phaps chalcoptera



Common Name	Scientific Name
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes
Squatter Pigeon	Geophaps scripta
Wonga Pigeon	Leucosarcia melanoleuca
Peaceful Dove	Geopelia placida
Bar-shouldered Dove	Geopelia humeralis
Wompoo Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus magnificus
Superb Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus superbus
Rose-crowned Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus regina
Torresian Imperial Pigeon	Ducula spilorrhoa
Topknot Pigeon	Lopholaimus antarcticus
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
Buff-banded Rail (H)	Hypotaenidia philippensis
Black-tailed Nativehen	Tribonyx ventralis
Dusky Moorhen	Gallinula tenebrosa
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra
Australasian Swamphen	Porphyrio melanotus
White-browed Crake (H)	Poliolimnas cinereus
Pale-vented Bush-hen	Amaurornis moluccana
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Sarus Crane - VU	Antigone antigone
Brolga	Antigone rubicunda
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Australasian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae
Hoary-headed Grebe	Poliocephalus poliocephalus
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus
Duttonguoil (Turnicidae)	
Buttonquail (Turnicidae)	Turnin unit
Painted Buttonquail	Turnix varius
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Bur	hinidae)
Bush Stone-curlew	Burhinus grallarius
Oystercatchers (Haematopodida	
Pied Oystercatcher	Haematopus longirostris
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae))



Common Name	Scientific Name
Pied Stilt	Himantopus leucocephalus
Red-necked Avocet	Recurvirostra novaehollandiae
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles
Pacific Golden Plover	Pluvialis fulva
Red-capped Plover	Charadrius ruficapillus
Lesser Sand Plover	Charadrius mongolus
Greater Sand Plover	Charadrius leschenaultii
Hooded Dotterel - VU	Thinornis cucullatus
Black-fronted Dotterel	Elseyornis melanops
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
Comb-crested Jacana	Irediparra gallinacea
Plains-wanderer (Pedionomidae))
Plains-wanderer - CR	Pedionomus torquatus
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacida	e)
Eurasian Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus
Far Eastern Curlew - EN	Numenius madagascariensis
Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica
Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres
Great Knot - EN	Calidris tenuirostris
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Calidris falcinellus
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Calidris acuminata
Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea
Red-necked Stint	Calidris ruficollis
Latham's Snipe	Gallinago hardwickii
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos
Grey-tailed Tattler	Tringa brevipes
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia
Coursers, Pratincoles (Glareolid	ae)
Oriental Pratincole	Glareola maldivarum
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae	e)
Brown Noddy	Anous stolidus
Silver Gull	Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae



Common Name	Scientific Name
Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus
Australian Tern	Gelochelidon macrotarsa
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia
Greater Crested Tern	Thalasseus bergii
Lesser Crested Tern	Thalasseus bengalensis
Little Tern	Sternula albifrons
Bridled Tern	Onychoprion anaethetus
Sooty Tern	Onychoprion fuscatus
Black-naped Tern	Sterna sumatrana
Skuas (Stercorariidae)	
Parasitic Jaeger	Stercorarius parasiticus
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Black-necked Stork	Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus
Frigatebirds (Fregatidae)	
Great Frigatebird	Fregata minor
Great Migatebild	Fregata minor
Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)	
Australasian Gannet	Morus serrator
Red-footed Booby	Sula sula
Brown Booby	Sula leucogaster
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
Australasian Darter	Anhinga novaehollandiae
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocor	 acidae)
Little Pied Cormorant	Microcarbo melanoleucos
Black-faced Cormorant	Phalacrocorax fuscescens
Australian Pied Cormorant	Phalacrocorax varius
Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornith	idae)
Australian White Ibis	Threskiornis molucca
Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis spinicollis
Poyal Spoonbill	
Royal Spoonbill	Platalea regia



