



This was a set departure tour

**EASTERN AUSTRALIA:**

***From Top to Bottom***

25<sup>th</sup> October - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014



The **Australian King-Parrot**, a nice representative  
in this “Land of the Parrots”

Tour leader: Scott Watson

Report & Photos by Scott Watson

## INTRODUCTION:

Australia, sometimes dubbed “The Island Continent”, can thank its unique wildlife to its isolation. With evolutionary processes allowed to run free, Australia is home to bird families found nowhere else on the planet. *Emu*, *Plains-wanderer*, *Lyrebirds*, *Australian Mudnesters*, *Bristlebirds*, and *Pardalotes* are families only found within Australia, and all found on this tour. Add Australia’s massive size and diverse array of habitats to this isolation, and you can a very species rich area. Consequently we found an impressive *435 species of birds and 38 species of mammals on our 19-day trip.*



The colorful **Azure Kingfisher** lights up the dark banks of the Daintree River.

This trip is full on, and fast paced, trying to hit as many habitats as possible, covering a huge area in a relatively short amount of time. We get to *rainforest*, *Eucalypt woodland*, *Mallee scrub*, *coastal heath*, *freshwater and coastal marshes*, *Tussock grassland*, *mangroves*, *offshore islets*, and everything in between. The mammals were just as impressive. We saw both Monotremes (**Echidna** and **Platypus**), **13 different species of Kangaroo** (including great views of **Lumholtz’s Tree Kangaroo**), **Wombats**, **Bandicoots**, **Koalas**, **Dunnarts**, and even a **Humpback Whale**. Of the 435 birds, bird-of-the-trip went to the tiny **Little Penguin**, and watching 15 of these birds emerge from the surf after dusk on a secluded beach, and then waddle right past us, was really something magical. Runner up went to **Pink Robin**, which does anything but blend in to the dark green forests of Tasmania. Honorable mentions go to the fantastic **Noisy Pitta** of which

we had incredible views, and a duo of outback shorebirds; **Plains-wanderer** and **Inland Dotterel**.

## DAILY SUMMARY:

### DAY 1

#### **ARRIVAL IN SYDNEY; TRANSFER TO LITHGOW VIA EVANS PASS**

Due to scheduling issues we started this tour off in the New South Wales section of the tour rather than our usual start in Cairns. After an early afternoon meeting in the airport we hit the road and went due west, ascending the Blue Mountains towards Lithgow. We had time for one stop on this day and it was at the very scenic Evans Lookout. After taking in the beautiful view of the rugged sandstone valley, our first bird of the tour was a very curious **Eastern Spinebill**, a striking Honeyeater species and luckily very common. Next we found a flock, which held the nuthatch-like **Varied Sittella**, a **White-throated Treecreeper**, the common **White-browed Scrubwren**, **Rufous Whistler**, and an **Eastern Yellow Robin**. A family of **Pied Currawongs** was our last sighting of the day before making our way to Lithgow and our hotel for our first Aussie dinner, which included Lamb Shank and Barramundi.



This good-looking **Eastern Spinebill** was extra curious of us strange birders

## DAY 2

**CAPERTEE VALLEY, LAKE WALLACE & GUM SWAMP to FORBES**

A very early start had us in the Capertee Valley by sunrise, supposedly the biggest (maybe widest) canyon in the world. This may or may not be true, but the sandstone escarpments, farmland and mixed woodland attract a lot of great birds. On the way into the valley we came across our first mammals of the trip on the side of the road; **Eastern Gray Kangaroos** and a few **Red-necked Wallabies**. Our first birding stop at a small creek was ultra productive, and our main target was found fairly quickly, a pair of striking **Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters**. A fly-over **Turquoise Parrot** kept us on our toes, as did a **Channel-billed Cuckoo**, cute **Superb Fairywrens**, and an **Olive-backed Oriole**. Atop a dead tree was the sometimes-tricky **Hooded Robin**, perched in beautiful morning light. Next came a flurry of Honeyeaters including; **Black-chinned**, **Yellow-faced**, and **White-plumed Honeyeaters**. After moving up the road to the next creek, and finding 2 target **Fuscous Honeyeaters**, we ventured into the edge of the farmland. Here we were on the lookout for finches, and a group of small birds forging on the roadside ahead had us on the move. These birds turned out to be a flock of **Zebra Finches**, but this then lead us to finding an active nest of the gorgeous **Diamond Firetail**, this being the best place to find one on the tour. **Red-rumped Parrots** and **Eastern Rosellas** seemed to be everywhere in the open country, adding a serious flash of color to the landscape.



We all felt very fortunate to stumble upon a flock of **Glossy Black Cockatoos**, including this male.

A stop at Glen Alice gave us great views of a **Pallid Cuckoo**, quick views of **Little Lorikeet**, **Striated Pardalotes**, a pair of strange **Dollarbirds**, and great views of **Brown Woodcreeper**. The day was heating up giving us time for one more stop at Glenowlan Bridge, which was pretty quite, but we did find a pair of **White-browed Woodswallow**, and a nice **Azure Kingfisher** at the bridge itself. On our way out of the valley, and out of pure dumb luck, we managed to flush a small flock of **Glossy Black-Cockatoos** after passing the other Tropical Birding van. This was a great species to get, and indeed was the only time we saw it on the tour.

Now out of the valley and stopping in the small town of Wallerawang for lunch before going to Lake Wallace to search for waterbirds. Here we found many ducks and grebes, including our targets **Great Crested Grebe**, and the very strange **Musk Duck**. To me, this is by far the ugliest duck in the world, and of great wonder that a female actually selects one of these breeding males pictured below. We were fortunate though in seeing the males full breeding display, with large facial disc below his bill. He creates a high pitched whistle, arcs his back, flairs his tail, and then begins pushing water out the side of his body, looking much like a malfunctioning tugboat. This scary sight had us fleeing west toward Forbes.



The female **Musk Duck** is somehow attracted to this displaying male.

On the way to Forbes we made one stop to look at a sizable flock to stunning **Superb Parrots**, a fairly range restricted endemic. Next we went to the famous Gum Swamp to clean up on a few ducks. This is also one of the best spots for **Freckled Duck**, and it only took us about 1 minute to find a few near the hide. The other main target was **Blue-billed Duck**, and finding 4 of them was quite exciting.

We also quickly ticked off **White-eyed Duck**, **Gray Teal**, **Pacific Black Duck**, and everyone's favorite, the strange **Pink-Eared Duck**. On the other side of the swamp a **Black Swan** foraged alongside **Yellow-billed Spoonbills**, and an **Australasian Darter**. A pair of **White-bellied Sea-Eagles** also had a nearby nest, giving us all great views. A great end to a very bird-filled day.

### DAY 3

#### BACK YAMMA to LAKE CARGELLIGO

Starting early we headed straight for Back Yamma State Forest just north of Forbes. After some breakfast in the field, the sun rose and we started to get into a flock of thornbills. After a bit of time with a couple scattered flocks we ended up with a few species including; **Buff-rumped**, **Inland**, **Yellow-rumped**, and **Yellow Thornbills**. We also found a pair of the incredibly tiny **Weebill**, a noisy pair of **Speckled Warblers** and a **Western Gerygone**. Just in time to add some color in the middle of our Thornbill flurry, a beautiful male **Red-capped Robin** flew in for some nice views. Next we went into some of the better woodland where we found top birds like **Black-eared Cuckoo**, **Restless Flycatcher**, and a **Crested Shrike-tit**, as well as the drab but great named Jacky-winter. After our success here we decided to leave back towards Forbes, but not before picking up a nice flock of **Cockateils** feeding by the roadside.



**RED-CAPPED ROBIN** in Back Yamma



**RED-NECKED AVOCET** Lake Cargelligo

Next we made a very quick stop back at Gum Swamp to try for the **Australian Shovelers** we missed yesterday. This took all of 5 minutes, and then we were off, heading west to Lake Cargelligo arriving in time for lunch. After checking into our hotel we were off again to a nearby sewage treatment facility, a standard on many birding tours. Unfortunately the wind was fierce this day, but we still managed a few good birds. To start with, a family of **White-winged Fairywrens** played cat and mouse with us, but eventually we managed some looks. In the ponds we found no less than 4 **Baillon's Crakes** in plain view. **Australian Shelducks** were new for us, as were the **Black-fronted** and **Red-kneed Dotterels** foraging on the muddy banks. The largest pond held some great shorebirds including many **Red-necked Avocets**, a real crowd favorite, and surely one of the most beautiful shorebirds in the world. Also here were **Marsh** and **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers**, **Red-necked Stints**, and **Red-capped Plovers**. Behind us some high-pitched trills lead us to a family of **Variegated Fairywrens** (*assimilis* ssp) trying hard not to get blown away in the wind.

From Lake Cargelligo we headed north into Nombinnie Nature Reserve. Unfortunately it was still very windy, and has been dry for the last 2 years, so the bird numbers were a little low. We did find a couple of **Banded Lapwings** on the way in, and a few **Bluebonnets** flying by in between the many flocks of **Galahs**. Next we arrived at the "mallee", a type of stunted eucalypt bush, due to the poor soil conditions. A few bird species call this habitat home, and found nowhere else. A stunning male **Splendid Fairywren** gave good views, as did a **Rufous Whistler**. A shy and skulking **Southern Scrub-Robin** gave brief views, and one **Gilbert's**

**Whistler** was heard, besides that extremely quiet. Hopefully tomorrow morning will be better. On the way back our hoped for **Spotted Nightjar** eluded us, but we did find an **Australian Owlet-Nightjar**, which gave brief views. Now it was back to Lake Cargelligo after another long day with a huge bird list.

## DAY 4

### ROUND HILL to HAY

Back into the Mallee scrub this morning of Nombinnie NR, where there was thankfully more activity than yesterday. Our first birds were a very cooperative **Crested Bellbird** singing its distinctive song, exposed in a tree. We finally got great views of a **Gilbert's Whistler**, close to a nearby party of **White-browed Babblers**. Unfortunately we only had fleeting glimpses of **Shy Heathwren** and only heard **Chestnut Quail-thrush**.



The liquid notes of the **Crested Bellbird** song is an outback classic.

Leaving the mallee we headed into the nearby mixed open woodland of Round Hill Nature Reserve. A few flowering trees in the area attracted a few Honeyeater species, and the most abundant here was clearly the striking **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** and common **Yellow-throated Miner**, along with a couple of **Gray-fronted Honeyeaters**. Some small birds foraging on the ground turned out to be our target **Southern Whiteface** amongst a few **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**. One participant saw a curious looking bird fly by, so we put on the chase and it turned out to be a **Spotted Bowerbird**, which sadly only gave us brief views. This chase also lead us into the path of a large, beautifully patterned, **Lace Monitor**, while a **White-backed Swallow** flew overhead. From here we decided to drive to Hillston for lunch, but not before stopping to view our first **Emu**, a father with 3 chicks and multiple parties of both **Apostlebirds** and **White-winged Choughs**.

