



*Clockwise, from top left: Australian King Parrot at O'Reillys • Eastern Spinebill, attractive members of the honeyeater family • Who can resist feeding the Mareeba Rock Wallabies - certainly not our group! © Peter Taylor • Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies on Michaelmas Cay, the Great Barrier Reef © tour participant Don King • Hordes of gorgeous Crimson Rosellas will seek you out at O'Reilly's © Peter Taylor. All pictures taken on our Oct/Nov 2008 Classic Australia tour.*

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Tour Leader: Peter Taylor

## Tour Report • Classic Australia, 30 Oct-17 Nov 2008

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**Days 1 & 2. Thursday 30 & Friday 31 October 2008** Don, Malcolm and Janey left London on their flight to Sydney while Jenny, Hazel and Mike had left earlier to spend more time in Australia prior to the trip.

**Day 3. Saturday 1 November 2008** Don, Malcolm and Janey were met by Western Australian tour guide, Peter Taylor and the other group members who had traveled to Sydney International Airport where the tour officially commenced. A stroll through the extensive Royal Botanic Gardens opened the tour with Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Masked Lapwings and Noisy Miners in abundance. We also got close-up views of the Grey-headed Flying-foxes chattering in the trees overhead. A Buff-banded Rail provided the morning's highlight as it wandered unconcerned through the undergrowth and across the path in front of us. After a cruise on Sydney's busy harbour, we drove on out to Pitt Town Lagoon where we saw our first Black Swans. Red-browed Finches and Superb Fairywrens were plentiful and a pair of Stubble Quail flushed as we returned to the car.

**Day 4. Sunday 2 November 2008** From the balconies of our motel rooms we were greeted before breakfast by Fairy Martins hawking over the Hawkesbury River and flocks of Rainbow Lorikeets flying overhead. We spent the morning exploring the turf farms around Windsor and saw many Rufous Songlarks and an immature Variable (Grey) Goshawk. At Pugh's Lagoon there were ducks aplenty, with good views of male and female Chestnut Teal as well as Australasian Grebe. A short drive further we stopped at the Yarramundi Bridge on the Nepean River where a pair of Azure Kingfishers performed for us and we encountered Yellow Thornbills feeding a young Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo. We proceeded along Bell's Line of Road up into the Blue Mountains and at our lunch stop saw a Brown Cuckoo-dove, several Eastern Spinebills and Pied Currawongs raiding the fruit bins. We stopped briefly near Berambing to experience the cacophony of a Bell Miner colony then it was on up to Mt Banks where a couple of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos sailed gracefully overhead. We ended the day at a dam in the Capertee Valley where the birdlife was dominated by Noisy Friarbirds and Fuscous Honeyeaters.

**Day 5. Monday 3 November 2008** In the old townsite of Glen Davis we had a short walk before breakfast and were lucky enough to come across a male Turquoise Parrot, our only one for the trip. Good views were had of Brown Treecreepers, Jacky Winter, Olive-backed Orioles and a Crested Shrike-tit. Later we drove out past Glen Alice to a site where the rare and endangered Regent Honeyeater had been recorded breeding. A number of birds were still in the area and the whole group was rewarded with views of a 2-3 individuals. Also seen at the site were Diamond Firetails, busily collecting nesting material, Eastern Yellow Robins and a very young White-throated Treecreeper. After lunch we departed the Capertee Valley and traveled to Lake Wallace. Here, despite the strong winds, we saw Hardhead, Musk Duck and both Hoary-headed and Great Crested Grebe. The highlight though was undoubtedly a Latham's Snipe seen roosting at the lake's edge. Last stop before we drove on to Katoomba was the Lithgow Sewage Ponds. Large numbers of ducks, grebes, ibis and coot were seen, with particularly good views of Pink-eared Duck, Australian Shoveler and Blue-billed Duck.

**Day 6. Tuesday 4 November 2008** The morning began well with a Tawny Frogmouth seen sitting on a nest and our first look at a Satin Bowerbird's bower. A group of Glossy Black-cockatoos were seen at close range as they fed noisily on the cones of casuarinas trees. In the Megalong Valley we visited the temperate rainforest of Coachwood Glen. Birds were hard to see but we got on to Brown Gerygones and Large-billed Scrubwrens, and caught a glimpse of a female Rose Robin. A return to Leura Cascades late in the day proved rewarding as the male Satin Bowerbird finally appeared before us.

**Day 7. Wednesday 5 November 2008** Leaving the Blue Mountains, we took a brief detour to the King's Tableland area where we again saw Glossy and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos and a lone Varied Sittella. At Penrith's Weir Park on the Nepean River we saw our first Dollarbird, a Sacred Kingfisher and many Red-whiskered Bulbuls. After a long drive south we dropped in to the Minna Murra Rainforest Park where we all had close views of Superb Lyrebirds and a nesting Pied Currawong. At dusk we visited Barren Grounds Nature Reserve in the hope of seeing the elusive Ground Parrots. The Morse code-like calls alerted us to the fact that there were parrots active nearby and before we knew it, a pair was flushed as we walked along the track and gave a tantalizingly brief view before disappearing into the encroaching gloom. Never an easy bird to get a decent look at, we could at least add it to the day's list!

**Day 8. Thursday 6 November 2008** A predawn return to Barren Grounds yielded neither sight nor sound of the parrots again but those keen enough for an early start were rewarded with a female Southern Emu-wren, Wonga Pigeon and a Black-faced Monarch. Gang-gang cockatoos were heard but were frustratingly distant and could not be located. After breakfast we began the drive back to Sydney airport for our flight to tropical Cairns where we began the next leg of our trip. Our local guide, Alan, met us at the airport and took us straight to Centenary Lakes where we were immediately inundated with new species such as Black Butcherbird, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Brown-backed Honeyeater, Collared Kingfisher and Pied Imperial Pigeon. We then drove on to Mission Beach, arriving after dark.

**Day 9. Friday 7 November 2008** The morning was spent looking for the elusive Southern Cassowary. Despite searching all the known haunts we were unable to locate this local endemic. At Licuala State Forest we did however see many other species including Pied Monarch, Little Shrike-thrush, Dusky Myzomela and Pale-yellow Robin. In Mission Beach itself we

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spotted a feeding flock of Red-tailed Black-cockatoos and got close views of Barred Cuckooshrike and Graceful Meliphaga. We had lunch at Tazali Lakes where Duck-billed Platypus have taken up residence and a number were seen feeding in one of the ponds. On the way to Yungaburra we had a couple of roadside stops for Sarus Crane, Magpie-geese and Plumed Whistling-duck then dropped in at the Curtain Fig Tree to see Lewin's Honeyeater and Eastern Whipbird. We arrived at Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodge in time for dinner and to watch the Red-necked Pademelons being fed. Later we watched Bandicoots and native rats come into the feeding station and heard the eerie call of a Sooty Owl.

