



A Tropical Birding CUSTOM tour

## AUSTRALIA: Cape York & Queensland's Outback

Cape York: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Queensland's Outback: 12<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

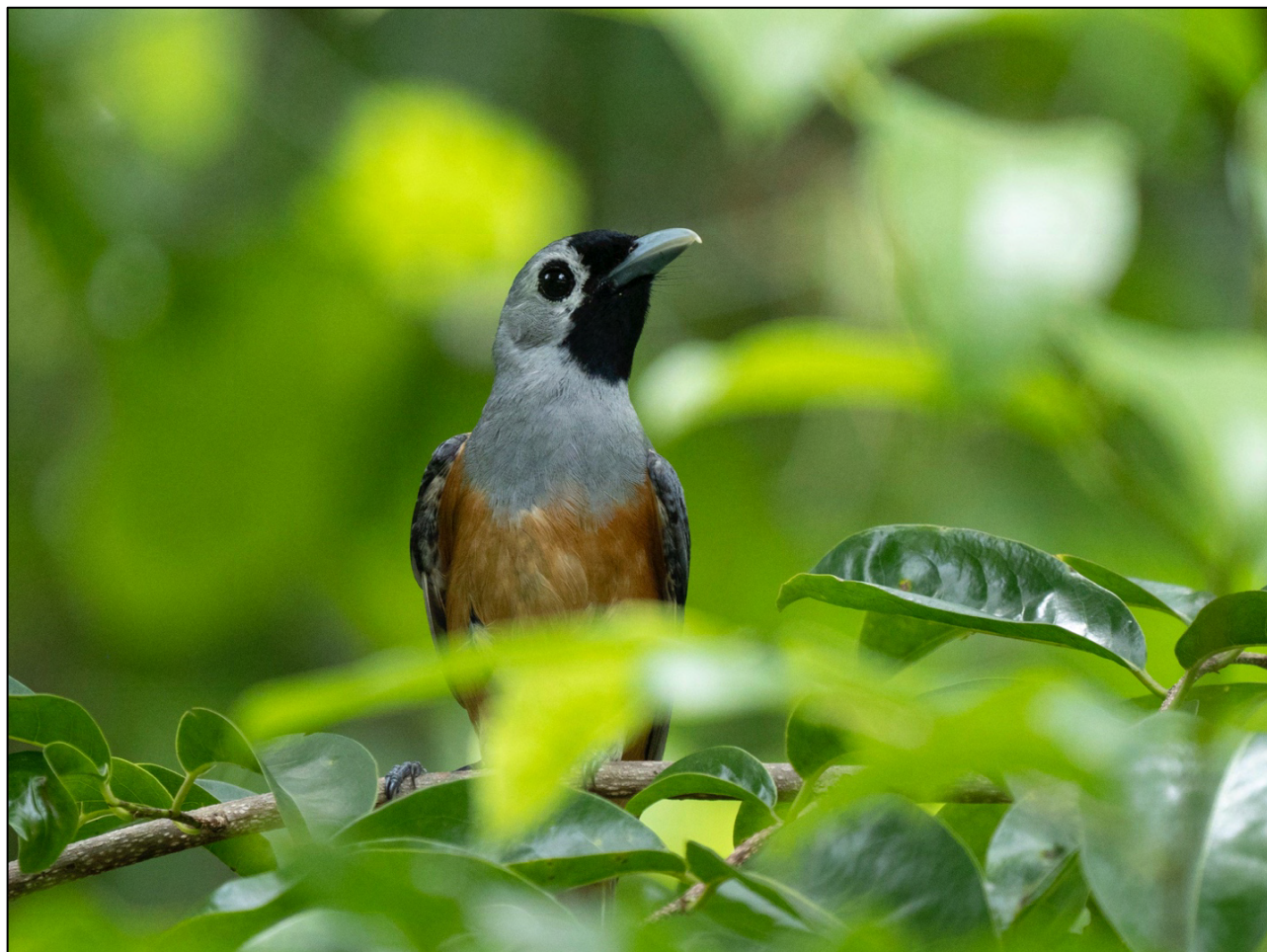
Guided by Iain Campbell

*Birds in the photos within this report are denoted in RED.*



**Cape York's Most Wanted:** A wet season visit was planned to catch up with this **Papuan Pitta**, a temporal visitor to Cape York from the island of New Guinea (Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tours).

*This tour was designed in two parts. Firstly, to cover the rainforest endemics of the Cape York Peninsula, (but to skip Cairns and the Wet Topics which all of the clients had covered before). Then, during the second leg, to journey from Cairns across the Cape to Karumba in the Gulf of Carpentaria, before heading southwest to Mount Isa and visiting Winton and Longreach, all within Western Queensland's Outback. Finally, there was a visit to Naccundra in the shire of Bulloo in the southwest corner of the state. The tour headed east to finish up, closing in the Southeast Queensland city of Brisbane.*



**Cape York Specialty:** **Black-winged Monarch** was photographed in the *Tropical Lowland Rainforest* on the *Cape York Peninsula*, which is the only place it occurs in Australia (*Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tours*).

*The idea of this tour was to visit each of Queensland's habitats and target ALL of the specialty species within these. From the birdlist, you will notice that we did NOT spend any time visiting the coastal areas around Cairns (which would have yielded a further 20 birds or so), and did NOT take a pelagic out of Brisbane, which may have produced another 25 or so bird species. A lot of time was spent checking the many different bird habitats on offer (all of which are described in detail in the newly published book "[Habitats of the World: A Field Guide for Birders, Naturalists and Ecologists](#)").*

*The first part of the trip concentrated on the Iron Range on Cape York Peninsula. Because it was the wet season, we elected to fly into Lockhart River and base ourselves out of The Greenhouse, which is Iain's favorite lodge in all of Australia. I highly recommend it for anyone considering birding the rainforests of Cape York.*



**Cape York Cockatoo:** The gargantuan **Palm Cockatoo** is also a specialty of the Tropical Lowland Rainforest on the peninsula (*Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tours*).

*The area around the lodge at The Greenhouse is comprised of Tropical Lowland Rainforest and Monsoon Vineforest. All the of the target rainforest bird species there occur in both forest types, though some species such as **Yellow-legged Flycatcher**, **Black-winged Monarch**, **Red-faced Parrot**, and **Northern Scrub-robin** show a definite preference for the pure rainforest (over the vineforest).*



**Cape York Exclusive:** **Frill-necked Monarch** is endemic to extreme northern Australia, confined to the northern section of the Cape York Peninsula, where it is readily found (*Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tours*).

*The only rainforest species that we missed was the Southern Cassowary, though that is such a rare bird there, which is very much concentrated away from accessible areas, so we had not really expected to encounter that bird in the areas we visited. The other minor habitat types in Cape York include Melaleuca Swampforest, Open Eucalypt Savanna, and Forest Eucalypt Savanna.*



**New Guinea Honeyeater:** Most of the range of **Green-backed Honeyeater** is on the island of New Guinea just to the north, where it is widespread. However, in Australia, it is very local, confined to eastern *Cape York Peninsula* in northern Queensland (*Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tour*).

*A short drive from the lodge leads into Tropical Heathland (a very limited habitat in Australia), with its target bird of White-streaked Honeyeater; and into Melaleuca Savanna where Bar-breasted Honeyeater occurs, a specialty of the latter habitat. We accessed the coast at both Lockhart River and near Portland Roads, where we visited Mangroves and other beach habitats too.*



**Melaleuca Mammal:** Agile Wallaby is a widespread northern marsupial, occurring in a range of habitats, including Melaleuca Savanna, where few other terrestrial mammals live (*Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tour*).

