

Australia

Blue Mountains, Cairns & O'Reilly's Thu 8th-Mon 26th November 2018



Trip photos (clockwise from top left): Fan-tailed Cuckoo • Superb Fairywren • Satin Bowerbird • Brown Booby • Rose-crowned Fruit-dove • Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher. © tour leader Peter Taylor/Limosa Holidays

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

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Tour Leaders: Peter Taylor as principal guide, with Carol Proberts (Capertee Valley), Alan Gillanders (Yungaburra) and Duncan (O'Reilly's)

and tour participants John & Margaret Butt, Bill Dick, Randolph Jones, Janet Lowndes & Vaughan Ryall, and Christian Perez.

Once everyone was assembled, some having just got off their flight and others having arrived earlier, we set off to Botany Bay only to discover a Triathlon in progress! An army of Marshalls corralled us round the various roadblocks until we were forced back out the way we'd come, having discovered the National Park was a no go area today. A quick change of plan then and we headed for Royal National Park a little earlier than scheduled. This turned out to be a real blessing. Royal is an extensive park and the extra time gave us a great opportunity to explore it in more detail than usual. Fantastic views of males and females of two fairywren species were had by all, the aptly named Superb and the even more superb Variegated. Sulphur-crested Cockatoos dominated proceedings with their size and raucous chatter drowning out their slightly smaller and less raucous cousins, the Little Corellas. On the Hacking River, male Chestnut Teals impressed with their glossy, bottle green heads contrasting with the brilliant chestnut. Australasian Grebes, continually diving under the surface, and both Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants ignored the weekend canoeists as we watched from the shore. A Crimson Rosella, was spotted, unusually quiet for a parrot while an Olive-backed Oriole sat at the top of a eucalypt tree long enough to be scoped. It was here that we started to get to grips with the seemingly endless array of Australia's honeyeaters. Common species like Noisy Miner and Little Wattlebird were quickly identified then both Yellow-faced and Lewin's were added. A surprise sighting was an Echidna, Australia's version of a spiny anteater and one of only two monotremes (egg-laying) mammals in the world, seen lumbering slowly across the path and into the woodland, posing briefly for photographs. After a leisurely lunch at the café, where we were interrupted by a flyover of three giant Channel-billed Cuckoos, we piled back into the minibus and headed for Jamberoo, our base in the Southern Highlands for the next two nights.

The park opposite our hotel in Jamberoo is always a delight, especially early morning. A flock of Long-billed Corellas, both White-headed and Topknot Pigeons, Eastern Rosella and another two honeyeaters in New Holland and Eastern Spinebill were seen well. From here, the steep climb up the mountain took us to Barren Grounds which yielded great views of Fan-tailed Cuckoos, their mournful calls accompanying us along the ridge track. The plainness of the Grey Shrike-thrush (admittedly with a truly melodic voice) contrasted with the stunning markings of the Beautiful Firetail, a native finch we found feeding alone on the edge of the track. That evening we returned in the hope of at least hearing the beautiful fluting call of Ground Parrots and although it seemed to take an eternity before anything happened in the increasing gloom, we weren't disappointed. As an added bonus we startled a Common Wombat on the drive back down the mountain and watched him briefly in the headlights. Back at the hotel and the Grey-headed Flying Foxes still hadn't settled their differences as to who should feed on which flowers on the tree outside our rooms!

At nearby Minnamurra Rainforest Reserve, we found our first Superb Lyrebird, a female busily scratching away on the forest floor. Here also our first Eastern Yellow Robin and the ultimate LBJ (Little Brown Job) in Brown Gerygone! Enroute to the Blue Mountains we first spent a glorious morning at the rather scenic Fitzroy Falls and before we had even entered the grounds we found a pair of obliging Eastern Whipbirds, traditionally a skulking species and one that we had only heard so far. Great views again of a Superb Lyrebird, this time a male going through his repertoire from a low perch as we made our way around the rim walk. Another highlight here was a group of four Gang-gang Cockatoos spotted feeding high in the forest canopy before wheeling away in loose formation. We had only recorded this species once before on this tour so we were not expecting to be so lucky!

The skies stayed clear as we arrived at Katoomba in the Blue Mountains so the spectacular views of the Three Sisters formation could be experienced at their best from the Echo Point look-out. Despite the popularity of this spot, a pair of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos was unphased and flew in close to feed in the she-oaks atop the cliffs. At Evans look-out an inquisitive Crimson Rosella followed us along the track, determined to pose on an unsuspecting shoulder! More reserved, White-throated Treecreepers flew from tree to tree, climbing up one then flying down to the base of the next accompanied by Rufous Whistlers with their constant clamour. The Campbell Rhododendron Gardens at Blackheath, looking a little rough around the edges following the long drought, still produced the goods, giving us great views of a Shining Bronze-cuckoo, a couple of Sacred Kingfishers and a pair of Satin Flycatchers. Lunch at the Megalong Valley Tearooms was very enjoyable, made more so by the attendant White-winged Choughs and Pied Currawongs helping to clear the tables once customers had left. Undeterred, a pair of Yellow-rumped Thornbills continued building their nest, right above our table. At the end of the Valley we visited the Old Ford Reserve where the flowering eucalypts were providing an essential food source for a whole range of species, but mainly honeyeaters like White-eared, Brown-headed and Noisy

Friarbirds. A pair of Leaden Flycatchers appeared, chattering away as they flicked their tails rapidly from side to side while overhead a soft tinkling call alerted us to a beautiful White-throated Gerygone.

