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Discover Australia: Birds and Wildlife 2024

Trip Report

By Marta Curti

13-21 November 2024



The lovely Galahs seen at Mt. Carbine Caravan Park. Photo by Marta Curti

Australia covers over 7 million kilometers squared and is the sixth largest country in the world. It encompasses a wide variety of ecosystems from deserts to alpine to rainforests, and it is home to some of the world's most unique wildlife, including monotremes and marsupials, and a host of bird species. Australia is divided into six states, each with its own attractions, ecosystems, and wildlife. During our 7-day tour, we spent our time in Queensland. In only a week, we saw over 200 bird species, a total of 17 mammals including 7 kangaroo species, 4 species of possum, and other wildlife including dingoes, bandicoots, and platypus. We also saw 8 species of reptiles and amphibians and some incredible invertebrates too! On our last day, we snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef and enjoyed the spectacular coral reefs and undersea life. Over the week, we also learned so much about the plants and animals of Australia, thanks to our very knowledgable guide.

Tour Leader: Marta Curti Local Guide: Jonathan Munro

Highlights of the trip

- 1. Watching a **Great Bowerbird** carrying a red cap to decorate its bower, purple nape feathers exposed.
- 2. Getting fabulous looks at a **Platypus** that swam right up to the edge of the water and spent several seconds seemingly watching us!
- 3. Admiring the puffed feathers of a male **Red-backed Fairywren** displaying to a female.
- 4. Seeing four species of opossum in one day: Green Ringtail Possum at Hasties Swamp and Herbert River Ringtail, Coppery Brushtail, and Lemuroid Ringtail possums during our night walk.
- 5. Spotting **Dingoes** in a field during our drive in an open field and getting to watch them for several minutes.
- 6. Morning feeding time for the Rainbow Lorikeets and Australian King-Parrots.
- 7. The **Tawny Frogmouth** nest with two nestlings beside a tree dappled with **Galahs**.
- 8. Seeing seven species of kangaroo over eight days.
- 9. Standing in the road alongside a **Southern Cassowary** and watching him for several minutes.
- 10. Our lovely boat ride on Daintree River where we saw beautiful **Spotted Whistling-Ducks**, a pair of nesting **Shining Flycatcher**, and two **Saltwater Crocodiles**.



Three Eastern Gray Kangaroos seen on the second day of our trip. Photo by Marta Curti

Itinerary

Day 1: November 14 — Cairns to Atherton Tablelands

After finishing up an amazing week in New Zealand, and some flight delays causing us to spend the night in Brisbane, we woke up early for our flight to Cairns. We met our guide, Jonathan, at the airport at 8 a.m. We had a quick breakfast and then headed to our first birding spot — the Cattana Wetlands. One of the first sounds we heard as we stepped out of the car was the lovely song of the **Green Orioles** calling in the trees. As we walked the trail to a hide overlooking the wetlands, we got some nice looks at a male **Sahul Sunbird** flitting about in a tree. Once at the hide, we observed several water birds including **Royal Spoonbill**, **Magpie Goose**, **Pacific Black Duck**, **Black-fronted Dotterels**, **Common Greenshank**, and **Latham's Snipe**.



A Comb-crested Jacana showing off its very long toes. Photo by Marta Curti

After several minutes, we left the hide and slowly made our way along a dirt path that circled the beautiful wetlands area. We watched an **Australian Darter** feeding on a crayfish and beautiful **Comb-crested Jacanas** walking along the aquatic vegetation, showing off their extremely long toes. We picked up several lifers for the group including **Yellow**, **Brown**, and **Brown-backed Honeyeaters**, as well as **Australasian Figbird**. The walk back to the car was through a lovely rainforest. About mid-way, we stopped at a spot where Jonathan had known **Lovely Fairywrens** to be seen. And, after only a few moments, two of these absolutely stunning birds appeared, darting about in the trees. We watched them for a few moments and then continued along the trail towards the exit. There, we spotted an **Orange-footed Megapode** foraging for food by pushing aside the leaves on the ground.

But, it wasn't just birds and lovely scenery. We also saw some nice invertebrates including **Oakblue Butterfly**, and **Iridescent** and **Yellow flutterers** (dragonflies), and our first of several

reptiles seen on the trip, **Krefft's River Turtle**. We also enjoyed learning a lot about the general ecology of Australia's flora and fauna from our knowledgable guide!

After about an hour and a half enjoying the wetlands, we drove to a lunch spot in Centenary Park. We had a great meal, and in the parking lot as we were leaving, we picked up several more lifers for the group including **Willie-wagtail**, **Peaceful Dove**, **Olive Oriole**, and the amazing **Blue-faced** and **White-throated honeyeaters**.

We then continued on to our next destination, with a detour to do some birding along some dirt roads lined with forest on each side and some streams. This was a very productive drive! Seemingly, bird after bird was popping up. In total, we saw 22 species along this route. Some highlights included White-browed Robin, Double-barred Finch, Varied Triller, Pale-headed Rosella, Sahul Cicadabird, and a Rufous Whistler feeding on a stick insect. We also got our first fleeting views of a Brown Goshawk soaring quickly past us high above. In addition, we saw our first mammal for the trip — an Agile Wallaby. We arrived at Emerald Creek Falls and did a short walk through the forest. Apart from the beautiful scenery, a Frill-necked Lizard clinging to the side of a tree along the trail and Eastern Yellow Robin also clinging to the side of a tree, were the highlights.



Eastern Yellow Robin seen at Emerald Creek Falls. Photo by Marta Curti

After a full day of birding, we made our way to our lodge, passing through farm fields and forests. In one field, we stopped to watch over 200 **Red-tailed Black-Cockatoos** sitting, flying, and calling. It was an amazing sighting! After stopping for some photos, we drove on and continued to what would be our home for the next three nights — the Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat. We checked in and rested before heading to Nick's Restaurant in town for dinner. On the way back to our lodge, we spotted more mammals along the road, both **Northern Brown** and **Long-nosed bandicoots**, and **Red-legged Pademelon**. What a wonderful introduction to birding and wildlife watching in Australia.

