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EASTERN AUSTRALIA: Blue Mountains, Cairns and O'Reilly's



Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher – one of the highlights of our trip to Eastern Australia © Peter Taylor

EASTERN AUSTRALIA: Blue Mountains, Cairns and O'Reilly's

3-21 November 2022

Leaders: Peter Taylor with Alan Gillanders (Yungaburra), Murray (the Daintree Boatman) and Matt (O'Reilly's)

Participants: Phil Jones, Dan and Tricia Miller and John and Louise Sykes

Trip Diary

With everyone having arrived a day or so prior to the tour starting, it was decided to meet up at a convenient hotel close to the airport which was well situated for our first stop at Royal National Park. Here, we were greeted by the raucous shrieks of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Little Corellas as well as a pair of Oriental Dollarbirds that wheeled out from exposed branches. We also found our first Laughing Kookaburras and brightly coloured Crimson Rosellas and King Parrots but as often happens on this tour, it was a stunning blue male Superb Fairywren that won the day closely followed by tiny Spotted Pardalotes.



Superb Fairywren © Peter Taylor

An afternoon walk in the park yielded more beauties with Black-faced Monarch, Golden and Rufous Whistlers competing with a Green Catbird and Satin Bowerbirds.

After lunch at the Audley Dance Hall Tearooms, we made our way south to our accommodation at

Jamberoo in the Southern Highlands where a stroll through the local park found us Topknot and White-headed Pigeons, Long-billed Corellas and then Olive-backed Orioles that were feeding on the nectar rich yellow flowers of Silky Oaks with Australian Figbirds and Lewin's Honeyeaters.

Nearby Barren Grounds, high on the plateau, was home to the aptly named Beautiful Firetail and Southern Emu-wren, as well as several Fan-tailed Cuckoos with their mournful descending trills. An Eastern Bristlebird was glimpsed as it skulked in the undergrowth and a pair of giant Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos were spotted feeding across the valley.

A short drive away but in completely different habitat, we explored the trails of Minnamurra rainforest and were rewarded with views of at least three Superb Lyrebirds, renowned mimics and forever scratching away in the litter on the forest floor. More Lyrebirds appeared at the impressive Fitzroy Falls and also a male Rose Robin put on a brief show as we walked the western rim.

The Blue Mountains weather was surprisingly mild after the threat of unseasonal snow for the week prior had us worried. However, a winter of torrential rain had washed away several forest roads in the National Park which were currently under repair. Fortuitous for us, the enforced extra walk took us along quiet tracks giving us the opportunity to view Gang-gang Cockatoos, Variegated Fairywrens and a male Scarlet Robin.



Scarlet Robin © Peter Taylor

The Campbell Rhododendron Gardens at Blackheath were in full bloom and great views were had there of Satin Flycatchers, Sacred Kingfishers and a Red-browed Treecreeper. A change of scenery found us down the Megalong Valley at the local tearooms for lunch where we shared the tables with parties of White-winged Choughs, Pied Currawongs and Australian Magpies.

A very loud female Pacific Koel made its presence known and twittering Yellow-rumped Thornbills foraged nearby on the grass. Further down the road after lunch, we visited the Old Ford Reserve, usually a haven for honeyeaters. This year, there were plenty of Noisy

Friarbirds and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and also a White-throated Gerygone with its gorgeous fluting song.

Last stop in New South Wales was the Capertee Valley, the widest natural canyon in the world and home to a range of special birds. Glen Alice was particularly busy with Speckled Warbler, Dusky Woodswallow, Brown Treecreeper, Jacky Winter and Hooded Robin among a host of species seen.

Highlight of the day though was a Turquoise Parrot sitting on a powerline and happy enough for us to stop and take photographs. A close second was a party of massive Channel-billed Cuckoos, which were being constantly harassed by indignant Noisy Miners, probably the most aggressive of all the honeyeater species.

Before returning to Sydney for our flight to Cairns, we made a quick visit to Lake Wallace where there were lots of Eastern Rosellas feeding on the grass amongst the campers and Musk Ducks diving in and out of view in the lake itself. The obligatory sewage treatment plant visit to the ponds at Lithgow was memorable for seven duck species including Pink-eared (with young) and a pair of shy Chestnut Teal.

A late flight to Cairns meant we only had time to pick up the minibus and drive straight to our hotel but even as we walked across the terminal carpark, we were spotting new species. Flocks of lorikeets – Rainbow and Scaly-breasted shrieked overhead, while Torresian Imperial Pigeons streamed towards their night-time roosts.

Our first experience of the wet tropics was a cruise out to Michaelmas Cay on the Great Barrier Reef but as we drove towards the Reef Fleet Terminal, we passed a vacant lot where dozens of Bush Stone-Curlews were standing idly around!

As we departed on *Ocean Spirit IV*, a single Black-naped Tern was spotted, unusual as this species is more often found either out at the Cay (as we later discovered) or fishing out at sea.

The sandy cay itself was a haven for hundreds of seabirds – Brown Boobies with their fluffy white chicks, Sooty Terns on eggs, Great and Lesser Crested Terns getting ready to breed and a couple of marauding Great Frigatebirds. Ruddy Turnstones wandered throughout the colonies and the odd Bridled Tern could be seen loafing out on the mooring buoys.

A glass bottomed boat tour found us giant clams and a Sea Turtle, as well as a myriad of tiny tropical fish, colourful gems that darted in and out of the corals.

