

BIRDING AUSTRALIA: EASTERN AUSTRALIA – FROM THE OUTBACK TO THE WET TROPICS TRIP REPORT

29 OCTOBER – 15 NOVEMBER 2024

By Chris Lotz



One of two Pink Cockatoos that foraged on the ground right next to us.

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Overview

This year's eastern Australia birding tour was, as always, an epic success. Traversing large parts of Victoria and Queensland, with a short foray into New South Wales, we accumulated a bird list of 378 bird species, 28 mammals, 16 reptiles, many beautiful butterflies and stacks of fascinating plants.

Australia is immense, and covering a large portion of the eastern states is tough to do in 18 days, nevertheless, we managed to see some of the most iconic birds and mammals that Australia has to offer. These included both lyrebird species, which we enjoyed seeing and hearing well (they are incredible mimics, and the **Albert's Lyrebird** barked like a dog, amongst other things); **Plains-wanderer; Southern Cassowaries** (including a large chick) walking on the beach; seven fairy-wren species including **Lovely**, **Variegated**, **Red-backed** and **Splendid Fairywrens**; two emuwren species; **Striated Grassbird**; **Malleefowl**; **Australian Bustard**; 27 different parrots including nine cockatoos; 41 honeyeater species; 13 Australian robins including dazzling ones in the form of **Rose Robin**, **Flame Robin**, **Scarlet Robin** and **Red-capped Robin**; two frogmouth species at their daytime roost; several bowerbirds including the spectacular **Regent Bowerful Owls** at their daytime roost; several bowerbirds including both kookaburras and the extravagantly-plumaged **Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher**; and many others. Do refer to the bird list at the end of this report, as the highlights are far too numerous to list fully here.

Mammals were amazing, and we enjoyed seeing **Koala**, **Platypus**, **Common Wombat**, many macropods (kangaroo types) ranging in size from the massive **Red Kangaroo** through to the diminutive **Musky Rat Kangaroo** (with everything in between, such as wallabies and pademelons), and others. Please do refer to the mammal list - and also the reptile list - at the end of this report for the specifics.



Platypus, an egg-laying weirdo mammal!



All in all, this Australia birding tour encompassed varied landscapes, taking us past the cool southern heathlands, beautiful beaches, the Outback, and the tropical rainforests of northern Queensland. As always, this was a great tour for seeing a large variety of Australia's unique birds and other fauna and flora, and scenery.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 29th October 2024. Arrival in Melbourne

We arrived in Melbourne today and the tour officially started with a 6 pm dinner at the hotel restaurant, where we planned for the exciting days ahead.

Day 2, 30th October 2024. Birding Melbourne to Healesville

The first day of any birding tour is generally very rewarding, with almost all birds being new and stacks of life-birds coming in for everyone. Australia is so full of brightly colored birds, such as a host of parrots, many of which we saw today. We first had to drive through Melbourne, a very interesting experience, providing great views of the downtown area and suburbs. Our first birding stop was within the suburbs of Melbourne: our main aim was to admire a **Tawny Frogmouth** roosting with its two chicks. This is a truly bizarre nocturnal bird, and it is always good to find a daytime roost. At this same site, we also enjoyed great views of beautiful **Rainbow Lorikeets**, **Musk Lorikeets**, **Red Wattlebird**, **Pied Currawong**, **Grey Butcherbird**, **Little Raven**, **Noisy Miner**, **Magpie-lark** and other common Australian birds.

We then headed to Shepherd's Bush, where we added some more spectacular parrots, including **Eastern Rosella** and our first of many **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos**. A **Common Bronzewing** gave good views, and we scoped some **Sacred Kingfishers**. An **Eastern Yellow Robin** showed very well while singing monotonously. We saw our first **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** and spectacularly colored **Superb Fairywrens**. These dazzling fairywrens are super-confiding, and so common in this part of Australia.

While driving to lunch, we saw our first **Galahs**, yet another awesome parrot and nicely abundant across Australia; pink birds are always good to have around. Over a tasty lunch, we were treated to views of a couple of good raptors: the spectacular **Wedge-tailed Eagle** (which we saw better at our next stop, though) and a **Brown Goshawk**.

After lunch, our first birding stop was at <u>Sherbrooke Forest</u> in the <u>Dandenong Ranges National</u> <u>Park</u>. Here, the world's tallest flowering trees, **Mountain Ashes**, tower far above beautiful tree ferns closer to the forest floor. Our main target here was **Superb Lyrebird**, which we saw extremely well, including one adult male with its extravagantly spectacular tail feathers. Equally impressive is the lyrebird's song; it imitates many other birds very accurately, between bursts of its own song. The supporting cast here included a singing **Rose Robin** (seemingly an immature male, and we had to wait until we got to Queensland before we saw a "proper" dazzling male), some **Australian King Parrots** and many **Crimson Rosellas** (both magnificently colorful parrots), **Laughing Kookaburra, Eastern Spinebill**, a close-up, intricately-marked **Spotted Pardalote**, an **Eastern Whipbird** that showed very well, **White-browed Scrubwren**, our first of many **Brown Thornbills**, **Grey Shrikethrush** and others. What a session!





Luckily, we saw a proper male **Rose Robin** later in the tour (this photo is from a previous year).

We then drove to <u>Lillydale Lake</u>, another productive site that gave us further new birds for the trip. These included various waterbirds like **Chestnut Teal**, **Grey Teal**, **Dusky Moorhen**, **Australasian Swamphen**, **Australasian Grebe**, **Australasian Darter**, **Australian Reed Warbler**, etc. Our first **Crested Pigeon** showed well: what a stunning bird, another common but beautiful Australian species. A **Shining Bronze Cuckoo** also gave us great looks.

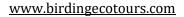
As we drove to our pleasantly located accommodation, we saw a few **Yellow-faced Spoonbills** from the car (we'd see them better later in the tour). After checking in we spent an hour regrouping, before a delicious meal.

We ended the day with a night walk. Here, we saw some truly amazing mammals in the form of **Southern Greater Glider**, **Sugar Glider**, and a **Common Wombat**! We heard **Australian Boobook**, **Greater Sooty Owl**, and **Tawny Frogmouth**.

Day 3, 31st October 2024. Healesville to Geelong via the Werribee Western Treatment Plant

We started the day getting some great views of several bird species at the lodge. These included **Laughing Kookaburra** with its raucous laughing call, **Eastern Spinebill**, **Striated Thornbill**, and others.

We then headed to <u>Mt St Leonard</u>, part of the <u>Yarra Ranges National Park</u>. The misty conditions were very atmospheric. As we got out of the minibus, we immediately laid eyes on a gorgeous pair of **Flame Robins** on the road. An **Eastern Yellow Robin** showed more fleetingly. A couple of people in the group saw a **Bassian Thrush**. We got alright views of a **Pilotbird**, and good views of a couple of **White-throated Treecreepers**. A group of **Large-billed Scrubwrens** and a **White-**





browed Scrubwren put in appearances. We saw **Pied Currawong** again and also found our first **Grey Currawong** of the trip. A couple of **Crescent Honeyeaters** were great to see.

After a delicious bakery lunch, we headed back through the city of Melbourne, to the famous (among birders) Werribee Western Treatment Plant. Here, we saw 78 bird species in just under four hours. At the entrance, we scoped a beautiful **Brown Falcon**. Next, we found 15 **Cape Barren Geese** (a localized species named after <u>Cape Barren Island</u> in the <u>Bass Strait</u> between the Australian mainland and Tasmania) and a stack of beautiful **Australian Shelducks**. We were delighted to see a few of the bizarre-looking **Pink-eared Ducks** among a lot of **Chestnut** and **Grey Teals**. **Blue-billed Teals**, **Hardheads**, **Musk Ducks**, and several other wildfowl species. Excitingly, we then encountered a couple of **Australian Crakes** and **Black-tailed Nativehens**. Two **Brolgas** showed well; cranes are always great to see! Shorebirds were much in evidence, with a lot of **Pied Stilts** and one **Banded Stilt**, many **Red-necked Avocets**, a couple of **Pacific Golden Plovers**, some **Black-fronted** and **Red-kneed Dotterels**, many **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers**, a **Pectoral Sandpiper** (a rarity from America!), **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Common Greenshank**, many **Red-necked Stints**, and a few **Curlew Sandpipers**. A mixed flock of **Royal** and **Yellow-billed Spoonbills** showed well.