Day 2: November 15 — Atherton Tablelands to Ravenshoe

We met Jonathan at 6 a.m. for some birding around our hotel grounds. Right away we saw some good birds including Victoria's Riflebird, Pied Currawong, Rufous Shrikethrush, Helmeted Friarbird, Silvereye, Pale-yellow Robin, and Barred Cuckooshrike, to name just a few. At 8:30, we made our way to the lodge's reception area, where they have set up a feeding station. Rainbow Lorikeets and Australian King-Parrots dotted the trees above, and were busy at the feeders, alongside many Australian Bushturkeys.

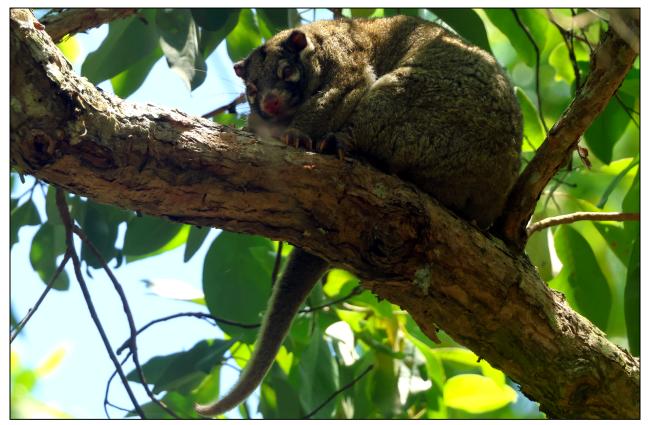


Australian King-Parrot perched above the feeders at the Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat. Photo by Marta Curti

After several minutes enjoying these colorful and active birds, we walked a short way to a small blind, where a different type of animal was coming in to feed. Here, we got terrific views of several **Musky Rat-Kangaroo**, an endemic to Australia's northeastern rainforests and the world's smallest kangaroo.

After a good while, we tore ourselves away and went to Gillies Cafe and Bar for breakfast. Here we got really nice looks at a **Lewin's Honeyeater** that came very close to our table, and another lifer, a **Whistling Kite** flew overhead. We also got closeup looks at **Willie-wagtails** and **Australasian Figbird**. After a delicious meal, we made our way to Hasties Swamp, a beautiful wetland area with a well designed hide. Here, we picked up several more lifers for the group. **Plumed** and **Wandering whistling-ducks**, **Scarlet Myzomela**, and **Golden Whistler** were some of the highlights. As we were busy watching birds, Jeanette spotted a **Green Ringtail Possum** in the tree. It was perfectly content hanging out on a large branch up in the tree as we watched it and photographed it for several minutes.

After a productive morning, we headed out to do some birding on a private reserve owned by our guide. As we were driving along, Jonathan spotted a **Great Bowerbird**. We pulled into the parking



Green Ringtail Possum high in a tree at Hasties Swamp. Photo by Marta Curti

area where he had seen the bird fly into. Though we didn't see it again that day, we got two lovely birds right there — **Crested Pigeon** and **Buff-banded Rail**.

Our main target for the visit to the private reserve was **Golden Bowerbird**. We drove a few kilometers in and then parked the car. Following a narrow path through the forest, we arrived at the bower. But, things weren't looking good. The bower itself had clearly not been attended to in a while as leaves dotted the bower and Jonathan told us that the male here normally keeps his bower impeccable. So, it seemed as if he hadn't been present in a while. Even so, we decided to



Male Golden Bowerbird. Photo by Marta Curti

wait, just in case. After about ten minutes or so, we heard the male vocalize once! We searched the trees and suddenly the beautiful golden male appeared. It was quite cooperative and we were able to watch it for several minutes! While on the property, we also saw **White-headed Pigeon**, and heard **Victoria's Riflebird** and **Superb Fruit-Dove**.

After leaving the private reserve, we continued our drive toward a billabong, and at various stops along the way, we continued to pick up new birds for the tour including **Squatter Pigeon**, **White-winged Triller**, **Dusky Moorhen**, **Common Bronzewing**, and **Australian Bustard**. We also got a slightly better sighting of **Brown Goshawk** and some members of the group saw a **Pacific Baza** fly over. At the billabong we saw **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**, **Forest Kingfisher, Australian Ibis**, and more.

We saw other mammals as well. Several **Whiptail (Pretty-faced) Wallabies** and **Eastern Gray Kangaroos** were standing just along the edge of the road, and in a field we spotted a young, lone **Dingo**! As we scanned, we saw several more further off in the distance. It was an exciting sighting for the group.



Squatter Pigeon. Photo by Marta Curti

We made a quick stop at the Mt Hypipamee National Park Crater Lookout platform. We saw the beautiful **Boyd's Forest Dragon** clinging to the side of a tree, and had very nice views of **Pale-yellow Robin**. After dinner, we returned to the private reserve for our night walk. Here we saw some amazing mammals despite the nearly full moon — **Herbert River Ring-tailed Possum**, **Coppery Brush-tailed Possum**, and **Lemuroid Ring-tailed Possum**. We also picked up another reptile for the trip. Jonathan spotted a **Leaf-tailed Gecko** high in the tree. We also heard a

Southern Boobook calling in the distance. On the way back to our lodge, our final sighting for the day was of an **Eastern Barn Owl** perched along a fence line.



Day 3: November 16 — Winfield Park (Malanda), Etty Bay, and Malanda Falls

Male Red-backed Fairywren (left) displaying to female. Photo by Marta Curti

Before we even left our hotel grounds, we saw a pair of **Red-backed Fairywrens** in the grass at our lodge. The male spent several minutes displaying to the female. He put on quite a show, ruffling up the beautiful red feathers along his back.