Back in Cairns and there was just enough time for a quick visit to the famous Esplanade where numerous migratory shorebirds were feeding, some like Bar-tailed Godwits familiar and others including Grey-tailed Tattler and Pacific Golden Plover not so much. An obliging Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove was a bonus, as were a couple of Torresian Kingfishers that flew in and stayed perched and calling in front of us for ages.

Passerines such as Varied Honeyeaters, Mangrove Robin and White-breasted Woodswallow joined our list which was now growing at a rapid rate.

Cairns has many excellent birding sites and we had a day to explore a couple. Redden Island had many Orange-footed Scrubfowl, a rainforest megapode with a far reaching honking cry, drowning out the buzzing calls of Little Bronze Cuckoos and the bizarre sounds of Spangled Drongos. Tiny Olive-backed Sunbirds flitted effortlessly around both here and at the Centenary Lakes, where we also found a few Radjah Shelducks hanging out with the Magpie Geese, as well as various egrets.

Up on the Atherton Tablelands, we stayed at the wonderful Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges near Lake Eacham. No sooner had we arrived and dined than we were off spotlighting with local guide Alan Gillanders. Taking an educated punt, Alan took us to a local site in the hope of finding Eastern Grass Owls that hunt for rodents over recently cleared fields and we were not disappointed when at least three of these long legged *Tytos* appeared over our heads. Eastern Barn Owl soon followed, and a Large-tailed Nightjar called but remained obstinately hidden. However, the real stars were the mammals! Alan managed to find us a Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo down low, as well as both Coppery Brushtail and Green Ringtail Possums and a Giant White-tailed Rat!

Next day, we were out again with Alan to look for the various endemic bird species of the Tablelands. On cue, Chowchilla, Bower's Shrikethrush, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Victoria's Riflebird and Tooth-billed Bowerbird all presented themselves and a Golden Bowerbird near Mt Hypipamee was the icing on the cake!

Golden Bowerbird © Peter Taylor

After lunch, we travelled further afield and found a waterhole along a creek where Banded Honeyeaters and the Herberton form of Fuscous Honeyeaters were diving in for a bath with a Noisy Friarbird watching over.



On the roadside coming back, we stopped for a group of Sarus Cranes feeding in a roadside paddock.

After bidding Alan goodbye, we spent a while at Hastie's Swamp where dozens of Plumed Whistling Ducks gathered and a lone Wood Sandpiper was spotted. Just on dusk, we dropped into the Peterson Creek Platypus viewing lookout and were extremely fortunate to see two of these weird monotremes.

After dinner at the Yungaburra Pub, we went back to Chambers' viewing platform where more mammals appeared in the form of Striped Possum, Sugar Glider and a Long-nosed Bandicoot. Nearby, a Southern Boobook was heard.

Leaving Chambers, we stayed on the Tablelands and headed north into drier country. Enroute, we stopped at Tolga when we saw a flock of circling cranes overhead and as we scanned through them, we realised that there were also a few Brolga with them, a species we thought we may have missed (who would have thought there was a word to rhyme with Brolga!).

At Nardello's Lagoon, we scoped a huge stick nest just as a White-bellied Sea Eagle soared into view, answering the question "What builds a huge nest like that?"

On Chewko Road, a raptor flew quickly across in front of us and turned out to be a Pacific Baza, probably nesting nearby as it continued to circle us with its presumed mate. A windy lookout further along Chewko Road then surprised us when, despite the heat, we found Yellow Honeyeater, White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike, a Great Bowerbird and a couple of uncoloured Red-backed Fairywrens.

We had received a tip-off about a flock of Oriental Pratincoles, a rarity on the Tablelands, so as it wasn't too far out of our way we tried for them. Unfortunately, the midday heat haze proved our downfall but we still found a couple of Australian Bustards, a Blue-winged Kookaburra and a stunning male Red-backed Fairywren!

After lunch, we went back to the lowlands north of Cairns to visit the Cattana Wetlands, a manmade series of ponds of different sizes and depths surrounded by forest. We enjoyed great views of Comb-crested Jacanas and Green Pygmy-geese, as well as our only sighting of a flock of colourful Crimson Finches.

A morning cruise on the Daintree River is a must when visiting Far North Queensland. Murray (the Daintree Boatman) took us out in his 12-seater craft and showed us nesting Papuan Frogmouths and several of the sexually dimorphic Shining Flycatchers, which were also nesting. In fact, most species were nesting including Large-billed Gerygones with their pendulous constructions hanging by a thread and the menacing Black Butcherbird.

After a brief drive into the Daintree National Park, we headed back up onto the Tablelands for a couple of nights at Kingfisher Park Lodge. Instant success here, as we gathered at the

famous “crake pool” and rested our weary legs where we were eventually treated to a view of two Red-necked Crakes that seemed to appear out of nowhere. Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfishers were already in residence and nesting around the grounds and Carol had successfully tempted one of the males to entertain us at breakfast by coming in for mealworms!

Up on Mt Lewis, we found more Tablelands endemics in the form of Mountain Thornbill, Bridled Honeyeater and a very loud but incredibly shy Fernwren.

The dry country north of Kingfisher Park at Mt Carbine is quite different. With permission from owner Nikki to bird around the grounds of the caravan park, we were soon looking at a new array of species including Apostlebirds, Pale-headed Rosellas, Little Friarbird and nesting Tawny Frogmouths with chicks.