Common Name	Scientific Name
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Black Bittern	Irobrohus flaviaallis
	Ixobrychus flavicollis
Nankeen Night Heron Striated Heron	Nycticorax caledonicus
	Butorides striata
Eastern Cattle Egret	Bubulcus coromandus
White-necked Heron	Ardea pacifica
Great-billed Heron	Ardea sumatrana
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia
White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
Pacific Reef Heron	Egretta sacra
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Australian Pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Osprey	Pandion cristatus
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitrie	dae)
Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus axillaris
Square-tailed Kite	Lophoictinia isura
Pacific Baza	Aviceda subcristata
Little Eagle	Hieraaetus morphnoides
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Aquila audax
Brown Goshawk	Accipiter fasciatus
Swamp Harrier	Circus approximans
Spotted Harrier	Circus assimilis
Black Kite	Milvus migrans
Whistling Kite	Haliastur sphenurus
Brahminy Kite	Haliastur indus
White-bellied Sea Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Eastern Barn Owl	Tyto javanica
Owls (Strigidae)	I
Powerful Owl	Ninox strenua



Common Name	Scientific Name
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Oriental Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher	Tanysiptera sylvia
Laughing Kookaburra	Dacelo novaeguineae
Blue-winged Kookaburra	Dacelo leachii
Forest Kingfisher	Todiramphus macleayii
Torresian Kingfisher	Todiramphus sordidus
Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus
Azure Kingfisher (H)	Ceyx azureus
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Nankeen Kestrel	Falco cenchroides
Australian Hobby	Falco longipennis
Brown Falcon	Falco berigora
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus
Cockatoos (Cacatuidae)	
Cockatiel	Nymphicus hollandicus
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus banksii
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Zanda funerea
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Callocephalon fimbriatum
Galah	Eolophus roseicapilla
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	Lophochroa leadbeateri
Long-billed Corella	Cacatua tenuirostris
Little Corella	Cacatua sanguinea
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Cacatua galerita
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Superb Parrot	Polytelis swainsonii
Regent Parrot	Polytelis anthopeplus
Australian King Parrot	Alisterus scapularis
Red-winged Parrot	Aprosmictus erythropterus
Red-rumped Parrot	Psephotus haematonotus



Common Name	Scientific Name
Eastern Bluebonnet	Northiella haematogaster
Mulga Parrot	Psephotellus varius
Crimson Rosella	Platycercus elegans
Eastern Rosella	Platycercus eximius
Australian Ringneck	Barnardius zonarius
Blue-winged Parrot	Neophema chrysostoma
Turquoise Parrot	Neophema pulchella
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	Parvipsitta porphyrocephala
Little Lorikeet	Parvipsitta pusilla
Musk Lorikeet	Glossopsitta concinna
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus
Rainbow Lorikeet	Trichoglossus moluccanus
Budgerigar	Melopsittacus undulatus
Double-eyed Fig Parrot	Cyclopsitta diophthalma
Pittas (Pittidae)	
Noisy Pitta	Pitta versicolor
Lyrebirds (Menuridae)	
Albert's Lyrebird	Menura alberti
Superb Lyrebird	Menura novaehollandiae
Bowerbirds (Ptilonorhynchidae)	
Green Catbird	Ailuroedus crassirostris
Spotted Catbird	Ailuroedus maculosus
Tooth-billed Bowerbird	Scenopoeetes dentirostris
Golden Bowerbird (H)	Prionodura newtoniana
Regent Bowerbird	Sericulus chrysocephalus
Satin Bowerbird	Ptilonorhynchus violaceus
Great Bowerbird	Chlamydera nuchalis
Australasian Treecreepers (Clin	nacteridae)
White-throated Treecreeper	Cormobates leucophaea
Red-browed Treecreeper	Climacteris erythrops
Brown Treecreeper	Climacteris picumnus
A	
Australasian Wrens (Maluridae	-
Purple-backed Fairywren	Malurus assimilis
Superb Fairywren	Malurus cyaneus