Our first stop this morning was at Winfield Park. We hadn't been out of the car more than 5 minutes before Jeanette spotted a **Gray Goshawk** flying up into a tree. It hung around long enough for us to get off a few photos before it flew off. We continued walking to the rivers edge. Almost as soon as we arrived, we saw a **Black Bittern** fly up and land on a fallen branch across the stream. It stayed for at least 30 minutes. Our main target for this morning, however, was not a bird. We were in search of **Platypus.** We had a few sightings of some just beneath the surface of the water, but we were hoping for better looks. Then suddenly, one swam right up the waters edge and stayed still, almost as if it was watching us. We could make out all the details, of this spectacular animal. What a great sighting! Here, we also got great views of **Yellow-breasted Boatbill** and **Azure Kingfisher**, among other species. To top it all off, several bright blue, beautiful **Sapphire Rockmasters** (dragonfly) were perched on the rocks along the stream.

After a full morning, we headed to The Gillies Cafe and Bar for breakfast and got another lifer, the stunning **Double-eyed Fig-Parrot**. After breakfast we headed to Etty Bay in search of cassowaries. Along the way, we saw **Bar-shouldered dove, Black-necked Stork** and **Pacific Baza**, as well as a number of **Metallic Starling** nests on the power poles. During our search for Australias largest and possibly most iconic bird, we drove along back roads, walked a short way along the beach, and scanned peoples front yards. Finally on our way out, Jonathan spotted a

male **Southern Cassowary** walking in front of someones house, peaking in the door. We watched it for a few minutes until it disappeared behind the house.



Our first sighting of a Double-eyed Fig Parrot. Photo by Marta Curti

View of one of Sri Lanka's most famous landmarks. Sigirva. Photo by Jose Vargas

We then visited Malanda Falls Conservation Park and walked along the lovely forest trail. Here, we saw **Red-legged Pademelon**, another **Platypus** briefly, and got great views of **Wompoo Fruit-Dove**, and got our first looks at **Spotted Catbird**. Elcira spotted a bird moving in the trees, which was another lifer for the group, the **Bower's Shrikethrush**. We then drove to the Curtain Fig Tree loop trail to see the amazing tree that gives this trail its name. Here we got great looks at a very cooperative **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove**, and also heard **Superb** and **Wompoo fruit-doves**.

We then drove along the Stone House road in search of tree kangaroos, but didn't see any. Instead, we saw **Sulphur-Crested Cockatoos**, **Brown Goshawk**, and a lifer **Crimson Rosella**.

We made one last stop at Mount Hypipamee National Park to see if we can spot another **Southern Cassowary.** We got very lucky. A young male was wandering along the side of the road. We spent about 10 minutes or so observing it as it walked back and forth along the road, walking toward us at one point, before disappearing into the forest.

After a wonderfully productive day, we returned to Nicks for a nice dinner. Just at sunset, Jonathan asked us to step outside. There we saw several **Spectacled Flying-fox** heading out from roost to begin a night of foraging. On our drive back to the hotel, we spotted two **Northern Brown Bandicoots** and a **Dingo**.

Day 4: November 17 — Granite Gorge to Daintree

We had a final morning of birding at our lodge. Here we picked up the lovely **Mistletoebird**, and got really nice views of **Macleay's Honeyeater**, **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** flying over, and **Laughing Kookaburra**, among other species. After a delicious breakfast, we headed to Granite

Gorge Natural Park to watch for **Mareeba Rock Wallabies**. We saw a handful of them resting in the shade among the beautiful boulders - the dominant species on the landscape.



A Great Bowerbird's bower (left) and the bird, purplish nape feathers exposed, decorating its bower. Photos by Marta Curti

After departing Granite Gorge, we made a quick stop at Memorial Lake Mitchell. Here, we picked up more lifers for the trip — **Radjah Shelduck** and **Fairy Martin**, and saw a **Whistling Kite** feeding on something in the distance. We then made our way to Mt. Carbine Caravan Park. Despite the heat, we got some great views of some really spectacular birds. Just outside the park we saw a **Great Bowerbird**, showing off its purple nape feathers, as it carried a red plastic cap and laid it a the bower — a busy decorator. We also saw **Apostlebird**, Little Friarbird, Paleheaded Rosella, and Black-faced and White-bellied cuckooshrikes. As we walked around the park, we continued to add birds to our life list including about a dozen **Galahs** perching in the trees above, five Tawny Frogmouths, including an adult and two young, as well as Blue-headed Honeyeater. We also heard Blue-winged Kookaburras, but they flew out of sight before we were able to spot them.



A trio of Tawny Frogmouths (parent and nestlings). Photo by Marta Curti

After we left the park, we made quick stop for lunch and picked up another lifer as we were eating the **Cryptic Honeyeater**. We also enjoyed watching **Rainbow Lorikeets** and **Australasian Figbirds** hanging about in the trees.

We continued on to Abattoir Wetlands. As we were driving, Jeanette spotted two **Black-necked Storks** in field and we stopped to get a better look. Once at the wetlands, we walked a small circuit and stayed for a few moments in a blind, but most of the pond was dried up. Here, we heard **Spotted Pardalote** and **Gray Fantail** but didn't see them. However, we got nice looks at **Rufous Shrikethrush**, **White-cheeked Honeyeater**, and **Black Kite**. We also had our first amphibian for the trip, the lovely **White-lipped Tree Frog**. We continued our drive and made it to Daintree about an hour before dark, checked into our lovely hotel, had a nice dinner and got some rest after a long but fruitful day.

Day 5: November 18 — Daintree

We got an early start this morning with a quick stop at the Daintree River and got some nice looks at **Sahul Sunbird** and **Bar-shouldered Dove**. We then drove out to Steven's Creek and our main target for today was the **Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher**. Almost right away, we began to hear a few kingfishers calling along a dry riverbed alongside the road. As the morning progressed, the birds moved closer. Despite our searching, we couldn't quite get a look at the kingfishers as they were tucked away in the trees. We then walked to a forested trail nearby, hoping to see them cross in front of us. We caught a few glimpses, but never got a really clear sighting. Despite that, we had a great morning and saw some other really nice birds including **Peregrine Falcon** that flew in front



Four of the seven kangaroo species we observed during our trip, clockwise starting from the top left: Mareeba Rock Wallaby, Eastern Gray Kangaroo, Musky Rat-Kangaroo, and Whiptail Wallaby. Photos by Marta Curti

of our car, Yellow-spotted Honeyeater and really nice looks at a male and female Shining Flycatcher.

