

AUSTRALIA:

Classic Australia Thu 28 October-Mon 15 November 2010



Snapshots from our 2010 Classic Australia tour (clockwise, from top left): Red-necked Wallaby, one of six species of kangaroo seen this year • Great views of five Double-eyed Fig Parrots along Cairns Esplanade • The iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House • Some of the group planting a tree at Platypus Bend • The lovely Capertee Valley, in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales • A big male Australian Bustard struts his stuff for our group © Peter Taylor.

**report compiled by tour leader:
Peter Taylor**

Trip Diary

Tour Leaders: Peter Taylor as principal guide, with Carol Probeta, Alan Gillanders and Glen Threlfo assisting locally

The east coast of Australia stretches from the warm tropical waters of the Coral Sea and the Great Barrier Reef to the cool temperate forests and mountains of the south. This year we began our 'Classic' tour with a spell in Far North Queensland, then headed south to old Sydney town and the rugged beauty of the Blue Mountains for a while before completing the odyssey at the famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Resort, perched high in the Lamington Ranges outside Brisbane.

World renowned, Cairns' waterfront proved yet again what a magical place this is, with a myriad of waders foraging and roosting so close to the busy Esplanade. Far Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel, godwits, tattlers and sandpipers were commonplace, while the mangroves provided refuge for Varied Honeyeater and Mangrove Robins, and five Double-eyed Fig-parrots gorged themselves on the fruiting fig-trees along the beach. At nearby Centenary Lakes we saw recently arrived Brown-backed Honeyeaters building their hanging nests and overhead, screeching flocks of Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets scoured the eucalypts for nectar-filled blossom. A Collared Kingfisher calling from the edge of the mangroves was a great sight, as was a young Black Butcherbird trying to devour a luminescent green beetle.

North of Cairns, we enjoyed an early morning cruise on the Daintree River with local operator, Chris Dahlberg. From the safety of Chris's boat we watched Papuan Frogmouths sitting on nests, flushed a secretive Black Bittern from the reeds and observed a pair of Shining Flycatchers change shifts at the nest. Meanwhile, a basking Saltwater Crocodile reminded us to keep our hands well out of the water!

Moving up into the Tablelands we spent a glorious two days at Kingfisher Park, where we were dined most royally by hosts Lindsay and Keith at this birdwatchers' Mecca. Great views were had by all of Noisy Pittas, Spectacled and Black-faced Monarchs, and the endemic Macleay's Honeyeater which is a regular at the feed table. This year we were in for a special treat, however, as the Buff-breasted Paradise-kingfishers with their long white tails had just arrived from New Guinea and were already investigating termite mounds for nesting sites.

During our stay we explored Mt Lewis, where the Tooth-billed Bowerbirds and Chowchillas reside in the high forests and Mountain Thornbills forage in the eucalypt woodland. At Maryfarms we came across a pair of Australian Bustards and young, and at Abattoir Swamp we surprised a lone Black-necked Stork (sometimes confusingly called 'Jabiru', which is an altogether different South American species of man-sized stork!). We ventured out to Granite Gorge and fed the resident Mareeba Rock Wallabies, while around the grounds we discovered many Squatter Pigeons, some Double-barred Finches and a pair of Pale-headed Rosellas.

From Yungaburra, we went out for a day with local expert, Alan Gillanders, who showed us a rare sight indeed – a magnificent Golden Bowerbird and his bower! A steep walk up from the vehicle and a short scramble down into the dark rainforest and we were lined up in front of a messy tangle of sticks and lichens. Within seconds an incredibly bright flash of yellow appeared through the gloom and perched nearby, giving everyone fantastic views of this most sought-after bird. We eventually dragged ourselves away and went in search of other specialties of the Atherton Tablelands. Flocks of huge Sarus Cranes and Brolgas, and diminutive Cotton and Green Pygmy-geese - not to mention the tiny Musky Rat-kangaroo - were all found and, at Hastie's Swamp, we took refuge from the rain in the splendid two-storey bird hide from where we watched thousands of Plumed and Wandering Whistling Ducks. That night we dined at Platypus Bend and despite the rain were rewarded with great views of Duck-billed Platypus feeding in a calm backwater. We planted a tree for our hosts, Dennis and Heather, and admired the tree planted by last year's Limosa group before enjoying a sumptuous meal provided for us by Heather.

