

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

**OCTOBER 4–21, 2019**



Australian Pratincole © Max Breckenridge

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VENT's Grand Australia Tour has been a staple offering for almost two decades now, led by the insatiable Dion Hobcroft. Dion's skills as a tour leader and his extensive knowledge of Australia, his home country, meant that the tour has grown immensely in popularity over the years. As such, in 2019, for the first time, VENT offered two subsequent trips for both Part I, Part II, and the extension to Tasmania. I was the primary leader for the first run of Grand Australia, with Dion to follow a week later (and David James in Tasmania). My co-leaders were the two Zimmer brothers, Kevin and Barry, who are two of VENT's long-serving and most popular tour leaders. Barry joined me for Part I and Kevin was with me for three weeks during Part II and Tasmania. I learned a great deal from both and enjoyed their company immensely, making the whole five weeks of touring very enjoyable. Thanks are definitely in order to both Barry and Kevin, but also to Dion and David for their work in creating these tours. Of course, I must also thank Victor and Barry Lyon for their foresight and for putting their trust in me, as well as the office staff, in particular Erik and Rene, for making it all happen. Lastly, thank you to those of you reading this – the tour participants – you make these trips possible, and I hope you enjoyed your time down under just as much as I enjoyed showing you around!

Part II of Grand Australia visits three remarkably diverse and distinct regions of Australia during the southern hemisphere spring. We start in the state capital of Queensland – Brisbane, visiting the world-famous O'Reilly's before flying to the endemic-rich region of Far North Queensland (FNQ). After a week of subtropical birding, we then retreat southwards to the open plains and temperate woodlands of central-western Victoria and southern New South Wales (NSW). After just two weeks of traversing Australia, we had seen half of the country's birds in comfort and good company.

Our first day really started off with a bang – after a short drive from our hotel with Duncan, we found ourselves looking over the Brisbane cityscape and with two classic Australian species already in the bag – Tawny Frogmouth roosting in full view and a Koala with joey! It only got better, as we wound our way south through several localities with curious names (Wonglepong, Biddadaba, Boysland to name a few) and some great birding sites. In the hot conditions, farm dams and parks with flowering trees were attracting some quality birds – we located Cotton Pygmy Goose, Black-chinned Honeyeater, Speckled Warbler, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Pale-headed Rosella, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, and all of Australia's spoonbill and ibis. We also enjoyed more great mammals, with a mixed roost of Black and Gray-headed flying-foxes in Beaudesert, and three species of macropod including the beautiful Pretty-face Wallaby.



Male Satin (L) and Regent Bowerbirds (R) providing a remarkable opportunity to appreciate their beauty at O'Reilly's © M Breckenridge.

As always, our time at O'Reilly's is very memorable. Despite unprecedented drought conditions in what is usually lush, sub-tropical, montane rainforest, we saw the vast majority of the local specialties and had



the expected close encounters with a variety of the locals. Our day with Glen started well with close looks at an Albert's Lyrebird, Australian Logrunners trying to bury themselves in the leaf litter, a male Paradise Riflebird, and close looks at a trio of Red-browed Treecreepers and a male Rose Robin. Around the lodge we were frequently surrounded by Australian King-Parrots, Crimson Rosellas, and Satin and Regent bowerbirds all looking for a treat. While further afield we lucked in with great looks at Glossy Black Cockatoos feeding on what was left of the she-oaks. After dinner some of us encountered a Mountain Brushtail Possum and a Sugar Glider, along with numerous Common Ringtail Possums.

Departing O'Reilly's for Brisbane and our flight to Cairns, we had a quick stroll before breakfast. The highlight was a responsive Russet-tailed Thrush, with more Australian Logrunners, Black-faced Monarch, and second looks at two Albert's Lyrebirds. Arriving in the lovely city of Cairns on the shores of the Coral Sea, we transferred to our hotel on the esplanade and had a short stroll before dinner. Common birds around the city included Torresian Imperial-Pigeons, Peaceful Doves, White-breasted Woodswallows, Australasian Figbird, and flyby flocks of Metallic Starlings.

We began our exploration of FNQ with a visit to Centenary Lakes, right in Cairns, where we were greeted by Magpie Geese, Radjah Shelducks, and flyover Common Cicadabird before moving on to the small birds with good looks at Olive-backed Sunbird, Brown-backed Honeyeater, and Large-billed Gerygone. With the tide a bit more favorable, we returned to the Cairns Esplanade and located a nice variety of waders including Far Eastern Curlew, Gray-tailed Tattler, Red-necked Stint, and a couple of Pied Oystercatchers. Our base for the next three nights would be the homey and very birdy Kingfisher Park (KFP) at Julatten. Making our way here via Mareeba, we did some roadside birding and quickly locked onto an Australian Bustard and an unexpected pair of Emus. After settling into our self-contained suites run by the wonderful Carol and Andrew Isles, we spent the remainder of the afternoon wandering the grounds. First up was an awesome Papuan Frogmouth roosting in full view above the clear waters of Brushy Creek, while around the feeders Graceful and Macleay's honeyeaters jostled with Chestnut-breasted Munias and Red-browed Finches. Down by the orchard we located a calling Little Shrikethrush and friendly Pale-yellow Robins, and rounded it all off with unbelievable views of Pied Monarch.



Despite being in the open, this Papuan Frogmouth (L) camouflaged quite well with the trunk, unlike this striking Pied Monarch (R), both at Kingfisher Park © M Breckenridge.

We started early at KFP and quickly found a confiding Noisy Pitta standing in the middle of the road! Birding until breakfast, we encountered a nice variety of species including Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, Spectacled Monarch, Forest Kingfisher, and Dusky Honeyeater. KFP is a block of remnant rainforest amongst a sea of sugar cane, but it connects with more extensive rainforest to the north, including Mt.

Lewis – our destination for today. Driving the steep road to its summit, incidental roadside stops found us marveling at a male Victoria's Riflebird at a display perch, a gorgeous little Yellow-breasted Boatbill, another Pied Monarch, and a striking Wompoo Fruit-Dove, while Noisy Pitta and Superb Fruit-Doves called away. At the grassy clearing near the top we found nesting Bridled Honeyeater, displaying Topknot Pigeons, and a couple of shy Gray-headed Robins. From here, a walk into the montane rainforest is the best way to locate some of the local endemics, and we had fairly good luck during our visit. Along the track we had close views of terrestrial Atherton Scrubwren, Mountain Thornbill, Bower's Shrikethrush scouring trees for food, rambunctious Chowchilla (a northern version of the logrunner), and we eventually had clear views of a male Tooth-billed Bowerbird at his display court. In the afternoon we had a magical encounter with two male Australian Bustards displaying at close range and in stunning afternoon light – a sight that must be seen to be believed! A quick spotlight around the grounds that night was successful on the mammal-front with Giant White-tailed Rat, Green Ringtail Possum, Spectacled Flying-fox, and Northern Brown Bandicoot all giving good looks.



A male Australian Bustard displaying to several females near Maryfarms one afternoon © M Breckenridge

Another splendid day started with a peaceful boat trip with Murray along the misty Daintree River and one of its tributaries; Barratt Creek revealed nesting Shining Flycatchers, Green Oriole, Australian Swiftlet, Azure Kingfisher, fly-by Little Kingfisher, Large-billed Gerygone, and Spangled Drongo. Back on the main river for Estuarine Crocodile (big male), Green Tree Snakes, Pacific Koel, wonderful looks at a Black-necked Stork, Black-fronted Dotterel with young, and finishing up with great last-minute views of the rare Great-billed Heron. In the afternoon we explored some of the back roads around Julatten and found some great birds featuring a wonderfully responsive pair of Lovely Fairywrens, a shy Gray Whistler, and Barred Cuckooshrike, while a vegetated farm dam gave us good looks at White-browed Crake and Buff-banded Rail.

Our final morning at KFP allowed everyone to catch up with Pacific Emerald Dove and Noisy Pitta on the road again. We had another stand-out homemade breakfast before bidding farewell to Carol and Andrew, and then we drove straight to Granite Gorge, just outside of Mareeba. Here we were treated to ridiculous

looks at Squatter Pigeons as they strutted around us, as well as a number of confiding Mareeba Rock-wallabies. On our way to Atherton, the ‘craniacs’ were in luck as we encountered a close pair of Sarus Cranes before finding a good-sized flock of Brolgas nearby. Hastie’s Swamp was brimming with waterfowl, and a quick jaunt along the creek at Yungaburra was worthwhile as we found a stunning Platypus! The animals at this site are resident, but the views we had were extraordinary to say the least. Heading further south, we had another great mammal encounter with a Lumholtz’s Tree Kangaroo at Nerada before we made haste to Etty Bay. It had been a long drive, but we eventually made it to this coastal locality south of Cairns where a certain large bird often hangs out. As we rounded the first corner, the words “Keep an eye out from anywhere after this corner...” had barely left my mouth when a Southern Cassowary materialized in the middle of a grassy field in front! We went on to enjoy magical views of this bird and another impressive adult down at the beach, really capping off what had been a day to remember!



The mighty Southern Cassowary (L) from Etty Bay, and a regal Black-necked Stork (R) on the Daintree © M Breckenridge.