*The second region we visited was the Gulf Country, the area from the Atherton Tableland west across the Cape to Karumba. Although, on this trip, we stopped off for an hour in Subtropical and Montane Rainforest near Atherton, we didn't even spend an hour in this habitat yet still managed to pick up many of the Atherton Tableland specialties, like **Bridled Honeyeater**, **Mountain Thornbill**, **Gray-headed Robin**, **Atherton Scrubwren**, **Fernwren**, and heard a **Golden Bowerbird** that we did not attempt to find. A full morning there, and we would surely have found all of the usual targets of this area, but because the clients had a few extra days birding the Wet Tropics alone, we did not want to use precious time there, which could be more efficiently used elsewhere on this tour.*



**Australian Abundance:** **Gray Fantail** is widespread and conspicuous across a variety of habitats (*Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tour*).

*We visited some Dry Sclerophyll Forest near Ravenshoe, then headed down to the Forty Mile Scrub area, which is a patch of Semi-deciduous Rainforest; similar to Tropical Lowland Rainforest, but with a much thicker understory, and a canopy of trees that lose their leaves in the dry season. It also resembles Monsoon Vineforest from the Northern Territory and Cape York but is more open and less dependent on the wet season. From here we continued into the Open Eucalypt Savanna, Melaleuca Savanna, and Shrubby Savanna within the Gulf Country proper, where chasing finches became the name of the game.*





PHOTOS PREVIOUS PAGE: Northern Specialties - **Squatter Pigeon** and **Red-headed Honeyeater**, the latter is a mangrove and Monsoon Vineforest species (*Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tour*).

Across at the coast around Karumba, the birding is focused within the Mangroves, where we successfully located targets of this habitat, such as **White-breasted and Black-tailed Whistlers**, and **Red-headed Honeyeater**. We also surveyed flooded Tussock Grasslands for huge flocks of **Pied Herons**, **Plumed Whistling-ducks** and stately **Brolgas**. None of the *Melaleuca* trees within the normally productive *Melaleuca* Savanna were in flower, so this habitat seemed rather devoid of birdlife on our visit.



**Gray-headed Honeyeater** is a nomadic species of arid, wooded country (*Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tour*).



**Spinifex Special:** **Kalkadoon Grasswren** is a very local species, with its range centred around Mount Isa, where it inhabits rocky slopes with spinifex grass. (Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tour).

From Karumba south, the habitats rapidly change from tussock grass-dominated savannas to a mixture of ones with a Spinifex understory, so towards Mt Isa it becomes a mosaic of Open Eucalypt Savanna and Spinifex Savanna Desert. These spinifex-dominated habitats become our focus for targets like the **Kalkadoon Grasswren** which we saw very well near Mount Isa, along with a **Purple-necked Rock Wallaby**.

Arriving in this area, we had our first **Spinifex Pigeons** which were extremely common this year, and a daily feature for most of the trip until we reached Naccundra. We checked the Spinifex Savanna Desert northwest of Mount Isa for Carpentarian Grasswren but we did not have a peep out of them despite visiting a series of usually regular sites. Interestingly, each of these sites held numerous **Spinifexbirds**, which earlier in the year had been devoid of these but had Carpentarian Grasswrens present. Around the watercourses in the Mount Isa there are stands of large trees, and we birded these woodlands to find **Painted and Long-tailed Finches, Hooded Robin** and the usual assemblage of northern honeyeater species.



**Mount Isa Specialty:** **Purple-necked Rock Wallaby** is a near endemic to northwest Queensland but is readily found on the rocky slopes around Mount Isa, one of the most reliable areas to search for it (*Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tour*).

From Mount Isa, we drove southeast to Winton and passed through vast Tussock Grasslands dominated by Mitchell Grass, which is actually a genus of different species, with the mix changing throughout the region. In these vast, flat grasslands species such as **Australian Bushlark**, **Rufous Songlark**, **Australasian Pipit**, **Australian Pratincole**, and **Australian Bustard** were seen.

Arriving in Winton, our sights were set on an area just to the south. Winton marks the boundary between the grasslands and the spinifex deserts to the south and the southwest. The dominant vegetation types just south of Winton are a mosaic of Rocky Spinifex, Spinifex Savanna Desert, and Spinifex Mulga. We left at an insanely early time of 2am to get into the Spinifex for an absurdly small chance of finding the near mythical Night Parrot. As expected, we dipped (missed it) but had dawn in Rocky Spinifex with a pair **Grey Falcon** circling around before sunlight. We then spent time with **Opalton Grasswren** and **Rufous-crowned Emuwren**. After what seemed like a full morning, (yet still before 7am), we hit the Spinifex Mulga for **Chestnut-breasted Quail-Thrush**, **Splendid Fairywren**, **Inland Thornbill** and **Red-capped Robin**.



**Mount Isa Star Species:** The **Opalton Grasswren** has a tiny range being endemic to this region, and inhabiting very specific spinifex-dominated microhabitats (*Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tour*).

*We visited Windorah to break the drive down to extreme southwestern Queensland. The area around Windorah is the northwest outlier of the Mulga forests more common further south but does mark another boundary between the Spinifex Deserts and the Grassy Mulga and Chenopod-dominated environments farther south. Here, **Crested Bellbirds** became the usual background sound to any birding, along with more southern species such as **Spiny-cheeked and Singing Honeyeaters**.*



**Crested Bellbirds** were conspicuous around Windorah (Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tour).

The next stop was Noccundra, and the vast Gibber Chenopodplains and overflows of the Channel Country. This vast expanse of braided streams and ephemeral overflows is dominated by Lignum Swamps. We used The Noccundra Hotel as our base, with very basic “donga” accommodation that is a shock to most of our clients, usually used to great lodges and hotels. We do state “best available” and this fitted the bill, being the only accommodation for over 100km. The spartan lodgings were mitigated by the engaging and very friendly publicans and the best food within a day’s driving. The lignum at the usual stakeout for the Gray Grasswren was destroyed by a hailstorm last year, so we had a frantic hunt for good stands in the area. We found a stand and with that found a territory of a **Gray Grasswren**. This bird is renowned for being a difficult bird to get a good look at, and we had to accept flybys across the small channels. The gibber plains are usually nearly devoid of vegetation, being a varnished desert with a cap of larger rocks linking to protect the soil profile below. This year, however, they were absolutely blooming with ephemeral vegetation of small bluebush, saltbushes, a few grasses, and a multitude of flowers.





**Splendid Fairywren** is an iconic bird of the Australian Outback (*Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tour*).

*We next visited the Grassy Mulga habitat around Cunnamulla where we had most of the same species, we had found earlier at Windorah, in addition to species such as Bourke's and Mulga Parrots, and Greater Bluebonnet. The area was also pumping with passerines such as Masked, White-browed, and Black-faced Woodswallows, as well as a bunch of honeyeaters, including a single Black Honeyeater.*

**PHOTOS NEXT PAGE:** *Birds of the Mulga - Bourke's Parrot (TOP) and Red-browed Pardalote (Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tour).*







Another species we found in the Mulga was this “Australasian Warbler” (family Acanthizidae), **Southern Whiteface** (Iain Campbell/Tropical Birding Tours).

We passed through Brigalow Woodland Savanna east of St. George and Eucalypt woodlands of the Darling Downs on our way to the last stop of the Border Ranges. Here, we concentrated on the area around O’Reilly’s Rainforest Retreat at the top of the range.

