TRIP REPORT: EASTERN AUSTRALIA, TOP TO BOTTOM

DATES: 1-19 NOVEMBER 2013

GUIDE AND PHOTOS: NICK LESEBERG

Perhaps more than any other continent, birding trip lists in Australia are dependent on the prevailing weather conditions, and not just the weather where you are birding. It may be difficult to comprehend, but weather across the continent including for the previous few years, will determine what birds will have moved into, or out of certain areas. The differences between our tours last year and this year perfectly illustrated this phenomenon. As always though, a few birds missed here, a few birds gained there, meant we still ended up with a very respectable trip list; 439 species of bird and 37 species of mammal. Bird-of-the-trip went to the ever-popular Plains-wanderer, while runner-up was a close fight between the enormous Southern Cassowary and the tiny Splendid Fairywren. The cassowary won by just one vote, perhaps because we had to search so hard for it! Honorable mentions went to the gaudy Crimson Rosella and the beautiful Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher. Our mammal highlights included fantastic views of Platypus, Koala and Short-beaked Echidna, while three Lumholtz’s Tree-Kangaroos in a single day on the Atherton Tableland will be hard to beat.

One of Australia’s most difficult birds to find, this gorgeous female Plains-wanderer was a deserved winner of the bird-of-the-trip award.
Day 1: Friday, 1st November 2013 – Arrival in Cairns.

It is difficult to think of a better Australian city than Cairns in which to start a birding trip; nowhere are there so many new birds so easily seen, so close to the city center. With excitement we headed off to Centenary Lakes, a beautiful area of parkland in Cairns, and a great place to go birding. Things got off to a good start, with our first bird an Orange-footed Scrubfowl foraging in the gardens. Later we would find one of the huge mounds this bird builds to incubate its eggs. The scrubfowl was followed shortly after by a Bush Thick-knee which looked to be sitting on eggs, in exactly the same place as we saw it last year. The saltwater lake had a few new birds for us, with Royal Spoonbill, Striated Heron and a few Little Black Cormorants sitting overhead, while a Little Bronze-Cuckoo eventually gave good views in the canopy. We could hear a few Double-eyed Fig-Parrots calling, but couldn’t find these tiny green parrots in the leafy canopy. Moving through the park we picked up Spangled Drongo and a pair of Collared Kingfishers before arriving at the freshwater lake where there was more activity. We soon found several pairs of Radjah Shelducks, a bird we had struggled for last year. Also on the lake were quite a few Magpie Geese, Australasian Darters, Intermediate and Great Egrets, while Rainbow Bee-eaters were hawking overhead. From the lake we worked our way back to the bus, finally getting great views of a pair of Double-eyed Fig-Parrots. After a nice start to the afternoon, we moved on to Cairns Esplanade, one of Australia’s premier wader-watching locations and always a good place to kick start the wader list.

It’s not the same photo from last year’s trip report, but it’s probably the same bird! This Bush Thick-knee was sitting in exactly the same spot at Centenary Lakes, with its mate nearby.
With the tide flooding in over the mudflats we quickly ticked off Terek, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers, Gray-tailed Tattler, Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, both Black and Bar-tailed Godwits and several Great Knots. There were a few other birds around including several huge, black-and-white Torresian Imperial-Pigeons, tiny Peaceful Doves, and raucous Helmeted Friarbirds. We finished up with a short search for Mangrove Robin which was unsuccessful, the clouds of sandflies beating us back and sending us to our next site, Cattana Wetlands. The wetlands were fairly quiet, although we still picked up most of the species we were after. There were plenty of Comb-crested Jacanas trotting over the lily-covered ponds, while a few pairs of Green Pygmy-geese swam around the edges. A gorgeous male Olive-backed Sunbird sat up nicely, allowing us to admire his glistening blue throat, and a Yellow Honeyeater was also spotted in the vegetation beside the lake. After closely scanning the edge of the ponds we finally found our next target, a shy White-browed Crake that gave nice ‘scope views. Moving away from the lake we spent some time watching over the grasslands behind the wetland where several flocks of Chestnut-breasted Munias and Nutmeg Mannikins were passing over. It was difficult to see them well, but with persistence we got good views of both species as they settled in the long grass. After a productive afternoon to get the trip started, we called it quits and headed for home, enjoying a delicious Balinese dinner and several beers to celebrate the beginning of the tour.

Bird of the Day: Olive-backed Sunbird

Red-necked Stint is one of the more common waders along the Cairns Esplanade.

We were up for breakfast at 6:00am, before heading off to hit a couple of spots before meeting our boat for a day-trip out to the Great Barrier Reef. First up we returned to the Esplanade for another crack at Mangrove Robin and after a short search we had success, catching the mournful whistle in the edge of the mangroves and finding a pair of birds which gave great views. We then visited downtown Cairns, taking a few minutes to watch the huge colony of Spectacled Flying-foxes that call the city home. It was then off to the pier and onboard the Seastar for our trip to Michaelmas Cay. Unfortunately the nice weather of yesterday had been replaced by low, gray skies, and as we headed for the reef things got steadily worse with light rain initially, becoming heavier as we approached the cay.

Michaelmas Cay is a low sandy isle packed with breeding seabirds, but unfortunately it is very exposed, but with no choice we headed for shore in our tender and did our best in the conditions. Once ashore the most obvious residents were the breeding Brown Noddies and Sooty Terns which numbered in their thousands. The Sooty Terns were quite a way through their breeding cycle, and there were many chicks huddled together in groups, waiting for their parents to return with food. Among the terns and noddies were several Brown Boobies, some with well-developed chicks. Gathered in groups close to the water were several mixed flocks of Great and Lesser Crested Terns, while a few Black-naped Terns were spotted coursing over the back of the island. With the rain mercifully easing and the sun trying to poke through, conditions improved, allowing us to actually enjoy the clouds of birds flocking around us. We picked out a pair of Bridled Terns among the similar Sooties, and also briefly spotted a Red-footed Booby flying past nearby which a few of us had seen earlier. With the rain stopped and our time on the cay nearly complete we jumped back in our tender for a quick lap around the island, allowing us to view some of the areas which are not visible from the restricted viewing area on the beach. We soon picked out a Great Frigatebird, the only one on the island which was a surprise; in past years there have usually been several. While Green Turtles swam about underneath the boat, we had better views of Black-naped Terns, and also saw a few Common and Roseate Terns before heading back to the Seastar where we had the opportunity to dry out and enjoy the delicious buffet lunch.

Leaving Michaelmas Cay behind we made the short journey over to Hastings Reef, spotting a couple of Little Terns on the way. After tying off, we jumped into the water to enjoy an afternoon of snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef, while those of us not up to the water were still able to enjoy the splendor of the reef on the glass-bottomed boat tour. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the natural wonders of the world, and when looking at the incredible variety of corals, fish and giant clams, it is easy to see why. Wherever you look, flashy parrotfish, gaudy angelfish, and everyone’s favorite, the cute clownfish adorn the reef with its labyrinth of coral shelves, crevices and bommies. It would be easy to spend more than an hour or two enjoying the reef, but unfortunately we had to get on our way back to Cairns, our long day on the water leaving us tired but happy.
After arriving back at the pier we quickly jumped in the bus, leaving for Kuranda where we were staying the night at Cassowary House. We arrived a little late to do any birding, instead enjoying a well-earned shower before heading off for dinner and a beer. While at dinner the rain started again, setting off a pair of Red-necked Crakes calling in the scrub below our restaurant. As we returned to Cassowary House we could see many frogs which had come out to enjoy the rain scattering off the road left, right and center, so a few of us took the chance to have a look around for a few of them, finding Northern Barred, Ornate and Jungguy Frogs before heading off to bed.

Bird of the Day: Mangrove Robin

Unless it’s raining you don’t often get the chance to see some of the spectacular frogs that are found in north-eastern Queensland, but with plenty of rain this year we found a few around Cassowary House. This is a Northern Barred Frog.

Day 3: Friday, 3rd November 2013 – Kuranda to Daintree.

One of the attractions of north-eastern Queensland is the lush rainforests which can be found from sea-level right up to the highest mountains, and the special birds that call them home. This morning we would be getting our first shot at some of these birds as we spent a couple of hours birding the rainforests around Cassowary House. We got started early, wandering down Black Mountain Road in overcast conditions although thankfully the rain was holding off. It was slow going to start with, and the poor light made it tough to find the
birds, but we steadily picked up new species including Dusky Honeyeater, Rufous Shrike-thrush and Gray Whistler. Eventually things started to pick up, and one of the highlights of the morning was a fantastic male Victoria’s Riflebird calling from an open display post and giving great views. A small party of Barred Cuckoo-shrikes swung by and after a lot of effort we finally managed to spot a fantastic Wompoo Fruit-Dove sitting in the canopy. Superb Fruit-Doves were calling all morning, but this would prove to be a bogy bird as we failed to get good views of one. Eventually we had to return to Cassowary House where Sue, the ‘hostess-with-the-mostess’ had prepared a stunning breakfast spread for us, replete with fresh local fruit, home-made bread, jam, muffins, eggs, you name it! We were also hoping that the star attraction might come wandering through, but things weren’t looking promising with Sue telling us the male cassowary was away on eggs and had not come through for several weeks, while the local female was only coming through sporadically. Still, we kept a hopeful eye out, spotting the resident pair of Red-necked Crakes in the process while also watching Musky Rat-Kangaroos, a type of primitive precursor to the kangaroos, foraging in the garden.

This photo doesn’t do the glistening blue throat of the male Olive-backed Sunbird justice. They are a common in north-eastern Queensland and we saw them most days, including a few while birding around Cassowary House.

Unfortunately the hoped for cassowary didn’t appear, so we returned to Black Mountain Road to see what else might be around. We drove a few minutes up the road into more open rainforest and found quite a bit of activity. We quickly picked up a nice Spectacled
Monarch, and a Yellow-breasted Boatbill also came in, although it stayed pretty high in the canopy. We could hear a fruit-dove calling which we eventually tracked down, a stunning Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove which gave brief ‘scope views, our only sighting of this species for the trip. Other nice birds around included Large-billed Scrubwren, Pale-yellow Robin and Brown Cuckoo-Dove, but unfortunately the hoped for phone call from Sue didn’t come, so we returned to Cassowary House and resumed our vigil from the balcony. With lunchtime approaching and still no cassowary, we had to keep moving. We loaded up the bus and got on our way, with a very big hole in our list.....

The Yellow-breasted Boatbill is a very smart little bird. The bill is very broad, but you can’t see this unless you are directly below the bird.

From Cassowary House we moved inland to Mareeba then north, making a couple of stops around Lake Mitchell, a huge wetland where we hoped to catch up with a few waterbirds. At our first stop the highlight was an Australian Hobby perched up for nice ‘scope views, while other birds foraging on the wetland included our first Brolgas, Glossy Ibis and a few Wandering Whistling-Ducks. Moving out onto a causeway we spotted a few more ducks including our first White-eyed Ducks, plus a distant Pacific Golden-Plover but nothing else exciting. We left the lake and made a quick stop in Mount Molloy for lunch – the largest hamburgers in the world – before moving down off the tableland to the coast then turning north for Daintree Village. A quick stop at Rocky Point for Beach Thick-knee was unsuccessful although we did pick up a Pacific Reef-Heron flying up the beach, before
continuing on to a fish farm near Wonga Beach that often throws up a few waders. There weren’t many waders around but we did pick up a nice Black-necked Stork, not always an easy bird, and one we had missed last year.

We arrived in Daintree Village and checked-in to Red Mill House, where our hosts Andrew and Trish made us feel right at home. Andrew quickly brought us up to date on the local sightings, with the good news that one of our target birds, the migratory Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfishers had only arrived that morning. We quickly set off to try and track down a few last birds before dinner and did very well, scoring an absolutely stonking pair of Lovely Fairywrens, which made a couple of people very happy – it was the last fairywren they needed to have seen all nine Australian species of these gorgeous little birds! Thanks to Andrew’s update (I would like to be able to claim it as my own brilliant skills but that would be lying!) we spotted a nesting Papuan Frogmouth high up in the canopy and we also heard a Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher, but couldn’t entice it into the open. Returning to Red Mill House we had a fantastic barbecue dinner courtesy of Andrew and Trish, watching Northern Brown Bandicoots feeding on the lawn below. Andrew was also able to show us several enormous White-lipped Tree-Frogs that had taken up residence in a few of the nooks and crannies throughout the house, emerging from their hideouts after dark to watch us heading off to bed after a long day.

Bird of the Day: Lovely Fairywren


Although it could be, the hospitality at Red Mill House is not the reason we come here! Instead, it is the fantastic cruise on the Daintree River, which saw us leaving at about 6:15am and walking down to the wharf where we met our guide Murray Hunt for one of the best Daintree cruises I have experienced. We had barely set off before we were looking at a pair of the river’s most sought after species, the hulking Great-billed Heron. Murray had found a pair nesting in a secluded inlet and we enjoyed extended views of this elusive bird before moving back out onto the river. A Brahminy Kite was spotted sitting on a riverside snag as we motored downstream, and we also flushed a pair of unexpected Cotton Pygmy-geese along the way. As we moved up into another small tributary we were keeping our eyes peeled for any kingfishers when we heard the tell-tale high-pitched ‘seet’ up ahead. A tiny blue comet came tearing down the river towards us nearly taking our heads off – Little Kingfisher! There were plenty of other birds around and we added Large-billed Gerygone, Shining Flycatcher and another nesting Papuan Frogmouth, this one quite low over our heads. Further up the river Murray showed us a Wompoo Fruit-Dove on a nest, a very obliging Rufous Night-Heron and we also picked up a gorgeous Azure Kingfisher. Incredibly, Murray also found us two more Great-billed Herons; I have missed the heron on this trip, so to see four in one morning was fantastic. Turning around and returning downstream we
didn’t pick up anything we didn’t already have, although we did get reasonable views of a Cicadabird. We also spotted a couple of Water Dragons sunning themselves on the riverbank, plus a huge Lace Monitor basking high in a dead tree. Pulling up at the wharf after an action-packed morning, we thanked Murray for a great cruise; not just the birds, but the wealth of other information he shared with us, making it a memorable morning and one of the trip’s best.

We arrived back at Red Mill House to find another fantastic breakfast spread waiting for us, with Andrew and Trish cooking us all eggs and bacon to order, with fresh bread and fresh local fruit as well. Most importantly, Andrew’s local spies had reported in with some info on where paradise-kingfishers had been seen that morning, and also with a lead on the elusive bush-hen. So, after breakfast we headed out Stewart Creek Road to bird some lowland rainforest, and sure enough, almost immediately had several Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfishers calling around us. After fleeting glimpses we finally spotted one sitting and calling in the canopy and were able to get it in the ‘scope, admiring the beautiful blue back, red bill, orange breast and graceful white tail plumes; truly a stunning bird. While watching the kingfisher we also picked up a nice Pied Monarch, endemic to north-eastern Queensland, and soon after had a very obliging Yellow-breasted Boatbill. The boatbill sang overhead, allowing everyone great views of this dapper little bird including what for a small bird, is a huge bill. Also around were a few vocal Superb Fruit-Doves, but try as we might we couldn’t find one in the canopy. We did spot a Pheasant Coucal, before moving on to a private property where we had permission to search for the shy Rufous-tailed Bush-hen at a small pond. Sure enough we soon had a pair of birds calling, but the thick undergrowth made it impossible to see them, try as we might. Eventually though, with some tactical positioning and coordinated movement, everyone was able to get at least a glimpse of these shy rails as they moved through the undergrowth. Our morning’s birding complete, we returned to Red Mill to say good-bye to Trish and Andrew, thanking them for their wonderful hospitality before hitting the road. We made just one stop at Wonga Beach.
where we got lucky with a cryptic **Beach Thick-knee** before pressing on to Mareeba, our base for the next few days.

After such a fantastic start to the day it would be hard to maintain our momentum, but we made a pretty good fist of it. We had a short break in Mareeba before heading south on the Atherton Tableland towards Yungaburra. Here we would be meeting local wildlife-guide extraordinaire, Alan Gillanders, for a night of spotlighting. Our target was Lumholtz’s Tree-Kangaroo, and no one has spent more time looking for these incredible animals than Alan. Before meeting him though, we made a quick stop at Hastie’s Swamp, a large shallow wetland that is great for waterbirds. It delivered again, with one of the first birds we found the very rare **Freckled Duck**. Usually a species of south-eastern Australia, a few birds had been present at the swamp for a few months now and I was very glad to get them on the list. We also picked up **Yellow-billed Spoonbill**, **Black-fronted** and **Red-kneed Dotterels**, hundreds of **Plumed Whistling-Ducks** and a couple of foraging **Latham’s Snipe**. Very happy with our haul we pushed on to Yungaburra to meet Alan, picking up a few graceful **Sarus Cranes** on the way, and also our only sighting of **Spotted Harrier** for the trip, with a single bird quartering low over the fields. Approaching Yungaburra someone spotted an ‘animal with a black mask’ sitting beside the road as we drove past a rainforest fragment. Puzzled, I pulled over and swung around. Getting back to the spot I was stunned to find, in bright daylight, a **Lumholtz’s Tree-Kangaroo** sitting quietly on the ground at the edge of the forest! Unfortunately only a few of us got a brief glimpse before it bounded back into the forest, so we continued to Yungaburra hoping Alan would be able to help the rest of us out.