At Maryfarms, there were more Australian Bustards and then at the Mt Molloy School, Red-winged Parrots and a Great Bowerbird with his decorated bower. Returning late afternoon to Kingfisher Park, we disturbed a Grey Goshawk that had been sitting on a power pole. Apparently, he was well known in the area and had been christened ‘Gandalf’ by the locals!

Returning to Cairns for our flight down to Brisbane, we had the amazing fortune to spot a Beach Stone Curlew on the rocky beach from our bus window. After making a U-turn and finding a suitable parking spot, we were even more surprised to relocate the bird which walked towards us giving fantastic views. To top it off, it was the last Stone Curlew species for Phil’s world list!



Beach Stone Curlew © Peter Taylor

O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat was our final destination for the tour and before we could even get in the front door to check in, we were delayed by a reception committee of Regent Bowerbirds along with Crimson Rosellas and King Parrots and even a huge Wonga Pigeon.

A morning out with local O'Reilly's guide Matt proved invaluable. He knew of a pair of endangered Glossy Black Cockatoos that were feeding on sheoak cones and was able to take us there (despite the site being in the middle of precarious road works on the mountain road!).

Along the way were the curiously but appropriately named Pretty-faced Wallabies (otherwise known as Whip-tailed Wallabies), that posed obligingly for photos. Left to our own devices, we explored some of the trails around the Retreat over the next day and a half, finding many new species such as the much sought-after Albert's Lyrebird, Noisy Pitta, Paradise Riflebird and amazing Australian Logrunners.

Other highlights included both Russet-tailed and Bassian Thrushes, Rufous Fantail and more Green Catbirds. As always, the sumptuous meals were a delight but all too soon we were heading back down the mountain to Brisbane, dispersing in all different directions after what was a delightful sortie 'Down Under'.

Systematic List

Birds

Magpie-goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

Relatively common in North Queensland, where they were seen at Centenary Lakes in Cairns, Hastie's Swamp and along the Daintree River.

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

Several were seen at the far end of Hastie's Swamp in north Queensland.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Strangely, we encountered this species only once, a flock of 50+ at Nardello's Lagoon near Yungaburra in north Queensland.

Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*

We first saw a couple at Centenary Lakes in Cairns then another four or so on the Daintree River.

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

A pair with five tiny chicks was spotted at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds.

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

First seen in Royal National Park and again at Jamberoo. Fairly widespread on farm dams and wetlands throughout.

Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus*

About eight were seen at the Cattana Wetlands near Cairns in North Queensland and another two on the Daintree River.

Australian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*

One was seen at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds, NSW.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Fairly widespread in NSW and Queensland, seen most days on farm dams and wetlands.

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

Common at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds, NSW. Seen also in North Queensland at Hastie's Swamp.

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

A single pair at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds.

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

One was seen at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds in NSW then many more at Hastie's Swamp in Queensland.

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

A pair was seen at Lake Wallace and another three individuals at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds in NSW.

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

A male was seen at Lake Wallace, NSW.

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathamii*

Very common and generally extremely bold in Queensland.

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*

Fairly common in the rainforests in tropical North Queensland.

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

Their mournful call was heard coming from long grass around the Glen Alice church site in NSW.

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*

Excellent views of a couple of individuals sitting on nests along the Daintree River.

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

Fabulous views at the Mt Carbine camp ground of two nests both with adults and chicks. At O'Reilly's, local guide Matt showed us another sitting on a nest with a small chick.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

Possibly two heard while we were out spotlighting with Alan.

Australian Swiftlet *Aerodramus terraereginae*

Reasonably common over Cairns, the Daintree River and the Atherton Tablelands.

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*

A single bird was seen very briefly flying over Chambers Rainforest Lodges.

Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis*

Following a tip-off regarding some Oriental Pratincoles (which we failed to find!), we spotted a pair of bustards alongside Pickford Rd, north of Mareeba. At least another six individuals were seen in fields and along the roadside at Maryfarms, also in north Queensland.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

First sighting from the minibus of a single bird sitting in the road as we drove out of Hastie's Swamp!

Pacific Koel *Eudynamys orientalis*

Heard more often than seen both in NSW and North Queensland. We did have great views of a female at the Megalong Valley tearooms in NSW where we were having lunch.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Excellent close-up views of possibly five or more individuals of these huge migratory cuckoos in the Capertee Valley. They were also seen a couple of times in North Queensland.

Shining Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

Heard calling at a number of places including O'Reilly's. One was seen at the Rhododendron Gardens in Blackheath, Blue Mountains.

Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

Best views at Redden Island but also seen at Kingfisher Park.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

Surprisingly common in Royal National Park and we also had good views of several individuals at Barren Grounds in NSW. Heard most days in NSW and also seen at O'Reilly's.

Pallid Cuckoo *Cacomantis pallidus*

One was heard distantly at our first stop in the Capertee Valley.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

Its monotonous call was first heard at Centenary Lakes, Cairns where we tracked down a single bird. Another was heard at a lookout on Chewko Road near Mareeba in North Queensland.

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*

The familiar feral pigeon seen in cities such as Katoomba and Cairns.

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

Two were seen feeding briefly one morning at Jamberoo in NSW and others on our last day at O'Reilly's.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Introduced dove first seen in Jamberoo, NSW then in Cairns in North Queensland.

Brown Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

A number of sightings in North Queensland, most noticeably at Chambers Rainforest Wildlife Lodges and Mt Lewis.

