



A **Tropical Birding** Set departure tour

AUSTRALIA: The Introtour

26th August – 10th September 2023



Some gorgeous robins featured on this tour, including **Rose, Pink, and Scarlet Robins** and this **Flame Robin** on Bruny Island on Tasmania (Sam Woods).

*Thanks to participant **Mike Neubauer** for the use of many of his tour photos in this report (individually indicated).*

*Guide: **Sam Woods***

INTRODUCTION:

*This tour serves as a worthy introduction to the myriad birds, landscapes, and habitats of Australia. It comprised three distinct sections, The **Wet Tropics of Northeast Queensland**, where the tour started in **Cairns, Southeast Queensland**, using **Brisbane** as the hub for there. And, finally, the rugged, island state of **Tasmania** in the far **Southeast** of the country. Along the way we got to experience a wide variety of Australian habitats, traversing through some thirteen different bird habitats, including **Mangroves, Lowland Tropical Rainforest, Monsoon Vine Forest, Montane Rainforest, Tropical Wetlands, and Open Eucalypt Savanna** in **Northeast Queensland**, **Subtropical Rainforest** and **Dry Sclerophyll Forest** in **Southeast Queensland**, and then **Alpine Heathland, Temperate Rainforest, Wet Sclerophyll Forest, Sandy Beaches, Rocky Coastlines, and Temperate Wetlands** in **Tasmania**.*



Photo this page: Wonderful views of a male **Golden Bowerbird**, tending to his bower on *Mount Lewis*, were a major highlight of our time in the *Atherton Tablelands* of *Northeast Queensland* (*Sam Woods*).

Photo next page: *Mammals* were also a focus on this tour, and we managed to find **Platypus, Koala, echidna** and a variety of *wallabies* and *kangaroos*, including this **Agile Wallaby** in *Yungaburra* (*Sam Woods*).

By dipping into this diversity of habitats, we also got a diverse and fascinating bird list, comprising many of the iconic birds and bird families of this giant island-come-continent, including **Australian Bustards**, **Blue-winged Kookaburras**, **Wompoo Fruit-Doves**, **Victoria's Riflebirds**, **Spotted Catbirds** (photo page 18), **Lovely Fairywrens** (photo page 6), **Chowchillas**, **Pied Monarchs**, and **Great and Golden Bowerbirds** (photos pages 2 & 10) at their bowers in **Northeast Queensland**. We also got to sample the birdlife and marine life of the **Great Barrier Reef** in a dedicated boat trip out there too, which featured hundreds of tame nesting pelagic birds and breaching **Humpback Whales**. Other mammals were at the fore too, with the **Platypuses** (photo page 15) of **Yungaburra** and **Striped Possum** (photo page 16) at **Chambers Lodges** being the pick of these on that section of the tour. Moving south, we flew into **Brisbane**, and stopped in on a local **Koala** (photo page 21) resting by a soccer field in a local city park, before moving to **O' Reilly's Rainforest Retreat**, perhaps the most celebrated of all birding sites in the country. Merely staying at **O' Reilly's** with its tame birds, delicious foods, and highly rated locally-produced wines was a major highlight. Bird-wise, the tame **king-parrots** (photo page 25), **Crimson Rosellas** (photo page 24), **whipbirds**, and **Regent and Satin Bowerbirds** (photos pages 25 & 26) were just some of the elite birds seen there, along with **Rose Robin** (photo page 28), **Green Catbirds**, **Australian Logrunners**, and that master mimic, the **Albert's Lyrebird**. Finally, came **Tasmania**, and the wonders of **Bruny island** in particular, a hot favorite amongst ALL visitors to **Eastern Australia**. The endemic birds of the island state took center stage, and the endangered **Forty-spotted Pardalote** was probably the headliner of these. However, the non-endemics were not too shabby either, with **Flame** (photos pages 1 & 32), **Scarlet** (photo page 33), and **Pink Robins** all featuring in one day on **Bruny** along with **Swift Parrots** (photo page 34), and **Hooded Plovers** (photo page 31) were seen there too. At night went out in search of birds and mammals and came up with a pair of **Tasmania Boobooks** and a striking **"White Wallaby"** (photo page 37), (a white form of **Bennett's Wallaby** that is confined to **Bruny Island**). Along the way, we also sampled a wide range of cuisines, including tasty Thai, Indian, Italian, and Australian pub food. Australia is oddly overlooked as a wildlife destination, though abounds with weird and wonderful wildlife that we got to see firsthand! As you can see, many of these were **photographed** too!



TOUR SUMMARY:**Day 1 (of birding): 26th August 2023 – THE WET TROPICS: Cairns (Northeast Queensland).**

Our tour began with a week-long stretch in *Northeast Queensland*, within the humid *Wet Tropics* zone of the state. This day started after lunch and was spent entirely within the city limits of *Cairns*, which is one of the most birdy cities in the entire country. One of the joys of Australian birding, and within *Cairns* in particular, is that even some of the common species are very unfamiliar to visitors from the west, and many of these are unquestionably spectacular. Australia is often referred to as the “Land of Parrots”, and once encountering abundant species like the stunning **Rainbow Lorikeet** and conspicuous **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** on this first foray, it was easy to understand why. Other *Wet Tropics* regulars, like **Australian Brushturkey**, **Orange-footed Scrubfowl**, **Helmeted Friarbird**, **Black Butcherbird**, and **Torresian Imperial-Pigeons** were also noted. A scour of the shore predictably revealed not too many shorebirds during an extremely low tide, although we did see our first **Far Eastern Curlew** and **Black-fronted Dotterel**. There was also a stately **Black-necked Stork** (confusingly known locally as “Jabiru”) standing on the flats, never an easy species to find. Aside from all of these birds we also saw *three species of kingfisher* (**Torresian Kingfisher** along the shore and **Laughing Kookaburra** ([photo page 23](#)) and **Sacred Kingfisher** in city parklands). Other species to feature were the ever-present **Willie Wagtail** (one of Australia’s most familiar birds, which is full of character, always wagging its tail this way and often absurdly confiding), **Rainbow Bee-eater**, **Yellow and Varied Honeyeaters**, and **Varied Triller**. We ate that night at a traditional Aussie pub, although one that offered *kangaroo* and *crocodile* on the menu (along with more traditional fare) and a signature desert of a giant ice-cream dish that is the akin to the size of a human head!



Photo Page 4: **Spectacled Monarch** was photographed in *Northeast Queensland* (Mike Neubauer).

Day 2: 27th August 2023 – THE WET TROPICS: Cairns to Daintree (The Esplanade, Copperlode Dam, Yorkey's Knob, Cattana Wetlands & Newell Beach), Northeast Queensland.

This was our first, full, day in the *Wet Tropics* and it showcased one of the attractions for birders to this area, a wide variety of sites and habitats all close at hand. Our destination by the day's end was our most northerly point of the tour, the tiny village of *Daintree*, and while this was only 90 minutes from our starting point in *Cairns*, we took all day to get there as we dipped into a variety of sites and habitats, before getting there, including *mangroves*, *mudflats*, *lowland tropical rainforest*, *tropical wetlands*, and *sandy beaches*, in that order. Starting at *The Esplanade*, the *mangroves* held a smart **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** appreciated by all, though the **Mangrove Robin** would not do the same, appearing close but only briefly and did cooperate for everyone on this occasion. On the shore nearby, **Great Knot** and **Gray-tailed Tattler** featured, and some **Double-eyed Fig-Parrots** zipped overhead at high speed and we would need to wait until much later on this leg to finally nail down good views of that tiny parrot. After breakfast at the hotel and checking out, we headed to an area of lowland tropical rainforest on the edge of the city, a road that leads up to *Lake Morris*. The birding here was much more challenging, with many species quite quiet during our visit. However, a glance at what we did see showed that it was well worth the visit all the same. Headlining were **Yellow-breasted Boatbill** and the impressive **Wompoo Fruit-Dove**, the red, white, and blue **Spectacled Monarch** (*photo page before*), and a trio of *Wet Tropics* honeyeaters – **Macleay's**, **Yellow-spotted** and **Cryptic Honeyeaters**.

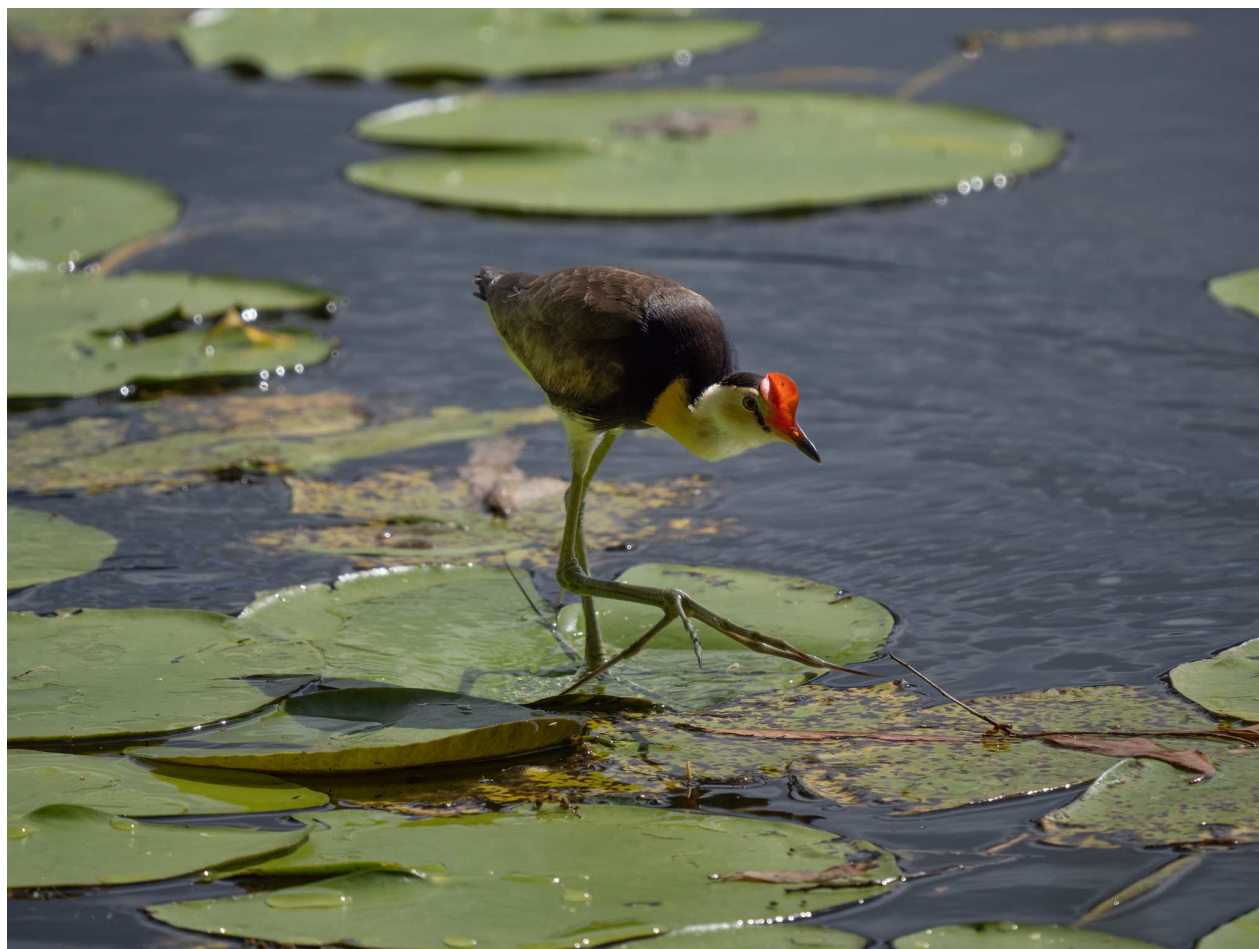


Photo Page 5: **Comb-crested Jacana** at Cattana Wetlands north of Cairns (Mike Neubauer).

