

FIELD REPORT

GRAND AUSTRALIA PART II: QUEENSLAND, VICTORIA & PLAINS-WANDERER

OCTOBER 4–21, 2023



Blue-winged Kookaburra © Max Breckenridge

LEADERS: MAX BRECKENRIDGE & BARRY ZIMMER
LIST COMPILED BY: MAX BRECKENRIDGE

VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM

After a very successful Part I, we arrived in Brisbane to meet eight new participants and Barry Zimmer. Our first destination was the famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, where we spent a very enjoyable two nights. En route to the lodge we made a couple of stops heading out of Brisbane. The day started off very well when an unassuming Brisbane park revealed a Koala (and joey) before most of us were even off the bus! A nesting Tawny Frogmouth and several confiding Rainbow Bee-eaters were also appreciated. Near Tambourine we had our first looks at a variety of honeyeaters and waterbirds, including a couple of Latham's Snipe, Royal Spoonbill, and what is now Plumed Egret (formerly Intermediate). Our first afternoon at O'Reilly's was spent getting to grips with how confiding some of the birds were! Bold and brash Crimson Rosella, Australian King-Parrot, and Satin and Regent bowerbirds all clamoured for our attention (and the odd handout of food). In the World Heritage rainforest of Lamington National Park, which surrounds the lodge, we had good looks at a few less showy species: yowling Green Catbird, strange Australian Logrunner, Bassian Thrush, and a variety of scrubwrens and thornbills. Some of us were even fortunate enough to have good looks at the highly sought-after Albert's Lyrebird before retiring to our very comfortable lodgings for the evening.

The highlights were many on our full day around O'Reilly's and adjacent Lamington NP. Amongst many common but new species, a beautiful Noisy Pitta gave several looks, as did a lovely male Rose Robin; Rufous and Gray fantails flitted about; Eastern Shrike-tits foraged high above; a female Paradise Riflebird gave extended views; and a pair of scarce White-eared Monarchs were a good find. In the evening, a couple of us did a bit of a night hike and were rewarded with repeated views of a territorial Sooty Owl, as well as several different possums, and Marbled Frogmouth was heard distantly.

A final morning at O'Reilly's was highlighted by excellent views for all of a singing male Albert's Lyrebird, but soon it was time to head for the airport and our flight to Cairns in Far North Queensland.



Koala joey at a suburban park in Brisbane © Max Breckenridge

Our time in Far North Queensland is always highlighted by a very pleasant stay at Kingfisher Park, bookended by some excellent birding around Cairns and a day on the Great Barrier Reef. The Cairns Esplanade provided an excellent assortment of waders and terns at close quarters, and the nearby Centenary Lakes Park was busy with new birds, including excellent looks at Pacific Baza, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, a bevy of tropical honeyeaters, and a pair of roosting Papuan Frogmouths.

During our time at Kingfisher Park, we birded the grounds, made several excursions, and spent much time watching the feeders and water dishes. On our first afternoon at the lodge, our patience was rewarded when a pair of Platypus eventually revealed themselves in the shaded waters of Brushy Creek. The next morning was spent birding the beautiful cloud forests of Mt Lewis, where numerous endemics reside. The lack of fruiting this year made the birds a little trickier than usual, but we still succeeded in seeing many of the key species. In the afternoon we birded around Julatten and had uncharacteristically good views of several White-browed Crakes, along with Brown Quail, Wandering Whistling-Duck, and a stately Black-necked Stork.



Regent Bowerbird at O'Reilly's © Max Breckenridge

A boat trip on the tranquil Daintree River is always a memorable morning, and this year was no exception, with good views of Black Bittern, Azure Kingfishers, Yellow Oriole, numerous Large-billed Gerygones, Shining Flycatchers, Pacific Koel, and even a couple of Saltwater Crocodiles. Leaving the humid lowlands behind for the drier climes around Mt Carbine, we had a lovely stroll around the caravan park there, full of confiding species. Very close views of several giant Blue-winged Kookaburras were appreciated, as this is not always a species you get to see well. Large flocks of beautiful Galahs, Pale-headed Rosellas, Apostlebirds, and several Great Bowerbirds rounded off a nice visit. But the day wasn't quite over; a late afternoon cruise along West Maryfarms Rd revealed close to 40 (!) Australian Bustards. Several males displaying against a beautiful backdrop of the Great Dividing Range were quite a sight.

Our big day crossing the tablelands was full of exciting encounters, from cute Squatter Pigeons and even cuter Mareeba Rock-Wallabies at Granite Gorge, stunning Sarus Crane and Brolga over the fertile fields near Atherton, a family of strange Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroos at Nerada, and more Platypus at lunch, to the grand finale of Southern Cassowary at Etty Bay—a date with the dinosaur.

Our time in the tropics was coming to an end, but not before a wonderful day on the reef, with the seabird breeding spectacle of Michaelmas Cay always a firm favorite.

Arriving in Melbourne after a real red-eye flight, we quickly made our way north towards Bendigo. However, a real rarity at a wetland en route was too good to pass up, and soon we were scouring through the ducks and Black-tailed Nativehens in hopes of finding it. Just as we were ready to admit defeat, some concerted scoping yielded success! There they were: not one, but a trio of the incredibly scarce and irruptive Australian Painted Snipe—a species that practically disappears for years at a time before resurfacing at nondescript wetlands potentially anywhere in the country.

While we didn't have to contend with the flooding of last year, our morning birding north of Bendigo was effectively curtailed by an Antarctic blast of nasty weather. We pushed on to Mt Korong, where the birds were very active despite the strong gusts—Painted Honeyeater and Gilbert's Whistler being obvious standouts.

For me, the definite highlight of our time in Ouyen is visiting 'The Farm' with local Ricky. With good winter rains this year, it was particularly busy in the mallee, with lots of Black and White-fronted honeyeaters, White-winged Trillers, woodswallows, and even a small flock of Budgerigars showing well. Of course, our main target here is the Malleefowl, and our luck continued on this visit with breathtaking views once again of a bird tending to its mound not more than 30 feet away.



A very personal encounter with Malleefowl near Ouyen © Max Breckenridge

Around Deniliquin we were treated to some great birding in the company of local legend Phil Maher. We started with beautiful looks at a scarce Diamond Firetail, before moving on to the River Red Gum forests,

where we eventually had stellar views of a group of male Superb Parrots feeding at close range. Small ephemeral wetlands north of town were chock-full of Australian Spotted Crakes and Little Grassbirds, while on the nearby treeless plains we enjoyed numerous Emus and Red Kangaroos. Before preparing for an evening of spotlighting, we jagged a gorgeous pair of Australian Pratincoles on the road and a sleek Black Falcon looking for a roost. On dark, we began our search for the highly secretive Plains-wanderer. This year we had great luck, as we came across a pair very quickly, which, as usual, allowed for very close approach and a detailed study of these awkward but very cute grassland inhabitants that Phil and the local property owners have done so much work to protect here. We went on to find another two pairs, plus bonus looks at Stubble Quail and an awesome Little Buttonquail—it had been an incredibly successful day and evening!

The final day of the tour had eventually come, so we began making our way south back to Melbourne. However, we still got in some lovely birding at a state forest near Heathcote, where we had several new species of honeyeater, Pallid Cuckoo, Restless Flycatcher, and some of my best ever views of a pair of stunning Painted Buttonquail performing practically at our feet! Oh, and a last minute Short-beaked Echidna by the side of the road was also an excellent last mammal for the trip.

It had been an excellent run of this second tour segment in great company, with everything going very smoothly in what is a trip with many moving parts—a big thanks to all!

