Queensland

Down under – from mountain to reef

A Greentours trip report

26th March to 11th October 2026

Led by Phil Benstead



Daily report

26/9 airport pickup, White Hills and on to Lamington NP

We all met up at the airport early in the morning. The van was ready and waiting and we stowed our luggage and drove the short distance to White Hills. An island of eucalypt in suburban Brisbane that hosted an incredible density of our target species this morning – the koala! Perhaps the most iconic Australian mammal. We sorted out our field gear and sun hats in the carpark and headed off out on the trails. Birds were immediately evident, a straw-necked ibis out on the playing fields was our first. The eucalyptus forest supported a few scaly-breasted lorikeets, abundant rainbow lorikeets, olive-backed oriole and black-faced cuckooshrike. It took us a little while to find our first koala, a sleeping teenager, but quickly a large adult followed, before we finished up with a mother and (it has to be said) a very cute little clinging joey (pictured left). Great animals. Light rain threatened so we dropped back down to the van and headed south.



Our next task was to do some domestic chores, shopping for packed lunch fixings. We stopped at Jimboobra at a supermarket, did our shopping and then set up at a bench and made some sandwiches. The locals stared at us like we were homeless but the meal went down well. Well fed we headed south again eventually winding up into the hills and on to the famous O'Reillys guesthouse.

Whilst we got sorted at reception we kept an eye on the garden, a fat eastern water skink lazed in the sun and Maggie found us a superb fresh *Graphium macleayanum* nectaring on a flowering shrub. We wowed to the grandeur of a nearby flowering rock orchid (*Dendrobium speciosum*, pictured right). Nearby a mob of folk were enjoying hand-feeding the crimson rosellas and king parrots. After a short break to settle in our rooms we headed out to explore the local environs. The garden had satin bowerbird, golden whistler and grey shrike-thrush (left). Walking into the forest produced good looks at yellow-throated scrubwren and we were entertained by a logrunner and well-grown youngster. We marvelled at the trackside bower of a satin bowerbird, all blue plastic rubbish strewn artfully around the bower. The male looked on haughtily. Gaining the canopy walkway we gave it a go but it was getting late in the day and we only managed poor views of brown gerygone.





Our dinner buffet was found to be most acceptable and we all enjoyed the naturally air-conditioned mountain air after sunset.

27/9 Border trail and down to Picnic Rock (Lamington NP)



Many of us got out into a rather chill dawn before our 'full Australian' *al fresco* Sunday breakfast and looked at birds. Peter and Maggie got to grips with wonga pigeon and Phil scouted the start of the Wishing Tree trail for good looks at green catbird (right), rufous fantail and eastern whipbird.

After building our packed lunches we headed out for a day on the trails leading towards the border with NSW. Unfortunately we timed our walk with an annual running even along the trail… Birds though were frequent and ridiculously tame. We started nicely with a Bassian thrush on the edge of the forest. White-browed and yellow-throated scrubwren were regularly seen, the former sometimes perching on us and the latter often accompanying the occasional gangs of logrunners we found scratching in the leaf litter. Brown gerygones were frequently encountered.



The forest changed in character halfway, more moss, more open and cycads and enormous trees became commonplace. We bumped into a few skinks including the attractive blue-speckled forest skink. Getting off the running trail, we snaked down the switchback-riddled trail to a small stream where we had lunch. Phil was pleased to spot the first odonate of the tour – *Austroargiolestes icteromelas*. Nearby flowering sprays of stream lily (*Helmholtzia glaberrima*, left) pleased those of a botanical bent. Walking back we got close to a paradise riflebird calling sporadically from the canopy but could not find it. Likewise a pair of rufous scrub-birds teased us at great volume from a dense vine tangle. Frustrating, and no sign of the lyrebird either. More work required. Getting to the forest edge again we found more thrushes, this time russet-tailed. The clearing late afternoon had a nice wonga pigeon (right).





After dinner we headed out for a nightwalk. There were Eastern ringtail possums (left) just outside our accommodation block and more around the clearing. Walking down the road and into the forest proper produced a second species – small-eared brushtail possum. Southern boobook owls were heard and probably sooty too. It was a warmer night than last and moths were on the wing and coming to the lights around our rooms and these included the lovely monotypic *Cosmodes elegans*, emerald green *Parotis marginata* and the fantastic *Agathia prasinaspis*.