Heading west to Lithgow we met up with local guide, Carol Proberts, a specialist of the famous Capertee Valley who was to spend the next 24 hours with us. Lithgow also provided us with our first opportunity to visit some sewage ponds! Almost immediately we had scope views of a couple of Freckled Ducks, Australia's rarest duck species. Other highlights included large rafts of Pink-eared Ducks, Hardhead and Hoary-headed Grebes. Lake Wallace added another couple of duck species with Blue-billed, including breeding plumaged males, and the unusual-looking Musk Duck.

Once into the Capertee Valley we could see the extent of the drought though luckily for us a number of dry country species had moved east to get away from the more severely hit areas. White-browed and Masked Woodswallows were everywhere as well as Rufous and Brown Songlarks. At Glen Alice, a grove of flowering eucalypts was a magnet for the nectar-feeding lorikeets with at least 20 Little and two Musk spotted gorging themselves. Red-rumped Parrots seemed unaffected by the drought and even a male Hooded Robin put in an appearance. Before dinner we had a chance to look for some of the mammals of the Capertee which tend to come out and feed towards dusk. Lots of Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Common Wallaroos and Red-necked Wallabies were identified, making a total of four macropod species, including the single Swamp Wallaby seen earlier in the afternoon. Before a delicious breakfast next morning we had our last chance to wander around the old ghost town of Glen Davis. A Crested Shrike-tit and a party of White-browed Babblers were spotted as was a frustratingly elusive Turquoise Parrot. But the best was left till last with a Chestnut-rumped Heathwren and a Black-eared Cuckoo, neither species having been recorded previously on this tour, being added to the list. All too soon we were packed and loaded onto the minibus for our scenic drive into Sydney, across the famous Harbour Bridge and past the equally famous Opera House, to join our flight to Cairns and the Tropics.

Once checked into our Cairns hotel we took the short drive to the Esplanade and within minutes were ticking off a whole new suite of birds. Mangrove Robin, Varied Honeyeater, and Varied Triller, Australasian Figbird, White-breasted Woodswallow and Black-fronted Dotterel all jostled for our attention. However the star bird had to be a Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, normally a shy species but this one sat out and preened in the open for all to see. Later on, and with a better tide the Esplanade proved why it is so popular. We totted up fourteen wader species including Terek Sandpiper and Grey-tailed Tattler as well as Eastern Curlew and a couple of endemic Red-capped Plovers. There was even a solitary Raja Shelduck, not a common sight on the mudflats. The Centenary Lakes was home to several Bush Stone-Curlews and we also had great views there of Black Butcherbirds with their hooked bills and the migratory Brown-backed Honeyeaters building their suspended nests.

As usual, the tour included a cruise out to Michaelmas Cay on the Great Barrier Reef. It's always a wonderful sight to see so many seabirds soaring over a coral cay and we were soon watching hundreds of Sooty and Crested Terns, Common Noddies and Brown Boobies that come here to breed. A couple of Great Frigatebirds were also waiting patiently for a free feed while lesser numbers of Black-naped and Bridled Terns roosted on the shore. Even a few Ruddy Turnstones appeared at the water's edge. On board the Ocean Spirit we enjoyed lunch while Green Sea Turtles swam by and the day was topped off with a short trip in the semi-submersible to showcase the reef and its amazing sea-life.

Departing Cairns we visited a couple of reserves to the north. Redden Island is a patch of lowland rainforest situated in the delta of the Barron River. Here we watched three Ospreys hunting then walked one of the trails to find a stunning pair of Lovely Fairywrens. Also here were lots of Olive-backed Sunbirds, little golden jewels flitting through the canopy, and a flock of feeding Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, that we finally got to see stationary instead of a procession of high-speed green rockets! The Cattana Wetlands were surprisingly dry but in the main pond we got our first look at the diminutive Green Pygmy-Geese and the lily-trotting Comb-crested Jacanas. Royal Spoonbill were loafing on the bank as was a lone Glossy Ibis. A group of Wandering Whistling Ducks sailed past and then it was time to head for Mossman, our home for the night.

Always an adventure, the Daintree River cruise with Murray, the Daintree Boatman, was highly anticipated. Navigating the broad reaches of the Daintree itself and the twisting overgrown channels, Murray took us to his favourite haunts finding a nesting Papuan Frogmouth, impossibly cryptic on an overhanging branch as well as several Shining Flycatchers, some sitting on nests, some still constructing, the jet black males seemingly a different species entirely from the rufous and pied females. Unusual for this time of year we also got to see a 4-metre long Saltwater Crocodile (known locally as "Barratt"!) patrolling his stretch of the river. A couple of blue gems in the form of Azure Kingfishers, shot across our bows and back near the jetty a rare Spotted Whistling Duck foraged along the edge of the reeds.

Kingfisher Park is a major attraction, a little patch of rainforest nestled in amongst farmland and National Park at the northern end of the Atherton Tableland. Each year, Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfishers come here to breed in termite mounds, usually arriving in early November (in time for our arrival!). We had great views of these magnificent birds with their white streamer tails as they flew in and out of the dense vegetation. Red-browed Finches and Chestnut-breasted Mannikins dominated the feeders while Bar-shouldered and Emerald Doves cleaned up below. MacLeay's, Dusky and Scarlet Honeyeaters foraged on the abundant nectar of the Grevilleas and a Noisy Pitta gave glimpses early morning with dashes across the path. At night we heard the eerie "Falling bomb" call of a Lesser Sooty Owl. Just a short drive from here is Mt Lewis, which rises a further 500m or so. On our drive up to the clearing we were surprised as a Cassowary bolted across the road in front of the minibus but disappeared all too quickly into the gloom of the forest. The path up from the clearing held a few surprises too with a Tooth-billed Bowerbird calling from above his scrappy looking platform of upturned leaves. Two parties of Chowchillas were observed as they foraged noisily in the undergrowth, the latter group incredibly close to the path giving fantastic views. Here also we found a couple more of the Tablelands' endemics with Bower's Shrike-thrush and Bridled Honeyeater both showing well.

