



AUSTRALIA: FROM THE OUTBACK TO THE WET TROPICS SET DEPARTURE TRIP REPORT

28 OCTOBER – 12 NOVEMBER 2018

By Andy Walker



The views we had of Southern Cassowary during the tour took our breath away!

Overview

This 16-day scheduled-departure Australia group tour commenced in Melbourne, Victoria, on the 28th of October 2018 with a circuit of the state and a brief visit into New South Wales. We then flew up to Brisbane, southern Queensland, for a trip to the world-famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat and then moved into the northern tropics of Cairns, Queensland, for a circuit of the surrounding area (including a trip to the Great Barrier Reef and a river cruise along the Daintree River). The tour concluded in Cairns on the 12th of November 2018.

We connected with many exciting birds, and the tour yielded a long list of eastern Australian birding specialties, such as magical, prolonged observation of two adult and two young **Southern Cassowaries**, **Victoria's** and **Paradise Riflebirds** feeding and practicing for display, the stunning **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo** – a delightful pink parrot with an amazing red and yellow headdress, some of the best views of **Double-eyed Fig Parrots** imaginable as a flock fed at eye-level for ages, both **Superb** and **Albert's Lyrebirds** (the largest passerines in the world, with incredible vocalizations), a recently-returned migrant **Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher** that finally gave views after a good chase through the forest, the rare **Inland Dotterel**, several uncommon (within this tour route) shorebirds including **Oriental Plover**, **Australian Pratincole**, and **Little Curlew**, an incredible male **Australian Bustard** giving full display, large numbers of **Shy Albatrosses** in the rough southern seas off Victoria, close-up nesting seabirds galore on the Great Barrier Reef, nesting **Square-tailed Kite** in New South Wales, the impressive and huge **Black-necked Stork**, **Brolga**, **Sarus Crane**, and **Cape Barren Goose**, the rare **Freckled Duck**, the very locally-distributed **Rufous Bristlebird**, amazing **Regent**, **Satin**, **Great**, and **Tooth-billed Bowerbirds** for their looks and displays, the gorgeous **Diamond Firetail**, and numerous shorebirds, honeyeaters, parrots, fairywrens, and robins. The list of highlights could go on and on, but also some of the very common birds are incredibly impressive for the first-time visitor to Australia, and these were excitingly appreciated, such as **Laughing Kookaburra**, **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**, **Rainbow Lorikeet**, **Galah**, **Australian Magpie**, **Magpie-lark**, **Willie Wagtail**, and **Welcome Swallow**.

A total of 383 bird species were seen (plus eight species heard only)¹, along with an impressive list of other animals, including **Platypus**, **Short-beaked Echidna**, **Dingo**, and **Red Kangaroo**. Full species lists are provided at the end of this report.

Detailed Report

Day 0, 27th October 2018. Pre-tour arrival in Melbourne

Tim, Kay, Sandra, and Andy arrived in Melbourne in the early evening after completing their Tasmania tour ahead of the east coast tour starting the following morning. See trip report for the exciting Tasmania tour [here](#).

¹ Note that because all clients had taken our Tasmania pre-tour immediately before this tour we did not try for several species that we usually would seek out on this tour in Victoria (e.g. Hooded Dotterel, Little Penguin, etc.), as we had already seen them well in Tasmania, and so we spent time instead looking for other species in order to maximize potential sightings of new birds and other opportunities.

Day 1, 28th October 2018. Melbourne to Healesville

After breakfast we headed to the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, where we met with Simon, our local guide. The trip got off to a flying start with the first birds looked at in the Swarovski ATX-95 telescope being a family of two adult and two young **Tawny Frogmouths**. Wow, what a start! We enjoyed watching these birds for a while before concentrating on a small marsh, where we found another of our site targets in a pair of **Buff-banded Rails**. We saw several species of waterfowl here, the most exciting being a few **Pink-eared Ducks**. We had plenty of parrots too, such as **Long-billed Corella**, **Little Corella**, **Australian King Parrot**, **Red-rumped Parrot**, **Galah**, **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**, **Eastern Rosella**, **Musk Lorikeet**, and **Rainbow Lorikeet** – lots of color to digest! Further exploration gave us **Red Wattlebird**, another **Tawny Frogmouth**, **Pied Currawong**, **Olive-backed Oriole**, **Mistletoebird**, **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, **Grey Butcherbird**, and **Eastern Spinebill**. Here we also found our first **Eastern Grey Kangaroo** of the trip.

After our time near Melbourne we drove into the mountains at Healesville, where, after lunch, we entered a forested track. We were now in a very different habitat (and at different elevation), and so the birds were correspondingly different. During an enjoyable walk we found **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo**, **Crimson Rosella**, **Crested Shriketit**, **Flame**, **Rose**, and **Eastern Yellow Robins**, **Australian Golden Whistler**, **Rufous Fantail**, **Crescent Honeyeater**, **White-throated Treecreeper**, and **White-browed Scrubwren**, but best of all **Pilotbird** and **Superb Lyrebird**. Happy with our haul we headed to our accommodation for an early dinner.



*We had a long list of stunning robins during the trip, and **Flame Robin** was definitely high up there as one of the best-looking!*

After dinner we spent a couple of hours walking a quiet road near town, right away finding our main target, a nesting pair of **Southern Boobooks**. Scanning the trees after dusk also gave us good looks at **Greater Glider**, **Common Ringtail Possum**, **Common Brushtail Possum**, and brief views of **Red Fox**, **Sugar Glider**, and likely **Common Wombat** too. Nice surprises were our sixth

Tawny Frogmouth of the day that flew in and landed next to us and, as we were leaving the site, a group of five **Laughing Kookaburras** roosting together on a branch.

Day 2, 29th October 2018. Healesville to Chiltern

An optional early-morning walk near our accommodation gave great views of **Common Bronzewing**, **New Holland Honeyeater**, and **Spotted Pardalote** in and around the garden. After breakfast we headed into the mountains again, where the temperature plummeted, but we found some very nice birds, the top pick being **Superb Lyrebird** for most of the group. We had excellent, close views of a couple of **Flame Robins**, **Australian Golden Whistler**, and **Pied Currawong**. Frustratingly a couple of birds remained 'heard only', namely **Olive Whistler** and **Red-browed Treecreeper**, just that little bit too far away to tempt them closer.

Dropping down over the mountains we found a colony of **Bell Miners**, very vocal and eventually giving good views. Here we also had excellent looks at the beautiful **Yellow-billed Spoonbill**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, **White-throated Treecreeper**, **Yellow**, **Brown**, and **Striated Thornbills**, **Crested Shriketit**, **White-throated Gerygone**, **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, **Red-browed Finch**, and Australia's smallest bird, the tiny **Weebill**. Here the increase in temperature was very much welcomed too after the recent cold weather,

After lunch we continued our journey north. A quick rest stop in a town center yielded plenty of new birds, such as **Willie Wagtail**, **Australian Reed Warbler**, **White-plumed Honeyeater**, **Little** and **Noisy Friarbirds** (chasing and fighting with each other), and **Collared Sparrowhawk**. We also improved our views of **Sacred Kingfisher** and **Eastern Rosella** here.