ITINERARY

| Date | Locations |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 7 th Oct | AM: Brisbane, Edward's Park, Fred Bucholz Park PM: Lamington National Park – O'Reilly's |
| Sunday 8 th Oct | AM/PM: Lamington National Park – O'Reilly's |
| Monday 9 th Oct | AM: Lamington National Park – O'Reilly's PM: BNE-CNS |
| Tuesday 10 th Oct | AM: Centenary Lakes, Cairns Esplanade PM: Mareeba – Jack Bethel Park; Julatten – Kingfisher Park |
| Wednesday 11 th Oct | AM: Julatten – Mount Lewis PM: Julatten – McDougall Rd |
| Thursday 12 th Oct | AM: Daintree River Boat Trip, Stewart Creek Rd, Newell Beach PM: Mount Carbine, West Maryfarms |
| Friday 13 th Oct | AM: Granite Gorge, Crater Lakes NP – Lake Eacham, Nerada PM: Tarzali Lakes, Etty Bay |
| Saturday 14 th Oct | AM: Great Barrier Reef Boat Trip – Michaelmas Cay PM: Great Barrier Reef Boat Trip – Hasting's Reef |
| Sunday 15 th Oct | AM: CNS-MEL |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| | PM: Bells Swamp, Bendigo |
| Monday 16 th Oct | AM: Bendigo STW, Greater Bendigo National Park – Kamarooka PM: Mount Korong, Bronzewing FFR, Ouyen |
| Tuesday 17 th Oct | AM: ‘The Farm’ PM: Hattah-Kulkyne National Park |
| Wednesday 18 th Oct | AM: Ouyen Lake, Swan Hill STW PM: Lake Kelly, Deniliquin |
| Thursday 19 th Oct | AM: Leetham Rd, Murray Valley National Park – Gulpa Island PM: Pretty Pine, Wanganella, Warwillah Station |
| Friday 20 th Oct | AM: Heathcote – One Eye State Forest PM: Tullamarine/MLB |

TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TRIP (ranked):

1. PLAINS-WANDERER (32)
2. SOUTHERN CASSOWARY (23)
3. MALLEEFOWL (16)
4. SPLENDID FAIRYWREN (9)
- =5. SUPERB PARROT (5)
- =5. PAINTED BUTTONQUAIL (5)

KEY

- ^H – Heard only
- ^L – Leader only
- ^I – Introduced species
- ^E – Species is endemic to Australia
- ^e – Species is endemic to Australasia (Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Oceania)
- STW – Sewage Treatment Works
- NSW – New South Wales
- FNQ – Far North Queensland
- SEQ – South East Queensland
- KFP – Kingfisher Park

BIRDS

Species total: 350

Heard only: 9

Leader only: 3

CASSOWARIES (*Casuariidae*)

1. Southern Cassowary [°] (*Casuarius casuarius*) – Old faithful Etty Bay provided us with an adult female on a return lap of the main road. We had great views until a seemingly disgruntled homeowner decide to leave fruit out for the cassowary behind her house and mostly out of view for us! Eventually the cassowary finished gorging itself and walked straight up to us and along the road. As always, a surreal experience seeing cassowary up close.
2. Emu ^E (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) – A few individuals in the mallee near Ouyen and up to 70 birds, including chicks, on the plains north of Deniliquin.

MAGPIE GOOSE (*Anseranatidae*)

3. Magpie Goose [°] (*Anseranas semipalmata*) – Singles/tens each day in FNQ.

DUCKS, GEESE & WATERFOWL (*Anatidae*)

4. Wandering Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna arcuata*) – At least eight birds along McDougall Rd near Julatten.
5. Freckled Duck ^E (*Stictonetta naevosa*) – A single female amongst large numbers of ducks at Bendgio STW.
6. Black Swan [°] (*Cygnus atratus*) – Singles at Bendigo STW and at least 200 individuals at the Swan Hill STW.
7. Australian Shelduck ^E (*Tadorna tadornoides*) – Singles at Bells Swamp and Swan Hill STW.
8. Radjah Shelduck [°] (*Radjah radjah*) – At least 20 individuals observed around Daintree.
9. Green Pygmy-Goose (*Nettapus pulchellus*) – At least six birds observed at Lake Mitchell.
10. Cotton Pygmy-Goose (*Nettapus coromandelianus*) – At least six birds on a dam near Yungaburra.
11. Maned Duck ^E (*Chenonetta jubata*) – Tens most days in Victoria and NSW.
12. Australasian Shoveler [°] (*Spatula rhynchotis*) – Singles/tens at Bells Swamp, and the Bendigo and Swan Hill STW's.
13. Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) – Singles/tens on most wetlands throughout the trip.
14. [Australian] Gray Teal [°] (*Anas gracilis*) – Tens/hundreds around Swan Hill and Deniliquin. A pair along McDougall Rd at Julatten also.
15. Chestnut Teal ^E (*Anas castanea*) – At least ten birds at Bells Swamp.
16. Pink-eared Duck ^E (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*) – At least 800 individuals at the Swan Hill STW. Tens at Bells Swamp and Bendgio STW.
17. Hardhead [°] (*Aythya australis*) – Tens at Bells Swamp and the Swan Hill STW. A pair at the lake beside the Novotel Hotel in Brisbane also.
18. Blue-billed Duck ^E (*Oxyura australis*) – At least eight individuals, including a couple of spiffy males, at the Swan Hill STW.
19. Musk Duck ^E (*Biziura lobate*) – A single female at the Swan Hill STW and at least 16 individuals at Lake Kelly.

MEGAPODES (*Megapodiidae*)

- 20. Australian Brushturkey ^E (*Alectura lathami*) – Singles/tens most days in Queensland.
- 21. Malleefowl ^E (*Leipoa ocellata*) – We were very fortunate to watch a bird tending to its mound at a distance of less than 15 feet in full view – a truly unforgettable experience to watch this scarce megapode going about unconcerned with our presence.
- 22. Orange-footed Scrubfowl (*Megapodius reinwardt*) – Singles/tens most days in FNQ.

PHEASANTS, GROUSE & ALLIES (*Phasianidae*)

- 23. Brown Quail (*Synoicus ypsilophora*) – A small flock of six birds seen well on McDougall Rd near Julatten.
- 24. Stubble Quail ^E (*Coturnix pectoralis*) – Singles heard and flushed near Ouyen, with great views of a female in the spotlight on the plains north of Deniliquin.

GREBES (*Podicipedidae*)

- 25. Australasian Grebe (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*) – Singles/tens observed at most wetlands throughout the trip.
- 26. Hoary-headed Grebe ^E (*Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*) – Tens at Bells Swamp, and hundreds at Swan Hill STW and Lake Kelly.
- 27. Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) – Great looks at six individuals on Lake Hattah.

PIGEONS & DOVES (*Columbidae*)

- 28. Rock Pigeon ^I (*Columba livia*) – Tens/singles around urban areas.
- 29. White-headed Pigeon ^E (*Columba leucomela*) – A couple of individuals seen by most at O'Reilly's.
- 30. Spotted Dove ^I (*Streptopelia chinensis*) – Singles in a few locations.
- 31. Brown Cuckoo-Dove ^E (*Macropygia phasianella*) – Mostly brief views of several different individuals in SEQ and FNQ.
- 32. Pacific Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps longirostris*) – Eventually seen by most while staying at KFP, heard most days there.
- 33. Common Bronzewing ^E (*Phaps calcoptera*) – Singles observed near Ouyen and Deniliquin.
- 34. Crested Pigeon ^E (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) – Singles/tens most days of the trip, especially in Victoria.
- 35. Squatter Pigeon ^E (*Geophaps scripta*) – Great looks at several confiding birds at Granite Gorge.
- 36. Wonga Pigeon ^E (*Leucosarcia melanoleuca*) – Singles observed and heard at O'Reilly's.
- 37. Peaceful Dove ^e (*Geopelia placida*) – Singles most days in FNQ and Victoria.
- 38. Bar-shouldered Dove ^e (*Geopelia humeralis*) – Singles/tens each day in FNQ, also seen near Brisbane.
- 39. Wompoo Fruit-Dove ^e (*Ptilinopus magnificus*) – Excellent looks at one individual on the Mt Lewis track.
- 40. Torresian Imperial-Pigeon ^e (*Ducula spilorrhoa*) – Singles/hundreds every day in FNQ, especially on the coast.