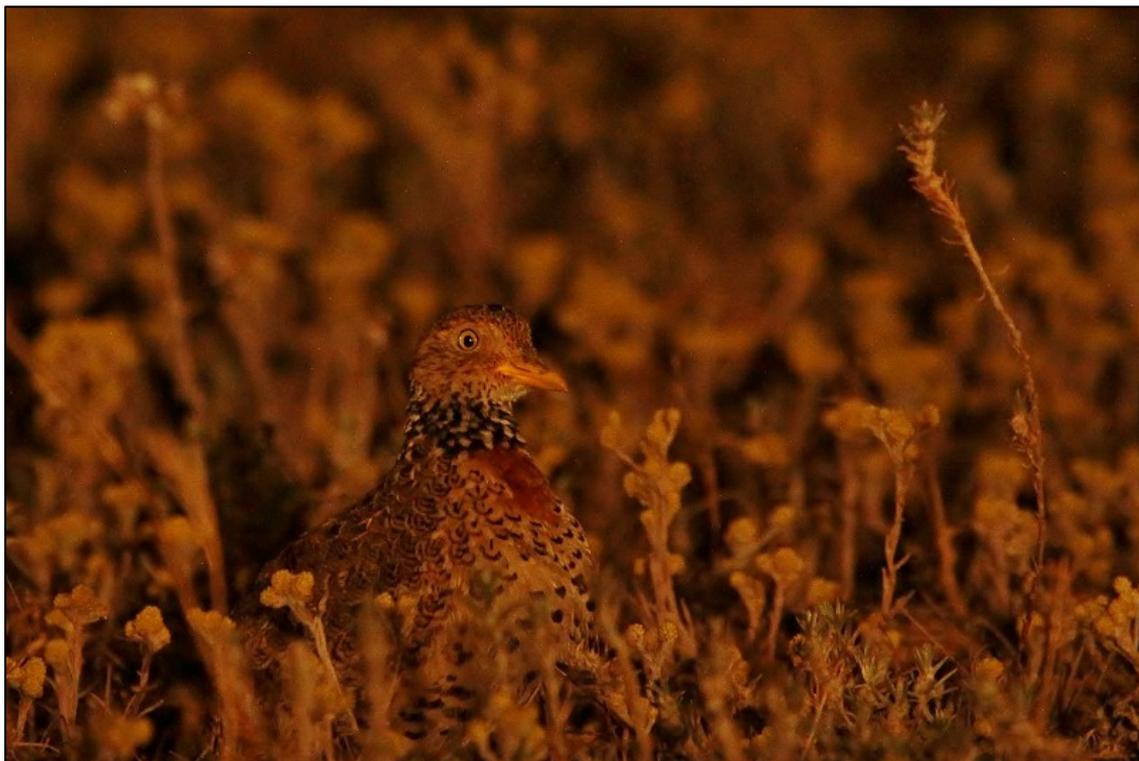
From Hillston we continued to Hay, but not before stopping for a couple of massive **Wedge-tailed Eagles** flying over the road. After a short rest in Hay we continued west to Wanganella where we met our local guide Phil Maher to do a little local birding before trying for the endemic **Plains-wanderer**. On the way there we did come across a single **Black Falcon**, and then Phil showed us a **White-backed**

**Swallow**, a few beautiful **Black-tailed Native-hens** at a nearby wetland, and finally our first **Little Eagle**. In the fading light we got onto some incredible **White-winged Fairywrens**, including 3 elaborate males. Finally at our dinner stop we munched on some nice Thai take-away while being interrupted by an **Australian Hobby**.



**Yellow-throated Miner** may be common & noisy, but it still looks good!

Once darkness fell we all piled into our four-wheel-drives and headed out into the Hay plains. But this trip is not just for the enigmatic Plains-wanderer, we had lots of great birds on the way out too. Our first bird was a nice **Barn Owl** perched in a tree, then a family group of **Tawny Frogmouths**. Next we moved into the very short grass looking for our target, but not before getting onto another couple **Banded Lapwings**, and our first **Red Kangaroo**, the world's largest Marsupial. After a bit of time we found our first Plains-wanderer, and we all rushed over to see the tiny male **Plains-wanderer**. Unfortunately he wasn't very cooperative, but it wasn't long before we found a placid female, which is much better looking too with her chestnut breast. She sat perfectly still, and even began her eerie call. Ecstatic with our find we pushed on, and after searching another paddock we found a mega **Inland Dotterel**, a strange inland plover, perfectly at home in some of the most arid regions of Australia. This ended a perfect night, so we headed back into our buses and then back to Hay.



Nightbirding in the Outback: **Plains-wanderer** (above) & **Inland Dotterel** (below)



## DAY 5

**HAY to FIVE BOUGH SWAMP & BINYA**

After a well-deserved sleep in from our late night Plains-wanderer trip, and a relaxed breakfast in Hay, it was time to head back east. Although, before we could leave the hotel a pair of “**Yellow**” **Rosellas** made an appearance, a different subspecies to their eastern cousins. Now on the road our first stop was at Darlington Point where we found our target **Long-billed Coreellas** within the flock of **Little Coreellas**. From here we headed further east for our lunch stop in Leeton before heading to Fivebough Swamp.



Check out the long upper bill of this **Long-billed Corella**.

With good water levels this year Fivebough Swamp was quite birdy, and we quickly picked up our targets. We started out with **Rainbow Bee-eaters** and **Yellow-billed Spoonbills** flying overhead and then a noisy pair of **Golden-headed Cisticolas** in the first patch of reeds. Further on a useful opening allowed us a great view of a **Baillon's Crake**, and with a bit of coaxing an **Australian Crake** came out and gave us all fantastic views. **Spotless Crakes** were heard, frustratingly close, but never came in. Out in the marsh were many **Glossy Ibis**, which flushed as both **Swamp Harriers** and **Whistling Kites** flew overhead.



Afternoon at the billabong: **TURQUOISE PARROT** (above) & **EASTERN GRAY KANGAROO** (below)



Next we were off to Binya State Forest in the afternoon. Although still hot, the bird activity was slowly increasing. The first targets we got at a clearing in the mixed woodland were a group of **Chestnut-rumped Thornbills**, and a single **Singing Honeyeater**. Overhead a **Peregrine Falcon** soared and near the ground were small flocks of **Mulga Parrots**. Next up was a major target Honeyeater I could hear in the distance, so we walked towards it. The bird continued to sing, then stopped, then would frustratingly sing a short song every 5 minutes. After some time, nervousness, and bushwhacking, we eventually tracked down the beautiful **Painted Honeyeater**, and bird number 2000 for Eric. Next we would drive the short distance to Wattle Dam, where we waited next to a small waterhole to see what would come in to drink in the late afternoon. First up were a couple of parrot species, **Mallee Ringnecks** and **Mulga Parrots**. Next was a thirsty **Striped Honeyeater**, and then a few **Common Bronzewing** and **Peaceful Doves**. It was described as magical by the group as colorful birds would come in to drink in the beautiful evening light. Even a mother **Eastern Gray Kangaroo** and joey came in. Eventually the star bird arrived for a drink, the gorgeous male **Turquoise Parrot**, with colors too insane for words. With the sun setting fast it was time to head into Griffith for dinner and a well-deserved rest.

## DAY 6

### GRIFFITH to BARREN GROUNDS

We started the morning with a target bird that required a trip to the local Griffith golf course, to find the **Pink Cockatoo**. On arrival one was seen flying away, and eluded us for some time, until eventually we had extended scope views of this beautiful Cockatoo perched in a dead tree, and even flaring its crest. From here we headed back to Wattle Dam for breakfast, and adding **Brown-headed Honeyeater** to our



list. Before we left a male **Turquoise Parrot** flew in just to say hello, but sadly we had to say goodbye to this area since we had some serious distance to cover. It would take about 5 hours to get from central New South Wales, all the way back to the east coast (with a stop for lunch at the famous Big Merino), but we made it to the small town of Robertson, our destination for the night. After a small break here we were off to Barren Grounds for some afternoon birding. It was

pretty slow up on the heath with only brief views of a shy **Eastern Bristlebird**, so we headed back down to the entrance of Barren Grounds where we had a bit better luck with a **Pilotbird**, and singing **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, and eventually a beautiful **Brush Bronzewing** in the sun. From here we headed down to the town of Jamberoo for a quick dinner, and then straight back up to Barren Grounds NP for some late afternoon birding and spotlighting.

Making our way back up the escarpment a large **Common Wombat** crossed the road in front of us, even allowing us to pull over and get great views. This heavily built tank-like marsupial is always a treat to see. Next we headed back into the heath, home of the very rare, range restricted, and habitat specific **Ground Parrot**. Unfortunately they are nearly impossible to see if not in flight (which they don't do much of), but at dusk you can hear their rising whistle, and we heard a few birds, but none seen. By now it was dark and we started our spotlighting. Although it was a slow start we eventually got amazing views of **Southern Boobook** in the open on a low branch. Everyone loves an owl. We even found another Wombat as it scurried across the path in front of us. But, by now everyone was tired after another 16-hour day, and it was time to drive back up to Robertson for some rest.



One of the most iconic birds in Australia, the **Laughing Kookaburra** is also common, and was seen on 16 of the 19 days on this tour.

## DAY 7

**BARREN GROUNDS to BASS POINT & ROYAL NATIONAL PARK**

Our usual early start had us scouring the road back to Barren Grounds NP where we finally found a nice **Superb Lyrebird** feeding by the roadside, the world's largest songbird, and one of the world's best mimics. The bird activity was much better back into Barren Grounds compared to yesterday, as we enjoyed great views of **Pilotbird** while we ate breakfast. Back up on the heath the action started fast with a very cooperative **Southern Emu**, including a nice male showing his blue throat and extremely long and wispy tail feathers. Some distinctive **Cockatoo** calls came from over a ridgeline, which got the hearts racing, and soon we had looks at 3 **Gang-gang Cockatoos** flying by, then perching for excellent scope views. This can be a very tricky species indeed. We tried a different trail back towards the picnic area, which yielded a trio of **Striated Thornbills**, and then a **Beautiful Firetail**.

Having got our targets on the plateau we headed down to the coast and onto Bass Point, jutting into the ocean. This point is a know seawatching area, and although conditions weren't ideal, we still had great views of **Short-tailed Shearwaters** close to shore, and a couple **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** too far offshore! We also had our first **Australasian Gannets** and **Pied Cormorants** here as well among the hundreds of **Silver Gulls**. Mammals were in the area too; one **Australian Fur-Seal**, a couple of **Bottlenose Dolphins**, and a majestic **Humpback Whale** close to shore. As we were leaving we found 2 beautiful **Sooty Oystercatchers** in display mode, and eventually chased each other away.



Common in Royal NP and in much of east Australia, **Rainbow Lorikeet**.