The forest here is mainly Subtropical Rainforest, dominated by buttressed rainforest angiosperms and Hoop Pines. There is also a patch of Temperate Rainforest in a small area of Lamington National Park, though we did not visit that during this limited visit as the other habitats held more of interest for us. There is a thin band of Wet Sclerophyll Forest and a lot of open Dry Sclerophyll Forest on the edges of the range. In the Subtropical rainforest we found the principal targets of the area, such as Southern Logrunner, Green Catbird, and Paradise Riflebird, and numerous species of “Australasian Warblers” (i.e. scrubwrens, thornbills and gerygones). In the Dry Sclerophyll we had a host of honeyeater species including White-throated, White-naped, and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters. We also saw Variegated Fairywren and a suite of thornbills, with Brown, Yellow, Striated, and Buff-rumped Thornbills all there too.

After a final morning birding around the guesthouse and a very late encounter with a **Regent Bowerbird**, we finished the tour in Brisbane.



**ANNOTATED CHECKLIST:**

**QLD** – Refers to the state of Queensland.

Casuariidae (Cassowaries and Emu)

**Emu** *Dromaius novaehollandiae* - Seen on multiple occasions through the drier parts of QLD, in many habitats. Most common in Open Eucalypt Savanna, Grassy Mulga, Tussock Grassland and farmland.

Anseranatidae (Magpie Goose)

**Magpie Goose** *Anseranas semipalmata* - Common in the Tropical Wetlands of Cape York Peninsula and the Gulf Country.

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

**Plumed Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna eytoni* - They were common on Cape York Peninsula, a few were seen near Atherton, and we had numerous encounters near Karumba.

**Wandering Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata* – Just one group, near Normanton in the gulf country.

**Spotted Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna guttata* – Recorded at Lockhart River Sewage Treatment Plant.

**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus* - Multiple sightings though SW QLD.

**Radjah Shelduck** *Radjah radjah* - Common around Lockhart River on Cape York Peninsula, and a few around the Gulf Country.

**Green Pygmy-Goose** *Nettapus pulchellus* - Not as many as expected on the Cape York Peninsula and the Gulf Country.

**Maned Duck** *Chenonetta jubata* - We had many sightings, often by the roadside, starting from Windorah and then throughout the Lignum Swamps, flooded farmland, and Temperate Wetlands of Southern QLD.

**Australian Shoveler** *Spatula rhynchotis* - We had a few in the Winton Sewage works.

**Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa* - Regular sightings on many wetlands throughout the tour.

**Gray Teal** *Anas gracilis* - First seen near Winton, and then regular sightings through the Channel Country and the Darling Downs.

**Pink-eared Duck** *Malacorhynchus membranaceus* - A few at the Winton sewerage works.

**Hardhead** *Aythya australis* - A few at the Winton sewerage works, and then some in the recently flooded floodplains of the Channel Country.

Megapodiidae (Megapodes)

**Australian Brushturkey** *Alectura lathami* - They were common in the Lowland Tropical Rainforest at Iron Range, the Tropical Montane Rainforest near Atherton, and the Subtropical Rainforest at O'Reilly's.

**Orange-footed Scrubfowl** *Megapodius reinwardt* - They were common in the Lowland Tropical Rainforest and Monsoon Vineforest around Iron Range on Cape York Peninsula, and we heard them as we left Cairns.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

**Brown Quail** *Synoicus ypsilophorus* - A few sightings in Open Eucalypt Savanna in the Gulf Country, and one in Grassy Mulga around St. George.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

**Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae* - Multiple sightings on the Cape York Peninsula, the Gulf Country, Winton, the Channel Country, and Darling Downs.

**Hoary-headed Grebe** *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus* - One in the Channel Country around Noccundra.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* - A few at Winton sewerage works.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* - Found in country downs throughout western and southern QLD.

**White-headed Pigeon** *Columba leucomela* - One in Subtropical Rainforest at O'Reilly's.

**Brown Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia phasianella* - There were a few in the Lowland Tropical Rainforest at Iron Range, the Tropical Montane Rainforest near Atherton, and the Subtropical Rainforest at O'Reilly's.

**Pacific Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps longirostris* - There were a few in the Lowland Tropical Rainforest at Iron Range and the Tropical Montane Rainforest near Atherton.

**Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera* - Very common this year, with many sightings per day from the Spinifex Eucalypt Savannas near Mt Isa, though the Tussock Grasslands, the Grassy Mulga, and the Brigalow forests of southern QLD.

**Crested Pigeon** *Ocyphaps lophotes* - A common bird, found in most of the open country from the Gulf Country all the way to Brisbane.

**Spinifex Pigeon** *Geophaps plumifera* - Very common this year, and not just in the expected habitats of Spinifex Eucalypt Savanna, Spinifex Acacia Shrubland, and Rocky Spinifex. It was seen 500km south of the normal range in Chenopod Shrublands too.

**Squatter Pigeon** *Geophaps scripta* - A few sightings in Open Eucalypt Savanna near Georgetown, and an individual near Cloncurry as well.

**Wonga Pigeon** *Leucosarcia melanoleuca* - Common in the Subtropical Rainforest around O'Reilly's.

**Diamond Dove** *Geopelia cuneata* - First seen in the Spinifex Eucalypt Savanna NW of Mount Isa, and then frequently in most habitats between Winton and Cunnamulla.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida* - Frequent through most non-forest habitats.

**Bar-shouldered Dove** *Geopelia humeralis* - Frequent in the savannas and woodlands with tussock grass understory, such as Open Eucalypt Savanna and Grassy Mulga. Not seen in the desert areas between Mt. Isa and Cunnamulla.

**Wompoo Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus* - Common in Lowland Tropical Rainforest in Iron range, around The Greenhouse Lodge, and one individual in the Montane Rainforest around Atheron. Interestingly, not found at O'Reilly's this time.

**Superb Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus wallacii* - Common in Lowland Tropical Rainforest and Monsoon Rainforest in the Iron Range of Cape York Peninsula.

**Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina* - A few sightings in Iron Range.

**Torresian Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula spilorrhoa* - A few individuals in the Iron range, but nowhere near as common as I expected given their abundance around Cairns at the time.

**Topknot Pigeon** *Lopholaimus antarcticus* - One sighting in the Monsoon Rainforest near The Greenhouse.

#### [Otididae \(Bustards\)](#)

**Australian Bustard** *Ardeotis australis* - One in Grassy Mulga near Windorah, and a few in open grazing lands near Cunnamulla.

#### [Cuculidae \(Cuckoos\)](#)

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus* - Very common in open areas around Lockhart River and Portland Roads on the Cape York Peninsular. Common through the Gulf Country too.

**Pacific Koel** *Eudynamis orientalis* - a male in Shrubby Eucalypt Savanna near Georgetown, a female in mangroves near Karumba, and a male in riverine vegetation near Cloncurry.

**Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scythrops novaehollandiae* - Seen flying over Karumba and Mt. Isa.

**Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx basalis* - Seen in Grassy Mulga near Windorah and Cunnamulla.

**Black-eared Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx osculans* - One in Open Eucalypt Savanna near Georgetown, others in Grassy Mulga near Windorah and Cunnamulla.

**Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx lucidus* - Multiple individuals around Iron Range and in Monsoon Vine Forest near Forty Mile Scrub.

**Little Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx minutillus* - Fairly common in forests of Iron Range and Monsoon Vine Forest.

**Pallid Cuckoo** *Cacomantis pallidus* - One in open Eucalypt Savanna near Georgetown, and one in Mulga near Windorah.

**Fan-tailed Cuckoo** *Cacomantis flabelliformis* - One in Brigalow near St. George, and multiple in Subtropical Rainforest near Lamington National Park.

**Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus* - Common through Tropical Lowland Rainforest, Monsoon Vine Forests, and thicker savannas on the cape and in northeast QLD.

**Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus optatus* - One flyby near the Greenhouse.

#### [Podargidae \(Frogmouths\)](#)

**Tawny Frogmouth** *Podargus strigoides* - Multiple calling birds through central QLD.

**Marbled Frogmouth** *Podargus ocellatus* - Heard multiple times in the Iron Range, though no sightings.

**Papuan Frogmouth** *Podargus papuensis* - Seen near the Greenhouse.

[Caprimulgidae \(Nightjars and Allies\)](#)

**Spotted Nightjar** *Eurostopodus argus* - Very common NW of Mt. Isa, and on the road between Winton and Lark Quarry.

**Large-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus macrurus* - One perched high up in Iron Range.

[Aegothelidae \(Owlet-nightjars\)](#)

**Australian Owlet-nightjar** *Aegotheles cristatus* - Heard a few times in northern Australia, and two sitting on the side of road east of Cunnamulla.

[Apodidae \(Swifts\)](#)

**White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus* - One small flock at the base of Lamington National Park.

**Australian Swiftlet** *Aerodramus terraereginae* - Common on Cape York Peninsula and in Atherton Tablelands, above most habitats.

**Pacific Swift** *Apus pacificus* - Seen regularly on the Cape York Peninsula and through the savannas of northern QLD. Absent in the Channel Country but seen again around St. George. Seen in most habitats other than above rainforest.

[Rallidae \(Rails, Gallinules, and Coots\)](#)

**Black-tailed Nativehen** *Tribonyx ventralis* - one at Winton Sewerage works and a few in the Channel Country.

**Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa* - A few at Lockhart River, and commonly through most wetlands in western and southern Queensland.

**Australasian Swampphen** *Porphyrio melanotus* - A pair at Lockhart River, and common around Karumba, especially in recently flooded grasslands. Not seen through northwest Queensland until a few at Winton sewerage works, and again commonly in the Channel Country.

[Gruidae \(Cranes\)](#)

**Sarus Crane** *Antigone antigone* - A pair at Normanton.

**Brolga** *Antigone rubicunda* - Very common around Normanton, and also seen in many other areas.

[Burhinidae \(Thick-knees\)](#)

**Bush Thick-knee** *Burhinus grallarius* - Common throughout the north.

[Recurvirostridae \(Stilts and Avocets\)](#)

**Pied Stilt** *Recurvirostra avocetta* - Many in flooded grasslands around Karumba.

[Haematopodidae \(Oystercatchers\)](#)

**Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus longirostris* - One near Portland Road, and two near Karumba.

**Sooty Oystercatcher** *Haematopus fuliginosus* - Two near Karumba.

**Pacific Golden-Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* - One near Lockhart River.

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles* - Common throughout the trip.

**Greater Sand-Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultia* - One on beach near Lockhart River.

**Black-fronted Dotterel** *Euseyornis melanops* - Multiple sightings on inland waterways.

[Jacanidae \(Jacanas\)](#)

**Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea* - A few in Lockhart River sewerage works. Also in large lakes around Cloncurry and Mt. Isa.

[Scolopacidae \(Sandpipers and Allies\)](#)

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* - One on the beach near Portland Road, and a few around Kurumba.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* - Recorded in Lockhart River.

**Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris* - One in Lockhart River.

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis* - Two on mudflats at Karumba.

[Turnicidae \(Buttonquail\)](#)

**Red-chested Buttonquail** *Turnix pyrrhorthorax* - in Open Eucalypt Savanna near Mt. Isa.

**Little Buttonquail** *Turnix velox* - We nearly ran over one near Thargominda.

[Glareolidae \(Pratincoles and Coursers\)](#)

**Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella* - Around Naccoundra and Winton.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)-

**Silver Gull** *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae* - Commonly encountered around the coast.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons* - One feeding of Lockhart River was the only one.

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* - One near Lockart River

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* - One near Karumba and one near Lockart River

**Whiskered Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* - Large flocks near Karumba in flooded Tussock Grassland.

**Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana* - Two near Lockhart River.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* - One near Lockhart River.

**Great Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii* - A few near Lockhart River.

**Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis* - A few near Lockhart River.

#### [Ciconiidae \(Storks\)](#)

**Black-necked Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* - many around the bridge at Normanton, a few around Mt Isa.

#### [Fregatidae \(Frigatebirds\)](#)

**Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel* - A mixed flock with Greater Frigatebirds at Portland Road.

**Great Frigatebird** *Fregata minor* - A mixed flock with Lesser Frigatebirds at Portland Road.

#### [Anhingidae \(Anhingas\)](#)

**Australasian Darter** *Anhinga rufa* – Recorded at Cumberland Dam.

#### [Phalacrocoracidae \(Cormorants and Shags\)](#)

**Little Pied Cormorant** *Microcarbo melanoleucos* - One near Normanton, and a few in the Channel Country.

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* - Many at Clam Walton Waterhole.

#### [Pelecanidae \(Pelicans\)](#)

**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus* - Common through the Gulf Country and Channel Country; we had them around Cunnamulla and St George.

#### [Ardeidae \(Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns\)](#)

**Australasian Bittern** *Botaurus poiciloptilus* - One on road to Birdsville near Windorah

**Black Bittern** *Ixobrychus flavicollis* - One near Clem Walton Waterhole near Mt. Isa.

**Pacific Heron** *Ardea pacifica* - Seen multiple times in the Channel Country and between Cunnamulla and Brisbane.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* - One near Lockhart River, and a few around Kurumba.

**Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia* - The most common egret through most of trip.

**White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae* - Common in the Channel Country and in southern QLD.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* - Small numbers throughout.

**Pacific Reef-Heron** *Egretta sacra* – Dark morph at Portland Road near Iron Range and also in the mangroves around Kurumba.

**Pied Heron** *Egretta picata* - A few near Lockhart river. Extremely common around Karumba and Normanton in flooded Tussock Grasslands.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* - Mainly recorded in the east of the state.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* - On Chili Beach and around Karumba.

**Nankeen Night-Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus* - Two flew over the mangrove boardwalk at Karumba.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* - Thousands around Karumba, and a few in the Channel Country.

**Australian Ibis** *Threskiornis molucca* - Common throughout the tour.

**Straw-necked Ibis** *Threskiornis spinicollis* - Common throughout.

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia* – Recorded in Karumba and the Channel Country.

**Yellow-billed Spoonbill** *Platalea flavipes* – Noted in the Channel Country.

#### [Pandionidae \(Osprey\)](#)

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* - Two near Lockhart River.

#### [Accipitridae \(Hawks, Eagles, and Kites\)](#)

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus axillaris* - Common on southern part of trip, after Windorah.

**Black-breasted Kite** *Hamirostra melanosternon* - One near Karumba, over open Eucalypt Savanna, and above Tussock Grassland near Longreach.

**Square-tailed Kite** *Lophoictinia isura* - One between Ravenshoe and Forty Mile Scrub.

**Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata* - Multiple individuals in Iron Range over monsoon forest, and one near Atherton.

**Little Eagle** *Hieraetus morphnoides* - One at 40 Mile Scrub, one between Mt. Isa and Winton, and an exceptionally close view at the racetrack in Windorah.

**Wedge-tailed Eagle** *Aquila audax* - Common over most of western QLD east to St George.

**Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans* - Numerous encounters in northern QLD and on the Cape York Peninsula.

**Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis* - Close up views in grazing land near Cunnumulla.

**Gray Goshawk** *Accipiter novaehollandiae* - Multiple individuals near Greenhouse in the Iron Range.

**Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus* - Multiple encounters in all regions of the state, including the Mt. Isa to Winton area.

**Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrocephalus* - Not as common as the Brown Goshawk but still found in all habitat types.

**Red Goshawk** *Erythrotriorchis radiatus* - Two near Lockhart River beach, on arrival day of tour!

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* - Found throughout the state, but not over rainforest, or around Brisbane.

**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus* - Found throughout the state, but not over rainforest. Generally less common than *Black Kite*, except in southeast QLD.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus* - Noted around Karumba and Normanton.

**White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* - Seen in Lockhart River and Karumba.

#### [Tytonidae \(Barn-Owls\)](#)

**Australasian Grass-Owl** *Tyto longimembris* - One sitting on the road near Lockhart River.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* - One on the night drive in Spinifex Mulga near Winton.

#### [Alcedinidae \(Kingfishers\)](#)

**Azure Kingfisher** *Ceyx azureus* - Recorded at Iron range, Clem Walton waterhole, and near Noccundra.

**Little Kingfisher** *Ceyx pusillus* - Seen in Lowland Rainforest near Iron Range and also in Mangroves at Karumba.

**Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae* - Seen in most of eastern QLD.

**Blue-winged Kookaburra** *Dacelo leachii* - Observed in open country near Lockhart River, Mt. Isa, and Cloncurry.

**Red-backed Kingfisher** *Todiramphus pyrrhopygius* - Seen a few times between Mt. Isa and Noccundra in very dry country, not near water.

**Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii* - Common on Cape York Peninsula, and seen a few times through the Gulf Country south to Mt. Isa.

**Torresian Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sordidus* - A few encounters around Karumba

**Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus* - Common through all of the state in all habitats except rainforest and monsoon forest.

**Yellow-billed Kingfisher** *Syma torotoro* - This specialty was seen on the Cape York Peninsula.

**Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera sylvia* - Seen in rainforest in Iron Range.

#### [Meropidae \(Bee-eaters\)](#)

**Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus* - Common in most open areas.

#### [Coraciidae \(Rollers\)](#)

**Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis* - Many sightings throughout the trip.

#### [Falconidae \(Falcons and Caracaras\)](#)

**Nankeen Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides* - Common over most of the state, in all habitats except rainforest and monsoon forest.

**Australian Hobby** *Falco longipennis* - One near Lockhart River and one near Karumba.

**Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora* - Common over most of the north and west of the state, in all habitats except rainforest and monsoon forest. Very common between Noccundra and Towoomba in particular.

**Gray Falcon** *Falco hypoleucos* - A pair over Spinifex Mulga near Winton.

**Black Falcon** *Falco subniger* - One between Windorah and Noccundra.

#### [Cacatuidae \(Cockatoos\)](#)

**Palm Cockatoo** *Probosciger aterrimus* - Regular poor sightings every day in Iron Range, but amazing views down at the beach.

**Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus banksia* – A few individuals through northern QLD, with huge flocks near Kurumba.

**Glossy Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus lathami* - A single flock on Duck Creek Road near Lamington NP.

**Pink Cockatoo** *Lophochroa leadbeateri* - Two in Grassy Mulga west of Cunnamulla.

**Galah** *Eolophus roseicapilla* - Common throughout the state except in rainforest.

**Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea* - Common west of the Atherton Tablelands through to Toowoomba.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua galerita* - Common throughout the state.

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus* - Common throughout the west of the state.

#### [Psittaculidae \(Old World Parrots\)](#)

**Australian King-Parrot** *Alisterus scapularis* - Common around O'Reilly's.

**Red-winged Parrot** *Aprosmictus erythropterus* - Common through most of the tropical, arid, and semi-arid parts of the state.

**Bourke's Parrot** *Neophema bourkii* - Multiple sightings near Noccundra, Eulo Bore and Cunnamulla.

**Australian Ringneck** *Barnardius zonarius* - Cloncurry race at Clem Walton waterhole near Mt. Isa; Nominated race in Grassy Mulga near Cunnamulla.

**Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans* - A few in Tropical Montane Rainforest near Atherton, and very common in Subtropical Rainforest at O'Reilly's.

**Eastern Rosella** *Platycercus eximius* - A few west of Toowoomba

**Pale-headed Rosella** *Platycercus adscitus* - A pair in Tropical Forest Savanna near Lockhart River, and a few in farmland between Cunnamulla and St. George.

**Greater Bluebonnet** *Northiella haematogaster* - A few sightings in Mulga around Noccundra and Cunnamulla.

**Red-rumped Parrot** *Psephotus haematonotus* - A pair in farmland around St. George.

**Mulga Parrot** *Psephotus varius* - A pair in Grassy Mulga near Cunnamulla.

**Double-eyed Fig-Parrot** *Cyclopsitta diophthalma* - Multiple sightings in Iron Range.

**Eclectus Parrot** *Eclectus roratus* - Common around The Greenhouse.

**Red-cheeked Parrot** *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* - A couple of flybys around Greenhouse.

**Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus* - Common in Spinifex Eucalypt Savanna, Spinifex Mulga, and Grassy Mulga between Mt. Isa and Cunnamulla. Common in grazing land between Cunnamulla and St. George too.

**Varied Lorikeet** *Psitteuteles versicolor* - A pair flew over Cloncurry Dam.

**Scaly-breasted Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus* - A small group in Dry Sclerophyll Forest on Duck Creek Road.

**Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus moluccanus* - A few near Ravenshoe on the Atherton Tableland, and also between Toowoomba and Lamington National Park.

**Red-collared Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus rubritorquis* - A few around Lake Moondara near Mt. Isa.

#### [Pittidae \(Pittas\)](#)

**Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor* - Common in Iron Range, although surprisingly not calling in Lamington.

**Papuan Pitta** *Erythropitta macklotii* - Multiple sightings around The Greenhouse in Iron Range.

#### [Menuridae \(Lyrebirds\)](#)

**Albert's Lyrebird** *Menura alberti* - Heard multiple times near O'Reilly's.

#### [Ptilonorhynchidae \(Bowerbirds\)](#)

**Spotted Catbird** *Ailuroedus maculosus* - Heard near Atherton.

**Black-eared Catbird** *Ailuroedus melanotis* - Seen a few times in Iron Range.

**Green Catbird** *Ailuroedus crassirostris* - Seen a few times around O'Reilly's.

**Tooth-billed Bowerbird** *Scenopoeetes dentirostris* - Heard near Atherton. We did not chase down this bird as it was not a target on this tour.

**Golden Bowerbird** *Amblyornis newtoniana* - Heard near Atherton. This was not a target for us, so we did not chase down the bird.

**Regent Bowerbird** *Sericulus chrysocephalus* - Surprisingly scarce around O'Reilly's. It is normally near impossible to miss.

**Satin Bowerbird** *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* - Very common around O'Reilly's.



**Spotted Bowerbird** *Chlamydera maculate* - Seen multiple times in both Open Eucalypt Savanna in the north, and in Mulga in central to southwest QLD. The sighting east of Karumba was well out of normal range.

**Great Bowerbird** *Chlamydera nuchalis* - Seen multiple times around Karumba and north of Mt. Isa. We did not see them from Winton south.

**Northern Scrub-Robin** *Drymodes superciliaris* - Elusive, but we had two encounters near Greenhouse; one in Lowland Tropical Rainforest and one in Monsoon Vineforest.

#### [Climacteridae \(Australasian Treecreepers\)](#)

**White-throated Treecreeper** *Cormobates leucophaea* - A pair on Duck Creek Road near Lamington National Park.

**Red-browed Treecreeper** *Climacteris erythrops* - Heard on Duck Creek Road near Lamington National Park.

**Brown Treecreeper** *Climacteris picumnus* - Fleeting views of the northern race near Cumberland dam. Common in Grassy Mulga around Noccundra and Cunnamulla.