After the challenge of the rainforest, we took a break and birded some *tropical wetlands*, at Cattana Wetlands just north of the city of Cairns, where our only **Green Pygmy-Geese** of the tour were seen, along with **Comb-crested Jacana** (*photo page 5*) and the newly split **Plumed Egret** (part of a 2023 three-way split from *Intermediate Egret*). A very confiding **Little Bronze-Cuckoo** was also seen within the wooded areas bordering the tropical wetland. By the afternoon we were heading north in earnest, with **Daintree** in our night-time plans, although we made a stop at some *sandy beaches and flats* at Newell Beach, where we'd hoped to find a *Beach Thick-knee*, instead getting our first **Bush Thick-knees**, our only **Terek Sandpiper** (thanks *Bruce*), and a flock of **Radjah Shelducks**. In the evening we pulled into *Daintree* village, perched on the edge of the mighty *Daintree River*, and enjoyed another pub meal, which was at the heart of village life at that time, and where our boat driver for the next day was also partaking in the evening frivolities.



Male and female **Lovely Fairywrens**, a *Wet Tropics* specialty, were seen near *Daintree* village (Mike Neubauer)



Several **Azure Kingfishers** gave us some stellar views on our morning boat cruise along the *Daintree River* (Sam Woods)

Day 3: 28th August 2023 – THE WET TROPICS: Daintree to Mareeba (Daintree, Wonga Beach, Newell Beach, Abattoir Swamp, Lake Mitchell & Granite Gorge Nature Park), Northeast Queensland.

On this day we started out at the most northerly location of the tour, *Daintree*, birding some roadsides and taking a boat trip there, before heading south and west towards the Outback town of *Mareeba*. However, as with the day before, even though the journey time is short between the two (only 90 minutes), we spent the day making our way there, hopscotching various sites and bird habitats. Rain thwarted our early attempts to take a boat ride, and so we remained in town, getting our first good looks at some **Green Orioles** in doing so.

Once the rain had receded we made our way out with expert local birdman, *Murray*, on the river, who skilfully enlightened us on some of the fascinating natural history of the area and led us to birds like **Azure Kingfishers** (*photo above*) perched just above the water, some spectacular bottlebrush orchids, (one of which had a **Common Tree Snake** draped across it!), and some nice **Wompoo Fruit-Doves** feeding in the open one some riverside fruits. **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**, **Brahminy Kite**, and **Striated Heron** were also noted from the boat, as was **Bridled Honeyeater**, the latter a species we are more used to seeing (when we run the tours later in spring/summer) up in the nearby mountains of the *Atherton Tablelands*, although were lower down at this time due to us visiting in the early part of the spring season.



This beautiful **Bottlebrush Orchid** was seen on our *Daintree* boat cruise (Sam Woods)

Another, pleasant, surprise was **White-eared Monarch**, a species we'd hoped to see in the tropical lowland rainforest on the outskirts of *Cairns*, and so we were only too happy to catch up with it here instead! Arguably best of all though were a couple of extremely well camouflaged **Papuan Frogmouths** (a *Wet Tropics* specialty), that we sidled up to by boat. After the cruise and breakfast in *Daintree*, we went in search of another *Wet Tropics* specialty, **Lovely Fairywren** (*photo page 6*), getting great looks at the spectacular male and no less attractive cerulean-blue female. **Fairy Gerygone** had also been seen in the same area that morning too. The day ended up being a 4-kingfisher day with 2 new ones amongst them, including our first **Forest Kingfishers**. While the village of *Daintree* is set within *Lowland Tropical Rainforest*, as we moved west and south through the day, we changed habitats markedly, emerging into the much more open habitat of *Open Eucalypt Savanna*, on the edge of the Outback, characterised by a grassy understorey to sparsely distributed eucalyptus trees that dominate the landscape, along with very conspicuous giant termite mounds that reach as high as ten feet tall in places! We stopped off at the unappealing sounding site of *Abattoir Swamp*, a tiny location where **Northern Fantail**, **Rufous Whistler**, and **White-cheeked Honeyeater** more than justified the brief stop there. A *Tropical Wetland* nearby held our first **Royal Spoonbill**, **Whistling Kite**, and **Magpie-Geese**, the latter a species that is extremely characteristic of this habitat. The finale to our day was a visit to *Granite Gorge*, near to the town of *Mareeba*, where we were to spend the next two nights.

This was a great finish to our day, giving us our first looks at **Great Bowerbirds**, while a tree with orange-yellow blossoms lured in **Scaly-breasted Lorikeet**, **Noisy Friarbird**, **Scarlet Myzomela**, **Sahul Sunbird** (formerly *Olive-backed Sunbird*), and **Mistletoebird**. Perhaps though the star attraction at *Granite Gorge*, and the principal reason for birders to visit are the extremely tame, wild, **Squatter Pigeons** (*photo below*) that foraged on the ground very close to us in several places in the park. However, one of the main reasons for visiting this site was mammalian, the extremely local **Mareeba Rock-Wallaby** that are very habituated to people there and wandered right up to us. As we departed we needed to stop again as some **Pale-headed Rosellas** and **Gray-crowned Babblers** were found just as we thought the day's birding was over! We ate that night in *Mareeba* at a very good gastro-pub in town, showing what a long way this town has come since we started visiting, some 20 years ago when the food options were a lot more limited than they are now the town has grown and become more cosmopolitan than the sleepy Outback town that it once was.



Nowhere are **Squatter Pigeons** easier than at *Granite Gorge Nature Park*! (Sam Woods)



The highlight of the *Wet Tropics* section, (or indeed possibly the entire tour), was watching this male **Golden Bowerbird** within the *Montane Rainforest* of the *Atherton Tablelands* on *Mount Lewis* (Sam Woods)

Day 4: 29th August 2023 – THE WET TROPICS: The Atherton Tablelands (Mount Lewis, Mount Molloy, Maryfarms, Mount Carbine, & Davies Creek Road), Northeast Queensland.

This was another day of dipping into a varied set of birding locales. We started out in *Montane Forest* at *Mount Lewis*, close to the town of *Julatten* on the *Tablelands*; then drove a short way west, creeping into more *Open Eucalypt Savanna* on the edge of the Outback in *Mount Molloy* and *Mount Carbine*, and also checking an area of *Tussock Grassland* there too for a very special bird indeed. There are around a dozen or so specialties of *Montane Rainforest* on the *Atherton Tablelands* of *Northeast Queensland*, and there are few better places to find them than on *Mount Lewis*, which rises up to around 1500m above the *Open Eucalypt Savannas* that dominate the lowland areas below it. Things started out brightly with a rambunctious group of **Chowchillas** (photo page 38) seen on the drive up (which we encountered after rapidly jumping out of the van after hearing their distinctive, dog-like calls). This species was seen better still later in the morning, during our *Golden Bowerbird*-themed trail walk, when *Mike* at least managed to get some photos of this denizen of the dingy forest floor. The walk ended with incredible close-ups of the male **Golden Bowerbird** (photos above & page 2) arranging the decorative white lichen in its bower at close range.

Other *Atherton specialties* included several cooperative **Fernwrens**, plentiful **Mountain Thornbills**, the odd **Atherton Scrubwren**, **Bower's Shrikethrush**, a handful of **Gray-headed Robins**, and a fruiting tree attracted a pair of **Victoria's Riflebirds**, a bird-of-paradise species! We had lunch in *Mount Molloy*, a long-standing tradition on this tour, in company with some superb **Blue-faced Honeyeaters** (*photo page 13*), and then headed towards *Mount Carbine*. We visited some downs near *Maryfarms*, a traditional site for **Australian Bustard** that did not disappoint. The same location was also good for **Red-backed Fairywrens**, which hopped on and off the roadside wires, wagging their tails excitedly behind them.



Galah is a common *Outback* species. Here, hundreds gathered in a garden in *Mount Carbine* for their daily feeding by one of the bird-friendly residents of the local caravan park (*Sam Woods*).

After notching up the *bustard*, we drove directly to *Mount Carbine Caravan Park*, where the birder-friendly owners shared some of their local birds with us, most notably a roosting **Tawny Frogmouth** (*photo next page*), some active **Great Bowerbird** bowers, and some noisy **Apostlebirds**. At the back of the property we saw several **Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos** and **Blue-winged Kookaburras**, after having been lured in by their raucous calls.



The kind folks that run *Mount Carbine Caravan Park* made seeing a daylight **Tawny Frogmouth** look easy. They know where they hang out, and walked us straight to one (*Sam Woods*)

One of the local residents also invited us to see him feeding the local birds, which caused hundreds of **Galahs** (*photo page 11*), **Bar-breasted and Peaceful Doves**, and **Pale-headed Rosellas** to descend on his property at their traditional afternoon feeding time. Some dashing **Red-winged Parrots** (*photo page 14*) were also located on the property. After dinner, the majority of the group could not resist the chance of seeing another Australian nightbird, venturing to *Davies Creek Road*, close to the town of *Mareeba*, where we managed to get some great looks at two different **Australian Owlet-Nightjars**, with several more heard too there.