We then returned to our lodge for breakfast before heading down into Daintree. Here, we switched our focus from birds to the wonderful flora and invertebrates found in the Daintree. We enjoyed strolling along the Marrdja Botanical Walk and Dubuji Rainforest Boardwalk trail. Here we saw quite a few interesting animals. We saw two types of fish, **Sooty Grunter** and **Snakehead Gudgeon**, a **Golden Orb-Weaver**, as well as the fascinating **Peppermint Stick Insect**, which sprays a fluid said to smell like peppermint as a defense. Thus its name! We made our final stop for the day at Cowie Beach to search for Blue Soldier Crabs. Though we didn't see any crabs, we got a few new lifers for the trip: **Pacific Reef-Heron**, **Red-necked Stint**, **Pacific** and **Siberian sand-plovers**, and **Gray-tailed Tattler**, among others. We then returned to our beautiful lodge for the evening.



Peppermint Stick Insect in Daintree. Photo by Marta Curti

Day 6: December 19 — Daintree River Boat Cruise, Port Douglas, and Cairns

We woke up a bit earlier this morning and headed to the Daintree River for a short cruise. While we were waiting for the rest of the group to arrive, one of the boat guides took us down the river to see a flock of 14 **Spotted Whistling-Ducks** perched on a branch over the river. They stayed for just a few moments before flying off. It was a great sighting and we are very grateful to this guide for going out of his way to show us these birds!

The cruise itself was lovely. The ride was peaceful and beautiful, with some large trees lining the bank. We saw a few raptors from the boat including **Osprey** and **Black-tailed Kite**. We also saw a pair of nesting **Shining Flycatcher**, the male and the female each taking turns tending the nest. We got great views of a flock of **Chestnut-breasted Munia**, another lifer for the group and a stunning bird! And we saw two new reptiles for the tour, **Saltwater (Estuarine) Crocodile** and **Eastern Water Dragon**.

We then returned to Steven's Creek to search for the Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher again. Again, we heard a couple calling from nearby, and caught glimpses of it as it flew from its hiding spot deep in the trees. Because we had to return to Cairns today, we decided to move on. On the way out, we got another lifer mammal for the group. We spotted two **Swamp Wallabies**, a mother and a joey crossing the road!!

We made several stops along the way back to our hotel in Cairns. We stopped at Port Douglas, the Cairns Botanical Gardens, and the Cairns Esplanade to do some birding. We picked up some nice sightings including a **Dusky Moorhen** and **Australian Figbird** feeding young, and picked up a few more lifers for the trip including **Varied Honeyeater** and **Australian Tern**. When we returned to our hotel, an adult and young **Bush Thick-knee** were wandering around the parking lot!

Day 7: November 20 — Michaelmas Island, Snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef

Today we took a boat trip to do some birding and to enjoy snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef. We boarded the boat and were underway at around 8 a.m. Our first stop was Michaelmas Island, a roughly two hour ride from Cairns. The island was filled with nesting seabirds, including **Brown Noddies**, **Brown Boobies**, and **Great Frigatebirds**. Several other seabirds were flying around the island including **Sooty**, **Bridled**, **Black-naped**, **Lesser Crested**, and **Great Crested terns**. We also spotted **Red-footed Boobies** perched on a buoy. After a nice buffet lunch on the boat, our next stop was at a nice snorkeling site at the Great Barrier Reef. The water was a bit choppy, but we still were able to enjoy the beautiful colors of the coral, a plethora of colorful fish, a sea cucumber, and more. It was a fabulous end to a terrific trip. But, we still had one more stop to make. We returned to the Esplanade and picked up new birds for the trip including a lifer for the group - **Terek Sandpiper**! We returned to our hotel for our final dinner and to get ready for our flights tomorrow.



One of the Dingoes we spotted during the tour. Photo by Marta Curti

Day 8: November 21 — Departure

This morning, after breakfast, we dropped Jeanette and Elcira off at the Cairn's Airport for their early morning flight.

Thanks!

As always, we want to thank Jeanette and Elcira for being part of this tour. We also thank our great local guide, Jonathan Munro, who showed us some amazing wildlife and shared his wide array of knowledge with us about Australias flor and fauna. And a warm thank you to the guide on Daintree River who went out of his way to show us the Spotted Whistling-Ducks before they flew off.

Wildlife Observation List

Birds

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Clements, J. F., T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, D. Roberson, T. A. Fredericks, B. L. Sullivan, and C. L. Wood. 2023.