What better way to end the morning birding than a seafood lunch at a seaside restaurant in the harbor, and that is just what we did. After stuffing our faces we headed back towards Sydney to check into our hotel for a rest during the hot hours of the day. In the afternoon we went into Royal National Park stopping at Wattamolla. **New Holland Honeyeaters** are somewhat annoyingly abundant here, and although they are a great species themselves, they seem to chase everything else away! We did however find a shy **Chestnut-rumped Heathwren** here, as well as a tiny **Grass Skink**. Overhead a **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** had caught a fish, and we enjoyed views of an **Australian Kestrel** flying around the cliffs. Finally the New Holland Honeyeaters funneled us back to the van to end our day.



## DAY 8

### ROYAL NATIONAL PARK to SYDNEY & TASMANIA

Back into Royal National Park in the early morning got us onto a pair of **Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters** in the coastal heath, a species we had missed yesterday. From here we headed straight for the woodland of Lady Carrington Drive. At the parking lot we were surrounded by the common **Rainbow Lorikeet** and **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos**. Across the river a flock of **Topknot Pigeons** fed on berries in the canopy, and nearby a **White-throated Treecreeper** was searching out a nest hole. Onto the drive itself we scoured the rocky slopes until we finally heard our main target, the only endemic to New South Wales, the **Rockwarbler**. After some frustratingly brief glimpses this shy bird eventually jumped into the open on an exposed rock and everyone got great views. Other great birds seen along this trail were; **Satin Flycatcher**, **Black-faced Monarch**, **Golden Whistler**, **Satin**

**Bowerbird**, a pair of **Superb Lyrebirds**, **Brush Cuckoo**, two **Sacred Kingfishers**, a family of **Variegated Fairywrens** (*lamberti* ssp), and a flock of huge **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos** flying over. After our very productive morning in Royal National Park we headed into Sydney for lunch (and our only **Caspian Tern** of the trip) before trying unsuccessfully to find the hoped for **Powerful Owl** in the Sydney Botanic Gardens. This marked the end of our New South Wales section of the tour and we made our way to the airport and our flight into Hobart, Tasmania, and our second section of the tour.



**Variegated Fairywren** gave us a great farewell from New South Wales

## DAY 9

### HOBART & BRUNY ISLAND

We had arrived in Tasmania in the dark, and we left to go birding in the dark, but eventually the sun would rise on us this morning for our first stint of Tasmanian birding in Peter Murrell park just south of Hobart. This region of the world is known for its bad weather, and today we learned why. Starting off with a strong cold rain which then turned into hail, but we were resilient and birded anyways. **Yellow Wattlebirds**, **Yellow-throated**, and **Strong-billed Honeyeaters**, and a few **Tasmanian Native-Hens** were our first Tasmanian endemics seen. Our first attempt here for **Forty-spotted Pardalote** came up empty with just a **Spotted** and **Striated Pardalote**, as well as soaked optics. After watching our first **Chestnut Teal** in the nearby pond, it was now time to get on the ferry over to Bruny Island, so we headed south towards the Kettering terminal.



Locals call it “turbo-chicken”; to us, it’s a flightless **Tasmanian Native-hen**

The crossing had little bird activity due to the very high winds, but once across onto the island the endemic **Black-faced Cormorant** gave us a warm welcome along with a pair of endemic **Green Rosellas**, which happened to be Deb’s 2000<sup>th</sup> bird. Moving down the road, a quick flash of red in a field made us stop to eventually find a pair of stunning **Scarlet Robins**, the first of a few robins we needed today. A nearby beach had our first **Kelp** and the puffin-like-billed **Pacific Gulls** along with a few **Pied Oystercatchers**. Now crossing into the south lobe of the island, we stopped at a beachside campsite for views of a pair of **Black-headed Honeyeaters**. We then checked the beach where we could see no less than 5000 **Short-tailed Shearwaters** far offshore in a massive, swirling, flock. Some massive birds arching above the shearwaters turned out to be a few **White-capped Albatross**, which eventually came closer. Next we walked down the beach where we found a couple **Hooded Plovers**, a beautiful endemic and a threatened species. Into the small town of Adventure Bay there was no shortage of **New Holland Honeyeaters** and **Superb Fairywrens** in the beautiful gardens. These residential gardens attract all kinds of birds, and we even found the striking **Flame Robin**, and the not so striking Tasmanian endemic; **Dusky Robin**.

After a great lunch of Scallop Pies at the funky Penguin Café we went into the wet forests of Bruny’s interior. On the way a few **Red-necked (Bennett’s) Wallabies** grazed near the roadside. We were now birding in between hailstorms, making it quite difficult at times, but with the vehicle close by we all managed to stay dry, while still getting our targets. Next up we found a group of **Black Currawongs** noisily harassing a **Forest Raven**, followed by a few **Tasmanian Thornbills**. We then went to a gully where an incredible male **Pink Robin** really showed off for us. This

must be one of the cutest/sexiest birds in Australia, and the dark green foliage of Tasmania really makes that pink stand out. This bird came right down and checked us out until the inevitable hailstorm started up again. With the Robin sweep it was time to drive back to the ferry terminal to cross back over to mainland Tassie.



**Pink Robin**; the sexiest bird in Australia

With a little daylight left we tried again for the Forty-spotted Pardalote, but only finding Spotted and Striated yet again, but also Yellow Wattlebird and a few **Silver-eyes**. Alas with the temperature dropping drastically, plus a bit of rain we had to call it quits for the day.

## DAY 10

### **MOUNT WELLINGTON & EAGLEHAWK NECK**

The morning was cold, but luckily the rain had subsided. After a quick trip to the nearby Truganini park in Hobart for our breakfast, a **Gray (Clinking) Currawong** and an introduced **European Greenfinch**, we headed straight back to Peter Murrell park to get that pesky Pardalote. With the wind much less fierce it was easier to track down the smaller birds in the canopy, and after just 10 minutes we got onto our first **Forty-spotted Pardalote**. This bird is both very rare and range restricted, but this park is probably the best place in the world to find them, although it took us 3 tries!

With the Pardalote finally in the bag we went up Mount Wellington, but half way up the road was closed due to snow after yesterday's storm! Luckily this was no problem because we still managed to get our remaining targets at the camp site just before the road closes. In the snow covered forest we found **Crescent Honeyeater**, a pair of relatively cooperative, endemic, **Scrubtits**, and 2 different **Olive Whistlers**. The endemic **Yellow-throated Honeyeater** even gave us our best views here, at one point coming right to the ground gorging itself on frozen insects! Having done so well getting our targets next we warmed up with some coffee at a café and took a short break at the hotel before heading onwards to Orford. In the Orford estuary we dipped on Fairy Tern, but did get nice views of **Hooded Plovers** and a couple **Great Crested Terns**.



The **Yellow-throated Honeyeater** found frozen bugs easy pickings.

After a nice lunch in the Orford Harbour we headed south through the Wielangta Forest where we saw a few birds, best being a nice **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**, but the clear highlight was the fascinating **Short-beaked Echidna**. This prehistoric, egg-laying mammal is a real highlight to any trip, and we were lucky enough to find 2 here scurrying across the paddock. Through the forest and into Marion Bay we found 5 **White-fronted Chats**, along with an introduced **Sky Lark** in full song. After getting onto a group of **Cape Barren Geese** in Taranna we went to Eaglehawk Neck for some pizza dinner. We then went to the nearby cliffs at the Blowhole, finding **Australasian Gannets** and **Black-faced Cormorants** flying by, and a nice male **Crescent Honeyeater** in the bushes. Finally with the light fading it was time to head to the beach in search of the **Little Penguins** coming in to their burrows after the days fishing trip. So we took our positions on the beach and waited until it was completely dark. We were watching carefully for any

movement at the waters edge, luckily the bright moon and night sky gave us a guiding light. Eventually we saw the 15 little heads pop out of the water, then they pause at the waters edge, gather themselves, and waddle up the beach right past us and into their burrows. The worlds smallest penguin had put on a show for us tonight. A very memorable event, and the trip highlight!



Voted best mammal of the trip, **Short-beaked Echidna.**

The drive back turned out to be good for mammals finding; **Long-nosed Potoroo**, **Common Ringtail Possum**, and **Common Brushtail Possum** in our van headlights.

## DAY 11

### **TASMANIA to BRISBANE & LAMINGTON NATIONAL PARK**

A very early flight time meant an extremely early start for us, making our way to Brisbane, but with an early arrival we had time to do some birding before lunch. Our first stop was at some mangroves near the airport where it didn't take us long to find our target **Mangrove Gerygone**, **Mangrove Honeyeater**, and a nice **Collared Kingfisher**. From here we headed up Mount Coot-tha to watch an adult and fledgling **Square-tailed Kite** at a known nest. This is an uncommon raptor, and can be difficult away from known nest stake outs. Soon after we got onto a family group of beautiful **Red-backed Fairywrens** foraging below the nest.



**Common in east Australia, **New Holland Honeyeater** was even more numerous in Tasmania.**

From the Brisbane area we headed south to our lunch stop in Canungra (and an **Austalasian Figbird**), before heading up to the rainforests of Lamington National Park and O'Reilly's retreat, our accommodation for the next 2 nights. With a nice group of **Whiptail (Pretty-faced) Wallabies** on the way up we made it to O'Reilly's with enough time for some afternoon birding. O'Reilly's is perched right atop Lamington National Park, and is cloaked in lush rainforest, surrounding the lodge, making this the perfect location to find some normally shy forest species very close by. The birding here is easy, and right around the lodge reception we had **Crimson Rosella, Australian King-Parrot, Regent and Satin Bowerbirds, Lewin's Honeyeater, White-browed and Yellow-throated Scrubwrens, Red-browed Firetails**, and a few **White-headed Pigeons** in a nearby tree. After than flurry we began birding down one of the many lodge trails easily picking up a pair of **Australian Logrunners** kicking through the leaf litter. **Eastern Yellow Robins** are everywhere here in the forest, as were **Rufous Fantail**. A Robin was singing in the distance and we eventually all got great view of the stunning **Rose Robin** and its pink breast. **Brown Gerygones** and **Brown Thornbills** flitted through the canopy, and the strange cat-like calls of the **Green Catbird** alerted us to its presence.



**SQUARE-TAILED KITE** with young on a nest & **EASTERN YELLOW ROBIN**



After a quick dinner it was time to go out spotlighting in this diverse forest. The weird gurgling call of the Marbled Frogmouth was heard but had eluded us for quite awhile until it went silent all together. Afraid the birds had flown Nick found the reason for the silence in his spotlight, a stunning **Sooty Owl** had flown in and it was staring right at us. What a beast!! Everyone in the group had outstanding views of this Owl before it flew away. After this encounter we stopped at a patch of Eucalypt where we found **Common Ringtail Possum**, a **Tawny Frogmouth**, and then caught the eye-shine of a truly iconic mammal, the famous **Koala**. It turned out to be a mother with a cub on her back, along with another individual further up the tree. Another attempt back into the rainforest at the **Marbled Frogmouth** finally got us views of one perched up on a snag. This marked end to a great day that started at 3:30am in Tasmania, ending at 11pm in Queensland, and a whole bunch of cool birds and mammals to show for it.