Common Name	Scientific Name
Splendid Fairywren	Malurus splendens
Red-backed Fairywren	Malurus melanocephalus
White-winged Fairywren	Malurus leucopterus
Southern Emu-wren	Stipiturus malachurus
Mallee Emu-wren - EN	Stipiturus mallee
Striated Grasswren	Amytornis striatus
Honeyeaters (Meliphagidae)	
Eastern Spinebill	Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris
White-fronted Chat	Epthianura albifrons
Brown-backed Honeyeater	Ramsayornis modestus
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	Gliciphila melanops
Dusky Myzomela	Myzomela obscura
Scarlet Myzomela	Myzomela sanguinolenta
Little Friarbird	Philemon citreogularis
Hornbill Friarbird	Philemon yorki
Noisy Friarbird	Philemon corniculatus
Macleay's Honeyeater	Xanthotis macleayanus
Striped Honeyeater	Plectorhyncha lanceolata
Painted Honeyeater - VU	Grantiella picta
Crescent Honeyeater	Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus
New Holland Honeyeater	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae
Brown Honeyeater	Lichmera indistincta
White-eared Honeyeater	Nesoptilotis leucotis
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Entomyzon cyanotis
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Melithreptus brevirostris
White-throated Honeyeater	Melithreptus albogularis
White-naped Honeyeater	Melithreptus lunatus
Yellow Honeyeater	Stomiopera flava
Yellow-spotted Honeyeater	Meliphaga notata
Lewin's Honeyeater	Meliphaga lewinii
White-fronted Honeyeater	Purnella albifrons
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	Lichenostomus melanops
Cryptic Honeyeater	Microptilotis imitatrix
Varied Honeyeater	Gavicalis versicolor
Mangrove Honeyeater	Gavicalis fasciogularis
Singing Honeyeater	Gavicalis virescens
Fuscous Honeyeater	Ptilotula fusca
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Ptilotula ornata



Common Name	Scientific Name
White-plumed Honeyeater	Ptilotula penicillata
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Caligavis chrysops
Little Wattlebird	Anthochaera chrysoptera
Red Wattlebird	Anthochaera carunculata
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Acanthagenys rufogularis
Bridled Honeyeater	Bolemoreus frenatus
Bell Miner	Manorina melanophrys
Noisy Miner	Manorina melanocephala
Yellow-throated Miner	Manorina flavigula
Bristlebirds (Dasyornithidae)	
Rufous Bristlebird	Dasyornis broadbenti
Pardalotes (Pardalotidae)	
Spotted Pardalote	Pardalotus punctatus
Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus
Australasian Warblers (Acanthiz	idae)
Fernwren	Oreoscopus gutturalis
Weebill	Smicrornis brevirostris
Striated Fieldwren	Calamanthus fuliginosus
Rufous Fieldwren	Calamanthus campestris
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	Hylacola pyrrhopygia
Shy Heathwren	Hylacola cauta
Pilotbird	Pycnoptilus floccosus
Speckled Warbler	Pyrrholaemus sagittatus
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Neosericornis citreogularis
Large-billed Scrubwren	Sericornis magnirostra
Atherton Scrubwren	Sericornis keri
White-browed Scrubwren	Sericornis frontalis
Brown Gerygone	Gerygone mouki
Mangrove Gerygone	Gerygone levigaster
Western Gerygone	Gerygone fusca
Large-billed Gerygone	Gerygone magnirostris
White-throated Gerygone	Gerygone olivacea
Fairy Gerygone	Gerygone palpebrosa
Mountain Thornbill	Acanthiza katherina
Brown Thornbill	Acanthiza pusilla
Inland Thornbill	Acanthiza apicalis