eBird Trip Report: https://ebird.org/tripreport/295419

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
1 Southern Cassowary	Casuarius casuarius	2 seen: one near Etty Bay and another in the Mt. Hypipamee NP Picnic Area
2 Magpie Goose	Anseranas semipalmata	Fairly common and seen throughout the trip around water bodies
3 Spotted Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna guttata	14 seen along the Daintree River
4 Plumed Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna eytoni	Seen at Hasties Swamp
5 Wandering Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna arcuata	11 seen at Hasties Swamp
6 Black Swan	Cygnus atratus	Fairly common and seen throughout the trip around water bodies
7 Radjah Shelduck	Radjah radjah	Seen along the Daintree River, Lake Mitchell, and at the Warri Park Wetland in Port Douglas
8 Green Pygmy-Goose	Nettapus pulchellus	Common and seen often throughout the tour at water bodies
9 Maned Duck	Chenonetta jubata	49 seen during the tour fat Hasties Swamp and Innot Hot Springs
10 Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa	Over 70 seen during tour, mainly in Cattana Wetlands, Hasties Swamp, and Centenary Lakes
11 Gray Teal	Anas gracilis	Seen at Hasties Swamp and Innot Hot Springs. 16 seen during the tour
12 Hardhead	Aythya australis	6 seen at Hattie's Swamp
13 Australian Brushturkey	Alectura lathami	Very common; seen often throughout the tour
14 Orange-footed Megapode	Megapodius reinwardt	Very common; seen often throughout the tour
15 Rock Pigeon	Columba livia	Seen mostly in Cairns
16 White-headed Pigeon	Columba leucomela	2 seen at our guide's private property
17 Spotted Dove	Spilopelia chinensis	1 seen at the Ferrero Road Wetland (Port Douglas)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
18 Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Macropygia phasianella	7 seen on the tour, including at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat, Winfield Park and Abattoir Swamp
19 Pacific Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps longirostris	3 seen on the tour, at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat and along the road
20 Common Bronzewing	Phaps chalcoptera	2 total seen on the tour
21 Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	16 seen during the tour, mostly around Innot Hot Springs
22 Squatter Pigeon	Geophaps scripta	9 seen during the tour at Innot Hot Springs, Granite Gorge Nature Park, and Mt. Carbine Caravan Park
23 Peaceful Dove	Geopelia placida	21 seen during the tour
24 Bar-shouldered Dove	Geopelia humeralis	Several seen throughout the tour, including from the Daintree River Cruise and Cairns Esplanade
25 Wompoo Fruit-Dove	Ptilinopus magnificus	Seen well at Daintree Ecolodge, and Malanda Falls
26 Superb Fruit-Dove	Ptilinopus superbus	Heard several times throughout the tour
27 Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove	Ptilinopus regina	1 seen at the Curtain Fig Tree walking trail
28 Torresian Imperial-Pigeon	Ducula spilorrhoa	67 seen throughout the tour, fairly common in most areas
29 Topknot Pigeon	Lopholaimus antarcticus	11 seen in total at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat and in Daintree
30 Australian Bustard	Ardeotis australis	2 seen along the Herbert River Road toward Innot Hot Springs
31 Pheasant Coucal	Centropus phasianinus	7 seen and heard during the tour
32 Pacific Koel	Eudynamys orientalis	4 heard during our tour
33 Channel-billed Cuckoo	Scythrops novaehollandiae	1 seen at Rose Gums Wilderness Lodge
34 Little Bronze-Cuckoo	Chalcites minutillus	5 seen during the tour, with great looks at 1 at Centenary Lakes
35 Sahul Brush Cuckoo	Cacomantis variolosus	1 seen during Daintree River cruise
36 Tawny Frogmouth	Podargus strigoides	5 seen at Mt. Carbine Caravan Park, including an adult with 2 young
37 Australian Swiftlet	Aerodramus terraereginae	Common and seen often throughout the tour
38 Buff-banded Rail	Gallirallus philippensis	2 seen during the tour
39 Dusky Moorhen	Gallinula tenebrosa	9 total seen on the tour, near Innot Hot Springs and Warri Park Wetland
40 Australasian Swamphen	Porphyrio melanotus	Fairly common and seen throughout the trip around water bodies and in fields
41 Pale-vented Bush-hen	Amaurornis moluccana	1 along Henry Hannam Drive
42 Sarus Crane	Antigone antigone	Dozens seen in open fields

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
43 Brolga	Antigone rubicunda	Approximately 100 seen in an open field along Herbert River Road
44 Bush Thick-knee	Burhinus grallarius	Seen at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat and in Cairns outside our hotel
45 Pied Stilt	Himantopus leucocephalus	8 total seen at Hastites Swamp and Lake Mitchell
46 Pacific Golden-Plover	Pluvialis fulva	Several seen at Cowie Beach
47 Black-fronted Dotterel	Thinornis melanops	6 seen during the tour at Cattana Wetlands, Daintree River, and Warri Park
48 Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles	Common and seen often throughout the tour
49 Siberian Sand-Plover	Anarhynchus mongolus	Several seen during tour at Cowie Beach
50 Greater Sand-Plover	Anarhynchus leschenaultii	2 seen at Cowie Beach, Daintree NP
51 Comb-crested Jacana	Irediparra gallinacea	Seen regularly in wetland areas
52 Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus	Seen from the Cairns Esplanade
53 Far Eastern Curlew	Numenius madagascariensis	Seen from the Cairns Esplanade
54 Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica	34 seen at Cairns Esplanade
55 Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa	2 seen at Cairns Esplanade
56 Latham's Snipe	Gallinago hardwickii	Seen at Cattana Wetlands
57 Terek Sandpiper	Xenus cinereus	1 seen from the Cairns Esplanade
58 Gray-tailed Tattler	Tringa brevipes	8 seen at Cowie Beach and Cairns Esplanade
59 Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	1 seen at Cattana Wetlands and 1 at Cairns Esplanade
60 Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	5 seen on Michaelmas Island
61 Great Knot	Calidris tenuirostris	1 seen at Cairns Esplanade
62 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Calidris acuminata	1 seen at Cowie Beach, Daintree
63 Red-necked Stint	Calidris ruficollis	17 seen at Cowie Beach and Cairns Esplanade
64 Silver Gull	Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae	Seen from Cowie Beach, Great Barrier Reef Boat, and Cairns Esplanade
65 Brown Noddy	Anous stolidus	Many seen on Michaelmas Island
66 Sooty Tern	Onychoprion fuscatus	Dozens seen nesting on Michaelmas Island
67 Bridled Tern	Onychoprion anaethetus	A few seen from Michaelmas Island
68 Australian Tern	Gelochelidon macrotarsa	Seen from the Cairns Esplanade
69 Black-naped Tern	Sterna sumatrana	A few seen from Michaelmas Island
70 Lesser Crested Tern	Thalasseus bengalensis	Many seen on Michaelmas Island
71 Great Crested Tern	Thalasseus bergii	Many seen on Michaelmas Island