28/9 Duck Creek Road (Lamington NP)

The pre-breakfast team reported red-necked pademelon on the edge of the clearing. After breakfast we took to the van and drove the short distance to the start of Duck Creek Road. Walking in we chased a few birds but the group were mostly botanically occupied. This paid off when Maggie found a lovely tree spider orchid (*Dendrobium tetragonum,* right) growing low down from a tree trunk. A short while later Peter followed this up with blotched cane orchid (*Dendrobium gracilicaule*), later we found another specimen on a fallen branch for closeups (left). A flushed moth was the widespread Asian magpie moth (*Nyctemera* baulus). Bumping into a basking land mullet was a shock, none of us had realised how big this skink really was. Enormous!





Reaching the dry forest area we found a slightly different bird fauna and connected with red-browed treecreeper near a small grove of impressive Queensland grasstrees (*Xanthorrhoea glauca*, right*),* some of which had long flower spikes. Spotted pardalote gave us the runaround but we got great views of the beautiful eastern spinebill as it visited nearby *Xanthorrhoea* flowers. After eating our lunch in the dry forest we headed back up the hill to the van. On the edge of the cattle pasture we found our first skipper – yellow-banded dart (*Ocybadistes walkeri*). Clint did some log-rolling and found us a nice stag beetle (*Mastachilus quaestionis*). Light rain fell causing noisy pittas to call sporadically and at one point we finally heard Albert's lyrebird but down a steep slope and out of range. Frustrating.



Taking to the van we drove 10 km down hill to a reported varied sitella nest site. No sign of that bird but we could hear bell miner below us somewhere and a pair of yellow-faced honeyeaters put on a good show.

Rain arrived in late afternoon scotching our plans to get in the forest chasing mammals after dinner. Moths continued to feature though at the lights including a nice *Lymantria nephrographa*.

29/9 Lamington NP



We elected to try a pre-breakfast walk this morning and we started well with a young red-necked pademelon (right) on the lawn. It was dark, wet and rather cold on the Wishing Tree trail and we saw little until Phil spotted two male lyrebirds fighting on the track ahead. They spooked and fled and, although one chuntered away from cover nearby, we could not find them again. Otherwise noisy pittas called in the distance and continued to elude us. We managed to find a trail that got us back to the restaurant and breakfast, picking up an adult red-necked pademelon and a nice fan-tailed cuckoo as we laboured up the hill and out of the valley bottom.

After breakfast we ventured out again in light rain to try the canopy walkway and mountain garden area for the riflebird. There was a very high density of small children on our foray but no sign of the riflebird. We did get great looks at the available birds though, many of them ridiculously tame and close by or perched upon us. We wandered the botanical garden connecting with a delightful eastern spinebill, a firm favourite. But best of all, was the chance to finally photograph a basking land mullet (left), stretched out on a large rock in the weak sun.



Just before we lunched at the sandwich bar, some of us connected with another orchid, a *Dendrobium kingianum*, growing out of a clump of *speciosum* in the garden (right). After lunch we tried the Python Rock track, a nice level affair that made for easy walking. Birds were apparent with our first pale yellow robin, more catbirds and logrunners.



After dinner Clint and Phil went out for a short walk and bagged some nice views of eastern ringtail possum. Mothing remained slow in the cold conditions but included a nice *Ardices canescens*.

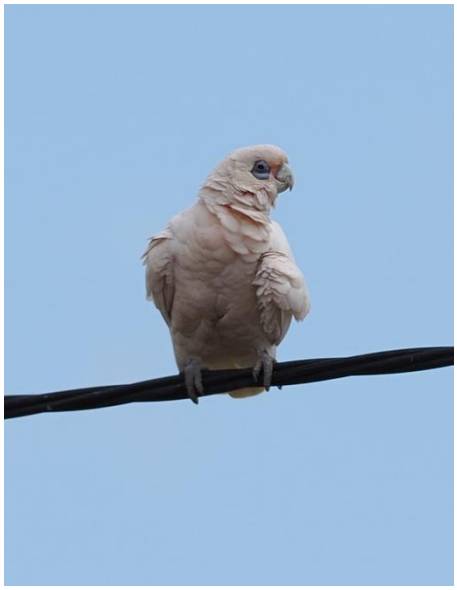
30/9 to Kumbia via the Lockyer Valley

Our last Lamington morning dawned clear and bright. We said our goodbyes to the view from our rooms which stretched into NSW and was presided over by the impressive volcanic plug of Wollumbin. Winding down off the hill some of us were lucky enough to spot a noisy pitta flying across the road in front of the van (sadly it was to be our only sighting).