A trip to FNQ wouldn’t be complete without visiting the Great Barrier Reef, and that’s exactly how we spent our final day in Queensland. We had perfect weather for our trip out to the reef where we enjoyed some great snorkeling and an amazing seabird spectacle at Michaelmas Cay. This small patch of sand is home to over 20,000 breeding Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies, with smaller numbers of Brown Boobies also breeding here. On the fringes of the cay we had good looks at Greater Frigatebird—including one pirating a Great Crested Tern, flight views of Red-footed Booby, Bridled Terns roosting on buoys, and majestic Lesser Crested Terns doing display flights overhead. After a great visit to Michaelmas, we motored over to Hastings Reef for some more snorkeling. Black-naped Terns, Black Noddies, and Little Terns were seen as we arrived at the reef.





A Brown Noddy protects its single egg from the harsh sun on Michaelmas Cay in the Great Barrier Reef © M Breckenridge.

We had a considerable travel day as we made our way from Cairns to western Victoria via Melbourne. After arriving into a cool and overcast Melbourne, we began the drive west into the mallee/wheat country of western Victoria, arriving sometime later at the small town of Nhill. It was refreshing to see that this part of the country had received good winter rainfall, with tall, lush grass and flowering eucalypts very obvious.

It was, as such, unsurprising to wake to our first heavy rain the following morning. Thankfully the rain began to alleviate as we enjoyed breakfast at a Vietnamese bakery. It was just a short drive south of town to the area of Little Desert – not, in fact, desert, but an island of preserved vegetation dominated by mallee (refers to various species of stunted eucalypt which sprout multiple trunks from a single base after fire), broombush, and low heath. The good conditions here meant that it was remarkably birdy, and we were bombarded by new species as we stepped out of the bus – Black, White-fronted, Spiny-cheeked, and New Holland honeyeaters fed in flowering trees, while hordes of White-winged Trillers fed on the grassy lawn and flocks of Masked and White-browed woodswallows chattered noisily overhead. A walk around the lodge was good for White-eared Honeyeater, the tiny Weebill, Eastern Rosellas, and a surprise pair of the scarce Black-eared Cuckoo showing closely. After some searching, a walk along the fox-proof fence proved very fortunate as we soon located a single Malleefowl! Working our way north to the town of Ouyen, we made several fortuitous stops. The first was at Lake Hindmarsh where a roadside ditch revealed a party of Black-tailed Nativehens, and some lakeside trees were being used by the beautiful Regent Parrot and Purple-crowned Lorikeet for nest hollows. Nearing Ouyen, we made a quick stop in a patch of mallee south of town and were soon enjoying remarkably close views of Shy Heathwren, Crimson Chats, a stunning male Splendid Fairywren, two new species of thornbill, and a lovely Red-capped Robin.



A Shy Heathwren (L) certainly not living up to its name, and a male Splendid Fairywren (R) from Bronzewing FFR © M Breckenridge.

Today we had the whole day to explore the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park (HKNP) north of Ouyen. Windy conditions would make searching for some of the park's trickier birds difficult, but we lucked in early when we came across a pair of the critically endangered Mallee Emuwren. They proved difficult to get eyes on as they darted between clumps of spinifex (porcupine grass), but eventually most people got satisfactory looks at this tiny gem of a bird! Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters were common in the mallee, and after picking up on a faint call, we were soon watching, stunned, as a male Chestnut Quailthrush popped up and started singing from an exposed perch! On our way back to town for lunch we jagged a couple of lovely White-backed Swallows over the road. Pulling over to check them out, we spotted a bonus Red-backed Kingfisher and Singing Honeyeater. Back out at HKNP in the afternoon, we visited some of the lakes where we came across our only Apostlebirds and had good looks at a variety of parrots – Crimson (Yellow) Rosellas, Regent Parrots, Australian (Mallee) Ringnecks, and Bluebonnets. Back in the mallee we had good looks at Brown-headed and Striped honeyeaters before getting excellent looks at our second Malleefowl right beside the highway!



An unusually bold Chestnut Quailthrush (L) and a chance Malleefowl (R) by the highway at HKNP © M Breckenridge.

We began the drive eastwards and into NSW by first stopping at Lake Tyrell where the open saltbush was busy, despite the cold wind. Crimson Chats darted here and there with the odd White-fronted Chat, while Black-faced Woodswallows watched from a low fence and a Rufous Fieldwren popped up to sing. Next stop was Goschen, which had been attracting some very inland species of late – it wasn't long before we locked onto a stunning Pied Honeyeater, attracted here by the good conditions and flowering bushes. Hooded Robins hunted from exposed perches, while Brown Treecreepers flew between low trunks, before we stumbled across a trio of Budgerigars! Dragging ourselves away, we made another couple of stops



before lunch in Kerang. Round Lake revealed a lone Banded Stilt, some Red-capped Plovers, and several Musk Ducks among the numerous Black Swand. The ibis rookery near Kerang had a family party of the wonderful Gray-crowned Babbler in the parking lot, and after lunch, a friendly landholder let us onto his property so we could get a better look at the local sewage works. Here we added Australian Shelduck and Red-necked Avocet, alongside numerous Pink-eared Duck, Hardhead, Gray Teal, and some more Black-tailed Nativehen. We arrived in Deniliquin later that day, but not before stopping for some feral Ostrich on the road near Barham.



Budgerigars (L) and a young Brown Treecreeper (R) from Goschen © M Breckenridge.

Our full day in the Deniliquin area is one of my favorite birding experiences in Australia. Local birder, and bastion for the critically endangered Plains-wanderer, Phil Maher would be our guide for the day. Phil seems to know where the local specialty species are on an almost day-to-day basis, and so it was with much anticipation that we set off to the red gum forests south of town that morning. We had a wonderful time here, wandering slowly through the open forest full of singing birds. A strident Gilbert's Whistler was the best of a good bunch, but the Superb Parrots certainly delighted, as did a friendly Crested Shrike-tit, Dusky Woodswallows, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Western Gerygone, and two male Red-capped Robins. Our visit took a sad turn on our way out as some loud screeching alerted us to a pair of nesting Tawny Frogmouths being attacked by two Australian Ravens. To everyone's dismay, we watched as one raven distracted the parents, while the other knocked the nest from the tree and took off with one of the chicks. We did our best to help the other vulnerable chick by climbing a nearby tree and placing it in a protected nook. It may not have helped the chick's prospects, but it certainly made us feel better than leaving it on the ground. Returning to town, we stopped in at the STW and found two male Blue-billed Ducks amongst several hundred Plumed Whistling-Ducks. After lunch and a short siesta, we headed out again, this time to the north and on to the vast, treeless plains that dominate this part of NSW. We made a quick detour to the local dump and were quickly rewarded with prolonged views of a stealthy Black Falcon looking to pirate one of the hundreds of Black Kites for a morsel. At an area of revegetated shrubland further north we had great looks at a small flock of Cockatiels, as well as Purple-backed Fairywren, more Pied Honeyeaters, and a couple of Banded Lapwings. We arrived in the late afternoon at a working sheep station (ranch) where we would look for the enigmatic Plains-wanderer. Before a picnic dinner, we added some fantastic birds on the property, starting with close views of a couple of Orange Chats and a male White-winged Fairywren nearby. Amongst a large wandering flock of Banded Lapwings we located a small party of the elegant Australian Pratincole, allowing us to drive right up to them! With a stunning sunset behind us, we rushed over to a grove of trees and were soon scoping a trio of the scarce Ground Cuckooshrike on a nest – typically an additional adult assists with nesting and rearing young. Darkness



fell quickly, so we bundled into two SUVs and began our search with spotlights for the star of the show. After an hour or so of false starts with Brown Songlarks and Australasian Pipits, Frances spotted a male Plains-wanderer just meters from one of the cars! This bird proved to be less settled than usual but still gave great looks in the low grass. It was to be our only individual for the evening, but considering the species had essentially vanished last year, it was reassuring to know that several pairs had returned this year.



A male Superb Parrot stands guard as his partner feeds young in a hollow, and a male Plains-wanderer showing that he's not quite a quail, and not quite a wader! © M Breckenridge.

After our late night, we left Deniliquin at a reasonable hour and headed south back into Victoria. On our way to Melbourne for our final evening, we did some birding in the Heathcote area. We tidied up our cuckoo list with good views of Pallid and Horsfield's bronze-cuckoos, plus nice looks at a male Scarlet Robin, Speckled Warbler, and a party of noisy Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters. We made good time back into Melbourne, allowing us a relaxing afternoon and delightful final dinner before bidding each other farewell the following morning.