**Day 10. Saturday 8 November 2008** The dawn chorus at the Cathedral Fig Tree was almost deafening even though few species were actually visible! Around the margins of the rainforest we had good views of Bridled Honeyeaters and at Lake Eacham, a Double-eyed Fig Parrot landed close by for us to photograph. Lake Barrine proved equally productive with nesting Olive-backed Sunbirds, Tooth-billed Bowerbirds displaying loudly and wonderful views of Bower's Shrikethrush and Spectacled Monarchs. Even a Musky Rat-kangaroo stayed around long enough for us to observe. After lunch we visited the bird hide at Hastie's Swamp and saw both Plumed and Wandering Whistling-ducks roosting together along with large flocks of Magpie-geese. White-headed Stilts and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were also seen. More than 20 Bush Thick-knee were counted at the Atherton Golf course and on the way back into Chambers Lodge we saw numerous Grey-headed Robins on the track. Alan held a spotlighting session after dinner and gave us great views of Coppery Brushtail and Green Ringtail Possums.

**Day 11. Sunday 9 November 2008** An early walk before breakfast at Chambers was highlighted by great views of both a male and a female Victoria's Riflebird as well as Tooth-billed Bowerbirds and another Pied Monarch. Enroute to Mareeba we stopped on the roadside where Grey-crowned Babblers were crossing and Pale-headed Rosellas were feeding in a nearby garden. At Granite Gorge we saw the Mareeba Rock-wallabies and also saw Yellow Honeyeaters feeding young on the ground. Several Squatter Pigeons were roosting in the shade and a Great Bowerbird's bower with its array of white treasures was seen nearby. After lunch we visited the artificially created Lake Mitchell where there were Green Pygmy-geese and Black-necked Storks foraging in the shallow water. Late in the afternoon we arrived at Kingfisher Park and were immediately greeted with the sight of a Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher which posed for all to see. Luckily for us they had only arrived on their southerly migration within the week and several pairs were preparing to breed! Around the park were Spectacled Monarchs, Yellow-spotted Honeyeaters and Graceful Meliphagas. Before dinner, Keith, our host, took us out spotlighting to see Masked Owls, which had bred close by.

**Day 12. Monday 10 November 2008** We began the day with a walk around the outskirts of the park and had glimpses of Brown and Large-billed Gerygones then were almost fooled by a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo feeding pipit-like on the sandy bank of the creek. We then took the long, steep drive up Mt Lewis to find some of the more localized endemics. Good views of Mountain Thornbills were had by all but the Atherton Scrubwrens proved more elusive giving only fleeting glimpses as they raced through the undergrowth. A pair of Chowchillas was more obliging however. The afternoon heat in the drier country around Mt Carbine kept bird activity low but we finally got close up views of a single Australian Bustard as well as a solitary Glossy Ibis. That night, dinner was interrupted by Keith who called us all out to look at a Lesser Sooty Owl that he'd got on to with his spotlight. All were able to get good views of this relatively diminutive owl, more often heard than seen.

**Day 13. Tuesday 11 November 2008** A Daintree River cruise at dawn meant a very early start this morning but we were well rewarded. From our small craft, boat operator, Chris, got us great views of Black Bitterns, both male and female Shining Flycatchers and a Papuan Frogmouth, with its extraordinary long tail, nesting high over the water. Other highlights included Brown-backed Honeyeaters and Yellow Orioles. A leisurely stop at Cassowary House for lunch failed to provide any cassowaries but we had good views of the local endemic, Macleay's Honeyeater at the feeding tables. Bidding farewell to local guide, Alan, we made our way down to Cairns where the tide was right for a spot of wader watching along the Esplanade. Grey-tailed Tattlers, Terek Sandpipers and Bar-tailed Godwits were in abundance, accompanied by Common Greenshank and Marsh Sandpiper, Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterel as well as Royal Spoonbills and a Buff-banded Rail.

**Day 14. Wednesday 12 November 2008** We were collected from our hotel after breakfast and taken to the port where we boarded the Ocean Spirit for our trip out to Michaelmas Cay. As we approached the Cay, we could see and hear thousands of seabirds wheeling above. The Cay is a major nesting site for Brown Noddy and Sooty Tern, the dominant species that we saw. Other notable birds were two female Great Frigatebirds and a pair of Brown Boobies. A few Ruddy Turnstones were also noted foraging in amongst the nesting birds. On return to Cairns we still had a little daylight left to return briefly to Centenary Lakes where some members of the group were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the tiny Little Kingfisher.

**Days 15-17. Thursday 13 – Saturday 15 November 2008** A morning flight from Cairns meant we had only a brief moment to revisit the Esplanade but a 5am start coupled with a friendly tide meant the early risers got excellent views of more waders, including Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot and both Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers. Several Gull-billed Terns came in to roost and with only minutes to spare, a pair of Mangrove Robins appeared at the mangrove edge for us. We returned to Centenary Lakes on our way to the airport but the Little Kingfisher failed to materialize. However, all had good views of an Osprey, our first and only for the trip, perched over the water. We arrived late afternoon at O'Reilly's Rainforest

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Lodge, high in the Lamington Ranges National Park. White-browed and Yellow-throated Scrubwrens were common as were Satin Bowerbirds, Wonga Pigeons, Crimson Rosellas and Australian King Parrots.

On Friday morning we had the assistance of local guide, Duncan, who took us for a walk then drove us to a number of local habitats within the ranges. Excellent views were had of Paradise Riflebirds and Australian Logrunners as well as the stunningly beautiful male Regent Bowerbird, emblem of O'Reilly's itself. For the remainder of our time we explored a number of rainforest walks, finding such delights as Noisy Pitta, Olive-tailed Thrush and even amazing reptiles like the enormous Land Mullet and peculiar Southern Angle-headed Dragon with its curious spines. Fittingly, on our last day, we saw our final species for the trip, an Albert's Lyrebird that wandered out on to the track in front of us, giving everyone fantastic views of this geographically restricted Australian endemic.

**Days 18-19 Sunday 16 – Monday 17 November 2008** With more than 270 species recorded for the trip, we began our descent from O'Reilly's (minus Jenny who was staying on for another day with friends) and made our way to Brisbane where we farewelled Mike (who was heading for Thailand). The rest flew on to Sydney where Don, Malcolm and Janey were connecting to their international flight home and Hazel stayed on to continue her Australian holiday.

### SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

(Total number of species recorded by the group - 279)

**Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathamii* Endemic**

Seen most days in Queensland

**Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt***

Seen most days in Queensland

**Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* Introduced species**

A couple of small flocks of this introduced species seen along the roadside at Chewko, Queensland

**Stubble Quail *Coturnix pectoralis* Endemic**

A pair flushed from the long grass at Pitt Town Lagoon on our very first day

**Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora***

Small groups seen on the roadside on a couple of occasions in the Yungaburra area

**Magpie-goose *Anseranas semipalmata***

Large flocks seen on the Atherton Tablelands, particularly at Hasties Swamp

**Plumed Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna eytoni* Endemic**

Large flocks seen in a roadside paddock near Yungaburra and at Hasties Swamp

**Wandering Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna arcuata***

Two birds only seen with Plumed Whistling-ducks at Hasties Swamp

**Black Swan *Cygnus atratus***

We saw a couple at Pitt Town Lagoon on our first day and couple more at Pugh's Lagoon. In Queensland, just a couple each at Lake Mitchell and Mt Carbine dam

**Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus* Endemic**

Good views of a number of birds seen at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds

**Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata* Endemic**

Widespread duck of farm dams and wetlands

**Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus***

Surprisingly scarce, a pair seen only once at Lake Mitchell

**Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa***

Widespread, seen most days on farm dams and wetlands

**Australian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos***

Good views of a number of these birds at Lithgow Sewage Ponds

**Grey Teal *Anas gracilis***

A common duck in NSW but seen only at Hasties Swamp in Queensland

**Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea* Endemic**

Several individuals seen but only once at Pugh's Lagoon near Richmond NSW

**Hardhead *Aythya australis***

A few seen at Lake Wallace and Lithgow Sewage Ponds in NSW and at Hasties Swamp and Mt Carbine in Queensland

**Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis* Endemic Near-threatened**

Only seen at Lithgow Sewage Ponds, the males were stunning in the late afternoon sun!

**Musk Duck *Biziura lobata* Endemic**

Both females and males with their weird throat pouches were seen clearly at Lake Wallace

**Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae***

The commonest grebe seen both in NSW and Queensland

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**Hoary-headed Grebe** *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

Only seen at Lake Wallace near Lithgow NSW

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

A few seen at Lake Wallace and then dozens at Lake Barrine

**Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* **Near-threatened**

Just a single pair of these stately birds seen at Lake Mitchell

**Australian Ibis** *Threskiornis molucca*

Common and widespread

**Straw-necked Ibis** *Threskiornis spinicollis*

Less common than the white ibis but seen at several locations in both NSW and Queensland

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

Surprisingly just a single individual seen flying across the dam at Mt Carbine

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia*

Large flocks roosting on the foreshore from the Cairns Esplanade as well as smaller numbers at lakes and wetlands in Queensland

**Black Bittern** *Dupetor flavicollis*

Wonderful views of these usually reclusive birds as they flushed from the riverbanks on our early morning Daintree River cruise

**Rufous Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*

A single bird seen at Tarzali Fish Farm while we were watching the platypus and another at Centenary Lakes in Cairns

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

Individuals seen in Cairns, at the edge of the mangroves near the Esplanade and at Centenary Lakes

**Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*

Widespread and many showing their beautiful orange breeding plumage

**White-necked Heron** *Ardea pacifica*

Single birds only, one on the Nepean River at Penrith NSW and the other on a roadside pond near O'Reilly's

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

Very common egret of lakes and wetlands throughout

**Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*

Single birds seen at Pugh's Lagoon, Hastie's Swamp and Lake Mitchell.

**White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae*

Another fairly common waterbird, seen throughout the trip wherever there was standing fresh water

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

A few individuals seen, firstly at Tarzali Fish Farm at close quarters

**Great Frigatebird** *Fregata minor*

Two females perched on dead boughs at the eastern end of the Cay for a while then vanished

**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Seen initially in Sydney Harbour from the boat cruise then several times in Queensland

**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*

A male and a female sat perched among the wheeling terns and noddies on Michaelmas Cay

**Little Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Common cormorant of lakes, dams and wetlands along with the Little Black

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Common cormorant of lakes, dams and wetlands along with the Little Pied

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Less common, a few individuals seen at both Hasties Swamp and Lake Mitchell

**Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster*

Fairly widespread on rivers and wetlands of NSW and Queensland

**Australian Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides*

A common raptor often seen hovering over open paddocks in search of small prey

**Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora*

Surprisingly, seen only twice, once at Mt Banks in the Blue Mountains then again at Mt Carbine

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Just a single bird seen over the Turf farms near Windsor at the beginning of the trip

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

A single bird seen perched on a dead bough over Centenary Lakes at Cairns

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus axillaris* **Endemic**

A surprisingly uncommon sighting for the trip with two birds seen near the Nepean River and another on the Atherton Tableland

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

A common raptor on the Atherton Tablelands

**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*

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Another common raptor on the Atherton Tablelands usually seen near lakes and wetlands

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*

Seen most days in Cairns, this species is almost exclusively coastal in the tropics

**White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

A few individuals of this handsome raptor seen on the Nepean River in NSW and at a couple of locations on the Atherton Tablelands

**Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis*

Just a fleeting glimpse of this most attractive species seen disappearing over the rocks at Granite Gorge

**Variable Goshawk** *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

Our first sighting at Windsor was of an immature bird that brought everyone back out of the bus. Then at O'Reilly's we had superb views of a pair soaring across the valley below us at the Python Rock Lookout

**Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

Brief glimpses of a single bird were had by some of the group outside the hotel at Glen Davis

**Wedge-tailed Eagle** *Aquila audax*

Australia's largest raptor, only seen twice on the trip, one high over the Capertee Valley in NSW then another over O'Reilly's

**Australian Bustard** *Ardeotis australis* **Near-threatened**

A single bird but seen up close from the bus on the roadside at Maryfarms

**Buff-banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis*

Excellent views on our first day at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney. Singles also at Tarzali Fish Farm, Hasties Swamp, and twice on Cairns foreshore

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Common bird of marshes and wetlands

**Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa*

Very common in NSW but only seen once at Hasties Swamp in Queensland

**Common Coot** *Fulica atra*

Common at wetlands throughout the trip

**Sarus Crane** *Grus antigone* **Vulnerable**

Several groups of up to a dozen birds seen in paddocks on the Atherton Tablelands

**Brolga** *Grus rubicunda*

Two birds only seen once at a roadside stop on the Atherton Tablelands with several Sarus Cranes

**Painted Buttonquail** *Turnix varius*

Amazing views of a male bird teetering in the middle of the road in the Capertee Valley as cars drove by. Eventually Jenny ushered him to the side of the road for his own safety!

**Bush Thick-knee** *Burhinus grallarius* **Near-threatened**

20+ counted on the Atherton Golf course and singles seen at Centenary Lakes, Cairns

**White-headed Stilt** *Himantopus leucocephalus*

Only seen twice, firstly scoped at Pitt Town Lagoon then at Hasties Swamp

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*

Seen every day! Noticeable differences between the northern and southern subspecies.