Common Name	Scientific Name
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza uropygialis
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza reguloides
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa
Yellow Thornbill	Acanthiza nana
Striated Thornbill	Acanthiza lineata
Southern Whiteface	Aphelocephala leucopsis
Australasian Babblers (Pomatoste	omidae)
Grey-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus temporalis
White-browed Babbler	Pomatostomus superciliosus
Chestnut-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus ruficeps
Logrunners (Orthonychidae)	
Australian Logrunner	Orthonyx temminckii
Chowchilla	Orthonyx spaldingii
Whipbirds (Psophodidae)	
Eastern Whipbird	Psophodes olivaceus
Jewel-babblers, Quail-thrushes (C	
Chestnut Quail-thrush	Cinclosoma castanotum
Boatbills (Machaerirhynchidae)	
Yellow-breasted Boatbill	Machaerirhynchus flaviventer
Woodswallows, Butcherbirds & A	
White-breasted Woodswallow	Artamus leucorynchus
Black-faced Woodswallow	Artamus cinereus
Dusky Woodswallow	Artamus cyanopterus
Black Butcherbird	Melloria quoyi
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen
Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus
Pied Butcherbird	Cracticus nigrogularis
Pied Currawong	Strepera graculina
Grey Currawong	Strepera versicolor
Cuckooshrikos (Componhagidae)	
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae) Barred Cuckooshrike	Coracina lineata
Black-faced Cuckooshrike	Coracina lineata Coracina novaehollandiae
Black-laceu Cuckoosiilike	



Common Name	Scientific Name
White-bellied Cuckooshrike	Coracina papuensis
Common Cicadabird	Edolisoma tenuirostre
Varied Triller	Lalage leucomela
Sittellas (Neosittidae)	
Varied Sittella	Daphoenositta chrysoptera
Shriketit (Falcunculidae)	
Crested Shriketit	Falcunculus frontatus
Whistlers & Allies (Pachycephali	idae)
Olive Whistler	Pachycephala olivacea
Gilbert's Whistler	Pachycephala inornata
Grey Whistler	Pachycephala simplex
Australian Golden Whistler	Pachycephala pectoralis
Western Whistler (H)	Pachycephala fuliginosa
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris
Bower's Shrikethrush	Colluricincla boweri
Rufous Shrikethrush	Colluricincla rufogaster
Grey Shrikethrush	Colluricincla harmonica
Figbirds, Orioles, Turnagra (Ori	olidae)
Australasian Figbird	Sphecotheres vieilloti
Olive-backed Oriole	Oriolus sagittatus
Green Oriole	Oriolus flavocinctus
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Spangled Drongo	Dicrurus bracteatus
Fantails (Rhipiduridae)	
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys
Northern Fantail	Rhipidura rufiventris
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura albiscapa
Rufous Fantail	Rhipidura rufifrons
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Spectacled Monarch	Symposiachrus trivirgatus
Black-faced Monarch	Monarcha melanopsis
White-eared Monarch	Carterornis leucotis



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Pied Monarch (H)	Arses kaupi	
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	
Leaden Flycatcher	Myiagra rubecula	
Satin Flycatcher	Myiagra cyanoleuca	
Shining Flycatcher	Myiagra alecto	
Restless Flycatcher	Myiagra inquieta	
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)		
Torresian Crow	Corvus orru	
Little Crow	Corvus bennetti	
Little Raven	Corvus mellori	
Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides	
Australian Mudnesters (Corcora	ncidae)	
White-winged Chough	Corcorax melanorhamphos	
Apostlebird	Struthidea cinerea	
Birds-of-paradise (Paradisaeidae		
Paradise Riflebird	Ptiloris paradiseus	
Victoria's Riflebird	Ptiloris victoriae	
Australasian Robins (Petroicidae		
Pale-yellow Robin	Tregellasia capito	
Eastern Yellow Robin	Eopsaltria australis	
Grey-headed Robin	Heteromyias cinereifrons	
Southern Scrub Robin	Drymodes brunneopygia	
Jacky Winter	Microeca fascinans	
Rose Robin	Petroica rosea	
Flame Robin	Petroica phoenicea	
Scarlet Robin	Petroica boodang	
Red-capped Robin	Petroica goodenovii	
Larks (Alaudidae) Horsfield's Bush Lark	Minafua iawaniga	
	Mirafra javanica	
Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis	
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinida	e)	
White-backed Swallow	Cheramoeca leucosterna	
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena	