Before leaving the Tablelands we visited Lake Eacham, a crater lake, where the raucous call of a Victoria's Riflebird, one of Australia's four birds of paradise, beckoned. Sure enough, we tracked down a male and a female and as we walked through the rainforest around the lake we came across Bower's Shrike-thrush - easily distinguished from the more common Little Shrike-thrush by its black shiny bill. High in the canopy overhead we spotted movement and a White-headed Pigeon perched long enough to get good scope views for all.

A day trip out to Michaelmas Cay in the Great Barrier Reef provided a fitting finale to our North Queensland sojourn. Aboard the *Ocean Spirit*, an ocean-going catamaran, we relaxed and watched the blue waters of the

Coral Sea pass by while gradually, an array of seabirds began to appear. By the time we reached the Cay, hundreds of Sooty and Lesser Crested Terns, and Brown Noddies were wheeling all around. A couple of Red-footed Boobies departed as we arrived, as did a pair of Black Noddies but Brown Boobies and Great Frigatebirds remained on the Cay for us. Green Turtles and Giant Clams were the highlight of the day's semi-submersible tour, while the slap-up meal and complimentary glass of champagne rounded off another magnificent day!

Taking an early flight south from Cairns, we arrived in Sydney in time for brunch and a stroll around the Royal Botanic Gardens. Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Rainbow Lorikeets squawked noisily amongst the lilac-coloured blossom of the jacaranda trees, and a Channel-billed Cuckoo flew overhead giving its characteristic "honk". A drake Chestnut Teal posed on an ornamental lake with a pair of Australian Wood Ducks, and nearby the colony of Grey-headed Flying Foxes settled in for a day's roost. The Harbour cruise gave us our first look at another of Australia's splendid cockatoos, as some pink and grey Galahs flew over one of the islands. That night we ate splendidly at the Chop House, formerly a butcher's premises in colonial days!

The rugged Blue Mountains provided a dramatic change of scenery - and a very pleasant stay at the Art Deco style Glen Davis Hotel, with Alison's magnificent cooking. En route we visited a colony of Bell Miners and heard their tinkling calls echoing through the eucalypt canopy. In the lovely Capertee Valley we observed a number of honeyeater species including White-plumed, Striped and Yellow-tufted, and watched a party of strange White-winged Choughs foraging around the old ghost town. Katoomba with local guide Carol Proberts was brilliant, turning up trumps with exceptional views of a young male Superb Lyrebird at Evans Lookout, Rock Warblers at Mt York and a glimpse of a Beautiful Firetail on the Kings Tablelands. Males and females of both Flame and Rose Robins appeared for us too, and on more than one occasion we saw Gang-gang, Glossy Black and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos.

Our last stop in New South Wales was at the historic town of Jamberoo, in the Southern Highlands. We paid a visit to Barren Grounds National Park and had amazing fortune when we accidentally flushed a Ground Parrot from the side of the track! Normally only seen in the gloom of dusk, everyone had the best views possible of this most rare and secretive parrot. Another renowned skulker found at Barren Grounds is the Eastern Bristlebird, a ground-dwelling bird of thick scrub, and again we were most fortuitous in coming across not one but three birds that ventured out on to the ridge track. A violent downpour kept us motel-bound that evening but wasn't enough to dampen our spirits!