At Maryfarms, where the rainforest gives way to the heat and dryness of the Tropical Savanna, we saw several Australian Bustards some sheltering from the heat while others walked around in their characteristically stately manner. We also startled a group of Button-quail, too quick for anything but a quick glimpse but which, by their size, jizz and the habitat, were most likely Red-chested, a species not previously recorded on this tour. Almost immediately however we were completely distracted by a party of Red-backed Fairywrens, the males stunning in their black and red finery out-shining the drab brownness of the females.

The countryside around Lake Mitchell had been recently burnt so bush birds were few and far between. Even so we found several Little Friarbirds and Yellow Honeyeaters as well as a little flock of Double-barred Finches along the causeway. The lake itself was unaffected and here we encountered our first (and only) Black Swans and an inquisitive Whistling Kite. A Blue-winged Kookaburra perched conveniently on a gate at the end of the track for us, his yellow eye giving him a somewhat sinister look. At Granite Gorge we easily found several Squatter Pigeons feeding around the camping area and checked out a group of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos that were feasting in nearby pine trees. The males with their scarlet tail panels were easy to distinguish from the females with their orange barred tails though only visible when they landed or took off.

Once settled in our luxurious accommodation at Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges near Lake Eacham at the southern end of the Tablelands, we spent an evening with Alan Gillanders, a local guide and wildlife expert. Alan showed us an amazing array of nocturnal life, including five species of possum and a Barn Owl. Later we watched a Sugar Glider feeding at Chambers floodlit platform and with great views of at least three platypus along Peterson Creek and a Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroo at the Curtain Fig Tree we experienced probably the most productive tour ever as far as mammals were concerned! Alan also joined us for a full day out on the Tablelands and took us to a number of his favourite spots. No doubt the star attraction was a male Golden Bowerbird but the Pied Monarchs at the Curtain Fig Tree came a close second! Alan found us a large flock of Plumed Whistling Ducks, our third and final whistling duck species, roosting in a paddock with several hundred Magpie Geese. Hastie's Swamp was alive with waterbirds - Pied Stilts, Red-kneed Dotterels and a single Brolga while Lake Tinaroo was home to Golden-headed Cisticolas, Whiskered Terns and Little Egret perched in a tree. Back at Chambers we caught up with a number of Victoria's Riflebirds, one of Australia's four representatives of the Birds of Paradise, as they foraged around the grounds. Spotted Catbirds meowed from the treetops and a pair of Wompoo Fruit Doves were spotted through a window in the rainforest feeding up high on fruiting figs.

Despite a 3-hour flight delay from Cairns to Brisbane we still made it up to O'Reilly's high in the Lamington Ranges in time for a late and very welcome dinner. Early next morning we were out with Duncan, one of the local guides, who showed us places we couldn't have gotten to ourselves. Great views of a Tawny Frogmouth sitting on a nest, a pair of Peregrines soaring over the clifftops and Red-browed Treecreeper, our third species in this group were all highlights. However, it was an amazing spot by Duncan of a Koala sleeping in the fork of a tree, while we were watching a colony of Bell Miners, that won the day. It had been ten years since we'd seen a Koala on this tour so we were absolutely stoked! Back at the resort we spent the remainder of our time, exploring the various tracks and trails. Australian Logrunners were common along the boardwalk and the White-browed and Yellow-spotted Scrubwrens incredibly tame. A tantalising glimpse of an Albert's Lyrebird was had by some while others found a venomous Red-bellied Black Snake sunning itself by the side of one of the tracks.

Morning flights from Brisbane International meant an early start back down the mountain but even as were being driven a pair of Pale-headed Rosellas flushed up in front of the coach and Whip-tailed Wallabies balanced precariously between the edge of the road and the precipitous drop. Shortly afterwards we were saying our goodbyes, some heading home and some to continue their adventures Down Under.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED*(Total number of species recorded by the group – 293 including 6 that were heard only)***Southern Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius***

A very quick view of one crossing the Mt Lewis road and disappearing into dense rainforest as we drove up to the clearing. Our hosts at Kingfisher Park had only recorded Cassowaries on this road three times in 20 years!

Magpie-goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

Relatively common in North Queensland, where they were seen at Lake Mitchell, Hastie's Swamp and Centenary Lakes in Cairns.

Spotted Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna guttata*

Great view of a single bird at the end of our Daintree River cruise with Murray.

Plumed Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

We saw a huge flock along with many Magpie Geese near Yungaburra with Alan.

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

First seen at the Cattana Wetlands near Cairns where there were six. A singleton was seen at Lake Mitchell.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

There were two at Lake Mitchell in Queensland, the only sighting for the trip!

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

Two of Australia's rarest duck seen at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds.

Raja Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*

A single bird was spotted on the mudflats from the Esplanade in Cairns.

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

Several were at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds, NSW and a few more at Hastie's Swamp in North Queensland.

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

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

Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus*

Five were first seen at the Cattana Wetlands in Cairns then many more at Lake Mitchell.

Australian Shoveler *Spatula rhynchotis*

Four at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds, NSW.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

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 at a number of places in North Queensland including Hastie's Swamp.

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

Several were spotted on the Hacking River in Royal National Park on our first day then again at Jamberoo and a single male at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds.

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

Large numbers were first seen at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds in NSW then many more at both Lake Mitchell and Hastie's Swamp in Queensland.

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

Two males and a female were seen at Lake Wallace

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

A single female and a single male were 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*

A covey of about half a dozen birds was flushed from the side of the causeway at Lake Mitchell in Queensland.

