

Australia

Blue Mountains, Cairns & O'Reilly's Thu 9th-Mon 27th November 2017



Trip photos (clockwise from top left): Australian Figbird • Grey Goshawk • White-streaked Honeycreeper • Red-necked Pademelon • Black & Brown Noddies • Rufous Fantail. © 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 Probets (Capertee Valley), Alan Gillanders (Yungaburra) and Mark (O'Reilly's)
With Jennifer Bannister, Mandy & Rupert Pye, Bob & Nadine Timberlake**

With everyone meeting early at the Sydney hotel for a full English breakfast, we were away to Kamay-Botany Bay National Park in good time. At James Cook's monument we kicked the list off with some iconic and easily recognised Aussie birds like Laughing Kookaburras, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Australian Magpies. Alongside them were some Little Corellas, performing their own form of gymnastics, the more subdued Crested Pigeons strutting about and the aptly named Noisy Miners, aggressive honeyeaters driving off all and sundry. In the bay we watched Pied and Little Pied Cormorants fishing, a White-faced Heron stalking the shallows and a lone Pied Oystercatcher. A short walk into the nearby native woodland introduced a whole new raft of unfamiliar species; another honeyeater, the raucous Red Wattlebird; Variegated Fairywrens, the males in their red and blue finery and the drab females with their long tails; multi-coloured Spotted Pardalotes and perpetually busy Grey Fantails. After a slap-up lunch of fish and chips at the Old Audley Dance Hall Tearooms we explored some of Sydney's famous (and rather popular on a sunny Saturday in spring) Royal National Park. Along the Hacking River were Maned Ducks, Pacific Black Ducks and a pair of striking Chestnut Teal, along with such other waterbirds as Australasian Grebe, Australasian Swamphen, Sacred Kingfisher and an Azure Kingfisher spotted by Mandy. In the riverine trees and shrubs we found some Australian King Parrots, stunning in red and green, a pair of Oriental Dollarbirds and more honeyeaters in the form of Noisy Friarbirds, so-called because of their apparently tonsured skulls.

Our first destination away from the city was the quaint village of Jamberoo in the Southern Highlands where we had our first good looks at more iconic species such as the pink and grey Galah, the gaudy Crimson Rosella and our second Corella species, this time Long-billed with their cut-throat slash of red and leathery blue eye patches. A morning walk around the park added more gems in the form of Satin Bowerbird, Yellow Thornbill, White-headed Pigeon, Olive-backed Oriole and Red-browed Finch to name but a few. After dinner we returned to our rooms from the dining room past a tree full of Grey-headed Flying Foxes, all squabbling as they prepared to feast on the nectar-rich flowers of the Silky Oak.

From Jamberoo we visited Barren Grounds at the top of the ranges to find the elusive Eastern Bristlebird, a rare skulker which often eludes us. This year we were fortunate to hear one calling then to see it race across the track in front of us and continue its skilful skulking. Rupert got us on to a Beautiful Firetail, an appropriately named native finch that we often miss. Great views here too of Fan-tailed Cuckoos, Black-faced Monarchs and White-throated Treecreepers while a pair of tiny Southern Emuwrens was less obliging, giving us only teasing glimpses. At the Minnamurra Rainforest we were joined for lunch by a very attentive Lewin's Honeyeater before wandering up into the rainforest proper where we found no less than six Superb Lyrebirds, including one splendid looking male. Back at Barren Grounds in the evening we heard the distant call of a Ground Parrot but, while we waited, we were entertained by a magnificent-looking male Superb Fairywren, adorned in various shades of blue. Our final stop in the Highlands was at the rather scenic Fitzroy Falls. More colourful wonders here in the form of Golden Whistler, Eastern Yellow Robin and Crested Shrike-tit then Red-browed Treecreeper and a young male Rose Robin capped off a great morning.

The weather in the Blue Mountains can often be suspect with rain, fog and even snow possible in spring. This year however it was perfect for us with clear sunny skies and warm days making the scenery and views from the Three Sisters and other Lookouts even more spectacular than usual. Our first morning proved to be extremely rewarding when, as we approached Evans Lookout, we were stopped by a pair of small birds fossicking on the road edge. After finding a safe spot to park we raced back and confirmed that we had a pair of endemic Rockwarblers and even more exciting they were feeding a youngster. Both adults seemed unperturbed by our presence and continued to race back and forth finding tasty morsels for the offspring, sometimes only metres away from us. When we finally got to the lookout we were again rewarded, this time by a pair of giant Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos that soared along the cliff edge. Nearby at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens we had great views of a pair of Satin Flycatchers, the glossy black and white male contrasting with the grey and chestnut female. Our first New Holland Honeyeaters were here too and a delightful Rufous Fantail as well as a confiding Shining Bronze-Cuckoo. We had a leisurely lunch outside at the Megalong Valley Tea Rooms where we were joined by a party of bustling White-winged Choughs and Pied Currawongs, while across in the field we could see some Straw-necked Ibises lazily feeding. Further down the valley, at the Old Ford Reserve, the eucalypts were in full bloom and an array of honeyeaters was taking advantage. We quickly added Yellow-faced, White-naped, White-eared and Scarlet to the list as well as a Common Cicadabird with its clear insect-like call and a beautiful White-throated Gerygone.