We enjoyed dinner and a beer at the pub with Alan and also did our lists, which took quite some time given the number of species we had seen that day. By the time we finished darkness had fallen and we set off on our spotlighting expedition. We hadn’t even made it to the bus before we had spotted a **Common Brushtail Possum**, the beautiful northern ‘coppery’ form. We drove out to the Curtain Fig where a quick trip through the rainforest on the boardwalk produced a shy **Long-nosed Bandicoot** foraging in the leaf litter, and a few **Northern Leaf-tailed Geckoes** sitting very still on branches high in the canopy. Moving back out to the road we spotted a couple more **Common Brushtails**, before finding our target, another cracking **Lumholtz’s Tree-Kangaroo**. Incredibly, this one was only a couple of meters off the ground giving us
absolutely amazing views. Alan told us this animal was a young female with a very small joey in the pouch who was yet to show itself. Leaving her behind we continued to higher elevations searching for some of the high-altitude possums endemic to the Wet Tropics. We had more success with a single Green Ringtail Possum, followed shortly after by a pair of very cute Lemurid Ringtail Possums. Nearby we spotted yet another Lumholtz’s Tree-Kangaroo, this one perched, more traditionally, precariously high in a tree. Three tree-kangaroos in one day is quite an achievement! On that note we finished up, returning Alan to Yungaburra after a very successful night, and happily stumbling into bed after a huge day.

Bird of the Day: Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher


We still needed a handful of the highland rainforest endemics, so this morning we dragged ourselves out of bed and headed for Mount Lewis, probably northern Queensland’s premier high-altitude rainforest birding site. On the road in we had our first Emerald Doves, flushing a few from the grassy verges. We didn’t find much on the climb up the mountain, but started ticking off the birds as soon as we arrived. While having breakfast at the grassy clearing we picked up the usual Red-browed Firetails, Atherton Scrubwren and a few overflying Topknot Pigeons. After breakfast we wandered down the road, finding more of the birds we had come for, with Tooth-billed Catbird, Bower’s Shrike-thrush and Bridled Honeyeater. After a bit of effort we all had great views of a furtive Fernwren, then it was time for a bit more cat and mouse with a calling Superb Fruit-Dove. We returned to the grassy clearing before making another foray into the forest searching for Chowchilla. After a fair search which included a Tooth-billed Catbird display platform, a brief flyover by a Gray Goshawk and a few false alarms, we finally happened on a very obliging party of Chowchillas. These animated birds allowed us to follow them through the forest, watching their antics as they scuttled around the forest floor, digging themselves deep into the leaf litter with their unusual ‘side-kick’ foraging technique. Back at the bus we heard another Superb Fruit-Dove calling, with most people getting at least a flight view of this one before we decided to finish up and return to Mareeba for a break.

After a short rest in Mareeba then lunch in Atherton we continued south on the tableland to Mount Hypipamee, another area of high-altitude rainforest where we would be searching for our final Wet Tropics endemic, the stunning Golden Bowerbird. Armed with some up-to-date gen from Alan, we trooped off into the forest where we found the male’s bower, elaborate and open for business, along with its resplendent proprietor sitting quietly nearby. He was incredibly tame, sitting quietly and occasionally giving his unusual mechanical call, posing for photos and generally enjoying the crowd’s adulation. Leaving him to impress the females, we headed over to Tarzali Lakes, home to Australia’s, and one of the world’s, most unusual mammals. We trotted down to a secluded pond where we only
had to wait for a couple of minutes before a gorgeous female **Platypus** showed itself, foraging within meters of the bank in broad daylight. Why the creatures here choose to forage during the day when they are usually nocturnal is a mystery, but it makes for a mesmerizing experience and some of the best views you are likely to have of these unique mammals.

![Golden Bowerbird](image)

*This beautiful male Golden Bowerbird was incredibly tame, and allowed us to watch him closely as he remained near his bower.*

Our last stop for the day was Granite Gorge in the dry country on the western edge of the Atherton Tableland. We picked up a nice **Whiptail Wallaby** on the way as well as plenty of cute **Mareeba Rock-Wallabies** once we arrived at the gorge. A short wander around the park produced a cryptic **Tawny Frogmouth**, the male sitting tight on his scanty nest of small twigs. A party of **Gray-crowned Babblers** kept us entertained, as did a procession of parrots including a pair of **Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos**, a couple of colorful **Pale-headed Rosellas** and a trio of smart **Red-winged Parrots**. Our target bird here though was the plump **Squatter Pigeon**, and sure enough it delivered with the usual party of birds found pottering around the edge of the park and giving us great views of their distinctive facial pattern. After a big couple of days we called it quits, returning to Mareeba for an early dinner, a well-earned beer and a big sleep.

Bird of the Day: **Chowchilla**

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Day 6: Monday, 6th November 2013 – Hurricane Road and Julatten.

An early start this morning saw us on our way north past Mount Carbine to the dry savannas at the northern end of the Atherton Tableland. On the way we passed a male **Australian Bustard** who we disturbed in the middle of his display. Unfortunately he developed a bad case of stage fright and wouldn’t start again while we sat and watched on. This is always one of the more unpredictable mornings of the tour, often throwing up a few surprises. Sure enough it didn’t disappoint – barely had we arrived before an immense **Channel-billed Cuckoo** was flying over, followed soon after by a flock of **Budgerigars**. These small nomadic parrots are very unpredictable, moving about the continent in response to weather conditions. This year and last, very dry conditions in the center and south of Australia had pushed them north and they had been showing up in some very unusual places. Today we were the beneficiaries, picking them up here in what would be our only sighting of the trip. Along with the budgies we also found a few very cute **Diamond Doves** plus a tiny **White-throated Gerygone**. Moving along, things were fairly quiet, and with a wind picking up the birds were keeping their heads down. Still, we spotted a pair of **Brown Goshawks** on a nest, and both **Blue-faced Honeyeaters** and **Pied Butcherbirds**, before getting a pair of **Black-faced Woodswallows** and a few **White-winged Trillers** as we were leaving.

We made a couple of opportunity stops on the way back to Mareeba, firstly at McLeod River where a pair of **White-gaped Honeyeaters** showed up on cue. A short stop at the Mount Carbine caravan park produced a nesting **Blue-winged Kookaburra**, and another nesting **Tawny Frogmouth**, this time with the female sitting nearby and quite low. It is always a treat getting close views of such fantastic birds. One of the highlights here was the resident male **Great Bowerbird**, and we were able to closely inspect his very neat bower, adorned with an eclectic assortment of ornaments including glass, pieces of bone, sun-bleached snail shells and stones. Just south of Mount Carbine we found another **Australian Bustard** before our final stop for the morning near Lake Mitchell where after a bit of effort we finally found a pair of dapper **White-browed Robins** in some riparian vegetation along a dry creekline.

![You lookin’ at me? This female Tawny Frogmouth was roosting close by while the male sat on the nest.](image-url)
After lunch and a short break it was back to Julatten where we had a bit of ‘mopping-up’ to do. Wandering through some of the open woodland along a few quiet roads produced nice views of a pair of **Banded Honeyeaters**, a bird which had given the briefest of flyover views this morning. We also picked up a dull **Lemon-bellied Flycatcher** feeding a newly-fledged youngster. There was a bit of activity at Abbaitoir Swamp where our hoped-for **Northern Fantail** showed nicely. A couple of bonus birds here included **Varied Sitella**, a small nuthatch-like bird found in small parties foraging acrobatically along tree trunks and branches, and the very smart **White-cheeked Honeyeater**, with several birds feeding in flowering **Callistemons**. We also spotted a very striking **Red-backed Fairywren**, with the jet-black male showing nicely after a bit of effort.

![Image of Red-backed Fairywren](image-url)

**Like many of Australia’s honeyeaters, the White-cheeked Honeyeater is strikingly patterned, and great to watch when feeding on colourful flowers like this Callistemon.**

With dusk approaching we retired to the Mount Molloy pub for a beer and dinner as we waited for darkness. It was then back to Julatten to finish our time on the Atherton Tableland with some night birding. Unfortunately the birding was unsuccessful as we only heard ‘Lesser’ **Sooty Owl**, with a couple of young birds refusing to show themselves, but we had some success with the mammals, finding **Red-legged Pademelon**, **Long-nosed Bandicoot** and a couple of **Giant White-tailed Rats**.

Bird of the Day: **Red-backed Fairywren**
Day 7: Tuesday, 7th September 2013 – Mareeba to Cairns.

We woke this morning, our final day in the Wet Tropics, with a huge cassowary-sized hole in our list and only one thing to do about it. Until recently a bird had been showing at Mount Hypipamee so we headed south hoping our luck might turn. While having breakfast we spotted a friendly Gray-headed Robin, a species we’d not had good views of before today. We then set off to wander the trails, but although we enjoyed views of the immense ‘crater’ – a deep volcanic pipe – unfortunately we couldn’t see hide-nor-hair of a cassowary. With available options fast running out I dug deep into my memory, recalling a park set in lowland rainforest down on the coast where these birds were known to come out and wander along the beach. So, with a hunch and some details from Andrew and Trish at Red Mill House we headed down off the tableland to Etty Bay near Innisfail.

Things were looking promising as we arrived, with a fresh pile of cassowary droppings right in the middle of the entrance road. I called in to the information center to ask about where we might try and got the obligatory “Cassowaries? Yeah, there was one just up the road about ten minutes ago!” With an idea of the best places to try we wandered around searching the road and forest, but after an hour or so we’d had no luck. It was the middle of the day, quite warm, and it looked like we may have to wait until the late afternoon. While a couple of people opted for a rest, we spread out to cover a bit more ground. Of course I got to the end of the park before spying a strange, dark boulder, deep in the forest. It was behind a tree, but on closer inspection looked to be hairy? Hang-on, its got a blue head! I would like to have been an uninterested onlooker for the next few minutes as suddenly people were tearing up and down through the park, whistling, yelling, speeding around in buses and generally looking like quite the disorganized rabble. Either way, we all ended up on the edge of the forest peering at a brilliant Southern Cassowary resting quietly behind a tree. Unconcerned at our presence, the bird eventually stood up and wandered off through the forest, giving us good views and leaving most of us elated. I was just relieved that I’d managed to fill that hole!

We had a celebratory lunch at the park’s cafe before driving back to Cairns where we arrived mid-afternoon. After checking-in to our motel we headed out to the Esplanade where we hoped to pick up a few last waders. We had a bit of luck, with a trio of the rare Broad-billed Sandpiper and a lone Black-bellied Plover along with a number of more common species. From the Esplanade we made a quick trip to some of the grasslands north of Cairns where we quickly picked up a mixed flock of very smart Crimson Finches and Chestnut-breasted Munias. We finished off our time in Cairns with a brief visit to Centenary Lakes where we only added Brush Cuckoo, our last new bird before we would be heading south to Brisbane.

Bird of the Day: Southern Cassowary
Broad-billed Sandpiper (the bird to the right) is a rare visitor to Australia, with only a handful of birds turning up each year. We found three on the mudflats at Cairns.

Day 8: Wednesday, 8th November 2013 – Cairns to O’Reilly’s, Lamington National Park.

After catching the early flight from Cairns to Brisbane, we hit the ground running, heading straight to a large grassland close to the airport. Our target here was Tawny Grassbird, and we heard one calling straight away, but had difficulty trying to see it. Eventually we moved on, picking up Mangrove Gerygone along a small mangrove-lined canal and Golden-headed Cisticola, before another crack at the grassbird with everyone finally getting tickable views. We then headed for a couple of sites in western Brisbane, without having much luck. We missed Spotted Quail-thrush, although we did see a large flock of migratory White-throated Needletails high overhead, plus a few Scarlet Honeyeaters. Pressing south we were keeping our eye out for raptors when I spotted the telltale shallow ‘V’ and buoyant flight of a Square-tailed Kite, crossing the road low over the canopy. We raced up and pulled over to find the kite circling back over the road and giving us cracking views of this beautiful raptor. I couldn’t believe our luck as the bird stayed overhead for several minutes, then a strange yelping sound nearby got our attention. We tracked it down to find the kite’s nest with a well-developed youngster probably close to fledging. As we watched, the adult came and landed on the nest, before quickly leaving to keep soaring overhead.
Square-tailed Kite is a tough bird to find, but we had fantastic views of a bird that circled overhead several times before leading us to its nest with a nearly-fledged youngster.

We continued on to Canungra for lunch, before visiting a nearby colony of Gray-headed and Black Flying-foxes. We also stopped at a Bell Miner colony, where we stumbled on some flowering eucalypts which had several groups of Little Lorikeets coming and going. These tiny green parrots are very difficult to see as they climb about the canopy, but with persistence we finally got ‘scope views of them. From here we set off up the hill to Lamington National Park. We found Whiptail and Red-necked Wallabies on the way, before spending the next 30 minutes scanning every Casuarina tree on the way up, our efforts paying dividends when we spotted a couple of Glossy Black-Cockatoos feeding quietly by the road. This was the first time I had seen these on a tour so I was very excited. Soon after, we arrived at O’Reilly’s Rainforest Retreat, our base for the next couple of days and a place absolutely dripping with birds. While I was collecting room keys everyone ticked off Satin and Regent Bowerbirds, Crimson Rosellas, Australian King-Parrots and Wonga Pigeons. Who needs a guide! It was pretty late in the afternoon, so with a long day behind us we took a break before dinner and spotlighting.

Conditions looked good as we headed out after dinner to see what we could find, scoring two very cute Common Ringtail Possums and a Mountain Brushtail Possum before even jumping in the bus. Within seconds of pulling up at our first stop, we had a Sooty Owl calling overhead, but try as we might, we couldn’t get a spotlight on it. The bird was calling from very close by, and after several minutes of searching I finally it sitting low down by the trail. Unfortunately it was very shy and most of us only got brief views of the huge dark owl as it disappeared silently into the rainforest. Moving on, we had better luck with our next target,
hearing the strange ‘gobble’ call of a male Marbled Frogmouth soon after pulling up. This is one of my favorite Australian bird calls, and always makes me laugh to think a bird has evolved such a strange call. Although the male continued calling, we couldn’t find him in the canopy, until his mate arrived and called right over the road. We soon had her in the spotlight and as she sat quietly we were able to admire her in the ‘scope. Leaving the frogmouths behind we checked a small patch of eucalypt forest, quickly finding one of Australia’s iconic mammals, the very cute Koala. From there it was back to the lodge where we found Red-necked Pademelons and Long-nosed Bandicoots foraging on the lawn, before happily heading to bed after a big day.

Bird of the Day: Glossy Black-Cockatoo

This Satin Bowerbird was seen daily, maintain his bower beside one of the pathways around the lodge at O’Reilly’s.


It was another early start this morning, with breakfast in the lodge gardens before we set off up the Border Track. Eating outdoors at O’Reilly’s can be a challenge with the Crimson Rosellas, Australian King-Parrots and Australian Brush-Turkeys all trying to get a share. As we were about to leave, we heard the distinctive loud call of an Albert’s Lyrebird very close by, soon followed by jaw-dropping views of one of these large, pheasant-like birds scratching through the leaf litter at the forest edge. Not always an easy species to find, this
was a fantastic start to the morning. Setting off up the Border track and through the lush rainforest we steadily racked up new birds. **Australian Logrunners** were spotted foraging by the trail along with **Yellow-throated Scrubwrens**. A couple of **Eastern Yellow Robins** flitted about, while **Green Catbirds** gave their strange cat-like call from overhead. A **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** gave us the run around before we eventually got nice views, as did a gorgeous male **Rose Robin**. We had made it a fair way along the trail before we heard our first **Noisy Pitta**, but try as we might we couldn’t get one to show for us. After about our fourth try we had decided to move on when a stunning pitta flew in and landed at eye-level about 20 yards off the trail. It then sat there for several minutes allowing us fantastic views of this absolutely splendid bird. Soon after we decided to turn around and head back to the lodge. We had done pretty well with only one target outstanding, and we picked that up on our return trip – an acrobatic female **Paradise Riflebird**.

![An Australian Logrunner, being true to its name. They are actually seen more often scratching around in the leaf litter with their curious ‘side-kick’ foraging technique.](image)

An Australian Logrunner, being true to its name. They are actually seen more often scratching around in the leaf litter with their curious ‘side-kick’ foraging technique.

After a long morning, a long week before this, and with our list looking pretty healthy we took the opportunity to have a couple of hours off, enjoying the gorgeous surroundings at O’Reilly’s where you don’t even have to go anywhere to be birding. Mid-afternoon we got together to head down Duck Creek Road for some dry forest birding. It was a pleasant downhill walk, but unfortunately not very birdy. We heard **Red-browed Treecreeper** but couldn’t find them high in the canopy, although we did spot some **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters**. Further down the hill we found a few **Cicadabirds** chasing each other through the canopy, and we eventually tracked down a **Spotted Pardalote**, a gorgeous little bird that
can be difficult to see well high in the canopy. We reached a lookout at the bottom of the road where we enjoyed the view as the sun was setting, before returning to O’Reilly’s for dinner.

After dinner we went for another spotlighting trip, heading back down Duck Creek Road where we hoped to find some gliding possums. We had no luck with the possums, although we did frighten a Dingoo on the road which ran off in front of the car, faster than we could keep up. It was a still night and we heard a Southern Boobook calling nearby, but couldn’t get close enough for a look. We had a similar experience with an Australian Owlet-Nightjar, with a pair of birds calling from quite close by, but refusing to show themselves. That was enough for the night and we returned to the lodge where after a big day of walking our weary legs welcomed the rest.

Bird of the Day: Noisy Pitta

Day 10: Friday, 10th November 2013 – O’Reilly’s, Lamington National Park to Lithgow.

We still had a couple of species we needed this morning, so we were up early for a quick turn through the rainforest. We soon picked up a couple of Russet-tailed Thrushes, plus a few species we had seen yesterday. A Noisy Pitta hopped quickly across the path and we also lucked on another Albert’s Lyrebird, a female with a youngster in tow who refused to get off the path, giving us even more great views. This was followed by a male who we interrupted in the middle of his display. Having had this bird as only fleeting glimpses or ‘heard only’ on some previous tours, three separate sightings was quite an achievement. Leaving the rainforest we returned to Duck Creek Road where there was much more activity than yesterday. Red-browed Treecreeper showed well, then down at the lookout we quickly found a party of Buff-rumped Thornbills and some nesting Variegated Fairywrens. Perhaps the surprise of the morning though was a female Spotted Quail-thrush we stumbled across trotting up the road. These cryptic birds have become very difficult at this site in recent years, so we were very excited to get one on our list.