## **ITINERARY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Locations</b>
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM: Mount Gravatt, Tamborine PM: Beaudesert, Kerry Valley, Lamington National Park – O'Reilly's
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM/PM: Lamington National Park – O'Reilly's
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM: Lamington National Park – O'Reilly's, BNE-CNS PM: Cairns Esplanade
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM: Centenary Lakes, Cairns Esplanade PM: Mareeba – Jack Bethel Park; Bibhoora – Pickford Road; Lake Mitchell, Julatten – Kingfisher Park
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM: Julatten – Kingfisher Park, Mount Lewis

	PM: Julatten, Maryfarms
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM: Daintree River Boat Trip PM: Julatten – Kingfisher Park, Julatten
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM: Julatten – Kingfisher Park, Granite Gorge, Hastie's Swamp National Park, Curtin Fig, Yungaburra PM: Nerada Tea Plantation, Etty Bay
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM: Great Barrier Reef Boat Trip – Michaelmas Cay PM: Great Barrier Reef Boat Trip – Hasting's Reef
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM: CNS-MEL PM: Nhill
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM: Nhill, Little Desert Lodge PM: Lake Hindmarsh, Bronzewing Flora & Fauna Reserve, Ouyen
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM/PM: Hattah-Kulkyne National Park
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM: Lake Tyrell, Goschen, Round Lake PM: Kerang Lakes, Deniliquin
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM: Murray Valley National Park, Deniliquin STW PM: Deniliquin Tip, Warwillah Station
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	AM: Mount Ida PM: Heathcote, Tullamarine

#### TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TRIP (ranked):

1. AUSTRALIAN BUSTARD (19)
2. SOUTHERN CASSOWARY (18)
3. AUSTRALIAN PRATINCOLE (12)
4. SUPERB FAIRYWREN (11)
5. CHESTNUT QUAIL-THRUSH (10)

#### **KEY**

- <sup>H</sup> – Heard only
- <sup>L</sup> – Leader only
- <sup>I</sup> – Introduced species
- <sup>E</sup> – Species is endemic to Australia
- <sup>c</sup> – Species is endemic to Australasia (Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Oceania)



- HKNP – Hattah-Kulkyne National Park
- STW – Sewage Treatment Works
- NSW – New South Wales
- FNQ – Far North Queensland
- SEQ – South East Queensland
- KFP – Kingfisher Park

## **BIRDS**

**Species total: 358**

Heard only: 9

Leader only: 0

### **OSTRICHES (*Struthionidae*)**

Common Ostrich <sup>I</sup> (*Struthio camelus*) – A small self-sustaining population of ‘wild’ ostriches were observed along the road between Barham and Deniliquin. These birds descend from captive individuals that were farmed in the area several decades ago.

### **CASSOWARIES & EMU (*Casuariidae*)**

Southern Cassowary <sup>e</sup> (*Casuarius casuarius*) – After learning that the Cassowary House individuals had been elusive, we made the detour to Etty Bay, and it was not in vain! An adult cassowary was spotted walking across an open grassy field on the road in, allowing fantastic looks as it walked straight towards us, even drinking from a creek in full view. This bird drew quite a crowd of onlookers before crossing the road into the forest. Down at Etty Bay itself another magnificent adult was found wandering along the beach edge seemingly oblivious to the many people around enjoying an afternoon at the beach.

Emu <sup>E</sup> (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) – A pair found near Mareeba was a good sighting for the area. Tens were seen along the lake edges at HKNP and singles were seen around Deniliquin.

### **MAGPIE GOOSE (*Anseranatidae*)**

Magpie Goose <sup>e</sup> (*Anseranas semipalmata*) – Tens at Centenary Lakes in Cairns, and the Daintree. Hundreds around Atherton.

### **DUCKS, GEESE & WATERFOWL (*Anatidae*)**

Plumed Whistling-Duck <sup>E</sup> (*Dendrocygna eytoni*) – Tens south of Brisbane. Over 1500 at Hastie’s Swamp near Atherton, and over 500 at the Deniliquin STW.

Wandering Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna arcuate*) – Tens at Hastie’s Swamp near Atherton.

Black Swan <sup>e</sup> (*Cygnus atratus*) – Singles on Lake Mitchell and incidentally while driving in Victoria. Hundreds on Round Lake near Kerang.

Australian Shelduck <sup>E</sup> (*Tadorna tadornoides*) – Singles at the Kerang and Deniliquin STW.

Radjah Shelduck <sup>e</sup> (*Radjah radjah*) – A pair at Centenary Lakes in Cairns, and singles in Daintree.

Green Pygmy-Goose (*Nettapus pulchellus*) – Up to 30 birds seen distantly on Lake Mitchell.

Cotton Pygmy-Goose (*Nettapus coromandelianus*) – A pair on a farm dam were a good find late on our first day south of Brisbane.

Maned Duck <sup>E</sup> (*Chenonetta jubata*) – Hundreds/tens every day except in FNQ.

Australian [Australasian] Shoveler <sup>e</sup> (*Spatula rhynchotis*) – Average views of a pair on a storage dam near Deniliquin in blustery conditions.

Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) – Tens/singles most days in all three states.  
 [Australian] Gray Teal <sup>°</sup> (*Anas gracilis*) – Hundreds at HKNP, Kerang and Deniliquin STW.  
 Pink-eared Duck <sup>E</sup> (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*) – Distant pair at HKNP, up to 80 birds at the Kerang and Deniliquin STW.  
 Hardhead <sup>°</sup> (*Aythya australis*) – Tens on several occasions across all three states.  
 Blue-billed Duck <sup>E</sup> (*Oxyura australis*) – Two males observed at the Deniliquin STW.  
 Musk Duck <sup>E</sup> (*Biziura lobate*) – At least four birds observed on Round Lake near Kerang.



Plumed Whistling-Ducks (L) at the Deniliquin STW, and one of two Southern Cassowary (R) we saw at Etty Bay © M Breckenridge.

### MEGAPODES (*Megapodiidae*)

Australian Brushturkey <sup>E</sup> (*Alectura lathami*) – Singles/tens seen each day in Queensland.  
 Malleefowl <sup>E</sup> (*Leipoa ocellata*) – Great looks at two individuals – one at Little Desert Lodge, and another right beside the Calder Highway one afternoon.  
 Orange-footed Scrubfowl (*Megapodius reinwardt*) – Singles each day in FNQ.

### GREBES (*Podicipedidae*)

Australasian [Little] Grebe (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*) – Singles on several occasions in SEQ and NSW, and up to 30 at Hastie's Swamp near Atherton.  
 Hoary-headed Grebe <sup>°</sup> (*Polioccephalus poliocephalus*) – Tens at Round Lake and the Deniliquin STW.

### PIGEONS & DOVES (*Columbidae*)

Rock Pigeon <sup>I</sup> (*Columba livia*) – Tens most days, especially in Victoria/NSW.  
 Spotted Dove <sup>I</sup> (*Streptopelia chinensis*) – Singles in Queensland and Victoria.  
 Brown Cuckoo-Dove <sup>E</sup> (*Macropygia phasianella*) – Singles seen and heard at O'Reilly's and FNQ.  
 Pacific Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps longirostris*) – Several heard and flushed, before good views at KFP.  
 Common Bronzewing <sup>E</sup> (*Phaps calcoptera*) – Flight views in SEQ and Victoria, before good views of several around Deniliquin.  
 Crested Pigeon <sup>E</sup> (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) – Tens/singles most days, except in FNQ.  
 Squatter Pigeon <sup>E</sup> (*Geophaps scripta*) – Fantastic views of this declining species at Granite Gorge near Mareeba.  
 Wonga Pigeon <sup>E</sup> (*Leucosarcia melanoleuca*) – Good views of a couple of these shy pigeons at O'Reilly's.  
 Peaceful Dove <sup>°</sup> (*Geopelia placida*) – Singles/tens most days of the trip.  
 Bar-shouldered Dove <sup>°</sup> (*Geopelia humeralis*) – Singles/tens most days in Queensland.  
 Wompoo Fruit-Dove <sup>°</sup> (*Ptilinopus magnificus*) – One seen at O'Reilly's, good views of several during



our time in FNQ, including individuals making their distinctive call – “WOM-poooo”.

Superb Fruit-Dove <sup>H</sup> (*Ptilinopus superbus*) – Heard only on Mount Lewis.

Torresian Imperial-Pigeon <sup>e</sup> (*Ducula spilorrhoa*) – Tens most days in FNQ, typically seen in flight.

Topknot Pigeon <sup>E</sup> (*Lopholaimus antarcticus*) – Brief views of flyover birds in SEQ and FNQ.



A Squatter Pigeon (L) from near Mareeba, and one of two Black-eared Cuckoos (R) at Little Desert © M Breckenridge.

### **BUSTARDS (*Otididae*)**

Australian Bustard <sup>E</sup> (*Ardeotis australis*) – Two birds seen just north of Mareeba, and up to 15 individuals, including several displaying males seen on our afternoon near Maryfarms.

### **CUCKOOS (*Cuculidae*)**

Pheasant Coucal (*Centropus phasianinus*) – Heard on several occasions, before good views of a roadside bird near Mount Molloy.

Pacific Koel (*Eudynamys orientalis*) – Brief views and heard only, before good views of a female at the Daintree.

Channel-billed Cuckoo <sup>H</sup> (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*) – Unfortunately, heard only in the early morning on two occasions at KFP.

Horsfield’s Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx basalis*) – Good views of a calling individual near Heathcote.

Black-eared Cuckoo <sup>E</sup> (*Chrysococcyx osculans*) – Never an expected bird, we had great views of a confiding pair at Little Desert.

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo <sup>e</sup> (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*) – Singles seen and heard in Queensland and Victoria.

Little Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx minutillus*) – Great views of a bird low down at a wetland near Beuadesert on our first day. Heard regularly at KFP.

Pallid Cuckoo (*Cacomantis pallidus*) – Great views of this big, hawk-like cuckoo near Heathcote – one of our last new birds of the trip.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo <sup>He</sup> (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*) – One bird calling distantly at O’Reilly’s.

### **FROGMOUTHS (*Podargidae*)**

Tawny Frogmouth <sup>E</sup> (*Podargus strigoides*) – Two different individuals seen on our first day near Brisbane, and the infamous pair from Deniliquin who had their nest raided by ravens.

Papuan Frogmouth (*Podargus papuensis*) – Wonderful looks at an individual roosting in the open at KFP.

### **SWIFTS (*Apodidae*)**

Australian Swiftlet <sup>E</sup> (*Aerodramus terraereginae*) – Good looks at up to 20 individuals in flight and drinking on the Daintree.

### **RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS (*Rallidae*)**

Buff-banded Rail (*Gallirallus philippensis*) – Nice clear looks at two individuals near Julatten.