Moving on out of the mountains we were joined in Lithgow by local guide, Carol. With little time for introductions we headed straight out to the local Sewage Ponds (as one does!) where flotillas of Pink-eared Ducks and Hardheads out-numbered the Grey Teals. Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebes were constantly diving while Masked Lapwings and Black-fronted Dotterels patrolled the banks with the Eastern Grey Kangaroos. Lake Wallace held a number of surprises, including a lone Australian Crake that was observed briefly feeding along the edge of a reed-bed. By the next reed-bed a trio of Latham's Snipes was flushed and then we heard an odd call, which turned out to be a Black-backed Bittern. Despite trying several angles into the reeds, however, we couldn't get any closer to seeing the bird and had to resign ourselves to writing in a "heard only"! However, a female Musk Duck and her two charges were much more obliging and sailed past the reeds in plain view for everyone to see.

Carol had joined us specifically to showcase the Capertee Valley, her "backyard". The Holy Grail here is the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater which breeds with varying success depending on the degree and timing of the flowering of particular eucalypts. The news from Carol was hopeful so it was with some trepidation that we ventured out to a likely spot to try our luck. After some nervous moments we were soon rewarded with great views of up to six birds, some obviously quite young, that foraged busily through the foliage. The Capertee River itself was dry but there was still some excitement when a Red-bellied Black Snake slithered quickly away as we watched Fairy Martins flitting back and forth to their mud nests under the bridge. On Carol's own block we stood in the shade and watched while Yellow-tufted and Black-chinned joined White-plumed and Fuscous Honeyeaters at the water tank. In the brush, Diamond Firetails, Speckled Warblers, Peaceful Doves and Weebills competed for our attention. More excitement too when a pair of White-backed Swallows, never recorded previously on this tour, was spotted high on a dead branch.

After an all too brief stay at the historic Art Deco style Glen Davis Hotel and sumptuous meals prepared by hosts Adam & Alison, it was time for one final walk around the ghost town before the long drive back to Sydney. Startled Red-necked Wallabies scattered away while Rufous Songlarks performed display flights with their calls alternating between a creaky door and a haunting trill. A Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo flew in and a surprise Plum-headed Finch appeared briefly to increase an already impressive list.

The long drive back to Sydney airport culminated in a drive over Sydney Harbour Bridge, the famous "coat-hanger", with views of the Opera House and Circular Quay down below us. Before we knew it, we were in hot and humid Cairns, a whole world away from the coolness of the morning and coming to terms with a completely new suite of species. The Cattana Wetlands was a convenient place to begin and we soon found ourselves looking at prehistoric Orange-footed Scrubfowl, dainty Green Pygmy-Geese, spectacular Olive-backed Sunbirds and Comb-crested Jacanas trotting across the lilies. Helmeted Friarbirds and Australasian Figbirds rounded out the list then it was off to Mossman for a celebratory dinner at Mojo's Restaurant.

The Daintree River cruise with Murray, the Daintree Boatman, is always a highpoint of the tour and this year had something very special to add. Even after seeing a pair of dazzling Azure Kingfishers courting, a Papuan Frogmouth on his nest and a Black Bittern flying down the river, the sight of nine Spotted Whistling Ducks loafing on a dead stump near the water's edge opposite the wharf was totally unexpected. Although this species had been recorded sporadically over the previous few weeks it is usually associated with Cape York in the wet season. The birds hadn't been there when we left the wharf and when we turned to look after disembarking at the end of the cruise they had already disappeared so we can consider ourselves very lucky!

At Kingfisher Park we were to have more good fortune. A White-streaked Honeyeater, like the Spotted Whistling Ducks, usually associated with Cape York, had taken up residence near the park. Attracted to the flowering Grevilleas, we had no problem picking out this northern visitor among the Macleay's, White-cheeked, Brown and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and both Dusky and Scarlet Myzomelas. The Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfishers had arrived earlier and were visible around the grounds along with the more obvious Brush Turkeys and Bar-shouldered Doves. A Yellow-breasted Boatbill put on a brief show for us and a Noisy Pitta flashed by without stopping. Forest Kingfishers posed for longer while swarms of Metallic Starlings screeched by to busily attend to their nest-building. A Tooth-billed Bowerbird showed us his bower made of an array of up-turned leaves at Mt Lewis while a Great Bowerbird paraded proudly around his structure of sticks within the Mt Molloy School grounds. Here too we had great views of White-throated Honeyeaters at the birdbath and both Yellow and Blue-faced feeding in a Grevillea. A male Red-winged Parrot provided wonderful photo opportunities before we finally headed out towards Maryfarms to look for bustards. Again we were in luck with at least five individuals observed as they walked slowly through the long grass. Good views here too of a Spotted Harrier gliding effortlessly over the grasslands and a Whistling Kite soaring much higher.