As in previous years, the tour drew to a close with three nights at the world famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, high up in the Lamington Ranges of south east Queensland. We were greeted on arrival by a stunning black and gold male Regent Bowerbird, emblem of O'Reilly's. We enjoyed a morning out with local guide and raconteur, Glen Threlfo, who even found a rare Freckled Duck for us as well as numerous other specialties! The wonderful walking tracks that wind through the rainforest at O'Reilly's allowed us to explore the more remote corners, where Paradise Riflebirds, Green Catbirds and Wompoo Pigeons can be found. Two secretive thrushes occur here too and we managed to track down both: the remarkably similar Olive-tailed and Russet-tailed. Along the Boardwalk we watched Logrunners and Eastern Whipbirds scabble amongst the leaf litter, while Rufous Fantails, Eastern Yellow Robins and Yellow-throated Scrubwrens displayed more openly. And it wasn't just the birds here that delighted us. There were Red-necked Pademelons, charming marsupials that feed on the lawns; Mountain Brushtail Possums that come down for free fruit outside the restaurant windows; and we even spotted a Ringtail Possum climbing up into the rainforest canopy.

All too soon we were packed and ready for the trip back down the mountain while our driver, Paul, obligingly stepped in to take some final group photos. At Brisbane airport we bade our farewells, some flying home and others going on to continue their Australian adventure in pastures new. Many thanks to a wonderful and diverse group from both sides of the Atlantic!

Peter Taylor

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

(Total number of species recorded by the group - 275)

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathamii*

Seen nearly every day in Queensland

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*

Seen most days in Queensland

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

A couple flushed at Kaban and 3-4 near Beaudesert in Queensland

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

Large flocks seen along the banks of the Daintree River and at Lake Mitchell

Plumed Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

Large flocks seen at Hastie's Swamp and a couple at the Beaudesert racecourse wetland

Wandering Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

Large numbers at Hastie's Swamp

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

A few at Lake Mitchell and Hastie's Swamp in Queensland and Pitt Town Lagoon and Lake Wallace in NSW

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

Widespread on farm dams and wetlands in New South Wales

Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus*

About four seen on a private wetland near Kaban

Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus*

On the Atherton Tablelands, a few on a private wetland near Kaban and common at Lake Mitchell

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Widespread, seen most days on farm dams and wetlands

Australian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*

Four seen at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds, NSW

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

Several at the Beaudesert racecourse wetland in Queensland. Many at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds, NSW.

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

One seen in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney and another pair near Richmond, NSW

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

Pairs at Lake Mitchell and Hastie's Swamp in Queensland and near Richmond in NSW

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

Several seen at Lake Wallace, NSW

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Several at Lake Mitchell, Hastie's Swamp and the Lithgow Sewage Ponds.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Fairly common at Lakes Mitchell, Barrine and Eacham in Queensland and at Lake Wallace in NSW

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

Single birds seen at Abattoir Swamp and Lake Mitchell and a pair flying over the mangroves in Cairns

Australian Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

Common and widespread especially at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

A single bird seen near Maryfarms, Queensland

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

Many along the Cairns Esplanade and one near Beaudesert

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*

A single bird flushed from the riverbanks on the Daintree River cruise

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

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

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Widespread in northern Queensland

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

One or two seen on various lakes and wetlands in Queensland and a single bird flying over Jamberoo, NSW

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

Three birds seen at Lake Mitchell and two each at Abattoir and Hastie's Swamps in northern Queensland

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

Five seen at Pitt Town lagoon NSW and individuals twice in Queensland

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A few seen most days in North Queensland

Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

A single bird seen in Cairns Harbour prior to leaving for the Michaelmas Cay cruise

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*

Two females seen on Michaelmas Cay

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

A pair seen at Machan's Beach, then a few each at Lake Mitchell, Centenary Lakes and Sydney Harbour

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

An adult and a juvenile seen briefly as we arrived at Michaelmas Cay

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

At least seven seen on Michaelmas Cay

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Common cormorant of lakes, dams and wetlands seen on several days

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Particularly common in both Queensland and New South Wales

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

Several seen in Sydney Harbour during the cruise

(Great) Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

One seen on the Daintree River, several at Lake Mitchell and a single at Lake Barrine