**Red-kneed Dotterel** *Erythronyx cinctus* **Endemic**

Scoped at Pitt Town Lagoon then a single bird seen in a freshwater outfall on the Cairns foreshore on a couple of occasions

**Red-capped Plover** *Charadrius ruficapillus*

A few birds seen on Cairns foreshore

**Black-fronted Dotterel** *Elseyornis melanops*

First seen at Pugh's Lagoon, then a couple of birds seen in a freshwater outfall at Cairns foreshore

**Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea*

A few birds noted, including young, at Lake Mitchell

**Latham's Snipe** *Gallinago hardwickii*

A single bird seen roosting at the water's edge at Lake Wallace near Lithgow before wandering back under cover

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

A few seen on the Cairns foreshore

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

A few seen on the Cairns foreshore

**Far Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*

Noticeably different from the Eurasian Curlew, a few of these huge, dark-rumped waders were seen along the Cairns foreshore

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

A few seen on the Cairns foreshore

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

A few seen on the Cairns foreshore

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**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

A few seen on the Cairns foreshore

**Grey-tailed Tattler** *Heteroscelus brevipes*

A few seen on the Cairns foreshore

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Two birds seen feeding among the nesting terns on Michaelmas Cay

**Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*

A single bird in non-breeding plumage seen on the Cairns foreshore

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*

A few seen on the Cairns foreshore

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*

A small flock seen at Hasties Swamp plus a few seen on the Cairns foreshore

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Scoped at Pitt Town Lagoon in the distance and a few seen on the foreshore early on our last day in Cairns

**Silver Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae*

Australia's commonest gull, seen often in Sydney and Cairns

**Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscata*

A spectacular sight as we approached Michaelmas Cay where thousands of these dark terns were breeding

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

As we returned to port after our trip out to the Cay, a number of these tiny terns were seen feeding inshore

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

A few seen on the Cairns foreshore

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

Just a couple of sightings at Hasties Swamp and the Cairns foreshore

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

A couple of birds seen at Hasties Swamp

**Great Crested Tern** *Sterna bergii*

Seen distantly at Mission Beach but several birds more clearly on Michaelmas Cay

**Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis*

Several of these very pale terns with their bright orange bills seen on Michaelmas Cay

**Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus*

Thousands seen nesting on Michaelmas Cay

**Black Noddy** *Anous minutus*

A difficult bird to identify amongst the thousands of Brown Noddies but a single bird seen by Don

**Feral Rock Dove** *Columba livia* **Introduced species**

The familiar feral pigeon seen only in NSW however

**White-headed Pigeon** *Columba leucomela* **Endemic**

By no means common, a single bird seen by Jenny in Jamberoo, another at Mt Lewis and third only by Pete at O'Reilly's

**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis* **Introduced species**

A few birds noted in Sydney and Cairns

**Brown Cuckoo-dove** *Macropygia amboinensis*

One only seen in NSW at our lunch stop at Bilpin. More common in Queensland with sightings at the Cathedral Fig Tree, Chambers Wildlife Lodges, Kingfisher Park and O'Reilly's

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

A few birds seen at Chambers and Kingfisher Park

**Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera* **Endemic**

A single bird flushed from the roadside in the Capertee Valley

**Crested Pigeon** *Ocyphaps lophotes* **Endemic**

Common pigeon of the Capertee Valley and open farmland of the Atherton Tablelands

**Squatter Pigeon** *Geophaps scripta* **Endemic**

Great views of the red-faced form of this pigeon seen at Granite Gorge and again in the Mt Carbine area.

**Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca* **Endemic**

First seen very early one morning at Barren Grounds. Many at O'Reilly's feeding on the lawns around the lodges

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida*

A few noted in the Capertee Valley but very common in Queensland

**Bar-shouldered Dove** *Geopelia humeralis*

Seen most days in Queensland

**Wompoo Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus*

This beautiful pigeon was heard several times at Chambers and O'Reilly's but seen only by Pete as it flew in front of Duncan's bus

**Superb Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus*

Another beautiful bird but only seen fleetingly by some at Mt Lewis and Mossman Gorge

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### **Torresian Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula spilorrhoa*

Many of these large white pigeons seen around Cairns and Daintree

### **Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus* **Endemic**

Seen most days in Queensland but usually flying high overhead or away in the distance

### **Red-tailed Black Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus banksii* **Endemic**

First heard calling at Mission Beach, a flock of several birds were seen feeding near the Information Centre. Good views of both males and females had by all. Seen in flight on a couple more occasions in the Atherton Tablelands

### **Glossy Black Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus lathami* **Endemic**

We first encountered these birds as they crunched noisily on Casuarina cones on the edge of the escarpment near Katoomba. They appeared unconcerned as we walked right underneath them. A few more were seen flying over next day on the King's Tableland area

### **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus funereus* **Endemic**

Only seen in ones and twos but at several NSW locations; Mt Banks, Glen Davis, Katoomba and King's Tableland

### **Gang-gang Cockatoo** *Callocephalon fimbriatum* **Endemic**

Only heard by the early risers who went back to Barren Grounds, this species proved too elusive in the end

### **Galah** *Eolophus roseicapilla*

Widespread in NSW

### **Long-billed Corella** *Cacatua tenuirostris* **Endemic**

First seen in a mixed flock with Little Corellas at Pitt Town Lagoon then as individual birds at Katoomba and Jamberoo

### **Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea*

Common around Sydney and the Capertee Valley

### **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua galerita*

Common throughout this raucous species was recorded every day!

### **Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Another widespread bird, this colourful parrot was seen most days

### **Scaly-breasted Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus* **Endemic**

An elusive species, this lorikeet was more often seen and heard fling overhead or away in the distance. Our only decent views of perched birds were on the Daintree River cruise!!

### **Little Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta pusilla* **Endemic**

Identified by Pete as it called in flight, this tiny parrot was frustratingly too quick for most of us as it sped away!

### **Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans* **Endemic**

A common parrot both in the Blue Mountains and at O'Reilly's

### **Pale-headed Rosella** *Platycercus adscitus* **Endemic**

A roadside stop at a private garden gave us our first views of this bird. Seen only once more at the Mt Carbine Roadhouse where we stopped for an ice-cream

### **Eastern Rosella** *Platycercus eximius* **Endemic**

Far less common than the Crimson, individuals of these rosellas were only recorded on 3 days in Sydney and the Capertee Valley

### **Red-rumped Parrot** *Psephotus haematonotus* **Endemic**

Fairly common but only seen around the turf farms of Windsor and in the Capertee Valley

### **Turquoise Parrot** *Neophema pulchella* **Endemic**

A wonderful sight, a colourful male of this rare species was seen near the campground at Glen Davis.