There were countless **Black Swans**, **Hoary-headed Grebes** and graceful **Whiskered Terns**, with smaller numbers of **Greater Crested Terns** and two **Caspian Terns**, plus a handful of **Great Crested Grebes**. An **Australasian Gannet** flew by offshore. There were a few **Little Pied**, **Little Black**, and **Great Cormorants**, and **Australian Pelicans** were everywhere. **Swamp Harriers** were also all over the place, as well as smaller numbers of **Black Kites** and one **Whistling Kite**.

Terrestrial birds were also around, including a lot of beautiful **Superb Fairywrens** and a single **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater**. There were a lot of **White-fronted Chats**, a couple of **Yellow-rumped Thornbills**, an **Australian Pipit** and a few **Eurasian Skylarks** singing and displaying high in the sky above us. A **Little Grassbird** was also seen. We got great views of **Welcome Swallows**, many **Fairy Martins**, and a single **Tree Martin**. A few **Australian Zebra Finches** sat along a fence.

Day 4, 1st November 2024. Geelong to central Victoria via the Surf Coast

This morning, we headed first for Point Roadknight along the <u>Great Ocean Road</u>. Our main target here was the striking **Hooded Plover** (Dotterel) along the beach and we were not disappointed. We enjoyed seeing a few **Australasian Gannets**, **Shy Albatrosses** and the spectacular sight of thousands upon thousands of **Short-tailed Shearwaters** on migration! We found a **Black-faced Cormorant** on a rock. There were many **Red Wattlebirds** around, and we even found an **Afro-Australian Fur Seal**. Just as we were leaving, we found one of the top birds of the day, **Gang-gang Cockatoo**, a really strange, beautiful parrot. We are thankful to the kind homeowner who saw us looking at them and invited us into her yard to see them even closer up.

We then headed to Googoorah Park, where the highlights were some **Blue-winged Parrots** and a couple of **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos** flying slowly and gracefully over us, very atmospheric. We also got solid views of a **Striated Pardalote** and some other species we'd already seen, including the ever-present (in south-eastern Australia) **Superb Fairywren**.

Anglesea Heath was next on our agenda. A spectacular-looking **Scarlet Robin** wowed us. We saw our first **White-eared Honeyeaters** here and also found some **Southern Emu-wrens**;



unfortunately the views of these were quite fleeting. **Buff-rumped Thornbills** did, however, show well, and we also saw a **Forest Raven**.

We then went to Distillery Creek Picnic Area in the <u>Great Otway National Park</u>. White-naped and White-eared Honeyeaters as well as White-throated Treecreepers showed well here. A Satin Flycatcher and some Red-browed Finches also gave good views.

Our final coastal birding stop before turning inland and crossing the <u>Great Dividing Range</u> was Split Point. Here we saw a great many more migrating **Short-tailed Shearwaters**, our first **Singing Honeyeaters**, and awesome views of **Rufous Bristlebird**.

Day 5, 2nd November 2024. Central to northern Victoria

Today we enjoyed some extremely productive birding in central Victoria, before heading to Mildura on the Murray River, which forms the boundary with New South Wales. We started the morning at the Inglewood Nature Conservation Reserve where we managed to get close views of a **Painted Buttonquail**. We also saw a pair of dazzlingly beautiful **Red-capped Robins**. There were also many other new birds for the trip here: **Shy Heathwren**, **Yellow Thornbill**, **Inland Thornbill**, **Weebill**, **Western Whistler**, **Rufous Whistler**, **Brush Bronzewing**, many **Yellowtufted Honeyeaters**, a **White-fronted Honeyeater**, a few **White-headed Honeyeaters**, and a few **Brown-headed Honeyeaters**, plus a rather fleeting **Tawny-crowned Honeyeater** that sadly didn't show well.

Our next stop was at Mount Korong Nature Conservation Reserve, which was just as productive as our previous stop. Two of the star birds here were **Painted Honeyeaters** and **Diamond Firetails**, both of which showed extremely nicely and are beautiful birds. Also new for the trip was a flock of **Long-billed Corellas**, some **Red-rumped Parrots**, a couple of **Brown Treecreepers**, a lot of **White-plumed Honeyeaters**, and a **Hooded Robin**.

We then visited Lake Tyrrell Wildlife Reserve. A real delight here was getting great views of our second (of seven) fairywren species for the tour, **Purple-backed Fairywren**. We also saw a **Rufous Fieldwren** a couple of times as it sang from atop low bushes. **Black-faced Woodswallows** provided good views.

Our final stop of the day before heading to our accommodation to check in was in the <u>Hattah-Kulkyne National Park</u>, which protects some pristine <u>mallee vegetation</u>. Here, the star bird was the Vulnerable (<u>IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</u>) **Malleefowl**, which we saw very well. We also thoroughly enjoyed seeing a lot of **Red Kangaroos** and **Western Grey Kangaroos**.

Day 6, 3rd November 2024. Birding Hattah-Kulkyne National Park

We spent the entire day birding the superb mallee habitat that this park protects. We had quite a few tough target birds, but we did very well in connecting with them. One of the first birds we saw this morning was a pair of localized **Mallee Emu-wrens**. Soon afterwards, we managed to see the truly dazzlingly blue **Splendid Fairywren**. **Striated Grasswren** co-operated alright, and we had prolonged views of this mustached skulker. **Chestnut Quail-thrush** was less co-operative, but we did see one a couple of times (just too briefly and a bit far away). **Southern Scrub Robin** and another pair of **Red-capped Robins** showed very nicely though. We enjoyed seeing a pair of scarce **Little Eagles** at one point, there were stacks of beautiful **Rainbow Bee-eaters** around the whole



day and a **Striped Honeyeater** was new for the trip. Over 100 **Masked Woodswallows** and a couple of **White-browed Woodswallows** flew around overhead.

During lunch, we saw our first Little Corellas. Talking of parrots, we saw a few Regent Parrots, one of which flew over us. There were also some Mulga Parrots, Australian Ringnecks, and Eastern Bluebonnets around too.

After lunch, we enjoyed some really entertaining and friendly **Apostlebirds** and there were **Grey Butcherbirds** and **White-winged Choughs** around as well. **Australian Ravens** called and showed their throat hackles, proving their identity and differentiating them from the very similar **Little Ravens** we'd seen on previous days. A **Grey Currawong** (the black-winged form) showed briefly at one point.

Mixed flocks proved great for **Yellow Thornbill**, **Chestnut-rumped Thornbill**, the remarkably musical **Western Gerygone**, **Gilbert's Whistler**, **Weebill** and various others such as some honeyeater species we'd already seen previously. A Jacky Winter showed quite well. **White-browed** and **Chestnut-crowned Babblers** were both also seen, although a bit too briefly.

Mammal-wise, we enjoyed seeing more **Red** and **Western Grey Kangaroos** today. Reptiles, including the cute, strange **Shingleback Lizard**, showed a couple of times, as did **Sand Goannas** and a **Mallee Dragon**. We found a dead Dark-spined Blind Snake as well.



Shingleback (Stumpy-tailed) Lizard.

Day 7, 4th November 2024. Plains-wanderer and other remarkable birds in New South Wales

We started the day trying to locate **Pink Cockatoos** in and around Ouyen and were initially rewarded with a pair that flew over us, then later by an immensely co-operative pair that sat feeding on the ground close to us! We also got great views of some **Mulga Parrots**.



We then headed towards our next destination, finding our first **Blue-faced Honeyeaters** along the way. Further along, we stopped at Lake Tutchewop, where one of the best birds was the luminously colorful **White-winged Fairywren**. We also saw good numbers of **White-fronted Chats**. Further along on our drive, we saw a magnificent **White-bellied Sea Eagle** (very far from the sea!).