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Seen in NSW in the Royal National Park on the Hacking River and the Lithgow Sewage Ponds then a few in North Queensland at Lake Mitchell, Hastie's Swamp and Lake Barrine.

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*

Very common at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds, NSW possibly because of dry conditions further inland.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Three of these familiar grebes were seen at Lake Wallace, NSW and several more at the Crater Lakes Eacham Barrine in North Queensland.

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

First seen at Jamberoo in NSW then common and widespread throughout.

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

Seen in small numbers in both NSW and North Queensland usually feeding in paddocks.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

A couple seen at Lake Mitchell, North Queensland.

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

A group of three was spotted in the Centenary Lakes in Cairns and a larger group at Hastie's Swamp.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*

At least five individuals flushed as we made our way along the Daintree River on our cruise with Murray.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

We first saw one on the very busy Cairns Wharf as we were about to embark on our Great Barrier Reef cruise.

Another was seen later at Centenary Lakes and two more on the Daintree River with Murray.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Fairly widespread throughout North Queensland.

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*

One of these stately birds was first seen by a farm dam in the Capertee Valley and our only other sighting was of two birds at Hastie's Swamp in North Queensland.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

One was seen distantly on the far side of Lake Wallace in NSW. Several others were seen at various locations in North Queensland, particularly at Hastie's Swamp

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

First seen at Centenary Lakes, Cairns but also at Lake Mitchell and Hastie's Swamp.

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

Fairly widespread in both NSW and North Queensland but typically as individuals.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A single bird was seen at Lake Tinaroo perched in a tree!

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Two were first seen at the Cattana Wetlands then other pairs at Lake Mitchell and Hastie's Swamp. Another was spotted at Lake Barrine.

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*

At least two females were seen on Michaelmas Cay.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

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

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

First seen at Royal National Park, then reasonably common throughout the rest of the tour.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

First seen at Royal National Park on our first morning In North Queensland there were a few sightings of small numbers at Lakes Mitchell, Eacham and Barrine.

Australian Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

Single birds were seen near Botany Bay in NSW and at Lake Mitchell in North Queensland.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

One of these most familiar of cormorants was seen at Lake Wallace in NSW and a couple more at Lake Barrine in North Queensland.

Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

Individuals or pairs seen at a number of locations in both NSW Queensland, including Royal National Park the Daintree River, Lake Mitchell and Hastie's Swamp.

Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus*

Great views of three birds seen from Redden Island as they flew over the Barron River.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

Individuals were seen at a number of places including Jamberoo and Glen Davis. A pair was also seen at Maryfarms in North Queensland where we looking for bustards.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

One was seen feeding on a carcass near Malanda, North Queensland while we were out with local guide Alan.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

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

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

Just two records this year, both in North Queensland, one at Lake Mitchell and the other at Malanda.

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

A single bird was seen very briefly by some at Lake Tinaroo before it disappeared behind a tree line.

Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis*

At least eight individuals were seen in fields and along the roadside at Maryfarms, north Queensland.

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

A single bird was seen foraging on a sandbank in Bushy Creek at Kingfisher Park.

Red-necked Crake *Rallina tricolor*

Having staked out the "crake pond" without success in the late afternoon, a single bird scurried across the lawn outside our rooms at Kingfisher Park next morning giving very brief views for those lucky enough to be watching at the time!

Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus*

Several of these gallinules were first seen in Royal National Park on our first day. Others were seen later in larger numbers at Lake Wallace in NSW and by Hastie's Swamp in North Queensland.

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.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Fairly common in Royal National Park and at Lake Wallace in NSW and also seen at Lake Mitchell, Hastie's Swamp and Lake Barrine in Queensland.

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*

A pair was seen feeding in a field near Chewko after we left Granite Gorge in North Queensland. Several others were seen around the Atherton Tablelands on our day out with local guide Alan.

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

Due to the drought only a single bird was seen this year, at Hastie's Swamp.

Red-chested Button-quail *Turnix pyrrhothorax*

A group of four button-quail flushed from the side of the road at Maryfarms and disappeared into long grass. Based on size, location, habitat and behaviour they were identified as Red-chested.

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

Five or six of these statuesque birds were seen at the Centenary Lakes in Cairns.

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

A single bird was seen at Cairns Esplanade.

Pied Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*

Several seen foraging on the mudflats 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.

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*

Five or six seen foraging at Hastie's Swamp.

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

Two of these endemic Australian shorebirds were seen on the Cairns mudflats from the Esplanade.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

A flock of nine or so were feeding on the Cairns mudflats.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Euseyornis melanops*

A single bird was first seen feeding close to the mangroves on the Cairns Foreshore and several more were also seen from the Esplanade later.

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

At least three of these lily-trotting specialists were first seen at the Cattana Wetlands near Cairns in North Queensland. They were also very common at Lake Mitchell.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Two seen on the Cairns Foreshore.

Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

Three seen foraging on the mudflats by the Cairns Esplanade.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Common along the Cairns foreshore.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Seemingly common on Michaelmas Cay where we saw at least nine.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

Several of these migratory waders were seen at the Cairns foreshore.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

We saw at least ten of these trans-equatorial migrants feeding busily from the Cairns Esplanade.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Several were seen feeding with other shorebirds on the Cairns Foreshore.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

A flock of 12 or so was observed on the Cairns foreshore.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Two, possibly three seen busily foraging on the Cairns foreshore.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One or two were seen at Centenary Lakes in Cairns and another was seen later at Hastie's Swamp.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

There were at least four seen on the Cairns foreshore.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

A single bird was spotted for us by Alan at Hastie's Swamp.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A single bird was seen from the Esplanade in Cairns.