Our final stops of the day occurred in the Warby-Ovens National Park. We spent a couple of hours driving dirt tracks and exploring the many options here and came away with a number of new birds. Highlights included **Rainbow Bee-eater**, **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**, **Western Gerygone**, **White-browed Babbler**, **White-winged Triller**, **Rufous Whistler**, **Olive-backed Oriole**, **White-winged Chough**, and **Leaden Flycatcher**.

After checking into our hotel in Chiltern we met up with regular Birding Ecotours clients David and Sue from Adelaide, who joined us for a meal ahead of joining the tour for the following day.

Day 3, 30th October 2018. Chiltern to Deniliquin

A pre-breakfast walk in the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park was very cold, but as the sun hit the tree tops things started to get going with a great deal of honeyeater activity. Birds were quickly moving through, but we managed to see **Blue-faced**, **Yellow-tufted**, **Fuscous**, **Brown-headed**, **Black-chinned**, and **White-naped Honeyeaters**. Other exciting birds included **Speckled Warbler**, **White-winged Chough**, and our best views to date of **Brown Treecreeper**. A huge flock of **White-browed** and **Masked Woodswallows** left their roost site and showed well as they foraged near a stubble field; these are both great-looking, slick species, so it was nice to see them well.

After breakfast we made a brief visit to several lakes in the area, where we found **Brolga** (a pair with two babies), **Little Eagle**, **Rufous Songlark**, **Little Lorikeet**, **Purple-crowned Lorikeet**, **Australian Pelican**, and **Black-fronted Dotterel**. One of the favorite finds of the morning, though, was a pair of **Restless Flycatchers** tending to their very young babies in their nest. It was great to be able to watch their behavior (from a distance) as they returned time and again with food and also to watch them chase off potential nest predators such as **Sacred Kingfisher**.

A final drive through the forest gave us a couple of new birds in the form of **Buff-rumped Thornbill** and a male of the rather spectacular **Red-capped Robin**, but then it was time to hit the road.

As we headed from Victoria into New South Wales a brief toilet stop gave us the opportunity to see our first **White-breasted Woodswallow**, **Whiskered Tern**, and **Australasian Darter**, along with several other waterbird species.

The evening plan was to go out at night with local guide Phil, so prior to that we did some late-afternoon birding with him and got a huge boost in honeyeaters for our ever-expanding trip list. This included some really nice ones too, such as **Painted**, **Black**, **White-fronted**, **Striped**, **Spiny-cheeked**, and **Singing Honeyeaters**. Here we also found **Purple-backed Fairywren**, **Pied Butcherbird**, and **Eastern Bluebonnet**.

After the sun had set and we had eaten our picnic dinners we commenced our night drive through the very dry farmland. Unfortunately there was no sign of any Plains-wanderer during the evening, undoubtedly due to the drought that the area was suffering. We did, however, still see several other interesting species, such as **Inland Dotterel**, **Banded Lapwing** (a pair with two young), **Emu**, and **Eastern Barn Owl**. Other enjoyment was provided by **Red Kangaroo**, **Eastern Grey Kangaroo**, **Fat-tailed Dunnart**, **Common Brushtail Possum**, **Tessellated Gecko**, and **Gibber Gecko**.

It was very late when we returned to our hotel, but we had seen some fantastic wildlife during the day.



*The rare **Inland Dotterel** was the highlight on our evening drive.*

Day 4, 31st October 2018. Deniliquin to Ouyen

After the late night yesterday we had a relaxed start to the day and said goodbye to David and Sue. When starting birding for the morning we found three very exciting species in no time at all. First we saw a couple of the very local **Superb Parrots** (well named), then followed this up with some of the best views imaginable of a perched **Square-tailed Kite**, and finally topped things off nicely

with an elegant **Black Falcon**! I love these easy mornings. But what was noticeable was the sudden increase in temperature over the previous days with the thermostat skyrocketing.

As we continued our journey back from New South Wales into Victoria we found **White-winged Fairywren**, **Little Grassbird**, **Brown Goshawk**, **Zebra Finch**, **Lace Monitor**, and **Eastern Bearded Dragon**.

By the afternoon we were in the Mallee, and temperatures were near 40°C. Here almost all the birds were different, and we found **Gilbert's Whistler**, **Splendid Fairywren**, **Crested Bellbird**, **Southern Whiteface**, **Regent Parrot**, **Pallid Cuckoo**, **Chestnut-crowned Babbler**, and one of the most popular, **Major Mitchell's Cockatoo**. Yet more wonderful birds!

Day 5, 1st November 2018. Ouyen to Central Victoria

We knew the day was going to be hot, so we headed out early into the Mallee and were rewarded with some seriously good views of a huge number of **Regent Parrots** and smaller numbers of **Australian Ringnecks** and **Mulga Parrots**. The sight and sound of these parrots was very impressive, as was a flock of 35 **Emus**. A water tank was bustling with birdlife, more of the above parrots (and **Red-rumped Parrots**) along with **White-eared**, **Striped**, **Spiny-cheeked**, **Yellow-plumed**, and **Singing Honeyeaters**, all drinking and bathing as the temperatures increased.

After breakfast we started our journey southward, stopping briefly for beautiful **White-backed Swallows**, a rather bizarre **Common Ostrich** (farmed ostriches have established feral populations in Australia, but this was not in an expected area), and our first **Shingleback Lizard**. We grabbed some lunch and then headed for the amazing Cullens Lake Wildlife Reserve. This waterbody was absolutely stacked with wildfowl, and it was a sight to behold. One really special bird stood out from the crowd, the rare **Little Curlew**, a rather unexpected bonus bird for the trip. Plenty of other great birds were also found here, such as **Banded Stilt**, **Red-necked Avocet**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Common Greenshank**, **Pied Stilt**, and **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**. The number of ducks was staggering, there were thousands of birds: big flocks of **Australian Shelducks**, **Pink-eared Duck**, **Chestnut Teal**, **Black Swans**, **Black-tailed Nativehens**, and assorted cormorants, herons, and egrets. Both **Royal** and **Yellow-billed Spoonbills** were present, as was **Glossy Ibis**. At times the air was filled with **Whiskered Terns** and one **White-winged Tern** (an uncommon species in Victoria) and a few **Caspian Terns** too, and all of the above were very flighty due to the presence of **Peregrine Falcon**, **Swamp Harrier**, **Brown Falcon**, and **Whistling Kite**. Reluctantly we had to leave the lake; it was getting rather hot at about 38°C, and the increasing wind made it feel a good deal hotter.

As we made our way to our final stop near Inglewood we found a very obliging roadside **White-necked Heron**; this bird was in particularly fine plumage. Our final birding location for the day was at a waterhole, where we sat patiently for an hour and enjoyed close views of drinking **White-fronted**, **Black**, **Yellow-plumed**, **White-eared**, **Yellow-tufted**, and **Brown-headed Honeyeaters**. Both **Common** and **Brush Bronzewing**s were present, and a **Shy Heathwren** was calling nearby. A great way to end another bird-packed day in Victoria!