The “cheerleader” of the O’Reilly’s welcoming party: **REGENT BOWERBIRD**.

## DAY 12

### LAMINGTON NATIONAL PARK

We started the morning at the lodge feeders enjoying looks at the multiple friendly parrots as well as a pair of **Superb Fairywrens** and some had a **Wonga Pigeon**. Next we went into the trails, with lots of bird activity, much the same as yesterday afternoon. We did add the rather plain looking **Large-billed Scrubwren** to our list,

but top bird of the morning went to a nice female **Paradise Riflebird**. We watched as she ate some pretty large beetles she bore out of a tree. Next we had a frustrating time just hearing a couple of **Noisy Pittas**, but would try again later. Before lunch we headed into some open Eucalypt forest where we got onto a nice **White-naped Honeyeater**, and then back near the lodge parking lot we found 4 different **Albert's Lyrebirds** on a nearby trail scratching through the leaf litter. Mega birds and completes the Lyrebird duo for the tour.



**We were all excited to finally find an **Albert's Lyrebird!****

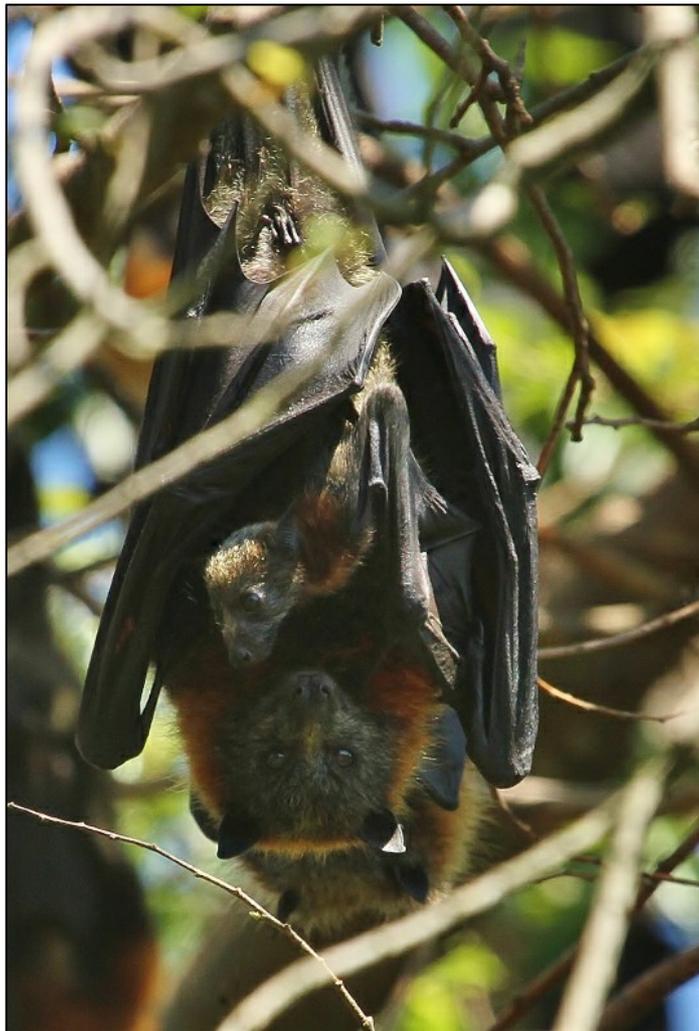
After lunch and some time for people to relax in the nice amenities we gathered in the afternoon to bird Duck Creek Road, right on the outer edge of Lamington NP in the open sclerophyll forest. It was fairly quiet to start, but activity picked up in one spot with a nice pair of **Cicadabirds**, a species of cuckoo-shrike, which really do sound like the insect they are named after. Next up was our main target, a pair of cooperative **Red-browed Treecreepers** working the bark in search of insects, filling the niche of woodpeckers in Australia. A **Black-faced Cuckooshrike** was our last bird here before heading back to the lodge for dinner.

The wind and weather had picked up tonight, making our spotlighting a bit difficult, but we did find many Common Ringtail Possums, the **Koalas** again a little closer this time, and new mammal in the form of the large, black, **Mountain Brushtail Possum**.

## DAY 13

**LAMINGTON NATIONAL PARK to CAIRNS**

This morning we had one bird on our mind, **Noisy Pitta**. We wasted no time and dove straight into the forest with our eyes and ears open for Pittas. Eventually we heard one calling and put on the chase. This bird would circle us giving fleeting glimpses here and there, until our perseverance paid off and we all saw this stunner of a bird perched up on a low horizontal branch, calling away, its blue shoulder patch piercing through the dark forest. What a great start to the day! After another huge O'Reilly's breakfast we loaded up the van and headed back down the escarpment on the way to the airport, but not before a stop near Canungra at a huge mixed colony of Flying-foxes. We enjoyed watching the antics of both **Grey-headed** and **Black Flying-foxes** in this massive colony. Many had young clinging to them, and we even watched one mother and young nursing. Nearby the characteristic "PING" of a colony of **Bell Miners** got out of the van for great looks at this aggressive yet beautiful species of honeyeater. It was now time to head back to Brisbane for our flight north to Cairns.



**Best mammal of the day was GRAY-HEADED FLYING-FOX, with young.**

Now in tropical north Queensland we had just enough time in the afternoon to visit the Centenary Lakes section of Cairns Botanical gardens. The ponds here held a few new birds like **Radjah Shelduck**, **Magpie Goose**, and our best views of **Royal Spoonbill** and **Australian Pelican**. Along the trails we found a hulking **Black Butcherbird** and on the ground a pair of **Orange-footed Scrubfowls** we busy building a nest mound. Watching the trees above the entrance we found our first **Spangled Drongos** and a couple of **Double-eyed Fig-Parrots** flying over. This was a good introduction to the plenty of “tropical” Australian birds to come in the following days.



When there's no shade, there's always mother;  
**Brown Noddy** on Michaelmas Cay.

## DAY 14

### THE GREAT BARRIER REEF to KURANDA

Today is one of the trip highlights as we board our catamaran at 7:30 and head out into the Great Barrier Reef, but before we did that we have time for some birding in the mangroves. It only took us 5 minutes to find our main target, the **Mangrove Robin**, leaving us time to find other great birds including; **Little Bronze-Cuckoo**, **Torresian Imperial-Pigeon**, **Australian Swiftlet**, **Scaly-breasted Lorikeet**, **Varied Honeyeater**, and a nice **Varied Triller**. We then checked out a small group of waders at the Esplanade, which included a nice **Black-tailed Godwit**, before catching our boat and heading into the reef.

With calm seas and beautiful weather (the norm this time of year) we boarded our catamaran heading towards the tiny sandy islet, or cay, Michaelmas Cay, about 40km from Cairns. After about 90 minutes we arrived at this tiny uninhabited island simply full of birds. However, before we could get to the island we found targets **Black Noddy**, **Bridled Tern**, and **Red-footed Booby** perched on one of the permanently moored boats. First cruising around the island we picked up **Black-naped Terns**, a **Great Frigatebird**, and a few **Ruddy Turnstones**. Finally landing on the island we didn't know where to start. Thousands of **Sooty Terns** and **Brown Noddys** dominate the Cay, with a mixing of a hundred or so **Great Crested** and **Lesser Crested Terns**. There were a huge number of young chicks of both the Sooty Terns and Brown Noddys, and it was great fun watching as the parents would squabble with them before giving up their food.



**RED-FOOTED BOOBY**; one of the more uncommon species around the cay.

After a couple hours spent around Michaelmas Cay we returned to our boat for a great lunch, then headed east towards Hastings Reef. We spent the next couple of hours here enjoying some of the best snorkeling in the world with excellent water clarity and mind-blowing diversity. Hundreds of species of fish from dozens of families, Green Sea Turtles, massive Giant Clams, and the beautiful coral itself all make for a memorable non-birding experience. For those who didn't feel like getting wet the optional glass-bottom boat allows for a great reef experience, and even a **Little Tern** was spotted.

Now back on shore we went back to the hotel to collect our luggage and then down to the Cairns Esplanade to check out the shorebird activity. This is a popular spot with tourists and joggers, making it a funny combination of us with drab clothes and optics surrounded by scantily-clad tourists giving us funny looks. It all adds to the experience! The tide was slowly coming in and we had good luck with Plovers with; a

single **Pacific Golden Plover**, many **Masked Lapwings**, both **Lesser** and **Greater Sandplover**, a tiny **Red-capped Plover**, and a resident family of **Black-fronted Dotterel**. Then came the sandpipers in good numbers and diversity. These are all wintering shorebirds from Asia, so although they are in winter plumage, they are still beautiful. These are the following species seen; **Terek Sandpiper**, **Gray-tailed Tattler**, **Whimbrel**, **Far Eastern Curlew**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Great Knot**, **Red Knot**, **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, and many **Red-necked Stints**. Also one the flats were two **Gull-billed Terns** foraging for crabs. From the coast we climbed up onto the Atherton Tablelands to spend the night in the Kuranda area at Cassowary House, in hopes of something big the following morning.



**Snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef was a dream come true for some.**

## DAY 15

### **KURANDA to DAINTREE**

We started the morning from Cassowary House on foot and birding along Black Mountain Road. Our first birds of the morning however were right in the large gardens. A fruiting tree was attracting a pair of beautiful **Wompoo Fruit-Doves** and an aggressive **Spotted Catbird**. This really heated up when we saw a large dark bird fly onto a nearby exposed dead snag. Suddenly another bird flew in, and before we knew it there was a flash of wings, a flash of blue and a male **Victoria's Riflebird** was displaying to a female right in front of us. The Birds-of-Paradise are known for their elaborate displays, and this species is no different. They contort their wings in an arch shape and flash their vibrant blue-green throat panels while calling loudly. This really got our hearts racing for the morning birding!



A cool bird silhouette; displaying male **VICTORIA'S RIFLEBIRD**.

We then headed onto the road where we were met by a pair of singing **Spectacled Monarchs** and an **Atherton Scrubwren**. Honeyeaters were active this morning with **Macleay's**, **Yellow-spotted**, **Graceful**, **Dusky**, and **Brown Honeyeaters** seen well. Working our way down the road another area with fruiting trees held a few **Brown Cuckoo-Doves** as well as one stunning male **Superb Fruit-Dove**, a **Rufous-shrike Thrush**, a **Pale-yellow Robin**, and on the telephone wires were a pair of bright blue **Forest Kingfishers**. Our final new bird before breakfast was a actively singing **Pied Monarch**, a simply stunning black-and-white flycatcher with a blue eye-ring. On the way up the drive we saw the quick movement of a **Red-necked Crake** and then they started calling, but sadly that was as close as we came.