After crossing the Murray River into New South Wales, we eventually reached Deniliquin, where we collected a picnic dinner for later, before embarking on an incredibly exciting birding evening (indeed, one of the most exciting birding sessions of the entire tour). We stopped along the way, before dark, for various birds, some of them new for the trip. One of the highlights was an **Australian Owlet-nightjar** at its nest box. We also saw a **Nankeen Night Heron** in flight (but had to wait until near the end of the trip to see this species properly). A couple of **Banded Lapwings** were one of the top birds of this evening's session. We also saw stacks of **Emus**. Just before dark, while we were enjoying our picnic dinner, we saw an **Australian Hobby** and, very briefly, a **Black Falcon**. An **Australian Boobook** was more co-operative. At the start of our night drive proper, we managed to find two male **Plains-wanderers** and one larger, more brightly-colored and nicely patterned female (see comparative photos below), and this was the main reason for our nighttime birding excursion. We then managed to find **Stubble Quails** (two females and then a well-marked male). **Singing Bush Larks, Brown Songlarks**, and many **Australian Pipits** were also around.

Mammal-wise, today was also awesome, with good views of some **Fat-tailed Dunnarts** and **Common Brush-tailed Possums**, among a great many kangaroos (species we'd already seen). A **Byrne's** (Gibber) **Gecko** also showed well.



The larger, brighter, female **Plains-wanderer** we saw tonight.





One of the two male **Plains-wanderers** we saw tonight.

Day 8, 5th November 2024. Deniliquin to Wangaratta

We started the day at the Island Sanctuary, a great birding venue right near our hotel. This was one of the most productive birding walks of the tour! We saw ten parrot species, including our main target, **Superb Parrot**, and surprisingly excellent views of a pair of **Little Lorikeets**. One other major parrot highlight was many of the yellow form of **Crimson Rosella** (not a good name for this form!). We also saw our first friarbirds, **Little Friarbird**, and **Noisy Friarbird**, in quick succession. We ended the wonderful birding session here with good views of **Eastern Shriketit** foraging on bark at eye level.

We then went to the Waring Gardens, also right in Deniliquin, and saw roosting **Grey-headed Flying Foxes**, impressively large bats. En route to Wangaratta, we saw a pair of **Brolgas** right next to the road. At our lunch stop on the banks of the Murray River at Tocumwal, just before we reentered the state of Victoria, was **Blue-faced Honeyeater** (better views of this colorful honeyeater than before).

We reached the <u>Warby-Ovens National Park</u> in the middle of the afternoon, in good time for some solid birding. **Turquoise Parrot** was one of our main targets and we saw a brightly colored male fly off the road and some tour participants got good views (we managed to find another male later, which gave everyone in the group a decent view.) We also found a couple of other new birds in the form of the rather drab **Fuscous Honeyeater**, a **White-throated Gerygone**, and (briefly) a **Restless Flycatcher**.

After a very tasty dinner, we went on a night walk and were very pleased to see and hear **Barking Owl** very nicely, along with great mammals: **Squirrel Glider**, **Eastern Ring-tailed Possums** (including one with a baby on its back!), and a **Common Brush-tailed Possum**.



Day 9, 6th November 2024. Morning birding and then back to Melbourne

After breakfast, we watched a **Pacific Koel** being mobbed by some **Noisy Friarbirds**. We then spent a couple of hours birding in the <u>Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park</u>. Here, we had brief views of a couple of **Turquoise Parrots** again, and saw a lot of **Fuscous Honeyeaters**, a couple of **Satin Bowerbirds**, a **Speckled Warbler** showing very well, several **Olive-backed Orioles**, and a beautiful male **Mistletoebird**.

Down the road, we found a new trip bird in the form of **White-winged Triller**, but the highlight of the day was finding three **Koalas** (one of them a baby)! What a morning!

After a particularly good lunch, we drove back to Melbourne to overnight before our morning flight to Brisbane the following day.

Day 10, 7th November 2024. Melbourne to Brisbane flight and transfer to Lamington National Park

We took a morning flight to Brisbane in southern coastal Queensland. Soon after arriving in Brisbane, we headed for the mangroves at Nudgee Beach. Here we found **Mangrove Gerygone**, **Mangrove Honeyeater**, and **Torresian Crow**, among other bird species we'd seen earlier in the trip.



The striking face pattern of the Eastern Water Dragon is seen well in this photo.

We then headed into the hills towards the famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Lodge, making some productive stops along the way. Our first stop was at Kumbartcho Sanctuary, where we loved



seeing two very impressive and beautiful **Powerful Owls**, a roosting **Tawny Frogmouth**, a very tame **Australian Brushturkey**, **Lewin's Honeyeaters**, etc.

After an excellent lunch, we continued further, stopping at a site for **Grey-headed** and **Black Flying Foxes** roosting together, some also flying around and a couple of them carrying babies. An **Eastern Water Dragon** showed well. We also saw a couple of **Whip-tailed** (Pretty-faced) **Wallabies** as we ascended.

We eventually reached Lamington National Park, specifically O'Reilly's, the famous birding lodge in the middle of the rainforest. We immediately found some spectacular birds like **Regent Bowerbird**, **Australian King Parrot**, **Crimson Rosellas**, a **Wonga Pigeon** and many others. Soon after arriving, we headed for dinner, much anticipating the next morning.

A couple of the group joined the glowworm experience, and also saw a **Carpet Python** during this. **Eastern Water Skink** was also around the lodge.



Regent Bowerbird is always a showy treat at O'Reilly's! (This photo is from last year's tour).

Day 11, 8th November 2024. Full day birding around O'Reilly's Rainforest Lodge

O'Reilly's is justly famous, and it lived up to its reputation today. During the morning sessions before and after our buffet breakfast, we racked up a long bird list of forest specials. **Paradise Riflebirds** (which are birds of paradise) "sang" from the treetops and sometimes gave quite good views. A couple of the tour participants saw a male performing its display. **Green Catbirds** also showed quite well at times. We were amused by the constant yowling of these birds; it sounded like there were cats in the tops of trees throughout the day. **Eastern Whipbirds** show extremely well around O'Reilly's and this was also another bird that was hilarious to hear with its whip-like song; this is a characteristic sound of the forest here, just like the catbirds'. We also heard what



sounded exactly like a dog barking...but we knew there were no dogs anywhere near the lodge. It turned out to be an **Albert's Lyrebird** mimicking a dog and throwing in its own, and other bird sounds, at times. We got great views of the lyrebird after a bit of patience, it was excellent to be able to compare this bird with the **Superb Lyrebird** we'd seen earlier in the tour. The lodge area hosts a number of great-looking pigeons and we enjoyed seeing really close-up **Wonga Pigeons** as well as nicely-marked **White-headed** and strange **Topknot Pigeons**. We also saw a couple of **Brown Cuckoo-Doves**. **Australian Brushturkeys** were all over the place, and as tame as anything. Gorgeous **Crimson Rosellas** and **Australian King Parrots** sat on top of peoples' heads (yes, really!). The logo bird of O'Reilly's, and one of the beautiful bird species the lodge is famous for, is the **Regent Bowerbird** and, as usual, several showed magnificently. There were also a good number of **Satin Bowerbirds** around and we particularly enjoyed seeing a male at a bower. The trails around the lodge had lots of tame and close-up **Australian Logrunners**, **Yellow-throated Scrubwrens**, **Large-billed Scrubwrens**, **White-browed Scrubwrens** and **Eastern Yellow Robins**. There were many **Australian Rufous Fantails**, including one sitting on a nest. We also saw a few beautiful **Black-faced Monarchs**.

After lunch and a bit of a break, our afternoon session also proved good, although there were not many birds we could still add to our list because we'd already seen so much. We did find a **Spectacled Monarch** and we had fairly good views (albeit high up in a tree) of a male **Rose Robin**, another stunning bird! A pair of **Noisy Pittas** worked us hard: we saw them but not so well.

Mammal-wise, we saw two tiny kangaroo types today, **Red-necked** and **Red-legged Pademelons**. Karin and Teresa saw an **Eastern Ringtail Possum** well when walking back to their room. Reptilewise, a **Southern Angle-headed Dragon** showed well. We also saw a scarce, very beautiful butterfly, **Richmond Birdwing**.