**Black-tailed Treecreeper** *Climacteris melanurus* - A group in the Spinifex Eucalypt Savanna northwest of Mt. Isa.

#### [Maluridae \(Fairywrens\)](#)

**Gray Grasswren** *Amytornis barbatus* - Poor views in lignum near Noccundra.

**Opalton Grasswren** *Amytornis rowleyi* - Very easy in Spinifex Mulga and Spinifex Eucalypt Savanna, less regular in Rocky Spinifex south of Winton.

**[Carpentarian Grasswren** *Amytornis dorotheae* - Not a whiff, even though we were in a regular territory. Just did not call. Lots of Spinifex birds where the grasswrens were common and the Spinifexbirds were absent, 4 months earlier.]

**Kalkadoon Grasswren** *Amytornis ballarae* - A few pairs within the limits of Mt. Isa. In the same territory as *Purple-necked Rock-Wallaby*.

**Rufous-crowned Emuwren** *Stipiturus ruficeps* - At least two pairs in Spinifex Eucalypt Savanna and Rocky Spinifex south of Winton.

**Purple-backed Fairywren** *Malurus assimilis* - Seen in many different regions and habitats of northwest, central, and southwest QLD. In everything from Rocky Spinifex, Mangroves, Open Eucalypt Savanna, Mulga, Lignum, and Temperate Eucalypt woodland.

**Variiegated Fairywren** *Malurus lamberti* - A group in Dry Sclerophyll Forest on Duck Creek Road near Lamington National Park.

**Lovely Fairywren** *Malurus amabilis* - Common but skulking near Greenhouse in the Iron Range, Cape York Peninsula.

**Splendid Fairywren** *Malurus splendens* - In Spinifex Mulga near Winton, in Grassy Mulga near Windorah, and in Gidgee Shrubland west of St. George.

**Superb Fairywren** *Malurus cyaneus* - Very common in open areas around O'Reilly's.

**White-winged Fairywren** *Malurus leucopterus* - In cleared grazing land near Windorah, and in Chenopod Shrublands and Gibberplains.

**Red-backed Fairywren** *Malurus melanocephalus* - Common in the Gulf Country in Tropical Tussock Grasslands and Open Eucalypt Savanna.

#### [Meliphagidae \(Honeyeaters\)](#)

**Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* - Feeding on flowers around the lodging at O'Reilly's.

**Yellow-spotted Honeyeater** *Meliphaga notata* - Common in Iron Range, and a pair around Atherton.

**Lewin's Honeyeater** *Meliphaga lewinii* - Common in Montane Rainforest around Atherton, and in Subtropical Rainforest around O'Reilly's; also found in dense gully thickets within Dry Sclerophyll Forest on Duck Creek Road.

**Cryptic Honeyeater** *Microptilotis imitatrix* - Heard in Montane Rainforest near Atherton. Did not bother chasing birds down.

**Graceful Honeyeater** *Microptilotis gracilis* - Common in Lowland Tropical Rainforest around Greenhouse in Iron Range.

**Yellow Honeyeater** *Stomiopera flava* - Multiple encounters in forest edge in the Cape York Peninsula, and an individual on Mangrove edge near Karumba.

**White-gaped Honeyeater** *Stomiopera unicolor* - In Monsoon Vineforest in Iron Range, and in Mangrove edge near Karumba.

- Yellow-faced Honeyeater** *Caligavis chrysops* - A group in Dry Sclerophyll Forest near Ravenshoe on the Atherton Tablelands, and then no sightings through the dry country until a group in Brigalow Savanna near St. George. Common in Dry Sclerophyll Forest on Duck Creek Road near Lamington too.
- Bell Miner** *Manorina melanophrys* - Heard on entrance road to O'Reilly's. We did not bother chasing them.
- Noisy Miner** *Manorina melanocephala* - Common east of St. George in all non-rainforest habitats.
- Yellow-throated Miner** *Manorina flavigula* - Common in woodland/savanna habitats from Mt. Isa through to St. George.
- Bridled Honeyeater** *Bolemoreus frenatus* - Common in Montane Rainforest near Atherton.
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** - Common in acacia and eucalypt savannas and woodlands from Windorah to just west of Toowoomba.
- Little Wattlebird** *Anthochaera chrysoptera* - Pair in grevilleas near Canungra.
- Singing Honeyeater** *Gavicalis virescens* - Common in many open areas from the Winton Sewerage works through Noccundra and east to St. George.
- White-plumed Honeyeater** *Ptilotula penicillate* - In most open woodland habits from Cloncurry through to Toowoomba.
- Gray-headed Honeyeater** *Ptilotula keartlandi* - Common in northwest Qld in most woodland habitats. Many sightings before Windorah.
- Gray-fronted Honeyeater** *Ptilotula plumula* - A few sightings in Melaleuca Savanna and Shrubby Eucalypt Savanna.
- Bar-breasted Honeyeater** *Ramsayornis fasciatus* - A pair in Melaleuca Savanna near Portland Roads.
- Rufous-banded Honeyeater** *Conopophila albogularis* - A single bird in Open Eucalypt Savanna west of Iron Range.
- Rufous-throated Honeyeater** *Conopophila rufogularis* - Very common in most savanna types and even in Mangroves from Georgetown to just north of Winton.
- Crimson Chat** *Epthianura tricolor* - One around Noccundra and another at Eulo Bore in Grassy Mulga.
- Orange Chat** *Epthianura aurifrons* - One in farmland between Windorah and Eromanga.
- Black Honeyeater** *Sugomel nigrum* - One in Grassy Mulga at Eulo Bore.
- Dusky Myzomela** *Myzomela obscura* - Common in Lowland Rainforest, Monsoon Rainforest, and Mangroves on the Cape York Peninsular. Very common in Mangroves around Karumba.
- Red-headed Myzomela** *Myzomela erythrocephala* - Multiple sightings in Mangroves around Karumba.
- Scarlet Myzomela** *Myzomela rubratra* - A group in Dry Sclerophyll near Ravenshoe on the Atherton Tableland, and one in Dry Sclerophyll along Duck Creek Road near Lamington National Park.
- Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta* - Common through most wooded areas of the state.
- White-streaked Honeyeater** *Trichodere cockerelli* - During this trip to Iron Range, the birds were most common in Tropical Heathland, but we found two territories in Eucalypt Forest Savanna too.
- White-cheeked Honeyeater** *Phylidonyris niger* - A group in Dry Sclerophyll near Ravenshoe on the Atherton Tableland.
- White-eared Honeyeater** *Nesoptilotis leucotis* - Two individuals in Brigalow near St. George.
- Blue-faced Honeyeater** *Entomyzon cyanotis* - Common through the savanna regions of QLD.
- White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis* - Common in many areas.
- White-naped Honeyeater** *Melithreptus lunatus* - A group in Dry Sclerophyll on Duck Creek Road near Lamington National Park.
- Brown-headed Honeyeater** *Melithreptus brevirostris* - In Callitris Woodland near St. George.
- Macleay's Honeyeater** *Xanthotis macleayanus* - In Montane Rainforest near Atherton.
- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater** *Xanthotis flaviventer* - Common in the Tropical Lowland Rainforest and Monsoon Vineforest around Lockhart River.
- Green-backed Honeyeater** *Glycichaera fallax* - Easily overlooked, we had more sightings in Monsoon Vineforest than we did in the Tropical Lowland Rainforest.
- Striped Honeyeater** *Plectorhyncha lanceolata* - Uncommon in the Mulga, Brigalow, and Temperate Eucalypt Woodland from Windorah through to Toowoomba.
- Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis* - In Grassy Mulga in Cunnamulla. Seemed to be associating with Striped Honeyeater during this trip.
- Helmeted Friarbird** *Philemon buceroides* - Regular in Iron Range and around Atherton.