Day 6, 2nd November 2018. Central Victoria to Aireys Inlet

The temperature had dropped a bit overnight, and we were greeted by gray skies and light rain showers during the morning. But this seemed to get the birds moving quite a bit, and we had an excellent couple of hours birding in some nearby hills. Some of our main target birds fell quite quickly, and in no time at all we had found and enjoyed great views of a pair of **Red-backed Kingfishers** (a rare bird in the state), a pair of **Hooded Robins**, multiple singing and displaying

Painted Honeyeaters, a male **Gilbert's Whistler**, and several **Diamond Firetails** – a simply exquisite little finch. Throw in a few **White-winged Trillers**, **Mistletoebird** showing down to several feet, **Black Honeyeater**, nesting **Rainbow Bee-eaters**, and **White-backed Swallow**, and we were all a little excited by what we had just seen! There were also plenty of other, more familiar (but not less exciting) species about, such as **Eastern Rosella**, **Red-rumped Parrot**, **Long-billed Corella**, **Black-faced Cuckooshrike**, and **Superb Fairywren**.



Painted Honeyeater brightening up an overcast, damp, and cool morning in Victoria

After some refreshment we continued our journey southward, passing some really pretty old villages along the way. We picked up several interesting birds along the way too, such as **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, **Musk Lorikeet**, **Grey Currawong**, **Scarlet Robin**, **Cape Barren Goose**, **Black-fronted Dotterel**, **Red-kneed Dotterel**, **White-browed** and **Masked Woodswallows** (by the hundreds), **Grey Butcherbird**, **White-necked Heron**, **Latham's Snipe**, **Little Wattlebird**, and several gorgeous adult **Nankeen Night Herons**.

When we arrived at the coast the wind was absolutely howling, so we spent half an hour or so doing a sea watch. Here we had some very close fly-by **Shy Albatrosses**, with several also sitting on the water, where an **Afro-Australian Fur Seal** was foraging, along with many **Fluttering** and a few **Short-tailed Shearwaters**, **Australasian Gannet**, **Greater Crested Tern**, and **Black-faced Cormorant**. On land near our viewpoint we saw **Blue-winged Parrot** and heard a **Rufous Bristlebird** singing, but the wind was so strong at this point that we didn't even try to see the bird – one to be left for the following day (hopefully)!

Day 7, 3rd November 2018. Aireys Inlet to Melbourne

A pre-breakfast walk at Aireys Inlet on our final morning in Victoria gave us some fantastic views of several of the very locally-distributed **Rufous Bristlebird**; it was also great to hear their beautiful song. As we walked around the local area we picked up several interesting birds such as **Latham's Snipe**, **Blue-winged Parrot**, and **Australian Shelduck**. A brief sea watch of an

incredibly flat ocean (very different from the previous evening's sea state) gave us **Shy Albatross** and the same birds as the previous evening, but in reduced numbers, with the addition of a couple of **Parasitic Jaegers** (Arctic Skuas).

After a lovely breakfast we started our circuit back toward Melbourne. En route we found **Forest Raven**, **Musk Duck**, and **Wedge-tailed Eagle**. A small clearing in some woodland was incredibly busy with birds, and here we enjoyed **Varied Sittella**, **White-naped Honeyeater**, **Rufous** and **Australian Golden Whistlers**, **Red-browed Finch**, **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, **Dusky Woodswallow**, **Eastern Yellow Robin**, and the best views imaginable of two male **Satin Flycatchers**.



Satin Flycatcher usually spends its time high in the trees, so to find this male below eye-level was a great sight.

Our final stop of the Victoria leg of the tour was one of the best birding destinations in the state (and probably the whole country), the Western Treatment Plant in Werribee. Here a huge number of waterbirds was waiting for us, and we encountered a multitude of species. New trip birds included **Pectoral Sandpiper** (another Australian rarity), **Australian Crake**, **Baillon's Crake**, **Blue-billed Duck**, **Pied Oystercatcher**, **Red-capped Plover**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Red-necked Stint**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Fairy Tern**, **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, **Eurasian Skylark**, and **Golden-headed Cisticola**. The spectacle of so many birds giving such excellent views is one that will not be forgotten anytime soon. The numbers of **Black Swan**, **Australian Shelduck**, **Pink-eared Duck**, **Chestnut Teal**, **Pied Stilt**, **Red-necked Avocet**, **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, and **Whiskered Tern** were really impressive. We ended the day with 130 species, not a bad haul for a fairly relaxed few hours' birding!

After our time was up here we headed back to Melbourne, where we reluctantly said our goodbyes and thank you to Simon for all of his excellent work during this leg of the tour. We grabbed dinner and an early night ahead of the early start the following morning for our flight to Brisbane, ready for something totally different from the previous week's birding.

Day 8, 4th November 2018. Melbourne to Brisbane to Lamington National Park

An early start was in order for today so that we could catch our flight from Melbourne to Brisbane, where we arrived around 8 a.m. to a hot and muggy morning. After picking up our new vehicle we headed to a wetland near the city, where we met with local birder Rob. We spent a couple of hours in some habitats very different from previous locations on the tour and as a result found plenty of new birds among many we were by now more familiar with. Highlights here included **Comb-crested Jacana, Magpie Goose, Wandering Whistling Duck, Australasian Darter, Eastern Osprey, Brahminy Kite, Tawny Grassbird, Red-backed and Variegated Fairywrens, Oriental Dollarbird, Intermediate Egret, Australasian Figbird, Olive-backed Oriole, Leaden Flycatcher, White-throated Gerygone, and Torresian Crow**. We also saw several **Eastern Water Dragons**, some gave views, others just plopped into the water.

We had a final mangrove spot to check prior to lunch, so we headed over to it in the late morning. In no time at all we were watching **Torresian Kingfisher** and **Mangrove Gerygone** in the mangroves, with **Bar-sided Forest-skinks** hanging out on the trees too. The tide levels were pretty perfect and allowed us to scan the mud here, and we found **Pacific Reef Heron, Striated Heron, Far Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel, Gull-billed Tern, and Little Tern**.

After lunch we said goodbye to Rob and started our journey south to the legendary O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. Along the way we stopped at a small dam, where in the heat of the mid-afternoon we managed to find some really spectacular birds, such as **Black-necked Stork, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, White-necked Heron, Pied Butcherbird, and Topknot Pigeon**. We also bettered our views of **Oriental Dollarbird** from a few hours previously. It would have been easy to stay here for the whole day, but we had to get to our accommodation, so we continued on our way, winding our way up into the mountains.

Just before reaching our accommodation we stopped at a scenic viewpoint, where, along with some spectacular views of the surrounding landscape, we also found a whole new suite of birds, such as **Satin Bowerbird, Crimson Rosella, Australian King Parrot, Wonga Pigeon, Lewin's Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin**, and more. As we checked into our rooms a stunning **Regent Bowerbird** provided a bit of a distraction, as too did **Australian Brushturkey**. After a wonderful evening meal we grabbed an early night's sleep.