Our drive this morning was rather long but was punctuated by a trip to the supermarket and a quick roadside breathalyser test. En route we photographed our first goanna (*Varanus panoptes*, left) but fell foul of *Neighbourhood Watch* at the same time. At lunch time we got to a suitable picnic area overlooking a large reservoir (Atkinson Dam). Here we quickly added new birds species. A brute of a Caspian tern occasionally cruised past. Offshore, familiar great crested grebes cruised incongruously alongside Australian pelicans. A nearby a beautiful flowering tree (a *Schotia*?) hosted rainbow lorikeets, noisy miners and a few blue-faced honeyeaters. Our first little corellas were elusive and took sanctuary nearby in what looked like a camp of anarchists! We did not follow… A pair of grey-crowned babblers (right) entertained on the lawn and a silver gull was on constant standby underfoot for lunch scraps. Next up we searched for a nearby lagoon but it was bone dry and just hosted a surprisingly large concentration of Australian kestrels.





Moving on we stopped to admire a flock of little corella (left) feeding by the road and we were treated to not only excellent views of this species but also bagged cockatiel and pale-headed rosella. A small wetland next to Lake Clarendon (a reservoir) had some new ducks for us with a single hardhead being the best of it but we also had Australian grey teal here. The standout best bird here though was a very good-looking male red-backed wren. Nearby on the reservoir we had our first black swans and two yellow-billed spoonbills. It was time to drive on and we covered the last leg of the journey in a one-er and found ourselves in a classic Aussie pub, complete with a gang of colourful locals and here we procured a simple pub dinner. Phil had a senior moment next in the dark but we quickly worked out where our

accommodation actually was and were soon settled into our basic rooms for a one night stay in Kumbia.

1/10 Bunya Mountains

We had a simple breakfast purchased from a bakery the day before and headed out early. The garden delayed us a little as it had a number of new birds species for us including yellow-rumped thornbill, variegated fairywren and double-barred finch.





Driving through a dry area in the rainshadow of the mountain towards the mountain we came across a small gang of Eastern grey kangaroos, which posed for photographs (above). Pretty soon we were climbing up into the forest dotted with wonderful Bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwilli*) trees. Our first walk here took us along the escarpment to a low summit lookout. Here we found a number of orange blossom orchids (*Sarcochilus falcatus*, above left). Another trail found us amongst flowering grasstrees which attracted honeyeaters including the excellent Eastern spinebill and Lewin's honeyeaters. The sun came out in force today and we had a sprinkling of butterflies including *Delias nigrina, Vanessa itea* and more *Graphium macleayanum* (right). A late lunch saw us being serenaded by two noisy pittas but when we went to investigate they switched off…



We checked in to our lodgings and had a walk in the local area. Red-necked wallabies were much in evidence and flowering plants attracted a large number of butterflies.

2/10 to Cairns and South Mission Beach

This morning was all about getting to Brisbane airport for our flight to Cairns. We left nice and early to insure against negative happenings but apart from a few early morning encounters with roadside macropods we did not experience any difficulties. We stopped after an hour to hit a bakery for coffee and breakfast and continued on our way. We arrived in good time to hand off the vehicle to the rental people, negotiate the check-in process and squirrel away our food and lunch equipment. Safely airside we managed a light lunch in a restaurant by the gate.

The flight was soon accomplished and we were out in Cairns and hunting down the hire van. It was waiting for us as promised and we loaded off and started our three-and-a-half hour drive down south to Wongaling Beach. En route we saw a huge gathering of agile wallabies in a recently mowed meadow. Otherwise, we were largely unbothered by wildlife as we barrelled down the highway through sugar cane and banana. Eventually we found our accommodation, picked up the keys and headed straight back out to forage for dinner. We bumped into a reasonable restaurant very quickly

and got some tucker. A long day but we all pleased to have traded the cooler southern mountains for a more tropical climate.