Blue-faced Honeyeater during a lunch break in *Mount Molloy* (*Mike Neubauer*).



Day 5: 30th August 2023 – THE WET TROPICS: The Atherton Tablelands (Mareeba, Bluff State Forest, Hasties Swamp, Curtain Fig Tree, Yungaburra), Northeast Queensland.

Today we headed deep into the *Atherton Tablelands*, departing *Mareeba* on the edge of the Outback for good, and staying in a wonderful lodge, set in the heart of *Montane Rainforest* near *Crater Lakes National Park*. However, before we left *Mareeba*, we needed to settle some local scores. We visited a tiny patch of *Monsoon Vine Forest* in some *Mareeba* parkland, where we found our target with relative ease, the often difficult **White-browed Robin**. Then, we checked the local golf course, where some of Australia's largest kangaroos, **Eastern Gray Kangaroo** were found as expected.



Red-winged Parrot was one of a number of tame *parrots* and *cockatoos* at this absorbing location (*Sam Woods*)



An Australian Icon: **Platypus**, Yungaburra in Mount Molloy (Mike Neubauer).

Next, we headed south towards the town of *Atherton*. Our intention had been to bird *Bluff State Forest* near *Wondecla*, a good local spot for *shrike-tit* and other species. However, we arrived to find the gates closed and the place on fire due to a scheduled burn, meaning we could not access the best of the bird habitat. We did find some new birds though, including **Dusky Woodswallow**, **White-throated Treecreeper**, **Fuscous and White-naped Honeyeaters**, and some very popular **Red-browed Firetails**, and **Spotted Pardalote**. We also enjoyed more **Red-backed Fairywrens**. After lunch at a wonderful café in *Atherton* (which seems to have an unusually high proportion of good eateries), we checked a superb local wetland, *Hasties Swamp*. This *Tropical Wetland* was loaded with waterbirds, mostly **Plumed Whistling-Ducks** (numbering in their thousands), as well as **White-eyed and Maned Ducks**, **Gray Teal**, **Comb-crested Jacanas**, **Royal Spoonbills**, and hundreds upon hundreds of **Magpie-Geese**. Beside there, a **Rufous (Nankeen) Night-Heron** slumbered in the trees for the day, while the trees lining the wetland held a nesting **Brown Cuckoo-Dove**, a striking male **Golden Whistler** ([photo page 19](#)) and a seemingly out-of-place **Pale Yellow Robin**. Having scoured *Hasties* for anything we were missing and finding nothing more, we drove some red dirt local potato fields, soon finding what we were hoping for, a mixed group of hundreds of cranes, containing **Sarus Cranes** and **Brolgas** standing shoulder-to-shoulder. The field also held a goodly number of **Bush Thick-knees**. For the end of day, we had a specific plan in mind, as we had a very specific mammal in mind. In the late afternoon a quiet, forest-lined creek in the tableland town of *Yungaburra* often plays host to *Platypus*, which become active at that time.

We walked the creek, stopping first at a large camp of noisy **Spectacled Flying-Foxes**, before reaching *Allumbah Pocket*, the local hotspot for this odd mammal. We did not have to wait long before ripples on the water's surface betrayed the presence of foraging **Platypus** (*photo page 15*). In the evening, we arrived at our hotel for the next two nights, the wonderful *Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges*. After dinner, we checked the honey-smeared trees beside their viewing platform, where a couple of very interesting mammals closed out a good mammal day: **Striped Possum** (*photo below*) and **Krefft's Glider**.



A couple of **Striped Possums** were visible from the viewing platform at *Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges* on the *Atherton Tablelands* (Mike Neubauer).

Day 6: 31st August 2023 – THE WET TROPICS: The Atherton Tablelands (Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges, Lake Barrine, Lake Tinaroo, Hasties Swamp, Mount Baldy, Curtain Fig Tree & Yungaburra), Northeast Queensland.



A pair of **Varied Sittellas** put on a great show at Lake Tinaroo (Sam Woods)

Staying at *Chambers Lodges*, we started birding right on our doorstep, observing the considerable activity at the forest edge surrounding the lodge clearing. **Topknot Pigeons** typically passed high overhead, although we also got to see one at length feeding in some fruits in the treetops that also attracted some **Wompoo Fruit-Doves** too. *Chambers* was also the place where we finally got crackerjack looks at a couple of species that had only given us cursory glances thus far, notably **Spotted Catbird** (*photo next page*) and **Double-eyed Fig-Parrot**. Some people put fruit outside their cabins and were rewarded by catbirds scampering about outside their windows at close range. We also saw a **Tooth-billed Catbird (Bowerbird)** feeding at the forest edge early in the morning, got second sightings of **Victoria's Riflebird**, and our first sights of a **Pied Monarch**, which we were to see again later that same day too. **Gray-headed Robin** also foraged on the edges of the lawn. Once the early morning activity had subsided and the rainforest became quiet once more, we moved on. We stopped in briefly at *Lake Barrine* to add **Great Crested Grebe** and look at the 147ft/45m-high towering *Kauri* pine trees there.



For the latter part of the morning we swapped sites and habitats, birding open woodland surrounding *Lake Tinaroo*, where we got a very cooperative pair of **Varied Sittellas** (*photo page 17*), as hoped for, and a slew of honeyeaters in some flowering shrubs, including **Scarlet** and **Dusky Myzomelas**, and **White-cheeked**, **White-throated** and **Yellow Honeyeaters**. The same area also brought us the only **Olive-backed Oriole** and **Lemon-bellied Flycatchers** of the tour. A **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** also circled above the lake. A return to *Hasties Swamp* and surrounds brought us little extra, although we did finally pick out a couple of **Wandering Whistling-Ducks** hiding amongst the dominant horde of **Plumed Whistling-Ducks**. A **Golden-headed Cisticola** was found in some local farmland, while a return to *Peterson's Creek*, by request, in *Yungaburra*, yielded 2 further **Platypus** on this occasion, our only **Barred Cuckooshrikes** of the trip and another **Yellow-**

breasted Boatbill, though not any *tree-kangaroos*, which we had hoped to find there. After dinner in *Yungaburra*, we checked out **Curtain Fig Tree** at night for nocturnal birds and mammals, finding a **Coppery Brushtail Possum** but only hearing a (*Lesser*) **Sooty Owl** unfortunately, before we retired following a busy and eventful day.

Spotted Catbird, *Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges* (Mike Neubauer).



Day 6: 1st September 2023 – THE WET TROPICS: The Atherton Tablelands to Cairns (Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges, Nerada Tea Rooms, Curtain Fig Tree, Etty Bay), Northeast Queensland.

Having set off at some pace for the *Atherton Tablelands* leg of the tour, with so much to find, we were happy to have a restful start and began later on this morning, with not too much to look for left. We started again right outside our rooms at *Chambers Lodges* with more **Topknot Pigeons**, **Wompoo Fruit-Doves**, **Gray-headed Robins**, a **Pale Yellow Robin**, and also this time a very confiding pair of **Eastern Whipbirds** and a **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove**. After packing up and checking out, we decided to check a local hotspot for *tree-kangaroos*, *Nerada Tea Rooms*. Before we got there a large bird on the roadside, **Pheasant Coucal** had us out of the car, when the *coucal* went to ground though we were rewarded by a soaring pallid **Gray Goshawk** hawking overhead. Sadly, the tea rooms are now closed, and it is a private residence, meaning you are restricted to searching for them in the rainforest belt along the road. After several sweeps of this small area we turned up nothing. However, we did speak to a visiting British couple who'd been given a very specific point they had been the day before, and after some scouring he found a **Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroo** for us! The afternoon was uneventful with a return to *Cairns* via *Etty Bay* being undertaken. Although the *Great Barrier Reef* was homing into view for our final day in *Northeast Queensland*...



Photo Page 14: **Brown Booby** nesting on *Michaelmas Cay, The Great Barrier* (Sam Woods).

Day 7: 2nd September 2023 – THE WET TROPICS: Michaelmas Cay, The Great Barrier Reef & Cairns area, Northeast Queensland.

For our final day in *Northeast Queensland*, we had some very special planned indeed, a boat trip out to see the breeding seabirds of the *Great Barrier Reef* and give people the chance to snorkel and experience the famous marine life there too. We alighted on a pristine white cay or island, on the reef, where **Brown Noddy** and **Sooty Terns** were the dominant species, though were also joined by **Black-naped, Great and Lesser Crested Terns** and **Brown Booby** (*photo page 20*) on the island too. In all during this day we were to record 8 different species of tern. Offshore, during a repositioning of the boat for a snorkelling tri we found some **Bridled Terns** peppering the buoys. On the return boat ride to Cairns the captain helpfully stopped the boat for some breaching **Humpback Whales**, and some **Common Bottlenose Dolphins** were seen during the afternoon too. Once back in *Cairns* (around 3pm), we dropped some people off at the hotel to rest, while others changed and took to the field once more, checking the *Esplanade* again for shorebirds, and finding only distant birds, like a **Great-billed Heron** on the edge of the mangroves and an **Australian Pelican** fishing well offshore, so we headed north of *Cairns*, checking a couple areas of seeing grasses for signs of birds. Eventually, we found what we were looking for, several beautiful **Crimson Finches** to bring a close on our time in the *Wet Tropics*, with *temperate Southeast Queensland* beckoning the next day...



A short stop in *Brisbane* was eventful thanks to Sam's friend *Stuart Pickering*, who'd lined up this **Koala** for us! (Sam Woods).

Day 8: 3rd September 2023 – SOUTHEAST QUEENSLAND: Cairns to Brisbane, Boondall Wetlands & O' Reilly's Rainforest Retreat.



For the next leg of the trip we were joined by two Cairns birders, *Shane* and *Shaun*, whose experience and bird finding skills were a good addition to an already talented group in this regard. We took a flight south from Cairns to the southern Queensland city of Brisbane. To illustrate how big Queensland is, this flight still took a solid two hours and fifteen minutes. We landed in Brisbane in late morning, then went straight out to Boondall Wetlands to pick up two mangrove specialties, which thankfully, (in spite of the heat of the day already being out in force), were straightforward, we first got the well-named **Mangrove Gerygone**, followed by the equally accurately named **Mangrove Honeyeater**. We then took a quick lunch in a nice local café and headed out to Whites Hill Reserve with some haste, as Sam's friend, *Stuart Pickering* had kindly checked it earlier

and had found a convenient *Koala* sleeping in a tree close to the football field. The only issue was it was a busy Saturday, and one of the first hot sunny ones of the spring, so that "Joe Public" was out in force occupying every parking space and there was a real fear that the *Koala* (photo page 21) may be disturbed by the sudden bout of human activity, or the strength of the sun in its position, and retreat into a far less convenient location. Thankfully, our fears were initially unfounded, and *Stuart* walked us straight up to it.