An Australian King Parrot on Bill's head!



Day 12, 9th November 2024. Brisbane area birding and flight to Cairns

Our final early morning birding session in Lamington National Park was great, with displaying **Paradise Riflebirds** being the major highlight. We also saw a male **Rose Robin** again, in particularly good light. A **Red-legged Pademelon** showed well.

As we descended back towards Brisbane we stopped to look for **Bell Miners** that were vocalizing, but could not see any (we were a bit short of time). The consolation prize was, however, a few rare, and absolutely beautiful **Glossy Black Cockatoos** feeding in casuarina trees right next to the road where we stopped to try for the **Bell Miners**. We also saw **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos** again on the drive down the mountain. At one point, a **Red-bellied Black Snake** crossed the road in front of us and, of course, we stopped for a good look.

We eventually got back to the Brisbane area where we had a bit more than an hour to bird the Sandy Camp Road Wetlands. We were greeted by a **Buff-banded Rail**! Our main targets were two new species of fairywren, both of which we saw very well (including the spectacularly colorful males): the **Red-backed Fairywren** and the localized **Variegated Fairywren**. We also briefly saw (but heard nicely), **Tawny Grassbird** (we'd see it very well later though) and various other species.

We then took a flight to Cairns. After checking in at our hotel, we had about an hour for birding before dinner, and we explored the lively and atmospheric Cairns Esplanade – the southern part. Here, we added good numbers of new birds to our burgeoning bird list. Omnipresent **Torresian Imperial Pigeons** showed very well. A few **Varied Honeyeaters** put in appearances and sang nicely for us. **Nankeen Night Herons**, a couple of **Double-eyed Fig Parrots** and stacks of **Rainbow Lorikeets** were also around. As it started getting dark, several **Bush Stone-curlews** emerged, and an **Orange-footed Scrubfowl** flew up into its roost tree. A **Pacific Reef Heron** flew past us. Upon returning to the hotel, we found a **Tropical House Gecko**.

Day 13, 10th November 2024. Cairns to Mission Beach

We started the day with a superb breakfast on the Cairns Esplanade. The tide was perfect for shorebirds, many of which were nicely visible from our café. After breakfast, we enjoyed an awesome walk along the beach, northwards along the esplanade to some mangroves. During this walk, we scoped lots of shorebird species including **Terek Sandpiper**, **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, many **Great Knots**, some **Grey-tailed Tattlers**, a couple of **Eurasian Whimbrels**, and a good number of **Far Eastern Curlews**. The highlight, however, was a really close-up **Beach Stone-Curlew** catching and eating a crab; this is a really impressive bird! There were also several plover species around including **Siberian Sand Plover**, **Greater Sand Plover**, **Red-capped Plover**, **Pacific Golden Plover**, and **Black-fronted Dotterel**. A **Caspian Tern**, a **Lesser Crested Tern**, and many **Common** and **Australian Terns** also showed well.

We also saw three ridiculously close-up **Red-tailed Black Cockatoos**, a pair of **Torresian Kingfishers**, a couple of **Hornbill Friarbirds**, and some **Bar-shouldered** and **Peaceful Doves**. Many **Australian Swiftlets** winged low over an open field. A **Mangrove Robin** sat quietly in the mangroves and an **Australian Brushturkey** strutted proudly across an adjacent open field.



We then drove to the nearby Centenary Lakes. Here we found an immature **Red-necked Crake**, an **Orange-footed Scrubfowl**, a few **Magpie Geese**, a **Black Butcherbird**, and a pair of stunning **Sahul Sunbirds** at a nest.

Reptile-wise, we saw a **Lace Monitor**, initially on the ground before it climbed a tree, moving to the far side of the trunk to try and hide from us. There were also many butterflies around, including the huge and gorgeous **Cairns Birdwing** and the beautiful bright blue **Ulysses Butterfly**.

Next on the birding menu was the France Road Turf Farm, which was amazing! We got nice views of a couple of **Australian Pratincoles**, a **Little Curlew**, a couple of flocks of **Plumed Whistling Ducks**, a number of **Australian Pipits**, and various other species.

We then headed southwards to Etty Bay, stopping to admire **Metallic Starlings** with their impressively shiny plumages and red eyes. After some patience at Etty Bay itself, we eventually found our big target for the afternoon, **Southern Cassowary**, an adult with a chick! It was spectacular seeing this giant prehistoric-looking flightless bird with its brightly colored head walking on the beach, with its very different-looking youngster always close. What an incredible experience. We also briefly saw some other nice birds here, including **Forest Kingfisher** and **Scaly-breasted Munia**.

We finally headed to Mission Beach where we were to spend the night. As we approached, we saw a few **Agile Wallabies**, including some carrying joeys in their pouches.

Day 14, 11th November 2024. Mission Beach to Lake Eacham (Crater Lakes National Park)

After breakfast, we headed to the <u>Henrietta Creek Campground</u> in the <u>Wooroonooran National</u> <u>Park</u>. This was immensely productive, allowing us to see a plethora of new species for the trip in a short space of time. A pair of **Barred Cuckooshrikes** and a beautiful **Grey Goshawk** sat in the same tree, until the goshawk flew out and gave us a great flight view. Four new honeyeater species for the trip came in the forms of **Yellow-spotted Honeyeater**, **Cryptic Honeyeater**, **Dusky Myzomela** (Honeyeater) and **Macleay's Honeyeater**. A female **Victoria's Riflebird** also sipped nectar like a large honeyeater, affording excellent views. A **Grey Whistler** and a **White-eared Monarch** cooperated well. Mammal-wise, we saw a **Musky Rat Kangaroo**.

Our next stop *en route* to Crater Lakes National Park was equally productive. We added more birds to our list: **Bridled Honeyeater**, **Brown Gerygone**, **Fairy Gerygone**, **Varied Triller** (briefly), **Sahul Cicadabird**, **Grey-headed Robin** (briefly), **Yellow-breasted Boatbill** and, last but not least, a pair of beautiful **Pied Monarchs**.

As we traveled further, we stopped for a pair of **Sarus Cranes** next to the road. Awesome. We eventually reached the park, where Lake Eacham provided great scenery and brilliant birds. The main target here was **Tooth-billed Bowerbird**, which we saw and heard very well. A pair of **Superb Fruit Doves** co-operated less well as they were only seen by some of the group. We did get close views of our first **Pale Yellow Robin**.

Peterson Creek in Yungaburra was the final place we visited today. The main target here was **Platypus**, which we saw very well after a lot of patience. A couple of **Eastern Saw-shelled Turtles** pretended to be platypuses as we waited! Hundreds of **Spectacled Flying Foxes**, a **Green Ring-tailed Possum**, **Coppery Brush-tailed Possum** and **Red-legged Pademelon** were also on



show. Bird-wise, we saw some goodies here, the new trip birds being **Rufous Shrikethrush** bathing, and a close-up, beautiful **Azure Kingfisher**.

Day 15, 12th November 2024. Crater Lakes National Park to Mareeba

We started the day with some exciting birding around our lodge next to Lake Eacham. Beautiful **Spotted Catbirds** and **Victoria's Riflebirds** showed extremely well. **Rose-crowned Fruit Doves** called constantly from the treetops but were difficult to see. **Rufous Shrikethrushes** and a good number of other bird species we'd already seen before, were around. Another **Musky Rat Kangaroo** showed quite well.

An outside breakfast at The Gillies Café and Bar was great for birding. **Channel-billed Cuckoo** and **Pacific Koel** both showed well as we enjoyed our breakfasts, but the best birds were **Double-eyed Fig Parrots**, which we finally had good views of, after them giving us the run around over the last couple of days.

The picnic area at <u>Mount Hypipamee National Park</u> was the next stop. We heard a **Wompoo Fruit Dove** here but could not see it. We did see a juvenile male **Golden Bowerbird** at its bower. A gorgeous **Scarlet Myzomela** showed quite well albeit a bit distantly (high in a tall tree!). **Atherton Scrubwren** and **Mountain Thornbill** were two localized "LBJs" (Little Brown Jobs) we found nicely. **Bower's Shrikethrush** and **Grey-headed Robin** also cooperated well.