So after a morning's birding session it was time for Sue's famous breakfast at Cassowary House, but that doesn't mean we stop birding, far from it. Just as we were to sit down to eat the absolute star of the show can ambling out of the forest, a male and chick **Southern Cassowary**. This massive beast and striped young fed below us for an hour or so before melting back into the thick forest. The feeders here are busy too with **Black Butcherbirds**, **Spangled Drongos**, **Spotted Catbirds**, a male **Victoria's Riflebird**, and pesky **Australian Brush-Turkeys** to name a few. The cute and diminutive **Musky Rat-Kangaroos** also fed below up, picking up fruit scrap.



The star of the show at Cassowary house, a hulking **SOUTHERN CASSOWARY**.

It was now time to drag ourselves away from Cassowary house to make our way north and east towards the coast and Daintree. But first we stopped at an area called Davies Creek in dry open woodland. Here we walked a mostly dry creek-bed , but one standing pool of water attracted a few birds in the hot conditions. The best birds here were 3 **Banded Honeyeaters** a sharp little bird and our only ones of the tour. We also found a male **Leaden Flycatcher**, a surprise **Black-eared Cuckoo**, and a nice male **Mistletoebird**.

It was now time to get moving to our next stop, the man-made Lake Mitchell. This fairly large body of water can be good for ducks and we quickly found our target **Green Pygmy-Goose** here, along with a few **Black Swans**, and in the near bushes a nice **Yellow Honeyeater**. From here we stopped into the small town of Mount Molloy for lunch and then continued down towards the coast and into Daintree village and our Red Mill House accommodation. Here we were greeted by Andrew and Trish (and a flyover **Pacific Baza**), probably the most welcoming people in the world, and shown to our rooms at this great B&B. Armed with some recent tips from Andrew we were on our way up Stewart Creek Road and into an area where **Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfishers** may have arrived from PNG only a couple days ago. It took some patience but eventually we heard one, and then even more patience before finally seeing it fly across the road, and then once more across a

gap in the forest, but it always seemed to remain hidden. Although, during this time, we had incredible views of the striking **Yellow-breasted Boatbill**, a new family for most in the group. After even more time we admitted defeat with the Kingfisher and had to be satisfied with flight views, it was just being too shy. It was time to head back (with a **Pheasant Coucal** on the way) for a nice BBQ dinner on their balcony with Northern Brown Bandicoots scurried around on the lawn below. A session of spotlighting tonight did not reveal any new birds but we did find 2 new mammals in the for of a couple huge **Spectacled Flying-foxes** and a **Queensland Tube-nosed Fruit Bat**.



The tiny Mistletoebird is Australia's only Flowerpecker and always a crowd pleaser.

## DAY 16

### DAINTREE to MAREEBA

A quick session of birding in the early morning produced only a few **Metallic Starlings** and **White-breasted Woodswallows** before heading down to the jetty for our 6:30am cruise on the Daintree River, where we met our local guide and boatman, Murray Hunt. Murray's knowledge of the area is incredible and knows this river extremely well and everything in it. We started off with good views of a **Large-billed Gerygone** and a pair of **Shining Flycatchers** just before finding a stunning **Azure Kingfisher** perched on a low branch. The low tide exposed a lot of mud on the banks which means it was easy to find the nice **Buff-banded Rail** creeping along the edge, as well as the **Black Bittern**, and then an incredible

encounter with one of the main targets, the mighty **Great-billed Heron**. The third largest heron in the world, Murray got the boat in a perfect position to watch this beast, and we were even lucky enough to hear it make its deep grunting call. We checked some flowering and fruiting trees where abundant **Australian Koels**, **Green Orioles**, and **Olive-backed Sunbirds** foraged, as well as another male **Superb Fruit-Dove**. We then ventured into a small tributary where a **Rufous Night-Heron** was quietly lurking in the close vegetation, as was a small **Saltwater Crocodile**. Unfortunately the Little Kingfishers didn't want to show themselves today, so we headed back in making one more stop to check out a pair of **Brown-backed Honeyeaters** tending to a nest, a hulking **Black-necked Stork**, and a small flock of sharp looking **Chestnut-breasted Munias**.

After a successful morning we said goodbye to Murray and went back to Red Mill House to feast on another delicious breakfast complete with homemade bread, eggs and bacon, the works. After breakfast we walked up the road shortly to try for **Lovely Fairywren** which cooperated surprisingly well and we all had views of a female and young and finally the incredibly bright blue and red male. Next we tried again, unsuccessfully, for the **Paradise-Kingfisher** but on route we did have a **Collared Sparrowhawk** flying over, our first of the trip.

With our main targets in the bag it was now time to leave Daintree, stopping at Mossman en route for some lunch. From here we headed back up onto the Atherton Tableland making our first birding stop at the small school in the town of Mount Molloy. As odd a place as this is to go birding this school has been home to an active **Great Bowerbird** bower for quite some time. Within a few minutes of us arriving we were watching this unique dry country Bowerbird tending to its elaborate tunnel bower adorned with white and green ornaments. We also had great views of stunning **Blue-faced Honeyeaters**, and another **Yellow Honeyeater** here. From here we checked into our hotel in Mareeba where we waited out the midday heat before going out in the afternoon to Granite Gorge where we found our target **Squatter Pigeons** doing what they do best, sitting on the ground unaware of our presence. We also got onto the resident **Mareeba Rock-Wallabies** here, and found a couple **Pale-headed Rosellas**, but best was the stunning **Red-winged Parrot**. On our way out we stopped to admire the cuteness of a flock of **Double-barred Finches** feeding at



the side of the road. To finish the day we put the chase on to a few groups of **Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos** flying over, but they wouldn't stop. For dinner some huge plates of Barramundi was a fitting end to the day.



**SQUATTER PIGEON** (above) & **MAREEBA ROCKY-WALLABY** (below) Granite Gorge





The stunning **RED-WINGED PARROT** is common in dry habitat in Queensland.

## DAY 17

### **MT. CARBINE & MARYFARMS (OUTBACK) to MOUNT HYIPAMEE**

The western edge of the tablelands becomes very dry, due mainly to the rain shadow caused by the range itself, and this morning our goal was to find the specialties of this dry-country habitat. We left very early in order to get into the far northwestern limit of the area before the temperatures became too much (which can happen by 9am). We stopped for breakfast and the activity slowly began to pick up. Some **Striated Pardalotes** drew our attention to a birdy area which also held the uncommon **Red-browed Pardalote** which sadly only one person got onto before it flew away. However the family group of black-headed **Varied Sittellas** showed extremely well, as did another **Banded Honeyeater**. Probably the most unexpected bird of the tour was a pair of **Little Woodswallows** hawking insects at the roadside. Further along the road a flock of small birds next to the road had us slam on the breaks in excitement. We had found our main target the rare **Black-throated Finch**, and we were looking at a flock of around 40 of these rare dry-country specialists. We enjoyed stunning views of this cute bird for quite some time, as well as a few **Black-faced Woodswallows** also in the area. Nearby we tracked down a nice **Blue-winged Kookaburra** and enjoyed great scope views with 2 **Channel-billed Cuckoos** flew above us as well. With the temperatures quickly rising in this dry savannah woodland we made our way back east. First stopping quickly at a river crossing for a **White-gaped Honeyeater** we made our way to a small caravan park in Mount Carbine. Here we checked out another **Great**

**Bowerbird** bower, and the water features and flowering trees attracted many **Pale-headed Rosellas**, **Rainbow Lorikeets**, **Galahs**, **Blue-faced Honeyeaters**, **Noisy** and **Little Friarbirds**, and a party of **Apostlebirds**. Our final stop in the dry-country had us in an area called Maryfarms where it didn't take us long to find Australia's only Bustard, the aptly named **Australian Bustard**, and after finding 6 of these large birds feeding in the grassy fields we were off once again.

Back into woodland we arrived at Abattoir Swamp. It was a little windy here but we still found a few nice birds in the woodland bordering the swamp. We found our first **White-throated Honeyeaters** foraging in the canopy, as well as **Lemon-bellied Flycatcher**, **Leaden Flycatcher**, and a **Bridled Honeyeater**. Down near the bird hide we admired the striking **White-cheeked Honeyeaters** at close range, and in the hide itself we saw a **White-browed Crake** and a **Tawny Grassbird** skulking through the reeds. On the way back to Mareeba we made a quick turn around when word got out of the uncommon **Cotton Pygmy-Goose** being seen at Lake Mitchell. With helpful directions it only took us a few minutes to pick up this gleaming white Pygmy-Goose quietly swimming in the center of the lake. A minute after getting onto the bird a **Swamp Harrier** flew over and flushed everything, and the lake was devoid of birds, reaffirming that birding really is all about lucky timing. But the day was getting hot so off to lunch we went, and a short break at the hotel.



Both **BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER** and **GREAT BOWERBIRD** (page earlier) are common inhabitants of dry, inland Queensland.



In the afternoon we changed gears completely and went into the rainforests of Mount Hypipamee NP where our main target is **Golden Bowerbird**. On the way we made a quick stop to view the many **Sarus Cranes** and a couple **Brolga** feeding in the recently ploughed farm fields. Mt Hypipamee is an easily accessible patch of high elevation rainforest harboring many unique species to the wet tropics. On the entrance road we found our first **Gray-headed Robin** hopping along on the forest edge. Next we moved into the forest down a small trail to a known Golden Bowerbird bower, consisting of a central perch covered in yellowish lichen ornaments. After a few minutes we found the male perched quietly some 10 meters away, nearly fooling us all. It is amazing a bird of that magnificent yellow color can be tricky to see.

After dinner we tried another site for **Australian Owlet-Nightjar**, and we found a pair of them fairly easily and showing well. Satisfied with this extremely cute nightbird it was time for bed.

## DAY 18

## ATHERTON TABLELANDS

## (MT. LEWIS, TARZALI LAKES, LAKE BARRINE, ATHERTON)

Yet another early start (a common theme to this tour) had us into the lower forests of Mount Lewis as the morning chorus was starting. We did very well at a creek crossing here by finding a few keys birds very easily, including; **Emerald Dove**, **Fairy Gerygone**, **Barred Cuckooshrike**, and a **Gray Whistler**. Moving up the lush mountain road we had a chance encounter with a **Dingo** standing on the road ahead until it took off running. We put on the chase for a kilometer or so to confirm its identification until it ran back into the forest. A completely chance encounter! At the top of Mount Lewis we found some **Red-browed Firetails** feeding in the seeding grasses but unfortunately no **Parrot-Finches** in sight. On a nearby trail we easily found many **Gray-headed Robins** and a few **Bower's Shrike-thrush**. Eventually some scratching sounds on the forest floor lead us to an



adorable family of **Chowchilla** (completing our duo of Logrunners for the tour). We watched for some time as a male, female, and juvenile foraged quietly 2 meters in front of us. Back near the parking area a pair of **Mountain Thornbills** showed themselves before we went back down the mountain.