Leaving Kingfisher Park, we travelled south through the Atherton Tablelands, stopping firstly at Lake Mitchell. From the causeway we saw our first Black Swans, possibly as many as 40 of them, drifting slowly though the

shallows. A small party of Double-barred Finches stopped to feed on the abundant grass seed and Golden-headed Cisticolas buzzed from the tops of reed stalks. A brief roadside stop after lunch for a pair of Red-backed Fairywrens that had flown across in front of the minibus and we were on our way to Granite Gorge where Mareeba Rock Wallabies posed for photos while an army of Squatter Pigeons cleaned up any excess food pellets. Rainbow Bee-eaters and Pied Butcherbirds were added to the list before we continued our trek south towards Lake Eacham and Chambers Lodges where we were to stay for the next two nights.

Our first evening was spent spotlighting around Yungaburra with local guide, Alan. Great views of Barn Owls and a magnificent Grass Owl hunting over the cane stubble as well as a family of Bush Stone-Curlews caught uncertainly in the spotlight's beam. In nearby rainforest Alan showed us Green Ring-tailed Possums, Giant White-tailed Rats and Leaf-tailed Geckos then back at Chambers we got to see a couple of Sugar Gliders at the nocturnal viewing station. The following day Alan took us out to a selection of his favourite haunts – Lake Barrine for Chowchillas, Hastie's Swamp for Freckled Duck, Wandering Whistling Duck, and even a Little Egret, then to local fields where flocks of cranes both Sarus and Brolga browsed delicately and a huge flock of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos squabbled raucously. The afternoon was spent at a special spot of Alan's where we were privileged to watch a spectacular male Golden Bowerbird come in and take "gifts" from Alan to adorn his bower. En route to Mt Hypipamee a Tree Kangaroo bounded up the bank off the road to safety, a special treat for mammal enthusiast Nadine who had prime viewing from the front seat. Later that afternoon we stopped by the Platypus Viewing Platform at Peterson Creek in Yungaburra where everyone had close views of one of Australia's weirdest mammals, a Duck-billed Platypus that swam up and back along a quiet stretch of water looking for food. Back at Chambers Lodges, Spotted Catbirds came to our balconies to grab pieces of fruit while a male Victoria's Riflebird played hard to get before finally revealing himself in his iridescent glory. Black Butcherbirds and Spangled Drongos foraged in the canopies and on our final evening there a Striped Possum appeared at the viewing station to take some refreshment, providing much excitement for the attendant paparazzi!

The Cairns Esplanade and its muddy foreshore proved a hit as usual. A variety of shorebirds scurried frantically before the incoming tide – Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Grey-tailed Tattler, Far Eastern Curlew and Great Knots feeding amicably with Bar-tailed Godwits, Terek Sandpiper and a Greater Sand Plover. In and around the mangroves were Varied Honeyeaters, Mangrove Robins and Rose-crowned Fruit Doves while Torresian Kingfishers called from the dark depths but wouldn't venture to the edge for us. Nearby at the Centenary Lakes we found a couple of Raja Shelducks obvious amongst the Black Ducks with their almost pure white plumage, while Great and Intermediate Egrets posed side by side giving an excellent comparison.

Our day out at Michaelmas Cay on the Great Barrier Reef was particularly enjoyable; calm weather, a delicious on-board lunch and a fine array of birds! We recorded seven species of tern including Black-naped, Bridled and Roseate amongst the hordes of Sooty, Greater & Lesser Crested. For the first time on this tour we had a Black Noddy on the boundary rope on the Cay itself, giving excellent views and comparison with the larger and much more plentiful Brown Noddies. Brown Boobies had advanced chicks, giant white balls of feathers, while Great Frigatebirds soared menacingly above. Several Turnstones and a lone Sanderling were observed wandering among the thousands of seabirds and a single Osprey was seen on a channel marker as we steamed back into Cairns.

With a lunchtime flight out of Cairns, we had plenty of time for more birding so our final morning was spent firstly at the Esplanade again where we found a small flock of Scaly-breasted Munias. Biggest surprise though was a large heron that had wandered out beyond the mangroves, spotted by Jennifer. A quick adjustment of the scope revealed a Great-billed Heron, a species we had written off after missing out on the Daintree cruise! Never before on this tour had we seen one here! Back to the hotel for a late breakfast and some final packing, we returned to the Cattana Wetlands where we found a Pheasant Coucal in the car park and a pair of Black-necked Storks in a roadside ditch. However the wetlands themselves had become the domain of the most vicious mosquitoes known to man so we made a hasty retreat and visited nearby Redden Island instead. Fortunately undiscovered by the mosquitoes, we enjoyed great views of some Varied Trillers and a Little Bronze-Cuckoo that was being attended by a Brown Honeyeater.

Finale of the tour as always is a 3-night stay at O'Reilly's Rainforest Resort, high in the mountains west of Brisbane. We had a very pleasant morning out with local guide, Mark, who seemed unphased by the wish list we presented him with. In next to no time he had found for us a perched Grey Goshawk, a Tawny Frogmouth on a nest with two young, a couple of Pale-headed Rosellas, a colony of Bell Miners, a Wompoo Fruit Dove and, to top it off, a Pacific Baza and even a White-eared Monarch! Left to our own devices for the rest of our stay we walked the various rainforest trails where we found Green Catbirds, Logrunners, a Paradise Riflebird and a Land Mullet to name but a fraction.

