



**TROPICAL
BIRDING**



EASTERN AUSTRALIA: FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

**A Tropical Birding / Audubon Shop
Custom Birding Tour**

October 7-22, 2024

**Guides: Ken Behrens &
Charley Hesse**

Photos & Videos by Ken Behrens

**Mammal & Reptile Lists by Jerry
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TOUR SUMMARY

This trip was similar to the Tropical Birding Eastern Australia “top to bottom” itinerary, but designed to be more relaxed. Despite its chilled-out nature, this trip covered a lot of ground and different habitats, from lowland rainforest to eucalyptus savanna, and from Daintree, in the far northeast, south to Tasmania, in the extreme southeast of Australia’s vastness. Though this was officially a birding trip, mammals were certainly some of the top highlights. Chief among these were Duck-billed Platypus, Short-beaked Echidna, Striped Possum, and Koala. Who doesn’t want to see these incredible animals?! True bucket list material. Of course these marquee beasts had lots of support from a range of kangaroos and wallabies. The birds were incredibly diverse, and included almost too many highlights to mention. There were multiple Northern Cassowaries on the road at Daintree, Chowchilla and Australian Logrunner in the rainforest understory, loads of

colorful and tame parrots at O'Reilly's (such as the Crimson Rosella shown on the first page), and a sweet set of Tasmania endemics. This was a great group, and everybody had a great time, enjoying good camaraderie, and lots of jovial meals at local pubs and even some excellent Asian restaurants. There wasn't much not to like about this trip, which left all of us eager to return to Australia for more of what this vast country / continent has to offer.

For an immersive experience of this trip's highlights, check out the 10-minute video trip report:

VIDEO TRIP REPORT on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/OCYi5NVUWQg>

ITINERARY

- October 7** Start of tour in Cairns. Afternoon on the Esplanade.
- October 8** Great Barrier Reef day trip. Night Cairns.
- October 9** Cairns to Daintree. Night Daintree.
- October 10** Daintree to Mareeba.
- October 11** Mareeba area.
- October 12** Mareeba to Lake Eacham.
- October 13** Atherton area. Night Lake Eacham.
- October 14** Atherton to Cairns.
- October 15** Flight from Cairns to Brisbane. Afternoon in Brisbane.
- October 16** Morning birding Brisbane. Drive to O'Reilly's in Lamington NP.
- October 17** O'Reilly's – Lamington NP.
- October 18** O'Reilly's – Lamington NP.
- October 19** O'Reilly's to Brisbane. Flight to Hobart, Tasmania.
- October 20** Hobart to Mount Wellington to South Bruny Island.
- October 21** South Bruny Island.
- October 22** South Bruny Island to Hobart. Departure.

PHOTO GALLERY

A full [Flickr gallery](https://www.flickr.com/photos/kbehrens/albums/72177720323008597/) of photos from this trip, organized chronologically, is on Ken's Flickr page: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kbehrens/albums/72177720323008597/>

BIRD LIST

The full list, including numbers and many other details, can be see as part of the [eBird trip report](https://ebird.org/tripreport/317448) for this trip: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/317448>

NATURALLY ADVENTUROUS PODCAST EPISODE

Ken and Charley spend a full episode of their podcast talking about various “over” and “under” rated aspects of Australia, including many mentions of things that happened during this trip:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/2d5E5zOs8cqKe6Jju6X9O3>

MAMMAL LIST

ECHIDNA: Tachyglossidae	
Short-beaked Echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>
PLATYPUS: Ornithorhynchidae	
Platypus	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>
BANDICOOTS: Peramelidae	
Northern Brown Bandicoot	<i>Isoodon macrourus</i>
Long-nosed Bandicoot	<i>Perameles nasuta</i>
KOALA: Phascolarctidae	
Koala	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>
GLIDERS AND STRIPED POSSUM: Petauridae	
Striped Possum	<i>Dactylopsila trivirgata</i>
Sugar Glider	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>
RINGTAIL POSSUMS: Pseudocheiridae	
Common Ringtail Possum	<i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i>
KANGAROOS, WALLABIES AND TREE-KANGAROOS: Macropodidae	
Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo	<i>Dendrolagus lumholtzi</i>
Agile Wallaby	<i>Macropus agilis</i>
Whiptail (Stripe-faced) Wallaby	<i>Macropus parryi</i>
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus giganteus</i>
Bennett's Wallaby	<i>Macropus rufogriseus rufogriseus</i>
Mareeba Rock Wallaby	<i>Petrogale mareeba</i>
Rufous-bellied (Tasmanian) Pademelon	<i>Thylogale billardierii</i>
Red-legged Pademelon	<i>Thylogale stigmatica</i>
Red-necked Pademelon	<i>Thylogale thetis</i>
FRUIT BATS: Pteropodidae	
Spectacled Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>
EARED SEALS: Otariidae	
Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
RABBITS AND HARES: Leporidae	
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
DOLPHINS: Delphinidae	
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>

REPTILE LIST

TYPICAL CROCODILES: Crocodylus	
Saltwater Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>
DRAGONS: Agamidae	
Australian Water Dragon	<i>Intellagama lesueurii</i>
SKINKS: Scincidar	
Eastern Water Skink	<i>Eulamprus quoyii</i>
Land Mullet	<i>Bellatorias obiri</i>
SNAKES: Serpentes	
Common (Green) Tree Snake	<i>Dendrel punctulatus</i>
Brown Tree Snake	<i>Boiga irregularis</i>
Southern Dwarf Crowned Snake	<i>Cacophis krefftii</i>
Australian Scrub Python	<i>Simalia kinghorni</i>
TURTLES: Chelidae	
Eastern Saw-shelled Turtle	<i>Myuchelys latisternum</i>