3/10 Mission Beach area

An enjoyable but slightly frustrating day, dogged as we were by an almost total lack of sun and a bit of rain. We started off with breakfast in town followed by a quick look at the beach before the supermarket opened and we could restock our lunch fixings. Afterwards we headed out to Djiru NP. We walked a short section of the long trail and almost immediately had a brief and distant encounter with an adult cassowary and at least one stripey youngster. The shorter trail from the carpark allowed us to enjoy a host of new palms and cycads. Queensland fan palm (*Licuala ramsayi*) became a firm favourite here. The cycads Zamia fern (*Bowenia spectabilis*, left) and Australian nut palm (*Cycas media*) were excellent. Large palms enjoyed here included the lawyer cane (*Calamus moti*), Alexandra palm (*Archontophoenix alexandrae*) and elegant palm (*Ptychosperma elegans*).



We relocated to Lacey Creek to do the short loop trail there. This was a fun walk with plenty of birds and the small stream had plenty of jungle perch (*Kuhlia rupestris*) and a few Eastern saw-shelled turtles. Patches of sun produced butterflies – notably our first *Mycalesis terminus* (right) and *Notocrypta waigensis*. Searching further north for another trail we ended up walking the nearby beach briefly before heading south to the end of the road and a delightful coastal walk to Lugger Bay. Along the way we enjoyed more botany and best-of-all had a feeding green turtle just offshore. Reaching Lugger Bay it was high tide and the path was covered by the sea we ambled back for another dinner at our favourite restuarant.





After dinner Clint and Phil headed out back to Licuala for a spotlighting session. It was rather quiet at the beginning but things started to warm up as the evening progressed. A huge, impressive white-kneed king cricket (*Penalva flavocalceata*, left) was excellent, all plastic and shiny. A tiny Southern ornate nursery frog (right) was tracked down and we also had cane toad. Pale-lipped shadeskinks dozed on leaves. The thermal imager was revealing the presence of a number of Melomys but it took some time to track down a good image of the fawn-footed melomys perched in trackside vegetation. Our first white-tailed giant rat appeared at the end of the walk but refused to show well.



4/10 to the Tablelands and Lake Eacham



We left the lowland plain behind us this morning and drove up into the Great Dividing Range. Our first stop was Henrietta Creek in the Wooroonooran National Park. Rain threatened and arrived pretty swiftly but did not deter us from a short walk down to the creek. We were pleased when Maggie spotted a fascinating plant – *Balanophora fungosa* (left) – a new family for most of us. Nearby a small swarm of common jewel orchid (*Zeuxine oblonga*) – a terrestrial orchid. Eventually the rain became stronger and saw us off the site.

A short drive took us to Millaa Millaa falls for a brief visit in light rain. There was much construction going on and plenty of people and light rain continued to fall. We did not last long. Moving again we hoped to get away from the weather and headed to the Narada Tea factory for lunch in the sun and the possibility of tree kangaroos. The sun held but we could not find the tree kangaroos along the roadside.



Shopping and intelligence gathering about the forthcoming public holiday at Yungaburra was next and rather essential. Good reports of the secondhand bookshop here filtered back. We headed to Peterson's Creek nearby for an amazing encounter with a pair of unconcerned platypus (left). As usual photographing this slippery customer was a challenge. On a high we were sold a tree kangaroo sleeping in a tree by a passing platypus spotter. A furry bundle, it took us an embarrassingly long time for the penny to drop that it was actually a female green ringtail and youngster (right). Apparently an obliging family of tree kangaroos was present nearby, we would have to return another day as it was time to check-in at the wonderful Chambers Rainforest Lodges. Nestled inside Crater National Park, this really is a gem of a location. We started our list off by connecting (finally) with a snake – slaty-grey (below).