Australasian Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Fairly widespread but in small numbers on rivers and wetlands of Queensland and NSW

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

Singles seen once on the Atherton Tableland and also at Windsor, Jamberoo and near Beaudesert

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

One seen in the Capertee Valley and another near Beaudesert

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

One seen from the minibus as we drove back into Sydney from Jamberoo

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

A single bird seen at the Centenary Lakes and another near Daintree

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

One bird seen at Kingfisher Park

(Australian) Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

At least four individuals seen over canefields enroute to Cairns as we drove down from Yungaburra

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

A common raptor in Queensland

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

A common raptor in Queensland, but a couple also seen over Pitt Town Lagoon in NSW

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

One individual seen in Cairns and another near Daintree

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

One seen as we arrived at Kingfisher Park and two at Lake Mitchell

Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*

One seen over Pitt Town Lagoon in NSW

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

One seen high over the Nepean Weir Park in Penrith and another from the Python Rock lookout at O'Reilly's

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

A couple of individuals seen on the Atherton Tablelands, Queensland and one on the Kings Tablelands, NSW

Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis*

Two adults and two young birds seen in roadside paddocks at Maryfarms

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

Four individuals seen on the side of the road over two days on the Atherton Tablelands

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Many at Hastie's Swamp in Queensland and also at Pitt Town Lagoon and Lake Wallace

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

A pair at Hastie's Swamp in Queensland but very common in NSW

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Fairly common at Lake Barrine and Lake Wallace

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*

A couple of flocks seen on the Atherton Tablelands during our day with Alan

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

Several flocks seen on the Atherton Tablelands during our day with Alan

Bush Thick-knee *Burhinus grallarius*

A pair seen in the spotlight with Keith at Kingfisher Park, also a pair with 2 young in a paddock next to the road near Hastie's Swamp

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

Seen every day, either the northern subspecies in Queensland or the southern in NSW

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

A few birds seen on Cairns foreshore

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

Several birds seen on Cairns foreshore

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia*

A few seen on Cairns foreshore

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseya melanops*

One at Hastie's Swamp and one at Lake Wallace

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

Fairly common at Abattoir Swamp, Lake Mitchell and Hastie's Swamp

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Common along the Cairns Esplanade

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Common along the Cairns Esplanade

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

A few individuals seen along the Cairns Esplanade

Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

A few individuals seen along the Cairns Esplanade

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Several birds seen on the Cairns foreshore

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Common along the Cairns foreshore

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

A few seen along the Cairns foreshore

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

At least four seen foraging among the terns on Michaelmas Cay

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

Common on the Cairns foreshore

(Red) Knot *Calidris canutus*

Common on the Cairns foreshore

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Common on the Cairns foreshore

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

Common on the Cairns foreshore

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Common on the foreshore Cairns

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

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

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata*

Very common on Michaelmas Cay

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

Two or three seen on Michaelmas Cay

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Five or six seen along the Cairns foreshore and several more during the cruise to Michaelmas Cay

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

A single bird seen on the Cairns foreshore

Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*

Just one seen along the Cairns Esplanade but very common on Michaelmas Cay and around Sydney Harbour

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

Very common on Michaelmas Cay

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Four or five seen on Michaelmas Cay

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*

A few seen on Michaelmas Cay

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*

Thousands nesting on Michaelmas Cay

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

Two birds seen perched on the water taxi at Michaelmas Cay

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia* Introduced species

The familiar feral pigeon seen throughout

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

One seen perching high in the rainforest canopy at Lake Eacham

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* Introduced species

A few birds in Cairns and Sydney

Brown Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

One seen at Kingfisher Park and another at Mt Wilson, NSW. Common at O'Reilly's

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

Commonly seen feeding at Kingfisher Park

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

Three seen near Beaudesert with Glen near O'Reilly's

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

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

Squatter Pigeon *Geophaps scripta*

At least ten seen at Granite Gorge

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

One seen at Mt Wilson, NSW. Common at O'Reilly's

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*

Seen most days in Queensland; a couple also seen in the Capertee Valley

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

Seen most days in North Queensland

Wompoo Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

One seen at Lake Barrine and another along the Python Rock track at O'Reilly's

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Duculabicolor*

Many seen around Cairns and Daintree

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

A few on the Atherton Tablelands and several around O'Reilly's in Queensland

Glossy Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

Seen briefly flying over the Kings Tablelands then four seen well as they fed on casuarinas cones at Honeymoon Point near Katoomba.