Black-tailed Nativehen <sup>E</sup> (*Tribonyx [Gallinula] ventralis*) – We had good luck with these nomadic waterfowl (affectionately called ‘turbo chickens’ due to the pace at which they like to run), with tens seen at Lake Hindmarsh, HKNP, Kerang, and north of Deniliquin.

Dusky Moorhen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*) – Tens south of Brisbane on our first day, and a couple at Deniliquin.

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) – Tens on several occasions in every state.

Australasian Swamphen (*Porphyrio melanotus*) – Tens around Beaudesert and at Hastie’s Swamp, with a couple also at Deniliquin.

White-browed Crake (*Amaurornis cinerea*) – Good looks at this uncommon crake near Julatten.

Spotless Crake <sup>H</sup> (*Zapornia tabuensis*) – Heard calling from the same wetland as the White-browed Crakes near Julatten.

### **CRANES (*Gruidae*)**

Sarus Crane (*Antigone antigone*) – Great looks at up to 20 individuals along the drive between Granite Gorge and Atherton.

Brolga <sup>e</sup> (*Antigone rubicunda*) – Well over 50 individuals observed in a field of harvested corn near Walkamin.

### **THICK-KNEES (*Burhinidae*)**

Bush Thick-knee <sup>e</sup> (*Burhinus grallarius*) – A family party seen well wandering amongst the garden beds at Centenary Lakes.

Beach Thick-knee [Stone-Curlew] (*Esacus magnirostris*) – A single bird scoped on the Cairns Esplanade as we walked from the dock to our hotel.

### **STILTS & AVOCETS (*Recurvirostridae*)**

Pied Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*) – Singles/tens seen on several occasions in each state.

Banded Stilt <sup>E</sup> (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*) – We were quite lucky to find a single bird feeding alongside Pied Stilts at Round Lake near Kerang.

Red-necked Avocet <sup>E</sup> (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*) – Two birds found at the Kerang STW was a bonus.

### **OYSTERCATCHERS (*Haematopodidae*)**

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

### **PLOVERS & LAPWINGS (*Charadriidae*)**

Banded Lapwing <sup>E</sup> (*Vanellus tricolor*) – Up to 80 individuals of this pretty, endemic lapwing seen north of Deniliquin.

Masked Lapwing <sup>e</sup> (*Vanellus miles*) – Singles/tens seen most days of the trip.

Greater Sand-Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultia*) – Up to 20 birds seen at Newell Beach during a quick stop on our way back from the Daintree.

Red-capped Plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*) – Six birds on Round Lake near Kerang.



Red-kneed Dotterel <sup>°</sup> (*Erythrogonys cinctus*) – Singles on wetlands near Beaudesert and Deniliquin.  
Black-fronted Dotterel <sup>°</sup> (*Elseyornis melanops*) – Singles/tens seen on several occasions in each state.

### **PLAINS-WANDERER <sup>E</sup> (*Pedionomidae*)**

Plains-wanderer <sup>E</sup> (*Rostratula australis*) – Arguably the most important bird of the trip – we had good looks at a single male in the spotlight after an hour or so of searching the plains at a very specific location north of Deniliquin.

### **JACANAS (*Jacanidae*)**

Comb-crested Jacana (*Irediparra gallinacea*) – Singles at certain wetlands in SEQ and FNQ.

### **SANDPIPERS & ALLIES (*Scolopacidae*)**

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) – Singles/tens on the Cairns Esplanade.

Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) – Singles of this critically endangered wader on the Cairns Esplanade.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) – Singles/tens on the Cairns Esplanade.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) – Up to 15 birds on the Cairns Esplanade.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) – Four birds on Michaelmas Cay.

Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) – Singles on the Cairns Esplanade and Michaelmas Cay.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) – Tens/hundreds on the Cairns Esplanade and at various wetlands in FNQ, as well as Round Lake near Kerang.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) – Singles on the Cairns Esplanade.

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) – Tens/hundreds on the Cairns Esplanade.

Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) – Single bird scoped at a wetland near Beaudesert.

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) – Single bird scoped on the Cairns Esplanade.

Gray-tailed Tattler (*Tringa brevipes*) – Singles on the Cairns Esplanade.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) – Two on the Cairns Esplanade and a single on Round Lake.

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) – Distant individual on Round Lake.

### **PRATINCOLES & COURSERS (*Glareolidae*)**

Australian Pratincole (*Stiltia isabella*) – Some of my best ever looks at this beautiful bird, with at least 7 birds mingling with Banded Lapwings on the plains north of Deniliquin.



A Brown Booby (L) with Brown Noddies at Michaelmas Cay, and a Bridled Tern (R) on a buoy at Hasting's Reef © M Breckenridge.

### **GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS (*Laridae*)**

Silver Gull <sup>e</sup> (*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*) – Singles/tens at various locations throughout the trip.  
 Brown [Common] Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) – Well over 2000 birds on and around Michaelmas Cay.  
 Black Noddy (*Anous minutus*) – Three birds loafing on buoys at Hasting's Reef.  
 Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) – Well over 5000 birds on and around Michaelmas Cay.  
 Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) – Up to 4 birds seen around Michaelmas Cay and at Hatsing's Reef.  
 Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) – Single NB bird on the Cairns Esplanade and at Hasting's Reef.  
 Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – Singles/tens on the Cairns Esplanade and over fish farms near Newell Beach.  
 Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) – Up to 8 birds at Round Lake near Kerang.  
 Black-naped Tern (*Sterna sumatrana*) – Up to 6 birds seen during our day on the reef.  
 Great Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bergii*) – Tens at Newell Beach and on the reef.  
 Lesser Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bengalensis*) – Tens seen in flight around Michaelmas Cay.

### **STORKS (*Ciconiidae*)**

Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) – Distant bird on Lake Mitchell, and much closer looks at an iridescent individual on the Daintree.

### **FRIGATEBIRDS (*Fregatidae*)**

Great Frigatebird (*Fregata minor*) – Up to 20 birds seen around Michaelmas Cay, perched on driftwood or in flight.

### **BOOBIES & GANNETS (*Sulidae*)**

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) – Up to 30 birds on and around Michaelmas Cay.  
 Red-footed Booby (*Sula sula*) – Two birds observed in flight as we arrived at Michaelmas Cay.

### **ANHINGAS (*Anhingidae*)**

Australasian Darter <sup>e</sup> (*Anhinga novaehollandiae*) – Singles seen at several locations in each state.

### **CORMORANTS & SHAGS (*Phalacrocoracidae*)**

Little Pied Cormorant (*Microcarbo melanoleucos*) – Singles/tens at wetlands in FNQ.  
 Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – Singles at one wetland near Beaudesert, and singles around Kerang and Deniliquin.  
 Little Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) – Singles at Centenary Lakes and Hastie's Swamp.  
 Pied Cormorant <sup>e</sup> (*Phalacrocorax varius*) – Distant views of six birds on one of the lakes at HKNP.

### **PELICANS (*Pelecanidae*)**

Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) – Over 100 on one lake near Beaudesert, and tens/singles at various other wetlands in each state.

### **HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS (*Ardeidae*)**

Pacific [White-necked] Heron (*Ardea pacifica*) – Singles in SEQ and Victoria.  
 Great-billed Heron (*Ardea sumatrana*) – Great looks at a single that flew across the front of the boat in good light before walking along the riverbank on the Daintree.  
 Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) – Singles/tens in Queensland.  
 Intermediate Egret (*Ardea intermedia*) – Singles at Lake Mitchell and Hastie's Swamp.  
 White-faced Heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*) – Singles in FNQ and Victoria.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) – Single on the Cairns Esplanade.  
 [Eastern] Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis [coromandus]*) – Tens each day in Queensland.  
 Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) – Single on the Cairns Esplanade.  
 Rufous [Nankeen] Night-Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*) – Single seen well at Centenary Lakes.

### **IBISES & SPOONBILLS (*Threskiornithidae*)**

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – Single near Beaudesert, a pair at Hastie's Swamp, and seven near Deniliquin.  
 Australian [White] Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) – Singles/tens most days of the trip.  
 Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*) – Singles/tens most days of the trip.  
 Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*) – Singles in SEQ, FNQ and Victoria.  
 Yellow-billed Spoonbill <sup>E</sup> (*Platalea flavipes*) – Two near Beaudesert, up to 50 on the lakes at HKNP, and seven near Deniliquin.



A pair of Sarus Crane (L) in fields near Mareeba and a Great-billed Heron (R) on the Daintree © M Breckenridge.

### **OSPREY (*Pandionidae*)**

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Single overhead at Centenary Lakes.

### **HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES (*Accipitridae*)**

Black-shouldered Kite <sup>E</sup> (*Elanus axillaris*) – Single near Maryfarms.  
 Pacific Baza <sup>H</sup> (*Aviceda subcristata*) – Single calling in flight near Yungaburra.  
 Little Eagle <sup>E</sup> (*Hieraaetus morphnoides*) – Single overhead in Deniliquin.  
 Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*) – Singles in SEQ, Victoria and NSW.  
 Swamp Harrier (*Circus approximans*) – Single at a storage dam near Deniliquin.  
 Spotted Harrier (*Circus assimilis*) – Three different birds seen while driving through wheat country near Ouyen.  
 Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus*) – Singles seen on several occasions.  
 Collared Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*) – Single bird on a nest in Deniliquin.  
 Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) – Singles/tens most days of the trip.  
 Whistling Kite (*Haliastur sphenurus*) – Singles most days of the trip.  
 Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) – Two birds seen well on the coast near Newell Beach.  
 White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) – Singles in SEQ and FNQ.