With morning flights for everyone, it meant a hasty departure on our last day to make it to the airport in time. Our driver Paul was there to greet us and load us in but as we headed off down the mountain one final delight was in store for us, a group of Whiptail Wallabies, seemingly providing a guard of honour and a memorable finale to what had been a most enjoyable sojourn to the Land Down Under!

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

(Total number of species recorded by the group – 286 including 5 that were heard only)

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*

A fantastic sighting of nine birds perched on a dead stump in the river right opposite the wharf as we returned from our Daintree River cruise with Murray. This species hadn't been recorded on this trip previously but now appears to be gradually extending its range southwards.

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

Several were seen at Hastie's Swamp.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

There were 30-40 at Lake Mitchell in Queensland.

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*

A single bird was seen at Hastie's Swamp.

Raja Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*

Two were seen at the Centenary Lakes in Cairns.

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*

Several spotted 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 where we ate lunch then widespread on farm dams and wetlands throughout New South Wales.

Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus*

Four or five were first seen at the Cattana Wetlands in Cairns then many more at Lake Mitchell.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

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

Australian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*

Quite common this year at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds, NSW.

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*

Common at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds, NSW then in North Queensland three more were spotted at Abattoir Swamp near Kingfisher Park and several more at Hastie's Swamp.

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

A pair was spotted on the Hacking River after lunch in Royal National Park on our first day.

Hardhead *Aythya australis*

First seen at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds. A large raft of these ducks was also seen along Chewko Rd in North Queensland and many more at Hastie's Swamp.

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*

Several were seen at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds and at nearby Lake Wallace

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*

A female and two juveniles of these prehistoric looking ducks 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. First seen at the Cattana Wetlands on our first day in Queensland.

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

First seen in the Royal National Park on the Hacking River then in North Queensland at Cattana Wetlands and a few more at Hastie's Swamp.

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.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

A lucky sighting of two birds in a roadside ditch as we were driving out to Cattana Wetlands on our last morning in Cairns.

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

Common and widespread in Queensland yet strangely we only had one record in NSW near Hacking River.

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

We first saw a group of five birds feeding in a field as we ate lunch at the Megalong Tea Rooms in the Blue Mountains. Another flock of eight birds was spotted in the Capertee Valley and in North Queensland they were quite common, being seen most days.

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

A single bird was seen on a sandbank on the Daintree River with a solitary Australian White Ibis. Another was seen on the Cairns foreshore on our last morning there.

Black-backed Bittern *Ixobrychus dubius*

A first for this tour, a single bird heard calling in a dense reed-bed at Lake Wallace yet sadly couldn't be seen.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*

Perhaps a lucky sighting as we sped along an open section of the Daintree River cruise, Murray flushed one from the dense riverine vegetation and we were able to follow it to where it perched in the open.

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

One was seen on the Daintree River cruise with Murray then another, strangely, seen in dense vegetation outside the Hastie's Swamp bird hide from the carpark

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Three individuals were seen flying as we travelled the Daintree River with Murray then a couple more were seen flying towards the mangroves on the Cairns Esplanade.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

First seen near Jamberoo in NSW then fairly widespread throughout NSW and northern Queensland.

White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*

One of these stately birds was first seen in a roadside field near Fitzroy Falls enroute to Katoomba. Two more were spotted in the Capertee Valley and our third sighting was of a single bird flying over Redden Island during our last morning in Cairns.

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

Spotted by Jennifer beyond the mangroves at the Cairns Esplanade, a single bird was briefly observed feeding in the shallows during the rising tide.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Seen firstly in a roadside ditch after our arrival in Cairns. Others were noted at Lake Mitchell and the Centenary Lakes in Cairns. On our last morning in Cairns we counted at least 15 birds feeding in the shallows.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

First seen at Abattoir Swamp in North Queensland but also at Lake Mitchell and Centenary Lakes, Cairns.

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

First seen, a single bird foraging in Botany Bay near Cook's monument. A few individuals seen at various other locations throughout NSW but just the one sighting in Queensland of two birds at the Cattana Wetlands.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A single bird was seen at Hastie's Swamp.

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

One was seen drifting in the breeze along the cliffs at Cape Solander in Kamay-Botany Bay NP in NSW. In Queensland one was seen at Lake Mitchell, and others at the Cairns foreshore. On our final morning there we watched a flotilla of seven feeding together.

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 Botany Bay on our first morning, then reasonably common throughout the rest of the tour.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

A single bird was seen at Lake Wallace in NSW then in Queensland, at Lake Mitchell and a small flock of them were noted at Centenary Lakes in Cairns.

Australian Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

From the Captain Cook memorial in Botany Bay on our first day we saw at least ten birds sitting together on a small pontoon out in the bay.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Curiously, just one sighting of this familiar species, one at Jamberoo in the Southern Highlands of NSW!

Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

Individuals seen at the Daintree River, Lake Mitchell and Hastie's Swamp.

Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus*

One was seen on top of a yacht's mast as we sailed back into Cairns after our Great Barrier Reef cruise.

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*

A pair was seen where we stopped to look at a field full of cranes on the Atherton Tablelands.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

A single bird was seen with O'Reilly's guide Mark as we went searching for Bell Miners. After some chasing we eventually all got excellent views!

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

Single birds were seen in the Capertee Valley in NSW and at O'Reilly's in Queensland.