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

Two separate males seen in the Blue Mountains on our day out with Carol

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*

Widespread in NSW

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

A few birds seen around Jamberoo, NSW

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Common, recorded most days

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Common, recorded most days

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

Common around North Queensland with small numbers recorded each day

Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla*

A small flock seen in the Capertee Valley

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

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

Pale-headed Rosella *Platycercus adscitus*

A pair seen at Granite Gorge in Queensland

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

One seen at our lunch stop at the Bilpin Fruit Bowl then several around Glen Davis

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

Fairly common in the Capertee Valley

Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*

An excellent sighting! A single bird flushed during the day at Barren Grounds

Australian King Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

Single birds seen at Kingfisher Park and Glen Davis. Very common at O'Reilly's.

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

A single bird seen near Mt Carbine, Queensland

Double-eyed Fig Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*

Great looks at five birds seen up close in fruiting fig trees along the Cairns Esplanade.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

A single bird seen at the top of Mt Whitfield, Cairns though heard on several occasions

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

One seen at Barren Grounds and another with Glen near O'Reilly's

Little Bronze-cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

A single bird seen near Canungra with Glen.

Shining Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

Heard frequently in NSW and at O'Reilly's.

Eastern Koel *Eudynamys orientalis*

A male was seen along the Daintree River during the cruise and a female at Kingfisher Park

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Just the one bird seen flying over the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney, though also heard in the Blue Mountains

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

Several individuals seen around the Atherton Tablelands and also near Canungra

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Keith showed us a pair that was breeding at Kingfisher Park.

Southern Boobook *Ninox boobook*

One heard calling early evening at Glen Davis.

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*

Excellent views of two birds plus a nestling on nests, over the Daintree River.

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

A female with one young seen on a nest at Granite Gorge

Australian Swiftlet *Aerodramus terraereginae*

Reasonably common over Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands.

White-throated Needletail *Hirandapus caudacutus*

A single bird seen at Mt Lewis

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

A few individuals seen on the Atherton Tablelands, at the Nepean Weir Park and around O'Reilly's

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

Common and widespread, seen nearly every day.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*

A single bird seen on the Daintree River cruise. Also seen on the Atherton Tablelands

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

A few individuals around Kingfisher Park and also Daintree.

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*

Single bird seen at Centenary Lakes and the Esplanade, Cairns,

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Six or seven seen around the Atherton Tablelands and at Centenary Lakes, Cairns.

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*

A couple seen on the Daintree River as well as two on the Capertee River and one at Jamberoo

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Recorded in small numbers throughout

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

Excellent views of two birds at Kingfisher Park as they foraged on the lawns.

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

Fantastic views of a juvenile male at Evans Lookout in the Blue Mountains.

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

The comical call could be heard often at O'Reilly's but birds were only seen on a couple of occasions

Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus melanotis*

Seen a couple of times on the Atherton Tablelands though heard often

Tooth-billed Bowerbird *Scenopoeetes dentirostris*

One seen at Mt Lewis. Heard also at Lake Barrine.

Golden Bowerbird *Prionodura newtoniana*

Magnificent views of a male and his bower near Herberton, Queensland, thanks to Alan!

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

Common at O'Reilly's, particularly at lunch time when Barb's chips were unguarded!

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

Carol showed us a bower at Blackheath with an attendant male. Common also at O'Reilly's

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaea*

One or two seen at Lake Barrine, the Blue Mountains and at O'Reilly's .