After enjoying a very relaxed sit-down breakfast at the lodge we packed up the bus and got on our way back to Brisbane where we had time to visit a couple of wetlands before our flight to Sydney. Minnippi Parklands produced the hoped for Spotless Crake along with a surprising Wandering Whistling-Duck and our first Dusky Moorhen for the trip. Moving on to Dowse Lagoon we found it packed with birds, but not much we hadn’t already found. We did pick up a pair of Cotton Pygmy-geese which we’d only had brief views of earlier in the trip, plus a small party of Chestnut Teal. Our final target bird for our time in Brisbane was Mangrove Honeyeater so we made a quick stop at Nudgee where after a bit of effort everyone finally got reasonable views of a very flighty pair of these birds. On that note we had to leave Brisbane behind, heading to the airport for our flight to Sydney. We arrived in

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Sydney late in the afternoon then had a long drive in pouring rain over the Blue Mountains to Lithgow. It was very late when we finally arrived, but we were in position to go for a big day tomorrow.

Bird of the Day: **Spotted Quail-thrush**

*With a bit of effort we ended up getting good views of this shy Spotless Crake at a wetland in Brisbane.*

Day 11: Saturday, 11\textsuperscript{th} November 2013 – Capertee Valley to Forbes.

After our late arrival it was tough to get started this morning, and with a few storms rolling through last night it was with some trepidation we set out for open woodlands of the Capertee Valley. The weather wasn’t great with some light rain and heavy overcast skies, but unfortunately on this trip there are no spare weather days! Arriving in the valley the rain was holding off as we made a couple of short stops to pick up **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**, **Diamond Firetail** and **Common Wallaroo**. We arrived at Glenowlan Bridge where we had breakfast while keeping an eye on what was around. **Fairy Martins** were nesting under the bridge and a pair of **Restless Flycatchers** was found in the streamside vegetation. A surprising **Painted Honeyeater** was a good find, along with plenty of other honeyeaters including **Fuscous**, **White-plumed** and **Black-chinned Honeyeaters**.
Moving on we stopped for Zebra Finch and Pallid Cuckoo before having a look around Glen Davis where our best find was a pair of Crested Shrike-tits building a nest, plus an overflying Peregrine Falcon. A further search along Glen Davis Road found plenty of flowering ironbarks but none of the hoped for Regent Honeyeaters, although a Brown Treecreeper and pair of Musk Lorikeets were consolation prizes. We started on our way back to Lithgow having scored most of our target species, which given the weather was a pleasing result. We made one more stop for nice views of Eastern Rosella and Red-rumped Parrots, two species we had seen fleetingly earlier in the day. They would be our last new birds of the morning as we set off for Lithgow. After lunch in Lithgow, a quick trip to a very cold and windy lookout above the town didn’t produce any new birds, so we left for Forbes where we would be staying the night. The drive took several hours and we didn’t pick up anything new on the way, arriving in Forbes around 5pm where we had an early dinner before heading to bed after a big couple of days.

Bird of the Day: Diamond Firetail


Another storm came through overnight, which the weather forecast predicted would be the last, as the bad weather which had thwarted us for the last two days began to clear. It made for a pretty sporting drive along muddy roads to Back Yamma State Forest, our first birding location for the morning, but as we arrived the sun was rising, dew was glistening on the grass and the birds were calling. We had a cracking morning birding the mixed grassy woodlands that were formerly typical of the western slopes of south-eastern Australia, but have largely been cleared for agriculture. Our first bird was a vocal Rufous Songlark, followed shortly after by a very fine Red-capped Robin. We then picked up a Black-eared Cuckoo, a species usually expected further west, but one we were happy to take now. Moving along the edge of a clearing, in quick succession we found Yellow and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills, plus Speckled Warbler and Southern Whiteface, both tough birds. We also picked up better views of a couple of species we had seen yesterday, including a Common Bronzewing glistening in the sun, and a pair of confiding Hooded Robins. It had been a good morning but there was plenty of
birding to get through today so we returned to Forbes, scoring great views of a pair of Bluebonnets feeding by the roadside on the way.

Having packed up and checked out we made a quick stop at Gum Swamp just outside Forbes, one of the best sites for ducks in Australia. We soon picked up Freckled and Pink-eared Ducks, but after our luck in north-eastern Queensland they were already on our list. Hoary-headed Grebes were common, and after scanning the swamp we eventually found one distant Australian Shoveler among the White-eyed Ducks and Gray Teal. Unfortunately we couldn’t turn up any Blue-billed or Musk Ducks and with plenty of birding left in the day we had to push off for Lake Cargelligo. On the way we made a brief stop for lunch in Condobolin before arriving in Lake Cargelligo mid-afternoon and heading straight for the local sewage ponds.

The Lake Cargelligo/Nombinnie area is one of my favorite birding locations in Australia, and the sewage ponds are a great place to get your list off to a good start. Soon after getting out of the bus a few Zebra Finches zipping by caught our attention, and following them across the road lead us to a small party of fantastic Plum-headed Finches. They were quite shy, but after some persistence we all managed good views of this smart little finch. Likewise, while searching for a Brown Songlark which had popped up briefly, a small red bird came into view – a gorgeous Crimson Chat! Moving into the ponds, things were pumping with birds everywhere. We soon found both Australian and Baillon’s Crake, several Black-tailed Native-hens and a shy Little Grassbird. There were several Australian Shelducks resting on the bank, while one of the shallow ponds held several waders including Red-necked Avocet, Red-capped Plover and Pectoral Sandpiper, a fairly rare bird in Australia. It was a fantastic hour or so but the day wasn’t finished as we headed off for Nombinnie Nature Reserve and the mallee.

Mallee is an interesting habitat, unique to Australia and growing only on poor soils, giving the trees a strange stunted appearance. Because it is associated with dry, nutrient-poor and unpredictable conditions, the birding can also be unpredictable. If the mallee is flowering birds may be everywhere, but it can also be empty, making the birding difficult; as always there was an element of anxiety (on my behalf anyway!) as we headed for Nombinnie Nature Reserve for our first foray into this wonderful habitat. Arriving at our first stop things were ominously quiet, but there are few birds that will sharpen the senses as quickly as a male Splendid Fairywren. One of the prizes here and rightly so, these glistening blue jewels seem rather out of place in arid central Australia. That was the trigger for us to start finding a few more birds. A pair of shy Chestnut Quail-thrushes showed beautifully and we also found a nice Gray-fronted Honeyeater, one of the rarer honeyeaters out here. The haunting, ventriloquial call of a Crested Bellbird echoed across the trees, and we were happy to get ‘scope views of this shy bird. With dusk falling we had time for one more new bird, calling in an inquisitive Southern Scrub-Robin which rounded out our list for the day. We stayed behind to have dinner in the field under clear, starry skies, trying for Spotted
Nightjar after dark. Unfortunately we couldn’t spot one, only hearing a distant bird calling, but not being able to draw it any closer. Still, it had been a huge day and one of our most productive of the trip.

Bird of the Day: Splendid Fairywren

*It may not look like much of a view, but this qualifies as ‘incredible’ views of the very shy Chestnut Quail-thrush.*


With a few more birds still to find we were on our way back to Nombinnie before dawn, where it was quite crisp after the first night of clear skies for a few days. We stopped by a small waterhole, hoping it may draw in a few birds, although the cool morning seemed to be keeping things fairly quiet. Getting off the bus we soon noticed there were some Eremophila shrubs in flower, a good sign. We had breakfast while waiting for things to warm up, and soon enough the birds were up and about. The flowering shrubs brought in White-fronted and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, while a short wander produced another Painted Honeyeater, Western Gerygone and a fantastic Little Eagle on a nest. A bit of time watching the waterhole was productive with both Brown-headed and White-eared Honeyeaters coming to drink. A Black Honeyeater came into the flowering shrubs briefly, and a Pied
**Honeyeater** also swung by with everyone getting reasonable views of each. Both of these species are highly nomadic, around one year but absent the next.

Having scored fairly well we decided to move on, returning to where we had birded yesterday afternoon. We only had a couple of species to go, both tough skulkers that would need some effort. We had success with **Gilbert’s Whistler** first, eventually getting nice views of a male that sat up singing, having given us the run around. We were less successful with **Shy Heathwren**, the bird living up to its name and showing himself only briefly, but often enough for everyone to finally get a glimpse. Moving out of the mallee, we ducked over to Round Hill Nature Reserve and a patch of mixed *Callitris/Eucalypt* woodland, getting a shock after jumping out of the bus and spotting a huge **Mulga Snake** slithering away. Giving it a wide berth we wandered through the woodland, eventually finding our hoped for **Spotted Bowerbird** tending his bower. It is always surprising, and perhaps a little depressing that even here, far from the nearest human habitation, he still manages to find all manner of man-made trinkets to decorate his bower, including glass, plastic and bottle tops. I was very happy to find this guy, as our itinerary doesn’t give us long within the bird’s range. On that note we finished up, getting on our way to Hay where we would be meeting up with Phil Maher for one of the trip highlights, our Plains-wanderer search.

The drive down to Hay was fairly quiet, although we did score several parties of **Emu**, including one male with a couple of very cute stripy chicks in tow. After dropping our gear at the motel we had a short break before heading south to Wanganella where we met Phil for a few hours of afternoon birding. First port-of-call was a small patch of woodland where we scored better views of **Black Honeyeater** than we’d had this morning, followed by a visit to a patch of sandhill woodland that Phil has been regenerating. Phil had also dug out some sandpits hoping to create a breeding site for **White-backed Swallows**, and we were the beneficiaries of his hard work, scoring a pair of these graceful and striking black-and-white swallows. From there we moved out onto the plains where we spotted a gorgeous male **White-winged Fairywren** after some searching. While looking for the fairywren we also saw both **Red** and **Western Grey Kangaroos**, while Phil also found a **Black Falcon** sitting on the ground with some freshly-killed prey. Unfortunately it flushed, but this allowed good flight views of this huge endemic falcon. Moving on we picked up our last couple of new birds for the afternoon, with a dapper family of **Banded Lapwings** including a couple of tiny fluffy chicks. There was also a slender **Australian Pratincole** nearby along with another distant **Black Falcon**. This couple of very successful hours with Phil made for a nice appetizer, but left us hungry for the main course which would be coming after dark!

After a quick dinner we piled into a couple of four-wheel drives before heading out onto the plains for our search. The good news from Phil was that after a period of absence earlier in the year, the Plains-wanderers had returned and shown signs of breeding activity. After a tough few years, this was certainly welcome news. We headed for a paddock where the birds had been found a few nights earlier, and only had to search for a few minutes before
Phil had spotted not just one, but a pair of these stunning little birds. It was a male and female, who Phil thought were preparing to breed. The female was very confiding, allowing us to admire her finely scalloped plumage, chestnut breast and black-and-white collar. The male, who is smaller than the female and responsible for all incubation and raising of the chicks, was much shyer and moved away from the spotlight. Still, we were very happy with our find and it was no surprise Plains-wanderer would later be voted bird-of-the-trip. Leaving the wanderers we went to another paddock, flushing a few Australasian Bushlarks on the way, eventually getting one to sit still and give good views. We quickly picked up a small party of Inland Dotterels, another nomadic, dry-country specialist that has been quite reliable the last couple of years, before setting off to try and find some Stubble Quail. Unfortunately this usually common species was nowhere to be found, continuing our bad luck with quail on this trip. Still, we’d had a fantastic night thanks to Phil’s efforts, so it was a happy bunch of birders that headed for home and flopped into bed well after midnight.

Bird of the Day: Plains-wanderer

Inland Dotterel, another highlight from our fantastic spotlighting expedition with Phil Maher on the open plains around Wanganella.
Day 14: Tuesday, 14th November 2013 – Hay to Leeton.

After a late night plains wandering we enjoyed the chance to sleep in, getting together at 8:00am and walking down to a small cafe to grab a well-deserved sit-down breakfast. We didn’t have any concrete plans for the morning, with our next birding scheduled for the afternoon, so we hatched a plan to go on a bit of a mad twitch for Chestnut-crowned Babbler. A bird right on the edge of its range here, it involved a fair drive to the nearest reliable site, but unfortunately the site wasn’t that reliable! Still, we did find a few good birds, including more Black Honeyeaters, our first Singing Honeyeater and a roadside Black Falcon. Returning to Hay we had a break for lunch before getting on our way to Leeton via Binya State Forest.

The drive from Hay to Griffith follows the Murrumbidgee River, lined with River Red Gums, and a very reliable site for the beautiful Superb Parrot, one of my personal favorites. We did briefly pick up a couple in flight, but it wasn’t until we arrived at Darlington Point that we found a couple of perched birds, getting great views of two stunning males feeding in a roadside tree. As we drove through town we kept our eyes out for corellas, finding several large groups of Little Corellas sitting quietly in the large eucalypts, resting during the heat of the day. Searching these flocks closely, we finally spotted a small party of the rarer Long-billed Corella in their midst. We also picked up a couple of scruffy ‘Yellow’ Rosellas, a subspecies of Crimson Rosella that is restricted to large rivers like the Murrumbidgee and Murray in southern New South Wales and northern Victoria. From Darlington Point we pushed through Griffith to Binya State Forest where we spent a couple of quiet hours watching a waterhole to see what was coming in. There wasn’t a large volume of activity but it was fairly constant with a trickle of birds coming through. Many of the species were typical of the mixed open woodlands we had already birded in Back Yamma State Forest, but being further west there were a few different species around. Soon after arriving we spotted a Diamond Firetail coming to drink, while Striped and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters also showed. A pair of Mulga Parrots came through quickly, and a Jacky-winter hawked from some nearby trees along with White-browed Woodswallows and White-winged Trillers. Just as we were about to pack up and head off, a faint, high-pitched tinkling caught our attention. Searching the surrounding trees frantically, we finally spotted a gorgeous male Turquoise Parrot who eventually fluttered down to the water’s edge.

We found a few of these Long-billed Corellas among the flocks of more common Little Corellas.
edge. The neon blue face of this small parrot has to be seen to be appreciated, and coupled with the green, yellow and red plumage must make it one of Australia’s most beautiful birds. It was a great way to end the day, so we headed for Leeton where we enjoyed a well-earned beer before dinner and bed.

Bird of the Day: **Turquoise Parrot**

**Day 15: Wednesday, 15th November 2013 – Leeton to Robertson.**

Today was primarily a travel day, but we took the opportunity to stretch our legs for a while before the long drive back to the coast. A quick lap around Fivebough Swamp at Leeton was unproductive with the swamp almost completely dry. We headed back to Binya where we had breakfast then wandered around near the dam for a while, scoring better views of **Mulga Parrot** and also a couple of **Mallee Ringnecks**, another beautiful inland parrot. Tracking down the plaintive ‘peee-peee-peee’ of a **Horsfield’s Bronze-Cuckoo** produced our only new bird for the day, otherwise we just found species already on our list. Still, when those birds include **Splendid Fairywren** and **Red-capped Robin** it is difficult to complain. Leaving Binya we got on the road to Robertson, arriving there late in the afternoon after a long drive with no new birds.

*Red-capped Robins are fairly common in inland Australia, but still a bird I always stop to look at.*
Unfortunately, as we made our way east the weather had steadily worsened, and by the time we arrived at Robertson the sky was overcast, it was windy, and rain was threatening. Still, we checked in then headed out to Barren Grounds to see what we could find in the bad weather. The primary habitat at Barren Grounds is dense low heath, a vegetation type which grows on poor soils in coastal and near-coastal southern Australia. With few trees, windy conditions make it tough birding, but still we pressed on. Ultimately we weren’t very successful, hearing Southern Emuwren and Eastern Bristlebird, with only a few people getting glimpses of the bristlebird. We did find a few New Holland Honeyeaters but not much else out on the heath. We had a bit more luck in the forest around the picnic area, scoring nice views of a trio of Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos before heading down off the mountain to have dinner at Jamberoo. We returned to Barren Grounds on dusk hoping to hear Ground Parrots, although the windy conditions would make this difficult. After a bit of a wait we eventually heard the distinctive ascending whistle of several parrots, although none were close enough to the trail to track down. Cold and wet we decided to call it quits there for the night.

Bird of the Day: Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo


The weather hadn’t improved overnight, so in rain, fog and wind we returned to Barren Grounds for a tough morning of birding. Things kicked off with a very shy Eastern Bristlebird which we followed for an age before we all eventually had acceptable views of this skulker. We also had a couple of close calls with Southern Emuwren without actually seeing one. Wandering down through the woodland along the reserve’s entrance road things were fairly quiet, although a stroll around the ranger’s house produced glimpses of a Superb Lyrebird running across the road. After a short wait we saw it come back again, foraging briefly on the side of the road and allowing everyone to get a reasonable view. While wandering the trails around the ranger’s house the musical song of an Olive-tailed Thrush caught our attention, although it took several minutes for one of us to finally spot it singing through the dense undergrowth. Then the challenge was to get everyone onto it! There was plenty of ‘take a quarter step right, look left of the sloping stick, below the bushy clump, but just above the horizontal branch’ before we all got good views as he sat and sang away. We had similar difficulty trying to see a vocal Pilotbird that came through the undergrowth, but with persistence we all saw it well.

We decided to leave Barren Grounds, and while walking back up the entrance road a couple of us saw a Gang-gang Cockatoo flushed from the roadside, while everyone got good views of a gorgeous Beautiful Firetail moving about in the mid-storey. We headed to another area of heath a little way up the road, spotting the Superb Lyrebird by the road again on the way up, with everyone getting good views as we pulled alongside in the bus. At the next site we
quickly found a beautiful male **Scarlet Robin**, before finally tracking down a cute but shy female **Southern Emuwren**, which everyone eventually had good views of. With some squally weather coming through we couldn’t hang around for too long, although it was long enough to find our first **Fan-tailed Cuckoo** for the trip. That was the last bird of a long morning, but although the weather had been less than ideal we had found most of the birds we were after.