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Fairy Martin	Petrochelidon ariel	
Tree Martin	Petrochelidon nigricans	
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocepha	lidae)	
Australian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus australis	
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)	1	
Little Grassbird	Poodytes gramineus	
Brown Songlark	Cincloramphus cruralis	
Rufous Songlark	Cincloramphus mathewsi	
Tawny Grassbird	Cincloramphus timoriensis	
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Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)		
Golden-headed Cisticola	Cisticola exilis	
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	Zosterops lateralis	
Silvereye		
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)		
Metallic Starling	Aplonis metallica	
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	
Thrushes (Turdidae)	-	
Russet-tailed Thrush	Zoothera heinei	
Bassian Thrush	Zoothera lunulata	
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	
Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)		
Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	
Sunhinda (Nastaniniidaa)		
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae) Olive-backed Sunbird	Cinnyris iugularis	
Onve-backed Sundiid	Cinnyris jugularis	
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)		
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	
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Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildio	lae)	
Diamond Firetail	Stagonopleura guttata	



Common Name	Scientific Name
Red-browed Finch	Neochmia temporalis
Double-barred Finch	Stizoptera bichenovii
Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	Lonchura castaneothorax
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Australian Pipit	Anthus australis
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris
	Carduelis carduelis

Total seen	372
Total heard only	7
Total recorded	379

Mammal List

Common Name	Scientific Name	
Felids (Felidae)		
Domestic Cat	Felis catus	
Deer (Cervidae)		
Sambar	Rusa unicolor	
Old World Fruit Bats (Pteropo	odidae)	
Black Flying Fox	Pteropus alecto	
Spectacled Flying Fox	Pteropus conspicillatus	
Grey-headed Flying Fox	Pteropus poliocephalus	
Dasyures (Dasyuridae)		
Yellow-footed Antechinus	Antechinus flavipes	
Brown Antechinus	Antechinus stuartii	
Fat-tailed Dunnart	Sminthopsis crassicaudata	
Musky Rat Kangaroos (Hypsiprymnodontidae)		
Musky Rat Kangaroo	Hypsiprymnodon moschatus	



Common Name	Scientific Name
Kangaroos, Wallabies, and Allies (M	Iacropodidae)
Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo	Dendrolagus lumholtzi
Agile Wallaby	Macropus agilis
Western Grey Kangaroo	Macropus fuliginosus
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	Macropus giganteus
Red-necked Wallaby	Macropus rufogriseus
Red Kangaroo	Macropus rufus
Mareeba Rock Wallaby	Petrogale mareeba
Red-legged Pademelon	Thylogale stigmatica
Red-necked Pademelon	Thylogale thetis
Swamp Wallaby	Wallabia bicolor
Cuscuses and Brushtail Possums (Pl	nalangeridae)
Common Brushtail Possum	Trichosurus vulpecula
Koalas (Phascolarctidae)	
Koala	Phascolarctos cinereus
Hares and Rabbits (Leporidae)	
European Hare	Lepus europaeus
European Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus
Platypuses (Ornithorhynchidae)	
Platypus	Ornithorhynchus anatinus
Echidnas (Tachyglossidae)	
Short-beaked Echidna	Tachyglossus aculeatus
Muridae	
Common Water Rat (Rakali)	Hydromys chrysogaster
House Mouse	Mus musculus