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptera*

One seen at Mt York in the Blue Mountains with Carol.

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

Common around Glen Davis and the Capertee Valley.

Superb Fairywren *Malurus cyaneus*

The common fairywren of south-eastern Australia, seen most days in NSW and at O'Reilly's.

Red-backed Fairywren *Malurus melanocephalus*

Three seen at Abattoir Swamp including a male. Pairs also seen near Hastie's Swamp and on the main road travelling back down to Cairns from Yungaburra

Macleay's Honeyeater *Xanthotis macleayanus*

Small numbers seen most days on the Atherton Tablelands. Common at Kingfisher Park.

Bridled Honeyeater *Lichenostomus frenatus*

Several individuals seen at Kingfisher Park and The Crater National Park.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

Pairs seen near Kingfisher Park, Waratah Picnic Area and the Capertee Valley

Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor*

Four or five seen alongside the mangroves near the Esplanade in Cairns.

Yellow Honeyeater *Lichenostomus flavus*

One seen in Cairns at Centenary Lakes then a pair at Granite Gorge.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

An individual seen feeding with other honeyeaters at Glen Davis

White-plumed Honeyeater *Lichenostomus penicillatus*

Very common in the Sydney region and the Capertee Valley.

Graceful Meliphaga *Meliphaga gracilis*

A couple seen at Kingfisher Park.

Yellow-spotted Honeyeater *Meliphaga notata*

Seen at Kingfisher Park and also along the Daintree River

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

Common on both the Atherton Tablelands and at O'Reilly's.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

A large colony of these birds was seen at Berambing in the Blue Mountains. Also heard calling below Evans Lookout. Surprisingly, a pair was seen feeding low down in undergrowth near O'Reilly's

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

Seen near Kaban in Queensland. Very common in the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney and NSW

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

Fairly common around Kingfisher Park and Mt Molloy

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

A single bird seen at Mt Wilson in the Blue Mountains.

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*

A few at Kingfisher Park and also near O'Reilly's

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

A couple seen with Glen near Canungra

Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*

Two seen at Centenary Lakes

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

Common, seen most days, especially in NSW.

Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*

A single bird seen at Glen Davis, feeding with other honeyeaters

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

A few seen at Jamberoo on the morning of our departure.

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

Common in NSW, seen often in the Blue Mountains and the Capertee Valley.

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

A few seen around Cairns and the Tablelands.

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

A single bird seen very briefly at Mt Wilson with Carol

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

A few seen at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens and again at Jamberoo.

Brown-backed Honeyeater *Ramsayornis modestus*

Excellent views of birds and their penduline nests at Centenary Lakes, Cairns. Good views also on the Daintree River cruise.

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

Several seen at the Crater National Park, Bilpin, Blackheath and at O'Reilly's.

Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela obscura*

Fairly common around Kingfisher Park and the Tablelands.

Scarlet Myzomela *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

A pair seen at Kingfisher Park.

Eastern Bristlebird *Dasyornis brachypterus*

Great views of three birds at Barren Grounds on the Ridge Track.

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

Two males seen at a reserve in the Capertee Valley. Also at O'Reilly's with Glen.

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

A few of the black headed form seen with Glen near O'Reilly's

Rock Warbler *Origma solitaria*

Fantastic views with Carol of two birds at Mt York in the Blue Mountains.

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

Two seen at the Waratah Picnic Area in the Blue Mountains. Very common at O'Reilly's.

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

A few birds seen at Mt Lewis and very common at O'Reilly's

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostra*

Fairly common at Kingfisher Park.

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*

A few birds seen in a reserve in the Capertee Valley

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

Fairly common at Mt Wilson in the Blue Mountains and at O'Reilly's in Queensland.

Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*

Several seen along the Daintree River on the cruise.

Mountain Thornbill *Acanthiza katherina*

Two or three seen at Mt Lewis.

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

Common in the Blue Mountains and also at O'Reilly's.