**Scarlet Robin is another of the ‘red’ robins found in Australia including Flame, Red-capped, Pink and Rose. Actually small flycatchers, we saw all five species on the trip.**

Leaving Barren Grounds we headed down off the escarpment and on to the coast where after a quick stop for fish and chips we made our way out to Bass Point for some sea-watching. After arriving we had a short wait for a squall to pass before heading out to the point and setting up the ‘scope. As with most sea-watching, the bad weather was in our favor, with the windy conditions blowing the birds close to the coast. We were able to get good views of both **Wedge-tailed** and **Short-tailed Shearwaters** close to the shore, while a few parties of **Fluttering Shearwaters** passed by further out. We also spotted a few distant **Australasian Gannets** and a pair of **Sooty Oystercatchers** passing by. With more squalls coming through we were forced back to the bus, getting on our way to Sydney where we would be spending our last night in New South Wales.

We arrived in Sydney with a bit of time to spare, but only a few birds to find. Unfortunately the weather had worsened, and our target species found us bearing the brunt of this bad
weather on another exposed headland, searching for birds in driving wind and occasional rain. In spite of the conditions we still managed to find **Tawny-crowned Honeyeater**, but had no luck with anything else. Another squall saw us running back to the bus, calling it quits for the afternoon and hoping the weather would improve for tomorrow. Still, our birding wasn’t finished; surprisingly we hadn’t managed to actually see an owlet-nightjar yet, so when the radar showed a possible gap in the weather after dinner, a few of us headed to Royal National Park to see what we could find. At first it seemed like we might strike out, but with the weather holding we persisted and it paid off; a very cute little **Australian Owlet-Nightjar** came in and sat quietly by the trail, giving us all excellent views. To top things off we continued the cute theme, finding a pair of **Sugar Gliders**, a tiny flying possum foraging low beside the trail on our way back to the bus.

**Bird of the Day:** **Australian Owlet-Nightjar**

*In spite of the terrible weather, we still managed to find Tawny-crowned Honeyeater on the exposed headlands of Royal National Park near Sydney.*

**Day 17: Friday, 17th November 2013 – Sydney to Hobart.**

Our last morning in New South Wales didn’t see an improvement in the weather as we headed back to Royal National Park in strong winds and occasional rain. On our way to Wattamolla we did spot a **Brush Bronzewing** by the road, but searching the headland didn’t find any new birds, with most keeping their heads down out of the wind. We moved on to
Lady Carrington Drive which was a little more protected, and where we spent a couple of hours searching for Rockwarbler. We did see plenty of birds, but unfortunately the bird tour law of diminishing returns meant nothing was new for our list. Still, it was good to catch up with a few favorites including Australian King-Parrot, Sacred Kingfisher and Gray Fantail, but unfortunately no Rockwarbler. Leaving Royal National Park we still had time for one more stop before our flight to Hobart, so we headed for the botanic gardens in Sydney’s CBD. For a while there has been a semi-reliable stakeout for Powerful Owl here, and sure enough the bird was in residence today, staring back at us with its piercing yellow eyes. These owls are quite well adapted to urban environments, which also support one of their main prey items, ringtail possums and flying-foxes. It was a great way to end our time in New South Wales before we finished up the tour in Tasmania.

We spent the afternoon flying to Tasmania, arriving in Hobart late in the afternoon. Fortunately we hadn’t brought the wind and rain with us, but Hobart is known for its wildly variable weather, so we took the chance to do a bit of spotlighting after dinner while the weather was OK. Tasmania is a fantastic place to see many of Australia’s native mammals, primarily because foxes have never gained a foothold in the island state, meaning many of the small terrestrial mammals have held on. We had a successful evening, first scoring the smaller Tasmanian race of Red-necked Wallaby and the endemic Rufous-bellied Pademelon, a type of small chunky kangaroo. We found several Common Brushtail Possums including a couple of mothers piggy-backing their young ones, and an Eastern Barred Bandicoot was also a nice find. It was a good way to finish the night, before heading home to recharge our batteries in preparation for our final couple of days.

Bird of the Day: Powerful Owl

Powerful Owl is the largest Australian owl and quite adapted to urban environments. We found this one right near the CBD of Sydney, Australia’s largest city.
Day 18: Saturday, 18th November 2013 – Bruny Island.

With no time to spare we were up early and on our way to Peter Murrell Reserve south of Hobart, where we would be kicking off the Tasmanian leg of the trip. We were relieved to find the weather cooperating, and fortunately so were the birds. In no time we had picked **Green Rosella**, our first Tasmanian endemic, while large numbers of **New Holland Honeyeaters** flitted around. We found **Tasmanian Native-hen** around the small pond near the reserve entrance, and in the taller eucalypt woodlands, **Yellow-throated Honeyeater**. Our main target for the morning was **Forty-spotted Pardalote**, and luckily we found a pair building a nest, that gave great views. This tiny bird is one of Australia’s rarest and has an extremely restricted distribution in south-eastern Tasmania, so I was happy to get it in the bag. Wandering a bit further also produced **Black-headed Honeyeater**, **Yellow Wattlebird** and **Little Wattlebird**.

After a good start we loaded up the bus again, having to head south to Kettering for the ferry across to Bruny Island. Bruny Island is a fantastic birding destination, with a mix of habitats not far from Hobart, and where it is possible to get all of the Tasmanian endemics plus a host of other species. Arriving on the island we headed south making our first stop in farmland near Great Bay. Our target here was **Blue-winged Parrot** which soon popped up, and we had good views of one of these smart little parrots sitting on the roadside power lines. While watching the parrot we heard the distinctive call of a **Brown Quail** from nearby grassland which we were luckily able to track down. We only had brief views as it flushed, but it was good to finally get a quail of any species onto our list. Moving on to The Neck, a sandy isthmus that joins north and south Bruny Island, a short stop produced **Tasmanian Scrubwren** and **Pacific Gull**, before we continued south towards Adventure Bay. A quick stop to look for **Hooded Plover** was fortuitous; not only did we spot a plover down on the beach, but a **Swift Parrot** flew by briefly before sitting up in good view allowing us to get the ‘scope onto it. These parrots are blossom nomads that migrate to Tasmania to breed, turning up in varying numbers across the state each summer, wherever their favored eucalypts are in flower. The unpredictability of this flowering can make them difficult to track down, so I was very happy to find them so soon. Continuing into Adventure Bay we searched the local gardens quickly for **European Greenfinch** which we eventually found, also picking up a gorgeous male **Flame Robin** in the process. We then moved on to Mavista

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*Green Rosella is one of 12 species that are endemic to Tasmania.*
where a frustrating hour or so searching the dense scrubby creekline produced fleeting glimpses of a Scrubtit and no Pink Robin, although we did pick up Tasmanian Thornbill for our efforts.

*Swift Parrot is a blossom nomad, turning up wherever its favoured eucalypts are flowering. You can see one of the blossoms in the top right of the photo.*

We had a break for lunch before crossing over south Bruny Island via Coolangatta Road, picking up some good birds in the tall forests. We had good views of Crescent Honeyeater and Olive Whistler, two birds which occur on the mainland, but are easier here in Tasmania. We also scored a young male Pink Robin, unfortunately not the hoped for adult male, but a Pink Robin nonetheless. At this same stop we also picked up both Black Currawong and Strong-billed Honeyeater. From Coolangatta Road we continued south to Cape Bruny, and the lighthouse that stands on the south-western tip of the island. We soon picked up Dusky Robin foraging on the lawns of the old caretaker buildings, but surprisingly the birds are not the main reason to visit Cape Bruny. The main attraction here is the view, and with beautiful weather we were able to enjoy the stunning vistas of the Southern Ocean and south Bruny Island’s rugged rocky coast. After getting our fill of scenery we returned to the north end of the island and squeezed onto the return ferry after a very successful day.
The fence surrounding the old lighthouse keepers house at Cape Bruny is a very reliable spot for Dusky Robin, another Tasmanian endemic.

Back in Hobart we decided to make use of the fine weather taking a trip up Mount Wellington, the towering rocky sentinel that watches over Hobart. The view from the top of the mountain is among the best in Australia and we were lucky to enjoy it on such a fine day. It was the best weather I’d ever experienced on top of the mountain and a great way to spend the late afternoon. After dinner we took the opportunity for another nocturnal foray to a reserve near our accommodation. We didn’t find any new mammals, but after a bit of effort we did find a Southern Boobook, a subspecies which some authors split from the mainland birds as a separate species. So ended our penultimate day of the tour, as we returned to our motel to rest up for our final onslaught.

Bird of the Day: Swift Parrot


Our final day of the trip started with a trip to Truganini Reserve just south of Hobart where we were hoping to score Satin Flycatcher. After a quick breakfast we tramped off up the trail which followed a thickly vegetated gully, but were not having much success before finally hearing the distinctive buzzing call of a flycatcher. The birds did not give themselves up easily, but after a bit of back-and-forth and the onset of some ‘warbler-neck’ we all managed to see both the male and female Satin Flycatchers moving about in the canopy.
From Truganini we took a trip up to the foothills of Mount Wellington where we were hoping for Scrubtit. After a short search we found one, but it was not very cooperative and it was some time before we had all seen it well. Although we had seen it on Bruny, most people had missed it, so this sighting was the final Tasmanian endemic for most of us. A quick trip further up the mountain didn’t produce the hoped for Striated Fieldwren, while a brief stop at Ferntree gave us our best views of Gray Currawong for the trip.

We set off from Hobart heading north towards Eaglehawk Neck, making a short stop near Sorell where we picked up Musk Duck and Great-crested Grebe on the bay, two birds that had eluded us on the mainland. The Musk Duck nearly completed our ‘set’ of ducks, but unfortunately we had missed Blue-billed Duck on the mainland. With a couple of hours to spare we decided to follow a lead and check out a reported sighting on a lake at Oatlands, a little out of our way, but worth the drive. We arrived in time for lunch, then trooped down to Lake Dulverton where we scanned a wetland full of Eurasian Coots and other common waterbirds. I made the mistake of searching the far side, when one of us spotted a male Blue-billed Duck sitting right in front of us! With our list of ducks complete we headed for Orford, where rain cruelled our chances of finding the Fairy Terns which sometimes breed here. We continued on to Marion Bay scoring Sky Lark and Swamp Harrier on the way and White-fronted Chat when we arrived. There were plenty of other birds around including quite a few Pied Oystercatchers, Black Swans and Chestnut Teal but unfortunately nothing new.

Our final stop for the afternoon was at Eaglehawk Neck where we set up for a sea-watch from the rugged headland at the Blowhole. The wind wasn’t really in our favor but we still managed to spot a few White-capped Albatrosses, including a couple of birds that came quite close, giving good ‘scope views. We also had great views of Australasian Gannet, Black-faced Cormorant and a couple of Pacific Gulls. With daylight running out we made a quick dash to find Cape Barren Goose, which luckily was right where I hoped it would be, then we headed to Pirate’s Bay for our final dinner. After a quick pizza dinner, and with the sun nearly set, we took our position on a quiet beach to wait for our final bird of the trip. It was very nearly dark when we spotted the first movement at the water’s edge. Sure

Only the male Musk Duck has the strange pouch under the bill, which he inflates during his courtship display.
enough, a lone Little Penguin came waddling out of the surf and hurried up the beach within only a few meters of us sitting there. A few minutes later another group of about 15 birds joined him, scuttling up the beach as we watched on. These charismatic little birds were a great way to end the trip, one that had taken us from the north right through to the southern tip of Australia’s east coast. It had been a long, tiring but ultimately successful few weeks, and the penguin was a great way to complete a fantastic list of very special birds.

Bird of the Day: Little Penguin

BIRD LIST

This list includes all the bird species that were recorded by at least one member of the group. Taxonomy and nomenclature closely follow the latest Clements updates. Parentheses denote an alternate name used by some checklists.

Total: 439 species, including two heard only (H).

CASSOWARIES: Casuariidae

1. Southern Cassowary Casuarius casuarius

Very nearly dip-of-the-trip after Cassowary House didn’t deliver the goods, we caught up with one of these fantastic birds in the forest at our last chance saloon, Etty Bay, south of Cairns.
EMU: Dromaiidae

2. Emu \( Dromaius \) novaehollandiae
This iconic bird was seen several times on the plains of central New South Wales, including a male with a very cute stripey chick near Hay.

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

3. Magpie Goose \( Anseranas \) semipalmata
Common on wetlands in north-eastern Queensland.

4. Plumed Whistling-Duck \( Dendrocygna \) eytoni
Seen at several wetlands on the Atherton Tableland, with largest numbers at Hasties Swamp.

5. Wandering Whistling-Duck \( Dendrocygna \) arcuata
Small numbers popped up occasionally in north-eastern Queensland including Hasties Swamp, with singles also seen at Minnippi Parklands in Brisbane, and surprisingly, Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds in New South Wales.

6. Cape Barren Goose \( Cereopsis \) novaehollandiae
A pair of these unique geese was found in a paddock near Eaglehawk Neck in Tasmania.

7. Freckled Duck \( Stictonetta \) naevosa
Normally a rare species that guides sweat on, we found them at two wetlands this year, first at Hasties Swamp on the Atherton Tableland, and also at the traditional site, Gum Swamp near Forbes.

8. Black Swan \( Cygnus \) atratus
This common bird was seen on many wetlands throughout the trip.

9. Australian Shelduck \( Tadorna \) tadornoides
Seen a couple of times, with a pair at Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds and a single near Oatlands in Tasmania.

10. Radjah Shelduck \( Tadorna \) radjah
After nearly missing it last year, this bird was quite common this year, with large numbers at Centenary Lakes in Cairns, and a few at the fish farm near Wonga Beach south of Daintree Village.

11. Green Pygmy-goose \( Nettapus \) pulchellus
Common on wetlands around Cairns and the Atherton Tableland.

12. Cotton Pygmy-goose \( Nettapus \) coromandelianus
Usually a bird of lagoons and lakes, we first saw this bird, surprisingly, during our Daintree River cruise. Also seen again at Dowse Lagoon in Brisbane.
13. **Maned Duck** *Chenonetta jubata*
A common bird, particularly in south-eastern Australia.

14. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
This introduced species was seen a couple of times in Tasmania, first at Adventure Bay on Bruny Island, and also at Lake Dulverton near Oatlands.

15. **Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa*
Perhaps the most common waterfowl in Australia, seen on most days of the trip.

16. **Australian Shoveler** *Anas rhynchotis*
This bird was scarce again this year, with only a single female found at Gum Swamp.

17. **Gray Teal** *Anas gracilis*
Another common bird, seen at many wetlands throughout the trip.

18. **Chestnut Teal** *Anas castanea*
We came across this bird several times, with some gorgeous drakes at Dowse Lagoon in Brisbane, a few at Lake Cargelligo, and several at Marion Bay in Tasmania.

19. **Pink-eared Duck** *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*
An unusual species, we found this duck at several wetlands, first at Hasties Swamp near Atherton in north-eastern Queensland, and several times central New South Wales including large numbers at Gum Swamp.

20. **White-eyed Duck** *Aythya australis*
A common species, seen at many wetlands throughout Queensland and New South Wales.

21. **Blue-billed Duck** *Oxyura australis*
After missing it on the mainland, this scarce species was seen on the last day of the trip at Lake Dulverton near Oatlands in Tasmania.

22. **Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*
Several seen on the last day of the trip, on the bay near Sorell.

**MEGAPODES: Megapodiidae**

23. **Australian Brush-Turkey** *Alectura lathami*
A common species seen most days of the trip in Queensland.

24. **Orange-footed Scrubfowl** *Megapodius reinwardt*
Fairly common in north-eastern Queensland, we saw this species several times, with our best views at Centenary Lakes in Cairns.
PHEASANTS, GROUSE AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

25. **Brown Quail** *Coturnix ypsilophora*
We didn’t have much luck with quail this year, only seeing a single of this species on Bruny Island in Tasmania.

GREBES: Podicipedidae

26. **Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*
A common bird on wetlands throughout the trip.

27. **Hoary-headed Grebe** *Poliocephalus poliocephalus*
This species was only seen a couple of times, with several birds on Gum Swamp and a few more in the bay at Sorell in Tasmania.

28. **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*
There were quite a few birds on the bay at Sorell, just north of Hobart in Tasmania.

PENGUINS: Spheniscidae

29. **Little (Fairy) Penguin** *Eudyptula minor*
The final bird of the trip. After waiting patiently on the beach until just after dusk, we were rewarded when a single bird followed by a party of about 15 penguins emerged from the surf and waddled up the beach to their burrows.

ALBATROSSES: Diomedeidae

30. **White-capped (Shy) Albatross** *Thalassarche cauta*
We had good views of a couple of these graceful seabirds during our sea-watch at Eaglehawk Neck.

SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS: Procellariidae

31. **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** *Puffinus pacificus*
We had good views of this species from Bass Point in New South Wales, as the inclement weather brought them close to the shore.

32. **Short-tailed Shearwater** *Puffinus tenuirostris*
As with the previous species, we had great views of quite a few from Bass Point, very close to the shore. We also spotted a few distant birds during our sea-watch from Eaglehawk Neck.
33. **Fluttering Shearwater** *Puffinus gavial*
With their distinctive flight pattern, we spotted a few of these during our sea-watch at Bass Point.

**STORKS: Ciconiidae**

34. **Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*
After missing it last year, we saw this bird a few times, firstly at the fish farm near Wonga Beach, again at a small dam near Mount Carbine, and again in a roadside swamp south of Cairns.

**FRIGATEBIRDS: Fregatidae**

35. **Great Frigatebird** *Fregata minor*
Usually a common species at Michaelmas Cay, this year we only spotted one during our trip to the reef.

**BOOBIES AND GANNETS: Sulidae**

36. **Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*
Several seen at Michaelmas Cay.

37. **Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula*
Not a bird we see every year, we were lucky to see one briefly at Michaelmas Cay.