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

Great views at close quarters of a perched bird at O'Reilly's shown to us by local guide, Mark.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

A couple of sightings, one flying low over the grassland near Maryfarms as we were looking at an Australian Bustard and another on the Atherton Tablelands where we had stopped to look at cranes.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

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

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

Relatively common in North Queensland.

Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis*

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

Australian Crake *Porzana fluminea*

Another great sighting with Carol of a single bird foraging in front of a reed-bed at Lake Wallace in NSW.

Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus*

Several of these were first seen in Royal National Park near where we had lunch 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 near where we had lunch on our first day. One was also seen at Jamberoo and they were common at Lake Wallace, all in NSW.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Fairly common in Royal National Park and at Lake Wallace in NSW but only seen once at Hastie's Swamp.

Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*

A family group of four plus two other birds were seen feeding with a flock of Brolga near Atherton.

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

About 40 of these graceful birds were seen feeding in a roadside field near Atherton.

Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*

Spotlighting with Alan one evening, we saw five or six including a pair with young. At Peterson Creek near the platypus viewing platform in Yungaburra we saw several more in an adjacent field and another four during the day at the Centenary Lakes in Cairns.

Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*

A single bird was seen at Botany Bay.

White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*

Individual sightings at a couple of places in North Queensland including Hastie's Swamp

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

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

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia*

A single bird was observed feeding very busily on the Cairns foreshore.

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseoyornis melanops*

A few seen at the Lithgow Sewage Ponds and in the Capertee Valley in NSW with Carol.

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

Quite common at both the Cattana Wetlands and Lake Mitchell in North Queensland.

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

Three were flushed from long grass at Lake Wallace.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

A maximum of nine were counted on the Cairns foreshore.

Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

Two seen from the Cairns Esplanade.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A single bird was heard calling then seen from the Esplanade on our final morning in Cairns.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

There were at least four seen on the Cairns foreshore.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

A single bird was seen busily foraging on the Cairns foreshore on the two days we visited.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

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

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*

A group of four was seen at the Cairns foreshore. Possibly the same birds were seen again two days later.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

A single bird was seen from the beach buggy as we were taken around the far side of Michaelmas Cay.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

On both occasions we saw 5-10 of these trans-equatorial migrants feeding busily from the Cairns Esplanade

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

A reasonable sized flock of 20 or so was observed on the Cairns foreshore.

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*

Possibly hundreds on Michaelmas Cay.

Black Noddy *Anous minutus*

One showed very obligingly on the guard rope around the beach at Michaelmas Cay.

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

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

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 way out.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscata*

Very common and breeding on Michaelmas Cay.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

We were fortunate to be able to take a private tour on the beach buggy around the other side of Michaelmas Cay where we spotted about four of these terns.

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*

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

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 first seen at Jamberoo in NSW then we also saw individuals at O'Reilly's in Queensland.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Two or more of these introduced doves were seen in Jamberoo, NSW then another in Cairns in Queensland.

Brown Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

First seen at Mt Lewis then quite common at Chambers Rainforest Wildlife Lodges and at O'Reilly's.

Pacific Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris*

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

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*

One was flushed from the road bridge as we went through Glen Alice in the Capertee Valley.

Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*

First seen at the Captain Cook landing on our first morning. Common throughout NSW and Queensland except at O'Reilly's

Squatter Pigeon *Geophaps scripta*

Locally common at Granite Gorge.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*

Common in the Capertee Valley in NSW and North Queensland.

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

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

Wompoo Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

We had great views of one of these colourful doves near O'Reilly's with local guide Mark.

Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

Brief views of a couple of birds next to the mangroves near the Cairns Foreshore.

Torresian Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa*

Many seen around Cairns and Daintree.

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

Several seen feeding in the park around Jamberoo. Fairly common at Kingfisher Park in North Queensland and at O'Reilly's.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

Just one sighting of a single bird in the carpark at Cattana Wetlands on our final morning in Cairns. One was also heard near O'Reilly's.

Pacific Koel *Eudynamys orientalis*

A male was seen firstly in Jamberoo near the motel. We also had sightings of another male and a female at Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley.

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*

Excellent views of a single bird before breakfast on our last morning at Glen Davis.

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!

Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

A juvenile was spotted at Redden Island, attended by a Brown Honeyeater.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

We spotted three individuals at Barren Grounds in NSW. Their familiar mournful trill was a common sound at O'Reilly's where we managed to track one down.

Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto javanica*

Spotlighting with Alan, we had great views of one (possibly two) birds one evening.

Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*

Another great sighting of a single female one evening while we were out spotlighting with Alan in Yungaburra on the Atherton Tablelands.

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*

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

Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*

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

Australian Swiftlet *Aerodramus terraereginae*

Reasonably common over Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands.

White-throated Needletail *Hirandapus caudacutus*

At O'Reilly's we two soaring overhead on our second morning.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Two were first spotted by the Hacking River in Royal National Park on our first day. Other singles were spotted in the Capertee Valley in NSW and on the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland with Alan.

Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*

Good views of these spectacular kingfishers on all days at Kingfisher Park. We also were surprised to see one at Redden Island on our last morning in North Queensland.

Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*

Common and widespread, seen nearly every day.