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

A pair seen nesting at a reserve in the Capertee Valley.

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

Small groups seen at Glen Davis and around the Capertee Valley

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

Several seen at Glen Davis, Penrith and Jamberoo, usually feeding in casuarinas.

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

Several birds seen in the Blue Mountains at Blackheath and Mt Wilson.

Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

A male seen one day then a pair the next at O'Reilly's.

Chowchilla *Orthonyx spaldingii*

A male and female seen foraging at Mt Lewis and also at Lake Barrine.

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

Two seen at Mt Lewis but heard almost every day. Best views at O'Reilly's.

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*

Best views at Centenary Lakes, Cairns including a juvenile.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

A single bird seen out near Beaudesert with Glen.

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

One seen near Mt Carbine, one in the Capertee Valley, and another near Beaudesert.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Two or three seen on the Atherton Tablelands. Common in NSW and near Beaudesert, Queensland

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

Very common throughout the trip.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

A fairly common bird around Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

A few seen at Glen Davis on our early morning walk.

Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

Seen frequently on the Atherton Tablelands. Common in NSW.

Yellow-eyed Cuckooshrike *Coracina lineata*

Two seen at Kingfisher Park.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis*

A few individuals seen at Centenary Lakes, Cairns, also at Granite Gorge and in the Capertee Valley.

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

Two males seen near O'Reilly's with Glen.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

A female at Kingfisher Park and another seen at Daintree. Heard on several occasions.

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

Parties of a few birds each seen in the Capertee Valley and in the Rhododendron Gardens at Blackheath.

Grey Whistler *Pachycephala simplex*

One seen at Mt Lewis.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

A female first seen at Mt Lewis then both males and females seen at a number of places throughout.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

A male seen first at Mt Lewis then individuals of both sexes seen several times in NSW.

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

Very common throughout Queensland, with good views of males, females and some juvenile males.

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

Two birds seen at the Centenary Lakes in Cairns.

Green Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*

Excellent views from the cruise along the Daintree River. Heard frequently elsewhere in Queensland.

Bower's Shrikethrush *Colluricincla boweri*

One seen briefly at Lake Barrine then excellent views of another at Lake Eacham on the Atherton Tablelands.

Little Shrikethrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

Several individuals seen on the Atherton Tablelands, especially Kingfisher Park.

Grey Shrikethrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

A couple seen at Glen Davis and also at O'Reilly's.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

Seen most days in Cairns and on the Atherton Tablelands.

Willie-wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Very common throughout.

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*

Recorded once in the carpark at Abattoir Swamp.

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura albiscapa*

A familiar bird of woodlands throughout the trip.

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

Fairly common in the rainforest at O'Reilly's.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

Singles seen at Kingfisher Park, Mt Wilson and at O'Reilly's.

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*

Two or three seen each day in North Queensland. Best views at Kingfisher Park.

Pied Monarch *Arses kaupi*

One seen at the Curtain Fig Tree, Yungaburra.

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Very common, seen every day!

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

A pair seen in roadside trees by Nardello's Lagoon, near Mareeba, Queensland.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

Fantastic views of a male and a female changing shift on a nest, from the boat on our Daintree River cruise.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

A single bird seen before breakfast at Glen Davis.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

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

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

A couple seen at Pitt Town Lagoon, NSW

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

The common corvid of Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

Several seen at Glen Davis before breakfast.

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

A male and a female seen at O'Reilly's along the Python Rock Track.

Victoria's Riflebird *Ptiloris victoriae*

A male heard calling at Lake Eacham was joined by a female that showed well. A male seen briefly at the Crater National Park. Heard also at Kingfisher Park and the Curtain Fig Tree.

Ashy (Grey-headed) Robin *Poecilodryas albispecularis*

A few birds seen on the Atherton Tablelands, firstly at Mt Lewis then at the Curtain Fig Tree and both Lakes Barrine and Eacham.