38. **Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator*
After spotting a few distant birds from Bass Point, we had better views from The Neck on Bruny Island and also Eaglehawk Neck.

**CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: Phalacrocoracidae**

39. **Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*
A common species found at many wetlands throughout the trip.

40. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Not seen as often as in previous years, we saw it at several wetlands in New South Wales.

41. **Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax varius*
Although widespread in Australia, this is the most difficult cormorant to see on this itinerary. We did see several during our sea-watch at Bass Point.

42. **Black-faced Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax fuscescens*
A common coastal species in Tasmania that we saw several times.
43. **Little Pied Cormorant**  *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*
Very common, with a few birds at most wetlands we stopped at.

**ANHINGAS: Anhingidae**

44. **Australasian Darter**  *Anhinga novaehollandiae*
Particularly common in northern Queensland, we also saw this bird at a few wetlands around Brisbane and in New South Wales.

**PELICANS: Pelecanidae**

45. **Australian Pelican**  *Pelecanus conspicillatus*
Always a popular species, we saw this bird at most large wetlands visited during the trip.

**HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS: Ardeidae**

46. **Pacific Heron**  *Ardea pacifica*
Common on wetlands in south-eastern Australia as usual, this year we also saw them at several wetlands in north-eastern Queensland.

47. **Great-billed Heron**  *Ardea sumatrana*
Usually quite a difficult species, we had great luck on our Daintree cruise with Murray Hunt, seeing two birds with a nest, plus two other birds on the river.

48. **Great Egret**  *Ardea alba*
Very common at wetlands in northern Queensland, and also seen a few times in New South Wales and a couple of times in Tasmania.

49. **Intermediate Egret**  *Egretta intermedia*
Also common in northern Queensland where it was found at most wetlands.

50. **White-faced Heron**  *Egretta novaehollandiae*
Widespread, and particularly common in New South Wales and Tasmania where they were seen in large numbers.

51. **Little Egret**  *Egretta garzetta*
We spotted this egret at a couple of wetlands around Cairns including Centenary Lakes, and also once in Brisbane.

52. **Pacific Reef-Heron**  *Egretta sacra*
Seen only once during the trip, at Rocky Point south of Daintree while looking for Beach Thick-knee.
53. **Cattle Egret**  *Bubulcus ibis*
Common in north Queensland.

54. **Striated Heron**  *Butorides striata*
A couple of these little herons were seen on the Daintree River cruise, with another at Centenary Lakes.

55. **Rufous Night-Heron**  *Nycticorax caledonicus*
A striking adult was seen very well during our Daintree River cruise.

**IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae**

56. **Glossy Ibis**  *Plegadis falcinellus*
Seen on a few occasions, including Lake Mitchell and Hasties Swamp in north Queensland, and Dowse Lagoon in Brisbane.

57. **Australian Ibis**  *Threskiornis molucca*
A common bird seen throughout the trip.

58. **Straw-necked Ibis**  *Threskiornis spinicollis*
A common bird, particularly in rural areas throughout the trip.

59. **Royal Spoonbill**  *Platalea regia*
Seen at many wetlands throughout Queensland and New South Wales.

60. **Yellow-billed Spoonbill**  *Platalea flavipes*
Sometimes a difficult bird to find, we saw it on several occasions this year, with birds at Hasties Swamp near Atherton and Gum Swamp near Forbes.

**OSPREY: Pandionidae**

61. **Osprey**  *Pandion haliaetus*
Already split by the IOC, the Australian birds are a potential split as Eastern Osprey by Clements. It was seen on a few occasions in north Queensland, with best views at the fish farm near Wonga Beach.

**HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES: Accipitridae**

62. **Square-tailed Kite**  *Lophoictinia isura*
We had excellent views of this rare raptor near Brisbane, including a nearly-fledged youngster on a nest.

63. **Australian Kite**  *Elanus axillaris*
A common raptor in rural areas throughout the trip.
64. **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*
Quite common on the Atherton Tableland this year, with quite a few birds also seen in inland New South Wales.

65. **Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*
A fairly common raptor throughout the trip, particularly around large wetlands such as Lake Mitchell.

66. **Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*
Only seen once on this trip, with a bird sitting in a dead tree by the Daintree River during our cruise.

67. **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
Seen at several sites during the trip, including Mount Molloy, the cliffs at Wattamolla south of Sydney and also in Tasmania.

68. **Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans*
We nearly missed this species, finally spotting a distant bird over farmland in Tasmania.

69. **Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis*
After seeing them most days in inland New South Wales last year, this year we only saw one bird near Hasties Swamp in Queensland.

70. **Gray Goshawk** *Accipiter novaehollandiae*
Another species much less common than last year, we only had brief views of a single bird on Mount Lewis.

71. **Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*
Our best views were of a pair at a nest in dry woodland north of Mount Carbine in north-eastern Queensland.

72. **Wedge-tailed Eagle** *Aquila audax*
This immense eagle was first seen soaring overhead north of Mount Carbine, and also a few times during our travels in New South Wales.

73. **Little Eagle** *Aquila morphnoides*
Our best views of this species were at a nest we found in Nombinnie Nature Reserve in New South Wales.

**RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS: Rallidae**

74. **Red-necked Crake** *Rallina tricolor*
Heard during dinner in Kuranda, we all eventually had good views of a pair in the garden at Cassowary House the next morning.
75. **Buff-banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis*
   Two birds were seen at the edge of a pond at Tarzali Lakes after our search for Platypus.

76. **Rufous-tailed Bush-hen** *Amaurornis moluccana*
   Thanks to a tip off from Andrew and Trish at Red Mill House, with a bit of effort we all got reasonable views of this secretive species at a small pond near Daintree.

77. **Baillon’s Crake** *Porzana pusilla*
   We only saw this species at one site, with a couple of birds seen well at the Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.

78. **Australian Crake** *Porzana fluminea*
   We spotted a couple of these shy crakes at the Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.

79. **Spotless Crake** *Porzana tabuensis*
   We had good views of this smart little crake at Minnippi Parklands in Brisbane.

80. **White-browed Crake** *Porzana cinerea*
   Cattana Wetlands near Cairns is a very reliable spot for this species, although this year we only saw one bird sitting quietly at the water’s edge.

81. **Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*
   A common species on wetlands throughout the trip.

82. **Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa*
   Not as common this year as last, seen at only a handful of wetlands in Brisbane and also throughout New South Wales.

83. **Black-tailed Native-hen** *Tribonyx ventralis*
   Our best views were of several birds at Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.

84. **Tasmanian Native-hen** *Tribonyx mortierii*
   A common species in Tasmania, often seen in roadside fields and on small wetlands.

85. **Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*
   Common on wetlands throughout the trip, particularly in New South Wales.

**BUSTARDS: Otididae**

86. **Australian Bustard** *Ardeotis australis*
   We had good views of a couple of birds in the dry savannas around Mount Carbine.
CRANES: Gruidae

87. **Sarus Crane** *Grus antigone*
    Seen several times on the Atherton Tableland, foraging in ploughed fields.

88. **Brolga** *Grus rubicund*
    Only seen a couple of times in north-eastern Queensland, with our best views at Lake Mitchell on the Atherton Tableland.

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae

89. **Bush Thick-knee** *Burhinus grallarius*
    We found a few pairs around Cairns and also Kuranda, including nice views of a couple of birds at Centenary Lakes.

90. **Beach Thick-knee** *Burhinus magnirostris*
    After our first unsuccessful search at Wonga Beach, we had better luck the second time around spotting a single bird sitting quietly at the back of the beach.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae

91. **Pied Stilt** *Himantopus leucocephalus*
    A common bird found on several wetlands throughout the trip.

92. **Red-necked Avocet** *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*
    Only seen once this year, with a handful of birds found at the Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae

93. **Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus longirostris*
    First seen at Cairns Esplanade, this species was common on the coasts of Tasmania.

94. **Sooty Oystercatcher** *Haematopus fuliginosus*
    A couple of birds were seen at Bass Point, and it was common in Tasmania.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

95. **Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*
    Not a species we usually find on this tour, we spotted a single ragged-looking bird on the mudflats at Cairns Esplanade.

96. **Pacific Golden-Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*
    A single bird seen at Lake Mitchell on the Atherton Tableland.
97. **Banded Lapwing** *Vanellus tricolor*
We spotted a couple of distant birds on the way from Lake Cargelligo to Nombinnie NR, but had great views of several birds including a couple of fluffy chicks on the plains near Wanganella during our afternoon with Phil Maher.

98. **Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*
A common species seen on most days of the trip.

99. **Lesser Sand-Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*
A couple of birds were seen on the mudflats at Cairns Esplanade.

100. **Greater Sand-Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultia*
Fairly common on the mudflats at Cairns Esplanade.

101. **Red-capped Plover** *Charadrius ruficapillus*
Several birds seen on the muddy edges at Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds, with more birds seen in Tasmania at Orford and Marion Bay.

102. **Red-kneed Dotterel** *Erythrogonys cinctus*
A couple of birds were seen at Hasties Swamp on the Atherton Tableland, with a few more at Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.

103. **Hooded Plover** *Thinornis cucullatus*
Seen a couple of times in Tasmania, we found a single bird on the beach at Adventure Bay on Bruny Island, with a couple more also seen at Orford.

104. **Black-fronted Dotterel** *Elseyonis melanops*
This petite little plover is fairly common and was seen on several wetlands throughout the trip.

105. **Inland Dotterel** *Peltohyas australis*
We found a small party of three birds while spotlighting on the Hay plains with Phil Maher.

**PLAINS-WANDERER: Pedionomidae**

106. **Plains-wanderer** *Pedionomus torquatus*
Always a trip highlight, we found a pair of these enigmatic little birds while spotlighting on the Hay plains with Phil Maher. The beautiful female allowed extended and very close views.

**JACANAS: Jacanidae**

107. **Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacean*
Seen at Cattana Wetlands and Lake Mitchell in north Queensland, and also at Minnippi Parklands in Brisbane.
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

108. **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*
There were a few of these dinky little waders on the mudflats in Cairns.

109. **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*
A few birds seen at the fish farm near Wonga Beach in north Queensland.

110. **Gray-tailed Tattler** *Tringa brevipes*
A few present on the mudflats at Cairns, with another seen at Wonga Beach while searching for Beach Thick-knee.

111. **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
A couple of birds seen on the mudflats in Cairns.

112. **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*
Seen on a couple of occasions on small wetlands in north Queensland and also at Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds and Fivebough Swamp.

113. **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*
A few on the mudflats in Cairns.

114. **Far Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*
A few on the mudflats in Cairns.

115. **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*
A few were picked out among the Bar-tailed Godwits on the Cairns Esplanade.

116. **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*
Common on the mudflats at Cairns.

117. **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
As usual there were a few birds on Michaelmas Cay.

118. **Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*
A common wader on the mudflats in Cairns.

119. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Calidris falcinellus*
A rare wader in Australia, a trio of these sandpipers were found at Cairns Esplanade.

120. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminate*
The most common wader on the mudflats in Cairns, and also seen at a few other small wetlands including Hasties Swamp and Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.

121. **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*
A handful of birds seen on the Cairns Esplanade, plus a couple of birds at Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.
122. **Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*
A few on the mudflats in Cairns, and also seen at Marion Bay in Tasmania.

123. **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*
One bird was found at Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.

124. **Latham’s Snipe** *Gallinago hardwickii*
Seen on a few wetlands in north Queensland including Hasties Swamp. Also seen at Dowse Lagoon in Brisbane.

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**PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: Glareolidae**

125. **Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*
We found a few birds on the plains near Wanganella, while birding with Phil Maher.

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**GULLS, TERNs AND SKIMMERS: Laridae**

126. **Silver Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae*
A common bird on the coast, large wetlands and urban areas throughout Australia.

127. **Pacific Gull** *Larus pacificus*
This endemic gull was fairly common around Eaglehawk Neck in Tasmania.

128. **Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus*
A common species around the coasts of Tasmania.

129. **Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus*
We enjoyed the amazing sight of probably thousands of nesting Brown Noddies on Michaelmas Cay.

130. **Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscatus*
Along with Brown Noddy, the most common bird on Michaelmas Cay.

131. **Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus*
After a bit of effort we were able to pick out a couple of Bridled Terns after sifting through all the Sooty Terns on Michaelmas Cay.

132. **Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*
A few birds were seen roosting on boats as we arrived at Hastings Reef on our Great Barrier Reef trip.

133. **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Seen on a few occasions in north Queensland including Cairns Esplanade, and the fish farm near Wonga Beach.
134. **Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*
Only seen once on this trip, along a canal north of Cairns.

135. **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrid*
Large numbers were seen at Dowse Lagoon in Brisbane, with a few birds seen at Lake Cargelligo and also Lake Mitchell.

136. **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*
A few birds seen at Michaelmas Cay.

137. **Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana*
We found small numbers of this beautiful tern on Michaelmas Cay.

138. **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*
A couple of birds were seen on Michaelmas Cay.

139. **Great Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*
Common on Michaelmas Cay and also seen at Bass Point and on Bruny Island.

140. **Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis*
Fairly common at Michaelmas Cay where we found a few birds as usual.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

141. **Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*
An introduced species seen in most urban areas.

142. **White-headed Pigeon** *Columba leucomela*
Great views of a bird on Mount Lewis, with others seen along the Border Track in Lamington National Park.

143. **Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*
An introduced species seen a few times in urban areas.

144. **Brown Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia phasianella*
Common in rainforests in north Queensland and at O'Reilly's. Also heard near Barren Grounds.

145. **Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*
After fleeting glimpses near Cassowary House we found a small party feeding by the road on the way up Mount Lewis.

146. **Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*
Common throughout inland New South Wales with our best views at Back Yamma and Binya State Forests.
147. **Brush Bronzewing** *Phaps elegans*
Reasonable views of a roadside bird in Royal National Park. Also glimpsed a few times in Tasmania.

148. **Crested Pigeon** *Geophaps lophotes*
A common bird throughout Australia that was seen most days in New South Wales.

149. **Squatter Pigeon** *Geophaps scripta*
We had good views of a small party of birds at Granite Gorge.

150. **Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*
A common bird around the lodge at O’Reilly’s, where they feed on the lawn.

151. **Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata*
Usually not an easy bird on this tour, we saw them several times, with a few birds north of Mount Carbine, and more birds seen at Nombinnie Nature Reserve and Binya State Forest.

152. **Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida*
Common in north Queensland and also seen a few times in New South Wales.

153. **Bar-shouldered Dove** *Geopelia humeralis*
Another fairly common species that we saw regularly in north Queensland and also New South Wales.

154. **Wompoo Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus*
This spectacular pigeon was finally seen well around Cassowary House, but our best views were of a bird on a nest during our Daintree River cruise.

155. **Superb Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus*
A frustrating species to get good views of, we only ever had flight views on this trip, despite hearing it at many sites in north Queensland.

156. **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina*
We had good views of a beautiful male near Cassowary House, the only time we saw this bird on the trip.

157. **Torresian Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula spilorrhoea*
Common around Cairns, where we saw them most days.

158. **Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus*
After seeing many flying high overhead we finally picked up a trio of perched birds at Mount Hypipamee, with a few more seen at O’Reilly’s.
CUCKOOS: Cuculidae

159. Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*
After hearing this species at Lake Mitchell in north Queensland, we had good views of a bird in the Capertee Valley.

160. Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*
Heard a few times, but only seen once at Centenary Lakes in Cairns.

161. Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*
Our best views of this species were near Barren Grounds. We also saw it a couple of times in Tasmania.

162. Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*
We had good views of this tough bird at Back Yamma State Forest. Also seen at Round Hill Nature Reserve.

163. Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*
Usually an easy bird, we only saw it a couple of times this year, first at Binya State Forest and again at Wattamolla in Royal National Park.

164. Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*
After a bit of effort we saw this bird well along the Border Track at O'Reilly’s. Also seen a couple of times in Tasmania.

165. Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*
Seen on our first afternoon at Centenary Lakes in Cairns, and heard a few more times during our time in north Queensland.

166. Australian Koel *Eudynamys cyanocephalus*
Good views of this bird on our Daintree River cruise, and also north of Mount Carbine.

167. Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
After a few near misses, we finally saw these immense cuckoos in flight north of Mount Carbine and also at Minnippi Parklands in Brisbane.

168. Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianus*
Our best views of this scruffy looking bird were near Daintree Village in north Queensland.

BARN-OWLS: Tytonidae

169. Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*
A frustrating bird this trip, we heard several of the smaller Wet Tropic subspecies, sometimes called ‘Lesser’ Sooty Owl, while spotlighting on Mount Lewis. We had a ‘Greater’ Sooty Owl calling close by at O’Reilly’s, but only managed fleeting glimpses as it flew off into the forest.
170. **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*
Good views of birds in farmland near Yungaburra while on our tree-kangaroo spotlighting expedition.

**OWLS: Strigidae**

171. **Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*
We had great views of a roosting bird in the botanic gardens in Sydney.

172. **Southern Boobook** *Ninox boobook*
After hearing a few birds around O’Reilly’s, we finally saw one while spotlighting near Hobart.

**OWLET-NIGHTJARS: Aegothelidae**

173. **Australian Owlet-Nightjar** *Aegotheles cristatus*
We heard a few birds calling along Duck Creek Road near O’Reilly’s, and finally saw one while spotlighting on Lady Carrington Drive in Royal National Park.

**FROGMOUTHS: Podargidae**

174. **Tawny Frogmouth** *Podargus strigoides*
A couple of birds were found on nests in north Queensland, one at Granite Gorge and another at the caravan park in Mount Carbine.

175. **Marbled Frogmouth** *Podargus ocellatus*
Having perhaps the most unusual call of any Australian bird, we had great views of one while spotlighting on our first night at O’Reilly’s.

176. **Papuan Frogmouth** *Podargus papuensis*
Two birds were seen on nests near Daintree, one near Red Mill House, the other in riverside vegetation during our Daintree River cruise.

**NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES: Caprimulgidae**

177. **Spotted Nightjar** *(H)* *Eurostopodus argus*
We heard a distant bird giving its curious gobble at Round Hill Nature Reserve in New South Wales.
SWIFTS: Apodidae

178. **White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*
We spotted several small flocks of this migratory swift in north Queensland, with a large flock seen over Brisbane.

179. **Australian Swiftlet** *Aerodramus terraereginae*
A common bird around Cairns that was seen most days.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

180. **Azure Kingfisher** *Alcedo azurea*
We saw several of these gorgeous little kingfishers along the Daintree River during our cruise.

181. **Little Kingfisher** *Alcedo pusilla*
We had good views of this tiny little kingfisher during our Daintree River cruise.

182. **Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae*
A common bird throughout Australia that we saw most days.

183. **Blue-winged Kookaburra** *Dacelo leachii*
A very attractive kingfisher, we saw a couple of pairs in grassy woodland north of Mount Carbine, and had great views of a bird on a nest at the Mount Carbine caravan park.

184. **Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii*
This very pretty ultramarine kingfisher is common in north Queensland and was seen most days on that section of the trip.

185. **Collared Kingfisher** *Todiramphus chloris*
Seen well on our first day of the trip at Centenary Lakes.

186. **Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus*
A common bird in woodland in New South Wales that was seen on a few days, with a couple also seen in north Queensland.

187. **Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera sylvia*
We were lucky to catch this migratory kingfisher, as they had arrived from New Guinea only the day we had arrived at Red Mill House. We had fantastic views of a stunning bird in rainforest along Stewart Creek Road near Daintree Village.
BEE-EATERS: Meropidae

188. Rainbow Bee-eater  
*Merops ornatus*
Common in north Queensland and also in New South Wales, this beautiful bird is easily seen.

ROLLERS: Coraciidae

189. Dollarbird  
*Eurystomus orientalis*
A common migrant that was seen most days in north Queensland.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae

190. Australian Kestrel  
*Falco cenchroides*
This small falcon is very common throughout Australia and we saw it most days, particularly while driving through inland New South Wales.

191. Australian Hobby  
*Falco longipennis*
Sometimes a difficult species, we had good views of a perched bird at Lake Mitchell.

192. Brown Falcon  
*Falco berigora*
Like the kestrel, this bird is common in farmland throughout Australia. We saw several on most days of the New South Wales section of the trip.

193. Black Falcon  
*Falco subniger*
After a brief glimpse on our way to Nombinnie Nature Reserve, we saw two birds well later that day during our time with Phil Maher near Wanganella. We also saw another by the roadside the next day.

194. Peregrine Falcon  
*Falco peregrinus*
An uncommon bird in Australia it was only seen once during the trip, soaring overhead at Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley.

COCKATOOS: Cacatuidae

195. Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo  
*Calyptorhynchus banksii*
We saw a few flocks on the Atherton Tableland in north Queensland, with best views of a couple of perched birds at Granite Gorge.

196. Glossy Black-Cockatoo  
*Calyptorhynchus lathami*
A difficult bird that is missed on most tours, we had good views of a pair flushed from *Casuarina* trees on the drive up to O’Reilly’s.
197. **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus funereus*
We had good views of a trio of birds at Barren Grounds, with a few also seen in Tasmania.

198. **Gang-gang Cockatoo** *Callocephalon fimbriatum*
Unfortunately most of the group missed seeing this species, with only a single bird flushed along the entrance road to Barren Grounds.

199. **Galah** *Eolophus roseicapilla*
This cockatoo is very common throughout New South Wales and was seen most days, particularly in New South Wales.

200. **Long-billed Corella** *Cacatua tenuirostris*
We had good views of a mixed flock of this species and Little Corellas at Darlington Point south of Griffith. Here it is at the northern edge of its natural range.

201. **Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguine*
Best views were in a mixed flock with Long-billed Corellas at Darlington Point, but also seen on a couple of other occasions in central New South Wales.

202. **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua galerita*
A common and noisy bird throughout Australia that was seen nearly every day.

203. **Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*
This very graceful small cockatoo was seen on a few occasions during the inland New South Wales leg of the trip.

### PARROTS: Psittacidae

204. **Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*
A common and beautiful parrot that was seen most days in Queensland.

205. **Scaly-breasted Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*
Not as common as the previous species, but still seen regularly in north Queensland and once near Brisbane.

206. **Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concinna*
We spotted a couple of birds feeding on flowering eucalypts in the Capertee Valley, with a few more seen in Tasmania.

207. **Little Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta pusilla*
We had good views of several birds near Canungra, with a few more seen in the Capertee Valley.

208. **Double-eyed Fig-Parrot** *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*
We had good views of this cute little parrot on our first afternoon at Centenary Lakes, which was pleasing because they can be a difficult bird to see well.
209. **Mallee Ringneck**  *Barnardius barnardi*
   Our best views of this large parrot were at Binya State Forest.

210. **Green Rosella**  *Platycercus caledonicus*
   A Tasmanian endemic that was seen well on several occasions, with our best views at Peter Murrell Reserve.

211. **Crimson Rosella**  *Platycercus elegans*
   Best views of this bird as always were at O’Reilly’s, where they will come and sit on your shoulder expecting a handout. We also saw them a few times around the coast and ranges in New South Wales.

212. **Eastern Rosella**  *Platycercus eximius*
   This multi-colored rosella is beautiful, and quite common in rural areas of New South Wales.

213. **Pale-headed Rosella**  *Platycercus adsitus*
   We saw the blue-breasted northern subspecies a few times on the Atherton Tableland, particularly in the drier areas.

214. **Red-rumped Parrot**  *Psephotus haematonotus*
   Probably the most common parrot in inland New South Wales this bird was seen most days.

215. **Mulga Parrot**  *Psephotus varius*
   We had good views of this gorgeous parrot in Binya State Forest.

216. **Bluebonnet**  *Northiella haematogaster*
   An understated but beautiful parrot, we spotted several pairs during our time in inland New South Wales, with our best views of a pair feeding by the road near Forbes.

217. **Blue-winged Parrot**  *Neophema chrysostoma*
   We saw one of these gorgeous little parrots at Great Bay on Bruny Island.

218. **Turquoise Parrot**  *Neophema pulchella*
   One of Australia’s most beautiful parrots, we had great views of a male coming down to drink at a small dam in Binya State Forest.

219. **Swift Parrot**  *Lathamus discolor*
   Sometimes a difficult species to find, this year we had great views of a couple of birds near Adventure Bay on Bruny Island.

220. **Budgerigar**  *Melopsittacus undulates*
   This nomadic species is really just a chance siting in eastern Australia; this year we found them in the dry woodland north of Mount Carbine, a place I had never seen them before.

221. **Ground Parrot**  *(H)  *Pezoporus wallicus*
   We heard several birds calling from the heath right on dusk at Barren Grounds.
222. **Australian King-Parrot** *Alisterus scapularis*
The dazzling red males are hard to miss at O’Reilly’s, where they will come and sit on your shoulder in the hope of a hand out. We also spotted them along Lady Carrington Drive in Royal National Park.

223. **Red-winged Parrot** *Aprosmictus erythropterus*
A quintessential image of arid Australia, we saw several flocks of these blue, red and green parrots in the drier areas of the Atherton Tableland, with our best views at Granite Gorge.

224. **Superb Parrot** *Polytelis swainsonii*
We had good views of a couple of beautiful males feeding in a tree at Darlington Point, after previous glimpses of a few birds in flight.

**PITTAS: Pittidae**

225. **Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*
After a couple of close calls we had fantastic views of this stunning bird along the Border Track in Lamington National Park. It sat quite close to the trail, allowing us time to admire the emerald green wings, sky blue wing patch and red vent.

**LYREBIRDS: Menuridae**

226. **Albert’s Lyrebird** *Menura alberti*
Often a tough bird, we had several extended views of this large but very shy bird around O’Reilly’s, including a female with youngster in tow.

227. **Superb Lyrebird** *Menura novaehollandiae*
We saw this bird a few times by the roadside around Barren Grounds.

**BOWERBIRDS: Ptilonorhynchidae**

228. **Spotted Catbird** *Ailuroedus melanotis*
Fairly common in the Wet Tropics we had good views of this bird at Cassowary House and on Mount Lewis.

229. **Green Catbird** *Ailuroedus crassirostris*
Sometimes tricky to get good views of, we had no problems this year with several birds seen along the Border Track at O’Reilly’s.

230. **Tooth-billed Catbird** *Ailuroedus dentirostris*
After some effort we had good views of this species on Mount Lewis.
231. **Golden Bowerbird** *Prionodura newtoniana*
Always a trip highlight, watching the glowing male near his huge maypole bower at Mount Hypipamee was excellent.

232. **Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus*
Dazzling males are common at O'Reilly's where they are sometimes hand fed.

233. **Satin Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*
Also common at O'Reilly's, we all admired the male at his bower, replete with all things blue.

234. **Spotted Bowerbird** *Chlamydera maculata*
A scarce bird in the areas we visit on this itinerary, we did well to find a male at his bower in Round Hill Nature Reserve.

235. **Great Bowerbird** *Chlamydera nuchalis*
Seen a few times in the drier areas of the Atherton Tableland, our best views were of a male and his impressive bower at the Mount Carbine caravan park.

**AUSTRALASIAN TREECREEPERS: Climacteridae**

236. **White-throated Treecreeper** *Cormobates leucophaea*
We saw the small northern subspecies on Mount Lewis, with the nominate subspecies common in woodland around O'Reilly's and throughout New South Wales.

237. **Red-browed Treecreeper** *Climacteris erythrops*
After only hearing it during our afternoon stroll down Duck Creek Road near O'Reilly's, we had good views at the same place the next morning.

238. **Brown Treecreeper** *Climacteris picumnus*
Seen at a few sites in inland New South Wales including the Capertee Valley and Back Yamma State Forest.

**FAIRYWRENS: Maluridae**

239. **Southern Emuwren** *Stipiturus malachurus*
These fantastic little birds with their long wispy tails were elusive this year, being heard several times but managing to remain out of sight. We eventually saw a female well in heath near Barren Grounds.

240. **Variegated Fairywren** *Malurus lamberti*
Yet another gorgeous fairywren, we had good views of several birds tending a nest along Duck Creek Road at O'Reilly's, with several seen at other sites in New South Wales.
241. **Lovely Fairywren** *Malurus amabilis*
Often a difficult bird to find, we had cracking views of a pair near Red Mill House in Daintree Village, completing the Australian fairywren list for a few people on the tour.

242. **Splendid Fairywren** *Malurus splendens*
We had great views of an exquisite male in Nombinnie Nature Reserve, with a few more seen at Binya State Forest.

243. **Superb Fairywren** *Malurus cyaneus*
A common garden bird in south-eastern Australia we saw this species several times throughout New South Wales and Tasmania.

244. **White-winged Fairywren** *Malurus leucopterus*
After seeing a few female plumaged birds at Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds, we finally scored a dazzling male while birding with Phil Maher on the plains near Wanganella.

245. **Red-backed Fairywren** *Malurus melanocephalus*
Usually a common species, we only saw it a couple of times this year in grasslands on the northern Atherton Tableland and at Abbatoir Swamp.

**HONEYEATERS: Meliphagidae**

246. **Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*
This little honeyeater was seen on several occasions during the trip, from Mount Lewis in north Queensland to Lady Carrington Drive in Royal National Park.

247. **Pied Honeyeater** *Certhionyx variegates*
Last year I wrote for the species entry here: “The quintessential Australian bird which lives the typical boom and bust cycle of the inland. For the past two years we have not recorded this bird on our Eastern Australia itinerary, but with good conditions inland supporting a good breeding season, and with flowering *Eremophila* trees at Round Hill we found literally hundreds of them this year. Next year there will probably be none.” I wasn’t far off – the birds had disappeared and we only saw a single bird in the mallee at Nombinnie Nature Reserve this year.

248. **Graceful Honeyeater** *Meliphaga gracilis*
We first spotted this species near Cassowary House, and again on our Daintree River cruise.

249. **Yellow-spotted Honeyeater** *Meliphaga notate*
Fairly common in the Wet Tropics, particularly around Cassowary House where they are always calling.

250. **Lewin’s Honeyeater** *Meliphaga lewinii*
On the Atherton Tableland this bird is restricted to higher elevations, and we saw a few birds on Mount Lewis. Further south it is more widespread and we saw it a few times around O’Reilly’s and in coastal New South Wales.
251. **Bridged Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus frenatus*  
A Wet Tropics endemic, we saw this species at Mount Lewis and also at Mount Hypipamee.

252. **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus chrysops*  
Fairly common in eastern Australia, we saw this species at several sites including Duck Creek Road near O’Reilly’s and in the Capertee Valley.

253. **Varied Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus versicolor*  
As usual, the best place to see this bird was the Cairns Esplanade where it is quite common.

254. **Mangrove Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus fasciogularis*  
After a bit of a search we had reasonable views of a pair of flighty birds in the mangroves around Nudgee in Brisbane.

255. **Singing Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus virescens*  
First seen near Wanganella with Phil Maher, we also saw this bird near Moulamein west of Hay.

256. **Yellow Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus flavus*  
Fairly common in north Queensland, our best views of this distinctive honeyeater were at Cattana Wetlands.

257. **White-gaped Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus unicolor*  
More common in the Northern Territory, there is an isolated population of these honeyeaters on the McLeod River north of Mount Carbine where we found a pair.

258. **White-eared Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus leucotis*  
Usually quite common at Nombinnie Nature Reserve, numbers were down this year although we still saw several there and at Round Hill Nature Reserve.

259. **Yellow-throated Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus flavicollis*  
A Tasmanian endemic which was seen several times, with our best views at Peter Murrell Reserve.

260. **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus melanops*  
We had great views of a couple of these striking honeyeaters in the Capertee Valley.

261. **Fuscous Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus fuscus*  
A fairly drab bird that we saw a couple of times in the Capertee Valley.

262. **Gray-fronted Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus plumulus*  
Another nomadic inland species that is not seen every year, we were lucky to find a few in the mallee at Nombinnie Nature Reserve.

263. **Yellow-plumed Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus ornatus*  
Usually quite common in the mallee at Nombinnie Nature Reserve, as with other honeyeaters, numbers were down this year although we still saw several.
264. **White-plumed Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus penicillatus*
Common in inland New South Wales, we saw it at several sites.

265. **White-fronted Honeyeater** *Purnella albifrons*
One of the more common honeyeaters in the mallee this year, we saw several at both Nombinnie NR and Round Hill NR where they were feeding in flowering *Eremophila*.

266. **Bell Miner** *Manorina melanophrys*
Quite an attractive species, we found a large colony giving their persistent ‘tink’ call near Canungra south of Brisbane.

267. **Noisy Miner** *Manorina melanocephala*
A common honeyeater, we saw them on several days around Brisbane and also in New South Wales, often in urban areas.

268. **Yellow-throated Miner** *Manorina flavigula*
This species replaces the Noisy Miner inland, and it was seen several times during the inland New South Wales leg of the trip.

269. **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** *Acanthagenys rufogularis*
Not as common as previous years, we had good views of this species at Nombinnie Nature Reserve and also coming to drink at a waterhole in Binya SF.

270. **Red Wattlebird** *Anthochaera carunculata*
First seen from the car as we drove from the Capertee Valley to Forbes, we also saw it in Back Yamma State Forest. We also saw birds at Bass Point.

271. **Little Wattlebird** *Anthochaera chrysoptera*
We saw this bird well in the heaths south of Sydney and also on Tasmania where they are common.

272. **Yellow Wattlebird** *Anthochaera paradoxa*
A Tasmanian endemic, this huge honeyeater is quite common and we saw it often around Hobart, with our best views at Peter Murrell Reserve.

273. **Brown-backed Honeyeater** *Ramsayornis modestus*
Seen at a few sites in northern Queensland, including Centenary Lakes and on our Daintree River cruise.

274. **Crimson Chat** *Epthianura tricolor*
Another irruptive species that we don’t see every year, we were lucky to see a single bird this year at the Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.

275. **White-fronted Chat** *Epthianura albifrons*
First seen near Wanganella with Phil Maher we also saw a few at Marion Bay in Tasmania.
276. **Black Honeyeater** *Sugomel niger*
We saw this bird a couple of times in inland New South Wales, first at Nombinnie Nature Reserve and again near Wanganella with Phil Maher. We also saw a few birds near Moulamein west of Hay.

277. **Dusky Myzomela** *Myzomela obscura*
Seen on a few occasions in northern Queensland, first near Cassowary House, again on the Daintree River cruise and also at Abbatoir Swamp.

278. **Scarlet Myzomela** *Myzomela sanguinolenta*
After hearing it a few times we finally had good views of this bird at Gold Creek west of Brisbane.

279. **Tawny-crowned Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris melanops*
In spite of the gale-force winds and driving rain, we had good views of this species at Wattamolla in Royal National Park.

280. **Banded Honeyeater** *Cissomela pectoralis*
After the briefest of flyover views north of Mount Carbine, we had good views of a couple of birds in flowering eucalypts near Mount Molloy.

281. **Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*
A very common bird in northern Queensland that was seen most days at several sites.

282. **Crescent Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*
Fairly common in Tasmania, this very attractive honeyeater was seen at a couple of sites on Bruny Island.

283. **New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*
Very common in Tasmania where it was seen at many sites, and also common in Barren Grounds and at Royal National Park, particularly at Wattamolla. We also saw a couple of birds in the Capertee Valley.

284. **White-cheeked Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris niger*
Some flowering *Melaleucas* at Abbatoir Swamp near Julatten on the Atherton Tableland had plenty of this species in attendance.

285. **White-naped Honeyeater** *Melithreptus lunatus*
Seen in eucalypt forest on the road up to O’Reilly’s, and also along Duck Creek Road which is a reliable site for this species.

286. **Black-headed Honeyeater** *Melithreptus affinis*
A Tasmanian endemic that we saw on our first morning at Peter Murrell Reserve, and subsequently at a few other sites.
287. **White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis*
Seemingly not as common this year in north Queensland, we found several birds at Abbatoir Swamp.