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*

Possibly hundreds on Michaelmas Cay.

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

Maybe as many as four birds were seen perching on the semi-submersible as we arrived at Michaelmas Cay.

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

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

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

One seen on the mudflats at the Cairns Esplanade.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

One seen flying over Redden Island.

Greater Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*

Common at Michaelmas Cay and Cairns.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

Very common on Michaelmas Cay.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

A couple were from the boat on our Great Barrier Reef cruise.

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

There were several perched on mooring and marker buoys at Michaelmas Cay and also on the Cay itself.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata*

Very common and breeding on Michaelmas Cay.

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*

Several were seen flying as we made our way out to Michaelmas Cay from Cairns.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

At least six of these freshwater terns were seen feeding over Lake Tinaroo in the Atherton Tablelands.

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*

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

White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela*

A single bird was seen on both mornings at Jamberoo in NSW.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

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

Brown Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

Two were seen firstly at Kingfisher Park and another pair at Mt Lewis. Others were seen later at Chambers Rainforest Wildlife Lodges and at O'Reilly's.

Pacific Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris*

Often shy but individuals were seen at a number of places in North Queensland particularly Kingfisher Park and Chambers.

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

A pair was seen briefly at Glen Alice in the Capertee Valley as they flew past.

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

Reasonably common in NSW with several around Jamberoo.

Squatter Pigeon *Geophaps scripta*

Locally common at Granite Gorge.

Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*

Several of these huge pigeons were 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*

A single bird was first seen feeding along the creek at Jamberoo in NSW. Then seen regularly throughout North Queensland, especially around Cairns.

Wompoo Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

We had great views of these colourful doves at Kingfisher Park, Mt Lewis and a pair at Chambers.

Superb Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

A fleeting view of a single bird in the Daintree National Park as it flew by and vanished.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

Fantastic views of a bird next to the mangroves near the Cairns Foreshore. Possibly the same bird gave great views again the next day!

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 in small numbers at Mt Lewis in North Queensland and at O'Reilly's.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

Just one sighting from the minibus of a single bird as we drove towards Daintree for our morning cruise.

Pacific Koel *Eudynamys orientalis*

A male was seen firstly in Jamberoo near the motel. We also had sightings at Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley and in North Queensland along the Daintree River and at Kingfisher Park.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

We first saw three flying over Royal National Park as we were having our lunch. Later we had sightings of ones and twos (also flying over) at a number of places including Blackheath in the Blue Mountains and the Capertee Valley in NSW and on the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland.

Black-eared Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx osculans*

A first for this tour, one seen on our morning walk before breakfast around Glen Davis with local guide Carol.

Shining Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

Great views of a single bird at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens in the Blue Mountains. Heard at a number of other places in Queensland but can be frustratingly difficult to see!

Pallid Cuckoo *Cacomantis pallidus*

A single bird was heard calling in the Capertee Valley but couldn't be located.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

Great close-up views of two individuals at Barren Grounds in NSW.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

A single bird was seen at Redden Island near Cairns.

Lesser Sooty Owl *Tyto multipunctata*

The haunting "falling bomb" call was heard each night at Kingfisher Park!

Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto javanica*

Spotlighting with Alan, we had great views of one bird during our evening session.

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*

Excellent views of a single bird with a chick on a nest over the Daintree River with Murray.

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

At O'Reilly's, local guide Duncan showed us one sitting on a nest with a chick.

Australian Swiftlet *Aerodramus terraereginae*

Reasonably common over Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Three birds were seen hunting from powerlines on the way to Minnamurra Rainforest near Jamberoo in NSW. We also had several other sightings of single birds on the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland.

Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*

Fantastic views of these spectacular kingfishers each day at Kingfisher Park where they come to breed in termite mounds.

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

Common and widespread, seen nearly every day.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*

A roadside view from the minibus at Mt Carbine of a single bird then we managed to find two more obligingly perched at Lake Mitchell.

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

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

Torresian Kingfisher *Todiramphus sordidus*

Heard clearly in the mangroves near the Cairns Esplanade but refused to show!

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Individuals were seen at a number of sites in NSW, firstly at Royal National Park along the Hacking River then at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens, the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley and at Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley.

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*

Two individuals flashed across our bows as we made our way along Barratt Creek during our Daintree River cruise with Murray.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Two or three were first seen in the Capertee Valley with local guide Carol. We also had a couple of sightings in North Queensland.

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

There was a pair near Glen Davis hunting from power poles and we were able to watch them from the minibus.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

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

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

A great display by a pair over Luke's Farm at O'Reilly's with local guide Duncan!

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*

We first saw a pair flying over the Centenary Lakes at Cairns. Later we had great views of at least ten birds feeding in pine trees at Granite Gorge, the bright red panels in the tails of the males contrasting with the orange barring evident in that of the females.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

Good views of a pair at Echo Point, Katoomba where we had walked to view the Three Sisters and magnificent scenery of the Blue Mountains.

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*

Great views of four birds, two males and two females at Fitzroy Falls.

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*

Widespread in NSW.

Long-billed Corella *Cacatua tenuirostris*

Several 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 in the Capertee Valley.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Very common, recorded nearly every day.

Australian King Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

Two of these large red and green parrots were first seen at Royal National Park. Others were later spotted at Jamberoo where they were squabbling at a feeding tray in a local back garden. Very common and very tame at O'Reilly's however!

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

Two birds were spotted flying away at the Mt Molloy School.