41. Topknot Pigeon ^E (*Lopholaimus antarcticus*) – Singles observed a in flight at O'Reilly's and Mt Lewis.



Squatter Pigeon at Granite Gorge © Max Breckenridge

BUSTARDS (*Otididae*)

42. Australian Bustard ^E (*Ardeotis australis*) – Fantastic views of a remarkable 40 individuals along West Maryfarms Rd, including several displaying males.

CUCKOOS (*Cuculidae*)

43. Pheasant Coucal (*Centropus phasianinus*) – Singles heard most days in FNQ with decent views of a pair crossing the road near Granite Gorge.
44. Pacific Koel (*Eudynamys orientalis*) – Singles heard most days in FNQ with good views of several individuals around Daintree.
45. Channel-billed Cuckoo (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*) – Several individuals observed while in FNQ.
46. Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx basalis*) – Singles heard around Ouyen and Heathcote, with good views near Deniliquin.
47. Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*) – Singles heard and seen on multiple occasions during the trip.
48. Little Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx minutillus*) – Poor views of an individual along Stewart Creek Rd near Daintree, better views for some at KFP.
49. Pallid Cuckoo (*Cacomantis pallidus*) – Good flight views of a displaying individual near Heathcote, others heard here.
50. Fan-tailed Cuckoo ^e (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*) – Good views of a single at Tarzali Lakes, heard at Lamington NP.
51. Brush Cuckoo (*Cacomantis variolosus*) – A few individuals observed in FNQ.

FROGMOUTHS (*Podargidae*)

52. Tawny Frogmouth ^E (*Podargus strigoides*) – Great looks several different individuals during the trip – a nesting bird in Brisbane, roosting at Mt Carbine, and a pair spotlighted on the plains north of Deniliquin.
53. Marbled Frogmouth ^{eH} (*Podargus ocellatus*) – At least one bird heard repeatedly, but distantly while spotlighting at O'Reilly's.
54. Papuan Frogmouth (*Podargus papuensis*) – Close looks at a well-hidden roosting pair near Centenary Lakes in Cairns. A nesting bird also seen along the Daintree River.

OWLET-NIGHTJARS (*Aegothelidae*)

55. Australian Owlet-Nightjar ^E (*Aegotheles cristatus*) – Lovely views of a pair peeking out from hollows north of Deniliquin.

SWIFTS (*Apodidae*)

56. Australian Swiftlet ^E (*Aerodramus terraereginae*) – Tens on several days in FNQ, with good views along the Daintree River.

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS (*Rallidae*)

57. Black-tailed Nativehen ^E (*Tribonyx [Gallinula] ventralis*) – Common around northern Victoria and Deniliquin this year, with hundreds seen at a number of wetlands.
58. Australian [Spotted] Crake ^E (*Porzana fluminea*) – Fantastic looks at a minimum of nine individuals at an ephemeral wetland north of Deniliquin. Singles observed at the Bendigo and Swan Hill STW's also.
59. Dusky Moorhen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*) – Tens at Brisbane, Bells Swamp, and Bendigo STW.
60. Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) – Tens/hundreds at a number of wetlands during the trip.
61. Australasian Swamphehen (*Porphyrio melanotus*) – Tens/singles at several locations during the trip.
62. White-browed Crake (*Poliolimnas cinereus*) – Excellent looks at four brazen individuals along McDougall Rd near Julatten.
63. Pale-vented Bush-hen ^L (*Amaurornis moluccana*) – Heard only along Stewart Creek Rd near Daintree.
64. Red-necked Crake ^H (*Rallina tricolor*) – A single bird heard one morning at KFP.
65. Baillon's Crake (*Zapornia pusilla*) – Singles observed at the Bendigo and Swan Hill STW's, also a single north of Deniliquin.

CRANES (*Gruidae*)

66. Sarus Crane (*Antigone antigone*) – Great flight views near Granite Gorge, a mixed flock low overhead allowing close comparison with Brolga.
67. Brolga ^e (*Antigone rubicunda*) – At least 15 individuals observed near Granite Gorge, mostly in flight.

THICK-KNEES (*Burhinidae*)

68. Bush Thick-knee ^e (*Burhinus grallarius*) – Singles observed/heard every day in Queensland, including a now tame individual at O'Reilly's (affectionately known as 'Stanley').

STILTS & AVOCETS (*Recurvirostridae*)

69. Pied Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*) – Singles/tens observed at a number of wetlands during the trip.
70. Red-necked Avocet ^E (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*) – At least 60 individuals observed in a close flock at the Swan Hill STW.

OYSTERCATCHERS (*Haematopodidae*)

71. Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris*) – Singles observed on the Cairns Esplanade.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS (*Charadriidae*)

72. Banded Lapwing ^E (*Vanellus tricolor*) – Singles/tens observed around Deniliquin.
73. Masked Lapwing ^e (*Vanellus miles*) – Singles/tens most days of the trip.
74. Siberian Sand-Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) – Singles observed on the Cairns Esplanade. A recent split of Lesser Sand-Plover with the new ‘Siberian’ Sand-Plover being the more common species in Australia as opposed to ‘Tibetan’ Sand-Plover.
75. Greater Sand-Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultia*) – Singles observed on the Cairns Esplanade.
76. Red-capped Plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*) – Singles observed on the Cairns Esplanade and at Lake Kelly.
77. Red-kneed Dotterel ^E (*Erythronyx cinctus*) – Singles at the Swan Hill STW and north of Deniliquin.
78. Black-fronted Dotterel ^e (*Elseyornis melanops*) – Singles observed on the Cairns Esplanade and a couple of wetlands in Victoria.

PLAINS-WANDERER ^E (*Pedionomidae*)

79. Plains-wanderer ^E (*Rostratula australis*) – Two different pairs and a lone male seen exceedingly well and in record time. The highlight of a very memorable night on the plains north of Deniliquin.



A stunning female Plains-wanderer north of Deniliquin © Max Breckenridge

JACANAS (*Jacanidae*)

80. Comb-crested Jacana (*Irediparra gallinacea*) – Singles observed at a few wetlands in FNQ.

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES (*Scolopacidae*)

81. Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) – Singles/tens on the Cairns Esplanade.
82. Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) – Singles on the Cairns Esplanade.
83. Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) – Tens on the Cairns Esplanade.
84. Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) – Singles on Michaelmas Cay, picking through the nesting seabirds.
85. Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) – At least 60 individuals observed on the Cairns Esplanade.
86. Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) – A few individuals observed on the Cairns Esplanade.
87. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) – At least eight distant individuals on flooded paddocks near Deniliquin.
88. Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) – At least 20 individuals observed on the Cairns Esplanade.
89. Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) – At least five individuals observed at Fred Bucholz Park near Brisbane, and a single at Tarzali Lakes.
90. Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) – A single on the Cairns Esplanade.
91. Gray-tailed Tattler (*Tringa brevipes*) – At least 20 individuals observed on the Cairns Esplanade.

BUTTONQUAIL (*Turnicidae*)

92. Painted Buttonquail ^E (*Turnix varius*) – Unbelievable views of a pair in One Eye State Forest near Heathcote. Also heard in the mallee near Ouyen.
93. Little Buttonquail ^E (*Turnix velox*) – Excellent close looks in the spotlight of an individual on the plains north of Deniliquin, several others calling.

PRATINCOLES & COURSERS (*Glareolidae*)

94. Australian Pratincole (*Stiltia isabella*) – Excellent and unexpected views of a pair on the road while birding the plains north of Deniliquin.



Australian Pratincole north of Deniliquin © Max Breckenridge

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS (*Laridae*)

95. Silver Gull ^e (*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*) – Tens observed on several occasions during the trip.
96. Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) – Well over 4,000 birds on and around Michaelmas Cay.
97. Black Noddy (*Anous minutus*) – A couple observed during the boat trip out of Cairns.

98. Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) – Well over 8,000 birds on and around Michaelmas Cay.
99. Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) – At least nine individuals observed around Michaelmas Cay.
100. Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) – At least six individuals on the Cairns Esplanade.
101. Australian Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – Singles/tens along the Cairns Esplanade. Now split from ‘Gull-billed Tern’ which also occurs in Australia.
102. Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – Singles observed on the Cairns Esplanade.
103. Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) – Hundreds observed at the Swan Hill STW, and a single on the Cairns Esplanade.
104. Black-naped Tern (*Sterna sumatrana*) – A single individual observed during the boat trip out of Cairns.
105. Great Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bergii*) – Singles/tens mostly observed on the Cairns Esplanade and Michaelmas Cay.
106. Lesser Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bengalensis*) – At least 100 birds on Michaelmas Cay, some doing breeding displays.

STORKS (*Ciconiidae*)

107. Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) – Good looks at a single in a paddock close to KFP near Julatten.

FRIGATEBIRDS (*Fregatidae*)

108. Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) – A couple on Michaelmas Cay.

BOOBIES & GANNETS (*Sulidae*)

109. Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) – At least 200 birds, many nesting, on Michaelmas Cay.
110. Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) – At least 16 individuals observed around Michaelmas Cay.

ANHINGAS (*Anhingidae*)

111. Australasian Darter ° (*Anhinga novaehollandiae*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions during the trip, mostly in Queensland.

CORMORANTS & SHAGS (*Phalacrocoracidae*)

112. Little Pied Cormorant (*Microcarbo melanoleucos*) – Singles observed at most wetlands during the trip.
113. Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – Singles/tens on several occasions during the trip, with hundreds around Swan Hill.
114. Little Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) – Singles/tens on several occasions during the trip.
115. Pied Cormorant ° (*Phalacrocorax varius*) – At least three individuals observed at the Swan Hill STW.

PELICANS (*Pelecanidae*)

116. Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) – Singles at Fred Bucholz Park and the Cairns Esplanade, hundreds around Swan Hill.

HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS (*Ardeidae*)

117. Black Bittern (*Ixobrychus [Dupetor] flavicollis*) – Good flight views of a single on the Daintree River. One also observed along Bushy Creek at KFP by Barry while looking for Platypus!
118. Pacific [White-necked] Heron (*Ardea pacifica*) – Singles/tens observed on multiple occasions during the trip, mostly in Victoria and NSW.

119. Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) – Singles/tens at most wetlands, especially in FNQ.
120. Plumed Egret (*Ardea plumifera*) – Singles observed at several wetlands in Queensland. A recent three-way split from ‘Intermediate Egret’ with Plumed Egret being restricted to Australasia.
121. White-faced Heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*) – Singles observed most days of the trip.
122. Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) – Singles observed most days in FNQ, especially on the Cairns Esplanade.
123. Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*) – Tens/hundreds most days in Queensland. Now split from ‘Western Cattle Egret’.
124. Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) – A single on the Cairns Esplanade.
125. Nankeen Night-Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*) – Individuals observed on the Daintree and near Deniliquin.

IBISES & SPOONBILLS (*Threskiornithidae*)

126. Australian [White] Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) – Tens observed most days of the trip.
127. Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*) – Tens observed most days of the trip.
128. Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*) – Singles observed at Fred Bucholz Park and McDougall Rd near Julatten.
129. Yellow-billed Spoonbill ^E (*Platalea flavipes*) – Singles observed on several occasions in Victoria and NSW.



Brown Booby with chick from Michaelmas Cay © Barry Zimmer

OSPREY (*Pandionidae*)

130. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Singles observed on the Cairns Esplanade and over KFP.

HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES (*Accipitridae*)

131. Black-shouldered Kite ^E (*Elanus axillaris*) – Singles observed on several occasions during the trip, especially while driving around Swan Hill and Deniliquin.
132. Square-tailed Kite ^E (*Lophoictinia isura*) – A lucky sighting of a single bird cruising over the river red gum forests south of Deniliquin.
133. Pacific Baza (*Aviceda subcristata*) – Multiple birds observed on our first full day in FNQ, with great looks at Centenary Lakes.
134. Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*) – Singles observed perched at Mt Korong, and in flight around Deniliquin.
135. Swamp Harrier (*Circus approximans*) – Single birds observed at Bendigo and Swan Hill STW's.
136. Spotted Harrier ^E (*Circus assimilis*) – A few singles observed around Ouyen and Deniliquin, with particularly good looks at a quartering adult just south of Ouyen.
137. Gray Goshawk ^E (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*) – A couple of brief sightings in FNQ.
138. Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus*) – Just a couple of singles near Brisbane and Deniliquin.
139. Collared Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*) – A single observed in the mallee north of Ouyen.
140. Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) – Tens/singles most days in FNQ and NSW.
141. Whistling Kite (*Haliastur sphenurus*) – Singles observed most days of the trip.
142. Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) – A few singles observed in FNQ.
143. White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) – A few singles observed in FNQ.

BARN-OWLS (*Tytonidae*)

144. Sooty Owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*) – Tough but rewarding views of a calling bird for some of us while spotlighting at O'Reilly's.
 - a. 'Lesser Sooty Owl' ^H (*T. tenebricosa multipunctata*) – A single of the distinctive FNQ race heard calling one morning at KFP.
145. Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) – Good views of a nesting pair and few beside the road north of Deniliquin, also heard at KFP.

OWLS (*Strigidae*)

146. Southern Boobook ^H (*Ninox boobook*) – Very briefly seen by some, but mainly just heard on the plains north of Deniliquin.

KINGFISHERS (*Alcedinidae*)

147. Azure Kingfisher (*Ceyx [Alcedo] azureus*) – A few singles observed along Brushy Creek at KFP, with much better views on the Daintree.
148. Laughing Kookaburra ^E (*Dacelo novaeguineae*) – Singles/tens most days of the trip.
149. Blue-winged Kookaburra (*Dacelo leachii*) – Fantastic, close looks at multiple individuals at Mt Carbine Caravan Park – a spectacular and gigantic kingfisher.
150. Red-backed Kingfisher ^E (*Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*) – Great looks at a territorial pair of these aquaphobic kingfishers just south of Ouyen.
151. Forest Kingfisher (*Todiramphus macleayii*) – Singles observed most days around FNQ.
152. Sacred Kingfisher (*Todiramphus sanctus*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions during the trip.

BEE-EATERS (*Meropidae*)

153. Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) – Tens observed at multiple locations during the trip.

DOLLARBIRD (*Coraciidae*)

154. Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) – A single near Brisbane and on the Daintree.

FALCONS & CARACARAS (*Falconidae*)

- 155. Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*) – Singles observed most days of the trip, especially around Deniliquin.
- 156. Australian Hobby (*Falco longipennis*) – A couple of singles around Deniliquin.
- 157. Brown Falcon (*Falco berigora*) – Singles most days in Victoria and NSW.
- 158. Black Falcon ^E (*Falco subniger*) – Decent views of a single bird in a small area of eucalypts on the plains north of Deniliquin.

COCKATOOS (*Cacatuidae*)

- 159. Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo ^E (*Calyptorhynchus banksia*) – Tens over Centenary Lakes and nice looks at a flock of 50 in fields near Atherton.
- 160. Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo ^{EL} (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*) – A pair briefly seen flying over the highway south of Bendigo.
- 161. Pink Cockatoo ^E (*Lophochroa leadbeateri*) – Great looks at a trio right outside our hotel in Ouyen on several occasions.
- 162. Galah ^E (*Eolophus roseicapilla*) – Tens/hundreds observed on multiple occasions during the trip, generally in drier habitats.
- 163. Long-billed Corella ^E (*Cacatua tenuirostris*) – Tens/singles most days in Victoria and NSW, also a pair at Fred Bucholz Park near Brisbane.
- 164. Little Corella (*Cacatua sanguinea*) – Singles/tens on multiple occasions during the trip.
- 165. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo ^E (*Cacatua galerita*) – Singles/tens observed most days of the trip.
- 166. Cockatiel ^E (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) – Just a couple of pairs briefly seen near Ouyen.