### **BARN-OWLS (*Tytonidae*)**

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) – Good views of two individuals while spotlighting north of Deniliquin.



### **OWLS (*Strigidae*)**

Southern Boobook <sup>H</sup> (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) – Calling near the lodge at O'Reilly's.

### **KINGFISHERS (*Alcedinidae*)**

Azure Kingfisher (*Ceyx [Alcedo] azureus*) – Two birds on the Daintree.

Little Kingfisher (*Ceyx [Alcedo] pusillus*) – Flyby views of a single on the Daintree.

Laughing Kookaburra <sup>E</sup> (*Dacelo novaeguineae*) – Singles most days of the trip.

Blue-winged Kookaburra (*Dacelo leachii*) – Good views of a single on wires between Mareeba and Mount Molloy.

Red-backed Kingfisher <sup>E</sup> (*Todiramphus pyrrhopygius*) – Lucked onto a single beside the Calder Highway north of Ouyen.

Forest Kingfisher (*Todiramphus macleayii*) – Singles around the Atherton tablelands.

Sacred Kingfisher (*Todiramphus sanctus*) – Heard and seen on several occasions in each state.

### **BEE-EATERS (*Meropidae*)**

Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) – Singles on several occasions in each state.

### **FALCONS & CARACARAS (*Falconidae*)**

Australian [Nankeen] Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*) – Singles most days in Victoria/NSW.

Australian Hobby (*Falco longipennis*) – Single in flight near Etty Bay and great looks at a bird settling down to roost near the Ground Cuckooshrikes.

Brown Falcon (*Falco berigora*) – Singles on several occasions in each state.

Black Falcon <sup>E</sup> (*Falco subniger*) – Prolonged looks at an adult quartering over the Deniliquin dump.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – An adult giving nice views in the scope, perched a top a grain silo in the centre of Ouyen.

### **COCKATOOS (*Cacatuidae*)**

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo <sup>E</sup> (*Calyptorhynchus banksia*) – Flocks observed in Cairns and at Granite Gorge.

Glossy Black-Cockatoo <sup>E</sup> (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) – We were fortunate to find several confiding individuals feeding in she-oaks along the road up to O'Reilly's on two days.

Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo <sup>E</sup> (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*) – Small flock seen in flight while driving near Melbourne.

Pink [Major Mitchell's] Cockatoo <sup>E</sup> (*Lophochroa [Cacatua] leadbeateri*) – Sadly only brief looks at a single near the centre of town in Ouyen.

Galah <sup>E</sup> (*Eolophus roseicapilla*) – Singles/tens in SEQ and Victoria/NSW.

Long-billed Corella <sup>E</sup> (*Cacatua tenuirostris*) – Tens around Beaudesert and Deniliquin.

Little Corella (*Cacatua sanguinea*) – Tens around Beaudesert and HKNP.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo <sup>E</sup> (*Cacatua galerita*) – Tens/singles on every day of the trip, bar one.

Cockatiel <sup>E</sup> (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) – A nice encounter with flock of 20 north of Deniliquin.



An adult male Cockatiel (L) from the plains north of Deniliquin, and a Crimson 'Yellow' Rosella from the red gum forests near town (R)  
© M Breckenridge.

### OLD WORLD PARROTS (*Psittaculidae*)

Superb Parrot <sup>E</sup> (*Polytelis swainsonii*) – Good looks at up to 20 of these beautiful parrots around Deniliquin where they breed in river red gum forest.

Regent Parrot <sup>E</sup> (*Polytelis anthopeplus*) – A trio seen at Lake Hindmarsh, and up to 20 birds at HKNP.

Australian King-Parrot <sup>E</sup> (*Alisterus anthopeplus*) – Abundant around O'Reilly's.

Australian Ringneck <sup>E</sup> (*Barnardius zonarius*)

['Mallee Ringneck' <sup>E</sup> (*Barnardius z. barnardi*)] – Up to eight birds seen around HKNP.

Crimson Rosella <sup>E</sup> (*Platycercus elegans*) – Abundant around O'Reilly's.

['Yellow Rosella' <sup>E</sup> (*Platycercus e. flaveolus*)] – Singles/tens each day around Deniliquin and the Murray River region.

Eastern Rosella <sup>E</sup> (*Platycercus eximius*) – Singles most days in Victoria/NSW.

Pale-headed Rosella <sup>E</sup> (*Platycercus adscitus*) – Nice looks at several individuals around Beaudesert.

Greater Bluebonnet <sup>E</sup> (*Northiella haematogaster*) – Singles around Ouyen and Deniliquin.

Red-rumped Parrot <sup>E</sup> (*Psephotus haematonotus*) – Singles most days in Victoria/NSW.

Mulga Parrot <sup>E</sup> (*Psephotus varius*) – Unfortunately brief looks at a single that flew through in HKNP.

Double-eyed Fig-Parrot (*Cyclopsitta diophthalma*) – Several flybys around Cairns and the Daintree before we had good looks at a single near Julatten.

Budgerigar <sup>E</sup> (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) – A lucky find of three of these familiar little nomadic parrots at Goschen.

Purple-crowned Lorikeet <sup>E</sup> (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*) – Several flybys at Little Desert, before some fantastic looks of individuals feeding and nesting at Lake Hindmarsh.

Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) – Tens every day in Queensland and a few individuals in Victoria.

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet <sup>E</sup> (*Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*) – Fantastic close looks at several birds feeding in flowering callistemon at Beaudesert, common around KFP.



A Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (L) allowing for good photo ops in Beaudesert, and a Noisy Pitta (R) at Kingfisher Park © M Breckenridge.

### **PITTAS (*Pittidae*)**

Noisy Pitta <sup>E</sup> (*Pitta versicolor*) – Good looks at one of a couple of birds present and calling at KFP during our stay.

### **LYREBIRDS <sup>E</sup> (*Menuridae*)**

Albert's Lyrebird <sup>E</sup> (*Menura alberti*) – An adult female, with an immature male seen in the same area at O'Reilly's on two occasions.

### **BOWERBIRDS (*Ptilonorhynchidae*)**

Spotted Catbird <sup>HE</sup> (*Ailuroedus maculosus*) – Two individuals on Mount Lewis.

Green Catbird <sup>E</sup> (*Ailuroedus crassirostris*) – Up to 10 birds seen around O'Reilly's on our full day.

Tooth-billed Bowerbird <sup>E</sup> (*Scenopoeetes dentirostris*) – Up to five males displaying noisily along the track on Mount Lewis.

Regent Bowerbird <sup>E</sup> (*Sericulus chrysocephalus*) – Tens of this stunning bird almost a constant fixture at the feeders at O'Reilly's.

Satin Bowerbird <sup>E</sup> (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*) – Singles, including a male at his bower, common around O'Reilly's.

Great Bowerbird <sup>E</sup> (*Chlamydera nuchalis*) – Singles around Julatten, including a male near his huge bower.

### **AUSTRALASIAN TREECREEPERS (*Climacteridae*)**

White-throated Treecreeper <sup>E</sup> (*Corombates leucophaea*) – Singles seen/heard on several occasions in each state.

Red-browed Treecreeper <sup>E</sup> (*Climacteris erythrops*) – Great looks at a trio in tall forest at O'Reilly's.

Brown Treecreeper <sup>E</sup> (*Climacteris picumnus*) – Singles seen well at Goschen, around Deniliquin, and near Heathcote.

### **FAIRYWRENS (*Maluridae*)**

Mallee Emuwren <sup>E</sup> (*Stipiturus mallee*) – A shy pair found fairly quickly in mallee-spinifex country at HKNP.

Purple-backed Fairywren <sup>E</sup> (*Malurus assimilis*) – Parties at Lake Tyrell and north of Deniliquin.

Variegated Fairywren <sup>HE</sup> (*Malurus lamberti*) – Heard distantly at Mount Gravatt.

Lovely Fairywren <sup>E</sup> (*Malurus amabilis*) – Great looks at a responsive pair near Julatten.

Splendid Fairywren <sup>E</sup> (*Malurus splendens*) – One of two males seen very close south of Ouyen.



Superb Fairywren <sup>E</sup> (*Malurus cyaneus*) – Singles seen very well around O'Reilly's, and in Victoria/NSW.

White-winged Fairywren <sup>E</sup> (*Malurus leucopterus*) – A shy party at Lake Tyrell, and great looks at a male north of Deniliquin.

Red-backed Fairywren <sup>E</sup> (*Malurus melanocephalus*) – Good views near Beaudesert and Mareeba.



A male Lovely Fairywren (L) near Julatten, and an inquisitive Brown-headed Honeyeater (R) in the mallee at HKNP © M Breckenridge.

### **HONEYEATERS (*Meliphagidae*)**

Eastern Spinebill <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*) – Singles around O'Reilly's.

Pied Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Certhionyx variegatus*) – Three individuals at Goschen and at a patch of shrubland north of Deniliquin.

Yellow-spotted Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Meliphaga notata*) – An inhabitant of rainforest in FNQ, but not always easy to see and very similar looking to Graceful Honeyeater. Thankfully their distinctive call allowed for definitive looks at several birds on Mount Lewis and KFP.

Lewin's Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Meliphaga lewinii*) – Abundant at O'Reilly's, singles heard in FNQ.

Graceful Honeyeater (*Meliphaga gracilis*) – Singles around KFP and Mount Lewis.

Yellow Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Stomiopera flava*) – Good looks at a couple of pairs near Mareeba.

White-fronted Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Purnella* [*Phylidornis*] *albrifrons*) – Very conspicuous around Little Desert, and a couple in HKNP.