<u>Hasties Swamp National Park</u> gave an impressive spectacle with its huge numbers of birds, such as **Magpie Geese** and other waterbirds. **Wandering** and **Plumed Whistling Ducks** were around and we managed to scope a **Buff-banded Rail** lurking around. We also scoped three attractive **Latham's Snipes**. Some spectacularly plumaged **Red-backed Fairywrens** were close-up, as were a couple of unusually showy **Tawny Grassbirds**.

Continuing our journey, a couple of **Oriental Dollarbirds** and **Forest Kingfishers** sat on powerlines as we drove past. We also stopped along the road to look at a **Yellow-faced Whipsnake**.

We eventually arrived in Mareeba (where we would spend the night), had lunch and then checked into our hotel during the less productive heat of the day. At a nearby birding site, we enjoyed seeing some Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, Noisy and Hornbill Friarbirds, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, a couple of Yellow Honeyeaters and a Lemon-bellied Flyrobin. Unfortunately, we were unable to lay eyes on a singing (but hiding) White-browed Robin.

We ended another good day at The Granite Gorge Nature Park. Mammals were good here, with **Agile Wallabies** and a close-up **Mareeba Rock Wallaby** carrying a joey. We also saw some truly fantastic birds here, like a **Great Bowerbird** at its bower, a few **Squatter Pigeons**, and three **Paleheaded Rosellas** feeding on the ground. A majestic pair of **Wedge-tailed Eagles** flew overhead. A **Blue-faced Honeyeater** showed very well in the sunlight.

Day 16, 13th November 2024. Mareeba to Daintree River for boat cruise via several birding sites, transfer back to Cairns

This was a long but spectacular day. We started with some birding at the Mareeba Rodeo Grounds, where we found many great birds. Highlights were **Black-throated Finches**, **Double-barred**

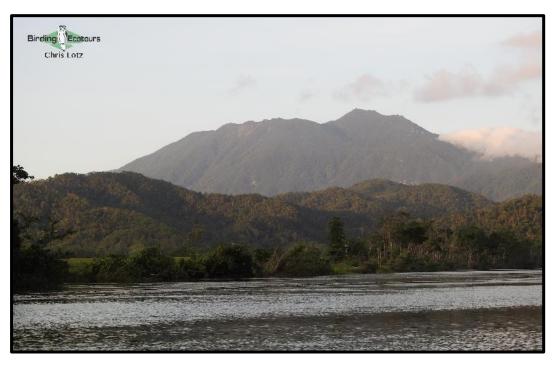


Finches, Grey-crowned Babblers, several Squatter Pigeons, a few Pale-headed Rosellas, and Yellow Honeyeaters.

We then returned to our **White-browed Robin** site but again only heard it. We did see our first **Brown-backed Honeyeaters** and several other good birds, including another spectacular male **Red-backed Fairywren**.

Our next stop was, excitingly, for **Australian Bustard**, which we found after a bit of searching. A **Wedge-tailed Eagle** and some **Whistling Kites** flew overhead. A couple of **Blue-winged Kookaburras** showed nicely, as did some **Red-winged Parrots**. We got super views of another **Great Bowerbird** at its bower. A couple of **Banded Honeyeaters** showed fleetingly (but we caught up with this bird properly at our next stop, getting fabulous views).

Abattoir Swamp was the next place we visited, and we saw our main target here, Lovely Fairywren. Other good birds at this site included Northern Fantail, Leaden Flycatcher, Redbrowed Finch, White-cheeked Honeyeater, Banded Honeyeater showing far better than before, and Scarlet Myzomela (Honeyeater). We then went to a nearby (secret) site where we found Buffbreasted Paradise Kingfisher; what a bird! And our next site generated a close-up roosting Papuan Frogmouth, some Chestnut-breasted Mannikins, Pale-yellow Robin and a close-up Platypus!



The end of a great day on the Daintree River.

We then headed for Daintree Village from where we did a relaxing but rewarding boat cruise for the rest of the afternoon. A few **Radjah Shelducks**, a **Channel-billed Cuckoo**, several male and female (both very attractive but so different) **Shining Flycatchers** (including a rufous female on a nest), a close-up **Azure Kingfisher** (what a beaut!), a couple of **Common Sandpipers**, several



Striated Herons, a Black Bittern (awesome!), a fantastic Brahminy Kite, some Large-billed Gerygones, and a Varied Triller all put in appearances. Right at the end of the cruise, a Greatbilled Heron showed well. During this cruise, we also enjoyed seeing a humongous (13 foot, or four meters!) Saltwater Crocodile and a Common Tree Snake.

Day 17, 14th November 2024. Great Barrier Reef

Today we took a boat to Michaelmas Cay and Hastings Reef. Some of us did some wonderful snorkeling here at the <u>Great Barrier Reef</u>. Birding was good, especially around the tiny island of Michaelmas Cay. We saw hundreds of **Brown Noddies**, many Lesser Crested Terns, smaller numbers of Greater Crested Terns, sleek-looking **Black-naped Terns**, diminutive Little Terns, elegant Bridled and Sooty Terns, and some Common Terns. There were a lot of breeding Brown Boobies and a handful of Red-footed Boobies. Three Great Frigatebirds hung around. A few Ruddy Turnstones were present. A Green Sea Turtle was a welcome sight, but provided only fleeting views.

After our return to Cairns, we had our last dinner together before saying our goodbyes, always a tough part of the tour.



Brown Noddies at Michaelmas Cay, a tiny part of the humongous Great Barrier Reef.

Day 18, 15th November 2024. Flights homeward

This was a travel day with everyone leaving Cairns at different times.



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Bird List – Following IOC August 2024 (version 14.2)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen. Australian endemics are marked as such. The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following <u>BirdLife International</u>: EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near-threatened.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Cassowaries, Emu (Casuariidae)	
Southern Cassowary	Casuarius casuarius
Emu (Endemic)	Dromaius novaehollandiae
Magpie Goose (Anseranatidae)	
Magpie Goose	Anseranas semipalmata
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
Spotted Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna guttata
Plumed Whistling Duck (Endemic)	Dendrocygna eytoni
Wandering Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna arcuata
Cape Barren Goose (Endemic)	Cereopsis novaehollandiae
Black Swan (Endemic)	Cygnus atratus
Radjah Shelduck	Radjah radjah
Australian Shelduck (Endemic)	Tadorna tadornoides
Pink-eared Duck (Endemic)	Malacorhynchus membranaceus
Maned Duck (Endemic)	Chenonetta jubata
Australasian Shoveler	Spatula rhynchotis
Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa
Grey Teal	Anas gracilis
Chestnut Teal (Endemic)	Anas castanea
Hardhead	Aythya australis
Blue-billed Duck (Endemic)	Oxyura australis
Musk Duck (Endemic)	Biziura lobata
Megapodes (Megapodiidae)	



Common Name	Scientific Name
Australian Brushturkey (Endemic)	Alectura lathami
Malleefowl (Endemic) - VU	Leipoa ocellata
Orange-footed Scrubfowl	Megapodius reinwardt
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Stubble Quail (Endemic)	Coturnix pectoralis
Frogmouths (Podargidae)	
Papuan Frogmouth	Podargus papuensis
Tawny Frogmouth (Endemic)	Podargus strigoides
Owlet-nightjars (Aegothelidae)	
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Aegotheles cristatus
Swifts (Apodidae)	
Australian Swiftlet (Endemic)	Aerodramus terraereginae
Bustards (Otididae)	
Australian Bustard	Ardeotis australis
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Pheasant Coucal	Centropus phasianinus
Pacific Koel	Eudynamys orientalis
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Scythrops novaehollandiae
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo (H)	Chalcites basalis
Shining Bronze Cuckoo (H)	Chalcites lucidus
Fan-tailed Cuckoo (H)	Cacomantis flabelliformis
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	Columba livia