OLD WORLD PARROTS (*Psittaculidae*)

- 167. Superb Parrot ^E (*Polytelis swainsonii*) – Wonderful views of up to 15 individuals, mostly adult males, in river red gum forest south of Deniliquin.
- 168. Regent Parrot ^E (*Polytelis anthopeplus*) – Up to 60 birds seen during our full day around the Ouyen area.
- 169. Australian King-Parrot ^E (*Alisterus anthopeplus*) – Exceedingly common and confiding at O'Reilly's.
- 170. Red-winged Parrot (*Aprosmictus erythropterus*) – Great looks at a pair at the Mt Carbine Caravan Park.
- 171. Blue-winged Parrot ^E (*Neophema chrysostoma*) – A few singles observed at 'The Farm' near Ouyen.
- 172. Australian Ringneck ^E (*Barnardius zonarius*) – A pair observed at 'The Farm' near Ouyen.
- 173. Crimson Rosella ^E (*Platycercus elegans*) – The nominate race is exceedingly common and confiding at O'Reilly's.
 - a. 'Yellow Rosella' ^E (*P. elegans flaveolus*) – Singles of the distinctive yellow form observed around Deniliquin.
- 174. Eastern Rosella ^E (*Platycercus eximius*) – Singles/tens most days in Victoria and NSW.
- 175. Pale-headed Rosella ^E (*Platycercus adscitus*) – Great looks at up to eight birds at Mt Carbine and a few singles at Granite Gorge.
- 176. Greater Bluebonnet ^E (*Northiella haematogaster*) – Common around Ouyen and Deniliquin, but tricky to see well, with singles/tens each day. A few perched birds observed between Ouyen and Swan Hill.
- 177. Red-rumped Parrot ^E (*Psephotus haematonotus*) – Tens most days in Victoria and NSW.
- 178. Mulga Parrot ^E (*Psephotus varius*) – A few singles observed in the mallee north of Ouyen.

179. Double-eyed Fig-Parrot (*Cyclopsitta diophthalma*) – Great looks at several birds at Centenary Lakes.
180. Budgerigar ^E (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) – Fantastic looks at a small flock mixing with woodswallows at ‘The Farm’ near Ouyen.
181. Musk Lorikeet ^E (*Glossopsitta concinna*) – Singles/tens around Bendigo and Heathcote.
182. Scaly-breasted Lorikeet ^E (*Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*) – Singles in SEQ and FNQ, with good views at the Mareeba Leagues Club.
183. Rainbow Lorikeet ^E (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) – Tens observed most days of the trip, especially in FNQ.

PITTAS (*Pittidae*)

184. Noisy Pitta ^E (*Pitta versicolor*) – A calling individual seen fairly well at Lamington NP, also heard on Mt Lewis.

LYREBIRDS ^E (*Menuridae*)

185. Albert’s Lyrebird ^E (*Menura alberti*) – We were very lucky to encounter several individuals each day around the lodge at O’Reilly’s.



Albert's Lyrebird performed beautifully for us at O'Reilly's © Max Breckenridge

BOWERBIRDS (*Ptilonorhynchidae*)

186. Spotted Catbird ^E (*Ailuroedus maculosus*) – Several calling individuals refused to show on Mt Lewis, with a brief sighting near the Daintree the following day being our only sighting.
187. Green Catbird ^E (*Ailuroedus crassirostris*) – Several individuals observed/heard on our first afternoon at O’Reilly’s.
188. Tooth-billed Bowerbird ^E (*Scenopoeetes dentirostris*) – Several males singing on Mt Lewis, with a couple of brief views, but much better scope views of a male at Lake Eacham.

189. Regent Bowerbird ^E (*Sericulus chrysocephalus*) – Common and conspicuous at O'Reilly's.
190. Satin Bowerbird ^E (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*) – Also common at O'Reilly's, including a couple of bowers.
191. Great Bowerbird ^E (*Chlamydera nuchalis*) – Singles at Mareeba and Mt Carbine, including a couple of impressive bowers.

AUSTRALASIAN TREECREEPERS (*Climacteridae*)

192. White-throated Treecreeper ^E (*Corombates leucophaea*) – Singles heard and seen on a number of occasions during the trip.
193. Red-browed Treecreeper ^E (*Climacteris erythrops*) – Brief views of a single in Lamington NP, another pair heard only. At the northern limit of their distribution in SEQ.
194. Brown Treecreeper ^E (*Climacteris picumnus*) – Several individuals observed around Deniliquin, heard at a couple of sites in Victoria.

FAIRYWRENS (*Maluridae*)

195. Purple-backed Fairywren ^E (*Malurus assimilis*) – Parties observed around Ouyen and Deniliquin.
196. Lovely Fairywren ^E (*Malurus amabilis*) – Tough views of a pair of these often canopy-dwelling fairywrens near Daintree.
197. Splendid Fairywren ^E (*Malurus splendens*) – Fantastic views of several confiding males and a number of females around Ouyen.
198. Superb Fairywren ^E (*Malurus cyaneus*) – Singles/tens around O'Reilly's, Bendigo and Deniliquin.
199. White-winged Fairywren ^E (*Malurus leucopterus*) – Common on the plains north of Deniliquin, but tricky to get close looks at the stunning males!
200. Red-backed Fairywren ^E (*Malurus melanocephalus*) – Great looks at a family party with two striking males in Mareeba.

HONEYEATERS (*Meliphagidae*)

201. Eastern Spinebill ^E (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*) – Singles observed at Lamington NP, and heard at Mt Lewis.
202. Yellow-spotted Honeyeater ^E (*Meliphaga notata*) – Common in rainforest in FNQ.
203. Lewin's Honeyeater ^E (*Meliphaga lewinii*) – Common and confiding at O'Reilly's, seen also on Mt Lewis and at KFP.
204. Cryptic Honeyeater ^E (*Microptilotis imitatrix*) – A recent split from 'Graceful Honeyeater' – singles observed each day at KFP, quite common once you're familiar with their short "tup" calls.
205. Yellow Honeyeater ^E (*Stomiopera flava*) – Singles observed at Centenary Lakes and Mt Carbine.
206. White-fronted Honeyeater ^E (*Purnella [Phylidornis] albrifrons*) – At least 15 individuals observed/heard at 'The Farm' near Ouyen.
207. Yellow-faced Honeyeater ^E (*Caligavis chrysops*) – Common around Lamington NP and KFP.
208. Yellow-tufted Honeyeater ^E (*Lichenostomus melanops*) – Tens of these striking yellow and black honeyeaters One Eye SF near Heathcote.
209. Noisy Miner ^E (*Manorina melanocephala*) – Common around Brisbane, Bendigo and Deniliquin.
210. Yellow-throated Miner ^E (*Manorina flavigula*) – The dominant miner in the mallee around Ouyen.
211. Bridled Honeyeater ^E (*Bloemoreus frenatus*) – Up to ten individuals observed on Mt Lewis, and a couple of individuals attracted to flowering trees at KFP.
212. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater ^E (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) – Tens around Ouyen and Deniliquin.