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*

Fairly common in the Capertee Valley.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

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

Pale-headed Rosella *Platycercus adscitus*

We had searched in vain with local guide Duncan for this species earlier but two were spotted briefly flying off with their Crimson cousins as we left O'Reilly's on our way to Brisbane airport on our final morning.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

One was first seen at Jamberoo. Later with Carol we saw several at Lake Wallace and in the Capertee Valley

Eastern Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*

We heard the beautiful chiming call of at least two of these secretive parrots when we ventured back to Barren Grounds after dinner one night. One seemed quite close.

Turquoise Parrot *Neophema pulchella*

Brief views of a single bird near Glen Davis on our pre-breakfast walk with local guide Carol.

Little Lorikeet *Parvipsitta pusilla*

Great views of at least twenty of these tiny parrots feeding in flowering eucalypts in the Capertee Valley on our day out with Carol.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Common, recorded most days.

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

After seeing several fly overhead on a few occasions, some were eventually seen well as they fed noisily on blossom at Redden Island near Cairns.

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

Two seen feeding in flowering eucalypts with Little Lorikeets in the Capertee Valley, NSW.

Double-eyed Fig Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*

Good views firstly of a female bird perched at the Cattana Wetlands near Cairns. Later we saw a male at Lake Eacham with local guide Alan.

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

A single bird was seen twice at Kingfisher Park, as it flew back and forth across the entrance track.

Albert's Lyrebird *Menura alberti*

Very brief view for some of a male crossing one of the trails at O'Reilly's.

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

Seen on four successive days, firstly at the Minnamurra Rainforest where we watched a female feeding on the forest floor. Other sightings were of a magnificent male practising his repertoire at Fitzroy Falls, a single bird at

near the Three Sisters Lookout at Echo Point and even one behind the Lithgow Sewage Ponds as we were scoping ducks!

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

Heard often along the Python Rock Track and the Boardwalk at O'Reilly's.

Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus maculosus*

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

Tooth-billed Bowerbird *Scenopoeetes dentirostris*

Good views of a calling male near his scruffy bower at Mt Lewis, where we heard several others as well. Great views also at Lake Barrine where one male had his bower quite close to the walk trail.

Golden Bowerbird *Prionodura newtoniana*

Excellent views of this rainforest gem with Alan at an undisclosed site.

Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus*

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

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*

Numerous sightings in Jamberoo and the Blue Mountains in NSW and at O'Reilly's in Queensland.

Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis*

A bird was seen within the grounds of the Mt Molloy School, but the old bower from last year appeared not be in use. Another bird was seen later at Granite Gorge.

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaea*

Seen firstly in Royal National Park on our first day then on a number of occasions subsequently in the Blue Mountains, the Megalong Valley and Capertee Valley.

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptis*

Great views of a single bird at O'Reilly's with local guide Duncan.

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

Seen commonly in the Capertee Valley and around Glen Davis.

Lovely Fairywren *Malurus amabilis*

Excellent views of a male and female together at Redden Island near Cairns.

Variiegated Fairywren *Malurus lamberti*

At least two birds, including both male and female, were seen at our first stop in Royal National Park, NSW.

They were also spotted on our morning out with local guide Duncan at O'Reilly's.

Superb Fairywren *Malurus cyaneus*

Two brilliant males with their partners were first seen in Royal National Park. Later we came across more by the Lithgow Sewage Ponds and also at Glen Davis. They were also common at O'Reilly's.

Red-backed Fairywren *Malurus melanocephalus*

Great views of our fourth and final species of fairywren at Maryfarms, where we watched several birds, both male and female, at close quarters. A male was also seen during our morning out with Duncan at O'Reilly's.

Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela obscura*

Two were first seen at Redden Island just north of Cairns then almost daily from then on in North Queensland, particularly in the flowering Grevilleas around Kingfisher Park.

Scarlet Myzomela *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

Single males were seen on three separate occasions, at Kingfisher Park, then at Lake Eacham with local guide Alan and again at O'Reilly's with local guide Duncan.

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

Seen firstly at Jamberoo but relatively common around the Blue Mountains and at O'Reilly's.

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

Three or four of these plain yet very loud honeyeaters were seen along the Cairns Esplanade.

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

The common honeyeater of southern Australia, seen often at Royal National Park, Jamberoo and particularly at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens in the Blue Mountains.

Macleay's Honeyeater *Xanthotis macleayanus*

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

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

Several were seen moving quickly through vegetation along the causeway at Lake Mitchell.

Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*

First seen in flowering trees along the Cairns Esplanade then more of these noisy honeyeaters were seen at Redden Island and during our morning cruise on the Daintree River with Murray.

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

Seen most days in NSW firstly at Jamberoo then particularly common at Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley in flowering eucalypts. Also quite common in Queensland at Mt Lewis and Granite Gorge.

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

A couple spotted at Maryfarms in North Queensland where we were looking for bustards.

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

Several were seen at the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley.

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*

Three were seen feeding on blossom at Kingfisher Park.

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

Two birds were finally seen as they fed high in a eucalypt tree at O'Reilly's, while we were out with Duncan.

White-eared Honeyeater *Nesoptilotis leucotis*

Two or three seen well at the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley, NSW.

Brown-backed Honeyeater *Ramsayornis modestus*

Several of these migratory honeyeaters were seen at the Cairns Centenary Lakes, some building their pendulous hanging nests. Murray showed us several more on our morning cruise on the Daintree River

Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera*

Very 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*

A couple were seen at Mt Lewis, one particularly well in the clearing where the minibus was parked.

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.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

Hard to find this year because of the drought but one was spotted briefly at local guide Carol's bush block in the Capertee Valley.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

Near O'Reilly's, local guide Duncan took us to a colony of these amazing sounding honeyeaters where we had great views. Previously on the trip we had heard other colonies far below us at lookouts in the Blue Mountains.

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*

Very common in NSW.