Common Name	Scientific Name
White-headed Pigeon (Endemic)	Columba leucomela
Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis
Brown Cuckoo-Dove (Endemic)	Macropygia phasianella
Pacific Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps longirostris
Common Bronzewing (Endemic)	Phaps chalcoptera
Brush Bronzewing (Endemic)	Phaps elegans
Crested Pigeon (Endemic)	Ocyphaps lophotes
Squatter Pigeon (Endemic)	Geophaps scripta
Wonga Pigeon (Endemic)	Leucosarcia melanoleuca
Peaceful Dove	Geopelia placida
Bar-shouldered Dove	Geopelia humeralis
Wompoo Fruit Dove (H)	Ptilinopus magnificus
Superb Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus superbus
Rose-crowned Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus regina
Torresian Imperial Pigeon	Ducula spilorrhoa
Topknot Pigeon (Endemic)	Lopholaimus antarcticus
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
Buff-banded Rail	Hypotaenidia philippensis
Australian Crake (Endemic)	Porzana fluminea
Black-tailed Nativehen (Endemic)	Tribonyx ventralis
Dusky Moorhen	Gallinula tenebrosa
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra
Australasian Swamphen	Porphyrio melanotus
Red-necked Crake	Rallina tricolor
Pale-vented Bush-hen (H)	Amaurornis moluccana
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Sarus Crane - VU	Antigone antigone
Brolga	Antigone rubicunda



Common Name	Scientific Name
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Australasian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae
Hoary-headed Grebe (Endemic)	Poliocephalus poliocephalus
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus
Buttonquail (Turnicidae)	
Painted Buttonquail (Endemic)	Turnix varius
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhin	nidae)
Beach Stone-curlew	Esacus magnirostris
Bush Stone-curlew	Burhinus grallarius
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
Pied Oystercatcher	Haematopus longirostris
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Pied Stilt	Himantopus leucocephalus
Banded Stilt (Endemic)	Cladorhynchus leucocephalus
Red-necked Avocet (Endemic)	Recurvirostra novaehollandiae
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Pacific Golden Plover	Pluvialis fulva
Hooded Plover (Endemic) - VU	Charadrius cucullatus
Black-fronted Dotterel	Charadrius melanops
Banded Lapwing (Endemic)	Vanellus tricolor
Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles
Red-kneed Dotterel	Erythrogonys cinctus
Siberian Sand Plover	Anarhynchus mongolus
Greater Sand Plover	Anarhynchus leschenaultii
Red-capped Plover	Anarhynchus ruficapillus
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
Comb-crested Jacana	Irediparra gallinacea



Common Name	Scientific Name
Plains-wanderer (Pedionomidae)	
Plains-wanderer (Endemic) - EN	Pedionomus torquatus
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Eurasian Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus
Little Curlew	Numenius minutus
Far Eastern Curlew - EN	Numenius madagascariensis
Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica
Latham's Snipe	Gallinago hardwickii
Terek Sandpiper	Xenus cinereus
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos
Grey-tailed Tattler	Tringa brevipes
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia
Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres
Great Knot - EN	Calidris tenuirostris
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper - VU	Calidris acuminata
Red-necked Stint	Calidris ruficollis
Pectoral Sandpiper	Calidris melanotos
Curlew Sandpiper - NT	Calidris ferruginea
Coursers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Australian Pratincole	Stiltia isabella
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
Brown Noddy	Anous stolidus
Sooty Tern	Onychoprion fuscatus
Bridled Tern	Onychoprion anaethetus
Little Tern	Sternula albifrons
Australian Tern	Gelochelidon macrotarsa



Common Name	Scientific Name
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo
Black-naped Tern	Sterna sumatrana
Lesser Crested Tern	Thalasseus bengalensis
Greater Crested Tern	Thalasseus bergii
Silver Gull	Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae
Pacific Gull (Endemic)	Larus pacificus
Albatrosses (Diomedeidae)	
Shy Albatross	Thalassarche cauta
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petrels (Pro	ocellariidae)
Short-tailed Shearwater	Ardenna tenuirostris
Frigatebirds (Fregatidae)	
Great Frigatebird	Fregata minor
Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)	
Australasian Gannet	Morus serrator
Red-footed Booby	Sula sula
Brown Booby	Sula leucogaster
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
Australasian Darter	Anhinga novaehollandiae
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Little Pied Cormorant	Microcarbo melanoleucos
Black-faced Cormorant (Endemic)	Phalacrocorax fuscescens
Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	



Common Name	Scientific Name
Australian White Ibis	Threskiornis molucca
Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis spinicollis
Royal Spoonbill	Platalea regia
Yellow-billed Spoonbill (Endemic)	Platalea flavipes
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Black Bittern	Botaurus flavicollis
Nankeen Night Heron	Nycticorax caledonicus
Pacific Reef Heron	Egretta sacra
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae
Striated Heron	Butorides striata
White-necked Heron	Ardea pacifica
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Plumed Egret	Ardea plumifera
Eastern Cattle Egret	Ardea coromanda
Great-billed Heron	Ardea sumatrana
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Australian Pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-shouldered Kite (Endemic)	Elanus axillaris
Pacific Baza	Aviceda subcristata
Little Eagle (Endemic)	Hieraaetus morphnoides
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Aquila audax
Grey Goshawk (Endemic)	Tachyspiza novaehollandiae
Brown Goshawk	Tachyspiza fasciata
Swamp Harrier	Circus approximans
Black Kite	Milvus migrans
Whistling Kite	Haliastur sphenurus



Common Name	Scientific Name
Brahminy Kite	Haliastur indus
White-bellied Sea Eagle	Icthyophaga leucogaster
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Greater Sooty Owl (H)	Tyto tenebricosa
Lesser Sooty Owl (Endemic) (H)	Tyto multipunctata
Owls (Strigidae)	
Powerful Owl (Endemic)	Ninox strenua
Barking Owl	Ninox connivens
Australian Boobook	Ninox boobook
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Oriental Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher	Tanysiptera sylvia
Laughing Kookaburra (Endemic)	Dacelo novaeguineae
Blue-winged Kookaburra	Dacelo leachii
Forest Kingfisher	Todiramphus macleayii
Torresian Kingfisher	Todiramphus sordidus
Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus
Azure Kingfisher	Ceyx azureus
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Nankeen Kestrel	Falco cenchroides
Australian Hobby	Falco longipennis
Brown Falcon	Falco berigora
Black Falcon (Endemic)	Falco subniger
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Cockatoos (Cacatuidae)		
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (Endemic)	Zanda funerea	
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (Endemic)	Calyptorhynchus banksii	
Glossy Black Cockatoo (Endemic) - VU	Calyptorhynchus lathami	
Gang-gang Cockatoo (Endemic) - VU	Callocephalon fimbriatum	
Galah (Endemic)	Eolophus roseicapilla	
Pink Cockatoo (Endemic)	Cacatua leadbeateri	
Little Corella	Cacatua sanguinea	
Long-billed Corella (Endemic)	Cacatua tenuirostris	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Cacatua galerita	
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)		
Superb Parrot (Endemic)	Polytelis swainsonii	
Regent Parrot (Endemic)	Polytelis anthopeplus	
Australian King Parrot (Endemic)	Alisterus scapularis	
Red-winged Parrot	Aprosmictus erythropterus	
Red-rumped Parrot (Endemic)	Psephotus haematonotus	
Eastern Bluebonnet (Endemic)	Northiella haematogaster	
Mulga Parrot (Endemic)	Psephotellus varius	
Crimson Rosella (Endemic)	Platycercus elegans	
Pale-headed Rosella (Endemic)	Platycercus adscitus	
Eastern Rosella (Endemic)	Platycercus eximius	
Australian Ringneck (Endemic)	Barnardius zonarius	
Blue-winged Parrot (Endemic) - VU	Neophema chrysostoma	
Turquoise Parrot (Endemic)	Neophema pulchella	
Little Lorikeet (Endemic)	Parvipsitta pusilla	
Musk Lorikeet (Endemic)	Glossopsitta concinna	
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (Endemic)	Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus	
Rainbow Lorikeet (Endemic)	Trichoglossus moluccanus	
Double-eyed Fig Parrot	Cyclopsitta diophthalma	