### **Ground Parrot** *Pezoporus wallicus* **Endemic**

A specialty bird of Barren Grounds and notoriously difficult to get a good view of, we were lucky to get a fleeting glimpse of two birds as they flushed from near the path and disappeared into the gloom of the encroaching dusk. We were still able to hear their distinctive, Morse code-like call from the low heath even as we trekked back to the van in semi-darkness

### **Australian King Parrot** *Alisterus scapularis* **Endemic**

Seen often in the Blue Mountains and Southern Tablelands of NSW. Very common at O'Reilly's.

### **Double-eyed Fig Parrot** *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*

A difficult bird to get on to because of its rapid flight and tiny size, we eventually got superb views of these birds as they fed in low trees very close to us on the shores of Lake Eacham. Recorded most days on the Atherton Tablelands.

### **Fan-tailed Cuckoo** *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

A single bird seen in low scrub near the Nepean River and another spotted up high by Duncan, our O'Reilly's guide. The mournful call was often heard high in the forest canopy at numerous locations.

### **Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx basalis*

Good views of a young bird being fed by Yellow Thornbills near the Nepean River and an adult behaving almost pipit-like on the ground near Kingfisher Park

### **Shining Bronze Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

More often seen than heard, a single bird was eventually tracked down at O'Reilly's but we never got really close to one.

**Australian Koel** *Eudynamys cyanocephala*

A female bird was spotted from the balcony of our motel at Windsor for those up early enough. A jet-black male gave good views at a roadside stop in a garden near Granite Gorge then both a male and female were seen from the boat along the Daintree River.

**Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Four of these huge cuckoos were seen, one flying away at Granite Gorge, another over the Mareeba Golf course, one perched near Kingfisher Park and lastly, flying overhead as we were watching waders along the Cairns Esplanade

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*

A surprisingly hard bird to find considering its size! A single bird seen disappearing into dense foliage at Daintree after our cruise

**Lesser Sooty Owl** *Tyto multipunctata*

A great sighting at Kingfisher Park where our host, Keith, held one in a spotlight for us during dinner! The “dropping bomb” call also heard at Chambers

**Australian Masked Owl** *Tyto novaehollandiae*

Another of Keith’s spotlighting efforts, a single bird was seen before dinner on our first night at Kingfisher Park

**Papuan Frogmouth** *Podargus papuensis*

Excellent views of a bird on a nest, overhanging the Daintree River

**Tawny Frogmouth** *Podargus strigoides* **Endemic**

Good views again of a nesting bird, this time up high in a pine tree near Leura Cascades in the Blue Mountains

**Australian Owlet-nightjar** *Aegotheles cristatus*

Seen at the opening of its tree hollow, a single bird at Kingfisher Park one evening on dusk

**Australian Swiftlet** *Aerodramus terraereginae* **Endemic**

Reasonably common over Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

Seen only once in NSW near the Nepean River at Penrith then on all 4 days on the Atherton Tablelands

**Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera sylvia*

One of the great highlights of the trip! We were immediately greeted by one of these birds as we drove into Kingfisher Park. Lucky for us they had only arrived within the week on their southerly migration. Individuals seen again at KFP and at Daintree.

**Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae* **Endemic**

Common and widespread, this large kingfisher was seen nearly every day.

**Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayi*

One or two birds seen each day on the Atherton Tablelands

**Collared Kingfisher** *Todiramphus chloris*

Two birds shown us by local guide, Alan, at the Centenary Lakes, Cairns, the only sighting of this dark plumaged kingfisher

**Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus*

Only a couple of sightings of this species, once from the balconies of our motel overlooking the Hawkesbury River and again at Penrith on the Nepean River.

**Azure Kingfisher** *Alcedo azurea*

Brilliant views of a pair flitting over the Nepean River. Seen again in Queensland at Kingfisher Park and along the Daintree River

**Little Kingfisher** *Alcedo pusilla*

Just a single, fleeting glimpse of this, the tiniest of Australia’s kingfishers at Centenary Lakes, Cairns for some of the group

**Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus*

Some good views of this spectacular bee-eater both in the Capertee Valley and in several Queensland locations

**Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor* **Endemic**

A known “skulker”, just one individual seen briefly by some of the group along the Wishing Tree track at O’Reilly’s. Surprisingly, it was perched 3-4m above the ground on a horizontal branch, from where it had been calling

**Prince Albert’s Lyrebird** *Menura alberti* **Endemic Vulnerable**

Fittingly, our last new bird of the trip, seen well by all as it wandered out onto the Border Track at O’Reilly’s. Not easy to find, this wasn’t until our third pass along this track for the morning!

**Superb Lyrebird** *Menura novaehollandiae* **Endemic**

Easy views of this bizarre bird at Minna Murra Rainforest Park near Barren Grounds where they have become almost tame

**Green/Spotted Catbird** *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

Both races of this aptly-named species were recorded, the Spotted most commonly seen feeding on our balconies at Chambers and the Green at the top of the Tree Top Walk at O’Reilly’s

**Tooth-billed Bowerbird** *Scenopoeetes dentirostris* **Endemic**

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Alan showed us a number of these birds along the rainforest walk at Lake Barrine, where one gave us great views as it called. Others were seen fleetingly at Chambers and Kingfisher Park

### **Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus* **Endemic**

The star bird of O'Reilly's, both males and females came in to be handfed each day

### **Satin Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* **Endemic**

We saw bower in the Blue Mountains and eventually a male nearby but best views were at O'Reilly's where both males and females were commonly seen feeding on the lawns

### **Great Bowerbird** *Chlamydera nuchalis* **Endemic**

More common in the far north, we saw a few of these birds in the Granite Gorge and Mt Carbine areas. Alan showed us a bower at Granite Gorge with its display of white objects

### **White-throated Treecreeper** *Cormobates leucophaea* **Endemic**

We saw a very recently fledged bird while along the banks of the Capertee River. In Queensland we saw a few birds at O'Reilly's and heard them often along the Python Rock track.

### **Red-browed Treecreeper** *Climacteris erythroptis* **Endemic**

Having dipped on this species in the Blue Mountains, Duncan found a pair for us at O'Reilly's, if only for a brief moment!

### **Brown Treecreeper** *Climacteris picumnus* **Endemic**

Seen in the Capertee Valley, we got close views of a couple of these mainly ground foraging treecreepers on a couple of occasions.

### **Superb Fairywren** *Malurus cyaneus* **Endemic**

The common Fairywren of eastern Australia, we saw lots of parties of these, both striking blue males and the duller brown females.

### **Red-backed Fairywren** *Malurus melanocephalus* **Endemic**

Seen only on the Atherton Tablelands, we had probably our best views of these at Granite Gorge near the Great Bowerbird's bower.