From the rainforest we moved to the famous Tarzali Lakes, probably the easiest place to see **Platypus**. It took us a matter of 5 minutes to find one, and we were able to get shots of this weird mammal when it came to the surface of the water. This egg-laying, venomous, nearly blind mammal is a true Australian icon, and we were all happy to at least get a few photos. The best part about this site, is that these **Platypus** are active during the day, the second best part is that **Latham's Snipes** are actually pretty easy here, and we saw 5 of them foraging on the muddy pond banks.



The iconic, egg-laying, nearly blind, and *venomous* **PLATYPUS**.

After some lunch we went to Lake Barrine to find a stake out **Papuan Frogmouth** adult and chick. The largest Frogmouth in Australia, we usually see them on the Daintree River boat trip, luckily some local knowledge lead us to this nice backup site. From here we drove the short distance to Curtain Fig Tree where we found our first bright male **Scarlet Myzomela** and in the huge Curtain Fig tree itself (which must be one of the most impressive trees in the world) we found 2 absolutely beautiful **Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves** feeding on the figs. Next we made a quick stop at Hasties Swamp for our first **Plumed Whistling-Ducks** and then off to dinner in the town of Atherton.

After dinner started our much anticipated spotlighting trip with local guiding legend Alan Gillanders. He is an expert in the natural history of the Atherton Tableland, in particular the nocturnal mammals, so we were in good hands. We made our way back to the high elevation rainforests of Mount Hypipamee, but before we could get there we made an emergency stop to remove a large **Carpet Python** from the road. Alan caught the snake and put it back into the forest, saving it from many snakes risky habit of soaking in the last bit of heat from the tarmac of busy roads. Into the forest parking lot we went and the activity started right away. First we found a somewhat out of place **Rufous Bettong** feeding in the grassy center, and next, possibly our toughest mammal was a beautiful black-and-white **Herbert River Ringtail Possum** climbing up a tree near our van! Nearby a “coppery” Brushtail (a race of the **Common Brushtail Possum**) waddled away with a pouch full of young. Moving down the road we found several **Lemoroid Ringtail Possums** and even a couple of charming, range restricted **Green Ringtail Possums** feeding in the

leaves. A nearby calling **Rufous Owl** decided it didn't want to show itself so we moved off to a different site.

In our next area of forest it only took us 5 minutes to find the star of the show, a male **Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroo** feeding in the trees. This is one strange creature, basically a kangaroo which took to the trees, yet is not all that great at climbing! Our last mammal of the night was another stunner, the seldom seen **Striped Possum**, marking the end of a great night of spotlighting with Alan.



**GREEN** (above) & **LEMUROID RINGTAIL POSSUMS** (below) Mount Hypipamee



## DAY 19

**MOUNT LEWIS to CAIRNS**

Today is cleanup day, and as usual there are only a few possibilities left, each of which at different sites far away from each other, so off we went. First we went back Abattoir Swamp where we finally caught up with a **Northern Fantail** which had eluded us. Next we went back to Mount Lewis where half way up we finally caught up with a couple of the endemic **Fernwrens** after much time only hearing them. This bird was a big relief to find, and a bird I feel like I never want to look for again!! With the Fernwren in the bag we had everything we needed in the Tablelands and drove back down to the coast. At an area called Rocky Point we found our target **Beach Thick-knee** along with a **Common Sandpiper** and **Striated Heron** which were surprisingly still missing from the list!



Our last new bird of the tour: **BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER.**

After a nice seaside lunch we drove back to Cairns for a short break at our hotel, but our birding cleanup was not finished. A **Pied Heron** had been reported at the Centenary Lakes so we zipped over and found this small heron, rare in tropical Queensland, this species is usually found in the wetlands of north-central Australia. Next we went just north of Cairns to Cattana Wetlands for **Crimson Finch**, and we finally found a pair on the far side of the site, along with 2 **White-browed Crakes** feeding in the open. With the Finches in the bag we were officially out of target birds so we decided to go back to the Cairns Esplanade and see if any rare shorebirds could be found. This turned out to be a great idea since we found 2 **Broad-billed Sandpipers** feeding among the many **Curlew Sandpipers** and **Red-necked Stints**. Also in a nearby tree we had our best looks at a cute **Double-eyed Fig-parrot**. Now with the light fading it was time for a nice Balinese Dinner marking the

end of a very fast-paced 19 days, with everyone looking forward to actually sleeping for an entire night!

During dinner we all shared stories of our favorite birds and moments of the tour and our magical experience of being on the beach on a clear, moonlit, Tasmanian night while watching Little Penguins waddle right past us to their burrows, was voted both bird and moment of the trip.



The common, and beautiful, **GALAH**

## CHECKLISTS:

### BIRDS

*Taxonomy follows Clements/e-Bird version 6.8 (updated 2013).*

Birds marked with an “H” were only heard on the tour.

Birds in **RED** are endemic species.

#### CASSOWARIES: Casuariidae

Southern Cassowary

*Casuarius casuarius*

#### EMU: Dromaiidae

Emu

*Dromaius novaehollandiae*

#### DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

Magpie Goose

*Anseranas semipalmata*

Plumed Whistling-Duck

*Dendrocygna eytoni*

Wandering Whistling-Duck

*Dendrocygna arcuata*

Cape Barren Goose

*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

Freckled Duck

*Stictonetta naevosa*

Black Swan

Australian Shelduck

Radjah Shelduck

Green Pygmy-goose

Cotton Pygmy-goose

Maned Duck

Mallard

Pacific Black Duck

Australian Shoveler

Gray Teal

Chestnut Teal

Pink-eared Duck

White-eyed Duck

Blue-billed Duck

Musk Duck

*Cygnus atratus*

*Tadorna tadornoides*

*Tadorna radjah*

*Nettapus pulchellus*

*Nettapus coromandelianus*

*Chenonetta jubata*

*Anas platyrhynchos*

*Anas superciliosa*

*Anas rhynchotis*

*Anas gracilis*

*Anas castanea*

*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

*Aythya australis*

*Oxyura australis*

*Biziura lobata*

#### **MEGAPODES: Megapodiidae**

Australian Brush-Turkey

Orange-footed Scrubfowl

*Alectura lathamii*

*Megapodius reinwardt*

#### **PHEASANTS, GROUSE AND ALLIES: Phasianidae**

Brown Quail (H)

*Coturnix ypsilophora*

#### **GREBES: Podicipedidae**

Australasian Grebe

Hoary-headed Grebe

Great Crested Grebe

*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

*Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

*Podiceps cristatus*

#### **PENGUINS: Spheniscidae**

Little (Fairy) Penguin

*Eudyptula minor*

#### **ALBATROSSES: Diomedidae**

White-capped (Shy) Albatross

*Thalassarche cauta*

#### **SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS: Procellariidae**

Wedge-tailed Shearwater

Short-tailed Shearwater

*Puffinus pacificus*

*Puffinus tenuirostris*

#### **STORKS: Ciconiidae**

Black-necked Stork

*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

**FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae**

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*

**BOOBIES AND GANNETS: Sulidae**

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*  
Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*  
Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

**CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: Phalacrocoracidae**

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*  
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*  
Black-faced Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscescens*  
Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

**ANHINGAS: Anhingidae**

Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

**PELICANS: Pelecanidae**

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

**HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNs: Ardeidae**

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*  
Pacific (White-necked) Heron *Ardea pacifica*  
Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*  
Great Egret *Ardea alba*  
Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*  
White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*  
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Pacific Reef-Heron *Egretta sacra*  
Pied Heron *Egretta picata*  
Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*  
Striated Heron *Butorides striata*  
Rufous (Nankeen) Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

**IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae**

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
Australian Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*  
Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*  
Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

Yellow-billed Spoonbill

*Platalea flavipes*

**OSPREY: Pandionidae**

Osprey

*Pandion haliaetus*

**HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES: Accipitridae**

Pacific Baza

*Aviceda subcristata*

Square-tailed Kite

*Lophoictinia isura*

Australian Kite

*Elanus axillaris*

Black Kite

*Milvus migrans*

Whistling Kite

*Haliastur sphenurus*

Brahminy Kite

*Haliastur indus*

White-bellied Sea-Eagle

*Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Swamp Harrier

*Circus approximans*

Spotted Harrier

*Circus assimilis*

Gray Goshawk

*Accipiter novaehollandiae*

Brown Goshawk

*Accipiter fasciatus*

Collared Sparrowhawk

*Accipiter cirrocephalus*

Wedge-tailed Eagle

*Aquila audax*

Little Eagle

*Hieraaetus morphnoides*

**RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS: Rallidae**

Red-necked Crake (H)

*Rallina tricolor*

Buff-banded Rail

*Gallirallus philippensis*

Baillon's Crake

*Porzana pusilla*

Australian Crake

*Porzana fluminea*

Spotless Crake (H)

*Porzana tabuensis*

White-browed Crake

*Porzana cinerea*

Purple Swamphen

*Porphyrio porphyrio*

Dusky Moorhen

*Gallinula tenebrosa*

Black-tailed Native-hen

*Tribonyx ventralis*

Tasmanian Native-hen

*Tribonyx mortierii*

Eurasian Coot

*Fulica atra*

**BUSTARDS: Otididae**

Australian Bustard

*Ardeotis australis*

**CRANES: Gruidae**

Sarus Crane

*Grus antigone*

Brolga

*Grus rubicunda*

**THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae**

Bush Thick-knee

*Burhinus grallarius*

Beach Thick-knee

*Esacus magnirostris***STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae**

Pied Stilt

*Himantopus leucocephalus*

Red-necked Avocet

*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae***OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae**

Pied Oystercatcher

*Haematopus longirostris*

Sooty Oystercatcher

*Haematopus fuliginosus***PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae**

Pacific Golden-Plover

*Pluvialis fulva*

Banded Lapwing

*Vanellus tricolor*

Masked Lapwing

*Vanellus miles*

Lesser Sand-Plover

*Charadrius mongolus*

Greater Sand-Plover

*Charadrius leschenaultii*

Red-capped Plover

*Charadrius ruficapillus*

Red-kneed Dotterel

*Erythrogonys cinctus*

Hooded Plover

*Thinornis cucullatus*

Black-fronted Dotterel

*Elseyornis melanops*

Inland Dotterel

*Peltohyas australis***PLAINS-WANDERER: Pedionomidae**

Plains-wanderer

*Pedionomus torquatus***JACANAS: Jacanidae**

Comb-crested Jacana

*Irediparra gallinacea***SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae**

Terek Sandpiper

*Xenus cinereus*

Common Sandpiper

*Actitis hypoleucos*

Gray-tailed Tattler

*Tringa brevipes*

Common Greenshank

*Tringa nebularia*

Marsh Sandpiper

*Tringa stagnatilis*

Wood Sandpiper

*Tringa glareola*

Whimbrel

*Numenius phaeopus*

Far Eastern Curlew

*Numenius madagascariensis*

Black-tailed Godwit  
Bar-tailed Godwit  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Great Knot  
Red Knot  
Broad-billed Sandpiper  
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  
Curlew Sandpiper  
Red-necked Stint  
Latham's Snipe