Common Name	Scientific Name
Pittas (Pittidae)	
Noisy Pitta	Pitta versicolor
Lyrebirds (Menuridae)	
Albert's Lyrebird (Endemic)	Menura alberti
Superb Lyrebird (Endemic)	Menura novaehollandiae
Bowerbirds (Ptilonorhynchidae)	
Green Catbird (Endemic)	Ailuroedus crassirostris
Spotted Catbird (Endemic)	Ailuroedus maculosus
Tooth-billed Bowerbird (Endemic)	Scenopoeetes dentirostris
Golden Bowerbird (Endemic)	Prionodura newtoniana
Regent Bowerbird (Endemic)	Sericulus chrysocephalus
Satin Bowerbird (Endemic)	Ptilonorhynchus violaceus
Great Bowerbird (Endemic)	Chlamydera nuchalis
Australasian Treecreepers (Climacteri	dae)
White-throated Treecreeper (Endemic)	Cormobates leucophaea
Brown Treecreeper (Endemic)	Climacteris picumnus
Australasian Wrens (Maluridae)	
Lovely Fairywren (Endemic)	Malurus amabilis
Purple-backed Fairywren (Endemic)	Malurus assimilis
Variegated Fairywren (Endemic)	Malurus lamberti
Superb Fairywren (Endemic)	Malurus cyaneus
Splendid Fairywren (Endemic)	Malurus splendens
Red-backed Fairywren (Endemic)	Malurus melanocephalus
White-winged Fairywren (Endemic)	Malurus leucopterus
Southern Emu-wren (Endemic)	Stipiturus malachurus
Mallee Emu-wren (Endemic) - EN	Stipiturus mallee
Striated Grasswren (Endemic)	Amytornis striatus



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Honeyeaters (Meliphagidae)		
Eastern Spinebill (Endemic)	Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris	
White-fronted Chat (Endemic)	Epthianura albifrons	
Brown-backed Honeyeater	Ramsayornis modestus	
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (Endemic)	Gliciphila melanops	
Dusky Myzomela	Myzomela obscura	
Scarlet Myzomela (Endemic)	Myzomela sanguinolenta	
Little Friarbird	Philemon citreogularis	
Hornbill Friarbird (Endemic)	Philemon yorki	
Noisy Friarbird	Philemon corniculatus	
Macleay's Honeyeater (Endemic)	Xanthotis macleayanus	
Striped Honeyeater (Endemic)	Plectorhyncha lanceolata	
Painted Honeyeater (Endemic)	Grantiella picta	
Crescent Honeyeater (Endemic)	Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus	
New Holland Honeyeater (Endemic)	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae	
White-cheeked Honeyeater (Endemic)	Phylidonyris niger	
Brown Honeyeater	Lichmera indistincta	
Banded Honeyeater (Endemic)	Cissomela pectoralis	
White-eared Honeyeater (Endemic)	Nesoptilotis leucotis	
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Entomyzon cyanotis	
Brown-headed Honeyeater (Endemic)	Melithreptus brevirostris	
White-naped Honeyeater (Endemic)	Melithreptus lunatus	
Yellow Honeyeater (Endemic)	Stomiopera flava	
Yellow-spotted Honeyeater (Endemic)	Meliphaga notata	
Lewin's Honeyeater (Endemic)	Meliphaga lewinii	
White-fronted Honeyeater (Endemic)	Purnella albifrons	
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater (Endemic)	Lichenostomus melanops	
Cryptic Honeyeater (Endemic)	Microptilotis imitatrix	
Varied Honeyeater	Gavicalis versicolor	
Mangrove Honeyeater (Endemic)	Gavicalis fasciogularis	



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Singing Honeyeater (Endemic)	Gavicalis virescens	
Fuscous Honeyeater (Endemic)	Ptilotula fusca	
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater (Endemic)	Ptilotula ornata	
White-plumed Honeyeater (Endemic)	Ptilotula penicillata	
Yellow-faced Honeyeater (Endemic)	Caligavis chrysops	
Little Wattlebird (Endemic)	Anthochaera chrysoptera	
Red Wattlebird (Endemic)	Anthochaera carunculata	
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (Endemic)	Acanthagenys rufogularis	
Bridled Honeyeater (Endemic)	Bolemoreus frenatus	
Bell Miner (Endemic) (H)	Manorina melanophrys	
Noisy Miner (Endemic)	Manorina melanocephala	
Yellow-throated Miner (Endemic)	Manorina flavigula	
Bristlebirds (Dasyornithidae)		
Rufous Bristlebird (Endemic)	Dasyornis broadbenti	
Pardalotes (Pardalotidae)		
Spotted Pardalote (Endemic)	Pardalotus punctatus	
Striated Pardalote (Endemic)	Pardalotus striatus	
Australasian Warblers (Acanthizidae)		
Pilotbird (Endemic) - VU	Pycnoptilus floccosus	
Speckled Warbler (Endemic)	Pyrrholaemus sagittatus	
Shy Heathwren (Endemic)	Hylacola cauta	
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren (Endemic) (H)	Hylacola pyrrhopygia	
Striated Fieldwren (Endemic)	Calamanthus fuliginosus	
Rufous Fieldwren (Endemic)	Calamanthus campestris	
Weebill (Endemic)	Smicrornis brevirostris	
Yellow-throated Scrubwren (Endemic)	Neosericornis citreogularis	
	Sovicernia frontalia	
White-browed Scrubwren (Endemic)	Sericornis frontalis	



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Atherton Scrubwren (Endemic) - VU	Sericornis keri	
Large-billed Scrubwren (Endemic)	Sericornis magnirostra	
Yellow Thornbill (Endemic)	Acanthiza nana	
Striated Thornbill (Endemic)	Acanthiza lineata	
Inland Thornbill (Endemic)	Acanthiza apicalis	
Mountain Thornbill (Endemic) - VU	Acanthiza katherina	
Brown Thornbill (Endemic)	Acanthiza pusilla	
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (Endemic)	Acanthiza uropygialis	
Buff-rumped Thornbill (Endemic)	Acanthiza reguloides	
Brown Gerygone (Endemic)	Gerygone mouki	
Fairy Gerygone	Gerygone palpebrosa	
Large-billed Gerygone	Gerygone magnirostris	
White-throated Gerygone	Gerygone olivacea	
Mangrove Gerygone	Gerygone levigaster	
Western Gerygone (Endemic)	Gerygone fusca	
Australasian Babblers (Pomatostomidae	e)	
Grey-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus temporalis	
White-browed Babbler (Endemic)	Pomatostomus superciliosus	
Chestnut-crowned Babbler (Endemic)	Pomatostomus ruficeps	
Logrunners (Orthonychidae)		
Australian Logrunner (Endemic)	Orthonyx temminckii	
Whipbirds (Psophodidae)		
Eastern Whipbird (Endemic)	Psophodes olivaceus	
Jewel-babblers, Quail-thrushes (Cinclosomatidae)		
Chestnut Quail-thrush (Endemic)	Cinclosoma castanotum	
Boatbills (Machaerirhynchidae)		
Yellow-breasted Boatbill	Machaerirhynchus flaviventer	