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

Several individuals seen around the Atherton Tablelands and Daintree, usually perched on powerlines.

Torresian Kingfisher *Todiramphus sordidus*

Two birds were heard clearly in the mangroves near the Cairns Esplanade but refused to show!

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Individuals were seen at Royal National Park along the Hacking River and at Jamberoo in NSW.

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*

One spotted by Mandy along the Hacking River in NSW. Magical views were had later in the trip of two birds in a courtship display along the Daintree River on our morning cruise with Murray.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

First seen at Granite Gorge in North Queensland, then again at the Centenary Lakes in Cairns and another at Redden Island.

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

One perched in a nearby tree was seen from the minibus as we left Glen Davis. One was also seen on the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland with Alan.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

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

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*

Amazing sight on the Atherton Tablelands where we counted at least 75 birds feeding in a dry paddock.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus*

Our first sighting was of two birds at Barren Grounds. Other sightings in the Blue Mountains with at least six seen from Evans Lookout.

Galah *Eolophus roseicapilla*

Widespread in NSW but also two were seen near Maryfarms in North Queensland.

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*

Two birds entertained us with their gymnastics display at Botany Bay on our first morning!

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Very common, recorded every single day.

Australian King Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*

Five of these large red and green parrots were first seen at Royal National Park. Others were spotted at Jamberoo. Very common and very tame at O'Reilly's however!

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

A male was spotted at the Mt Molloy School after we had been watching the Great Bowerbird at his bower.

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*

Great views of a pair at Luke's Farm near O'Reilly's with local guide Mark.

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*

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

Eastern Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus*

We were able to make out the distant but beautiful chiming call of one of these secretive parrots when we ventured back to Barren Grounds after dinner one night

Little Lorikeet *Parvipsitta pusilla*

Great views of a couple of these tiny parrots feeding in flowering eucalypts in the Capertee Valley with Carol.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Common, recorded most days.

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*

A couple were first spotted at Kingfisher Park then again at Centenary Lakes, Cairns. We also found three feeding near O'Reilly's with local guide Mark who was surprised to record them there.

Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta concinna*

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

Double-eyed Fig Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*

Great views on the Cairns Esplanade where we saw a pair of these tiny parrots, the female of which was chewing out a nest hollow!

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

A single bird was seen briefly at Kingfisher Park, as it flew low across the orchard.

Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae*

Excellent views of at least six birds at Minnamurra Rainforest Centre including a male with well developed "lyre" tail feathers. Another was seen crossing the Jamberoo Mountain Rd as we drove up to Barren Grounds and another was spotted at Fitzroy Falls.

Green Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris*

Heard more often than seen we caught up with a few of these birds along the Python Rock Track and the Boardwalk at O'Reilly's.

Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus maculosus*

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

Tooth-billed Catbird *Scenopoeetes dentirostris*

Good views of a singing male near his scruffy bower at Mt Lewis, where we heard several others as well.

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*

Two birds were seen within the grounds of the Mt Molloy School, one tending a bower when we first arrived.

White-throated Treecreeper *Cormobates leucophaea*

A pair was spotted at Barren Grounds, then another bird was seen with Red-browed Treecreepers at Fitzroy Falls and a final sighting was made at the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley.

Red-browed Treecreeper *Climacteris erythroptus*

Great views of two birds at Fitzroy Falls in NSW.

Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*

Seen on a couple of occasions in the Capertee Valley and at Glen Davis.

Variegated Fairywren *Malurus lamberti*

Several birds, both male and female, were seen at our first stop in Kamay-Botany Bay Nature Reserve, NSW.

Superb Fairywren *Malurus cyaneus*

A brilliant male was first seen at Barren Grounds as we were heading for the Ground Parrots, pairs at Old Ford Reserve. 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 a pair along Chewko Rd in North Queensland on our way to Granite Gorge.

Southern Emuwren *Stipiturus malachurus*

Typically fleeting but exciting views of both a male and a female at Barren Grounds Nature Reserve.

Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela obscura*

A common visitor to the flowering Grevilleas around Kingfisher Park.

Scarlet Myzomela *Myzomela sanguinolenta*

Great views of a male firstly at the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley then again in the Capertee Valley with Carol. They were also quite showy at Kingfisher Park feeding in flowering Grevilleas.

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*

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

Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*

Not all that common, but a few sightings around Kingfisher Park, Chambers and Redden Island.

White-streaked Honeyeater *Trichodere cockerelli*

A very unusual sighting indeed, this honeyeater is normally found on the Cape York Peninsula but an individual had recently taken up residence near Kingfisher Park.

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*

Seen at a number of spots in NSW, particularly at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens in the Blue Mts.

White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris niger*

Several seen feeding in flowering grevilleas in and around Kingfisher Park, North Queensland.

Macleay's Honeyeater *Xanthotis macleayanus*

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

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*

A single bird was seen near Lake Mitchell.

Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*

First seen at the Cattana Wetlands then more of these noisy honeyeaters were seen along the Daintree River with Murray. They were also common at Redden Island when we went there on our last morning in Cairns.

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

Seen every day in NSW firstly at Royal National Park then particularly common in the Capertee Valley this year in flowering eucalypts. Individuals seen in Queensland at Abattoir Swamp, Granite Gorge and Chambers.