### **Southern Emuwren** *Stipiturus malachurus* **Endemic**

Those of the group keen enough to venture out to Barren Grounds before dawn were rewarded with good views of a female bird as it foraged in the low heath. A male was suspected to be close by but never showed for us.

### **Macleay's Honeyeater** *Xanthotis macleayanus* **Endemic**

A Tablelands endemic, we had easy views of this unusual honeyeater on the feeders at both Chambers and Cassowary House

### **Bridled Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus frenatus* **Endemic**

Seen firstly near the Cathedral Fig Tree, silhouetted against a glary sky, we got better views of a number of birds at Mt Lewis

### **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus chrysops* **Endemic**

Recorded a number of times in the Blue Mountains and the Capertee Valley but only once in Queensland at Mt Carbine

### **Yellow Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus flavus* **Endemic**

Seen on our first day in Cairns in a private garden where we'd stopped to look at Agile Wallabies. Best views though were at Granite Gorge where an adult was feeding a youngster on the ground right in front of us!

### **Fuscous Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus fuscus* **Endemic**

Normally a common honeyeater, we only saw this species on one occasion just before dusk near Carol's dam at Glen Davis

### **White-plumed Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus penicillatus* **Endemic**

A very common honeyeater of the Sydney region and the Capertee Valley

### **Graceful Meliphaga** *Meliphaga gracilis*

Best views of this, the smallest of three similar species, was at Kingfisher Park but also seen at Chambers

### **Yellow-spotted Honeyeater** *Meliphaga notata* **Endemic**

Again, best views of the middle-sized of this trio, at Kingfisher Park but also along the Daintree River

### **Lewin's Honeyeater** *Meliphaga lewinii* **Endemic**

This was the commonest honeyeater at O'Reilly's and also seen often on the Atherton Tablelands

### **Bell Miner** *Manorina melanophrys* **Endemic**

The cacophony of the colony at Beraming in the Blue Mountains was quite an experience! Only here did we get close-up views of this cryptically-coloured miner.

### **Noisy Miner** *Manorina melanocephala* **Endemic**

Our first Australian honeyeater, seen by all at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney and throughout our stay in NSW

### **Blue-faced Honeyeater** *Entomyzon cyanotis*

Good views at Granite Gorge of this large and unusually coloured species

### **Brown-headed Honeyeater** *Melithreptus brevirostris* **Endemic**

Just a glimpse of this dullish honeyeater once only in the Capertee Valley

### **White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis*

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On our pre-breakfast walk at Kingfisher Park we came across a feeding party of these honeyeaters, then later in the day saw another group bathing with other honeyeaters at Mt Carbine dam

### **Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis*

Smallest of the friarbirds, we saw a couple at a roadside stop near Chewko and a couple more at Mt Carbine

### **Helmeted Friarbird** *Philemon buceroides*

Seen most days in Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands, best views when we first visited Centenary Lakes with Alan.

### **Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus*

Good views in the Capertee Valley and also on a number of occasions at Granite Gorge and Mt Carbine

### **Little Wattlebird** *Anthochaera chrysoptera* **Endemic**

First encounter with these was at Pitt Town Lagoon where a couple were being harassed by a pair of angry Willie Wagtails! Seen again along the Nepean River at Richmond.

### **Red Wattlebird** *Anthochaera carunculata* **Endemic**

The commoner of the two wattlebirds, we saw (and heard) these often in the Blue Mountains and the Capertee Valley.

### **Regent Honeyeater** *Xanthomyza phrygia* **Endemic Endangered**

A privilege indeed to see 2-3 of these rare and endangered birds near the Capertee River!

### **Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*

A fairly common and rather plainly coloured honeyeater seen at numerous locations in Queensland

### **New Holland Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae* **Endemic**

We saw this honeyeater on several occasions in the Blue Mountains, Capertee Valley and Barren Grounds

### **Brown-backed Honeyeater** *Ramsayornis modestus*

First seen at Centenary Lakes, Cairns where a pair were seen building a pendulous nest. Good views also from the boat on the Daintree River cruise.

### **Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* **Endemic**

Surprisingly common, this flighty honeyeater was seen often throughout the trip. Best views of course at O'Reilly's!

### **Dusky Myzomela** *Myzomela obscura*

At first glance a very non-descript bird but a welcome addition to the list! Close up, the subtleties of its outwardly dull plumage became obvious and we had several opportunities to admire as we watched parties of them feed throughout the Atherton Tablelands.

### **Atherton Scrubwren** *Sericornis kerri* **Endemic**

A Tablelands endemic, this species responded to call back for us on Mt Lewis though was very wary about showing itself!

### **White-browed Scrubwren** *Sericornis frontalis* **Endemic**

A much more obliging bird, these scrubwrens were encountered often in NSW but were most obvious at O'Reilly's

### **Yellow-throated Scrubwren** *Sericornis citreogularis* **Endemic**

A beautiful bird, seen at close quarters on all the tracks around O'Reilly's

### **Large-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis magnirostra*

A rainforest specialist, we saw our first of these in the Megalong Valley in the Blue Mountains. Apparently more common at Chambers, Kingfisher Park and O'Reilly's

### **Weebill** *Smicrornis brevirostris* **Endemic**

Two records, first seen feeding in eucalypts in the Capertee Valley and then again at Mt Carbine

### **Brown Gerygone** *Gerygone mouki* **Endemic**

Initially a difficult bird to identify because of its canopy feeding habit and dull plumage, we learnt to spot this bird more regularly as we came across it firstly in the Blue Mountains then at most places in Queensland.

### **White-tailed Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca* **Endemic**

Just one record of this warbler at its eastern limit in the Capertee Valley. Its presence detected initially from its amazing discordant song, we had very good close up views of this bird as it foraged low in a small tree.

### **Large-billed Gerygone** *Gerygone magnirostris*

Another tricky warbler, we had a couple of views of these as they typically foraged in hanging vegetation over water at Kingfisher Park and along the Daintree River

### **Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa*

Some of the group got onto a pair of these at Kingfisher Park, found by Keith as we returned for breakfast after our morning walk.

### **Mountain Thornbill** *Acanthiza katherina* **Endemic**

A localized endemic of the Atherton Tablelands, we saw several of these tiny birds foraging in roadside vegetation on Mt Lewis.

### **Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusilla* **Endemic**

The commonest thornbill seen in NSW and also at O'Reilly's

### **Yellow-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* **Endemic**

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Seen on a couple of occasions in the Capertee Valley and the Blue Mountains then again at O'Reilly's.

### **Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana* Endemic**

Wonderful views of birds feeding a young Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo in a casuarina on the banks of the Nepean River

### **Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata* Endemic**

Often overlooked because of its canopy feeding habit and quiet twittering, we did come across feeding parties of these birds in the Megalong Valley and at O'Reilly's

### **Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis***

At a roadside stop near Granite Gorge we came across a party of these gregarious birds as they tumbled noisily across the road.