However, moments later it crept up into the treetops, where it was far less visible. We had got there just in time before the heat of the sun had it heading for more shade and considerably less visibility. Stuart also had a **Pacific Baza** (photo page 22) staked out, which gave extraordinarily low down views in a nearby *eucalyptus* tree. Stuart was keen to show us more, and we were keen to see more but we also had a nearly three-hour journey still to do to the legendary *O' Reilly's Rainforest Retreat*. So, after seeing our first **Striated Pardalote**, **Superb Fairywrens**, and **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo**, we hit the road again and drove south towards *Lamington National Park*. Shane though had us pulling over, once he spotted the often difficult **White-headed Pigeon** brazenly sitting on a roadside wire. We turned around and all managed to see it, which was a good job as we were not to see another perched one on the tour! This was *O' Reilly's* sits within temperate, *Subtropical Rainforest* atop a plateau, the sides of which are covered in very different, *eucalyptus*-dominated *Dry Sclerophyll Forest*. We arrived at the base of the hill, and in this latter habitat, at a good time, late afternoon, which allowed us to add two more interesting mammals, with first **Whiptail (Pretty-faced) Wallaby** and **Red-necked Wallaby**. These had no doubt just become active at that time and had emerged from their hidden day roosts into their open night-time feeding areas, both being found foraging in the same, open paddock. We had taken later flights than on some tours to allow us to avoid the crazy early wake up times of an earlier flight, though this meant we were to arrive at *O' Reilly's* in the dark, and no one had an idea of how special this place was for wildlife until the following morning. However, with three nights there (rather than the two on some of our faster-paced scheduled tours), we had plenty of time to see that in the coming days. That night we sampled not only some of the fantastic food in the restaurant but also some delicious, locally produced, wines from *O' Reilly's* own vineyards downhill from the lodge. These wines were a very popular feature of our time there, along with several stellar deserts! We had some night birding planned for there, although we left that for the next night so we could rest after a long (though productive) "travel day".





Photos Page Before: Male **Australian King-Parrot** (**TOP**) & male **Superb Fairywren** (*Sam Woods*).

Days 9-10: 4th - 5th September 2023 - O' Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, Southeast Queensland.

Unlike on some faster-paced bird tours, this one had the luxury of two full days at O' Reilly's to enjoy the place, on this relaxed style birding tour. This location is often a favourite among visiting birders to Australia, and its reputation is such that many chalk this up as their first must-see locale on a birding visit. The reason for this is simple. The forest contains some very special species, including *lyrebirds*, *logrunners*, *whipbirds*, *pittas*, *bowerbirds*, *catbirds*, *parrots*, *frogmouths*, and even a *bird-of-paradise*. On top of that, many of these are easy to see there and even tame, making looking for some of these often very easy going. This is especially true of the bowerbirds and parrots, as the O' Reilly's staff feed them daily, making the front of reception the place to be just before feeding time. And so it was there that we gorged on intimate views of birds like the black-and-gold male **Regent Bowerbirds** (*photo page 25*), and purple-eyed, iridescent blue **Satin Bowerbirds** (*photo below*), and mischievous **Australian King-Parrots** (*photo page 25*) and **Crimson Rosellas** (*photo page 24*), which would perch on people's limbs given half the chance, or opportunistically enter any cabins if a window was left ajar by the uninitiated! Of course, all of these birds are downright spectacular in appearance and made the early mornings an absolute joy to partake in.



O' Reilly's Classics: A male **Satin Bowerbird** prowls the lawns in front of reception (*above*)
A **Crimson Rosella** comes in for its close up – *page 18* (both *Sam Woods*).



Superb Fairywrens were conspicuous around O' Reilly's and were among a long list of tame birds there, including **Australian King-Parrots**, **Crimson Rosellas**, **Regent and Satin Bowerbirds**, **Wonga Pigeon** and **Australian Brush-Turkey** (Sam Woods)

Our easy trail walks produced the requisite **Australian Logrunners** (photo page 38), bouncing around on rocks as much as they did logs for us, as well as **Green Catbirds** giving their baby-like wails from the rainforest canopy. We needed to put some extra effort in on this tour to find **Noisy Pitta** at O' Reilly's though as our early season visit meant that only a few individuals had "been activated" for spring and were calling. A longer walk than usual was required, although we had some good looks of a perched, calling bird, thanks to *Shane's* wonderful mimicry drawing the bird in near to us. We also worked hard to find a **Paradise Riflebird**, though eventually had good looks at a female foraging in the manner of a giant *treecreeper*. One of the key targets in this area of Lamington National Park is always the *Albert's Lyrebird*, and this was perhaps more so on this tour, as this was our only possible lyrebird on the itinerary, as we were not to be visiting areas for its southern cousin, the Superb Lyrebird, unlike some of our other, longer tours. These master mimics are always high on people's "shopping lists" after *David Attenborough* so famously showcased their amazing mimicry in the landmark series "The Life of Birds". While that show featured the other species of *lyrebird*, which is known to mimic more species, **Albert's Lyrebird** is no slouch in the mimicry department having been known to imitate ambulances and other human-sourced sounds.

However, more regularly they can be heard mimicking *king-parrots*, *Satin Bowerbirds*, *Crimson Rosellas*, and the wonderful whip-cracking sounds of *Eastern Whipbirds*. We struggled to initially find the species, perhaps due to a cold and rainy first morning prompting them to limit their calling and activity. However, once the weather cleared later that day, *Sam* spotted one close to our cabins and gathered all he could find to see it. Repeat visits to this same, regular haunt, resulted in further sightings there for *Ann* and others, and *Bruce* and *Susan* were treated to a displaying bird all to themselves elsewhere!



Rose Robin was one of four stunning robins seen on this tour, along with **Pink, Scarlet, and Flame Robins** seen on *Tasmania* (*Sam Woods*).

While I have mentioned some of the birds we grappled with seeing, there were many *O' Reilly's* regulars that were very easy to come by, including absurdly tame **Eastern Whipbirds**, **Wonga Pigeons** parading around the parrot feeding areas, bold **Australian Brush-Turkeys** scrapping with the *parrots* for their feed, **Pied Currawongs** perched with intent beside the café tables, gorgeous **Eastern Spinebills** plundering the nectar-producing plants around the buildings, **Yellow-throated and White-browed Scrubwrens** scampering around our feet, in addition to equally confiding **Eastern Yellow Robins**, **Gray Shrikethrushes**, **Lewin's Honeyeaters** (*photo page 23*), **Red-browed Firetails**, and **Superb Fairywrens** (*photo page 27*).

We were also surprised by a very easy **Rose Robin** (*photo page 28*) hanging around one of the parking lots there, which led to low down views of a species that often frustrates for good looks as it resides mainly in the neck-breaking, forest canopy. Most of our birding up on this plateau in the *Green Mountains* was in or alongside *Montane Rainforest*. However, we did venture into the stark transition zone between this and the neighbouring *Dry Sclerophyll Forest* and found the hoped-for **Red-browed Treecreeper** on our second visit there. An odd sighting beside the cabins there (which are set within *Montane Rainforest*), was a lonesome **Bush Thick-knee**, living next to an entirely wrong habitat for this species. The staff informed us that it had mysteriously appeared there about a year earlier and had taken up residence there all on its own! Sam would often exit his cabin to find it sitting on his doorstep when it would take umbrage to his need to pass by! Keeping an eye overhead led us to more sightings of **Topknot** and **White-headed Pigeons**, although only in high elevation flights. However, watching the skies did pay off once the distinctive shape of a **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, (Australia's largest raptor species), homed into view.



A calling **Marbled Frogmouth** gave pretty close views one night at *O' Reilly's*! We saw all three Australian Frogmouths on the tour, with **Papuan** and **Tawny Frogmouths** by day and this one by night (*Sam Woods*).

We also ventured out on two of our three nights there, in the hope of nightbirds primarily, although we were also on the lookout for nocturnal mammals too. On the first night we were fortunate to get cracking looks at a **Marbled Frogmouth** (*photo above*), which sat on the same perch until we walked away.

That night we also came upon a **Common Brushtail Possum**. Our second night was also eventful, when, (after a time), we located a calling **Southern Boobook**. However, the **Carpet Python** found wrapped around a vine above our heads, while we were trying to locate the owl will perhaps best be remembered! We also found some **Red-necked Pademelons** trimming the grass at night near our hotel rooms. I think you can see from this write up, we had a smashing time at *O' Reilly's*, what with the bewitching combination of delicious food, easy rainforest birding, and excellent locally-produced wines to wash all this down with!



Bush Thick-knees featured regularly on the *Wet Tropics* part of the trip, where they are most abundant. Another bird was also seen at *O' Reilly's Rainforest Retreat*, where they are not normally found (*Sam Woods*).

Day 12: 7th September 2023 – TASMANIA: Mount Wellington & Hobart Waterworks Reserve to Bruny Island.

After landing in *Tasmania* the day before, we were more than ready to tuck into the many *Tasmania* endemics on offer on this island state by the next morning. In addition to endemics though there were other species peppered among them of interest to us, with this being our only time in *Southern Australia* on this tour. We awoke to our first morning in *Tasmania*. The contrast from where we started the tour in *The Wet Tropics of Cairns* could not have been stark, it was *positively* cold here, this being then place where spring arrives last in Australia. We visited a local bakery in Hobart, then set off to bird in the local area, starting out a rather frigid *Mount Wellington* that looms above *Hobart*.

Activity was slow, although we still picked up our first specialties, including **Black Currawong**, **Forest Raven**, **Tasmanian Scrubwren**, **Tasmanian Thornbill**, **Dusky Robin**, and some even saw a brief male **Pink Robin** while we ventured onto a rainforest trail near the base of the mountain. Next up, was a stop within a more open habitat (*Dry Sclerophyll Forest*) at the wonderful *Hobart Waterworks Reserve*. There, we saw both local currawongs virtually side-by-side (**Black and Gray Currawongs**), picked up a late **Gray Butcherbird**, and saw some flightless **Tasmanian Native-Hens** foraging on the mowed grassy edges to the lake, while on the lake itself a single **Hoary-headed Grebe** was hiding among the more abundant **Australasian Grebes**. Tasmania's state bird was also seen, the *harrier-sized* **Yellow Wattlebird**, one of the largest of all the honeyeaters. A couple of new raptors were also seen there, with both **Collared Sparrowhawk** and **Swamp Harrier** passing overhead.