Pacific Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris*

Individuals were seen at a number of places in North Queensland particularly Kingfisher Park, on our drive up Mt Lewis and at Chambers.

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

Two were seen at Glen Alice in the Capertee Valley.

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Reasonably common in NSW with several around Jamberoo. Other sightings around the Tablelands in North Queensland.

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

A single bird was seen as we left the Capertee Valley in NSW. Several of these huge pigeons were also seen strolling around the grounds at O'Reilly's.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*

Common in the Capertee Valley in NSW and North Queensland.

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

Seen regularly throughout North Queensland, especially around Cairns. One was also seen at Glen Davis in NSW.

Wompoo Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

We had great views of at least five of these colourful fruit doves at Chambers. They were also heard at Lake Barrine.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

Great view of a single bird near the Cairns Esplanade, perched in a fig tree. At least three more were seen the following day also at the north end of the Cairns Esplanade.

Torresian Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa*

Many seen around Cairns and Daintree.

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

Several seen feeding in the park around Jamberoo. Also seen at Mt Lewis in North Queensland and at O'Reilly's.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

First seen in Royal National Park where they were plentiful on our first day. They were also quite common at Lake Wallace and a single bird was observed at Hastie's Swamp in North Queensland.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Very common in NSW, seen at Royal National Park and Lake Wallace and several at Hastie's Swamp in North Queensland.

Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus*

Several of these large gallinules were seen in Royal National Park then a couple more at Jamberoo. At both Lake Wallace in NSW and Hasties Swamp in North Queensland they were quite common.

Sarus Crane *Grus Antigone antigone*

On our day out with local guide Alan a group of four was seen feeding in a field near Wondecla in North Queensland. Over a hundred more were seen later, at Tolga.

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

Several seen in a paddock at Tolga in the Atherton Tablelands, feeding with Sarus Cranes.

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Seen in NSW at Lake Wallace then at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds and in North Queensland at Hastie's Swamp.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

One of these familiar grebes was seen at Lake Wallace in NSW but a large flock was spotted at Lake Barrine in North Queensland.

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris*

Great sighting of a single bird at Yule Point north of Cairns as we headed to the airport.

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

Very common around Cairns and the Tablelands.

Pied Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*

There were four on the mudflats at the Cairns Esplanade and another five were seen foraging at Hastie's Swamp in North Queensland.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

Very common, seen almost every day, either the northern subspecies in Queensland or the southern in NSW.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

One was seen distantly feeding out on the mudflats at the Cairns Esplanade.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyornis melanops*

Three birds at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds in NSW. In North Queensland, we saw one at Hastie's Swamp, three at Cattana Wetlands and also three more on the Daintree River cruise.

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

At least ten of these lily-trotting specialists were seen at Hastie's Swamp and a similar number at the Cattana Wetlands near Cairns in North Queensland.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

One seen on the Cairns foreshore with several others flying across open water as we waited to depart from the Reef Fleet Terminal on our day out to Michaelmas Cay.

Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

One was seen foraging on the mudflats by the Cairns Esplanade.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Common along the Cairns foreshore.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Common on Michaelmas Cay where we saw at least eight.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

A flock of these migratory waders was seen at the northern end of the Cairns foreshore.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

We saw just two of these trans-equatorial migrants feeding in mudflats off the Cairns Esplanade.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Flocks of over 40 birds were observed on the Cairns foreshore.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

There were at least four seen on the Cairns foreshore.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

We saw one bird foraging at Hasties Swamp on the Atherton Tablelands.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A single bird was seen at Cattana Wetlands, north of Cairns.

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*

Possibly hundreds on Michaelmas Cay.

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

Australia's commonest gull, seen often at Cairns.

Greater Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*

Common at Michaelmas Cay.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

Very common on Michaelmas Cay.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

One single bird was observed fishing before we departed for Michaelmas Cay and a couple more were seen from the boat on our return.

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

There were at least two perched on mooring buoys at Michaelmas Cay.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Seen from the esplanade in Cairns.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata*

Very common with many sitting on eggs on Michaelmas Cay.

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*

One was seen on the dock before we made our way out to Michaelmas Cay from Cairns and another flock of at least 20 was seen loafing at the Cay.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

One seen flying around a lagoon at Cattana Wetlands near Cairns.

Black-necked Stork *Ephiorhynchus asiaticus*

Three sightings of individual birds, the first as we ate our breakfast outside at a café in Yungaburra!

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*

Two females were seen on Michaelmas Cay.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

Common on Michaelmas Cay and breeding with several fluffy white chicks present.

Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

Individuals were seen in North Queensland at Lake Barrine, Hastie's Swamp and lastly along the Daintree River.

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Reasonably common in both NSW and North Queensland.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

First seen at Royal National Park on our first morning then again at Lake Wallace in NSW. In North Queensland there were a few at Hastie's Swamp.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Two of these most familiar of cormorants were seen on the Hacking River in Royal National Park. Our only other sighting was on the Daintree River in North Queensland.

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

First seen at Royal National Park in NSW then common and widespread throughout.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Just the one record of a single bird at Hasties Swamp on the Atherton Tablelands.

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

A group of eight was spotted at Hastie's Swamp.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*

A single bird was seen briefly by some as it flew upstream along the Mossman River from the Newell Beach boat ramp.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

We found our first on the Cairns foreshore. There were also a few more on the Daintree River.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Reasonably common around Jamberoo in NSW. They were also fairly widespread throughout North Queensland.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Several were seen at various locations in North Queensland, including on the Cairns foreshore and at Hastie's Swamp

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

First seen at Centenary Lakes in Cairns and again at Hastie's Swamp.