Driving out for dinner were pleased to see three red-legged pademelons before we hit the tarmac. We had a fun and enormous dinner perching on a table outside an Asian takeaway in nearby Atherton and then headed straight back to the Lodge. The ponds back at base had green-eyed tree frogs (right). Next up was the



much-anticipated visit to the mammal feeding station in the grounds. Here we had an excellent half hour with a quartet of fabulous mammals. First up was a small, dainty Krefft's glider, that planed in to enjoy the artificial sugar sap lick. There were up to three of these excellent mammals at one point. We waited no time for a white-tailed giant rat to come calling. Next up was a Queensland barred bandicoot (one of two eventually). Finally, and best-of-all, the striped possum we disturbed when we walked into the platform summoned the courage to return (see title page), shouting at Phil to move back. All the species were crazy tame and one could get portrait shots of them all with a medium-sized lens (see montage below). A great end to the day as the moth light failed to really get going before midnight.





5/10 Lake Eacham



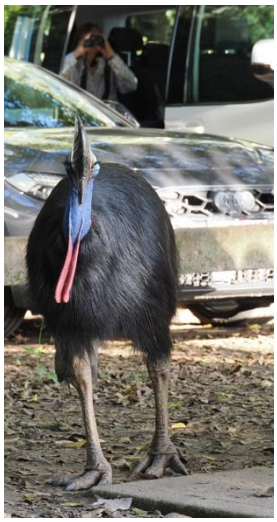
Our morning started with Peter putting out the ceremonial apple at first light. We were all on the balcony shortly afterwards to watch a succession of hungry forest birds culminating in our main target – Victoria's' riflebird (left). Having failed to connect with the available bird-of-paradise at Lamington earlier it was a huge relief to see this one enjoying an apple. Other apple lovers included the brush-turkeys and spotted catbirds and cleaning up below a grey-headed robin. A short wander found us looking at a displaying adult male riflebird, high above us on a truncated snag.

After a slap-up breakfast we tackled the perimeter trail but it was rather too technical in places and the weather socked in 100% overcast. We saw a few birds though but we're glad we got round safely. During the walk Clint's animal magnetism was evident and he was multiply bitten by voracious small leeches. The rest of us were largely unscathed…



Our next session took us back to Peterson's Creek for another crack at the Lumholtz's tree kangaroo family in residence. We searched the entrance trees assiduously to no avail. After making up some lunch packs we headed off down the trail and did not have to walk for long before the jungle telegraph told us that there was a youngster being watched right beside the track. We hurried along and found a delightful teenage tree kangaroo sitting up a tree and peering down at us (left).

Job done, two iconic Australian mammals spotted in this rather unassuming creekside town park. Birding remained good as we wandered along but the best was yet to come. Madeline found us our first Australian water dragon sitting in the creek. We lunched beside Frawley's pool and Maggie spotted our first Cairns birdwing – an exciting moment.



The nearby Curtain Fig could not be driven past so we checked it out from the short boardwalk that goes around the base of this impressive tree. Grey-headed robin was our only wildlife of note here. Our last stop of the day saw us walking a short trail at Malanda Falls. Orange-footed scrubfowl were much in evidence and we all marvelled at the egg mounds of this industrious bird. As we drove past Lake Eacham on the way home we were stopped by the arresting sight of a huge female cassowary (right) mugging people at a picnic table.



Tonight for dinner we stayed at home and fired up the BBQ to cook some nice lamb chops and sausages. A short night session produced the usual mammals at the sugar lick (bar the striped possum) and the ponds finally surrendered an unobtrusive but loud striped marsh frog. The moth light had some beautiful moths – *Milionia queenslandica* (left) and *Bracca rotundata* were favourites.

6/10 Lake Barrine, Mount Hypipamee, Hasties Swamp and Lake Eacham



Our fruit offering this morning was enjoyed by the usual birds and also a musky rat-kangaroo (right). A pre-breakfast foray out to Lake Barrine was a joy this morning (like the breakfast). Arriving at the lake it was shrouded in a little low mist and very atmospheric. A fruiting palm here with a hanging bead-curtain of tiny fruit was attracting a single topknot pigeon and a gaggle of beautiful wompoo fruit-doves. We walked out to the famous and nearby twin kauri trees (*Agathis microstachya*). They were magnificent super-emergents and looked great in the morning light. Walking back to the car two tiny double-eyed fig-parrots flew low overhead and an osprey cruised past.