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
72 Australasian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae	Several seen throughout tour at various water bodies
73 Black-necked Stork	Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus	3 total seen on the tour
74 Great Frigatebird	Fregata minor	A few seen from Michaelmas Island
75 Red-footed Booby	Sula sula	A few seen from Michaelmas Island
76 Brown Booby	Sula leucogaster	Dozens seen nesting on Michaelmas Island
77 Australasian Darter	Anhinga novaehollandiae	6 seen during the tour at Cattana Wetlands and other wetland areas
78 Little Pied Cormorant	Microcarbo melanoleucos	13 seen during the tour
79 Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	1 seen at Hasties Swamp
80 Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris	3 total seen at Hasties Swamp, Winfield Park, and Centenary Lakes
81 Australian Ibis	Threskiornis molucca	Common and seen often throughout the tour
82 Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis spinicollis	24 seen during the tour, with good looks at Cattana Wetlands
83 Royal Spoonbill	Platalea regia	Seen at Cattana Wetlands and Centenary Lakes
84 Black Bittern	Botaurus flavicollis	2 seen, at Winfield Park and Centenary Lakes
85 Nankeen Night Heron	Nycticorax caledonicus	4 observed during tour at Cattana Wetlands, Innot Hot Springs, and Cairns Esplanade
86 Pacific Reef-Heron	Egretta sacra	1 seen at Cowie Beach, Daintree
87 Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	Seen regularly in wetland areas
88 Pied Heron	Egretta picata	1 observed at Hasties Swamp
89 White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae	3 total seen on tour at Cairns Esplanade, Daintree River Boat Cruise, and along Henry Hannam Drive
90 Striated Heron	Butorides striata	2 seen along the Daintree River
91 Eastern Cattle-Egret	Ardea coromanda	Over 80 seen during the tour
92 Pacific Heron	Ardea pacifica	1 observed at Abattoir Swamp
93 Great Egret	Ardea alba	7 seen on the tour, including at Innot Hot Springs, Cairns Esplanade, Daintree, and Hasties Swamp
94 Plumed Egret	Ardea plumifera	2 total seen on the tour at Innot Hot Springs and Cairns Esplanade
95 Australian Pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus	28 observed during the tour
96 Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	1 seen during Daintree River cruise
97 Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus axillaris	3 total seen, 1 during Daintree River cruise
98 Pacific Baza	Aviceda subcristata	4 total seen during the tour including at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat and in Etty Bay

Comm	on Name	Scientific Name	Notes
99 Gray Go	oshawk	Tachyspiza novaehollandiae	1 seen at Winfield Park
100 Brown (Goshawk	Tachyspiza fasciata	3 seen during the tour
101 Black Ki	ite	Milvus migrans	6 observed during the tour
102 Whistlin	ng Kite	Haliastur sphenurus	3 total seen at Gillies Cafe & Bar, Hasties Swamp, and feeding in a field at Memorial Mitchell
103 White-k	oellied Sea-Eagle	lcthyophaga leucogaster	4 observed during the tour, with best looks at Hasties Swamp with 2 perched together in a tree
104 Eastern	Barn Owl	Tyto javanica	Seen at night near Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat
105 Australi	an Boobook	Ninox boobook	Heard on our night walk on the private reserve
106 Rainbov	w Bee-eater	Merops ornatus	A total of 10 observed during the tour including at Granite Gorge Nature Park, Etty Bay Road, and Innot Hot Springs
107 Azure K	ingfisher	Ceyx azureus	1 seen at Winfield Park and
108 Laughin	g Kookaburra	Dacelo novaeguineae	Seen perched on wires in many areas during tour
109 Blue-wi	nged Kookaburra	Dacelo leachii	2 heard at the Mt. Carbine Caravan Park
110 Forest k	Kingfisher	Todiramphus macleayii	Seen at several locations during the tour
111 Torresia	n Kingfisher	Todiramphus sordidus	1 seen at Cairns Botanical Gardens
112 Sacred	Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus	Observed in Hasties Swamp and Cairns Esplanade
113 Buff-bre Kingfish	easted Paradise- ner	Tanysiptera sylvia	Heard, and seen fleetingly, at Steven's Creek
114 Dollarb	ird	Eurystomus orientalis	Seen occasionally along roadsides during our tour
115 Peregri i	ne Falcon	Falco peregrinus	1 seen at Steven's Creek
116 Red-tai l	ed Black-Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus banksii	Several large flocks seen
117 Galah		Eolophus roseicapilla	Several seen at Mt. Carbine Caravan Park
118 Sulphur	-crested Cockatoo	Cacatua galerita	Fairly common and seen often throughout the trip
119 Australi	an King-Parrot	Alisterus scapularis	Several seen at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat
120 Red-wir	nged Parrot	Aprosmictus erythropterus	11 observed during the tour
121 Crimsor	n Rosella	Platycercus elegans	3 seen along Stonehouse Road
122 Pale-he	aded Rosella	Platycercus adscitus	Observed at Henry Hannam Rd, Granite Gorge Nature Park, and Mt. Carbine Caravan Park
123 Double	-eyed Fig-Parrot	Cyclopsitta diophthalma	Seen very well feeding on the trees outside Gillies Cafe and Bar
124 Rainboy	w Lorikeet	Trichoglossus moluccanus	Very common; seen often throughout the tour