**Silver-crowned Friarbird** *Philemon argenticeps* - Multiple sightings around Karumba, Mt. Isa, and Cloncurry in Open Eucalypt Savanna, Tropical Forest Savanna, and riverine thickets.

**Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus* - In Brigalow near St. George.

#### [Pardalotidae \(Pardalotes\)](#)

**Spotted Pardalote** *Pardalotus punctatus* - Common in the southeast part of the state from St. George to O'Reilly's.

**Red-browed Pardalote** *Pardalotus rubricatus* - In Eucalypts above the Lignum Swamp near Noccundra.

**Striated Pardalote** *Pardalotus striatus* - Common throughout most of the state, except in Tussock Grassland and Rocky Spinifex.

#### [Acanthizidae \(Thornbills and Allies\)](#)

**Fernwren** *Oreoscopus gutturalis* - One pair in Montane rainforest near Atherton.

**Yellow-throated Scrubwren** *Sericornis citreogularis* - In Montane Rainforest near Atherton and in Subtropical Rainforest near O'Reilly's.

**White-browed Scrubwren** *Sericornis frontalis* - Common in Subtropical Rainforest around O'Reilly's.

**Atherton Scrubwren** *Sericornis kerri* - A group in Montane Rainforest near Atherton.

**Large-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis magnirostra* - Common around O'Reilly's.

**Tropical Scrubwren** *Sericornis beccarii* - A few individuals seen around Greenhouse in the Iron Range.

**Speckled Warbler** *Pyrrholaemus sagittatus* - In Brigalow and Callitris woodlands near St. George.

**Buff-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza reguloides* - A group in Dry Sclerophyll Forest on Duck Creek Road near Lamington National Park.

**Mountain Thornbill** *Acanthiza katherina* - In Montane Rainforest near Atherton.

**Brown Thornbill** *Acanthiza pusilla* - In Subtropical Rainforest and Wet Sclerophyll Rainforest near O'Reilly's.

**Inland Thornbill** *Acanthiza apicalis* - A large group in Grassy Muga at Eulo Bore.

**Yellow-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* - Seen regularly in southwest and southern QLD from Winton south, mostly in farmland, but also in Open Eucalypt Savanna, Grassy Mulga and Spinifex Mulga.

**Chestnut-rumped Thornbill** *Acanthiza uropygialis* - In Grassy Mulga near Cunnamulla.

**Yellow Thornbill** *Acanthiza nana* - A group in Casuarina woodland west of Moonie.

**Striated Thornbill** *Acanthiza lineata* - A group in Dry Sclerophyll Forest on Duck Creek Road near Lamington National Park.

**Weebill** *Smicronis brevirostris* - Fairly common in open-treed habitats from Georgetown through to St. George.

**Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa* - Two at Cumberland Dam near Georgetown, and common on the Cape York Peninsula.

**White-throated Gerygone** *Gerygone olivacea* - In Open Eucalypt Savanna west of Iron Range, and in lakeside vegetation near Mt. Isa.

**Large-billed Gerygone** *Gerygone magnirostris* - In Monsoon scrub beside Mangrove near Portland Roads, and in a thicket near Normanton.

**Brown Gerygone** *Gerygone mouki* - Common in Subtropical Rainforest and Wet Sclerophyll near Lamington National Park.

**Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca* - Multiple sightings in Brigalow and Temperate Eucalypt Woodland near St. George.

**Mangrove Gerygone** *Gerygone levigaster* - In Mangroves near Karumba.

#### [Psophodidae \(Whipbirds and Wedgebills\)](#)

**Chirruping Wedgebill** *Psophodes cristatus* - With *Chestnut-crowned Babblers* in Grassy Mulga near Naccundra.

**Crested Bellbird** *Oreoica gutturalis* - Remarkably common this year in most wooded habitats from Winton through to St. George.

#### [Pachycephalidae \(Whistlers and Allies\)](#)

**Gray Shrikethrush** *Colluricincla harmonica* - Common in many woodlands and fortests.

**Rufous Shrikethrush** *Colluricincla rufogaster* - Very common in Lowland Tropical Rainforest and Monsoon Rainforest around the Iron Range.

**Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala pectoralis* - Common in the wetter habitats in southeast QLD.

**Black-tailed Whistler** *Pachycephala melanura* - A female in Mangroves near Karumba.

**Gray Whistler** *Pachycephala simplex* - Common on the Cape York Peninsula.

**Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris* - Found in Savanna on the Cape York Peninsula, and in most wooded habitats through the rest of QLD.

**White-breasted Whistler** *Pachycephala lanioides* - A few in Mangroves near Karumba.

#### [Oriolidae \(Old World Orioles\)](#)

**Olive-backed Oriole** *Oriolus sagittatus* - In riverine vegetation around Lake Corella near Cloncurry, and one in Grassy Mulga near Winton.

**Green Oriole** *Oriolus flavocinctus* - Common in most habitats on Cape York Peninsula.

**Australasian Figbird** *Sphecothebes vieilloti* - Northern race around Lockhart River, and the southern race through southeast QLD.

#### [Machaerirhynchidae \(Boatbills\)](#)

**Yellow-breasted Boatbill** *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer* - Common in Monsoon Vineforest and in Tropical Lowland Rainforest around Greenhouse.

#### [Artamidae \(Woodswallows, Bellmagpies, and Allies\)](#)

**White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus* - Common around Lockhart River and most savanna areas of the north. Absent from central Australia but we had them again from Goondiwindi east to Brisbane in Brigalow.

**Masked Woodswallow** *Artamus personatus* - Common in open areas from Winton through to Goondiwindi.

**White-browed Woodswallow** *Artamus superciliosus* - Common in open areas from Windorah through to Goondiwindi.

**Black-faced Woodswallow** *Artamus cinereus* - The most common woodswallow through tropical and western QLD.

**Little Woodswallow** *Artamus minor* - Multiple sightings around Mt. Isa and Winton.

**Dusky Woodswallow** *Artamus cyanopterus* - A small flock in Temperate Eucalypt Woodland east of Goondiwindi.

**Gray Butcherbird** *Cracticus torquatus* - Multiple sightings through western and southeast QLD.

**Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis* - Multiple sightings in most non-forest habitats.

**Black Butcherbird** *Cracticus quoyi* - Common in Monsoon Vineforest and Tropical Lowland Rainforest in Iron Range.

**Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen* - Seen through most of the trip, in most open habitats.

**Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina* - Found in Dry Sclerophyll and rainforests in southeast QLD. We missed the Cape York race.

#### [Rhipiduridae \(Fantails\)](#)

**Northern Fantail** *Rhipidura rufiventris* - Seen in Monsoon Vineforest west of Ravenshoe and in mangrove edge, Karumba.

**Willie-wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys* - Common in all habitats except the closed rainforests and Mangroves.

**Rufous Fantail** *Rhipidura rufifrons* - Common in both Tropical Lowland Rainforest and in Monsoon Vineforest near the Greenhouse, and again in Subtropical Rainforest near O'Reilly's.

**Arafura Fantail** *Rhipidura dryas* - A pair in Mangrove near Karumba.

**Gray Fantail** *Rhipidura albiscapa* - Found in all habitats except Spinifex Grasslands and Chenopod Shublands.

**Mangrove Fantail** *Rhipidura phasiana* - Observed in the Mangroves at Karumba.

#### [Dicruridae \(Drongos\)](#)

**Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus* - Common through thick habitats and savannas through the north and east.