*Limosa limosa*  
*Limosa lapponica*  
*Arenaria interpres*  
*Calidris tenuirostris*  
*Calidris canutus*  
*Limicola falcinellus*  
*Calidris acuminata*  
*Calidris ferruginea*  
*Calidris ruficollis*  
*Gallinago hardwickii*

### **GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS: Laridae**

Silver Gull  
**Pacific Gull**  
Kelp Gull  
Brown Noddy  
Black Noddy  
Sooty Tern  
Bridled Tern  
Little Tern  
Gull-billed Tern  
Caspian Tern  
Whiskered Tern  
Black-naped Tern  
Common Tern  
Great Crested Tern  
Lesser Crested Tern

*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*  
***Larus pacificus***  
*Larus dominicanus*  
*Anous stolidus*  
*Anous minutus*  
*Onychoprion fuscatus*  
*Onychoprion anaethetus*  
*Sternula albifrons*  
*Gelochelidon nilotica*  
*Hydroprogne caspia*  
*Chlidonias hybrida*  
*Sterna sumatrana*  
*Sterna hirundo*  
*Thalasseus bergii*  
*Thalasseus bengalensis*

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae**

Rock Pigeon  
**White-headed Pigeon**  
Spotted Dove  
**Brown Cuckoo-Dove**  
Emerald Dove  
**Common Bronzewing**  
**Brush Bronzewing**  
**Crested Pigeon**  
**Squatter Pigeon**  
**Wonga Pigeon**  
Peaceful Dove  
Bar-shouldered Dove

*Columba livia*  
***Columba leucomela***  
*Streptopelia chinensis*  
***Macropygia phasianella***  
*Chalcophaps indica*  
***Phaps chalcoptera***  
***Phaps elegans***  
***Ocyphaps lophotes***  
***Geophaps scripta***  
***Leucosarcia melanoleuca***  
*Geopelia placida*  
*Geopelia humeralis*

Wompoo Fruit-Dove  
Superb Fruit-Dove  
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove  
Torresian Imperial-Pigeon  
Topknot Pigeon

*Ptilinopus magnificus*  
*Ptilinopus superbus*  
*Ptilinopus regina*  
*Ducula spilorrhoa*  
*Lopholaimus antarcticus*

**CUCKOOS: Cuculidae**

Pallid Cuckoo  
Brush Cuckoo  
Fan-tailed Cuckoo  
Black-eared Cuckoo  
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo  
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo  
Little Bronze-Cuckoo  
Australian Koel  
Channel-billed Cuckoo  
Pheasant Coucal

*Cacomantis pallidus*  
*Cacomantis variolosus*  
*Cacomantis flabelliformis*  
*Chrysococcyx osculans*  
*Chrysococcyx basalis*  
*Chrysococcyx lucidus*  
*Chrysococcyx minutillus*  
*Eudynamys cyanocephalus*  
*Scythrops novaehollandiae*  
*Centropus phasianinus*

**BARN-OWLS: Tytonidae**

Sooty Owl  
Barn Owl

*Tyto tenebricosa*  
*Tyto alba*

**OWLS: Strigidae**

Rufous Owl (H)  
Southern Boobook (Southern)

*Ninox rufa*  
*Ninox novaeseelandiae* (boobok)

**OWLET-NIGHTJARS: Aegothelidae**

Australian Owlet-Nightjar

*Aegotheles cristatus*

**FROGMOUTHS: Podargidae**

Tawny Frogmouth  
Marbled Frogmouth  
Papuan Frogmouth

*Podargus strigoides*  
*Podargus ocellatus*  
*Podargus papuensis*

**SWIFTS: Apodidae**

Australian Swiftlet

*Aerodramus terraereginae*

**KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**

Azure Kingfisher  
Laughing Kookaburra  
Blue-winged Kookaburra

*Ceyx azureus*  
*Dacelo novaeguineae*  
*Dacelo leachii*

Forest Kingfisher  
Collared Kingfisher  
Sacred Kingfisher  
Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher

*Todiramphus macleayii*  
*Todiramphus chloris*  
*Todiramphus sanctus*  
*Tanysiptera sylvia*

**BEE-EATERS: Meropidae**

Rainbow Bee-eater

*Merops ornatus*

**ROLLERS: Coraciidae**

Dollarbird

*Eurystomus orientalis*

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae**

Australian Kestrel  
Australian Hobby  
Brown Falcon  
Black Falcon  
Peregrine Falcon

*Falco cenchroides*  
*Falco longipennis*  
*Falco berigora*  
*Falco subniger*  
*Falco peregrinus*

**COCKATOOS: Cacatuidae**

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo  
Glossy Black-Cockatoo  
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo  
Gang-gang Cockatoo  
Pink (Major Mitchell's) Cockatoo  
Galah  
Long-billed Corella  
Little Corella  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
Cockatiel

*Calyptorhynchus banksii*  
*Calyptorhynchus lathami*  
*Calyptorhynchus funereus*  
*Callocephalon fimbriatum*  
*Cacatua leadbeateri*  
*Eolophus roseicapilla*  
*Cacatua tenuirostris*  
*Cacatua sanguinea*  
*Cacatua galerita*  
*Nymphicus hollandicus*

**PARROTS: Psittacidae**

Rainbow Lorikeet  
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet  
Musk Lorikeet  
Little Lorikeet  
Double-eyed Fig-Parrot  
Mallee Ringneck  
Green Rosella  
Crimson Rosella  
Eastern Rosella  
Pale-headed Rosella

*Trichoglossus haematodus*  
*Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*  
*Glossopsitta concinna*  
*Glossopsitta pusilla*  
*Cyclopsitta diophthalma*  
*Barnardius barnardi*  
*Platycercus caledonicus*  
*Platycercus elegans*  
*Platycercus eximius*  
*Platycercus adscitus*

Red-rumped Parrot  
Mulga Parrot  
Bluebonnet  
Turquoise Parrot  
Ground Parrot **(H)**  
Australian King-Parrot  
Red-winged Parrot  
Superb Parrot

*Psephotus haematonotus*  
*Psephotus varius*  
*Northiella haematogaster*  
*Neophema pulchella*  
*Pezoporus wallicus*  
*Alisterus scapularis*  
*Aprosmictus erythropterus*  
*Polytelis swainsonii*

**PITTAS: Pittidae**

Noisy Pitta

*Pitta versicolor*

**LYREBIRDS: Menuridae**

Albert's Lyrebird  
Superb Lyrebird

*Menura alberti*  
*Menura novaehollandiae*

**BOWERBIRDS: Ptilonorhynchidae**

Spotted Catbird  
Green Catbird  
Tooth-billed Catbird  
Golden Bowerbird  
Regent Bowerbird  
Satin Bowerbird  
Spotted Bowerbird  
Great Bowerbird

*Ailuroedus melanotis*  
*Ailuroedus crassirostris*  
*Scenopoeetes dentirostris*  
*Amblyornis newtoniana*  
*Sericulus chrysocephalus*  
*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*  
*Chlamydera maculata*  
*Chlamydera nuchalis*

**AUSTRALASIAN TREECREEPERS: Climacteridae**

White-throated Treecreeper  
Red-browed Treecreeper  
Brown Treecreeper

*Cormobates leucophaea*  
*Climacteris erythrops*  
*Climacteris picumnus*

**FAIRYWRENS: Maluridae**

Southern Emuwren  
Variegated Fairywren  
Lovely Fairywren  
Splendid Fairywren  
Superb Fairywren  
White-winged Fairywren  
Red-backed Fairywren

*Stipiturus malachurus*  
*Malurus lamberti*  
*Malurus amabilis*  
*Malurus splendens*  
*Malurus cyaneus*  
*Malurus leucopterus*  
*Malurus melanocephalus*

**HONEYEATERS: Meliphagidae**

Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
Graceful Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga gracilis</i>
Yellow-spotted Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga notata</i>
Lewin's Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga lewinii</i>
Bridled Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus frenatus</i>
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus chrysops</i>
Varied Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus versicolor</i>
Mangrove Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus fasciogularis</i>
Singing Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>
Yellow Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus flavus</i>
White-gaped Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus unicolor</i>
White-eared Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus leucotis</i>
Yellow-throated Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus flavicollis</i>
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus melanops</i>
Fuscous Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus fuscus</i>
Gray-fronted Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus plumulus</i>
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus ornatus</i>
White-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus penicillatus</i>
White-fronted Honeyeater	<i>Purnella albifrons</i>
Bell Miner	<i>Manorina melanophrys</i>
Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>
Yellow-throated Miner	<i>Manorina flavigula</i>
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>
Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>
Little (Brush) Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>
Yellow Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera paradoxa</i>
Brown-backed Honeyeater	<i>Ramsayornis modestus</i>
White-fronted Chat	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>
Dusky Myzomela	<i>Myzomela obscura</i>
Scarlet Myzomela	<i>Myzomela sanguinolenta</i>
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	<i>Gliciphila melanops</i>
Banded Honeyeater	<i>Cissomela pectoralis</i>
Brown Honeyeater	<i>Lichmera indistincta</i>
Crescent Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus</i>
New Holland Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>
White-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris niger</i>
White-naped Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus lunatus</i>
Black-headed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus affinis</i>
White-throated Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus albogularis</i>
Black-chinned Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>
Strong-billed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus validirostris</i>

Brown-headed Honeyeater  
Blue-faced Honeyeater  
Little Friarbird  
Helmeted Friarbird  
Noisy Friarbird  
Macleay's Honeyeater  
Striped Honeyeater  
Painted Honeyeater

*Melithreptus brevirostris*  
*Entomyzon cyanotis*  
*Philemon citreogularis*  
*Philemon buceroides*  
*Philemon corniculatus*  
*Xanthotis macleayanus*  
*Plectorhyncha lanceolata*  
*Grantiella picta*

**BRISTLEBIRDS: Dasyornithidae**

Eastern Bristlebird

*Dasyornis brachypterus*

**PARDALOTES: Pardalotidae**

Spotted Pardalote  
Forty-spotted Pardalote  
Red-browed Pardalote  
Striated Pardalote

*Pardalotus punctatus*  
*Pardalotus quadragintus*  
*Pardalotus rubricatus*  
*Pardalotus striatus*

**THORNBILLS AND ALLIES: Acanthizidae**

Pilotbird  
Rockwarbler  
Fernwren  
Yellow-throated Scrubwren  
White-browed Scrubwren  
Tasmanian Scrubwren  
Atherton Scrubwren  
Large-billed Scrubwren  
Scrubtit  
Speckled Warbler  
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren  
Shy Heathwren (H)  
Buff-rumped Thornbill  
Mountain Thornbill  
Brown Thornbill  
Tasmanian Thornbill  
Inland Thornbill  
Yellow-rumped Thornbill  
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill  
Yellow Thornbill  
Striated Thornbill  
Weebill