Day 9, 5th November 2018. Lamington National Park

We awoke to a warm dawn in the mountains and immediately started birding. We spent the whole day around our wonderful accommodation – O'Reilly's is a must-visit location in eastern Australia. This area has a large mix of species, some crazily colorful, in-your-face-showy birds like **Regent Bowerbird, Satin Bowerbird, Australian King Parrot, Crimson Rosella, and Australian Brushturkey**, and then there are the more skulking, cryptic species like **Australian Logrunner, Bassian Thrush**, and more. There are even brightly-colored, large birds that can be extremely shy too, such as **Green Catbird, Noisy Pitta, and Paradise Riflebird**. Over the course of the day we found all of these and many more, such as **Eastern Whipbird** (a bird that can be incredibly shy at most other locations), **Eastern Yellow Robin, Shining Bronze Cuckoo, Pied Currawong, Wonga Pigeon, Topknot Pigeon, Lewin's Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Australian Golden Whistler, and Black-faced Monarch**. We also found both **Grey Fantail** and **Rufous Fantail** on nests, which was really exciting to see.

During the late afternoon we had a flock of **White-throated Needle-tails** fly overhead, recently arrived migrants on the move. Across the day we found several rather cool mammals and reptiles too, such as **Red-necked Wallaby, Red-necked Pademelon, Red-legged Pademelon**, the

humongous **Land Mullet** (one of the largest skinks in the world), **Major Skink**, and the gorgeous **Southern (Angle-headed) Forest Dragon**.

After dinner we headed for a brief walk near the lodge, where we enjoyed watching **Short-eared Brushtail Possum**, a couple of **Common Brushtail Possums**, and numerous **Common Ringtail Possums**. We also heard both **Noisy Pitta** singing and several **Southern Boobooks** calling.



*The **Regent Bowerbird** male is a bit of a looker.*



***Satin Bowerbird** is pretty attractive too.*

Day 10, 6th November 2018. Lamington National Park to Brisbane to Cairns

We had an early-morning, pre-breakfast birding walk near the lodge and were rewarded with a pair of **Albert's Lyrebirds**. Over the course of a couple of hours we saw many of the birds we had recorded the previous day but also added a few more, or improved views of others, such as **Bassian Thrush**, **Paradise Riflebird**, **Green Catbird**, and **Topknot Pigeon**. Some of the different birds and our first of the trip included **Grey Goshawk**, **Pacific Emerald Dove**, **Channel-billed Cuckoo**, **Brush Cuckoo**, and **White-headed Pigeon**.

After breakfast we traveled back to Brisbane in order to catch our afternoon flight to Cairns. Along the way we picked up our first **Pacific Koel** and **Forest Kingfisher**, but better views of these was likely on the cards over the next few days. We also found **Whiptail Wallaby**, **Black Flying Fox**, and **Grey-headed Flying Fox**.

We arrived in Cairns late in the afternoon and checked into our hotel for the night. We took a brief walk along the Esplanade before having an early dinner. The beach was fairly quiet, but we found **Terek Sandpiper**, **Red-necked Stint**, **Whimbrel**, **Masked Lapwing**, **Black-fronted Dotterel**, **Australian Pelican**, and a number of **Gull-billed Terns**. The trees along the beach held numerous **Torresian Imperial Pigeons**, **Australian Figbirds**, and **Rainbow Lorikeets**, with **Australian Swiftlets** overhead too. We also had brief views of **Double-eyed Fig Parrot** and **Varied Honeyeater**, and as we ate dinner several huge **Spectacled Flying Foxes** flew overhead.

Day 11, 7th November 2018. Great Barrier Reef Trip and travel to Kuranda

Today was about more than 'just the birds', since we headed out to the Great Barrier Reef, one of those 'must-visit' places in Australia, if not the whole world. We were the first boat to arrive at Michaelmas Cay and so made full use of our time, watching the nesting seabirds before anyone else got there. The island was covered in birds, and the tide was high, condensing a number of birds together. As we scanned the throng we found numerous **Sooty Terns** and **Brown Noddies**, the two most abundant species. Amongst these we also found plenty of **Bridled Terns**, **Brown Boobies**, and a few **Great Frigatebirds**. We also saw a large number of both **Greater Crested Terns** and **Lesser Crested Terns**, even finding some birds sitting next to each other to allow careful study of their differences. **Silver Gulls** loitered, waiting to snatch that unguarded egg or chick, and **Ruddy Turnstones** patrolled the cay too and were even noted eating the remaining contents of a noddy egg after the **Silver Gulls** had finished with it. As we were watching the above we also noted a gorgeous **Green Turtle** swimming through in crystal-clear water.

As the tide was high, we were able to take a short boat ride around the cay and in doing so found multiple **Black-naped Terns** and **Common Terns**, along with the many other species outlined above.

After we had finished with the birding we spent the rest of the day snorkeling at a couple of spots. It was, as usual, a simply breathtaking experience with a huge assortment of fish discovered along the reef.

As the afternoon progressed it was time to return to Cairns, and there we picked up our new vehicle before heading into the mountains for our next night's accommodation. On entering the local pub for dinner we were somewhat shocked to find a **Bush Stone-curlew** standing on the doorstep of the establishment. A fitting end to another great day in Australia!

Day 12, 8th November 2018. Kuranda to Lake Eacham

Wow, what an awesome day! We started off at Cassowary House in Kuranda, where a pre-breakfast walk gave us incredible views of some seriously great birds, such as **Victoria's**

Riflebird, Spotted Catbird, Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, Wompoo Fruit Dove, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Spangled Drongo, Varied Triller, Noisy Pitta, Forest Kingfisher, and more! As we walked into the dining area we were greeted with the sight of four giant, prehistoric-looking **Southern Cassowaries**, an adult pair with their two chicks. Over the course of breakfast and well beyond we were openmouthed at the views we were getting of one of the most impressive birds in the world. It was incredible to see the birds, but to be able to spend the time at close quarters with them and watch their interactions was something that will not be forgotten anytime soon. It was hard to concentrate on the other wildlife around, but this was of good quality too, such as **Macleay's Honeyeater, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Spectacled Monarch, White-throated Needle-tail, and Musky Rat Kangaroo.**



*Views of **Southern Cassowary** that will not be forgotten anytime soon. Here the male can be seen with two chicks. The female is just off to the left in the undergrowth (and is on the front cover of this report).*

Once we managed to drag ourselves away from the amazing cassowaries we started our journey into the Atherton Tablelands. We found a couple of good birds along the way in **Sarus Crane, Australian Bustard, and Red-tailed Black Cockatoo**, and also **Little Red Flying Fox**. A small marsh held **Plumed and Wandering Whistling Ducks, Freckled Duck, Royal Spoonbill, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Common Cicadabird, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Scarlet Myzomela, and Chestnut-breasted Mannikin.**

Our final stop during daylight was for one very special animal, the rather unique and highly sought-after **Platypus**. We not only saw one but had some excellent views as one fed at close range to us – yet another exciting encounter.