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

Surprisingly uncommon, with only two sightings of individual birds, at Jamberoo and Lake Wallace in NSW.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Single birds were seen at Hastie's Swamp and the Cattana Wetlands in Cairns.

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Twenty were seen at Hastie's Swamp then another two at Nardello's Lagoon both in North Queensland.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

A couple of sightings, one near Cairns as we returned from Michaelmas Cay and the other at Newell Beach.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

Great views of a pair, presumably nesting nearby, along the Chewko Road near Mareeba in North Queensland. Another was seen at Kingfisher Park on a walk around the grounds.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

Two were seen soaring high over the Lithgow Sewage Ponds in NSW with another at O'Reilly's.

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

One seen perched on a power pole near Julatten (apparently known locally as 'Gandalf!'). Another was seen later from the Python Rock lookout at O'Reilly's.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

Seen hawking over fields at breakfast one morning.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Relatively common in North Queensland, particularly near Daintree and in the Tablelands.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

One seen from the minibus near Wallerawang in NSW. Seen most days in ones and twos in North Queensland as well.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Just the one sighting of a single bird soaring along the coast at Yule Point when we stopped for a Beach Stone-Curlew.

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

A single bird was seen over Nardello's Lagoon near Mareeba in North Queensland. A massive stick nest was also noted in nearby trees.

Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto javanica*

We had great views of one bird during our evening spotlighting session with Alan.

Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*

An excellent sighting of at least 4 birds during our spotlighting expedition with Alan in Yungaburra.

Southern Boobook *Ninox boobook*

A single bird called fairly close to the viewing platform late one evening at Chambers Wildlife Lodges.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

One of the first birds we recorded, a pair at Royal National Park on our first morning. We also had several other sightings of mainly single birds in the Blue Mountains in NSW and on the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland.

Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*

Fantastic views of these spectacular kingfishers firstly at the Jindalba Boardwalk in Daintree National Park then each day at Kingfisher Park where a pair entertained us at breakfast!

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

Common and widespread, seen nearly every day.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*

Two records of single birds, one at Pickford Road near Mareeba and the other at the Mt Carbine caravan park.

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

Several individuals seen around Kingfisher Park and Daintree, usually perched on powerlines.

Torresian Kingfisher *Todiramphus sordidus*

Excellent close-up views on the Cairns Esplanade as one came in close and perched for some time!

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Seen at a number of sites in NSW, firstly a pair at Royal National Park along the Hacking River, and also at Jamberoo. Just the one record from Queensland at Tolga where we had stopped to scope a huge flock of cranes.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

We had a sighting of three birds in North Queensland at the Centenary Lakes in Cairns.

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

Very few sightings and all in North Queensland near Mareeba and Kingfisher Park.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

A single bird was seen from the minibus as we drove through the Capertee Valley.

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*

A flock of five seen briefly at Kingfisher Park as they flew from their roost one morning.

Glossy Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*

Excellent views of a pair feeding in a Casuarina tree at a roadworks site down from O'Reilly's on our morning out with local guide Matt.

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

A pair was seen briefly as they flew through the woodland around Evans Lookout in the Blue Mountains.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

Two were seen flying distantly over Royal National Park on our first day then another two were seen feeding at Barren Grounds Nature Reserve in the Southern Highlands of NSW.

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*

Widespread in NSW.

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

Large flocks were seen each day near our motel at Jamberoo either feeding on the ground or in nearby trees.

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*

First seen at Royal National Park feeding with Sulphur-crested Cockatoos. Common also around Jamberoo and in the Capertee Valley

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Very common, recorded nearly every day.

Australian King Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

These large red and green parrots were first seen at Royal National Park and Fitzroy Falls in NSW. Very common and very tame at O'Reilly's!

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

A small flock was seen briefly as they flew by near Mt Molloy School.

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

Fairly uncommon in the Capertee Valley with only a couple of brief sightings.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

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

Pale-headed Rosella *Platycercus adscitus*

We were lucky enough to find three of these parrots in a large shady tree at the Mt Carbine caravan park.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

A pair was seen at Jamberoo. Later we saw others at Lake Wallace where they were very common and also in the Capertee Valley

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

Excellent view of a single juvenile bird perched on a power line near Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Common, recorded most days.

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

One of the first birds we saw after we touched down in Cairns with small flocks wheeling over the airport carpark. Other, much better sightings, were had around Centenary Lakes.

Double-eyed Fig Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*

First sighting of these tiny parrots was at Redden Island just north of Cairns. Later, we saw others at Chambers Rainforest Lodges and along the Daintree River.

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

With no recent records from Kingfisher Park, it was great to finally hear and then see a couple of these forest skulkers at O'Reilly's.

Albert's Lyrebird *Menura alberti*

On our last full day at O'Reilly's, we found a very obliging male on our pre-breakfast walk at the start of the Border Trail, having heard several calls the previous day.

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

Having walked most of the rainforest trail loop at Minnamurra we were lucky enough to come across three individuals scratching around on the forest floor. We also found another two at Fitzroy Falls.

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

The first record was on our first day at Royal National Park in NSW. Their cat-like mewing was also heard in the rainforest around O'Reilly's, where they were less obliging!

Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus maculosus*

Seen commonly around Chambers Rainforest Lodges where some would come in to take fruit put out on our balconies.

Tooth-billed Bowerbird *Scenopoeetes dentirostris*

Good views of a calling male near his scruffy bower at Lake Barrine, where we heard several others as well. Also seen briefly at Mt Lewis.

Golden Bowerbird *Prionodura newtoniana*

Excellent views of a male of this rainforest gem with Alan.

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

The emblem of O'Reilly's and a regular visitor to the feeders.

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

Numerous sightings in Royal National Park, Jamberoo, Minnamurra and the Blue Mountains in NSW and at O'Reilly's in Queensland.

Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis*

First seen at the Chewko Road lookout where a single bird flew between trees downslope from us. The best views were at the Mt Carbine Caravan Park where there were at least four birds.

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaea*

First seen in the Royal National Park, then on several occasions in the Blue Mountains, NSW. In Queensland, we saw the smaller northern race at Chambers and elsewhere.

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptera*

A single bird was noted at the Rhododendron Gardens in Blackheath, NSW.

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

Seen in the Capertee Valley at Glen Alice and Glen Davis.

Variegated Fairywren *Malurus lamberti*

A male and female were seen in woodland near Evans Lookout in the Blue Mountains, NSW. A small group was seen later at O'Reilly's.

Superb Fairywren *Malurus cyaneus*

Several, including some brilliant males, were seen in Royal National Park. Later, we came across more by the Lithgow Sewage Ponds and also around the Capertee Valley. They were also very common at O'Reilly's.

Red-backed Fairywren *Malurus melanocephalus*

Great views of four birds, including at least one showy male, in long grass and shrubs along Pickford Road, north of Mareeba in North Queensland.

Southern Emuwren *Stipiturus malachurus*

Not an easy bird to see, but after hearing the high-pitched trill, we did spot a blue-throated male at Barren Grounds Nature Reserve.

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

Seen at Royal National Park then at Jamberoo but relatively common around the Blue Mountains. Less numerous in Queensland.

Brown-backed Honeyeater *Ramsayornis modestus*

One of these migratory honeyeaters was found at the Cairns Centenary Lakes. We also saw several on the Daintree River cruise and many more at Abattoir Swamp near Kingfisher Park.

Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela obscura*

Two were seen at Lake Barrine, then individuals on most days in North Queensland.

Scarlet Myzomela *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

Several stunning males were seen at Jamberoo feeding on flowering Grevilleas, then at a couple of locations on the Atherton Tablelands and again near O'Reilly's.

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

Just the one record of a single bird at the Mt Carbine Caravan Park.

Helmeted (Hornbill) Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*

First seen in flowering trees at Redden Island then again at Cattana Wetlands and at Daintree.

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

Seen in NSW firstly at the Old Ford Reserve on the Megalong Valley Road then again in the Capertee Valley. Also, in Queensland at Wondecla State Forest and Mt Carbine Caravan Park.

Macleay's Honeyeater *Xanthotis macleayanus*

A common Tablelands endemic around Kingfisher Park and at Chambers Rainforest Wildlife Lodges.

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus*

A single bird seen near Evans Lookout in the Blue Mountains.

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

Only seen once along the Evans Lookout Road in the Blue Mountains.

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

Two of these plain, yet very loud, honeyeaters were seen along the Cairns Esplanade.

Banded Honeyeater *Cissomela pectoralis*

Great sighting at a spot that Alan took us to in Wondecla State Forest where a number of honeyeaters, including many Banded, were coming in for a dip in the creek.

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

Three were spotted along Pickford Road near Mareeba in North Queensland. Another three were seen later at the Mt Carbine Caravan Park.

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

Heard only in the Capertee Valley.

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*

Two were seen in flowering Grevilleas at Kingfisher Park.

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

Brief views of a single bird at Wondecla State Forest in North Queensland but brilliant close-ups of several birds at O'Reilly's along the Wishing Tree Track.

Yellow Honeyeater *Stomiopera flava*

Two birds were spotted at the Chewko Road Lookout and another at Abattoir Swamp.

Yellow-spotted Honeyeater *Meliphaga 24otate*

Many were seen at Daintree, Kingfisher Park and Mt Lewis.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

In NSW seen firstly at Royal National Park then at Jamberoo and Minnamurra Rainforest. Very common on both the Atherton Tablelands and at O'Reilly's in Queensland.

Cryptic Honeyeater *Meliphaga gracilis?*

Several were seen at Kingfisher Park, distinguishable from the similar Yellow-spotted by their clicking call and proportionately longer bills.

Varied Honeyeater *Gavicalis versicolor*

Locally common alongside the mangroves and in trees near the Esplanade in Cairns.

Fuscous Honeyeater *Ptilotula fuscus*

A couple were seen at Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley and many more of the "Herberton" variety at a creek in Wondecla State Forest, North Queensland. .

White-plumed Honeyeater *Ptilotula penicillatus*

Very common in the Capertee Valley.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Caligavis chrysops*

Fairly common in NSW at the Royal National Park and again at the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley. Also seen in small numbers at Kingfisher Park.

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

Common in the park at Jamberoo and around the Blue Mountains.

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*

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

Bridled Honeyeater *Bolemoreus frenatus*

Just one of these Tablelands endemics was seen at Mt Lewis, in dense trees by the clearing.

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

Very common in NSW.

Eastern Bristlebird *Dasyornis brachypterus*

Brief views of a single bird skulking in the dense vegetation at Barren Grounds in NSW.