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
125 Spotted Catbird	Ailuroedus maculosus	Heard and seen occasionally during tour, with good looks at Malanda Falls
126 Golden Bowerbird	Prionodura newtoniana	1 seen at private reserve
127 Great Bowerbird	Chlamydera nuchalis	A few seen during the tour, with great looks of one working on its bower outside Mt. Carbine Caravan Park
128 White-throated Treecreeper	Cormobates leucophaea	1 seen at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat
129 Lovely Fairywren	Malurus amabilis	A pair seen at Cattana Wetlands
130 Red-backed Fairywren	Malurus melanocephalus	A small flock seen at Henry Hannam Drive, and a displaying pair seen at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat
131 Yellow-spotted Honeyeater	Meliphaga notata	Seen in Julatten and Daintree
132 Lewin's Honeyeater	Meliphaga lewinii	Common and seen often throughout the tour
133 Cryptic Honeyeater	Meliphaga imitatrix	Seen in Julatten and Daintree
134 Yellow Honeyeater	Stomiopera flava	Seen at several locations during the tour
135 Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Caligavis chrysops	2 seen at Hasties Swamp
136 Noisy Miner	Manorina melanocephala	Seen at Innot Hot Springs
137 Varied Honeyeater	Gavicalis versicolor	5 total seen at Cairns Esplanade
138 Brown-backed Honeyeater	Ramsayornis modestus	Fairly common and seen often throughout the trip
139 Dusky Myzomela	Myzomela obscura	Seen at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat and Daintree Village
140 Scarlet Myzomela	Myzomela sanguinolenta	Male and female seen at Hasties Swamp
141 Brown Honeyeater	Lichmera indistincta	Fairly common and seen often throughout the trip
142 White-cheeked Honeyeater	Phylidonyris niger	Seen at Hasties Swamp and Abattoir Swamp; 3 total seen
143 Blue-faced Honeyeater	Entomyzon cyanotis	Good looks at and Mt. Carbine Caravan Park
144 White-throated Honeyeater	Melithreptus albogularis	Seen well at Cattana Wetlands, Centenary Park and Henry Hannam Dr; 6 total seen
145 Macleay's Honeyeater	Xanthotis macleayanus	Several seen during tour, with really good looks at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat
146 Little Friarbird	Philemon citreogularis	1 observed at Mt. Carbine Caravan Park
147 Helmeted Friarbird	Philemon buceroides	Seen frequently during the tour
148 Noisy Friarbird	Philemon corniculatus	Seen occasionally during our tour
149 Spotted Pardalote	Pardalotus punctatus	1 heard at Abattoir Wetlands (CHECK)
150 Yellow-throated Scrubwren	Neosericornis citreogularis	1 observed in Winfield Park
151 Large-billed Scrubwren	Sericornis magnirostra	2 observed at Winfield Park

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
152 Brown Gerygone	Gerygone mouki	Seen at Winfield Park and Hasties Swamp
153 Fairy Gerygone	Gerygone palpebrosa	A total of 2 seen during tour
154 Large-billed Gerygone	Gerygone magnirostris	Heard often throughout the tour, one nesting at Daintree Ecolodge
155 White-throated Gerygone	Gerygone olivacea	1 observed at Mt. Carbine Caravan Park
156 Gray-crowned Babbler	Pomatostomus temporalis	2 seen well at Granite Gorge Nature Park
157 Barred Cuckooshrike	Coracina lineata	5 seen during the tour, with most sightings at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat
158 Black-faced Cuckooshrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	A few seen during the tour, with good looks at Mt. Carbine Caravan Park
159 White-bellied Cuckooshrike	Coracina papuensis	2 seen, 1 very well at Abattoir Swamp
160 White-winged Triller	Lalage tricolor	1 seen at Innot Hot Springs
161 Varied Triller	Lalage leucomela	3 total seen on tour
162 Sahul Cicadabird	Edolisoma tenuirostre	Seen at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat and along Henry Hannam Dr
163 Varied Sittella	Daphoenositta chrysoptera	A small flock seen at Henry Hannam Drive
164 Eastern Whipbird	Psophodes olivaceus	Heard and seen occasionally during tour
165 Bower's Shrikethrush	Colluricincla boweri	1 seen at Malanda Falls Conservation Park
166 Rufous Shrikethrush	Colluricincla rufogaster	Seen regularly, almost every day of the tour
167 Golden Whistler	Pachycephala pectoralis	Seen at a few stops during the tour; 5 total
168 Gray Whistler	Pachycephala simplex	Heard and seen occasionally during tour, with good looks in Daintree
169 Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	2 seen during the tour
170 Olive-backed Oriole	Oriolus sagittatus	Seen well at Centenary Park (Mareeba)
171 Green Oriole	Oriolus flavocinctus	Common and heard and seen often throughout the tour
172 Australasian Figbird	Sphecotheres vieilloti	Common and seen often throughout the tour
173 Yellow-breasted Boatbill	Machaerirhynchus flaviventer	1 observed in Winfield Park
174 White-breasted Woodswallow	Artamus leucorynchus	Seen at a few stops during the tour; 10 total
175 Gray Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus	1 seen at Innot Hot Springs
176 Pied Butcherbird	Cracticus nigrogularis	1 observed in Winfield Park
177 Black Butcherbird	Melloria quoyi	Seen at many of our stops during the tour, with good looks in Daintree
178 Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	3 observed, with good looks at Mt. Carbine Caravan Park
179 Pied Currawong	Strepera graculina	A few seen at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat and in Etty Bay