213. Red Wattlebird ^E (*Anthochaera carunculata*) – Tens/singles each day in Victoria.
214. Varied Honeyeater (*Gavicalis versicolor*) – Several birds observed on the Cairns Esplanade.
215. Singing Honeyeater ^E (*Gavicalis vireescens*) – Singles around Ouyen and Deniliquin.
216. Yellow-plumed Honeyeater ^E (*Ptilotula ornata*) – Singles in the mallee around Ouyen.
217. White-plumed Honeyeater ^E (*Ptilotula penicillate*) – Tens observed most days in Victoria and NSW – the common small honeyeater.
218. Fuscous Honeyeater ^E (*Ptilotula fusca*) – Up to 30 birds observed/heard at One Eye SF near Heathcote.
219. Brown-backed Honeyeater (*Ramsayornis modestus*) – Several observed at Centenary Lakes in Cairns and McDougall Rd near Julatten.
220. White-fronted Chat ^E (*Epthianura albifrons*) – A large flock at an ephemeral wetland north of Deniliquin, including several sharp males.
221. Black Honeyeater ^E (*Sugomel [Certhinyx] nigrum*) – Very common in the mallee near Ouyen this year with lots of great views. Also a few singles observed north of Deniliquin.
222. Dusky Myzomela (*Myzomela obscura*) – Singles/tens each day in FNQ.
223. Scarlet Myzomela ^E (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*) – Good views of several gorgeous males feeding in flowering callistemons at O'Reilly's. Also heard most days in FNQ.
224. Brown Honeyeater (*Lichmera indistincta*) – Singles most days in FNQ, also seen in Brisbane.
225. New Holland Honeyeater ^E (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*) – Surprisingly quite a few individuals observed in northern Victoria this year, especially in Ouyen itself.
226. White-eared Honeyeater ^E (*Nesoptilotis leucotis*) – Singles at Kamarooka and Ouyen.
227. Blue-faced Honeyeater (*Entomyzon cyanotis*) – Singles/tens on multiple occasions during the trip.
228. White-throated Honeyeater (*Melithreptus albogularis*) – Singles/tens observed/heard most days in FNQ.
229. White-naped Honeyeater ^E (*Melithreptus lunatus*) – Up to ten individuals observed/heard in Lamington NP.
230. Brown-headed Honeyeater ^E (*Melithreptus brevirostris*) – Singles observed in the mallee near Ouyen and One Eye SF near Heathcote.
231. Black-chinned Honeyeater ^E (*Melithreptus gularis*) – Great looks at a small party in One Eye SF near Heathcote.
232. Macleay's Honeyeater ^E (*Xanthotis macleayanus*) – Singles each day at KFP.
233. Striped Honeyeater ^E (*Plectorhyncha lanceolata*) – A pair seen briefly near Ouyen, heard in Brisbane.
234. Painted Honeyeater ^E (*Grantiella picta*) – Fantastic looks at this beautiful honeyeater which specializes on mistletoe at Mt Korong.
235. Little Friarbird (*Philemon citreogularis*) – Singles on a few occasions during the trip.
236. Helmeted Friarbird (*Philemon buceroides*) – Singles near the coast in FNQ.
237. Noisy Friarbird (*Philemon corniculatus*) – Singles on multiple occasions during the trip.



Scarlet Myzomela feeding in Callistemon at O'Reilly's © Max Breckenridge

PARDALOTES^E (*Pardalotidae*)

- 238. Spotted Pardalote^E (*Pardalotus punctatus*) – Good views in the mallee near Ouyen, also heard in Lamington NP.
- 239. Striated Pardalote^E (*Pardalotus striatus*) – Singles observed most days in Victoria and NSW, heard a few times in Queensland.

THORNBILLS & ALLIES (*Acanthizidae*)

- 240. Fernwren^{EH} (*Oreoscopus gutturalis*) – Several birds heard on Mt Lewis.
- 241. Yellow-throated Scrubwren^E (*Sericornis citreogularis*) – Very common at O'Reilly's and along the track at Mt Lewis.
- 242. White-browed Scrubwren^E (*Sericornis frontalis*) – Very common and confiding at O'Reilly's.
- 243. Atherton Scrubwren^E (*Sericornis keri*) – At least four individuals observed on Mt Lewis.
- 244. Large-billed Scrubwren^E (*Sericornis magnirostra*) – Singles at Lamington NP, Mt Lewis, and KFP.
- 245. Shy Heathwren^E (*Hylacola cauta*) – At least two of these often-skulking songsters seen well by most at Kamarooka.
- 246. Buff-rumped Thornbill^E (*Acanthiza reguloides*) – At least ten individuals observed in river red gum forest south of Deniliquin.
- 247. Mountain Thornbill^E (*Acanthiza katherina*) – Several individuals seen well along the track at Mt Lewis.
- 248. Brown Thornbill^E (*Acanthiza pusilla*) – Singles at O'Reilly's.
- 249. Inland Thornbill^E (*Acanthiza apicalis*) – Singles in the mallee around Ouyen.
- 250. Yellow-rumped Thornbill^E (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) – Singles observed most days in Victoria and NSW.
- 251. Yellow Thornbill^E (*Acanthiza nana*) – Singles observed on multiple occasions during the trip.

- 252. Striated Thornbill ^E (*Acanthiza lineata*) – Singles in Lamington NP.
- 253. Weebill ^E (*Smicromis brevirostris*) – Singles observed around Ouyen and Deniliquin.
- 254. Fairy Gerygone ^H (*Gerygone palpebrosa*) – A couple of individuals heard in FNQ.
- 255. Large-billed Gerygone (*Gerygone magnirostris*) – Singles observed near KFP and along the Daintree.
- 256. Brown Gerygone ^E (*Gerygone mouki*) – Common at O'Reilly's and a few observed in FNQ.
- 257. Western Gerygone ^E (*Gerygone fusca*) – A few singles observed/heard around Deniliquin.
- 258. Southern Whiteface ^E (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) – Good looks at a couple of small parties at Mt Korong and 'The Farm' near Ouyen.

PSEUDO-BABLERS (*Pomatostomidae*)

- 259. Gray-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis*) – Good looks at a trio at Granite Gorge.
- 260. White-browed Babbler ^E (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*) – Singles/tens in the mallee near Ouyen, heard near Deniliquin.

LOGRUNNERS (*Orthonychidae*)

- 261. Australian Logrunner ^E (*Orthonyx temminckii*) – Multiple individuals observed at close range each day around O'Reilly's.
- 262. Chowchilla ^E (*Orthonyx spaldingii*) – A family party observed beside the road on Mt Lewis.

QUAIL-THRUSHES & JEWEL-BABLERS (*Cinclosomatidae*)

- 263. Chestnut Quail-thrush ^E (*Cinclosoma castanotum*) – Great looks at a single female nonchalantly walking around us while watching Malleefowl at 'The Farm' near Ouyen.

CUCKOO-SHRIKES (*Campephagidae*)

- 264. Barred [Yellow-eyed] Cuckooshrike ^H (*Coracina lineata*) – Heard at Lake Eacham.
- 265. Black-faced Cuckooshrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*) – Singles observed most days of the trip.
- 266. White-bellied Cuckooshrike (*Coracina papuensis*) – Singles observed most days in FNQ. Heard in One Eye SF near Heathcote.
- 267. White-winged Triller (*Lalage tricolor*) – Common around Ouyen this year, with tens seen. A few singles also around Deniliquin.
- 268. Varied Triller (*Lalage leucomela*) – Singles observed/heard most days in FNQ.

SITTELLAS (*Neosittidae*)

- 269. Varied Sittella ^E (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*) – Good views of two pairs, including one nest-building, in river red gum forest south of Deniliquin.

WHIPBIRDS & WEDGEBILLS (*Psophodidae*)

- 270. Eastern Whipbird ^E (*Psophodes olivaceus*) – Multiple birds seen very well at O'Reilly's and on Mt Lewis.
- 271. Crested Bellbird ^{EH} (*Oreoica gutturalis*) – Two different individuals heard at 'The Farm' near Ouyen.

SHRIKE-TITS ^E (*Falcunculidae*)

- 272. Eastern Shrike-tit ^E (*Falcunculus frontatus*) – Recently split from 'Crested Shrike-tit' – we observed a couple of pairs in Lamington NP and One Eye SF near Heathcote.

WHISTLERS & ALLIES (*Pachycephalidae*)

- 273. Bower's Shrikethrush ^E (*Colluricincla boweri*) – Several birds observed along the track on Mt Lewis.
- 274. Gray Shrikethrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*) – Singles heard/observed on multiple occasions during the trip.
- 275. Rufous Shrikethrush (*Colluricincla rufogaster*) – The common rainforest shrikethrush in FNQ, but sometimes tricky to see. We eventually had good views at Lake Eacham.
- 276. Gilbert's Whistler ^E (*Pachycephala inornata*) – Surprisingly good views of two different calling males at Mt Korong and in mallee north of Ouyen.
- 277. Golden Whistler ^E (*Pachycephala pectoralis*) – Singles observed each day at Lamington NP, also on Mt Lewis and Lake Eacham.
- 278. Western Whistler ^E (*Pachycephala occidentalis*) – A single female observed in Kamarooka.
- 279. Gray Whistler (*Pachycephala simplex*) – Heard most days in FNQ, with at least one observed at KFP.
- 280. Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*) – Tens/singles most days in Victoria and NSW.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES (*Oriolidae*)

- 281. Olive-[Brown]-backed Oriole (*Oriolus sagittatus*) – Singles observed in Brisbane and Cairns, heard near Heathcote.
- 282. Green [Yellow] Oriole (*Oriolus flavocinctus*) – Singles observed along the Daintree River.
- 283. Australasian Figbird (*Sphecotheres vieilloti*) – Tens every day in FNQ and Brisbane.