A pair of **Hooded Plovers** were seen at one of their regular breeding haunts, *Adventure Bay* on *Bruny island* (*Sam Woods*).

By then, lunchtime was fast approaching, and so we headed toward the dock at *Kettering*, from where we would take the car ferry over to *Bruny Island*. We took lunch at another good café just before there and headed straight over to *Bruny* after eating. We tried to start our time off in *North Bruny*, by going after the rarest of the Tasmanian endemics, *Forty-spotted Pardalote*, but were left wanting and we vowed to try again over the next two days. The pardalote site *did* hold pardalotes, of both *other* species on the island, **Striated and Spotted Pardalotes**. We also picked up another two endemic *honeyeaters*, with **Yellow-throated and Black-headed Honeyeaters** sharing the same eucalyptus trees.

As we travelled around this scenic island, we saw a number of **Black Swans** swimming just offshore and stopped for a large gathering of *gulls*, which held two species that were new to us on the day, the widespread **Kelp Gull**, and a concentration of **Pacific Gulls**, a *Southern Australia* specialty that ranks as one of the largest gulls in the world, with a noticeably massive bill. Dotted on the beautifully clean and the scenic deserted beaches and rocky coastlines on *Bruny* were two species of *oystercatcher* too, **Pied Oystercatcher** that we had seen before but also **Sooty Oystercatchers**, which we had not. We headed over to Adventure Bay looking for an afternoon win before we checked into our wonderful hotel for the next two nights and were rewarded by finding the regular pair of **Hooded Plovers** (*photo page before*), resting on the beach, with some **Chestnut Teal** in the same view. After scoring the plover, we headed over to the eucalyptus-lined shoreline where some flowering trees were attracting the attention of numerous **Swift Parrots** (*photo page 34*), a recent arrival in the area from mainland Australia (they spend the Aussie winter on the mainland, only returning to *Bruny* in the spring, once these trees are in perfect condition, the whitish flowers blooming and bursting with nectar for the parrots to gorge on. Excited flocks of **Swift Parrots** came and went on a regular basis and some of them allowed some great 'scope looks.



We were captivated by this male **Flame Robin** at Adventure Bay, while **Swift Parrots** zipped to and fro from the *Eucalyptus* trees overhead (*Sam Woods*).

Taking a pit stop at a local public restroom in *Adventure Bay* proved fortuitous when one of the group spotted a bright safety-orange bird perched nearby, which turned out to be our third new robin of the day, and arguably the best of them all, a superb, confiding, male **Flame Robin** (*photo above*), which was photographed at length.

With late afternoon approaching fast, and knowing we still needed to check in and have dinner before a night drive for mammals and birds was planned we headed to the wonderful *Bruny Hotel*, where we were suitably impressed by the recently renovated rooms overlooking yet another scenic bay on *Bruny Island*. After dinner, we went on an extended night drive in search of mammals and birds. We started out, once again at *Adventure Bay*, where we saw plenty of “regular” **Bennett’s (Red-necked) Wallabies**, and also found what we were looking for, and a *Bruny* specialty, a pure white version of one of these (“**White Wallaby**”), *photo page 37*. On a high from our early success, we visited an area of *Wet Sclerophyll Forest* that appeared perfect for another specialty, this time an owl. We played for **Tasmanian Boobook** (an owl with a confusing history-originally lumped in with the more widespread *Southern Boobook*, then lumped in with a *New Zealand* species, *Morepork*, and now split from both of these as a *Southern Australian* specialty); and got a quick reply and were soon eyeballing this species above us. Then, we went in search of quolls, another mammal, although unfortunately could not find any, though we did find plentiful **Rufous-bellied (Tasmanian) Pademelons** and **Common Brushtail Possums**, which regularly wandered on to the quiet roads before we retired for the night.



FOUR robins were seen on *Bruny Island*, this **Scarlet Robin**, in addition to **Flame Robin**, **Pink Robin** and **Dusky Robin**, the latter being an endemic species (*Mike Neubauer*)



**Day 13: 8th September 2023
– TASMANIA: Bruny Island.**

A full day was spent on this magical island, slowing adding more specialties to our list. During one of our first drives, a bright black-and-red bird on a roadside wire caused us to halt the vehicle, and we were happy to find that it was our first **Scarlet Robin** ([photo page 33](#)). We then took a walk along an amazingly verdant *Temperate Rainforest* trail, littered with large ferns. As we wound our way along the forested gully we regularly picked up more *robins*, this time **Pink Robins** that love this habitat, estimating we saw 11 different individuals during our few hours on the trail! It turned out to be as decent day for *robins*, with 4 species seen (**Flame and Dusky Robins** completing the quartet. However, this was not our main quarry along there. We were on the hunt for one of *Tasmania's* toughest endemics, the subdued **Scrubtit**, which did not show up until we were walking back along the

track. We emerged from there into a more open habitat of tall eucalyptus trees, with a dense understorey, known as *Wet Sclerophyll Forest*. We specifically checked an area where these towering trees displayed regular, long strips of bark peeling off of their trunks for this is the favoured habitat of the fourth and final state endemic honeyeater we were seeking. Indeed, we did find a very confiding group of **Strong-billed Honeyeaters** there as hoped. The same area held an **Olive Whistler** too. In the afternoon, we took a side trip out to *Cape Bruny*, admiring Australia's most southerly lighthouse set on a beautiful headland covered in scenic *Alpine Heathland*.

We'd hoped we might find a *Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo* or *White-fronted Chat* there but needed to be satisfied with more handsome **New Holland Honeyeaters** (*photo page 36*), another **Flame Robin**, an **Australasian Pipit**, and an **Australasian Gannet** offshore instead, along with our only sighting of a **Short-beaked Echidna**, one of Australia's strangest mammals. We also stopped in at the *Jetty Beach Campground*, which always produces something, and this time was no exception, when we had a very tame **Bassian Thrush**, to the delight of those who'd missed it before in *Lamington*. We also had long looks at a singing *Shining Bronze-Cuckoo*. Other highlights that day included more **Swift Parrots** and **Green Rosellas** and our only **Pallid Cuckoo** of the trip. Then, right at the death, *Sam, Mike and Georganne* were all at the right place at the right time. As they approached the *Hotel Bruny* restaurant for another super dinner, a low flying flock of prehistoric-looking **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos** passed overhead much to the chagrin of the rest who were absent at the time.



THREE *Pardalotes* were seen on *Bruny Island* in *Tasmania*, the endemic **Forty-spotted Pardalote** in addition to **Spotted Pardalote** (above) and **Striated Pardalote** (*Mike Neubauer*)



Striking **New Holland Honeyeaters** were conspicuous in heathlands on Bruny Island (Mike Neubauer)

Day 14: 9th September 2023 – TASMANIA: Bruny Island & Orielton Lagoon.

The last birding day of the tour started our rather inauspiciously. A windy and rainy start had us delaying our start. After this slow start though, things picked up once the rain and wind had moved on. We had tried several times to find the endangered **Forty-spotted Pardalote** at traditional haunts on *North Bruny* without success. However, we were finally rewarded for our efforts, and this species was the final Tasmanian endemic we were looking for. **Spotted Pardalote** (*photo page 35*) and **Striated Pardalote** were also seen in the same area, to complete a trio of *pardalotes* for the day. Various stops on *Bruny* led us to have a *FOUR cormorant species day*, with **Black-faced, Pied and Great Cormorants** being the most significant of these. After lunch on *Bruny*, we set off for our return to the mainland. Sam had researched where we might try and plug a few gaps on our return to the Hobart area, and so we visited *Orielton Lagoon*, finding one of our major targets, **Musk Duck** resting on the water there. **Great Crested Grebe** there was also only the second time we had seen that species on the tour. Sam had planned to make this visit only brief, as he was intended to visit some parkland in *Hobart* in the hope of finding **Musk Lorikeet**. However, after several groups of these tiny *parrots* flew past us in the area we were, we decided to stay put. We focused on a line of trees, which were loaded with **Little (Brush) Wattlebirds**, another new bird for us, and then, finally, a group of *lorikeets* dropped into the trees right in front of us. The same area also held **Galahs** and **Little Corellas**. We finished off that night with a lavish, highly ranked, Italian meal at a tour favourite restaurant close to our hotel in *Hobart*, to bring the tour to a close in some style. The food had been good on this tour, with a varied set of restaurants and cafes used, many of which were very popular with the group, including *Thai*, *Indian*, and traditional Australian pub fare too, and we'd also sampled some great Australian wines, most notably at *O Reilly's*, a location which was a major highlight for the group along with the procession of tame and colourful Australian birds and other animals!



Photo Page 37: A “White Wallaby” (a white form of **Bennett’s Wallaby**, was seen at night on *Bruny Island* (Mike Neubauer)



A Family Affair - Page 38: **Australian Logrunner (TOP)** & **Chowchilla** were both seen on this tour, and are from the same Australasian bird family, “Logrunners”. Getting new bird families is a big feature for first time visitors to the region (both *Mike Neubauer*).

CHECKLISTS:

BIRDS

The taxonomy of the bird list follows **Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W.** *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*. Cornell, 2007. *This list is up to date with changes published by Cornell in October 2023.*

(H) - INDICATES A SPECIES THAT WAS HEARD ONLY.

(GO) – INDICATES A SPECIES RECORDED BY THE GUIDE ONLY.

(E) – INDICATES AN AUSTRALIAN ENDEMIC SPECIES.

(TE) - INDICATES A TASMANIAN ENDEMIC SPECIES.

(QLD) – INDICATES THE STATE OF QUEENSLAND.

(NE QLD) – INDICATES NORTHEAST QUEENSLAND (I.E. CAIRNS LEG).

(SE QLD) – INDICATES SOUTHEAST QUEENSLAND (I.E. BRISBANE LEG).

(TAS) - INDICATES TASMANIA.

MAGPIE GOOSE: *Anseranatidae*

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*: Recorded on 3 days in The Wet Tropics of Northeast Queensland. 1000 or more were seen at Saties Swamp.

DUCKS, GEESE AND WATERFOWL: *Anatidae*

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*: An estimated 500 were seen at Hasties Swamp NE QLD).

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuate*: 4 were found among the Plumed WD at Hasties Swamp (NE QLD).

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*: Seen each day on Bruny Island (TAS).

Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*: Recorded twice in NE QLD, at Newell Beach and Wonga Beach.

Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus*: Seen once, at Cattana Wetlands just north of Cairns (NE QLD).

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata* (E): Recorded on 6 days of the tour, in NE QLD, SE QLD and TAS.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*: One of Australia’s most abundant ducks, seen on 6 days.

Gray Teal *Anas gracilis*: A handful were seen at Hasties Swamp, NE QLD.

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea* (E): A couple of groups were seen on Bruny Island (TAS).

White-eyed Duck *Aythya australis*: Seen at Hasties Swamp, NE QLD, and near Hobart on TAS.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata* (E): This fantastic duck was seen near Hobart on TAS, where 5 were noted.

MEGAPODES: *Megapodiidae*

Australian Brushturkey *Alectura lathami* (E): Recorded on 7 days of the tour in NE QLD and at O Reilly’s.

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*: A Wet Tropics specialty, recorded almost daily in the lowlands of NE QLD.

GREBES: *Podicipedidae*

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*: Recorded on just 6 days of the tour, in QLD & TAS.

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliocephalus poliocephalus*: A single was seen in Hobart (TAS).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*: Seen at two locations (Lake Barrine, NE QLD) and Orielton Lagoon (TAS).

PIGEONS AND DOVES: *Columbidae*

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: Seen on a few days of the tour.

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela* (E): A perched bird was seen on the way to O’ Reilly’s where others were seen in flight only.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: Just a couple of sightings in QLD (mostly on journeys).

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia phasianella* (E): A nestiung bird was seen at Hasties Swamp and others were found at O’ Reilly’s (both QLD).

Pacific Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris*: A couple were flushed at Peterson’s Creek in NE QLD.

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes* (E): Recorded on 3 days in Queensland.

Squatter Pigeon *Geophaps scripta* (E): Several tame birds were seen at *Granite Gorge* (NE QLD), as usual.

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca* (E): 1 or 2 tame birds were seen at O' Reilly's (QLD).

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*: Recorded on 7 days in QLD.

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*: Good numbers seen in NE QLD (e.g. Mount Carbine).

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*: Seen on 4 days in NE QLD (e.g. Lake Morris, Daintree, and Chambers Lodges).

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*: Seen within Mangroves in Cairns, and Montane Rainforest at Chambers Lodges (NE QLD).

Torresian Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa*: Seen regularly in NE QLD, particularly conspicuous around Cairns.

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus* (E): Some good, perched, views at Chambers Lodges, and others in O' Reilly's (both QLD).

BUSTARDS: Otidae

Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis*: 3 were seen at "Bustard Downs" in Maryfarms (both NE QLD).

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*: A single bird was seen on the way to Nerada Tea Rooms in NE QLD.

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*: Seen twice, once in Brisbane (QLD) and then at Jetty Beach (TAS).

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*: 1 very cooperative bird at Cattana Wetlands (NE QLD).

Pallid Cuckoo *Cacomantis pallidus*: Just the 1 seen, on Bruny Island (TAS).

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*: 1 was seen at O' Reilly's (SE QLD).

FROGMOUTHS: Podargidae

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides* (E): A roosting bird was seen in the daytime at Mount Carbine (QLD).

Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus*: 1 was spot lit at night along a forest trail at O'Reilly's (QLD).

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*: 2 individuals were seen during the Daintree boat cruise (QLD).

OWLET-NIGHTJARS: Aegothelidae

Australian Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*: 2 was spotted at night near Davies Creek NP (NE QLD).

SWIFTS: Apodidae

Australian Swiftlet *Aerodramus terraereginae* (E): Recorded on 4 days in NE QLD (e.g. Cairns, Daintree).

RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS: Rallidae

Australasian Swamphe *Porphyrio melanotus*: Very conspicuous at Hasties Swamp in NE QLD.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*: A few were seen at Hasties Swamp and others were seen at Whites Hill (both QLD).

Tasmanian Native-hen *Tribonyx mortierii* (TE): Regularly noted on TAS, where it is a common species.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*: Recorded on 3 days, at Hasties Swamp in NE QLD and in Hobart (TAS).

CRANES: Gruidae

Sarus Crane *Antigone Antigone*: 100 or more were seen in a mixed crane flock near Atherton (NE QLD).

Brolga *Antigone rubicunda*: Dozens were seen in a mixed flock of cranes in farm fields near Hasties Swamp (NE QLD).

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae

Bush Thick-knee *Burhinus grallarius*: Recorded on 4 days in QLD (e.g. Newell Beach & O'Reilly's).

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae

Pied Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*: Recorded on 4 days in NE QLD (e.g. The Esplanade in Cairns and Wonga Beach).

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*: Recorded on a couple of days in NE QLD and daily on Bruny Island (TAS).

Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus* (E): Seen on a few occasions on Bruny Island (TAS).

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*: A.K.A. "Melted Cheeseface", was recorded on all but a few days of the tour.

Hooded Plover *Thinornis cucullatus* (E): A pair was seen on Bruny Island (TAS).

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyaornis melanops*: 1 was seen in Cairns, NE QLD.

JACANAS: Jacanidae

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*: Seen on two Tropical Wetlands in NE QLD (Cattana Wetlands & Hasties Swamp).

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: Recorded 4 times around Cairns, including at Machans Beach on The Esplanade.

Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*: Recorded at Newell Beach Beach (NE QLD).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*: A handful were seen on the flats in Cairns (NE QLD).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*: 4 were seen on Michaelmas Cay on the Great Barrier Reef (NE QLD).

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*: A few were seen on the flats in Cairns.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*: A few were seen on The Esplanade in Cairns.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*: 4 birds were present at the Esplanade in Cairns (NE QLD).

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*: Bruce spotted one of these superb shorebirds at Newell Beach (NE QLD).

Gray-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*: Seen in Cairns and at Newell Beach in NE QLD.

GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS: Laridae

Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*: Recorded on at least 6 days (NE QLD & TAS).

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus* (E): Dozens of this brute was seen once on Bruny Island (TAS).

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*: Numerous on Bruny Island in in Hobart in TAS.

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*: One of the most abundant nesting species on Michaelmas Cay on the Great Barrier Reef.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*: An abundant nester on Michaelmas Cay.

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*: A handful were resting on buoys near Hastings Reef (NE QLD).

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon* sp.: 1 single in Cairns, NE QLD.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*: 1 was seen from our Great Barrier Reef boat.

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*: 6 were seen at Michaelmas Cay (NE QLD).

Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*: Around 100 birds were seen at Michaelmas Cay (NE QLD).

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*: About 50 birds were present on Michaelmas Cay (NE QLD).

BOOBIES AND GANNETS: Sulidae

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*: Seen nesting on Michaelmas Cay on the Great Barrier Reef.

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*: Seen at Cape Bruny (TAS).

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae

Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*: Seen on 4 occasions in NE QLD (e.g. Cattana, Daintree cruise).

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: Phalacrocoracidae

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*: The most regular cormorant; recorded on 7 days.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: A few were seen around Bruny Island and near Hobart (both TAS)

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*: Seen at Lake Tinaroo, Boondall Wetlands and around Hobart.

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*: 1 sighting, from the Bruny Island ferry.

Black-faced Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscescens*: A few were seen around Bruny Island (TAS).

PELICANS: Pelecanidae

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*: Seen in Cairns.

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS: Ardeidae

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*: 1 very distant bird was seen at the edge of some mangroves in Cairns.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*: Noted on 5 days of the tour.

Plumed (Intermediate) Egret *Ardea plumifera*: Seen on 5 days, all in NE QLD.

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*: Recorded on 5 days of the tour, in QLD and TAS.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: A few sightings in NE QLD only (e.g. Daintree).

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*: Noted on at least 6 days of the tour, mostly in NE QLD.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*: 1 was seen on the Daintree boat cruise, NE QLD.

Nankeen (Rufous) Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*: The same single roosting bird was seen during both of our visits to Hasties Swamp, NE QLD.

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae

Australian Ibis *Threskiornis moluccus*: Recorded on 6 days of the tour, mostly in NE QLD.

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*: Also recorded on 6 days of the tour.

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*: Recorded on 3 days in NE QLD (e.g. Cairns, Lake Mitchell and at Hasties Swamp).

OSPREEY: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus cristatus*: Just 1 was seen in Cairns (NE QLD).

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES: Accipitridae

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris* (E): 1 was found near Hasties Swamp (NE QLD).

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*: Stuart showed us a fantastic, low perched birds at Whites Hill Reserve in Brisbane.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*: 2 singles, at O'Reilly's (SE QLD) and on Bruny Island (TAS).

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*: Recorded on TAS in Hobart and on Bruny.

Gray Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* (E): A circling bird was seen near the Nerada Tea Rooms (NE QLD).

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*: 4 sightings in NE QLD and TAS.

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus* (E): 1 was seen in Hobart and another on Bruny Island (both TAS).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: A common raptor, seen on at least 5 days in NE QLD.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*: Seen on 3-4 occasions in NE QLD, usually around wetlands (e.g. Lake Mitchell).

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*: Seen twice, once in Daintree and once in Newell Beach (both QLD).

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*: 3 sightings (Daintree, Lake Tinaroo, Bruny Island).

BARN-OWLS: TYTONIDAE

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa* (H): Heard frustratingly close at the Curtain Fig Tree (NE QLD).

OWLS: Strigidae

Southern Boobook *Ninox boobook*: A calling bird was seen at O'Reilly's (SE QLD).

Tasmanian Boobook *Ninox leucopsis*: A pair was seen near Adventure Bay on Bruny Island.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus*: We enjoyed some good views on the Daintree river cruise with Murray.

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae* (E): An abundant and familiar species in Australia, recorded on 11 days.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*: 2 were seen in Mount Carbine (NE QLD).

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*: A few were seen in the Daintree area.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*: Recorded on 3 days in NE QLD (e.g. Cairns, Cattana, Daintree).

Torresian Kingfisher *Todiramphus sordidus*: Seen a couple of times within the Cairns city limits.

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*: Recorded on 5 days in the Wet Tropics.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides* (GO): Sam saw one in NE QLD.

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*: 1 darted past The Esplanade in Cairns.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*: 3 sightings, including twice in Bruny Island (TAS).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: 1 was seen on Bruny Island on TAS.

COCKATOOS: Cacatuidae

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii* (E): A small group of these fantastic birds was seen in Mount Carbine.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus* (E): A group that flew over the Hotel Bruny was seen by Sam, Mike and Georganne.

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla* (E): Recorded on 3 days of the tour (e.g. Mount Carbine and on TAS).

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*: A group were seen close to Hobart on TAS.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*: Very common, encountered on all but a few days.