288. **Black-chinned Honeyeater** *Melithreptus gularis*
A few groups of were seen in the Capertee Valley which is a reliable site for them.

289. **Strong-billed Honeyeater** *Melithreptus validirostris*
A Tasmanian endemic that can take some searching, we saw this bird only once along Coolangatta Road on Bruny Island.

290. **Brown-headed Honeyeater** *Melithreptus brevirostris*
Quite scarce this year, we heard this honeyeater at a couple of sites, but only saw it at Nombinnie Nature Reserve.

291. **Blue-faced Honeyeater** *Entomyzon cyanotis*
A very attractive honeyeater, this species is common in Queensland and we saw it several times during the northern Queensland leg of the trip. Also seen a couple of times in inland New South Wales.

292. **Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*
Seen on a few occasions throughout the trip, in the drier areas of north Queensland and inland New South Wales.

293. **Helmeted Friarbird** *Philemon buceroides*
Seen often in northern Queensland, with the best views as always during breakfast at Cassowary House.

294. **Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus*
Not as common this year as previous years, we still saw it a few times, with most birds seen in the Capertee Valley.

295. **Macleay's Honeyeater** *Xanthotis macleayanus*
Breakfast at Cassowary House is the best time to see these honeyeaters and this year there were several hanging around.

296. **Striped Honeyeater** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*
First seen near Brisbane, we also saw them at a few sites in New South Wales including the Capertee Valley, Back Yamma and Binya State Forests.

297. **Painted Honeyeater** *Grantiella picta*
This unpredictable species was seen in the Capertee Valley and also at Nombinnie Nature Reserve, meaning we didn’t have to visit our usual site at Binya State Forest.
BRISTLEBIRDS: Dasyornithidae

298. Eastern Bristlebird  *Dasyornis brachypterus*
This very shy species was very difficult to see this year given the weather conditions, but after some persistence we all managed reasonable views at Barren Grounds.

PARDALOTES: Pardalotidae

299. Spotted Pardalote  *Pardalotus punctatus*
A fairly common bird that is heard more often than seen. As a canopy dweller it can be difficult to get good looks at, but we had reasonable views of a bird on Duck Creek Road and also at Peter Murrell Reserve near Hobart.

300. Forty-spotted Pardalote  *Pardalotus quadragintus*
One of Australia’s rarest and most range-restricted birds, we had fantastic views of a pair tending a nest in a eucalypt at Peter Murrell Reserve near Hobart.

301. Striated Pardalote  *Pardalotus striatus*
Quite a common bird that can be found just about anywhere there are trees, we found this bird at several sites in New South Wales.

THORNBILLS AND ALLIES: Acanthizidae

302. Pilotbird  *Pycnoptilus floccosus*
After much effort we finally had good views of this species at Barren Grounds.

303. Fernwren  *Oreoscopus gutturalis*
We had great views of a couple of these shy little scrubwrens at Mount Lewis.

304. Yellow-throated Scrubwren  *Sericornis citreogularis*
A few birds were seen at Mount Lewis, but they were very common along the trails at O’Reilly’s.

305. White-browed Scrubwren  *Sericornis frontalis*
Very common at O’Reilly’s like the previous species, this species was also found at several sites in New South Wales.

306. Tasmanian Scrubwren  *Sericornis humilis*
A Tasmanian endemic, this species was found at several sites during that leg of the trip, including Mount Wellington and Bruny Island.

307. Atherton Scrubwren  *Sericornis keri*
We saw this bird a couple of times at Mount Lewis and also at Mount Hypipamee.
308. Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostra*
Several small parties of this scrubwren were seen near Cassowary House, with others seen at O’Reilly’s.

309. Scrubtit *Acanthornis magna*
One of the more difficult Tasmanian endemics, we finally had good views of this bird on Mount Wellington after glimpses at Mavista on Bruny Island.

310. Speckled Warbler *Pyrrholaemus sagittatus*
Perhaps more correctly called ‘Streaked’ Warbler, we had good views of a few birds at Back Yamma State Forest, and also at Binya SF.

311. Shy Heathwren *Hylacola cauta*
Living up to its name, after quite a bit of effort we all managed at least glimpses of this shy little bird in the mallee at Nombinnie Nature Reserve.

312. Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*
Seen a couple of times, first along Duck Creek Road and again near Barren Grounds.

313. Mountain Thornbill *Acanthiza katherina*
After a bit of effort we finally got reasonable views of this tiny Wet Tropics endemic on Mount Lewis.

314. Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*
A fairly common species around O’Reilly’s and also seen at Barren Grounds and Wattamolla in New South Wales.

315. Tasmanian Thornbill *Acanthiza ewingii*
A Tasmanian endemic, care must be taken when separating this species from Brown Thornbill which also occurs there. We had good views of this species at Mavista on Bruny Island and also on Mount Wellington.

316. Inland Thornbill *Acanthiza apicalis*
We saw this species a few times in the mallee at Nombinnie NR.

317. Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*
First seen in the Capertee Valley, we also saw several at Back Yamma SF where this bird is quite common.

318. Chestnut-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza uropygialis*
First seen at Back Yamma SF, we also saw this species at Binya SF.

319. Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*
Like the previous species, we found these unobtrusive little birds at Back Yamma and Binya State Forests.
320. **Striated Thornbill** *Acanthiza lineata*
We had our best views in eucalypt forest near O’Reilly’s and also along Duck Creek Road. Also seen at Barren Grounds.

321. **Weebill** *Smicrornis brevirostris*
Australia’s smallest bird, we saw this species several times in the drier areas of inland New South Wales including the mallee at Nombinnie NR.

322. **Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa*
After fleeting glimpses at Centenary Lakes, we had good views in gallery forest near Cassowary House.

323. **White-throated Gerygone** *Gerygone olivacea*
The beautiful ‘falling leaf’ melody of these birds alerted us to a couple in grassy woodland north of Mount Carbine, where we had good views of this snappy little guy.

324. **Large-billed Gerygone** *Gerygone magnirostris*
As usual we picked up a few of these fairly drab little birds along the edges of the Daintree River during our cruise, including pairs tending their nests hanging low over the water.

325. **Brown Gerygone** *Gerygone mouki*
Common in the rainforests around O’Reilly’s, we saw several along the Border Track.

326. **Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca*
We saw a single bird at Nombinnie NR, and subsequently heard it at a few other sites including Binya SF.

327. **Mangrove Gerygone** *Gerygone levigaster*
A mangrove-lined canal bordering a grassland near Brisbane airport produced our best views of this species.

328. **Southern Whiteface** *Aphelocephala leucopsis*
Sometimes a difficult bird, we had good views of this species at Back Yamma SF, seeing them again at Binya SF.

**PSEUDO-BABBLERS: Pomatostomidae**

329. **Gray-crowned Babbler** *Pomatostomus temporalis*
We came across our first party at Granite Gorge, seeing them again in grassy woodland near Mount Carbine.

330. **White-browed Babbler** *Pomatostomus superciliosus*
A charismatic bird that lives in small groups and always seems to be in a state of hyperactivity. We saw one group in the Capertee Valley, with others at Binya SF.
LOGRUNNERS: Orthonychidae

331. **Australian Logrunner** *Orthonyx temminckii*
Common at O'Reilly’s, where we came across several pairs along the Border Track.

332. **Chowchilla** *Orthonyx spaldingii*
After quite a search we finally found a group of four birds foraging on the forest floor at Mount Lewis which allowed close approach.

WHIPBIRDS AND WEDGEBILLS: Psophodidae

333. **Eastern Whipbird** *Psophodes olivaceus*
A common species in wet forests along the east coast, we heard and saw this species at several sites from north Queensland to New South Wales.

QUAIL-THRUSHES AND JEWEL-BABBLERS: Cinclosomatidae

334. **Spotted Quail-thrush** *Cinclosoma punctatum*
We had good views of this very shy species when we spotted a female wandering along Duck Creek Road near O'Reilly’s.

335. **Chestnut Quail-thrush** *Cinclosoma castanotum*
We had great views of this striking but shy species in the mallee at Nombinnie NR.

BOATBILLS: Machaerirhynchidae

336. **Yellow-breasted Boatbill** *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*
This very cute little flycatcher with its enormous bill was seen a couple of times, with best views in rainforest along Stewart Creek Road near Daintree Village.

WOODSWALLOWS: Artamidae

337. **White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorynchus*
A very common bird in eastern and northern Australia where we saw it most days as we travelled around.

338. **Masked Woodswallow** *Artamus personatus*
Usually seen in mixed flocks with the next species, there were far more White-broweds than Maskeds this year, and we only saw this species on a few occasions.

339. **White-browed Woodswallow** *Artamus superciliosus*
This species was not as common as the previous two years, but was still seen on most days in inland New South Wales.
340. **Black-faced Woodswallow** *Artamus cinereus*
We only saw one pair of these woodswallows for the trip, in grassy woodland north of
Mount Carbine.

341. **Dusky Woodswallow** *Artamus cyanopterus*
We saw a couple of birds in the Capertee Valley, with a few more seen in Tasmania.

**BELLMAGPIES AND ALLIES: Cracticidae**

342. **Gray Butcherbird** *Cracticus torquatus*
Quite a common species in south-eastern Australia, we first saw them in Brisbane, and again
many times throughout New South Wales and Tasmania.

343. **Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis*
Most common in northern Australia particularly in drier areas, we also saw it several times
throughout inland New South Wales.

344. **Black Butcherbird** *Cracticus quoyi*
One of the first birds we saw on the trip, with a few seen at Centenary Lakes on our first
afternoon. Also seen along the Daintree River and at Cassowary House where a bird comes
and steals cheese from the balcony.

345. **Australasian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen*
A common bird in rural areas throughout Australia, we saw this species most days.

346. **Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina*
Seen briefly a couple of times in northern Queensland, but common at O’Reilly’s and also
around Sydney on the New South Wales leg of the trip.

347. **Black Currawong** *Strepera fuliginosa*
A Tasmanian endemic with a curious melodic yet raucous call, we had our best views on
Bruny Island.

348. **Gray Currawong** *Strepera versicolour*
After seeing one briefly on Bruny Island, we had our best views at Fern Tree near the base of
Mount Wellington.

**CUCKOO-SHRIKES: Campephagidae**

349. **Black-faced Cuckooshrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae*
A common bird throughout Australia that we saw most days.

350. **Barred Cuckooshrike** *Coracina lineata*
This delicately patterned species was seen a few times in northern Queensland, with the
best views in the rainforest around Cassowary House.
351. **White-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina papuensis*
This small cuckooshrike is quite common in northern Queensland where its ‘ki-ssek’ call is often heard in the background. We also saw it in the Capertee Valley.

352. **White-winged Triller** *Lalage tricolor*
Quite common throughout inland New South Wales where we saw it at most sites.

353. **Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*
A fairly common species in northern Queensland we saw them a few times around Cassowary House and also along the Daintree River.

354. **Common Cicadabird** *Edolisoma tenuirostre*
After a couple of brief glimpses we had reasonable views of a male during our Daintree River cruise. We followed this up with good views of a couple of birds along Duck Creek Road near O’Reilly’s.

**SITELLAS: Neosittidae**

355. **Varied Sittella** *Neositta chrysoptera*
We first saw this curious species at Abbatoir Swamp near Mount Molloy on the Atherton Tableland, and again at Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley.

**WHISTLERS AND ALLIES: Pachycephalidae**

356. **Crested Shrike-tit** *Falcunculus frontatus*
We found a pair of these curious birds building a nest at Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley.

357. **Rufous Shrike-Thrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha*
This fairly nondescript species was seen a few times in northern Queensland.

358. **Gray Shrike-Thrush** *Colluricincla harmonica*
A beautiful songster that isn’t much to look at, this bird is quite common throughout Australia, particularly in the southeast. We saw it a couple of times near O’Reilly’s and also at Barren Grounds and on Bruny Island.

359. **Bower’s Shrike-Thrush** *Colluricincla boweri*
A wet tropics endemic, after a bit of effort we all ended up having good views of this species on Mount Lewis.

360. **Olive Whistler** *Pachycephala olivacea*
The best place to see this bird is Tasmania, and on Bruny Island we found one in wet forest along Coolangatta Road.
361. **Gilbert’s Whistler** *Pachycephala inornata*  
Fairly common by voice Nombinnie NR, after a bit of effort we all had nice views of a singing male.

362. **Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala pectoralis*  
A very pretty bird that is fairly common in the wet forests of eastern Australia, we first saw this bird on Mount Lewis, again at O’Reilly’s and also at Barren Grounds and on Bruny Island.

363. **Gray Whistler** *Pachycephala simplex*  
A fairly nondescript bird, we saw it a couple of times in the rainforest around Cassowary House and also on our Daintree River cruise.

364. **Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris*  
In the dry woodlands of Australia this species is very common, with its beautiful song a constant part of the soundtrack. We saw it well on several occasions.

365. **Crested Bellbird** *Oreoica gutturalis*  
Every year at Nombinnie NR we hear the haunting, ventriloquial song of this bird, but it is very shy and can be difficult to see. We were lucky this year to spot a bird singing that we could get the ‘scope on before it flew off.

**OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae**

366. **Olive-backed Oriole** *Oriolus sagittatus*  
Fairly common in dry woodland throughout Australia, we saw this species a few times during the tour.

367. **Green (Yellow) Oriole** *Oriolus flavocinctus*  
In the gallery forests of northern Queensland, the bubbling call of this bird is commonly heard. Although common they can be difficult to spot in the canopy, but we managed good views on several occasions.

368. **Australasian Figbird** *Sphecotheres vieilloti*  
The yellow-breasted northern race is quite common in northern Queensland and we saw it every day.

**DRONGOS: Dicruridae**

369. **Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus*  
Quite common in northern Queensland where we saw it most days.
FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae

370. Northern Fantail  
*Rhipidura rufiventris*
This bird looks like the other fantails but behaves very differently, always seeming like it just got out of bed. We saw one at Abbatoir Swamp near Julatten.

371. Willie-wagtail  
*Rhipidura leucophrys*
One of the few birds that can be seen on just about every day of the trip.

372. Rufous Fantail  
*Rhipidura rufifrons*
Fairly common in the rainforests of eastern Australia during spring and summer, we had good views of this bird at Mount Hypipamee, and also along the Border Track at O’Reilly’s.

373. Gray Fantail  
*Rhipidura albiscapa*
Quite a common bird, we first saw the northern race on Mount Lewis. It is common throughout the New South Wales leg of the trip and we saw it most days.

MONARCH-FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae

374. Black-faced Monarch  
*Monarcha melanopsis*
A fairly common summer migrant in the wet forests of eastern Australia, we saw this species a few times on the Atherton Tableland, and it was common around O’Reilly’s.

375. Spectacled Monarch  
*Monarcha trivirgatus*
A gorgeous little bird, we saw it a few times around Cassowary House and also at Goldl Creek west of Brisbane.

376. Pied Monarch  
*Arses kaupi*
We had great views of this Wet Tropics endemic in rainforest near Daintree Village, thanks to a tip-off from Andrew and Trish at Red Mill House.

377. Magpie-lark  
*Grallina cyanoleuca*
A very common species throughout Australia that we saw on most days of the trip.

378. Leaden Flycatcher  
*Myiagra rubecula*
We saw this active little flycatcher on a few occasions in northern Queensland, including our first afternoon at Centenary Lakes in Cairns. Also heard along Duck Creek Road near O’Reilly’s.

379. Satin Flycatcher  
*Myiagra cyanoleuca*
After a bit of effort we had good views of a pair of these flycatchers at Truganini Reserve south of Hobart.

380. Restless Flycatcher  
*Myiagra inquieta*
We found one pair of these smart flycatchers with their curious grinding call at Glenowlan Bridge in the Capertee Valley, with another bird at Gum Swamp.
381. **Shining Flycatcher** *Myiagra alecto*
We found a pair of these flycatchers in mangroves at Cairns Esplanade, and as usual they were common in the riverside vegetation on our Daintree River cruise.

**CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES: Corvidae**

382. **Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru*
The common corvid in northern Australia, this seen regularly in northern Queensland and around Brisbane.

383. **Australian Raven** *Corvus coronoides*
We first came across this species in the Capertee Valley, then saw it every day during the New South Wales leg of the trip.

384. **Little Raven** *Corvus mellori*
This smaller corvid is fairly common in inland New South Wales where we saw it most days.

385. **Forest Raven** *Corvus tasmanicus*
The only corvid species in Tasmania which makes identification easy, and luckily it is also quite common.

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

386. **White-winged Chough** *Corcorax melanorhamphos*
This species is quite common in inland New South Wales, where small parties are regularly seen foraging on the roadside. We had good views of a few parties in the Capertee Valley.

387. **Apostlebird** *Struthidea cinerea*
First seen near Mount Carbine we had our best views in inland New South Wales, where like the previous species it is often in noisy groups foraging along the roadside.

**BIRDS-OF-PARADISE: Paradisaeidae**

388. **Paradise Riflebird** *Ptiloris paradiseus*
We had good views of a female along the Border Track in Lamington National Park, but in spite of quite an effort we couldn’t find the male who always seemed to call from just out of sight.

389. **Victoria’s Riflebird** *Ptiloris victoriae*
Fairly common in the rainforests of the Wet Tropics, we had our best views of this bird in the rainforest along Black Mountain Road near Cassowary House, where we saw a splendid male preening on his display post.
AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS: Petroicidae

390. **Jacky-winter** *Microeca fascinans*
Fairly common in the Capertee Valley where we saw several, with birds also seen at Back Yamma and Binya State Forests.

391. **Lemon-bellied Flycatcher** *Microeca flavigaster*
We caught up with this drab flycatcher near Mount Molloy on the Atherton Tableland, with a pair feeding a young fledgling.

392. **Scarlet Robin** *Petroica multicolour*
We only had one sighting this year, finding a beautiful and confiding male singing near Barren Grounds.