BOATBILLS (*Machaerirhynchidae*)

- 284. Yellow-breasted Boatbill (*Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*) – Great looks at one of these dainty and striking rainforest inhabitants in the grounds of KFP on our first afternoon. Heard/seen here each day during our stay.

WOODSWALLOWS, BELLMAGPIES & ALLIES (*Artamidae*)

- 285. White-breasted Woodswallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*) – Singles/tens every day in FNQ and Victoria.
- 286. Masked Woodswallow ^E (*Artamus personatus*) – Tens mixed with White-browed Woodswallow in the mallee around Ouyen.
- 287. White-browed Woodswallow ^E (*Artamus superciliosus*) – Tens/hundreds each day in Victoria and NSW.
- 288. Black-faced Woodswallow ^E (*Artamus cinereus*) – Nice views of a pair on the plains north of Deniliquin.
- 289. Dusky Woodswallow ^E (*Artamus cyanopterus*) – Singles around Deniliquin and Heathcote.
- 290. Gray Butcherbird ^E (*Cracticus torquatus*) – Singles observed in Brisbane and Ouyen.
- 291. Pied Butcherbird ^E (*Cracticus nigrogularis*) – Singles observed most days of the trip.
- 292. Black Butcherbird (*Cracticus quoyi*) – Good views of several at Centenary Lakes and along the Daintree.
- 293. Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) – Singles/tens most days of the trip, less common in FNQ.
- 294. Pied Currawong ^E (*Strepera graculina*) – Common at O'Reilly's, a few singles in FNQ.
- 295. Gray Currawong ^L (*Strepera versicolor*) – One heard and seen briefly near Ouyen.



Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroo from Nerada on the Atherton Tablelands © Barry Zimmer

FANTAILS (*Rhipiduridae*)

- 296. Willie-wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) – Singles/tens observed every day of the trip.
- 297. Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons*) – Singles observed at Lamington NP.
- 298. Gray Fantail (*Rhipidura albiscapa*) – Singles observed and heard on a number of occasions during the trip.

DRONGOS (*Dicruridae*)

- 299. Spangled Drongo (*Dicrurus bracteatus*) – Singles/tens observed most days in FNQ.

BIRDS-OF-PARADISE (*Paradisaeidae*)

- 300. Paradise Riflebird ^E (*Ptiloris paradiseus*) – Extended views of a female feeding along the main road through Lamington NP, others heard.
- 301. Victoria's Riflebird ^E (*Ptiloris victoriae*) – Poor views of a male on Mt Lewis, several others heard.

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS (*Monarchidae*)

- 302. White-eared Monarch ^E (*Carterornis leucotis*) – We were fortunate to come across a confiding pair in Lamington NP. One also seen on the lower slopes of Mt Lewis.
- 303. Black-faced Monarch (*Monarcha melanopsis*) – Singles observed in Lamington NP and at KFP.
- 304. Spectacled Monarch (*Symposiachrus trivirgatus*) – Singles observed most days in FNQ.
- 305. Pied Monarch ^E (*Arses kaupi*) – Great looks at a pair near at Lake Eacham.
- 306. Magpie-lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) – Singles/tens most days of the trip.

- 307. Leaden Flycatcher ^H (*Myiagra rubecula*) – A single bird heard at Edward's Park in Brisbane.
- 308. Satin Flycatcher (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*) – Two different males on transit observed while in FNQ, one on Mt Lewis and the other along the Daintree.
- 309. Restless Flycatcher ^E (*Myiagra inquieta*) – A single bird seen well at One Eye SF near Heathcote.
- 310. Shining Flycatcher (*Myiagra alecto*) – Common along the Daintree River.

WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH AND APOSTLEBIRD ^E (*Corcoracidae*)

- 311. White-winged Chough ^E (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*) – Tens/singles every day in Victoria and NSW.
- 312. Apostlebird ^E (*Struthidea cinerea*) – Tens observed at Mt Carbine Caravan Park.

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES (*Corvidae*)

- 313. Torresian Crow (*Corvus orru*) – The default corvid in Queensland, singles/tens most days.
- 314. Australian Raven ^E (*Corvus coronoides*) – Singles observed mostly around Deniliquin.
- 315. Little Raven ^E (*Corvus mellori*) – The default corvid in Victoria, tens/hundreds observed most days, including around Deniliquin.

AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS (*Petroicidae*)

- 316. Jacky-winter (*Microeca fascians*) – At least five individuals observed in river red gum forest south of Deniliquin.
- 317. Lemon-bellied Flycatcher ^H (*Microeca flavigaster*) – Heard early in the morning at KFP.
- 318. Rose Robin ^E (*Petroica rosea*) – Several individuals, including some gorgeous males, observed in Lamington NP.
- 319. Red-capped Robin ^E (*Petroica goodenovii*) – A stunning male was seen very well near Deniliquin and a few others were observed near Ouyen.
- 320. Hooded Robin ^E (*Melanodryas cucullata*) – A female with one fledged youngster observed near Deniliquin.
- 321. Pale-yellow Robin ^E (*Tregellasia capito*) – Singles observed each day at KFP, also at Lake Eacham.
- 322. Eastern Yellow Robin ^E (*Eopsaltria australis*) – Common and conspicuous around O'Reilly's. A nesting bird also seen near Heathcote.
- 323. Gray-headed Robin ^E (*Heteromyias cinereifrons*) – Several birds eventually seen after much calling on Mt Lewis.
- 324. Southern Scrub-Robin ^E (*Drymodes brunneopygia*) – Unbeatable views of a calling bird at 'The Farm' near Ouyen – typically a secretive bird of dense mallee thickets.

LARKS (*Alaudidae*)

- 325. Horsfield's [Australasian] Bushlark (*Mirafra javanica*) – Several individuals observed on the plains around Deniliquin.

CISTICOLAS & ALLIES (*Cisticolidae*)

- 326. Golden-[Bright]-headed Cisticola (*Cisticola exilis*) – Just a single on the first day at Fred Bucholz Park near Brisbane.

REED WARBLERS & ALLIES (*Acrocephalidae*)

- 327. Australian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*) – At least two individuals observed at the lake near our hotel in Brisbane.

GRASSBIRDS & ALLIES (*Locustellidae*)

- 328. Little Grassbird (*Poodytes gramineus*) – Singles observed at the Swan Hill STW and at an ephemeral wetland north of Deniliquin.
- 329. Brown Songlark ^E (*Cincloramphus cruralis*) – A nomadic species, with singles observed heard/observed on the plains around Ouyen and Deniliquin.
- 330. Rufous Songlark ^E (*Cincloramphus mathewsi*) – Singles heard/observed each day in Victoria and NSW.
- 331. Tawny Grassbird (*Cincloramphus timoriensis*) – A single bird seen distantly in tall grass surrounding a dam near Yungaburra.



Black-faced Monarch at O'Reilly's © Max Breckenridge

SWALLOWS (*Hirundinidae*)

- 332. Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) – Singles/tens every day of the trip.
- 333. Fairy Martin (*Petrochelidon ariel*) – Singles/tens observed around Ouyen and Deniliquin.
- 334. Tree Martin (*Petrochelidon nigricans*) – Singles/tens observed on a number of occasions during the trip.
- 335. White-backed Swallow ^E (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*) – Great looks at a couple of individuals near Ouyen. One of the world's best hirundines.

WHITE-EYES, YUHNAS & ALLIES (*Zosteropidae*)

- 336. Silveryeye (*Zosterops lateralis*) – Singles heard/observed on multiple occasions during the trip.