OLD WORLD PARROTS: Psittaculidae

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis* (E): Seen extremely well at O'Reilly's (S QLD), as usual!

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*: Some good views were had in Mount Carbine (NE QLD).

Green Rosella *Platycercus caledonicus* (TE): Recorded in small numbers every day in TAS, including by our Bruny hotel.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans* (E): As usual, exceptional views of the tame birds at O'Reilly's (SE QLD).

Pale-headed Rosella *Platycercus adscitus* (E): Seen at Mount Carbine in NE QLD and in Brisbane in SE QLD.

Double-eyed Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*: We got some good perched views at Chambers Lodges (NE QLD).

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna* (E): A few groups were seen near Hobart (TAS).

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla* (E): Flyovers were seen at Bluff State Forest (NE QLD)

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus moluccanus moluccanus* (E): A spectacular parrot, recorded on at least 9 days.

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus* (E): Good looks at Lake Tinaroo and Granite Gorge (both NE QLD).

PITTAS: Pittidae

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor* (E): Thanks to Shane's mimicry, we were treated to some nice views of 1 at O'Reilly's.

LYREBIRDS: Menuridae

Albert's Lyrebird *Menura alberti* (E): Seen on 3 occasions at O'Reilly's (QLD).

BOWERBIRDS: Ptilonorhynchidae

Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus maculosus* (E): First seen at Mount Lewis, then better at Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges (NE QLD).

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris* (E): Seen on several occasions in the rainforest at Lamington NP (SE QLD).

Tooth-billed Catbird *Scenopoeetes dentirostris* (E): 1 was seen beside the clearing at Chambers Lodges (NE QLD).

Golden Bowerbird *Amblyornis newtoniana* (E): A gorgeous adult male was seen near at a bower in Mount Lewis (NE QLD).

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus* (E): Great views at O'Reilly's of their logo bird, as usual, with up to 6 birds (SE QLD).

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* (E): Excellent views of the birds and a blue-themed bower at O'Reilly's.

Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis* (E): Seen at 2 sites in NE QLD (Granite Gorge & Mt. Carbine). Bowers also seen.

AUSTRALASIAN TREECREEPERS: Climacteridae

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaea* (E): Recorded at 3 sites, Bluff State Forest, Chambers Lodges (both NE QLD) & O'Reilly's (SE QLD).

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythrops* (E): 1 was seen along Duck Creek Road, close to O'Reilly's (SE QLD).

FAIRYWRENS: Maluridae

Lovely Fairywren *Malurus amabilis* (E): Excellent views of this Wet Tropics specialty in Daintree (NE QLD).

Superb Fairywren *Malurus cyaneus* (E): Seen in Brisbane, at O'Reilly's, and on Tasmania.

Red-backed Fairywren *Malurus melanocephalus* (E): Seen twice in NE QLD, at Maryfarms & Bluff State Forest.

HONEYEATERS: Meliphagidae

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* (E): Some good views beside our cabins at O'Reilly's (SE QLD).

Yellow-spotted Honeyeater *Meliphaga notata* (E): Recorded at 3 sites in NE QLD (Lake Morris, Daintree & Etty Bay).

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii* (E): Noted on 6 days of the tour; very conspicuous at O'Reilly's.

Cryptic Honeyeater *Microptilotis imitatrix* (E): Seen just twice, at Lake Morris and in Daintree (both NE QLD).

Yellow Honeyeater *Stomiopera flava* (E): 3 sightings in NE QLD, in Cairns, and at Granite Gorge and Lake Tinaroo.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Caligavis chrysops* (E): Seen 3 times in QLD, at Hasties Swamp, Bluff State Forest & at O'Reilly's.

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala* (E): Seen in Brisbane (SE QLD) and near Hobart (TAS).

Bridled Honeyeater *Bolemoreus frenatus* (E): This species is normally an Atherton specialty, typically looked for in the highlands, *when breeding*. However, our early spring season visit meant that they were actually in the lowlands, with several seen on our Daintree boat cruise and at Granite Gorge (NE QLD).

Little (Brush) Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera* (E): Around 20 birds were seen during our final spell of birding near Hobart (TAS).

Yellow Wattlebird *Anthochaera paradoxa* (TE): This massive honeyeater was seen each day on Tasmania.

Varied Honeyeater *Gavicalis versicolor*: A rollicking pair was seen on The Esplanade in Cairns.

Mangrove Honeyeater *Gavicalis fasciogularis* (E): A pair was seen at Boondall Wetlands near Brisbane (S QLD).

Fuscous Honeyeater *Ptilotula fusca* (E): Some were seen at Bluff State Forest (NE QLD).

Brown-backed Honeyeater *Ramsayornis modestus* (GO): 1 was seen by Sam in Daintree (NE QLD).

Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela obscura*: Recorded on 4 days in NE QLD (e.g. In Cairns).

- Scarlet Myzomela** *Myzomela sanguinolenta* (E): Recorded on 5 days of the tour (e.g. Granite Gorge, Lake Tinaroo).
- Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*: Only seen on 3 days, at Cattana, Granite Gorge and Lake Tinaroo (all NE QLD).
- Crescent Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus* (E): A few were seen on Tasmania.
- New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae* (E): Some great looks on Bruny Island, TAS.
- White-cheeked Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris niger* (E): Seen in Julatten and better still at some blossoms in Lake Tinaroo (NE QLD).
- Yellow-throated Honeyeater** *Nesoptilotis flavicollis* (TE): At least 2 were seen on Bruny Island.
- Blue-faced Honeyeater** *Entomyzon cyanotis*: Recorded on 3 days in NE QLD (e.g., Granite Gorge, Mount Molloy).
- White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albobularis*: Recorded just once, at Lake Tinaroo in NE QLD.
- White-naped Honeyeater** *Melithreptus lunatus* (E): Seen twice in NE QLD at Bluff State Forest and at Lake Tinaroo.
- Black-headed Honeyeater** *Melithreptus affinis* (TE): Seen each day on Bruny Island in TAS.
- Strong-billed Honeyeater** *Melithreptus validirostris* (TE): A single confiding group of 3 birds was seen near Adventure Bay.
- Macleay's Honeyeater** *Xanthotis macleayanus* (E): Just the one was seen at Lake Morris in NE QLD.
- Helmeted Friarbird** *Philemon buceroides yorki*: Noted on 3 days in the Cairns region.
- Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus*: Recorded on 4 days of the tour (e.g., Granite Gorge).
- PARDALOTES: Pardalotidae**
- Spotted Pardalote** *Pardalotus punctatus* (E): Seen well several times, at Bluff State Forest, O'Reilly's and on Bruny.
- Forty-spotted Pardalote** *Pardalotus quadragintus* (TE): A singleton was found after several earlier failed attempts, on Bruny Island.
- Striated Pardalote** *Pardalotus striatus* (E): Seen in Brisbane (SE QLD), and Hobart and Bruny Island on Tassie.
- THORNBILLS AND ALLIES: Acanthizidae**
- Fernwren** *Oreoscopus gutturalis* (E): Several were seen well on Mt. Lewis (NE QLD).
- Yellow-throated Scrubwren** *Sericornis citreogularis* (E): Seen best at O'Reillys, where they were tame and conspicuous.
- White-browed Scrubwren** *Sericornis frontalis* (E): Recorded on 5 days, with the best views coming at O'Reilly's.
- Tasmanian Scrubwren** *Sericornis humilis* (TE): Seen well at Mount Wellington on Tassie.
- Atherton Scrubwren** *Sericornis kerri* (E): 2 were observed at Mt. Lewis (NE QLD).
- Large-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis magnirostra* (E): Seen at Chambers Lodges and in nearby Yungaburra in NE QLD.
- Scrubtit** *Acanthornis magna* (TE): A foraging pair was seen along the Mavista Track on Bruny Island.
- Mountain Thornbill** *Acanthiza katherina* (E): A handful were seen and heard on Mt. Lewis (NE QLD).
- Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusilla* (E): Recorded in O'Reilly's in QLD, and on Bruny Island on TAS.
- Tasmanian Thornbill** *Acanthiza ewingii* (TE): Several were seen inside the rainforest near the base of Mount Wellington.
- Weebill** *Smicronis brevirostris* (E) GO: Sam saw one of these tiny birds near Bluff State Forest (NE QLD).
- Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa*: A pair was seen near Daintree village (NE QLD).
- Large-billed Gerygone** *Gerygone magnirostris*: 2 were seen during the Daintree river cruise (NE QLD).
- Brown Gerygone** *Gerygone mouki* (E): First seen at Hasties Swamp, then further south at O'Reilly's (both QLD).
- Mangrove Gerygone** *Gerygone levigaster* (E): A pair was found at Boondall Wetlands (SE QLD).
- PSEUDO-BABBLERS: Pomatostomidae**
- Gray-crowned Babbler** *Pomatostomus temporalis*: Seen once at Granite Gorge (NE QLD).
- LOGRUNNERS: Orthonychidae**
- Australian Logrunner** *Orthonyx temminckii* (E): This charismatic bird was seen multiple times at O'Reilly's (QLD).
- Chowchilla** *Orthonyx spaldingii* (E): A much wanted Wet Tropic specialty, seen on Mt. Lewis, where 3 parties were seen.
- CUCKOO-SHRIKES: Campephagidae**
- Barred (Yellow-eyed) Cuckooshrike** *Coracina lineata*: A pair was observed at Peterson's Creek in Yungaburra (NE QLD).
- Black-faced Cuckooshrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae*: Recorded on at least 5 days of the tour, all in QLD.
- White-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina papuensis*: 3 sightings in NE QLD (e.g. Cairns & Granite Gorge).
- Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*: A couple were seen on our first afternoon in Cairns (NE QLD).

SITELLAS: Neosittidae

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*: 2 pairs were seen, a photogenic pair at Lake Tinaroo, then again on Mount Baldy (both NE QLD).

WHIPBIRDS AND WEDGEBILLS: Psophodidae

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus* (E): Absurdly close views of several tame birds at O'Reilly's, and also seen at Chambers Lodges (both QLD).

WHISTLERS AND ALLIES: Pachycephalidae

Rufous Shrikethrush *Colluricincla rufogaster*: Seen at Lake Morris and again in Yungaburra, both in NE QLD.

Gray Shrikethrush *Colluricincla harmonica*: Several tame individuals were seen at O'Reilly' (SE QLD).

Bower's Shrikethrush *Colluricincla boweri* (E): Two singles were seen, 1 at Mt. Lewis and 1 at Curtain Fig Tree.

Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea* (E): 1 was seen on Bruny Island in TAS.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis* (E): Noted on 9 days of the tour (e.g., Hasties Swamp & Bruny Island).

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*: Recorded at 3 sites: in Julatten, Bluff State Forest, and in Brisbane.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*: Just the one was seen at Lake Tinaroo in NE QLD.

Green (Yellow) Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*: Heard at several sights in the Wet Tropics, where we got good looks in Daintree village, NE QLD.

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti* (E): Seen on 6 different days in NE QLD (e.g., in Cairns).

BOATBILLS: Machaerirhynchidae

Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*: 1 on the Lake Morris Road & another at Yungaburra (NE QLD).

WOODSWALLOW, BELLMAGPIES & ALLIES: Artamidae

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*: Recorded on 5 days of the tour, mostly on the Wet tropics leg.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus* (E): Recorded on 2 days, at Bluff State Forest (NE QLD), and near Cape Bruny in TAS.

Gray Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus* (E): Our only sighting was at the Hobart Waterworks Reserve in Tassie.

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis* (E): Recorded on 3 days in Queensland (e.g. Whites Hill Reserve in Brisbane).

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*: A Wet Tropics specialty seen in Cairns, at Cattana Wetlands, and in Daintree (NE QLD).

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* (E): Recorded in each leg of the tour, including around O' Reilly's and Brisbane.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* (E): Noted on 7 days of the tour, where best seen at O'Reilly's (QLD) where they were very tame around the cafe.

Black Currawong *Strepera fuliginosa* (TE): Recorded on 3 days in Tasmania, including in Hobart and on Bruny Island.

Gray Currawong *Strepera versicolor* (E): Only recorded at Hobart Waterworks Reserve where a couple were seen (TAS).

FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*: 1 was seen during a short stop at Abattoir Swamp near Julatten (NE QLD).

Willie-wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*: One of Australia's most conspicuous birds, seen on 9 days, mostly in NE QLD.

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*: 1 at Lake Morris and another in Daintree were the only sightings (NE QLD).

Gray Fantail *Rhipidura albiscapa*: Recorded on 10 days of the tour in QLD & TAS.

DRONGOS: Dicruridae

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*: Seen on 5 days of the tour, mostly in NE QLD (e.g. Cairns).

BIRDS-OF-PARADISE: Paradisaeidae

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus* (E): 1 female was seen at O' Reilly's in Lamington NP (SE QLD).

Victoria's Riflebird *Ptiloris victoriae* (E): A pair was seen on Mount Lewis and others were seen at Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges (NE QLD).

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae

White-eared Monarch *Carterornis leucotis* (E): An unexpected highlight during our Daintree boat cruise (NE QLD).

Spectacled Monarch *Symposiachrus trivirgatus*: Seen on 4 occasions in NE QLD (e.g. just outside Cairns, Daintree, Yungaburra).

Pied Monarch *Arses kaupi* (E): 1 was seen in at Chambers Lodges and another was seen at Mount Baldy (NE QLD).

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*: Seen almost daily in Queensland (not present in TAS).

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*: 5 sightings in QLD (e.g. Cairns, Cattana, Lake Tinaroo & Brisbane).

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra Alecto* (**GO**): 1 was seen by Sam and Murray on the Daintree river cruise (NE QLD).

WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH AND APOSTLEBIRD: Corcoracidae

Apostlebird *Struthidea cinerea* (**E**): Around 10 birds were seen at Mount Carbine Caravan Park (NE QLD).

CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES: Corvidae

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*: Noted on 4 days in QLD, including at Mount Carbine and O'Reilly's.

Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus*: Commonly encountered on Tasmania, where it is the only corvid present.

AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS: Petroicidae

Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster*: 2 birds were seen at Lake Tinaroo (NE QLD).

Scarlet Robin *Petroica boodang* (**E**): A few were seen on 2 days on Bruny Island (TAS).

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea* (**E**): Seen in two locations on Bruny Island (TAS), at Adventure Bay and Cape Bruny.

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea* (**E**): A very confiding bird came down low at O'Reilly's (QLD).

Pink Robin *Petroica rodinogaster* (**E**): 11 individuals were seen on one morning in Bruny Island (TAS); a male was also seen briefly at Mount Wellington on mainland Tasmania.

Dusky Robin *Melanodryas vittata* (**TE**): First seen at close range on Mount Wellington, then again at Cape Bruny.

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito* (**E**): Recorded at 3 locations in NE QLD, Hasties Swamp, Chambers Lodges and Yungaburra.

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis* (**E**): Seen at Lake Tinaroo and Bluff State Forest in NE QLD, and some very tame birds featured at O'Reilly's (SE QLD).

Mangrove Robin *Eopsaltria pulverulenta*: 1 was seen briefly in Cairns (NE QLD).

White-browed Robin *Poecilodryas superciliosa* (**E**): 2 birds were seen in a small patch of Monsoon Vine Forest in Mareeba (NE QLD).

Gray-headed Robin *Heteromyias cinereifrons* (**E**): Seen at Mt. Lewis and at Chambers Lodges (NE QLD).

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*: 1 was seen in farmland near the Curtain Fig Tree (NE QLD).

REED-WARBLERS AND ALLIES: Acrocephalidae

Australian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*: 1 was noted at Hasties Swamp (NE QLD)

SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena* (**E**): Recorded on all but a few days of the tour, on all three legs.

Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel*: Just 1 seen in QLD.

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*: Seen on 4 different days (e.g. Bruny Island).

WHITE-EYES, YUHINAS, AND ALLIES: Zosteropidae

Silver-eye *Zosterops lateralis*: Noted on 8 days of the tour (e.g. Lake Morris, Hasties Swamp, Chambers, Bruny).

STARLINGS: Sturnidae

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*: This Wet Tropics species was seen on 4 days in NE QLD (e.g. Lake Morris, Daintree).

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*: Recorded daily in Tasmania.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*: Recorded on at least 8 days of the tour in QLD.

THRUSHES AND ALLIES: Turdidae

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata* (**E**): 1 in Lamington NP (SE QLD), then a tame bird was seen at Jetty Beach in TAS.

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei* (**H**): A calling bird was heard near O'Reilly's (SE QLD).

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*: This introduced species was regularly seen on TAS.

FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*: Seen in two places in NE QLD (Lake Morris and Granite Gorge).

SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS: Nectariniidae

Sahul (Olive-backed) Sunbird *Cinnyris frenatus*: Observed on 4 days in NE QLD (e.g. Cairns, Granite Gorge).

WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae

Red-browed Firetail *Neochmia temporalis* (**E**): Excellent views at O'Reilly's; also seen at Bluff State Forest (both QLD).

Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*: A small group were found just to the north of Cairns (NE QLD).

Scaly-breasted Munia (Nutmeg Mannikin) *Lonchura punctulata*: Seen three times in and around Cairns (NE QLD).

Chestnut-breasted Munia *Lonchura castaneothorax*: A few were seen at Cattana Wetlands, in Mareeba, at Bluff State Forest, and just north of Cairns, all in NE QLD.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: *Passeridae*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: Recorded on around 4 days, with most sightings coming in Tasmania.

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: *Motacillidae*

Australasian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*: A singleton was seen at Cape Bruny on Bruny Island on Tasmania.

MAMMALS

Short-beaked Echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*: 1 was seen at Cape Bruny (TAS).

Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*: Seen on both of our afternoon visits to Peterson's Creek in Yungaburra (NE QLD).

Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*: A wonderfully photogenic individual in Brisbane, thanks to *Stuart Pickering*.

Common Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*: Around 10 were seen during a night drive on Bruny Island (TAS).

Coppery Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus johnstonii*: 2 were found at night at Curtain Fig Tree (NE QLD).

Striped Possum *Dactylopsila trivirgata*: 2 cracking animals came into the viewing platform at Chambers Lodge (NE QLD).

Kreff's Glider *Petaurus notatus*: Another wonderful visitor to the viewing platform at *Chambers Lodge* (NE QLD).

Common Ringtail Possum *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*: 2 were seen at O' Reilly's (SE QLD).

Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo *Dendrolagus lumholtzi*: Seen at Nerada Tea Rooms (NE QLD).

Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*: Recorded on 4 different days in NE QLD (e.g. Yungaburra).

Whiptail (Pretty-faced) Wallaby *Notamacropus parryi*: 3 of this handsome wallaby were seen on the way up to O' Reilly's (SE QLD).

Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*: Some were seen on the golf course in Mareeba (NE QLD).

Red-necked Wallaby *Macropus rufogriseus*: 4 were seen on the way up to O' Reilly's (SE QLD).

Bennett's Wallaby *Macropus rufogriseus rufogriseus*: Several were seen on Bruny Island (TAS), including an all-white form in Adventure Bay.

Mareeba Rock Wallaby *Petrogale Mareeba*: Extreme close ups at Granite Gorge Nature Park (NE QLD).

Rufous-bellied (Tasmanian) Pademelon *Thylogale billardieri*: Seen on both night drives on Bruny Island (TAS).

Red-legged Pademelon *Thylogale stigmatica*: Seen at Peterson's Creek, Curtain Fig (NE QLD), and O' Reilly's.

Red-necked Pademelon *Thylogale thetis*: A few were seen at night at O' Reilly's (QLD).

Fawn-footed Melomys *Melomys cervinipes*: 1 was seen on the drive up to O' Reilly's (SE QLD).

Spectacled Flying-fox *Pteropus conspicillatus*: We visited a camp of these large, noisy bats in Yungaburra (NE QLD).

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*: A few were seen, including on Tasmania.

Dingo *Canis lupus*: 2 pups were seen at O' Reilly's (SE QLD), an unexpected sighting!

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*: A small pod was seen during our day out on the Great Barrier Reef.

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*: 3 different individuals were seen on the return trip from the Great Barrier Reef, with some spectacular breaches witnessed.

OTHER ANIMALS

Common Tree Snake *Dendrelaphis punctulatus*: 3 were seen on our Daintree boat cruise, including one wrapped around a beautiful Bottlebrush Orchid (NE QLD).

Amethystine Python *Simalia amethystina*: 1 was seen on our Daintree boat cruise in NE QLD.

Carpet Python *Morelia spilota*: 1 was found wrapped around a vine above us while we were searching for Southern Boobook at O' Reilly's (SE QLD).

Saltwater Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*: 2 were seen during our Daintree boat cruise (NE QLD).

Cane (Marine) Toad *Rhinella marina*: Noted at Abattoir Swamp near Julatten (NE QLD).