### **White-browed Babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus* Endemic**

Slightly smaller but no less chatty than their grey-crowned cousins, we watched a party in riverine woodland in the Capertee Valley.

### **Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii***

What we'd initially expected to be a difficult bird to find ended up being quite a regular on our various walks around O'Reilly's! Their noisy chatter and frequent rustling meant we were easily able to get on to these beautifully plumaged ground dwellers.

### **Chowchilla *Orthonyx spaldingii* Endemic**

Less easily found than their southern cousins, we did get good views of these forest floor dwellers as they foraged noisily through the undergrowth at Lake Barrine and again at Mt Lewis.

### **Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus* Endemic**

Heard almost every day in NSW, it wasn't until we got to Chambers Rainforest Lodge that we actually saw one of these birds. At O'Reilly's we were surprised to see one that was so tame that it came to be fed by hand, providing numerous photo opportunities!

### **Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi***

Best views at Centenary Lakes where we saw at least one each time.

### **Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis* Endemic**

First seen near Leura Cascades in the Blue Mountains as we waited for the Satin Bowerbird to return to his bower (needless to say he didn't!). Individuals seen along the roadside near Granite Gorge, Mt Carbine and at O'Reilly's.

### **Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen***

The true sound of the Australian morning! A common bird wherever we went.

### **Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* Endemic**

Very common throughout the trip. A pair were seen feeding young on a nest at Minna Murra near Jamberoo NSW

### **Grey Currawong *Strepera versicolor* Endemic**

Much less common, we only caught a glimpse of one on the roadside as we traveled through the Blue Mountains.

### **White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus***

A common bird around Cairns, seen frequently perched on powerlines.

### **White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus* Endemic**

Seen in the Capertee Valley only but on several occasions.

### **Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus* Endemic**

These graceful acrobats were seen hawking for insects by the side of the Nepean River, then in the Capertee Valley and lastly at Barren Grounds.

### **Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae***

A common species in NSW, seen frequently on the Atherton Tablelands also.

### **Yellow-eyed Cuckooshrike *Coracina lineata***

First glimpses at Mission Beach, then near the Cathedral Fig Tree and again around Kingfisher Park but never really close views!

### **White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis***

A few individuals seen around the Atherton Tablelands.

### **Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris***

One brief sighting at our first visit to Centenary Lakes in Cairns.

### **White-winged Triller *Lalage tricolor***

Good views of several males in the Capertee Valley.

### **Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela***

Finally got on to one of these on our pre-breakfast walk at Kingfisher Park, much to Alan's relief! Seen again at Daintree.

### **Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera***

Normally a very gregarious bird, we were surprised to stumble across just a single bird on the King's Tableland of NSW.

### **Eastern Shriketit *Falcunculus frontatus* Endemic**

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Never an easy bird to see, we had reasonably good views of a bird at Glen Davis as it chased away an Olive-backed Oriole!

**Olive Whistler *Pachycephala olivacea* Endemic**

A solitary juvenile seen by the early risers at Barren Grounds.

**Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis***

Fairly widespread from the Blue Mountains to Atherton Tablelands and O'Reilly's but never seen in any great numbers.

Best views of a gorgeous male at O'Reilly's!

**Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris***

Most views were of males but we only recorded them in NSW.

**Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti***

Very common throughout Queensland, with good views of males, females and some unusual juvenile males with their red faces just starting to develop.

**Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus***

Great views along the Capertee River but we were trying to watch Regent Honeyeaters!

**Green Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus***

Excellent views from the boat as we traveled along the Daintree River.

**Bower's Shrikethrush *Colluricincla boweri* Endemic**

The most attractive of the shrikethrushes, this Atherton endemic was seen at a number of places but best views were at the Curtain Fig Tree, where one posed for us at eye level.

**Little Shrikethrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha***

Common in the rainforests of the Atherton Tablelands and seen there most days.

**Grey Shrikethrush *Colluricincla harmonica***

A common bird of woodlands from the Blue Mountains to the Atherton Tablelands and at O'Reilly's.

**Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus***

Seen every day in Cairns and on the Tablelands.

**Willie-wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys***

A very common bird but full of character and attitude!

**Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris***

Only recorded at one location, the carpark at Abattoir Swamp.

**Grey Fantail *Rhipidura albiscapa***

A familiar bird of woodlands throughout the trip.

**Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons***

A beautiful sight as they flit through the forest, fanning their colourful tails! Seen often at O'Reilly's but also recorded at Chambers.

**Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis***

Another rewarding bird for the early risers at Barren Grounds. Also seen by the whole group at O'Reilly's on a number of occasions.

**Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus***

Lovely views of this flycatcher at Lake Barrine, Chambers and Kingfisher Park.

**Pied Monarch *Arses kaupi* Endemic**

Another beautiful flycatcher, this local endemic was seen at Licuala Forest Mission Beach and again at Chambers.

**Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca***

Very common and widespread throughout Australia, O'Reilly's seemed to be the only place we didn't record them!

**Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto***

Excellent views of both males and females from the boat on our Daintree River cruise.

**Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta* Endemic**

Near the Capertee River, we had good views of several of these wagtail-like birds as they foraged low to the ground.

**Torresian Crow *Corvus orru***

The common corvid of Cairns and O'Reilly's.

**Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides* Endemic**

The common corvid of Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

**White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos* Endemic**

Quite tame around the old township of Glen Davis, we had easy views of these crow-like birds as they foraged on the ground.

**Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus* Endemic**

Another O'Reilly's speciality! We had good views of a male feeding while on a walk with Duncan.

**Victoria's Riflebird *Ptiloris victoriae* Endemic**

As if on cue, a pair of these stunning birds gave us a quick look as we prepared to depart from Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodge.

**Ashy Robin *Poecilodryas albispectularis***

This Tablelands endemic was a common sight along the track into Chambers and throughout the rainforests.

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### **Mangrove Robin *Peneoenanthe pulverulenta***

Almost missed this one! With 5 minutes to go before breakfast a pair of these mangrove specialists flitted out to the grassed edge as we waited for the last of the waders to flee the incoming tide on the Cairns Esplanade.

### **Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito* Endemic**

Having seen a number of these small robins in the rainforests of Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands, we were surprised to note how much larger the birds of the southern race were at O'Reilly's.

### **Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis* Endemic**

These birds were certainly never shy, always advertising their presence with their one-note call! Seen well in the Blue Mountains and again at O'Reilly's.

### **Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata* Endemic**

A lucky sighting perhaps, one seen perched with a Jacky Winter on our early morning walk around Glen Davis.

### **Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster***

Two sightings of this species, both on the Atherton Tablelands.

### **Jacky Winter *Microeca fascians***

A single bird seen at Glen Davis before breakfast.