Yellow Honeyeater *Stomiopera flava*

Two or three birds were seen along the causeway at Lake Mitchell in North Queensland.

Varied Honeyeater *Gavicalis versicolor*

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

Fuscous Honeyeater *Ptilotula fuscus*

A few were seen around Carol's block in the Capertee Valley.

White-plumed Honeyeater *Ptilotula penicillatus*

Very common in the Capertee Valley.

Graceful Honeyeater *Meliphaga gracilis*

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

Yellow-spotted Honeyeater *Meliphaga notata*

Many seen at Kingfisher Park and Mt Lewis.

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

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

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

Heard several times in the Royal National Park but we finally saw a male at Echo Point near Katoomba.

Others were seen subsequently at Evans Lookout, Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens at a nest hollow and the Old Ford Reserve, all in NSW.

Chestnut-rumped Heathwren *Calamanthus pyrrhopygius*

Another first for this tour, a single bird was heard by Carol then seen by all at Glen Davis on our morning walk.

Fernwren *Oreoscopus gutturalis*

A single bird was seen briefly as it foraged with a party of Chowchillas at Mt Lewis.

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

Seen firstly at Barren Grounds then again at Minnamurra Rainforest where it appeared to be quite common.

Also very common and amazingly tame at O'Reilly's!

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

First seen at Mt Lewis in North Queensland then along the Boardwalk and various other trails at O'Reilly's.

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostra*

Common in rainforest in North Queensland then several more were seen at O'Reilly's.

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*

Several of Australia's smallest bird were seen on our day out with Carol in the Capertee Valley in NSW.

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*

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

Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*

Many were seen along the Daintree River on our morning cruise with Murray, where they were building their hanging nests over the water. We also saw one at Cairns' Centenary Lakes.

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*

A single male with its obvious white throat was seen at the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley while another called nearby.

Mountain Thornbill *Acanthiza katherina*

One of these Tablelands endemics was spotted at Mt Lewis, high up in the canopy.

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*

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

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

A pair was seen nest building while we were having lunch at the Megalong Valley Tearooms. Also seen in vegetation around the Lithgow Sewage Ponds.

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

A couple were seen feeding in a Casuarina in Jamberoo one morning.

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

Fairly common in the Royal National Park and at Barren Grounds and Fitzroy Falls where we saw them foraging in eucalypt canopies. Also at O'Reilly's.

White-browed babbler *Pomatostomus superciliosus*

A small party seen around Glen Davis on our prebreakfast walk.

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 two separate parties at Mt Lewis including one obviously young bird.

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

Two were seen well at Fitzroy Falls in the carpark! Great views also at Chambers and O'Reilly's where they are incredibly tame.

Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*

A single bird was seen low in the canopy briefly by some at Kingfisher Park by Bushy Creek. Brief views again at Lake Barrine – always a difficult bird to get good views of as it forages high in the rainforest canopy!

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Fairly common around Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands.

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*

Associating with the more numerous White-browed Woodswallows in mixed flocks in the Capertee Valley.

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

Very common in the Capertee Valley, often in mixed flocks with a few Masked Woodswallows.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

Several birds seen in the Capertee Valley, NSW.

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*

Seen well at the Centenary Lakes in Cairns and again at Chambers Rainforest Wildlife Lodges.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

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

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

First seen in the Capertee Valley then again but with better views with Duncan at O'Reilly's while we were looking at a Tawny Frogmouth on its nest.

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

One was seen well at Granite Gorge and another at O'Reilly's.

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

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

Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

One seen at Royal National Park then a few sightings of individuals most days in NSW and North Queensland.

Barred Cuckooshrike *Coracina lineata*

Good views of a single bird at Chambers, perched high on a dead branch over the guest house.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis*

A couple were first seen in the Capertee Valley with local guide Carol. Other single birds were seen at a number of locations around the Tablelands in North Queensland.

Common Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

A single bird was spotted by Christian at Barren Grounds after we were alerted by its insect-like call. Others were heard distantly on a number of occasions in North Queensland.

White-winged Triller *Lalage tricolor*

A pair was spotted in the Capertee Valley in NSW. Later on a female was seen foraging along the causeway at Lake Mitchell and a male at Lake Tinaroo on our day out with local guide Alan, both in North Queensland

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

Two were first seen at Cairns near the Esplanade then another pair at Redden Island appeared while we were watching a pair of Lovely Fairywrens.

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*

Great views of a single bird at Glen Davis on our morning walk with local guide Carol.

Australian Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

Both a male and female were first seen in Royal National Park. Further sightings were in both NSW and North Queensland and also at O'Reilly's.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

Seen frequently in NSW, firstly in Royal National Park. Common at Barren Grounds and the Capertee Valley.

Bower's Shrikethrush *Colluricincla boweri*

Good views of a couple of these Tablelands endemics at Mt Lewis. Seen again also at the Curtain Fig Tree and Lake Barrine.

Little Shrikethrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

Individuals seen at Kingfisher Park especially around the orchard.

Grey Shrikethrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

Individuals seen at Barren Grounds and Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens in NSW and also at O'Reilly's.

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

Common throughout north Queensland.

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

Several individuals seen at a number of places in NSW including Royal National Park, Jamberoo and the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley.

Green Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*

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

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

One or two were first seen at Centenary Lakes and Cattana Wetlands and also around Chambers and at O'Reilly's too.

Willie-wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Very common throughout.

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura albiscapa*

Moderately common throughout the tour.

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

First views of a single bird at Mt Lewis then at least three birds were seen at O'Reilly's.

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*

Fairly common at Kingfisher Park and also at Lake Barrine.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

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

Pied Monarch *Arses kaupi*

Excellent views of two birds at the Curtain Fig Tree near Yungaburra with local guide Alan.