Mangrove Robin *Peneoenanthe pulverulenta*

One bird seen well near the mangroves on Cairns Esplanade.

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito*

A few birds seen around the Atherton Tablelands at Kingfisher Park and both Lakes Barrine and Eacham.

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

Seen well in the Blue Mountains and again at O'Reilly's.

Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster*

A single bird seen at Granite Gorge.

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans*

Two seen at Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley.

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

A pair seen with Carol at Mt Wilson in the Blue Mountains.

Flame Robin *Petroica Phoenicia*

A pair seen well near Evans Lookout in the Blue Mountains with Carol

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

Common throughout the trip.

Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel*

Common near Kingfisher Park and Lake Mitchell, also in the Capertee Valley.

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

Seen only on one day, a few birds at Kaban in North Queensland.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

One seen and another heard singing up high over the turf farms at Windsor, NSW

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

A couple of birds first seen with Alan on a private wetland near Kaban in Queensland then several at Pitt Town Lagoon, NSW.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Locally common near the Nepean River at Penrith.

Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

One seen at Pitt Town Lagoon although many were calling, then a couple again at Lake Wallace. Also heard in reeds along the Nepean River at Penrith.

Silver-eye *Zosterops lateralis*

Several birds seen at a number of places in both Queensland and NSW.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*

Colonial nesting colonies very common around Kingfisher Park and along the Daintree River.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Seen every day but not in the Capertee Valley or at O'Reilly's.

(European) Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common in NSW.

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei*

Two individuals seen at O'Reilly's, one clearly showing the extended white markings on the side of the tail

Olive-tailed (Bassian) Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*

A few individuals seen clearly along the Border Track at O'Reilly's.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Common in NSW.

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

One male seen at the Centenary Lakes in Cairns. Several in the Capertee Valley and also at the Nepean Weir.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

A few males and females seen at the Centenary Lakes in Cairns and also at Kingfisher Park.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common in Cairns and NSW.

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*

A single bird seen briefly on a power-line at the Kings Tableland, near Katoomba

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

One bird seen near the Capertee River.

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

Common, seen most days.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

A few seen outside our hotel at Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley.

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

Over a dozen seen at Granite Gorge, Queensland and a 3-4 near Beaudesert with Glen

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

Two seen at Kingfisher Park and another two near Hastie's Swamp.

Australian Pipit *Anthus australis*

Common along the roadsides in the Capertee Valley.

(European) Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

A few around the turf farms near Windsor. A couple also at Jamberoo.

MAMMALS

Black Flying-fox *Pteropus alecto*

Grey-headed Flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*

Red-necked Pademelon *Thylogale thetis*

Musky Rat-kangaroo *Hypsiprymnodon moschatus*

Mareeba Rock Wallaby *Petrogale mareeba*

Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*

Whiptail Wallaby *Macropus parryi*

Red-necked (Bennett's) Wallaby *Macropus rufogriseus*

Mountain Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus caninus*

Coppery Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus vulpecula*

Common Ringtail Possum *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*

Northern Brown Bandicoot *Isodon macrourus*

Bush Rat *Rattus fuscipes*

Duck-billed Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

REPTILES and TURTLES

Land Mullet *Egernia major*

Eastern Water Skink *Sphenomorphus quoyii*

Bearded Dragon *Pogona barbata*

Boyd's Forest Dragon *Hypsilurus*

Eastern Water Dragon *Physignathus lesueurii*

Gecko sp. *Gehyra dubia*

Green Tree Snake *Dendrelaphis punctulata*

Mustard-bellied Snake *Drysdalia rhodogaster*

Whip Snake sp. *Demansia sp.*

Saltwater Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*

Eastern Long-necked Turtle *Chelodina longicollis*

Johnstone River Snapping Turtle *Elseya sp.*

Northern Sawshell Turtle *Elseya latisternum*

Kreft's River Turtle *Emydura kreftii*

Green Sea Turtle *Chelonia mydas*

AMPHIBIANS

Cane Toad *Bufo marinus*