After a really wonderful dinner cooked by Sandra and Kay (and a surprise birthday apple pie for Andy – thank you!) we headed out for some nocturnal exploration. During this time we found **Short-beaked Echidna, Common (Copper) Brushtail Possum, Green Ringtail Possum,**

Striped Possum, Sugar Glider, White-tailed Giant Rat, Red-legged Pademelon, and Northern Leaf-tail Gecko. A **Lesser Sooty Owl** was calling but too far away to generate any interest. A thoroughly enjoyable day for all!

Day 13, 9th November 2018. Atherton Tablelands

We spent the morning birding around the crater lakes in the Atherton Tablelands. It was really busy with birds around our accommodation early in the morning, and we enjoyed further prolonged views of **Victoria's Riflebird** and **Spotted Catbird**, along with several other species such as **Grey-headed Robin, Pale-yellow Robin, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Pacific Emerald Dove, Black Butcherbird, and Spangled Drongo**. Finding a fruiting tree gave us point-blank, eye-level views of **Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Barred Cuckooshrike, and Metallic Starling**, which was a true privilege. We also really enjoyed watching a foraging **Pied Monarch**, which moved creeper-like around tree trunks, after seeing **Spectacled** and **Black-faced Monarchs** earlier in the day. Here we also found the stunning **Boyd's Forest Dragon** (one of the best-looking reptiles in the country) and **Musky Rat Kangaroo**.



Double-eyed Fig Parrot giving excellent, close views, totally unconcerned with the presence of anyone

As we drove through some agricultural land we found another **Sarus Crane** and a flock of over fifty **Red-tailed Black Cockatoos**.

Our afternoon birding took us into the much drier areas of the north, where we found **Blue-winged Kookaburra, Great Bowerbird, White-browed Robin, Red-winged Parrot, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Brush Cuckoo, Pacific Koel, Scarlet Myzomela, Graceful Honeyeater, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, and Leaden Flycatcher**.

We arrived at our accommodation, the excellent Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge, late in the afternoon, and while on the way to the pub for dinner we noted **Nankeen Night Heron, Metallic Starling, and Lemon-bellied Flyrobin**, which ended another great day's birding.

Day 14, 10th November 2018. Kingfisher Park, Mount Lewis National Park and local area

Our pre-breakfast walk around Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge with the resident local guide Andrew, who birded with us for the day, produced one of the birds of the trip, the recently-arrived **Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher**. It took some work, but our persistence paid off as we got some close, but brief looks at this migratory bird. Plenty of other birds were around too as we were searching for our quarry, including our first **Bridled Honeyeaters** of the trip. We also encountered **Eastern Water Dragon** and a surprise **Dingo**!

After breakfast, where we enjoyed the company of a **Boyd's Forest Dragon** sitting nearby, we drove to Mount Lewis National Park. **Blue-faced Parrotfinch** was seen briefly, as were two **Noisy Pittas**. A **Pheasant Coucal** was much more obliging, as too were displaying **Topknot Pigeons**. As we walked around the trails here we found many new and locally-distributed species, such as **Chowchilla**, **Fernwren**, **Mountain Thornbill**, **Atherton Scrubwren**, and **Tooth-billed Bowerbird**, along with more familiar **Barred Cuckooshrike**, **Victoria's Riflebird**, **Spotted Catbird**, **Grey-headed Robin**, and **Pale-yellow Robin**. A **Pacific Baza** here was a nice treat, especially as it gave some perched views.

Our afternoon birding took us into some dry areas. A brief stop in a rainforest gully gave us our best perched views of **White-headed Pigeon** and **Brown Cuckoo-Dove** as well as brief glimpses of **Yellow-breasted Boatbill** and **Lovely Fairywren**. Once in the dry country we were quickly enjoying great views of **Banded Honeyeater**, **Blue-faced Honeyeater**, **Red-winged Parrot**, **Brush Cuckoo**, **Lemon-bellied Flyrobin**, and **White-bellied Cuckooshrike**. However, we were really here to look for **Australian Bustard**, and as the temperature dropped the bustards appeared in decent numbers, some giving very close views. We really enjoyed watching a male standing in the road, puffing himself up and displaying, an amazing sight and sound thoroughly enjoyed by all.

There was one final bonus species for the day, a couple of scarce **Oriental Plovers**, an early birthday present for Andy!



*This male **Australian Bustard** was giving his booming display in the late afternoon.*

Day 15, 11th November 2018. Daintree River Cruise and transfer to Cairns

The final day of the tour saw us make an early start from Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge to allow us to get to the Daintree River for an early-morning boat trip. We met the local boatman Murray and headed out on the river. Birds came thick and fast, and over the course of our two hours we recorded over 70 species! An early highlight was a **Black Bittern** that flew out of some dense vegetation right over our heads. We then had good views of **White-browed Crake** and **Buff-banded Rail**, but the best was yet to come when we found two **Pale-vented Bush-hens** walking about in the open right on the water's edge, allowing excellent views of this mega-skulking species. Another major highlight was a nesting **Papuan Frogmouth** with young at the nest with other species such as **Black Butcherbird**, **Shining Flycatcher**, **Large-billed Gerygone**, and **Magpie Goose** nearby.

As we headed down a small creek we found a couple of rather close **Azure Kingfishers**, a really pretty bird, and then also enjoyed the beautiful **Pacific Baza** perching. Other new birds (or better looks at least) included **Green Oriole**, **Hornbill Friarbird**, and **Olive-backed Sunbird**. We also saw a pretty **Common (Green) Tree Snake** hanging in the mangroves. The highlights of this boat trip could go on and on!



Azure Kingfisher was sitting along the riverbank during our cruise.

After breakfast we headed back to Cairns. Along the way we found a field containing several **Pacific Golden Plovers**, a new trip bird that was pleasing but soon overshadowed dramatically when we found two **Australian Pratincoles** and another **Oriental Plover**. Incredible scenes! The beach was covered in terns of several species, and **Far Eastern Curlew** was quite noticeable, standing head and shoulders above most on the beach.

We made a brief stop in the Cattana area, where we had good views of several **Green Pygmy Geese** along with a flock of **Wandering Whistling Ducks**. Nearby a few **Crimson Finches** were

also found, but the sight of about one hundred **Chestnut-breasted Mannikins** would take some beating.

Our planned final stop of the trip was the Centenary Lakes area. In no time at all we had excellent views of several **Raja Shelducks**, a really stunning bird. Most of the other birds we were now very familiar with, but it was still nice to see the likes of **Bush Stone-curlew**, **Black Butcherbird**, and **Grey Goshawk**.

After this we checked into our hotel, cleaned up, and headed for our final dinner. However, the birds had other plans... The Cairns Esplanade, deadly quiet earlier in the week, was absolutely heaving with birds, thousands of them. A quick decision to postpone dinner slightly was a good move, since we added many new shorebirds to our list, such as **Great Knot**, **Greater Sand Plover**, **Lesser Sand Plover**, and **Grey-tailed Tattler**. Lots of other birds were numerous too, such as **Whimbrel**, **Far Eastern Curlew**, **Red-necked Stint**, and **Terek Sandpiper**. This turned out to be an excellent and fitting way to end the tour, which we did after a lovely meal and a nice bottle to celebrate all that we'd seen and done on the tour over the previous few weeks.