Yellow-faced Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Caligavis chrysops*) – Singles in SEQ and FNQ.

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Lichenostomus melanops*) – One of our last birds of the trip, a noisy party in woodland near Heathcote.

Bell Miner <sup>E</sup> (*Manorina melanophrys*) – One small colony seen at O'Reilly's.

Noisy Miner <sup>E</sup> (*Manorina melanocephala*) – Tens around Beaudesert and in Victoria/NSW.

Yellow-throated Miner <sup>E</sup> (*Manorina flavigula*) – Singles around Ouyen.

Bridled Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Bloemoreus frenatus*) – Up to 20 individuals on Mount Lewis.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) – Singles in Victoria and NSW.

Red Wattlebird <sup>E</sup> (*Anthochaera carunculata*) – Singles in Victoria and NSW.

Varied Honeyeater (*Gavicalis versicolor*) – Singles along the Cairns Esplanade.

Singing Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Gavicalis virescens*) – Singles in Victoria and NSW.

Yellow-plumed Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Ptilotula ornata*) – Up to 20 individuals in the mallee at HKNP.

White-plumed Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Ptilotula penicillate*) – Singles/tens in Victoria and NSW.

Fuscous Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Ptilotula fusca*) – Two birds in the Kerry Valley on our first and up to 20 birds in woodland around Heathcote.

Brown-backed Honeyeater (*Ramsayornis modestus*) – Singles at Centenary Lakes and around Julatten.

Crimson Chat <sup>E</sup> (*Epthianura tricolor*) – Tens in farmland around Nhill, Lake Tyrell, and in forest south of Deniliquin.

Orange Chat <sup>E</sup> (*Epthianura aurifrons*) – Good looks at four birds including two males in saltbush country north of Deniliquin.

White-fronted Chat <sup>E</sup> (*Epthianura albifrons*) – Singles south of Little Desert, Lake Hindmarsh, Lake Tyrell, and Deniliquin.

Black Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Sugomel* [*Certhinyx*] *nigrum*) – Good looks at up to six individuals at Little Desert, and a single north of Deniliquin.

Dusky Myzomela (*Myzomela obscura*) – Singles around the Atherton tablelands.

Scarlet Myzomela <sup>E</sup> (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*) – Singles/tens seen most days in Queensland.

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Gliciphila* [*Phylidornis*] *melanops*) – Several birds in low heathland south of Little Desert.

Brown Honeyeater (*Lichmera indistincta*) – Singles seen/heard most days in Queensland.

New Holland Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*) – Common at Little Desert.

White-eared Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Nesoptilotis leucotis*) – Singles at Little Desert and in HKNP.

Blue-faced Honeyeater (*Entomyzon cyanotis*) – Singles at a variety of locations in each state.

White-throated Honeyeater (*Melithreptus albogularis*) – Heard in SEQ and FNQ, with good views near Mareeba.

White-naped Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Melithreptus lunatus*) – Two individuals coming into drink at a makeshift waterhole near O'Reilly's.

Brown-headed Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Melithreptus brevirostris*) – Singles in SEQ and Victoria.

Black-chinned Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Melithreptus gularis*) – Several unexpected individuals found in the Kerry Valley, heard near Heathcote.

Macleay's Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Xanthotis macleayanus*) – Singles regularly seen around KFP.

Striped Honeyeater <sup>E</sup> (*Plectorhyncha lanceolata*) – Good looks at a pair late in the day in HKNP.

Little Friarbird (*Philemon citreogularis*) – Several birds around Beaudesert and in Deniliquin.

Helmeted Friarbird (*Philemon buceroides*) – Singles around Cairns and the Daintree.

Noisy Friarbird (*Philemon corniculatus*) – Singles in SEQ and in Deniliquin.

#### **PARDALOTES <sup>E</sup> (*Pardalotidae*)**

Spotted Pardalote <sup>HE</sup> (*Pardalotus punctatus*) – Calling at O'Reilly's, Deniliquin and near Heathcote.  
 ['Yellow-rumped Pardalote' <sup>E</sup> (*Pardalotus p. xanthopyge*)] – Fantastic looks at a couple of responsive individuals of this 'mallee' race south of Ouyen and in HKNP.

Striated Pardalote <sup>E</sup> (*Pardalotus striatus*) – Singles in SEQ and Victoria/NSW.

#### **THORNBILLS & ALLIES (*Acanthizidae*)**

Fernwren <sup>HE</sup> (*Oreoscopus gutturalis*) – Frustratingly heard only along the trail at Mount Lewis.

Yellow-throated Scrubwren <sup>E</sup> (*Sericornis citreogularis*) – Singles at O'Reilly's and on Mount Lewis.

White-browed Scrubwren <sup>E</sup> (*Sericornis frontalis*) – Singles seen well at O'Reilly's and in Deniliquin.

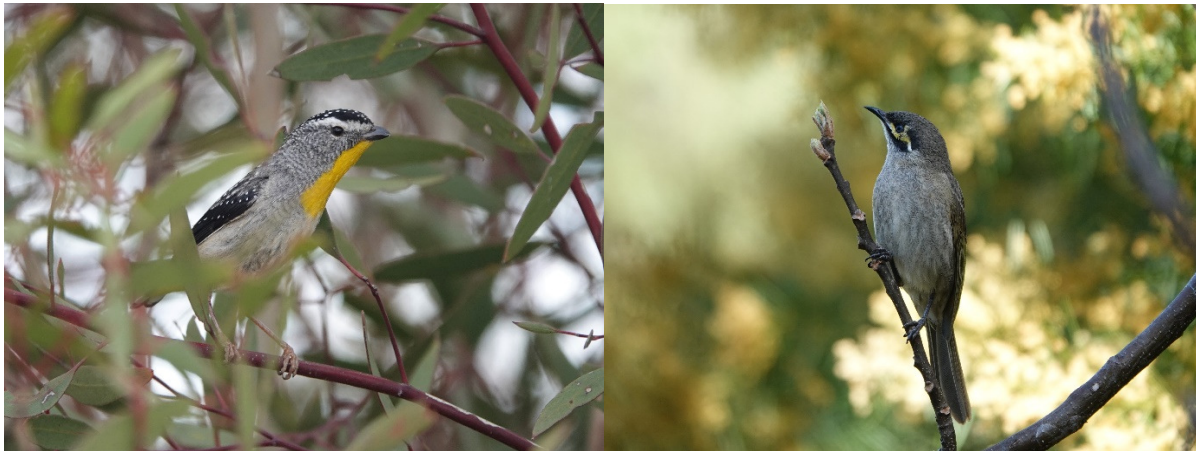
Atherton Scrubwren <sup>E</sup> (*Sericornis keri*) – Close looks of several birds feeding on the trail at Mount Lewis.

Large-billed Scrubwren <sup>E</sup> (*Sericornis magnirostra*) – Singles at KFP and Mount Lewis.

Speckled Warbler <sup>E</sup> (*Pyrrholaemus sagittatus*) – One seen in remnant forest near Beaudesert, and a nesting pair near Heathcote.

Rufous Fieldwren <sup>E</sup> (*Calamanthus campestris*) – Surprisingly good looks of a single south of Little Desert and at Lake Tyrell.

Shy Heathwren <sup>E</sup> (*Hylacola cauta*) – Ridiculous views of a single south of Ouyen.  
 Buff-rumped Thornbill <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthiza reguloides*) – Up to 8 birds in forest south of Deniliquin.  
 Mountain Thornbill <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthiza katherina*) – Great looks at an inquisitive pair along the trail at Mount Lewis.  
 Brown Thornbill <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthiza pusilla*) – Tens around O'Reilly's.  
 Inland Thornbill <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthiza apicalis*) – Close views of several south of Ouyen.  
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) – Several seen in farmland near Beaudesert, Little Desert and Heathcote.  
 Chestnut-rumped Thornbill <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthiza uropygialis*) – Close views of several south of Ouyen.  
 Yellow Thornbill <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthiza nana*) – A pair at Little Desert and near Deniliquin.  
 Striated Thornbill <sup>E</sup> (*Acanthiza lineata*) – Small party seen well at O'Reilly's.  
 Weebill <sup>E</sup> (*Smicrornis brevirostris*) – Singles at Little Desert and HKNP.  
 Fairy Gerygone (*Gerygone palpebrosa*) – Pair seen well near Mareeba.  
 White-throated Gerygone (*Gerygone olivacea*) – One seen well in the Kerry Valley south of Brisbane.  
 Large-billed Gerygone (*Gerygone magnirostris*) – Great looks at a single in Centenary Lakes, and up to 8 individuals along the Daintree.  
 Brown Gerygone <sup>E</sup> (*Gerygone mouki*) – Singles seen well at O'Reilly's and heard in FNQ.  
 Western Gerygone <sup>E</sup> (*Gerygone fusca*) – Pair observed nesting in forest south of Deniliquin.



A 'yellow-rumped' Spotted Pardalote (L) from near Ouyen and a Yellow-faced Honeyeater (R) at O'Reilly's © M Breckenridge.

### **PSEUDO-BABBLERS (*Pomatostomidae*)**

Gray-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis*) – Good looks at a family near the Kerang ibis rookery.  
 White-browed Babbler <sup>E</sup> (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*) – Small parties seen around Little Desert and south of Deniliquin.

### **LOGRUNNERS (*Orthonychidae*)**

Australian Logrunner <sup>E</sup> (*Orthonyx temminckii*) – Repeated good looks at multiple parties around the lodge at O'Reilly's.  
 Chowchilla <sup>E</sup> (*Orthonyx spaldingii*) – Two separate parties of 5 individuals seen feeding in the leaf litter along the trail at Mount Lewis.