*Pycnoptilus floccosus*  
*Origma solitaria*  
*Oreoscopus gutturalis*  
*Sericornis citreogularis*  
*Sericornis frontalis*  
*Sericornis humilis*  
*Sericornis keri*  
*Sericornis magnirostra*  
*Acanthornis magna*  
*Pyrrholaemus sagittatus*  
*Hylacola pyrrhopygia*  
*Hylacola cauta*  
*Acanthiza reguloides*  
*Acanthiza katherina*  
*Acanthiza pusilla*  
*Acanthiza ewingii*  
*Acanthiza apicalis*  
*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*  
*Acanthiza uropygialis*  
*Acanthiza nana*  
*Acanthiza lineata*  
*Smicronis brevirostris*

Fairy Gerygone	<i>Gerygone palpebrosa</i>
White-throated Gerygone	<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>
Large-billed Gerygone	<i>Gerygone magnirostris</i>
Brown Gerygone	<i>Gerygone mouki</i>
Western Gerygone	<i>Gerygone fusca</i>
Mangrove Gerygone	<i>Gerygone levigaster</i>
Southern Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>

**PSEUDO-BABBLERS: Pomatostomidae**

Gray-crowned Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>
White-browed Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i>

**LOGRUNNERS: Orthonychidae**

Australian Logrunner	<i>Orthonyx temminckii</i>
Chowchilla	<i>Orthonyx spaldingii</i>

**WHIPBIRDS AND WEDGEBILLS: Psophodidae**

Eastern Whipbird	<i>Psophodes olivaceus</i>
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**QUAIL-THRUSHES AND JEWEL-BABBLERS: Cinclosomatidae**

Chestnut Quail-thrush (H)	<i>Cinclosoma castanotum</i>
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**BOATBILLS: Machaerirhynchidae**

Yellow-breasted Boatbill	<i>Machaerirhynchus flaviventer</i>
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**WOODSWALLOWS: Artamidae**

White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>
White-browed Woodswallow	<i>Artamus superciliosus</i>
Black-faced Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cinereus</i>
Little Woodswallow	<i>Artamus minor</i>
Dusky Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>

**BELLMAGPIES AND ALLIES: Cracticidae**

Gray Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>
Pied Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>
Black Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus quoyi</i>
Australasian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>
Pied Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>
Black Currawong	<i>Strepera fuliginosa</i>

Gray Currawong

*Strepera versicolor***CUCKOOSHRIKES: Campephagidae**

Black-faced Cuckooshrike

*Coracina novaehollandiae*

Barred (Yellow-eyed) Cuckooshrike

*Coracina lineata*

White-bellied Cuckooshrike

*Coracina papuensis*

White-winged Triller

*Lalage sueurii*

Varied Triller

*Lalage leucomela*

Common Cicadabird

*Edolisoma tenuirostre***SITELLAS: Neosittidae**

Varied Sittella

*Daphoenositta chrysoptera***WHISTLERS AND ALLIES: Pachycephalidae**

Crested Shrike-tit

*Falcunculus frontatus*

Rufous Shrike-Thrush

*Colluricincla megarhyncha*

Gray Shrike-Thrush

*Colluricincla harmonica*

Bower's Shrike-Thrush

*Colluricincla boweri*

Olive Whistler

*Pachycephala olivacea*

Gilbert's Whistler

*Pachycephala inornata*

Golden Whistler

*Pachycephala pectoralis*

Gray Whistler

*Pachycephala simplex*

Rufous Whistler

*Pachycephala rufiventris***AUSTRALO-PAPUAN BELLBIRDS: Oreoicidae**

Crested Bellbird

*Oreoica gutturalis***OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae**

Olive-backed Oriole

*Oriolus sagittatus*

Green (Yellow) Oriole

*Oriolus flavocinctus*

Australasian Figbird

*Sphecotheres vieilloti***DRONGOS: Dicruridae**

Spangled Drongo

*Dicrurus bracteatus***FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae**

Northern Fantail

*Rhipidura rufiventris*

Willie-wagtail

*Rhipidura leucophrys*

Rufous Fantail

*Rhipidura rufifrons*

Gray Fantail

*Rhipidura albiscapa*

**MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae**

Black-faced Monarch	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>
Spectacled Monarch	<i>Symphysistichus trivirgatus</i>
Pied Monarch	<i>Arses kaupi</i>
Magpie-lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>
Leaden Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra rubecula</i>
Satin Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>
Restless Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra inquieta</i>
Shining Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra alecto</i>

**CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES: Corvidae**

Torresian Crow	<i>Corvus orru</i>
Australian Raven	<i>Corvus coronoides</i>
Little Raven	<i>Corvus mellori</i>
Forest Raven	<i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>

**WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH AND APOSTLEBIRD: Corcoracidae**

White-winged Chough	<i>Corcorax melanorhamphos</i>
Apostlebird	<i>Struthidea cinerea</i>

**BIRDS-OF-PARADISE: Paradisaeidae**

Paradise Riflebird	<i>Ptiloris paradiseus</i>
Victoria's Riflebird	<i>Ptiloris victoriae</i>

**AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS: Petroicidae**

Jacky-winter	<i>Microeca fascinans</i>
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Microeca flavigaster</i>
Scarlet Robin	<i>Petroica boodang</i>
Red-capped Robin	<i>Petroica goodenovii</i>
Flame Robin	<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>
Rose Robin	<i>Petroica rosea</i>
Pink Robin	<i>Petroica rodinogaster</i>
Hooded Robin	<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>
Dusky Robin	<i>Melanodryas vittata</i>
Pale-yellow Robin	<i>Tregellasia capito</i>
Eastern Yellow Robin	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>
Mangrove Robin	<i>Eopsaltria pulverulenta</i>
Gray-headed Robin	<i>Heteromyias cinereifrons</i>
Southern Scrub-Robin	<i>Drymodes brunneopygia</i>

**LARKS: Alaudidae**

Australasian Bushlark  
Sky Lark

*Mirafrja javanica*  
*Alauda arvensis*

**SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae**

Welcome Swallow  
Fairy Martin  
Tree Martin  
White-backed Swallow

*Hirundo neoxena*  
*Petrochelidon ariel*  
*Petrochelidon nigricans*  
*Cheramoeca leucosterna*

**REED-WARBLERS AND ALLIES: Acrocephalidae**

Australian Reed-Warbler

*Acrocephalus australis*

**GRASSBIRDS AND ALLIES: Megaluridae**

Little Grassbird  
Brown Songlark  
Tawny Grassbird  
Rufous Songlark

*Megalurus gramineus*  
*Cincloramphus cruralis*  
*Megalurus timoriensis*  
*Cincloramphus mathewsi*

**CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae**

Golden-headed Cisticola

*Cisticola exilis*

**YUHINAS, WHITE-EYES AND ALLIES: Zosteropidae**

Silver-eye

*Zosterops lateralis*

**THRUSHES AND ALLIES: Turdidae**

Russet-tailed Thrush  
Eurasian Blackbird

*Zoothera heinei*  
*Turdus merula*

**STARLINGS: Sturnidae**

Metallic Starling  
Common Myna  
European Starling

*Aplonis metallica*  
*Acridotheres tristis*  
*Sturnus vulgaris*

**FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae**

Mistletoebird

*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

**SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS: Nectariniidae**

Olive-backed (Yellow-bellied) Sunbird

*Cinnyris jugularis*

**WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae**

Australasian Pipit

*Anthus novaeseelandiae***SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES: Fringillidae**

European Greenfinch

*Chloris chloris*

European Goldfinch

*Carduelis carduelis***OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae**

House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus***WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae**

Beautiful Firetail

*Stagonopleura bella*

Diamond Firetail

*Stagonopleura guttata*

Red-browed Firetail

*Neochmia temporalis*

Crimson Finch

*Neochmia phaeton*

Zebra Finch

*Taeniopygia guttata*

Double-barred Finch

*Taeniopygia bichenovii*

Black-throated Finch

*Poephila cincta*

Nutmeg Mannikin

*Lonchura punctulata*

Chestnut-breasted Munia

*Lonchura castaneothorax***MAMMALS****ECHIDNA: Tachyglossidae**

Short-beaked Echidna

*Tachyglossus aculeatus***PLATYPUS: Ornithorhynchidae**

Platypus

*Ornithorhynchus anatinus***DASYURIDS: Dasyuridae**

Fat-tailed Dunnart

*Sminthopsis crassicaudata***BANDICOOTS: Peramelidae**

Northern Brown Bandicoot

*Isoodon macrourus***WOMBATS: Vombatidae**

Common Wombat

*Vombatus ursinus*

**KOALA: Phascolarctidae**

Koala

*Phascolarctos cinereus***BRUSHTAIL POSSUMS: Phalangeridae**

Mountain Brushtail Possum

*Trichosurus caninus*

Common Brushtail Possum

*Trichosurus vulpecula***GLIDERS AND STRIPED POSSUM: Petauridae**

Striped Possum

*Dactylopsila trivirgata***RINGTAIL POSSUMS: Pseudocheiridae**

Common Ringtail Possum

*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*

Green Ringtail Possum

*Pseudocheirops archeri*

Herbert River Ringtail Possum

*Pseudochirulus herbertensis*

Lemuroid Ringtail Possum

*Hemibelideus lemuroides***MUSKY RAT-KANGAROO: Hypsiprymnodontidae**

Musky Rat-kangaroo

*Hypsiprymnodon moschatus***POTOROOS AND BETTONGS: Potoroidae**

Long-nosed Potoroo

*Potorous tridactylus***KANGAROOS, WALLABIES AND TREE-KANGAROOS: Macropodidae**

Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo

*Dendrolagus lumholtzi*

Agile Wallaby

*Macropus agilis*

Whiptail Wallaby

*Macropus parryi*

Eastern Grey Kangaroo

*Macropus giganteus*

Western Grey Kangaroo

*Macropus fuliginosus*

Red Kangaroo

*Macropus rufus*

Euro (Common Wallaroo)

*Macropus robustus*

Red-necked Wallaby

*Macropus rufogriseus*

Black (Swamp) Wallaby

*Wallabia bicolor*

Mareeba Rock Wallaby

*Petrogale mareeba*

Red-legged Pademelon

*Thylogale stigmatica*

Red-necked Pademelon

*Thylogale thetis***FRUIT BATS: Pteropodidae**

Black Flying-fox

*Pteropus alecto*

Spectacled Flying-fox

*Pteropus conspicillatus*

Gray-headed Flying-fox

*Pteropus poliocephalus*

Queensland Tube-nosed Fruit Bat

*Nyctimene robinsoni*

**RATS AND MICE: Muridae**

Bush Rat

*Rattus fuscipes***DOGS AND FOXES: Canidae**

Dingo

*Canis lupus dingo***EARED SEALS: Otariidae**

Australian Fur Seal

*Arctocephalus pusillus***RABBITS AND HARES: Leporidae**

European Hare

*Lepus europaeus*

European Rabbit

*Oryctolagus cuniculus***DOLPHINS: Delphinidae**

Common Bottlenose Dolphin

*Tursiops truncatus***RORQUALS: Balaenopteridae**

Humpback Whale

*Megaptera novaeangliae***MACLEAY'S HONEYEATER**