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Woodswallows, Butcherbirds & Allies (A	Artamidae)	
White-breasted Woodswallow	Artamus leucorynchus	
Masked Woodswallow (Endemic)	Artamus personatus	
White-browed Woodswallow (Endemic)	Artamus superciliosus	
Black-faced Woodswallow	Artamus cinereus	
Dusky Woodswallow (Endemic)	Artamus cyanopterus	
Black Butcherbird	Melloria quoyi	
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	
Grey Butcherbird (Endemic)	Cracticus torquatus	
Pied Butcherbird (Endemic)	Cracticus nigrogularis	
Pied Currawong (Endemic)	Strepera graculina	
Grey Currawong (Endemic)	Strepera versicolor	
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)		
Barred Cuckooshrike	Coracina lineata	
Black-faced Cuckooshrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	
White-bellied Cuckooshrike	Coracina papuensis	
Sahul Cicadabird	Edolisoma tenuirostre	
White-winged Triller	Lalage tricolor	
Varied Triller	Lalage leucomela	
Australo-Papuan Bellbirds (Oreoicidae))	
Crested Bellbird (Endemic) (H)	Oreoica gutturalis	
Shriketits (Falcunculidae)		
Eastern Shriketit (Endemic)	Falcunculus frontatus	
Whistlers & Allies (Pachycephalidae)		
Gilbert's Whistler (Endemic)	Pachycephala inornata	
Grey Whistler	Pachycephala simplex	
Australian Golden Whistler	Pachycephala pectoralis	
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	



luricincla boweri luricincla rufogaster luricincla harmonica		
luricincla harmonica		
lae)		
ecotheres vieilloti		
olus sagittatus		
olus flavocinctus		
Drongos (Dicruridae)		
rurus bracteatus		
pidura leucophrys		
pidura rufiventris		
pidura albiscapa		
pidura rufifrons		
posiachrus trivirgatus		
narcha melanopsis		
terornis leucotis		
es kaupi		
ıllina cyanoleuca		
iagra rubecula		
iagra cyanoleuca		
iagra alecto		
iagra inquieta		
vus orru		



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Little Raven (Endemic)	Corvus mellori	
Australian Raven (Endemic)	Corvus coronoides	
Australian Mudnesters (Corcoracidae)		
White-winged Chough (Endemic)	Corcorax melanorhamphos	
Apostlebird (Endemic)	Struthidea cinerea	
Birds-of-paradise (Paradisaeidae)		
Paradise Riflebird (Endemic)	Ptiloris paradiseus	
Victoria's Riflebird (Endemic) - VU	Ptiloris victoriae	
Australasian Robins (Petroicidae)		
Red-capped Robin (Endemic)	Petroica goodenovii	
Rose Robin (Endemic)	Petroica rosea	
Flame Robin (Endemic)	Petroica phoenicea	
Scarlet Robin (Endemic)	Petroica boodang	
Lemon-bellied Flyrobin	Microeca flavigaster	
Jacky Winter	Microeca fascinans	
Southern Scrub Robin (Endemic)	Drymodes brunneopygia	
Grey-headed Robin (Endemic)	Heteromyias cinereifrons	
White-browed Robin (Endemic) (H)	Poecilodryas superciliosa	
Hooded Robin (Endemic)	Melanodryas cucullata	
Mangrove Robin	Peneothello pulverulenta	
Eastern Yellow Robin (Endemic)	Eopsaltria australis	
Pale-yellow Robin (Endemic)	Tregellasia capito	
Larks (Alaudidae)		
Singing Bush Lark	Mirafra javanica	
Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis	
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)		
White-backed Swallow (Endemic)	Cheramoeca leucosterna	



Scientific Name	
Hirundo neoxena	
Petrochelidon ariel	
Petrochelidon nigricans	
ae)	
Acrocephalus australis	
Poodytes gramineus	
Cincloramphus cruralis	
Cincloramphus timoriensis	
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Cisticola exilis	
Zosterops lateralis	
Aplonis metallica	
Acridotheres tristis	
Sturnus vulgaris	
Zoothera heinei	
Zoothera lunulata	
Turdus merula	
Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)	
Dicaeum hirundinaceum	
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Cinnyris frenatus	



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)		
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildida	ae)	
Diamond Firetail (Endemic) - VU	Stagonopleura guttata	
Red-browed Finch (Endemic)	Neochmia temporalis	
Double-barred Finch (Endemic)	Stizoptera bichenovii	
Australian Zebra Finch (Endemic)	Taeniopygia castanotis	
Black-throated Finch (Endemic)	Poephila cincta	
Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata	
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	Lonchura castaneothorax	
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)		
Australian Pipit	Anthus australis	
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)		
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	

Total seen	378
Total heard only	12
Total recorded	390



Mammal List (Mammal Watching April 2024)

Australian endemic mammals are marked as such. The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following <u>IUCN List of Threatened Species</u>: EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name	
Platypuses (Ornithorhynchidae)		
Platypus (Endemic)	Ornithorhynchus anatinus	
Dasyures (Dasyuridae)		
Fat-tailed Dunnart (Endemic)	Sminthopsis crassicaudata	
Musky Rat-kangaroos (Hypsiprymnodor	ntidae)	
Musky Rat Kangaroo (Endemic)	Hypsiprymnodon moschatus	
Kangaroos, Wallabies and Allies (Macropodidae)		
Mareeba Rock Wallaby (Endemic)	Petrogale mareeba	
Red-legged Pademelon	Thylogale stigmatica	
Red-necked Pademelon (Endemic)	Thylogale thetis	
Western Grey Kangaroo (Endemic)	Macropus fuliginosus	
Eastern Grey Kangaroo (Endemic)	Macropus giganteus	
Agile Wallaby	Notamacropus agilis	
Whip-tailed Wallaby (Endemic)	Notamacropus parryi	
Red-necked Wallaby (Endemic)	Notamacropus rufogriseus	
Red Kangaroo (Endemic)	Osphranter rufus	
Gliders, Trioks, and Allies (Petauridae)		
Sugar Glider (Endemic)	Petaurus breviceps	
Squirrel Glider (Endemic)	Petaurus norfolcensis	
Ringtail Possums (Pseudocheiridae)		
Southern Greater Glider (Endemic) – VU	Petauroides volans	
Eastern Ring-tailed Possum (Endemic)	Pseudocheirus peregrinus	



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Green Ring-tailed Possum (Endemic)	Pseudochirops archeri	
Cuscuses and Brushtail Possums (Phalangeridae)		
Coppery Brush-tailed Possum (Endemic)	Trichosurus johnstonii	
Common Brush-tailed Possum (Endemic)	Trichosurus vulpecula	
Koalas (Phascolarctidae)		
Koala (Endemic) - VU	Phascolarctos cinereus	
Wombats (Vombatidae)		
Common Wombat (Endemic)	Vombatus ursinus	
Old World Fruit Bats (Pteropodidae)		
Black Flying Fox	Pteropus alecto	
Spectacled Flying Fox - EN	Pteropus conspicillatus	
Gray-headed Flying Fox (Endemic) – VU	Pteropus poliocephalus	
Eared Seals (Otariidae)		
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	Arctocephalus pusillus	
Canida (Canidae)		
Red Fox	Vulpes vulpes	
Hares and Rabbits (Leporidae)		
European Hare	Lepus europaeus	
European Rabbit - EN	Oryctolagus cuniculus	

Total	28
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<u>Reptile List (Reptiles of the World October 2023)</u>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)	
Saltwater Crocodile	Crocodylus porosus
Colubrid Snakes (Colubridae)	
Common Tree Snake	Dendrelaphis punctulatus
Elapid Snakes (Elapidae)	
Yellow-faced Whipsnake (Endemic)	Demansia psammophis
Red-bellied Black Snake (Endemic)	Pseudechis porphyriacus
Dragons (Agamidae)	
Mallee Dragon (Endemic)	Ctenophorus fordi
Australian Water Dragon (Endemic)	Intellagama lesueurii
Southern Angle-Headed Dragon (Endemic)	Lophosaurus spinipes
Typical Geckos (Gekkonidae)	
Tropical House Gecko	Hemidactylus mabouia
•	
Skinks (Scincidae)	1
Shingleback Lizard (Endemic)	Tiliqua rugosa
Eastern Water Skink (Endemic)	Eulamprus quoyii
Monitor Lizards (Varanidae)	
Sand Goanna (Endemic)	Varanus gouldii
Lace Monitor (Endemic)	Varanus varius
Pythons (Pythonidae)	
Carpet Python	Morelia spilota
Australasian Geckos (Diplodactylidae)	
Byrne's Gecko (Endemic)	Lucasium byrnei
Austro-American Side-necked Turtles (Ch	elidae)
Eastern Saw-shelled Turtle (Endemic)	Myuchelys latisternum
Typical Sea Turtles (Cheloniidae)	1
Green Sea Turtle – EN	Chelonia mydas
	17
Total	16

Australian endemic reptiles are marked as such.