393. **Red-capped Robin** *Petroica goodenovii*
This gorgeous jewel of the inland is fairly common. We had good views at Back Yamma and Binya State Forests.

394. **Flame Robin** *Petroica phoenicea*
We had nice views of a brilliant male hawking from a fence in Adventure Bay on Bruny Island.

395. **Rose Robin** *Petroica rosea*
A canopy dwelling species that can be difficult to see well, we finally caught up with a couple along the Border Track at O’Reilly’s.

396. **Pink Robin** *Petroica rodinogaster*
A tough bird that I always seen to have trouble with. We did see a young male along Coolangatta Road on Bruny Island, and heard another calling on Mount Wellington.

397. **Hooded Robin** *Melanodryas cucullata*
We found a pair of these striking robins in the Capertee Valley, but had better views the next day at Back Yamma State Forest.

398. **Dusky Robin** *Melanodryas vittata*
We had great views of this nondescript species at Cape Bruny, always a reliable site for it.

399. **Pale-yellow Robin** *Tregellasia capito*
Fairly common in the rainforests of northern Queensland, we only spotted this unobtrusive species a couple of times this trip, once near Cassowary House and again on Mount Lewis.

400. **Eastern Yellow Robin** *Eopsaltria australis*
Quite common around O’Reilly’s and also seen at a few locations in inland New South Wales, the bright yellow breast of this bird lights up the gloom of the forest.
401. **Mangrove Robin** *Eopsaltria pulverulenta*
A quick trip to the mangroves on the Cairns Esplanade before our boat trip to Michaelmas Cay produced great views of a pair of these sometimes difficult robins.

402. **White-browed Robin** *Poecilodryas superciliosa*
After a bit of a slog up a dry creek bed, we eventually got nice views of these smart little birds near Lake Mitchell in northern Queensland.

403. **Gray-headed Robin** *Heteromyias albispecularis*
A species found in the highland rainforests of the Wet Tropics, after brief glimpses of this bird at Mount Lewis, we had good views around the car park at Mount Hypipamee.

404. **Southern Scrub-Robin** *Drymodes brunneopygia*
Sometimes quite a tough skulker, we found a fairly obliging bird in the mallee at Nombinnie NR.

**LARKS: Alaudidae**

405. **Australasian Bushlark** *Mirafra javanica*
After several attempts we finally got nice views of a bushlark sitting on the ground during our search for Plains-wanderers with Phil Maher.

406. **Sky Lark** *Alauda arvensis*
An introduced species that is quite common in rural areas of Tasmania, we eventually spotted a bird displaying by the roadside.

**SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae**

407. **Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena*
A common bird in Australia that was seen most days of the trip.

408. **Fairy Martin** *Petrochelidon ariel*
A common species that was seen regularly, particularly in New South Wales. Our best views were at Glenowlan Bridge in the Capertee Valley where they nest under the bridge.

409. **Tree Martin** *Petrochelidon nigricans*
We only saw this species a handful of times this year, including a few times in Tasmania where it is fairly common.

410. **White-backed Swallow** *Cheramoeca leucosterna*
We were the beneficiaries of Phil Maher’s hard work this year. On a sandhill near Wanganella, Phil is planting a number of trees trying to restore the habitat. He had also dug a couple of sand banks trying to entice this species to nest. It worked, and we were able to watch a couple of these gorgeous birds floating by overhead.
BULBULS: Pycnonotidae

411. **Red-whiskered Bulbul** *Pycnonotus jocosus*
An introduced species which we saw near Bass Point south of Sydney.

REED-WARBLERS AND ALLIES: Acrocephalidae

412. **Australian Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus australis*
We had good views of this species in reeds at the Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.

GRASSBIRDS AND ALLIES: Megaluridae

413. **Tawny Grassbird** *Megalurus timoriensis*
After hearing it a few times in northern Queensland, we finally got reasonable views of this species at a grassland near Brisbane airport.

414. **Little Grassbird** *Megalurus gramineus*
We had good views of this little skulker at the Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.

415. **Brown Songlark** *Cincloramphus cruralis*
First seen in farmland north of Lake Cargelligo, we also saw a few birds during our spotlighting search for Plains-wanderer, when they were flushed up from their roosts on the ground.

416. **Rufous Songlark** *Cincloramphus mathewsi*
Although fairly nondescript, this bird has a fantastic call that is a common sound of the south-eastern Australian spring. We saw them in Back Yamma State Forest and also in the Capertee Valley.

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae

417. **Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*
A fairly common little bird, we had our best views at a grassland near Brisbane airport.

YUHINAS, WHITE-EYES AND ALLIES: Zosteropidae

418. **Silver-eye** *Zosterops lateralis*
Another fairly common little bird that we saw several times throughout the tour.
THRUSHES: Turdidae

419. Olive-tailed (Bassian) Thrush  
   *Zoothera lunulata*
   After missing it at O'Reilly’s we found a singing bird at Barren Grounds, that we were eventually able to see.

420. Russet-tailed Thrush  
   *Zoothera heinei*
   Very similar to the previous species, this bird is fairly common around the trails at O'Reilly’s where we saw a couple of birds.

421. Eurasian Blackbird  
   *Turdus merula*
   An introduced species that is quite common in south-eastern Australia, particularly Tasmania.

STARLINGS: Sturnidae

422. Metallic Starling  
   *Aplonis metallica*
   A gregarious species that is quite common in the lowlands of northern Queensland.

423. Common Myna  
   *Acridotheres tristis*
   An introduced species that is common in urban areas throughout Australia.

424. European Starling  
   *Sturnus vulgaris*
   An introduced species that is common in urban and rural areas throughout south-eastern Australia.

FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae

425. Mistletoebird  
   *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*
   A common little bird that is often heard, but not always easy to see. We saw it a handful of times throughout the tour.

SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS: Nectariniidae

426. Olive-backed Sunbird  
   *Cinnyris jugularis*
   This gorgeous little bird is fairly common in northern Queensland and we had nice views of a gorgeous male complete with shining blue throat at Cattana Wetlands.

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae

427. Australasian Pipit  
   *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
   Quite a common species in rural areas throughout Australia that we saw several times.
SISKINS, CROSSBILLS AND ALLIES: Fringillidae

428. European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*
An introduced species which we found at Adventure Bay on Bruny Island.

429. European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*
An introduced species that is fairly common in urban areas of south-eastern Australia.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

430. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
An introduced species that is common in urban areas.

WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae

431. Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*
A beautiful bird that has to be seen well to appreciate all the fine barring. We had good views of a bird along the entrance road at Barren Grounds.

432. Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*
We saw a few of these very pretty little birds along the roadsides in the Capertee Valley.

433. Red-browed Firetail *Neochmia temporalis*
A fairly common species which is very easy to see at O’Reilly’s, where it feeds on the lawns.

434. Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*
This brilliant red finch was seen well in grassland north of Cairns, in a mixed flock with Chestnut-breasted and Nutmeg Munias.

435. Plum-headed Finch *Neochmia modesta*
After missing it in the Capertee Valley, we had good views of a small party of these finches at the Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.

436. Zebra Finch *Taenopygia guttata*
We caught up with this cute little finch at a couple of sites in the Capertee Valley, and also at Lake Cargelligo sewage ponds.

437. Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*
We had good views of this dapper little finch at Granite Gorge in north Queensland, again in the Capertee Valley and also at Back Yamma SF.

438. Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*
An introduced species that is quite common in grasslands around Cairns.
439. **Chestnut-breasted Munia** *Lonchura castaneothorax*
We eventually had good views of this striking little bird in a few grasslands north of Cairns, including Cattana Wetlands.

**MAMMAL LIST**

**ECHIDNA: Tachyglossidae**

1. **Short-beaked Echidna** *Tachyglossus aculeatus*
We only spotted one of these curious creatures this year, as it scuttled off the road between Lithgow and Forbes.

**PLATYPUS: Ornithorhyncidae**

2. **Platypus** *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*
Tarzali Lakes is a great place to see these unique creatures, where they unusually come out to forage during the day. We saw a couple of animals during our half hour watching over pond, both small females.

**DASYURIDS: Dasyuridae**

3. **Eastern Quoll** *Dasyurus viverrinus*
We saw a couple of these very cute little spotted ‘native cats’ beside the road near Marion Bay in Tasmania as we returned from watching the Little Penguins come ashore near Eaglehawk Neck.

4. **Fat-tailed Dunnart** *Sminthopsis crassicaudata*
This tiny little carnivorous marsupial is only about the size of a mouse. We saw one while spotlighting for Plains-wanderers with Phil Maher.

**BANDICOOTS: Peramelidae**

5. **Northern Brown Bandicoot** *Isoodon macrourus*
Red Mill House is a great place to see these little guys as they come out to feed on the lawn after dark and are very approachable.

6. **Eastern Barred Bandicoot** *Perameles gunnii*
We spotted one of these distinctive bandicoots with its strikingly patterned rear-end while we were spotlighting at Waterworks Reserve near Hobart.
7. **Long-nosed Bandicoot** *Perameles nasuta*
We had a couple of brief views of these little critters while spotlighting at the Curtain Fig and on Mount Lewis in north Queensland. We had our best views after dark on the lawns at O’Reilly’s.

**KOALA: Phascolarctidae**

8. **Koala** *Phascolarctos cinereus*
We had great views of this iconic Australian mammal when we found a small female sitting in the open while spotlighting near O’Reilly’s.

**BRUSHTAIL POSSUMS: Phalangeridae**

9. **Mountain Brushtail Possum** *Trichosurus caninus*
We saw a couple of these around the lodge at O’Reilly’s.

10. **Common Brushtail Possum** *Trichosurus vulpecula*
We saw this species several times. While spotlighting on the Atherton Tableland with Alan Gillanders we saw a couple of the subspecies *johnstoni* or ‘Coppery’ Brushtail which have a very distinctive rusty pelage. We also saw several in Tasmania where they are quite common.

**GLIDERS AND STRIPED POSSUM: Petauridae**

11. **Sugar Glider** *Petaurus breviceps*
We spotted a couple of these small gliders feeding in an *Acacia* along Lady Carrington Drive in Royal National Park.

**RINGTAIL POSSUMS: Pseudocheiridae**

12. **Common Ringtail Possum** *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*
A fairly common possum, we saw Common Ringtails on a few occasions around O’Reilly’s and also along Lady Carrington Drive.

13. **Green Ringtail Possum** *Pseudochirops archeri*
While spotlighting near Mount Hypipamee we found one of these strikingly patterned possums.

14. **Lemuroid Ringtail Possum** *Hemibelideus lemuroides*
This species has a very restricted distribution, only being found at high altitude in the Wet Tropics. We found a couple while spotlighting near Mount Hypipamee.
MUSKY RAT-KANGAROO: Hypsiprymnodontidae

15. Musky Rat-kangaroo  *Hypsiprymnodon moschatus*
The most ancient of the macropods (kangaroos and wallabies), this unique little creature is easy to see at Cassowary House were they come to the garden to feed.

KANGAROOS, WALLABBIES AND TREE-KANGAROOS: Macropodidae

16. Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroo  *Dendrolagus lumholtzi*
Sometimes tough to find, we had an incredible three tree-kangaroo day on the Atherton Tableland. We first spotted one by the roadside near Yungaburra in broad daylight. That night while spotlighting with Alan Gillanders we found another small female near the Curtain Fig, then finally, a third animal while spotlighting near Mount Hypipamee.

17. Agile Wallaby  *Macropus agilis*
We spotted a few of these small wallabies in the drier areas of the Atherton Tableland.

18. Whiptail Wallaby  *Macropus parryi*
Also called ‘Pretty-faced’ Wallaby because of the distinctive white stripe on the side of the face, a few were seen on the western edge of the Atherton Tableland. Our best views though were of a couple of animals foraging by the roadside on the climb to O’Reilly’s.

19. Eastern Grey Kangaroo  *Macropus giganteus*
This species was commonly seen throughout rural New South Wales.

20. Western Grey Kangaroo  *Macropus fuliginosus*
We saw this species during our afternoon birding with Phil Maher near Wanganella on the inland New South Wales section of the trip.

21. Red Kangaroo  *Macropus rufus*
A quintessential symbol of the outback, we saw a few ‘Big Reds’ on the trip, with several animals on the Hay plains while we searched for Plains-wanderer with Phil Maher.

22. Euro (Common Wallaroo)  *Macropus robustus*
We saw this stocky kangaroo a couple of times during our morning in the Capertee Valley.

23. Red-necked Wallaby  *Macropus rufogriseus*
Our best views of this species were on the climb to O’Reilly’s. We also saw it a couple of times in New South Wales and Tasmania.

24. Black (Swamp) Wallaby  *Wallabia bicolour*
After brief views of an animal at Back Yamma SF, we had good views of an animal drinking at a dam in Binya SF.
25. **Mareeba Rock-Wallaby**  *Petrogale Mareeba*  
This species is common at Granite Gorge near Mareeba, where they are accustomed to humans and will approach closely for a handout.

26. **Rufous-bellied Pademelon**  *Thylogale billardierii*  
A Tasmanian endemic, we had good views of this species while spotlighting at Waterworks Reserve near Hobart.

27. **Red-legged Pademelon**  *Thylogale stigmatica*  
We had a few brief glimpses of this shy species in rainforest at the Curtain Fig, on Mount Lewis and also at O’Reilly’s.

28. **Red-necked Pademelon**  *Thylogale thetis*  
This species is quite common at O’Reilly’s where it has become used to people and forages on the lawn.

**FRUIT BATS: Pteropodidae**

29. **Black Flying-fox**  *Pteropus alecto*  
Near Canungra we saw a large mixed roost of Black and Gray-headed Flying-foxes.

30. **Spectacled Flying-fox**  *Pteropus conspicillatus*  
There is a large roost of this species in downtown Cairns, which is a good place to watch the antics of these comical animals. Just don’t park your car underneath them!

31. **Gray-headed Flying-fox**  *Pteropus poliocephalus*  
This quite attractive animal was seen as part of a large mixed roost of Black and Gray-headed Flying-foxes near Canungra.

**RATS AND MICE: Muridae**

32. **Giant White-tailed Rat**  *Uromys caudimaculatus*  
We saw a couple of these huge rats while spotlighting on Mount Lewis.

**DOGS AND FOXES: Canidae**

33. **Red Fox**  *Vulpes vulpes*  
This introduction of this predator has almost single-handedly been responsible for the extinction of much of the mainland’s native small mammal fauna. Unfortunately they are all too common and we saw several during the trip.

34. **Dingo**  *Canis lupus*  
We had brief views of one of these native dogs one night as it raced away from the car while we drove down Duck Creek Road near O’Reilly’s.
EARED SEALS: Otaridae

35. **Australian Fur Seal**  *Arctocephalus pusillus*
We spotted one of these seals in the surf off Bass Point, and a few more from Bruny Island in Tasmania.

RABBITS AND HARES: Leporidae

36. **European Hare**  *Lepus europaeus*
An introduced species that is fairly common in rural areas of the southeast.

37. **European Rabbit**  *Oryctolagus cuniculus*
Another introduced species that we wish we could send home. This species is very common in rural areas of southern Australia.

REPTILE LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Green Turtle</th>
<th><em>Chelonia mydas</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Snake-necked Turtle</td>
<td><em>Chelodina longicollis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Macquarie Turtle</td>
<td><em>Emydura macquarii</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Northern Leaf-tailed Gecko</td>
<td><em>Saltuarius cornutus</em></td>
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<td>5. Southern Leaf-tailed Gecko</td>
<td><em>Saltuarius swainii</em></td>
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<td>6. Asian House Gecko</td>
<td><em>Hemidactylus frenatus</em></td>
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<td>7. Burton’s Snake-lizard</td>
<td><em>Lialis burtoni</em></td>
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<td>8. Land Mullet</td>
<td><em>Bellatorias major</em></td>
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<td>9. Barred Wedge-snouted Ctenotus</td>
<td><em>Ctenous schomburgkii</em></td>
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<td>10. Pink-tongued Lizard</td>
<td><em>Cyclodomorphus gerrardii</em></td>
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<td>11. Shingleback</td>
<td><em>Tiliqua rugosa</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Mallee Military Dragon</td>
<td><em>Ctenophorus fordi</em></td>
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<td>13. Water Dragon</td>
<td><em>Physignathus lesueurii</em></td>
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<td>14. Sand Goanna</td>
<td><em>Varanus gouldii</em></td>
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<td>15. Lace Monitor</td>
<td><em>Varanus varius</em></td>
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<td>16. Mulga Snake</td>
<td><em>Pseudechis australis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Red-bellied Black Snake</td>
<td><em>Pseudechis porphyriacus</em></td>
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FROG LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog</th>
<th><em>Litoria fallax</em></th>
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<tr>
<td>2. White-lipped Tree Frog</td>
<td><em>Litoria infrafrenata</em></td>
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<td>3. Jungguy Frog</td>
<td><em>Litoria jungguy</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Roth’s Tree Frog</td>
<td><em>Litoria rothii</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Ornate Frog</td>
<td><em>Cophixalus ornatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Northern Barred Frog</td>
<td><em>Mixophyes schevilli</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Cane Toad</td>
<td><em>Rhinella marina</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
BUTTERFLY LIST

1. Blue Triangle  Graphium sarpedon
2. Orchard Swallowtail  Papilio aegeus
3. Ulysses Swallowtail  Papilio ulysses
4. Red-bodied Swallowtail  Papilio polydorus
5. Clearwing Swallowtail  Cressida cressida
6. Cairns Birdwing  Ornithoptera euphorion
7. Lemon Migrant  Catopsilia pomona
8. Black Jezebel  Delias nigrina
9. Scarlet Jezebel  Delias argenthona
10. Caper White  Belenois java
11. Evening Brown  Melanitis leda
12. Varied Sword-Grass Brown  Tisiphone abeona
13. Ringed Xenica  Geitoneura acantha
14. Varied Eggfly  Hypolimnas bolina
15. Meadow Argus  Junonia villida
16. Common Crow  Euploea core