### **WHIPBIRDS & WEDGEBILLS (*Psophodidae*)**

Eastern Whipbird <sup>E</sup> (*Psophodes olivaceus*) – Common and confiding around O'Reilly's allowing for



good views of a typically shy bird.

### **QUAIL-THRUSHES & JEWEL-BABBLERS (*Cinclosomatidae*)**

Chestnut Quail-thrush <sup>E</sup> (*Cinclosoma castanotum*) – A very polite male showed brilliantly in mallee at HKNP.

### **BOATBILLS (*Machaerirhynchidae*)**

Yellow-breasted Boatbill (*Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*) – One wary individual seen on Mount Lewis, as well as a single at KFP.

### **WOODSWALLOWS (*Artamidae*)**

White-breasted Woodswallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*) – Tens seen each day in FNQ, and a couple of incidentals in Victoria.

Masked Woodswallow <sup>E</sup> (*Artamus personatus*) – Another species that can irrupt after good rains, we had tens/hundreds in mixed flocks each day in Victoria and NSW.

White-browed Woodswallow <sup>E</sup> (*Artamus superciliosus*) – As for Masked Woodswallow, slightly more common.

Black-faced Woodswallow (*Artamus cinereus*) – Up to six birds seen well at Lake Tyrell.

Dusky Woodswallow <sup>E</sup> (*Artamus cyanopterus*) – Singles in woodland south of Deniliquin and around Heathcote.



A female Yellow-breasted Boatbill (L) along one of the trails at KFP, and a male White-browed Woodswallow (R) near Ouyen  
© M Breckenridge.

### **BELLMAGPIES & ALLIES (*Cracticidae*)**

Gray Butcherbird <sup>E</sup> (*Cracticus torquatus*) – Good looks at a single in HKNP.

Pied Butcherbird <sup>E</sup> (*Cracticus nigrogularis*) – Singles seen around SEQ and Victoria/NSW.

Black Butcherbird (*Cracticus quoyi*) – Singles seen at Centenary Lakes and along the Daintree.

Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) – Singles/tens most days of the trip.

Pied Currawong <sup>E</sup> (*Strepera graculina*) – Singles/tens in SEQ.

Gray Currawong <sup>E</sup> (*Strepera versicolor*) – Heard and seen poorly around Ouyen.

### **CUCKOOSHRIKES (*Campephagidae*)**

Ground Cuckooshrike <sup>E</sup> (*Coracina maxima*) – Wonderful looks at this scarce inland species nesting north of Deniliquin.

Barred [Yellow-eyed] Cuckooshrike (*Coracina lineata*) – Poor views of a pair flying away near Julatten.

Black-faced Cuckooshrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*) – Singles most days of the trip.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike (*Coracina papuensis*) – Singles around Cairns and Julatten.

White-winged Triller (*Lalage tricolor*) – A bird that can irrupt after good rains, well over 100 birds seen on our day between Nhill and Ouyen, flying over the road and feeding in grassy paddocks. Tens seen the following three days.

Varied Triller (*Lalage leucomela*) – Singles each day around KFP and Julatten.

Common Cicadabird (*Edolisoma tenuirostre*) – Flight views of a couple of vocal individuals at Centenary Lakes.

### **SHRIKE-TIT<sup>E</sup> (*Falcunculidae*)**

Crested Shrike-tit<sup>E</sup> (*Falcunculus frontatus*)  
 ['Eastern Shrike-tit'<sup>E</sup> (*Falcunculus f. frontatus*)] – Great looks at a confiding bird in forest south of Deniliquin. Heard only near Heathcote.

### **WHISTLERS & ALLIES (*Pachycephalidae*)**

Bower's Shrikethrush<sup>E</sup> (*Colluricincla boweri*) – At least two seen well along the trail at the top of Mount Lewis.

Gray Shrikethrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*) – Seen and heard regularly in SEQ and Victoria/NSW.

Little Shrikethrush (*Colluricincla megarhyncha*) – Seen or heard regularly around KFP.

Gilbert's Whistler<sup>E</sup> (*Pachycephala inornata*) – One heard at Little Desert, and great looks at a male in forest south of Deniliquin.

Golden Whistler<sup>E</sup> (*Pachycephala pectoralis*) – Great looks at multiple birds around O'Reilly's, heard on Mount Lewis.

Gray Whistler (*Pachycephala simplex*) – One seen briefly near Julatten, heard regularly at KFP.

Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*) – Heard on several occasions in each state, seen well at Little Desert and around Deniliquin.

### **AUSTRALO-PAPUAN BELLBIRDS (*Oreoicidae*)**

Crested Bellbird<sup>E</sup> (*Oreoica gutturalis*) – Brief views of a couple in HKNP.

### **OLD WORLD ORIOLES (*Oriolidae*)**

Olive-[Brown]-backed Oriole (*Oriolus sagittatus*) – Singles around Mareeba.

Green [Yellow] Oriole (*Oriolus flavocinctus*) – Great looks at up to 20 birds along the Daintree.

Australasian Figbird (*Sphecotheres vieilloti*) – Tens every day in FNQ.



A female Shining Flycatcher (R) on her nest along the Daintree and an Apostlebird (R) in HKNP © M Breckenridge.

### **DRONGOS (*Dicruridae*)**

Spangled Drongo (*Dicrurus bracteatus*) – Singles/tens most days in Queensland.

### **FANTAILS (*Rhipiduridae*)**

Willie-wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) – Singles seen every day of the trip.

Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons*) – Singles seen/heard each day in SEQ and FNQ.

Gray Fantail <sup>°</sup> (*Rhipidura albiscapa*) – Singles seen/heard in all states.

### **MONARCH FLYCATCHERS (*Monarchidae*)**

Black-faced Monarch <sup>°</sup> (*Monarcha melanopsis*) – Singles heard and seen each day at O'Reilly's and KFP.

Spectacled Monarch (*Symposiachrus trivirgatus*) – Single female coming into drink at O'Reilly's, and singles each day at KFP.

Pied Monarch <sup>E</sup> (*Arses kaupi*) – We had good luck with this species during our time in FNQ. We started with lovely views of a perched male at KFP on our first afternoon and saw singles/pairs for the next three days.

Magpie-lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) – Singles/tens seen every day, bar one.

Leaden Flycatcher (*Myiagra rubecula*) – Single male bathing at a dam in the Kerry Valley south of Brisbane.

Shining Flycatcher (*Myiagra alecto*) – Great looks at up to 10 individuals of this highly dimorphic species along the edges of Barratt Creek near Daintree.

### **CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES (*Corvidae*)**

Torresian Crow (*Corvus orru*) – Singles most days in SEQ and FNQ.

Australian Raven <sup>E</sup> (*Corvus coronoides*) – Singles in red gum forest around Deniliquin, including a much-despised pair that we watch raid the nest of a Tawny Frogmouth.

Little Raven <sup>E</sup> (*Corvus mellori*) – Tens each day in Victoria and NSW, the dominant corvid in southern Australia.

### **WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH AND APOSTLEBIRD <sup>E</sup> (*Corcoracidae*)**

White-winged Chough <sup>E</sup> (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*) – Singles/tens seen most days in Victoria and NSW.

Apostlebird <sup>E</sup> (*Struthidea cinerea*) – Lovely close looks at a group at HKNP.



### **BIRDS-OF-PARADISE (*Paradisaeidae*)**

Paradise Riflebird <sup>E</sup> (*Ptiloris paradiseus*) – One male seen searching a tall tree for food and a female seen later in the day, both in rainforest at O'Reilly's.

Victoria's Riflebird <sup>E</sup> (*Ptiloris victoriae*) – Great looks at a male calling from his display perch on Mount Lewis, others seen briefly.

### **AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS (*Petroicidae*)**

Jacky-winter <sup>E</sup> (*Microeca fascinans*) – Pairs at Little Desert, HKNP, and Deniliquin.

Lemon-bellied Flycatcher (*Microeca flavigaster*) – A pair nextdoor to KFP showing poorly in tall eucalypts.

Scarlet Robin <sup>E</sup> (*Petroica boodang*) – Glimpses of a pair at Little Desert, and good looks at a male near Heathcote.

Red-capped Robin <sup>E</sup> (*Petroica goodenovii*) – Great looks at several males near Ouyen and south of Deniliquin.

Rose Robin <sup>E</sup> (*Petroica rosea*) – A lovely male seen well at O'Reilly's on our first morning.

Hooded Robin <sup>E</sup> (*Melanodryas cucullata*) – A single near Little Desert, and good looks at a pair at Goschen.

Pale-yellow Robin <sup>E</sup> (*Tregellasia capito*) – Common and confiding around KFP.

Eastern Yellow Robin <sup>E</sup> (*Eopsaltria australis*) – Common and confiding around O'Reilly's.

Gray-headed Robin <sup>E</sup> (*Heteromyias cinereifrons*) – Frustrating views of several on Mount Lewis and a single calling from cover near Yungaburra.

### **LARKS (*Alaudidae*)**

Australasian [Singing] Bushlark (*Mirafra javanica*) – Very brief views of a flushed pair north of Deniliquin.

### **SWALLOWS (*Hirundinidae*)**

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) – Singles/tens every day, bar one.

Fairy Martin (*Petrochelidon ariel*) – Singles around Beaudesert.

Tree Martin (*Petrochelidon* [*Hirundo*] *nigricans*) – Tens around Beaudesert and at Little Desert, incidentals on several other occasions.