Day 16, 12th November 2018. Tour Concludes in Cairns

Those of us with a slightly later departure enjoyed a bit of extra birding along the Esplanade and found **Broad-billed Sandpiper**, **Pied Oystercatcher**, and many other shorebirds, all giving excellent, close views. **Scaly-breasted Munia** was added at the airport too!

We all had had a wonderful few weeks exploring the eastside of this amazing continent-country (and Tasmania before this also). So many beautiful, rare, interesting, and odd birds and a range of incredible other creatures too! **Southern Cassowary** was voted Tim and Kay's "Bird of the Trip", and Sandra chose the nesting pair of **Restless Flycatchers** as her "Bird of the Trip".

Bird List - Following IOC (8.2)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen.

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened. Australia endemics are bolded.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Ostriches (Struthionidae)	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
Cassowaries, Emu (Casuariidae)	
Southern Cassowary - VU	<i>Casuarius casuarius</i>
Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>
Magpie Goose (Anseranatidae)	
Magpie Goose	<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
Plumed Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna eytoni</i>
Wandering Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna arcuata</i>
Cape Barren Goose	<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae</i>
Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>
Freckled Duck	<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>
Raja Shelduck	<i>Radjah radjah</i>
Australian Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>
Pink-eared Duck	<i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>
Maned Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>
Green Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus pulchellus</i>
Australasian Shoveler	<i>Spatula rhynchotis</i>
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Grey Teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>
Chestnut Teal	<i>Anas castanea</i>
Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>
Blue-billed Duck - NT	<i>Oxyura australis</i>
Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>
Megapodes (Megapodiidae)	
Australian Brushturkey	<i>Alectura lathamii</i>
Orange-footed Scrubfowl	<i>Megapodius reinwardt</i>
Pheasants and Allies (Phasianidae)	
Brown Quail	<i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>
Albatrosses (Diomedidae)	
Shy Albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petrels (Procellariidae)	
Short-tailed Shearwater	<i>Ardenna tenuirostris</i>
Fluttering Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gavia</i>
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Hoary-headed Grebe	<i>Poliocephalus poliocephalus</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Black-necked Stork - NT	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
Australian White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>
Straw-necked Ibis	<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Royal Spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	<i>Platalea flavipes</i>
Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Black Bittern	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>
Nankeen Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
White-necked Heron	<i>Ardea pacifica</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
White-faced Heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Pacific Reef Heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Australian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>
Frigatebirds (Fregatidae)	
Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>
Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)	
Australasian Gannet	<i>Morus serrator</i>
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>
Black-faced Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscescens</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Little Black Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>
Australian Pied Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
Australasian Darter	<i>Anhinga novaehollandiae</i>
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Eastern Osprey	<i>Pandion cristatus</i>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>
Square-tailed Kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>
Pacific Baza	<i>Aviceda subcristata</i>
Little Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>
Wedge-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila audax</i>
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>
Collared Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>
Swamp Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Whistling Kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Australian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis australis</i>
Rails, Crakes and Coots (Rallidae)	
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>
Pale-vented Bush-hen	<i>Amaurornis moluccana</i>
Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>
Australian Crake	<i>Porzana fluminea</i>
White-browed Crake	<i>Porzana cinerea</i>
Australasian Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio melanotus</i>
Dusky Moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>
Black-tailed Nativehen	<i>Tribonyx ventralis</i>
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Sarus Crane - VU	<i>Antigone antigone</i>
Brolga	<i>Antigone rubicunda</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Bush Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
Pied Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Pied Stilt	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>
Banded Stilt	<i>Cladorhynchus leucocephalus</i>
Red-necked Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra novaehollandiae</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Banded Lapwing	<i>Vanellus tricolor</i>
Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>
Red-kneed Dotterel	<i>Erythrogonys cinctus</i>
Inland Dotterel	<i>Peltohyas australis</i>
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
Red-capped Plover	<i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>
Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
Oriental Plover	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>
Black-fronted Dotterel	<i>Elseya melanops</i>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
Comb-crested Jacana	<i>Irediparra gallinacea</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Little Curlew	<i>Numenius minutus</i>
Far Eastern Curlew - EN	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit - NT	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Black-tailed Godwit - NT	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Great Knot - EN	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>
Curlew Sandpiper - NT	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Red-necked Stint - NT	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>
Grey-tailed Tattler - NT	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Coursers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Australian Pratincole	<i>Stiltia isabella</i>
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (Laridae)	
Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>
Silver Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Fairy Tern - VU	<i>Sternula nereis</i>
Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>
Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>
Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Skuas (Stercorariidae)	
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
White-headed Pigeon	<i>Columba leucomela</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia phasianella</i>
Pacific Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps longirostris</i>
Common Bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>
Brush Bronzewing	<i>Phaps elegans</i>
Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>
Wonga Pigeon	<i>Leucosarcia melanoleuca</i>
Peaceful Dove	<i>Geopelia placida</i>
Bar-shouldered Dove	<i>Geopelia humeralis</i>
Wompoo Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i>
Superb Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus superbus</i>
Rose-crowned Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus regina</i>
Torresian Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula spilorrhoa</i>
Topknot Pigeon	<i>Lopholaimus antarcticus</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Pheasant Coucal	<i>Centropus phasianinus</i>
Pacific Koel	<i>Eudynamys orientalis</i>
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo (H)	<i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i>
Shining Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>
Little Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>
Pallid Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis pallidus</i>
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>
Brush Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Lesser Sooty Owl (H)	<i>Tyto multipunctata</i>
Eastern Barn Owl	<i>Tyto javanica</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
Southern Boobook	<i>Ninox boobook</i>
Frogmouths (Podargidae)	
Papuan Frogmouth	<i>Podargus papuensis</i>
Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	

Common Name	Scientific Name
Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
Australian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher	<i>Tanysiptera sylvia</i>
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>
Blue-winged Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo leachii</i>
Forest Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus macleayi</i>
Torresian Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sordidus</i>
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>
Red-backed Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus pyrrhopygius</i>
Azure Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx azureus</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Nankeen Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>
Australian Hobby	<i>Falco longipennis</i>
Brown Falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>
Black Falcon	<i>Falco subniger</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Cockatoos (Cacatuidae)	
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii</i>
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>
Gang-gang Cockatoo (H)	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>
Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i>
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	<i>Lophochroa leadbeateri</i>
Long-billed Corella	<i>Cacatua tenuirostris</i>
Little Corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Superb Parrot	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>
Regent Parrot	<i>Polytelis anthopeplus</i>
Australian King Parrot	<i>Alisterus scapularis</i>
Red-winged Parrot	<i>Aprosmictus erythropterus</i>
Red-rumped Parrot	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>
Eastern Bluebonnet	<i>Northiella haematogaster</i>
Mulga Parrot	<i>Psephotellus varius</i>
Crimson Rosella	<i>Platycercus elegans</i>
Pale-headed Rosella	<i>Platycercus adscitus</i>
Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>
Australian Ringneck	<i>Barnardius zonarius</i>
Blue-winged Parrot	<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>
Little Lorikeet	<i>Parvipsitta pusilla</i>
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	<i>Parvipsitta porphyrocephala</i>
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i>
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus</i>
Musk Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>
Double-eyed Fig Parrot	<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma</i>
Pittas (Pittidae)	
Noisy Pitta	<i>Pitta versicolor</i>
Lyrebirds (Menuridae)	
Albert's Lyrebird - NT	<i>Menura alberti</i>
Superb Lyrebird	<i>Menura novaehollandiae</i>
Bowerbirds (Ptilonorhynchidae)	
Green Catbird	<i>Ailuroedus crassirostris</i>
Spotted Catbird	<i>Ailuroedus maculosus</i>
Tooth-billed Bowerbird	<i>Scenopoeetes dentiostriis</i>
Regent Bowerbird	<i>Sericulus chrysocephalus</i>
Satin Bowerbird	<i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</i>
Great Bowerbird	<i>Chlamydera nuchalis</i>
Australasian Treecreepers (Climacteridae)	