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

As many as seven individuals were seen in vegetation along the banks of the Hacking River in Royal National Park on our first day and others later at Barren Grounds, Fitzroy Falls and the Capertee Valley. Their ringing call was also heard at O'Reilly's.

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*

Several were heard calling at the Old Ford Reserve down the Megalong Rd in the Blue Mountains and others in the Capertee Valley as well as at O'Reilly's at the end of the trip.

Fernwren *Oreoscopus gutturalis*

A single bird was heard calling in dense undergrowth at Mt Lewis.

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*

Our only sighting was of a party of three birds in the Capertee Valley in NSW.

Speckled Warbler *Pyrrholaemus sagittatus*

Close views of a pair at Glen Alice in the Capertee Valley, NSW.

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

One was seen at the Minnamurra Rainforest in NSW but best views were at Mt Lewis in North Queensland then along the Boardwalk and various other trails at O'Reilly's.

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostra*

Two birds were seen at close quarters at the Minnamurra Rainforest Centre in NSW and another four in a creek-line along the Jindalba Boardwalk in Daintree National Park. Common in rainforest at O'Reilly's along with other scrubwren species.

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

Quite common in NSW. Also very common and amazingly tame at O'Reilly's!

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

Many seen foraging in rainforest at Minnamurra in NSW. Common also at O'Reilly's in Queensland.

Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*

A few were seen building their pendulous nests as we cruised the Daintree River backwaters.

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*

A single male with its obvious white throat was seen at the Old Ford Reserve along the Megalong Rd and another two in the Capertee Valley.

Fairy Gerygone *Gerygone palpebrosa*

Alan showed us a pair of these Tablelands endemics in his garden in Yungaburra.

Mountain Thornbill *Acanthiza katherina*

A lone representative of this Tablelands endemic was spotted at Mt Lewis, in a tree at the clearing.

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

A few were seen at Barren Grounds. Common in the Blue Mountains and also at O'Reilly's.

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

Seen in ones and twos at the Megalong tearooms, then in the Capertee Valley and at Lake Wallace.

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

A single bird was seen foraging in a sheoak at Lake Wallace.

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

Several sightings of small flocks in NSW, including at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens, the Old Ford Reserve and along Evans Lookout Road.

Australian Logrunner *Orthonyx temminckii*

Excellent views of these busy forest floor foragers each day at O'Reilly's, the white-throated males and orange-throated females.

Chowchilla *Orthonyx spaldingii*

Great close-up views of three at Lake Barrine then another at Mt Lewis.

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

Two were first seen as they dashed across the track at Royal National Park in NSW then heard frequently after that. Great views also at O'Reilly's where they are incredibly tame.

Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*

Excellent views of a single bird foraging above the trail at Lake Barrine.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Fairly common around Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

Two birds seen perching on gravestones at the Glen Alice cemetery in the Capertee Valley, NSW.

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*

One seen well as it perched at the entrance to Redden Island Reserve near Cairns and again on the Daintree River where we saw one on a nest.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Reasonably common throughout the more open areas of NSW and Queensland.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

Three sightings of single birds at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens, Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley and at Lake Wallace. Also heard at O'Reilly's.

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

One was seen in the Capertee Valley.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

Very common throughout NSW and at O'Reilly's.

Barred Cuckooshrike *Coracina lineata*

A single bird was seen at Lake Barrine.

Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

A couple were first seen at Royal National Park on our first morning. Other individuals were seen at a number of places in NSW and Queensland most days.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis*

A single bird was first seen at the Chewko Road Lookout near Mareeba then another two at Abattoir Swamp in North Queensland.

Common Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

We heard one at Royal National Park but it was quite distant. We finally saw a single male high up in a tree next to the orchard at Kingfisher Park after hearing it call constantly.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

A number of sightings of individual birds at Redden Island, Cairns Centenary Lakes and Chambers Rainforest Lodges.

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

A small party of these nuthatch-like foragers was seen in woodland near Wondecla, North Queensland.

Grey Whistler *Pachycephala simplex*

Seen well on a number of occasions at Kingfisher Park.

Australian Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

A male was seen in Royal National Park, then commonly recorded in both NSW and North Queensland and also at O'Reilly's.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

Seen frequently in NSW. First at the Royal National Park and then commonly at Barren Grounds and in the Capertee Valley.

Bower's Shrikethrush *Colluricincla boweri*

Excellent views of two birds at Lake Barrine.

Rufous Shrikethrush *Colluricincla rufogaster*

Individuals seen each day at Kingfisher Park especially around the orchard and at Chambers.

Grey Shrikethrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

First seen at Barren Grounds in NSW then also at O'Reilly's.

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

Several seen feeding in the Silky Oaks near Jamberoo. Common also throughout north Queensland.

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

Several individuals were recorded at a number of places in NSW including Jamberoo and the Capertee Valley.

Green Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*

Fairly common around Cairns including at the Esplanade and also along the Daintree River on our cruise with Murray.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

At least two were seen at Redden Island, then commonly throughout North Queensland.

Willie-wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Very common throughout.

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*

A single bird at Abattoir Swamp carpark near Julatten, North Queensland.

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura albiscapa*

Moderately common throughout the tour.

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

First views of single birds at Mt Lewis, North Queensland. Good views also at O'Reilly's.