White-backed Swallow <sup>E</sup> (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*) – Great views of a pair that we lucked across on the highway north of Ouyen.



Just some of the many confiding birds at O'Reilly's – Eastern Yellow Robin (LA); male Golden Whistler (RA); Red-browed Finch (LB); and a Welcome Swallow (RB) © M Breckenridge.

### **REED WARBLERS & ALLIES (*Acrocephalidae*)**

Australian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*) – Single seen well at Hastie's Swamp near Atherton. Heard around Kerang and Deniliquin.

### **GRASSBIRDS & ALLIES (*Locustellidae*)**

Little Grassbird <sup>H</sup> (*Megalurus gramineus*) – Heard only at a storage dam near Deniliquin in very blustery conditions.

Brown Songlark <sup>E</sup> (*Megalurus cruralis*) – Good numbers seen on wires and fence lines in wheat country around Nhill, several also seen north of Deniliquin.

Rufous Songlark <sup>E</sup> (*Megalurus mathewsi*) – Displaying individuals at Little Desert and nesting birds around Deniliquin.

### **CISTICOLAS & ALLIES (*Cisticolidae*)**

Golden-[Bright]-headed Cisticola (*Cisticola exilis*) – Singles around Beaudesert and near Mareeba.

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

Silver-eye <sup>e</sup> (*Zosterops lateralis*) – Singles/tens every day in FNQ.

### **THRUSHES & ALLIES (*Turdidae*)**

Russet-tailed Thrush <sup>E</sup> (*Zoothera heinei*) – Good views of a single at O'Reilly's that responded very uncharacteristically by coming in several times to the tape.

Eurasian Blackbird <sup>I</sup> (*Turdus merula*) – Singles seen and heard each day in Victoria and NSW.

### **STARLINGS (*Sturnidae*)**

Metallic Starling (*Aplonis metallica*) – Tens/hundreds every day in FNQ. A summer migrant from New Guinea, there is a large colony at KFP.

European Starling <sup>1</sup> (*Sturnus vulgaris*) – Tens/hundreds every day in Victoria and NSW.

Common Myna <sup>1</sup> (*Acridotheres tristis*) – Singles/tens encountered most days.

### **FLOWERPECKERS (*Dicaeidae*)**

Mistletoebird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*) – Singles seen/heard in all states.

### **SUNBIRDS & SPIDERHUNTERS (*Nectariniidae*)**

Olive-backed Sunbird (*Cinnyris [Nectarinia] jugularis*) – Singles around Cairns and the Daintree.

### **WAGTAILS & PIPTS (*Motacillidae*)**

Australasian Pipit <sup>e</sup> (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

[‘Australian Pipit’ <sup>E</sup> (*Anthus n. australis*)] – Singles at Maryfarms, and singles/tens in Victoria and NSW.

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS (*Passeridae*)**

House Sparrow <sup>1</sup> (*Passer domesticus*) – Singles in Cairns, tens/hundreds in Victoria and NSW.

### **WAXBILLS & ALLIES (*Estrilidae*)**

Red-browed Firetail <sup>E</sup> (*Neochmia temporalis*) – Tens seen each day at O’Reilly’s and KFP.

Double-barred Finch <sup>E</sup> (*Taeniopygia bichenovii*) – Singles around Beaudesert and at Granit Gorge.

Chestnut-breasted Munia <sup>e</sup> (*Lonchura castaneothorax*) – Tens every day at the feeders during our stay at KFP.

## **MAMMALS**

### **PLATYPUS <sup>E</sup> (*Ornithorhynchidae*)**

Platypus <sup>E</sup> (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) – We all had amazing views of one individual in Yungaburra, repeatedly surfacing over a period of 15 minutes not more than a few feet away! Kevin glimpsed another individual in Brushy Creek at the back of KFP one afternoon.





One very friendly Platypus from a creek near Yungaburra in FNQ © M Breckenridge.

### **ECHIDNAS <sup>°</sup> (*Tachyglossidae*)**

Short-beaked Echidna <sup>E</sup> (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) – Very nice looks at a big adult on our final day of the tour, at Mount Ida.

### **BANDICOOTS (*Peramelidae*)**

Northern Brown Bandicoot <sup>E</sup> (*Isodon macrourus*) – One seen while spotlighting at KFP.

### **KOALA (*Phascolarctidae*)**

Koala <sup>E</sup> (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) – After a decent search, we located an adult female with her young joey just out of the pouch on the slopes of Mount Gravatt south of Brisbane. A big highlight for day one of the tour!

### **BRUSHTAIL POSSUMS (*Phalangeridae*)**

Common Brushtail Possum <sup>E</sup> (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) – A trio feeding on flowers as we returned from spotlighting north of Deniliquin.

Mountain Brushtail Possum <sup>E</sup> (*Trichosurus cunninghami*) – One observed while spotlighting at O'Reilly's.

### **GLIDERS (*Petauridae*)**

Sugar Glider <sup>°</sup> (*Petaurus breviceps*) – One observed while spotlighting at O'Reilly's.

### **RINGTAIL POSSUMS & RELATIVES (*Pseudocheiridae*)**

Common Ringtail Possum <sup>E</sup> (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*) – One observed during the day at Mount Gravatt, and up to eight individuals spotlit at O'Reilly's.

Green Ringtail Possum <sup>E</sup> (*Pseudochirops archeri*) – Two individuals seen while spotlighting at KFP. Endemic to FNQ.

### **KANGAROOS <sup>°</sup> (*Macropodidae*)**

Western Gray Kangaroo <sup>E</sup> (*Macropus fuliginosus*) – Several seen on the plains north of Deniliquin.

Red Kangaroo <sup>E</sup> (*Macropus rufus*) – Up to 20 individuals on the plains north of Deniliquin.

Red-necked Wallaby <sup>E</sup> (*Macropus rufogriseus*) – Singles seen each day in SEQ.  
 Eastern Gray Kangaroo <sup>E</sup> (*Macropus giganteus*) – Tens in SEQ, Victoria and NSW.  
 Pretty-face [Whiptail] Wallaby <sup>E</sup> (*Macropus parryi*) – Great looks at these beautiful macropods on the slopes below O'Reilly's.  
 Swamp Wallaby <sup>E</sup> (*Wallabia bicolor*) – Several seen in red gum forest close to Deniliquin.  
 Mareeba Rock-wallaby <sup>E</sup> (*Petrogale mareeba*) – At least eight individuals feeding out of our hands at Granite Gorge near Mareeba.  
 Lumholtz's Tree-Kangaroo <sup>E</sup> (*Dendrolagus lumholtzi*) – Good looks at a single loafing in a tree right after arriving at the Nerada Tea Plantation.  
 Red-legged Pademelon <sup>e</sup> (*Thylogale stigmatica*) – Singles around KFP.  
 Red-necked Pademelon <sup>E</sup> (*Thylogale thetis*) – Singles around O'Reilly's.



The aptly named Pretty-face Wallaby (L) from near O'Reilly's, and a Koala (R) mum and bub at Mount Gravatt © M Breckenridge.

### **FLYING FOXES / FRUIT BATS (*Pteropodidae*)**

Black Flying-fox (*Pteropus alecto*) – Tens amongst a large mixed roost in Beaudesert, south of Brisbane.  
 Spectacled Flying-fox (*Pteropus conspicillatus*) – Several observed feeding in fruiting trees while spotlighting at KFP.  
 Gray-headed Flying-fox <sup>E</sup> (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) – Tens making up the majority of a mixed roost in Beaudesert.

### **RABBITS (*Leporidae*)**

European Rabbit <sup>I</sup> (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) – Tens around Deniliquin.  
 European Hare <sup>I</sup> (*Lepus europaeus*) – Single seen near Kerang.

### **MICE, RATS & RELATIVES (*Muridae*)**

House Mouse <sup>I</sup> (*Mus musculus*) – Singles at KFP and while spotlighting north of Deniliquin.  
 Bush Rat <sup>E</sup> (*Rattus fuscipes*) – Singles around the feeders at KFP.  
 Giant White-tailed Rat <sup>e</sup> (*Uromys caudimaculatus*) – Good looks at this large, native rodent while spotlighting at KFP.

### **CATS (*Felidae*)**

House Cat <sup>I</sup> (*Felis catus*) – Arguably the most damaging feral animal introduced to Australia. One seen south of Deniliquin.

## **DOGS (*Canidae*)**

Dingo <sup>E</sup> (*Canis familiaris dingo*) – Good looks at one individual along the road not far from O'Reilly's.

Red Fox <sup>I</sup> (*Vulpes vulpes*) – One seen briefly near Kerang.

## **REPTILES**

### **CROCODILES (*Crocodylidae*)**

Saltwater [Estuarine] Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) – One impressive male seen on the Daintree River.

### **MONITORS (*Varanidae*)**

Gould's Sand Monitor <sup>E</sup> (*Varanus gouldii*) – Wonderfully close views of an unconcerned individual in Hattah NP, expertly spotted from the bus by Kevin!

### **DRAGONS & IGUANIAN LIZARDS (*Agamidae*)**

Inland Bearded Dragon <sup>E</sup> (*Pogona vitticeps*) – Good views of an individual in the mallee at HKNP.

Mallee Military Dragon <sup>E</sup> (*Ctenophorus fordii*) – Close views of a couple of quick individuals in the mallee at HKNP.

Eastern Water Dragon <sup>E</sup> (*Intellagama lesueurii*) – Singles in SEQ and FNQ.



A beautifully patterned Gould's Sand Monitor (L) and a docile Inland Bearded Dragon (R) from HKNP © M Breckenridge.