Common Name	Scientific Name
White-throated Treecreeper	<i>Cormobates leucophaea</i>
Red-browed Treecreeper (H)	<i>Climacteris erythrops</i>
Brown Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>
Australasian Wrens (Maluridae)	
Lovely Fairywren	<i>Malurus amabilis</i>
Purple-backed Fairywren	<i>Malurus assimilis</i>
Variegated Fairywren	<i>Malurus lamberti</i>
Superb Fairywren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>
Splendid Fairywren	<i>Malurus splendens</i>
Red-backed Fairywren	<i>Malurus melanocephalus</i>
White-winged Fairywren	<i>Malurus leucopterus</i>
Southern Emu-wren (H)	<i>Stipiturus malachurus</i>
Honeyeaters (Meliphagidae)	
Black Honeyeater	<i>Sugomel niger</i>
Dusky Myzomela	<i>Myzomela obscura</i>
Scarlet Myzomela	<i>Myzomela sanguinolenta</i>
Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
Banded Honeyeater	<i>Cissomela pectoralis</i>
Brown Honeyeater	<i>Lichmera indistincta</i>
Crescent Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus</i>
New Holland Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>
White-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris niger</i>
Painted Honeyeater - VU	<i>Grantiella picta</i>
Striped Honeyeater	<i>Plectorhyncha lanceolata</i>
Macleay's Honeyeater	<i>Xanthotis macleayanus</i>
Little Friarbird	<i>Philemon citreogularis</i>
Hornbill Friarbird	<i>Philemon yorki</i>
Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>
Blue-faced Honeyeater	<i>Entomyzon cyanotis</i>
Black-chinned Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus gularis</i>
Brown-headed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>
White-naped Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus lunatus</i>
White-eared Honeyeater	<i>Nesoptilotis leucotis</i>
White-fronted Chat	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>
Brown-backed Honeyeater	<i>Ramsayornis modestus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	<i>Acanthagenys rufogularis</i>
Little Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>
Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>
Bridled Honeyeater	<i>Bolemoreus frenatus</i>
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	<i>Caligavis chrysops</i>
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus melanops</i>
Bell Miner	<i>Manorina melanophrys</i>
Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>
Yellow-throated Miner	<i>Manorina flavigula</i>
White-fronted Honeyeater	<i>Purnella albifrons</i>
Yellow Honeyeater	<i>Stomiopera flava</i>
Varied Honeyeater	<i>Gavicalis versicolor</i>
Singing Honeyeater	<i>Gavicalis virescens</i>
Fuscous Honeyeater	<i>Ptilotula fusca</i>
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Ptilotula ornata</i>
White-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Ptilotula penicillata</i>
Graceful Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga gracilis</i>
Yellow-spotted Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga notata</i>
Lewin's Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga lewinii</i>
Bristlebirds (Dasyornithidae)	
Rufous Bristlebird	<i>Dasyornis broadbenti</i>
Pardalotes (Pardalotidae)	
Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>
Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>
Australasian Warblers (Acanthizidae)	
Fernwren	<i>Oreoscopus gutturalis</i>
Pilotbird	<i>Pycnoptilus floccosus</i>
Shy Heathwren (H)	<i>Calamanthus cautus</i>
Striated Fieldwren (H)	<i>Calamanthus fuliginosus</i>
Speckled Warbler	<i>Pyrrholaemus sagittatus</i>
Atherton Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis keri</i>
White-browed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis frontalis</i>
Yellow-throated Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis citreogularis</i>
Large-billed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis magnirostra</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Weebill	<i>Smicrornis brevirostris</i>
Brown Gerygone	<i>Gerygone mouki</i>
Mangrove Gerygone	<i>Gerygone levigaster</i>
Western Gerygone	<i>Gerygone fusca</i>
Large-billed Gerygone	<i>Gerygone magnirostris</i>
White-throated Gerygone	<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>
Fairy Gerygone	<i>Gerygone palpebrosa</i>
Mountain Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza katherina</i>
Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i>
Buff-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza reguloides</i>
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>
Yellow Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza nana</i>
Striated Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza lineata</i>
Southern Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>
Australasian Babblers (Pomatostomidae)	
White-browed Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i>
Chestnut-crowned Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus ruficeps</i>
Logrunners (Orthonychidae)	
Australian Logrunner	<i>Orthonyx temminckii</i>
Chowchilla	<i>Orthonyx spaldingii</i>
Whipbirds, Jewel-babblers, Quail-thrushes (Psophodidae)	
Eastern Whipbird	<i>Psophodes olivaceus</i>
Boatbills (Machaerirhynchidae)	
Yellow-breasted Boatbill	<i>Machaerirhynchus flaviventer</i>
Woodswallows, Butcherbirds and Allies (Artamidae)	
White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>
Masked Woodswallow	<i>Artamus personatus</i>
White-browed Woodswallow	<i>Artamus superciliosus</i>
Dusky Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>
Black Butcherbird	<i>Melloria quoyi</i>
Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Grey Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>
Pied Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>
Pied Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>
Grey Currawong	<i>Strepera versicolor</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Barred Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina lineata</i>
Black-faced Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
White-bellied Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina papuensis</i>
Common Cicadabird	<i>Edolisoma tenuirostre</i>
White-winged Triller	<i>Lalage tricolor</i>
Varied Triller	<i>Lalage leucomela</i>
Sittellas (Neosittidae)	
Varied Sittella	<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>
Australo-Papuan Bellbirds (Oreoicidae)	
Crested Bellbird	<i>Oreoica gutturalis</i>
Whistlers and allies (Pachycephalidae)	
Crested Shriketit	<i>Falcunculus frontatus</i>
Olive Whistler (H)	<i>Pachycephala olivacea</i>
Gilbert's Whistler	<i>Pachycephala inornata</i>
Grey Whistler	<i>Pachycephala simplex</i>
Australian Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>
Rufous Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>
Bower's Shrikethrush	<i>Colluricincla boweri</i>
Little Shrikethrush	<i>Colluricincla megarhyncha</i>
Grey Shrikethrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
Figbirds, Orioles & Turnagra (Oriolidae)	
Australasian Figbird	<i>Sphecotheres vieilloti</i>
Olive-backed Oriole	<i>Oriolus sagittatus</i>
Green Oriole	<i>Oriolus flavocinctus</i>
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Fantails (Rhipiduridae)	
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>
Rufous Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Spectacled Monarch	<i>Symposiachrus trivirgatus</i>
Black-faced Monarch	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>
Pied Monarch	<i>Arses kaupi</i>
Magpie-lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>
Leaden Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra rubecula</i>
Satin Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>
Shining Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra alecto</i>
Restless Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra inquieta</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Torresian Crow	<i>Corvus orru</i>
Forest Raven	<i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>
Little Raven	<i>Corvus mellori</i>
Australian Raven	<i>Corvus coronoides</i>
Australian Mudnesters (Corcoracidae)	
White-winged Chough	<i>Corcorax melanorhamphos</i>
Apostlebird	<i>Struthidea cinerea</i>
Birds-of-paradise (Paradisaeidae)	
Paradise Riflebird	<i>Ptiloris paradiseus</i>
Victoria's Riflebird	<i>Ptiloris victoriae</i>
Australasian Robins (Petroicidae)	
Grey-headed Robin	<i>Heteromyias cinereifrons</i>
White-browed Robin	<i>Poecilodryas superciliosa</i>
Pale-yellow Robin	<i>Tregellasia capito</i>
Eastern Yellow Robin	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>
Hooded Robin	<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>
Lemon-bellied Flyrobin	<i>Microeca flavigaster</i>
Rose Robin	<i>Petroica rosea</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Flame Robin - NT	<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>
Scarlet Robin	<i>Petroica boodang</i>
Red-capped Robin	<i>Petroica goodenovii</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Horsfield's Bush Lark	<i>Mirafrja javanica</i>
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
White-backed Swallow	<i>Cheramoeca leucosterna</i>
Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>
Fairy Martin	<i>Petrochelidon ariel</i>
Tree Martin	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>
Reed Warblers and Allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Australian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus australis</i>
Grassbirds and Allies (Locustellidae)	
Little Grassbird	<i>Poodytes gramineus</i>
Rufous Songlark	<i>Cincloramphus mathewsi</i>
Tawny Grassbird	<i>Cincloramphus timoriensis</i>
Cisticolas and Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	
Metallic Starling	<i>Aplonis metallica</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Bassian Thrush	<i>Zoothera lunulata</i>
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)	