### **Rose Robin *Petroica rosea* Endemic**

This rainforest specialist proved difficult to find! Fleeting glimpses of a female at Coachwood Glen in the Blue Mountains were the best we got. Despite Duncan's best efforts we couldn't get on to one at O'Reilly's where they called tantalizingly from afar.

### **Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena***

Common throughout the trip, often seen hawking over water.

### **Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel* Breeding endemic**

First seen from our balconies overlooking the Hawkesbury River, hawking for insects, we encountered these birds a number of times in the Capertee Valley and in Cairns.

### **Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans***

Much less common, we caught up with these in the Capertee Valley and once on the Atherton Tablelands.

### **Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis***

After some persistence, excellent views around the turf farms of Windsor. Also at Lake Mitchell and near the Daintree River.

### **Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* Introduced species**

Populations of this exotic species have become established around Sydney. Ones and twos seen in the motel carpark at Windsor, and around the Hawkesbury and Nepean areas.

### **Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi* Endemic**

Amazingly common throughout the turf farms and Capertee Valley, we had good views of this seasonal migrant to southern Australia.

### **Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis***

A common bird of dense reedbeds, we got good views at Pugh's Lagoon.

### **Silver-eye *Zosterops lateralis***

Common and widespread, though easy to overlook, we saw many of these throughout the trip.

### **Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica***

Highly gregarious, we saw many colonies of these summer migrants throughout the tropical areas of Queensland, their communal nests invariably a hive of activity.

### **Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* Introduced species**

Unfortunately common in Sydney and Cairns! Thankfully, not yet established in the Capertee Valley.

### **European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* Introduced species**

Another established exotic, though only noted in NSW.

### **Olive-tailed Thrush *Zoothera lunulata***

A fortunate sighting as we walked along the Python Rock track at O'Reilly's, a single bird foraging through the leaf litter.

### **Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula* Introduced species**

Established as a garden bird in Australia, a few individuals noted around Pitt Town, Windsor and Jamberoo NSW

### **Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum***

This diminutive flowerpecker was seen a number of times feeding high in the canopy. Good views of both males and females alongside the Nepean River, in the Capertee Valley and several spots around the Atherton Tablelands.

### **Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis***

Wonderful views of a female on the nest and a male feeding nearby as we commenced the Rainforest walk at Lake Barrine. Also seen at Kingfisher Park.

### **House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Introduced species**

Common exotic throughout the trip.

### **Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata* Endemic Near-threatened**

Great views of birds gathering pieces of nesting material several times their own body length along the Capertee River!

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### **Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis* Endemic**

Commonest of the finches, seen from Pitt Town Lagoon to Cairns and all points in between.

### **Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata***

Small flocks in the Capertee Valley but not seen anywhere else.

### **Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii* Endemic**

A few seen at a roadside stop enroute to Mareeba, Queensland

### **Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax***

Small flocks first encountered at Tarzali Fish Farm where we stopped for lunch, then again over the next two days on the Tablelands.

### **Australian Pipit *Anthus australis***

The odd individual seen along the roadsides in the Capertee Valley.

## **Mammals**

### **Grey-headed Flying Fox *Pteropus poliocephalus***

Many of these large fruit-bats seen on our first day at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney

### **Little Red Flying Fox *Pteropus scapulatus***

A few seen briefly in passing as we drove by on our way to Mareeba.

### **Coastal Sheath-tail Bat *Taphozous australis***

A few of these pale winged bats seen while spotlighting with Alan near Yungaburra

### **Common Wallaroo *Macropus robustus***

A few individuals seen around dusk in the Capertee Valley.

### **Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis***

Lots of these aptly named marsupials around Cairns.

### **Red-legged Pademelon *Thylogale stigmatica***

Great views of family groups at Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodge where John showed them off at feeding time!

### **Musky Rat-kangaroo *Hypsiprymnodon moschatus***

One seen at the feeding station at Chambers and another along the Rainforest track at Lake Barrine.

### **Mareeba Rock-wallaby *Petrogale mareeba***

Some very tame, we stopped at Granite Gorge to hand feed a number of these endearing marsupials.

### **Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus***

Several seen sheltering from the mid-day heat on the Mareeba Golf Course.

### **Red-necked Pademelon *Thylogale thetis***

The common marsupial around the grounds at O'Reilly's, many carrying joeys in their pouches.

### **Mountain Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus caninus***

A common visitor to the feed table at O'Reilly's.

### **Coppery Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus vulpecula***

A number of these were found by Alan as went spotlighting after dinner one night in Yungaburra.

### **Green Ringtail Possum *Pseudocheirops archeri***

Another species seen while spotlighting with Alan. A female with young was also seen at Kingfisher Park.

### **Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus***

A couple of these familiar Australian icons found resting high in eucalypts at O'Reilly's.

### **Northern Brown Bandicoot *Isodon macrourus***

A regular visitor to the feed tables at Chambers and Kingfisher Park.

### **White-tailed Rat *Uromys caudimaculatus***

This distinctive native rodent was seen at the feeding station at Chambers.

### **Fawn-footed Melomys *Melomys cervinipes***

With lightning speed, this little marsupial was seen darting about under the floodlights at Chambers.

### **Bush Rat *Rattus fuscipes***

A nervous pair of these little rodents crept out from their hollow log to feed at Kingfisher Park.

### **Sugar Glider *Petaurus breviceps***

For the patient observers, these acrobatic marsupials could be seen feeding on the dripping honey at Chambers feed station.

### **Duck-billed Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus***

A number of these weird creatures were seen feeding at Tarzali Lakes where we stopped for lunch.

## **Reptiles and Turtles**

### **Blue-tongued Lizard *Tiliqua scincoides***

One seen at Mt Banks in the Blue Mountains sunning itself on the roadside.

### **Bearded Dragon *Pogona barbata***

A close view of one of these prehistoric looking creatures in the garden of the hotel at Glen Davis.

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### **Leaf-tailed Gecko** *Pyllurus cornutus*

Caught in Alan's spotlight near Yungaburra, several of these little lizards had learnt to scuttle round to the other side of the tree trunk!

### **Land Mullet** *Egernia major*

Largest of Australia's skinks, these jet-black half-metre long reptiles were not all that concerned as we walked by along the forest tracks at O'Reilly's.

### **Southern Angle-headed Dragon** *Hypsilurus spinipes*

A wonderful view of this coffee-coloured, rainforest specialist was had at O'Reilly's.

### **Skink sp.** *Carlia munia*

A skink without a common name! Seen briefly at Mt Lewis on the Atherton Tablelands.

### **Saw-shelled Turtle** *Elseya latisternum*

Locally common, a number of these turtles could be seen swimming in Lake Eacham.

### **Hawk-billed Turtle** *Eretmochelys imbricata*

A marine turtle, we had good views of one from the submarine while out at Michaelmas Cay.