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<u>Reptile List</u>

Scientific Name		
Crocodylus porosus		
Varanus varius		
Hemidactylus frenatus		
Ctenophorus fordi		
Ctenophorus pictus		
Intellagama lesueurii		
Pogona barbata		
Pogona vitticeps		
Ctenotus orientalis		
Eulamprus quoyii		
Tiliqua rugosa		
Cryptoblepharus pannosus		
Carlia rubrigularis		
Saproscincus basiliscus		
Colubrid Snakes (Colubridae)		
Dendrelaphis punctulatus		
Elapid Snakes (Elapidae)		
Pseudonaja textilis		
Freshwater Turtles (Cheluidae)		
Emydura macquarii macquarii		
Austro-American Side-necked Turtles (Chelidae)		
Myuchelys latisternum		

Total



18

Amphibian List

Scientific Name	
Foam-nesting Ground Frogs (Limnodynastidae)	
Limnodynastes interioris	
Neobatrachus sudelli	
Rhinella marina	

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Notable Other Taxa List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Orbweavers (Araneidae)	-
Christmas Jewel Spider	Austracantha minax
Huntsman Spiders (Sparassidae)	
Grey Huntsman Spider	Holconia immanis
Swallowtails and Parnassians (Papilionidae)	
Orchard Swallowtail	Papilio aegeus
Small Dingy Swallowtail	Papilio anactus
Lime Swallowtail	Papilio demoleus
Ulysses Butterfly	Papilio ulysses
Fuscous Swallowtail	Papilio fuscus
Brush-footed Butterflies (Nymphalidae)	
Monarch	Danaus plexippus
Lesser Wanderer	Danaus petilia
Swamp Tiger Butterfly	Danaus affinis
Australian Painted Lady	Vanessa kershawi
Yellow Admiral	Vanessa itea
Common Brown	Heteronympha merope
Meadow Argus	Junonia villida
Great Eggfly	Hypolimnas bolina



Common Name	Scientific Name
(Australian) Common Crow Butterfly	Euploea core corinna
Common Evening Brown	Melanitis leda
Blue Wanderer	Tirumala hamata
Glasswing	Acraea andromacha
Orange Bushbrown	Mycalesis terminus
Whites, Yellows, and Sulphurs (Pieri	dae)
Caper White	Belonis java
Small White	Pieris rapae
Imperial Jezebel	Delias harpalyce
Black Jezebel	Delias nigrina
Common Grass Yellow	Eurema hecabe
Small Grass Yellow	Eurema smilax
Gossamer-winged Butterflies (Lycaer	nidae)
Saltbush Blue	Theclinesthes serpentata
Common Imperial Blue	Jalmenus evagoras
Small Green Banded Blue	Psychonotis caelius
Skimmers (Libellulidae)	
Blue Skimmer	Orthetrum caledonicum
Slender Skimmer	Orthetrum sabina
Scarlet Percher	Diplacodes haematodes
Wandering Percher	Diplacodes bipunctata
Painted Grasshawk	Neurothemis stigmatizans
Zircon Flutterer	Rhyothemis princeps
Narrow-winged Damselflies (Coenag	
Australian Bluetail	Ischnura heterosticta
Spreadwings and Allies (Lestidae)	
Wandering Ringtail	Austrolestes leda
Emerald Dragonflies (Corduliidae)	
Tau Emerald	Hemicordulia tau
Bluestreaks and Rockmasters (Lestoi	ideidae)



Common Name	Scientific Name
Common Bluestreak	Lestoidea conjuncta
Requiem Sharks (Carcharhinid	ae)
Blacktip Reef Shark	Carcharhinidae melanopterus
Morays (Muraenidae)	
Sieve-patterned Moray	Gymnothorax cribroris
Cockles (Cardiidae)	
Small Giant Clam	Tridacna maxima
Orchids (Orchidaceae)	
Large Flying Duck Orchid	Caleana major
Tiger Orchid	Diuris sulphurea
Eastern Mantis Orchid	Caladenia tentaculate
Thin Pencil Orchid	Dendrobium teretifolium

Total	46