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
180 Northern Fantail	Rhipidura rufiventris	1 heard at Abattoir Wetlands
181 Willie-wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	Common and seen often throughout the tour
182 Gray Fantail	Rhipidura albiscapa	2 heard near Tully Gorge National Park
183 Spangled Drongo	Dicrurus bracteatus	9 observed during tour, with good looks at Cattana Wetlands
184 Victoria's Riflebird	Ptiloris victoriae	Good looks at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat
185 Black-faced Monarch	Monarcha melanopsis	3 total observed during tour at Hasties Swamp and Curtain Fig Tree trail
186 Australian Spectacled Monarch	Symposiachrus trivirgatus	Heard and seen occasionally during tour
187 Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	Common and seen often throughout the tour, with good looks at Cairns Esplanade
188 Shining Flycatcher	Myiagra alecto	4 seen, at Steven's Creek and during Daintree River Cruise
189 Apostlebird	Struthidea cinerea	2 seen at Mt. Carbine Caravan Park
190 Torresian Crow	Corvus orru	3 observed at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat and Mt. Carbine Caravan Park
191 Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides	1 observed in Tolga
192 Lemon-bellied Flyrobin	Microeca flavigaster	1 observed at Emerald Creek Falls
193 Gray-headed Robin	Heteromyias cinereifrons	4 total seen at Malanda Falls Conservation Park and Tully Gorge National Park
194 White-browed Robin	Poecilodryas superciliosa	1 seen and 1 heard along Henry Hannam Drive
195 Eastern Yellow Robin	Eopsaltria australis	6 total seen on tour at Hasties Swamp and Emerald Creek Falls
196 Pale-yellow Robin	Eopsaltria capito	Several seen at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat, Mt Hypipamee National Park and Winfield Park
197 Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena	Fairly common and seen throughout the trip
198 Fairy Martin	Petrochelidon ariel	5 seen at Memorial (Lake Mitchell)
199 Tree Martin	Petrochelidon nigricans	Seen at Centenary Park
200 Silvereye	Zosterops lateralis	Observed at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat and along Etty Bay Road
201 Metallic Starling	Aplonis metallica	Fairly common and seen often throughout the trip
202 Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	Common and seen often throughout the tour
203 Mistletoebird	Dicaeum hirundinaceum	Seen and heard several days on the tour, with good looks at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat
204 Sahul Sunbird	Cinnyris frenatus	Several seen including at Cattana Wetlands, Gillies Cafe, and Cairns Esplanade
205 Double-barred Finch	Stizoptera bichenovii	A small flock seen at Henry Hannam Drive
206 Chestnut-breasted Munia	Lonchura castaneothorax	Several dozen seen during the boat ride on Daintree River

Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
207 House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Seen at Centenary Park and in Cairns
208 Australian Pipit	Anthus australis	Seen along Etty Bay Road
209 Helmeted Guineafowl (Exotic)	Numida meleagris	Seen near Innot Hot Springs
210 Indian Peafowl (Exotic)	Pavo cristatus	3 seen near Innot Hot Springs

Mammals

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
1	European Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus	Seen a few times along the road around Atherton
2	Northern Brown Bandicoot	Isoodon macrourus	Seen at night in and around Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat
3	Long-nosed Bandicoot	Perameles nasuta	Seen at night in and around Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat
4	Swamp Wallaby	Wallabia bicolor	A mother and a Joey seen crossing the road returning from Steven's Creek
5	Red-Legged Pademelon	Thylogale stigmatica	Seen at night in and around Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat as well as
6	Eastern Gray Kangaroo	Macropus giganteus	Several seen along road from Cairns to Atherton Tablelands
7	Agile Wallaby	Notamacropus agilis	Several seen throughout the tour
8	Whiptail (Pretty-faced) Wallaby	Notamacropus parryi	Several seen along road from Cairns to Atherton Tablelands
9	Musky Rat-Kangaroo	Hypsiprymnodon moschatus	Seen on the grounds of Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat
10	Mareeba Rock Wallaby	Petrogale mareeba	Several seen at Granite Gorge Nature Park
11	Spectacled Flying-fox	Pteropus conspicillatus	At dusk from Nick's Restaurant
12	Green Ringtail Possum	Pseudochirops archeri	1 seen at Hastie's Swamp
13	Herbert River Ringtail Possum	Pseudochirulus herbertensis	1 seen on a night walk on a private reserve
14	Coppery Brushtail Possum	Trichosurus johnstonii	1 seen on a night walk on a private reserve
15	Lemuroid Ringtail Possum	Hemibelideus lemuroides	Several seen on a night walk on a private reserve, including one with young
16	Dingo	Canis lupus dingo	4 seen in an open field en route to
17	Platypus	Ornithorhynchus anatinus	1 seen very well at Winfield Park

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
1	Rough-throated Leaf-tailed Gecko	Saltuarius salebrosus	1 seen on a night walk on a private reserve
2	Lace Monitor	Varanus varius	2 seen during the tour
3	Krefft's River Turtle	Emydura krefftii	Seen at Cattana Wetlands and Cairn's Botanic Gardens, Centenary Lake
4	Boyd's Forest Dragon	Lophosaurus boydii)	Several seen during the tour including at Crater Lake overlook (Mount Hypipamee NP) and at the Daintree Lodge
5	Frilly-necked Lizard	Chlamydosaurus kingii	1 seen along the Emerald Creek trail
6	White-lipped Tree Frog	Nyctimystes infrafrenatus	Seen in Daintree and 1 seen at Hastie's Swamp
7	Estuarine Crocodile	Crocodylus porosus	2 seen along the Daintree River
8	Eastern Water Dragon	Intellagama lesueurii	2 seen along the Daintree River

Other Vertebrates & Invertebrates

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
1	Sooty Grunter (Fish)	Hephaestus fuliginosus	Several seen from the Dubudji Rainforest Boardwalk trail
2	Snakehead Gudgeon (Fish)	Giuris aporocephalus	Several seen from the Dubudji Rainforest Boardwalk trail
3	Iridescent Flutterer (Dragonfly)	Rhyothemis braganza	Seen at Cattana Wetlands
4	Yellow-striped Flutterer (Dragonfly)	Rhyothemis phyllis	Seen at Cattana Wetlands
5	Painted Grass hawk (Dragonfly)	Neurothemis stigmatizans	Several seen at Steven's Creek
6	Sapphire Rockmaster (Dragonfly)	Diphlebia coerulescens	4 seen at Winfield Park
7	Shining Oak-Blue (Butterfly)	Arhopala micale	One seen at Cattana Wetlands
8	Orange Plane (Butterfly)	Pantoporia consimilis	1 seen at Steven's Creek
9	Small Green Banded-Blue (Butterfly)	Psychonotis caelius	1 seen in Daintree
10	Peppermint Stick Insect	Megacrania batesii	Seen from the Dubudji Rainforest Boardwalk trail
11	Golden Orb-weaver	Trichonephila edulis	1 seen in Cape Tribulation
12	Northern Jeweled Spider	Gasteracantha fornicata	1 seen in Cape Tribulation
13	Fourmanoir's Mangrove (Grabsit) Crab	Neosarmatium fourmanoiri	Seen in Daintree among the mangroves