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

At least four first seen in the Mt Molloy school grounds near the Great Bowerbird's bower then a few more again at Granite Gorge.

Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis*

Three or four birds were seen at Carol's bush block in the Capertee Valley.

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*

One was seen at the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley.

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*

One was seen coming in to the bird bath at the Mt Molloy School then a second at Hastie's Swamp in trees outside of the Hide. We also had a final sighting of a couple of birds near O'Reilly's with local guide Mark.

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*

There were two spotted in eucalypts at the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley in NSW.

White-eared Honeyeater *Nesoptilotis leucotis*

One seen well at the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley, NSW.

Brown-backed Honeyeater *Ramsayornis modestus*

Several of these migratory honeyeaters were at Abattoir Swamp, some building their pendulous hanging nests.

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.

Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*

Local guide Carol had a secret location in the Capertee Valley where she found at least six of these extremely rare honeyeaters for us.

Bridled Honeyeater *Bolemoreus frenatus*

A few were seen high in the canopy at Mt Lewis and a single bird was spotted at Mt Hypipamee.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Caligavis chrysops*

Fairly common at the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley. Also in small numbers at Kingfisher Park.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops*

Very common this year at Carol's bush block in the Capertee Valley and also around Glen Davis.

Bell Miner *Manorina melanophrys*

Near O'Reilly's, local guide Mark 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*

Single birds were seen at Abattoir Swamp, Mt Molloy and Granite Gorge 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 in and around the bird bath at 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 at Minnamurra. Very common on both the Atherton Tablelands and at O'Reilly's in Queensland.

Eastern Bristlebird *Dasyornis brachypterus*

Heard calling at Barren Grounds one individual then ran across the track in front of us giving a brief but convincing view of this renowned skulker!

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*

One of our first birds recorded, we saw two of these tiny jewels at Botany Bay. Other individuals were later heard only at O'Reilly's.

Fernwren *Oreoscopus gutturalis*

Heard only at Mt Lewis.

Rockwarbler *Origma solitaria*

Fantastic views of two birds feeding another on the edge of the Evans Lookout Road.

Speckled Warbler *Pyrrholaemus sagittatus*

Fleeting views of a single bird at Carol's bush block in the Capertee Valley, NSW

White-browed Scrubwren *Sericornis frontalis*

Seen first at Kamay-Botany Bay National Park Quite common at Minnamurra, around Fitzroy Falls and the Blue Mountains. Also common at O'Reilly's.

Yellow-throated Scrubwren *Sericornis citreogularis*

First seen at Minnamurra then again at Fitzroy Falls, NSW. Commonly seen at Mt Lewis and along the Boardwalk and various other trails at O'Reilly's.

Large-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis magnirostra*

One was seen at Kingfisher Park then several more at O'Reilly's in Queensland.

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*

At least four were seen along the Daintree River on our morning cruise with Murray, where they were building their hanging nests over the water.

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*

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

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.

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*

Reasonably common in the Capertee Valley, NSW

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*

A couple were seen feeding around the grounds at the Glen Davis Hotel in the Capertee Valley.

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*

Four were seen feeding in a Casuarina in Jamberoo one morning and a couple more again the next day.

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*

Very common at Barren Grounds and Fitzroy Falls where we saw them foraging in eucalypt canopies.

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*

Three of these often elusive but noisy forest dwellers were seen foraging near the track at Lake Barrine.

Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*

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

Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*

A single bird was seen briefly by some at Kingfisher Park on both days.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Fairly common around Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands.

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*

One was seen soaring over the Capertee Valley.

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*

Fairly common in the Capertee Valley, NSW.

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*

Seen well at Chambers Rainforest Wildlife Lodges.

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*

First seen at Kamay-Botany Bay National Park on our first morning then other individual around Jamberoo, the Capertee Valley and also at O'Reilly's.

Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

One was seen well flying down to the ground from powerlines at Granite Gorge and another at O'Reilly's.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

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

Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*

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

Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

One seen first at Kamay-Botany Bay National Park. A few sightings of individuals most days in NSW and at O'Reilly's in Queensland.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis*

One was first seen at Kingfisher Park then another two at Granite Gorge.

Common Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

A single bird was seen at the Old Ford Reserve after we were alerted by its insect-like call.

White-winged Triller *Lalage tricolor*

A pair was seen at Lake Mitchell in Queensland.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

A male and at least three females were seen at Redden Island.

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*

Great views of a single bird at Fitzroy Falls then another at Glen Davis.

Australian Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

A female at Minnamurra, followed by a male at Fitzroy Falls. Another two males were seen later at O'Reilly's.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*

Common at Barren Grounds and in the Capertee Valley.

Bower's Shrikethrush *Colluricincla boweri*

Good views of a couple of these Tablelands endemics interacting at Mt Lewis.

Little Shrikethrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

Individuals seen in the Daintree National Park and at Kingfisher Park in suitable rainforest habitat.

Grey Shrikethrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

Two individuals seen at Barren Grounds, announcing their presence with their melodic calls.

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

Common throughout north Queensland.

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

Individuals were seen well at Jamberoo and the Old Ford Reserve in the Megalong Valley, NSW.