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*

Fairly common at Kingfisher Park.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

First seen at Royal National Park then commonly at Barren Grounds and Fitzroy Falls in NSW. Also seen in the rainforest at O'Reilly's in Queensland.

Pied Monarch *Arses kaupi*

Great sighting of a single bird at Chambers Rainforest Lodges.

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Very common, seen nearly every day throughout.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

Brief views at Redden Island near Cairns.

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

A female and at least two males were seen at the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens, Blackheath in NSW.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

Excellent views of both males and females nesting on the Daintree River cruise.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

A couple of birds were seen well at Glen Alice in the Capertee Valley in NSW.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

The common corvid in Brisbane and at O'Reilly's.

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

Several were seen around Lake Wallace in NSW.

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

The common corvid of Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

First seen at the Megalong Tea Rooms, where they competed with Pied Currawongs for table scraps! Later that afternoon at the Old Ford Reserve more were seen by the roadside. Several were also spotted around the Capertee Valley.

Apostlebird *Struthidea cinerea*

Great views of several birds enjoying the bird bath at the Mt Carbine caravan park.

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

Heard on both days at O'Reilly's and a male was seen very briefly by some on one of our walks there.

Victoria's Riflebird *Ptiloris victoriae*

Excellent views of several birds at Chambers and also at Lake Barrine.

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito*

Fairly common in the rainforest at Kingfisher Park and Chambers Rainforest Lodges.

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

First seen at Royal National Park then at a number of locations in NSW including Minnamurra Rainforest, Fitzroy Falls and in the Rhododendron Gardens at Blackheath. They were also quite common at O'Reilly's.

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

A male and a female were seen at our first stop in the Capertee Valley.

Mangrove Robin *Peneoenanthe pulverulenta*

Brief views of a single bird at the edge of the mangroves near the Cairns foreshore.

Grey-headed Robin *Heteromyias cinereifrons*

Individual birds were seen on the walk up Mt Lewis. They were also fairly common at Chambers Rainforest Lodges.

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans*

Good views of these flycatchers at our first stop on the Capertee Road and at Glen Alice in the Capertee Valley.

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

One male seen at Fitzroy Falls in NSW and a couple more heard at O'Reilly's.

Scarlet Robin *Petroica boodang*

A single male was heard then seen well near Evans Lookout in the Blue Mountains, NSW.

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

Common throughout the trip.

Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel*

Several birds were seen flying out from road culverts in the Capertee Valley in NSW with more on the Atherton Tableland.

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

Several birds were watched soaring over Lake Wallace in NSW. Also seen around the Tablelands in Queensland.

Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

Very common at Lake Wallace, NSW.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Several were seen in long grass along Pickford Road north of Mareeba in North Queensland.

Silver-eye *Zosterops lateralis*

Fairly common throughout.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*

Very common around Cattana Wetlands, Kingfisher Park and along the Daintree River where they were nesting in huge colonies.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Seen most days but, fortunately, still not at O'Reilly's.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common in NSW.

Russet-tailed Thrush *Zoothera heinei*

Surprisingly plentiful at O'Reilly's where several were seen as we were driven in and along both the Border Track and the Python Rock Track.

Bassian Thrush *Zoothera lunulata*

Close up views of two birds at O'Reilly's.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

A couple were seen briefly at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens in the Blue Mountains.

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Reasonably common in North Queensland where they were seen most days.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

Fairly common around Cairns and the Tablelands. Great views at Kingfisher Park and Redden Island in North Queensland.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Fairly common in NSW and around Cairns.

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*

Great views of a pair at Barren Grounds in NSW as they foraged beside the path.

Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*

Several of these aptly named finches at Cattana Wetlands, Cairns.

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

First seen briefly at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens in NSW but it wasn't until we got to Kingfisher Park that we saw large numbers of these native finches. They were also extremely common at O'Reilly's.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

A common species at the feeders around Kingfisher Park.

Australian Pipit *Anthus australis*

There were a couple of sightings of one or two birds in the Capertee Valley in NSW.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

A single bird was spotted as we were driving around Lake Wallace in NSW.

Mammals

Spectacled Flying-Fox *Pteropus conspicillatus*

Duck-billed Platypus *Ornithorhyncus anatinus*

Red-legged Pademelon *Thylogale stigmatica*

Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*

Common Wallaroo (Euro) *Macropus robustus*

Whiptail Wallaby *Macropus parryi*

Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*

Short-eared (Mountain) Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus caninus*

Lumholtz' Tree Kangaroo *Dendrolagus lumholtzi*

Coppery Brushtail Possum *Trichosorus vulpecula*

Green Ringtail Possum *Pseudocheirops archeri*

(Torresian) Striped Possum *Dactylopsila trivirgata*

Sugar Glider *Petaurus breviceps*

Giant White-tailed Rat *Uromys caudimaculatus*

Swamp Rat *Rattus lutreolus*



Whiptail Wallaby © Peter Taylor

REPTILES

Eastern Water Dragon (Minnamurra) *Physignathus lesueurii*

Eastern Water Skink *Eulamprus quoyii*

Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas* (Michaelmas Cay)

Green Tree Snake *Dendrelaphis punctulata*

BUTTERFLIES

Orchard Swallowtail *Papilio aegeus*

Varied Sword-grass Brown *Tisiphone abeona*

Australian Painted Lady *Vanessa kershawi*

Cairns Birdwing *Ornithoptera euphorion*

Ulysses Swallowtail *Papilio ulysses*

Caper White *Belenois java*