Common Name	Scientific Name
Mistletoebird	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Waxbills, Munias and Allies (Estrildidae)	
Diamond Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>
Red-browed Finch	<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>
Crimson Finch	<i>Neochmia phaeton</i>
Zebra Finch	<i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>
Double-barred Finch	<i>Taeniopygia bichenovii</i>
Blue-faced Parrotfinch	<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	<i>Lonchura castaneothorax</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Australian Pipit	<i>Anthus australis</i>
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Total seen	383
Total heard only	8
Total recorded	391

Mammal List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Dogs (Canidae)	
Dingo	<i>Canis lupus dingo</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Eared Seals, Sea Lions, and Fur Seals (Otariidae)	
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
Old World Fruit Bats (Pteropodidae)	
Black Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus alecto</i>
Spectacled Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>
Grey-headed Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>
Little Red Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus scapulatus</i>
Dasyurids (Dasyuridae)	
Fat-tailed Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis crassicaudata</i>
Musky Rat Kangaroo (Hypsiprymnodontidae)	
Musky Rat Kangaroo	<i>Hypsiprymnodon moschatus</i>
Kangaroos, Wallabies, and Relatives (Macropodidae)	
Agile Wallaby	<i>Macropus agilis</i>
Western Gray Kangaroo	<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus giganteus</i>
Whiptail Wallaby	<i>Macropus parryi</i>
Red-necked Wallaby	<i>Macropus rufogriseus</i>
Red Kangaroo	<i>Macropus rufus</i>
Red-legged Pademelon	<i>Thylogale stigmatica</i>
Red-necked Pademelon	<i>Thylogale thetis</i>
Swamp Wallaby	<i>Wallabia bicolor</i>
Gliders and Striped Possums (Petauridae)	
Striped Possum	<i>Dactylopsila trivirgata</i>
Sugar Glider	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>
Brushtail Possums and Cuscuses (Phalangeridae)	
Short-eared Brushtail Possum	<i>Trichosurus caninus</i>
Common Brushtail Possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>
Ringtail Possums (Pseudocheiridae)	
Greater Glider	<i>Petauroides volans</i>
Common Ringtail Possum	<i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i>
Green Ringtail Possum	<i>Pseudochirops archeri</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Wombats (Vombatidae)	
Common Wombat	<i>Vombatus ursinus</i>
Hares and Rabbits (Leporidae)	
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Platypus (Ornithorhynchidae)	
Platypus	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>
Echidnas (Tachyglossidae)	
Short-beaked Echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>
Bandicoots and Echymiperas (Peramelidae)	
Northern Brown Bandicoot	<i>Isodon macrourus</i>
Long-nosed Bandicoot	<i>Perameles nasuta</i>
Old World Mice and Allies (Muridae)	
Common Water Rat	<i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i>
Fawn-footed Melomys	<i>Melomys cervinipes</i>
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>
Bush Rat	<i>Rattus fuscipes</i>
Canefield Rat	<i>Rattus sordidus</i>
White-tailed Giant Rat	<i>Uromys caudimaculatus</i>
Total seen	38

Reptile List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Geckos (Gekkonidae)	
Tessellated Gecko	<i>Diplodactylus tessellatus</i>
Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
Gibber Gecko	<i>Lucasium byrnei</i>
Northern Leaf-tail Gecko	<i>Saltuarius cornutus</i>
Dragons (Agamidae)	
Jacky Lizard	<i>Amphibolurus muricatus</i>
Boyd's Forest Dragon	<i>Hypsilurus boydii</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Southern (Angle-headed) Forest Dragon	<i>Lophosaurus spinipes</i>
Eastern Water Dragon	<i>Intellagama lesueurii</i>
Eastern Bearded Dragon	<i>Pogona barbata</i>
Monitors (Varanidae)	
Lace Monitor	<i>Varanus varius</i>
Skinks (Scincidae)	
Major Skink	<i>Bellatorias frerei</i>
Land Mullet	<i>Bellatorias major</i>
Red-throated Rainbow-skink	<i>Carlia rubrigularis</i>
Bar-sided Forest-skink	<i>Eulamprus tenuis</i>
Shingleback Lizard	<i>Tiliqua rugosa</i>
Colubrid snakes (Colubridae)	
Common (Green) Tree Snake	<i>Dendrelaphis punctulatus</i>
Elapid Snakes (Elapidae)	
Eastern Brown Snake	<i>Pseudonaja textilis</i>
Sea turtles (Cheloniidae)	
Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>
Freshwater turtles (Cheluidae)	
Saw-shelled Turtle	<i>Myochelys latisternum</i>
Total seen	19

Amphibian List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Marsh Frogs (Limnodynastidae)	
Eastern Banjo Frog	<i>Limnodynastes dumerilii</i>
Toads (introduced) (Bufonidae)	
Cane Toad	<i>Rhinella marina</i>
Total seen	2