Green Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*

First seen at the Cattana Wetlands on our first day in North Queensland then excellent views of a number of birds on our cruise along the Daintree River with Murray. Another single bird was also seen at Redden Island just before we left Cairns.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

One or two were first seen at Kingfisher Park then at Chambers and several 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 the Rhododendron Gardens in Blackheath, NSW. Also at Mt Lewis and Lake Barrine and at least three birds were seen at O'Reilly's.

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*

Fairly common at Kingfisher Park and the southern race was also heard at O'Reilly's.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*

A couple were first seen around the carpark at Barren Grounds then others later in the afternoon at Minnamurra. A few were also seen high in the rainforest at O'Reilly's in Queensland.

White-eared Monarch *Carterornis leucotis*

Another great find by O'Reilly's guide Mark, this was our fourth monarch species for the trip.

Pied Monarch *Arses kaupi*

Two records of this often elusive monarch, one at Kingfisher Park and the other along nearby MacDougall Rd.

Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Very common, seen nearly every day throughout.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

A female was seen in the Capertee Valley.

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

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

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

Excellent views of three males but oddly no females on the Daintree River with Murray.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

A couple of birds were seen well at the Capertee River in NSW.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

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 near Lithgow.

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*

Two individual females were spotted on different tracks at O'Reilly's on the same morning.

Victoria's Riflebird *Ptiloris victoriae*

Heard frustratingly at Mt Lewis, it wasn't until Chambers that we finally got excellent views of a male bird.

Grey-headed Robin *Heteromyias cinereifrons*

Seen briefly on the walk up Mt Lewis. They were also fairly common at Chambers Rainforest Lodges.

Mangrove Robin *Peneoenanthe pulverulenta*

Good views of two birds 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 were two birds at Fitzroy Falls. Others were spotted at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens and in the Capertee Valley but they were also very common at O'Reilly's.

Lemon-bellied Flyrobin *Microeca flavigaster*

Just one brief sighting at Kingfisher Park of an uncoloured bird.

Jacky Winter *Microeca fascinans*

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

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*

A young male with just a hint of a pink on the breast was seen at Fitzroy Falls. A pair was seen at O'Reilly's.

Horsfield's Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

Two were seen on a fence wire in the Capertee Valley with local guide Carol.

White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosterna*

An unusual visitor to Carol's black in the Capertee Valley, not previously recorded on this trip, two of these beautiful swallows were seen perched on a dead branch before they soared off to hunt for insects.

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

Common throughout the trip.

Fairy Martin *Petrochelidon ariel*

Several seen nesting under the Capertee River bridge.

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

Several birds were seen soaring high over the Capertee Valley in NSW and also on the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland.

Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

Very common at Lake Wallace, NSW.

Rufous Songlark *Cincloramphus mathewsi*

Fairly common in the Capertee Valley and also around Glen Davis.

Little Grassbird

Heard calling from dense reed-beds at Lake Wallace in NSW.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Two or three birds were seen at Lake Mitchell alongside the causeway.

Silver-eye *Zosterops lateralis*

Two birds seen firstly at Kamay-Botany Bay National Park. Also at Jamberoo and in the Capertee Valley as well as in the orchard at Kingfisher Park.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*

Very common around Kingfisher Park and along the Daintree River.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

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

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common in NSW.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Several seen at the Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens in the Blue Mountains.

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Two or three males were seen in the Capertee Valley. Reasonably common at Redden Island in Queensland.

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 spotted by Rupert at Barren Grounds.

Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*

Two of these attractive finches were seen at Carol's bush block in the Capertee Valley

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.

Plum-headed Finch *Noechmia modesta*

A single bird was seen before breakfast on our morning walk around Glen Davis with Carol.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

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

Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

About ten were seen at Lake Mitchell in North Queensland.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

A flock of about ten 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. Our only other sighting though was of a couple of birds near Yungaburra in North Queensland when we stopped to look at some Brolgas.

MAMMALS

Grey-headed Flying-Fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*
Spectacled Flying-Fox *Pteropus conspicillatus*
Duck-billed Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*
Red-necked Pademelon *Thylogale thetis*
Red-legged Pademelon *Thylogale stigmatica*
Mareeba Rock Wallaby *Petrogale mareeba*
Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*
Whiptail Wallaby *Macropus parryi*
Red-necked (Bennett's) Wallaby *Macropus rufogriseus*
Mountain Brushtail Possum *Trichosurus caninus*
Green Ringtail Possum *Pseudocheirops archeri*
European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*
Sugar Glider *Petaurus breviceps*
Yellow-footed Antechinus *Antechinus flavipes*

REPTILES

Lace Monitor *Varanus varius* (Capertee River bridge)
Green Tree Snake *Dendrelaphis punctulata* (on the Daintree River cruise)
Eastern Water Dragon *Physignathus lesueurii*
Land Mullet *Egernia major*
Bearded Dragon *Pogona barbata*
Red-bellied Black Snake *Pseudechis porphyriacus* (Rhododendron Gardens, Capertee River)
Carpet Python *Morelia spilota*

BUTTERFLIES

Varied Sword-grass Brown *Tisiphone abeona*
Australian Painted Lady *Vanessa kershawi*
Cairns Birdwing *Ornithoptera euphorion*
Caper White *Belenois java*