#### [Paradisaeidae \(Birds-of-Paradise\)](#)

**Paradise Riflebird** *Ptiloris paradiseus* - A few individuals in subtropical Rainforest and Wet Sclerophyll Forest near O'Reilly's in southeast QLD.

**Victoria's Riflebird** - A single male calling in Montane Rainforest near Atherton.

**Magnificent Riflebird** -

**Trumpet Manucode** - Calling and a flyby in Monsoon Vineforest near Greenhouse.

#### [Monarchidae \(Monarch Flycatchers\)](#)

**White-eared Monarch** *Carterornis leucotis* - Heard near Greenhouse.

**Black-faced Monarch** - Common in both Tropical Lowland Rainforest and in Monsoon Vineforest near the Greenhouse.

**Black-winged Monarch** *Monarcha frater* - A few encounters in both Tropical Lowland Rainforest and in Monsoon Vineforest near the Greenhouse.

**Spectacled Monarch** *Symposiachrus trivirgatus* - Common in all thick forests on Cape York Peninsula and in southeast QLD.

**Pied Monarch** *Arses kaupi* - One calling in Montane Rainforest near Atherton.

**Frill-necked Monarch** *Arses lorealis* - Common in Lowland Tropical Rainforest around the Greenhouse.

**Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula* - Multiple sightings in mulga and eucalypt habitats in southeast QLD.

**Broad-billed Flycatcher** *Myiagra ruficollis* - Common in edge habitats in the Iron Range.

**Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta* - In Grassy Mulga near Cunnamulla.

**Paperbark Flycatcher** *Myiagra nana* - Common around Kurumba, Mt. Isa, and Cloncurry.

**Shining Flycatcher** *Myiagra Alecto* - Common around Lockhart River.

[Corcoracidae \(White-winged Chough and Apostlebird\)](#)

**White-winged Chough** *Corcorax melanorhamphos* - Seen a few times in southern QLD between Cunnamulla and Toowoomba.

**Apostlebird** *Struthidea cinerea* - Very common on this trip from the Gulf Country to Brisbane. Only absent in Chenopod shrublands and in Rocky Spinifex.

[Corvidae \(Crows, Jays, and Magpies\)](#)

**Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru* - Common over most of the state.

**Australian Raven** *Corvus coronoides* - Only seen near St. George.

[Petroicidae \(Australasian Robins\)](#)

**Jacky-winter** *Microeca fascinans* - In a few Spinifex and Grassy Mulgas and Open Eucalypt Savanna.

**Lemon-bellied Flycatcher** *Microeca flavigaster* - In Open Eucalypt Savannas near Mt. Isa, Cloncurry, and Georgetown.

**Yellow-legged Flycatcher** *Microeca griseiceps* - One individual in Tropical Lowland Rainforest near the Greenhouse.

**Rose Robin** *Petroica rosea* - In Dry Sclerophyll forest on Duck Creek Road. Expected it in Subtropical Rainforest, but absent on this trip.

**Red-capped Robin** *Petroica goodenovii* - Common in Grassy Mulga and Gidgee shrublands.

**Hooded Robin** *Melanodryas cucullate* - One near Mt. Isa and a pair in Spinifex Mulga near Winton.

**Pale-yellow Robin** *Tregellasia capito* - In Montane Rainforest near Atherton.

**White-faced Robin** *Tregellasia leucops* - Common in Lowland Tropical Rainforest in the Iron Ranges.

**Eastern Yellow Robin** *Eopsaltria australis* - Interestingly absent from the north, first seen in Dry Sclerophyll forests and rainforests in southeast QLD.

**Mangrove Robin** *Eopsaltria pulverulenta* - Heard in Mangroves at Karumba.

**Gray-headed Robin** *Heteromyias cinereifrons* - Common in Tropical Montane Rainforest near Atherton.

[Alaudidae \(Larks\)](#)

**Australasian Bushlark** *Mirafra javanica* - Common in the Tussock Grasslands from Winton through to St. George.

[Cisticolidae \(Cisticolas and Allies\)](#)

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* - In grasslands around Karumba.

**Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis* - Common in Tussock Grasslands and Samphire Flats in the Gulf Country.

[Acrocephalidae \(Reed Warblers and Allies\)](#)

**Australian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus australis* - Recorded in Winton sewerage works.

[Locustellidae \(Grassbirds and Allies\)](#)

**Spinifexbird** *Poodytes carteri* - Very common this year in Rocky Spinifex and Spinifex Eucalypt Savanna.

**Little Grassbird** *Poodytes gramineus* - Heard at Winton sewerage works.

**Brown Songlark** *Cincloramphus cruralis* - Multiple individuals in Tussock Grasslands around Winton, Longreach, and Windorah.

**Rufous Songlark** *Cincloramphus mathewsi* - Many individuals in most (non-Spinifex) grasslands.

**Tawny Grassbird** *Cincloramphus timoriensis* - One heard at Lockhart River sewerage works.

[Hirundinidae \(Swallows\)](#)

**Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena* - Common throughout the trip.

**Fairy Martin** *Petrochelidon ariel* - Common through open, inland habitats; fewer individuals than Tree in inland QLD.

**Tree Martin** *Petrochelidon nigricans* - Multiple sightings in open areas throughout the trip.

[Zosteropidae \(White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies\)](#)

**Australian Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops luteus* - Common in Mangrove, Melaleuca Shrubland, and surrounding areas around Karumba.

**Silvereeye** *Zosterops lateralis* - Common in most habitats.

[Sturnidae \(Starlings\)](#)

**Metallic Starling** *Aplonis metallica* - Common in Lowland Rainforest and Monsoon Rainforest on the Cape York Peninsula.

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* - Seen from St. George through to Brisbane in farmland and urban areas.

**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis* - Common through farmland and urban areas in eastern parts of the state.

[Turdidae \(Thrushes and Allies\)](#)

**Bassian Thrush** *Zoothera lunulate* - One in Subtropical Rainforest near O'Reilly's.

[Dicaeidae \(Flowerpeckers\)](#)

**Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* - Scattered sightings through the tour.

[Nectariniidae \(Sunbirds and Spiderhunters\)](#)

**Olive-backed Sunbird** *Cinnyris jugularis* - Common in all habitats around Lockhart River.

[Estrildidae \(Waxbills and Allies\)](#)

**Pictorella Munia** *Heteromunia pectoralis* - A few individuals around Mt. Isa and Georgetown.

**Crimson Finch** *Neochmia phaeton* - A few around the sewerage works at Lockhart River.

**Red-browed Firetail** *Neochmia temporalis* - Common in all rainforest types during the trip.

**Painted Firetail** *Emblema pictum* - A group in Spinifex Eucalypt Savanna northwest of Mt. Isa.

**Double-barred Finch** *Stizoptera bichenovii* - Common in Tussock Grasslands in the north, and thicker woodlands in southern QLD.

**Zebra Finch** *Taeniopygia guttata* - Common through most of inland QLD from Karumba south and east to Toowoomba.

**Masked Finch** *Poephila personata* - A group at Cumberland Dam near Georgetown.

**Long-tailed Finch** *Poephila acuticauda* - A few groups at Lake Moondarra near Mt. Isa.

**Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata* - Some near Lockhart River.

**Chestnut-breasted Munia** *Lonchura castaneothorax* - Common near Karumba, and a few near Cloncurry.

[Passeridae \(Old World Sparrows\)](#)

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* - Common in most country towns.

[Motacillidae \(Wagtails and Pipits\)](#)

**Australasian Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae* - Common in most grasslands and farmlands.