STARLINGS (*Sturnidae*)

- 337. Metallic Starling (*Aplonis metallica*) – Hundreds each day in FNQ, including a spectacular wheeling flock at KFP where they nest communally.
- 338. European Starling ^I (*Sturnus vulgaris*) – Hundreds/tens every day in Victoria and NSW.

339. Common Myna ^I (*Acridotheres tristis*) – Singles most days of the trip away from dense forest.

THRUSHES & ALLIES (*Turdidae*)

340. Bassian Thrush ^E (*Zoothera luneata*) – A couple of individuals observed at O'Reilly's.
341. Eurasian Blackbird ^I (*Turdus merula*) – Singles most day in Victoria and NSW, typically around towns.

FLOWERPECKERS (*Dicaeidae*)

342. Mistletoebird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*) – Singles observed/heard on multiple occasions during the trip.

SUNBIRDS & SPIDERHUNTERS (*Nectariniidae*)

343. Sahul Sunbird (*Cinnyris frenatis*) – A recent split from 'Olive-backed Sunbird' – singles observed most days in FNQ.

WAXBILLS & ALLIES (*Estrilidae*)

344. Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*) – Brief looks at a pair at Mt Korong, and very good views of a male perched up south of Deniliquin.
345. Red-browed Firetail ^E (*Neochmia temporalis*) – Tens most days in Queensland – common around the feeders at O'Reilly's and KFP.
346. Double-barred Finch ^E (*Taeniopygia bichenovii*) – Brief views of a pair at the lake near our hotel in Brisbane.
347. Scaly-breasted Munia ^I (*Lonchura punctulata*) – Singles observed near Etty Bay.
348. Chestnut-breasted Munia (*Lonchura castaneothorax*) – Tens each day at KFP where they come in to the feeders.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS (*Passeridae*)

349. House Sparrow ^I (*Passer domesticus*) – Singles/tens most days of the trip in urban areas.

WAGTAILS & PIPTS (*Motacillidae*)

350. Australian Pipit (*Anthus australis*) – Singles around Ouyen and Deniliquin.

MAMMALS

PLATYPUS ^E (*Ornithorhynchidae*)

1. Platypus ^E (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) – We were fortunate to have two different sightings of Platypus while in FNQ. A pair were seen in dark conditions on our first afternoon at KFP in Brushy Creek, but these were complemented by amazing views of at least two individuals in the early afternoon at Tarzali Lakes.



Platypus showed especially well this year © Max Breckenridge

ECHIDNAS (*Tachyglossidae*)

2. Short-beaked Echidna ^E (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) – Good views of one beside the road while driving between Heathcote and Melbourne – a great jag on our final day of the trip!

MARSUPIAL MICE, QUOLLS & RELATIVES (*Dasyuridae*)

3. Yellow-footed Antechinus (*Antechinus flavipes*) – A single animal seen by most at Bells Swamp.

BANDICOOTS (*Peramelidae*)

4. Long-nosed Bandicoot (*Parameles nasuta*) – One seen on the road at night near KFP.
5. Northern Brown Bandicoot ^E (*Isodon macrourus*) – At least one spotlight on the grounds at KFP.

KOALA ^E (*Phascolarctidae*)

6. Koala ^E (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) – Our first mammal of the tour, and what an animal, was a female Koala with a joey at Edward's Park in Brisbane.

BRUSHTAIL POSSUMS & CUSCUSES (*Phalangeridae*)

7. Common Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) – A couple of individuals spotlighted at O'Reilly's and near Deniliquin.
8. Mountain Brushtail Possum ^E (*Trichosurus cunninhami*) – A single adult observed at O'Reilly's one night.

GLIDERS (*Petauridae*)

9. Striped Possum (*Dactylopsila trivirgata*) – Excellent views of an individual while spotlighting at O'Reilly's – a stunning animal.

RINGTAIL POSSUMS & RELATIVES (*Pseudocheiridae*)

10. Common Ringtail Possum^E (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*) – Several individuals observed in the spotlight at O'Reilly's.



Striped Possum spotlit at Kingfisher Park © Barry Zimmer

RAT KANGAROO

11. Musky Rat Kangaroo (*Hypsiprymnodon moschatus*) – A couple of individuals seen briefly on Mt Lewis.

MACROPODS^e (*Macropodidae*)

12. Western Gray Kangaroo^E (*Macropus fuliginosus*) – Tens on the plains north of Deniliquin.
13. Red Kangaroo^E (*Macropus rufus*) – Singles at 'The Farm' near Ouyen, and tens on the plains north of Deniliquin.
14. Eastern Gray Kangaroo^E (*Macropus giganteus*) – Tens most days in Victoria.
15. Pretty-face [Whiptail] Wallaby^E (*Macropus parryi*) – Great looks at a trio of these beautiful macropods on the road up to O'Reilly's.
16. Agile Wallaby^e (*Macropus agilis*) – Tens observed along West Maryfarms Rd.
17. Mareeba Rock-wallaby^E (*Petrogale mareeba*) – As always, confiding and very cute at Granite Gorge, with at least three individuals observed.
18. Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroo (*Dendrolagus lumholtzi*) – Excellent views of two adults and a youngster at Nerada.
19. Red-legged Pademelon (*Thylogale stigmatica*) – Singles observed while spotlighting at KFP.
20. Red-necked Pademelon^E (*Thylogale thetis*) – Singles/tens observed at O'Reilly's.

FLYING FOXES / FRUIT BATS (*Pteropodidae*)

21. Black Flying-fox (*Pteropus alecto*) – At least 30 individuals amongst a huge roost of Gray-headed Flying-foxes in Canungra.
22. Spectacled Flying-fox (*Pteropus conspicillatus*) – A couple of large roosts around Daintree, a single seen while spotlighting a KFP also.
23. Gray-headed Flying-fox ^E (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) – Hundreds observed at a roost in Canungra.

MICE, RATS & RELATIVES (*Muridae*)

24. House Mouse ^{IL} (*Mus musculus*) – A single observed while spotlighting on the plains north of Deniliquin.
25. Bush Rat ^E (*Rattus fuscipes*) – Singles at O'Reilly's and KFP.
26. Fawn-footed Melomys (*Melomys cervinipes*) – A single spotlighted at KFP.

DOGS (*Canidae*)

27. Red Fox ^I (*Vulpes vulpes*) – One seen during the day on the plains north of Deniliquin.

RABBITS (*Leporidae*)

28. European Rabbit ^I (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) – Singles/tens most days around Ouyen and Deniliquin.
29. European Hare ^I (*Lepus europaeus*) – Singles most days around Ouyen and Deniliquin.

REPTILES

CROCODILES (*Crocodylidae*)

Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) – Two individuals observed along the Daintree River.

MARINE TURTLES (*Cheloniidae*)

Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) – Singles seen near Michaelmas Cay.

SIDE-NECK TURTLES (*Chelidae*)

Saw-shelled Turtle (*Myuchelys latisternum*) – Single seen at a dam along McDougall Rd near Julatten.

DRAGONS & IGUANIAN LIZARDS (*Agamidae*)

Eastern Bearded Dragon ^E (*Pogona barbata*) – Several observed on the plains north of Deniliquin.

Eastern Water Dragon ^E (*Intellagama lesueurii*) – Several observed at a lake near our hotel in Brisbane.

SKINKS (*Scincidae*)

Shingleback ^E (*Tiliqua rugosa*) – A single of this unique reptile seen along the track at 'The Farm' near Ouyen.

Major Skink (*Bellatorias frerei*) – A couple of these very large skinks observed at KFP.

GECKOS (*Gekkonidae*)

Northern Leaf-tailed Gecko (*Saltuarius cornutus*) – Great looks at a stunning individual in the spotlight at KFP.

Asian House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) – Commonly heard and seen at night in FNQ.

ELAPIDS (*Elapidae*)

Eastern Brown Snake ^e (*Pseudonaja textilis*) – A single observed crossing the road near Swan Hill.

Red-bellied Black Snake ^E (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*) – A single observed crossing the road near Swan Hill.