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Very common, seen nearly every day throughout.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

A pair was seen at the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley.

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

Excellent views of a pair at the Rhododendron Gardens in Blackheath, NSW.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

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

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

A couple of birds were seen well in the Capertee Valley in NSW with local guide Carol.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

A couple of birds were first seen at Maryfarms in North Queensland where there were also several Channel-billed Cuckoos which frequently use crows as hosts. The common corvid seen in Brisbane and at O'Reilly's.

Little Raven *Corvus mellori*

Several were seen at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds and around Lake Wallace in NSW.

Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*

The common corvid of Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*

Great views of several birds around the café tables at the Megalong Tearooms where we had lunch! Several more also seen near the Old Ford Reserve later that afternoon and again around the Capertee Valley and Glen Davis on our walk before breakfast.

Paradise Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus*

Heard only at O'Reilly's near the Python Rock Track.

Victoria's Riflebird *Ptiloris victoriae*

Excellent views of several males and females at Chambers.

Grey-headed Robin *Heteromyias cinereifrons*

Individual birds were seen briefly on the walk up Mt Lewis and at the Curtain Fig Tree. They were also fairly common at Chambers Rainforest Lodges.

Mangrove Robin *Peneoenanthe pulverulenta*

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

Pale-yellow Robin *Tregellasia capito*

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

Eastern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

First seen at Minnamurra Rainforest then singles at Fitzroy Falls, the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens and in the Capertee Valley but they were also very common at O'Reilly's.

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*

A single male was seen in the Capertee Valley while we were out with local guide Carol.

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans*

Good views of three of these flycatchers in the Capertee Valley on our day out with Carol.

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

A brilliantly coloured male was seen at O'Reilly's.

Horsfield's Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

One was seen on a fence wire in the Capertee Valley with local guide Carol.

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

Common throughout the trip.

Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel*

Several were seen nesting under culverts in the Capertee Valley in NSW. In North Queensland we saw several near Yungaburra on the Atherton Tablelands while we were out with local guide Alan

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

Several birds were seen soaring in association with Fairy Martins over the Capertee Valley in NSW.

Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

Very common at Lake Wallace, NSW.

Brown Songlark *Cincloramphus cruralis*

At least two individuals were seen in the Capertee Valley near Glen Davis.

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

Common in the Capertee Valley and around Glen Davis.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Two or three were seen in reeds at Lake Tinaroo in North Queensland on our day out with local guide Alan.

Silver-eye *Zosterops lateralis*

Two birds seen firstly at Minnamurra Rainforest. Also at a number of places in North Queensland including the orchard at Kingfisher Park and at O'Reilly's.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*

Very common around 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*

A couple of birds were seen along the Border Track and also the Python Rock Track at O'Reilly's.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

One or two seen at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens in the Blue Mountains.

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Both male and female were seen firstly in the Capertee Valley. Reasonably common in North Queensland and O'Reilly's where they were seen most days.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

Our first sighting was of a male and a female at the Cattana Wetlands in North Queensland. Great views also at Kingfisher Park and very common at Redden Island in North Queensland.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common in NSW and around Cairns.

Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*

Great views of a single adult feeding on the track at Barren Grounds.

Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*

First seen in Jamberoo then at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens 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.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

Several birds seen at Carol's block in the Capertee Valley.

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

Two were first seen with Zebra Finches in the Capertee Valley, NSW. At least ten more were seen later on along the causeway at Lake Mitchell in North Queensland.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

A small flock of these introduced finches was seen along the Cairns Esplanade.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

A common species at the feeders around Kingfisher Park.

Australian Pipit *Anthus australis*

Fairly common around the Capertee Valley, NSW. Other sightings were of single birds near Maryfarms in North Queensland and at Luke's Farm near O'Reilly's.

MAMMALS

Short-beaked Echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*

Duck-billed Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*

Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*

Common Wombat *Vombatus ursinus*

Short-eared Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus caninus*

Green Ringtail Possum *Pseudocheirus archeri*

Herbert River Ringtail Possum *Pseudochirulus herbertensis*

Lemuroid Ringtail Possum *Hemibelideus lemuroides*

Yellow-bellied Glider *Petaurus australis*

Sugar Glider *Petaurus breviceps*

Red-necked Pademelon *Thylogale thetis*

Red-legged Pademelon *Thylogale stigmatica*

Mareeba Rock Wallaby *Petrogale mareeba*

Swamp (Black) Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor*

Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*

Common Wallaroo (Euro) *Macropus robustus*

Whiptail Wallaby *Macropus parryi*

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

European Hare *Lepus europaeus*

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Grey-headed Flying-Fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*

Spectacled Flying-Fox *Pteropus conspicillatus*

Dingo *Canis lupus dingo*

REPTILES

Lace Monitor *Varanus varius* (Royal National Park)

Green Tree Snake *Dendrelaphis punctulata* (on the Daintree River cruise)

Eastern Water Dragon *Physignathus lesueurii* (Minnamurra)

Bearded Dragon *Pogona barbata* (Capertee)

Red-bellied Black Snake *Pseudechis porphyriacus* (O'Reilly's)

Carpet Python *Morelia spilota* (Tablelands)

Estuarine Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus* (Daintree)

Boyd's Forest Dragon *Hypsilurus boydii* (Kingfisher Park)

Southern Angle-headed Dragon *Hypsilurus spinipes* (O'Reilly's)

BUTTERFLIES

Cairns Birdwing *Ornithoptera euphorion*

Caper White *Belenois java*

Varied Sword-grass Brown *Tisiphone abeona*

Australian Painted Lady *Vanessa kershawi*