After breakfast we saddled up and drove the short distance to Mount Hypipamee. The carpark clearing was buzzing with birds including our first bridled honeyeaters and a riflebird. We walked in to the bower of our target – the golden bowerbird – immediately connecting with a male and female. They melted way. We had a good look at his bower and then the male came back and had a good look at us, allowing us to get some nice images (left). Great bird! We walked the crater trail later enjoying the small but deep crater pool and the walk alongside the Dinner Falls, a nice series of cascades. At one point we bagged another Eastern saw-shelled turtle on the river bank.

Next we drove up to Hasties Swamp for lunch and a look at the selection of waterbirds available today, which included Nankeen night heron, royal spoonbill and Eurasian coot. Working the corridor of trees near the hide produced white-cheeked honeyeater and Bower's shrike-thrush.

Our last stop of the day was Lake Eacham, here we had a welcome scarlet myzomela feeding in an Australian umbrella tree (*Heptapleura actinophyllum*) with its dusky cousins. Mistletoebird finally appeared here too. We finished up by walking the Children's trail which was quiet at the end of the day.

For dinner today we elected to have a pub meal at the hotel in Yungaburra, complete with a pair of friendly bush thick-knees. Afterwards we did a short night walk at the Curtain Fig for green ringtail and red-legged pademelon. The hoped-for leaf-tailed gecko was not found sadly.

7/10 Mareeba, Granite Gorge and the Barron River



First light saw another visit by the musky rat-kangaroo to the lawn in front of our rooms, it was busy cleaning up the fruit scraps. We did the very close by national park walk this morning which produced a superb, noisy male riflebird on a low perch by the trail (right). There were also lots of noisily singing chowchilla here too, which refused to show sadly. We got back in time for another cracking breakfast and more riflebird action at our feeder.

After breakfast we drove north and just before Atherton, we pulled off the road to enjoy a gang of cranes feeding in cane stubble. A nice mixed-flock of birds that included both brolga and sarus crane. A great look at both species.

It was rather late by the time we reached Jack Bethel park in Mareeba and sure enough the hoped-for target bird did not show up. Although it was quiet for birds, the sun shone down on us producing some new butterflies (*Yoma sabina* and *Junonia hedonia*) and a new libellulid – *Neurothemis stigmatizans*. There were many interesting labelled plants here which included the fantastic Australian nut cycad (*Cycas media*, left).





Granite Gorge was really warming up when we got there, we did a short walk to the wallaby rock for a rather zoo-like encounter with our main target – Mareeba rock wallaby (right). Walking on to the small creek we found that dragonflies were flying in some diversity here for the first time on the tour. We bagged two *Nosticta* damselfly species, *Pseudagrion crenatum* and a good number of libellulids. The incredibly wide-ranging butterfly *Lampides boeticus* was nectaring here too. Was spring really arriving? Flowering *Grevillea* here produced good looks at the rather drab brown honeyeater.



We took lunch in the much-needed shade and afterwards wandered about to enjoy the great bowerbirds and other nectarivorous bird species in a large flowering tree that was producing a lot of nectar. A huge giant grasshopper (*Valanga irregularis*) delayed us a bit. We just missed a squatter pigeon flushed by birders but waited a while and this paid off, as we trundled out in the van we found five of these splendid birds (right) mooching about along the scrub-line. Nearby a couple of bush thick-knees. On the way out we searched in vain for a reported bower of the great bowerbird but instead we found a strange, rather cartoonish insect egg on dry grass. Hopefully *iNaturalist* will answer the question of its origin in due course. Four red-tailed black cockatoos gave us the slip here. Driving back out to Mareeba we stopped to enjoy the evening feed of a gang of agile wallabies in an agricultural area.

Last stop of the day was a very quick look at the swiftly-flowing Barron River in Mareeba. The river had a sacred kingfisher and back by the car flowering shrubs in gardens produced scarlet myzomela and helmeted friarbird. For dinner tonight we headed to a Greek restaurant in Atherton and had a great meal but a late arrival at our motel back in Malanda.

8/10 Lake Mitchell, Mary River, Mount Carbine and on to the Daintree



Today we left the motel at dawn and arrived at an Atherton bakery at opening time, it was staffed by rather stern staff that provided the necessary breakfast components for a quick bite and a coffee. Driving on we kept on going until we hit the memorial on the shores of Lake Mitchell. The hoped-for black-necked stork (right) were present and the views though distant were well lit with little heat haze. Also here our first little egret, glossy ibis and radjah shelduck. Examination of the stork photographs later revealed the presence of sharp-tailed sandpiper! A scope would have been useful here…



Next stop was the Mary River we had not trundled far up a side road before Madeline spotted a superb displaying male Australian bustard. He was all puffed neck and stargazy (left). Excellent moment but the heat haze did not make for great photos sadly. Careful working of the habitat revealed another eight individuals, most females. Driving away we moved a little further north to Mount Carbine caravan park. Here we had a pleasant session. Apostle birds were much in evidence, as were great bowerbird. We tracked down the noisy, brutish blue-winged kookaburra gang and the lawns had our first bar-shouldered dove. Eventually we connected with Nikki (the owner) and she showed us a beautiful bower of the great bowerbird (pictured left by Madeline)





and a fantastic tawny frogmouth (above right) sitting on a nest on an exposed branch. It was a warm day and butterflies were on the wing at last and we snapped a number of species, many of them new for the tour, including two *Eurema* species (*laeta* and *hecabe*) and *Cepora perimale*.

Phil's cunning plan was to nip back to the Swiss-Mexican restaurant in Mount Malloy but instead we heard the sad news that the Swiss half of the couple had recently died. Arriving at the place we found it shuttered and hoped the lovely Mexican women who had fed Phil in the past was doing OK. The backup was a picnic in Mossman. We winded down the road off the hill. As soon as we hit the slope things got green and then quickly we were into rainforest around Julatten. We stopped at Woolworths in Mossman to top up our lunch supplies and then headed to a picnic table in the nearby park. We guzzled down some shrimps and sandwiches, keeping an eye out for butterflies. We got our first *Junonia orithya* here, the sun was finally out and butterflies were on the menu. Peter found a mint-condition moth (*Euproctis lutea*) in the grass.



Packing up we drove the short distance to the Daintree ferry and only waited a short while before it arrived back and we were on board and on our way to the Daintree. The road on the other side was narrow and windy and we took things easily. Stopping at the Alexandra lookout produced a fine fat major skink (*Bellatorias frerei*, left), almost as good as a land mullet! The view was nice and included a brief view of a new butterfly (*Pantaporia consimilis*) and a resting *Orthetrum villosovittatum*. The remainder of the journey went without any surprises and we were soon checked in and taking the rest of the afternoon off before dinner. The surprise heat of the last few days had taken its toll on the team.

After dinner we wandered along back to the rooms bagging invertebrates. The interesting semi-slug (*Parmacochlea furca*) was common in the garden.

9/10 the Daintree

A pre-breakfast walk around the lodge was pretty quiet, although Victoria's riflebird was calling nearby. We found a pretty Northern jewelled spider (*Gasteracantha fornicata*) in the garden. There was a new palm in the grounds too, the Queensland black palm (*Normanbya normanbyi*).



After breakfast we headed out to the Madja boardwalk. This boardwalk was a great introduction to the mangroves. We enjoyed photographing a number of colourful crab species on the mud below the boardwalk – compressed fiddler crab (*Tubuca coarctata*, left), thick-legged fiddler crab (*Paraleptuca crassipes*) and *Parasesarma brevicristatum* were all excellent. There were fish to photograph too nearer the sea including spangled gudgeon (*Ophiocara ophicephalus*), banded archerfish (*Toxotes jaculatrix*), mangrove cardinalfish (*Yariva hyalosoma*) and longspine glassfish (*Ambassus interupta*). We chased birds too getting great views of wompoo fruit-dove and black butcherbird. Phil was pleased to find two new dragonflies (*Agrionoptera insignis* and *Agrionoptera longitudinalis*) on the freshwater side of the mangroves. The orchid team found plants growing epiphytically but none were flowering sadly.

Next we took a well-subscribed and enjoyable boat trip with Alan in the mangroves along Cooper Creek. Alan gave a good account of mangrove ecology along the way. The wildlife highlights were two saltwater crocodiles, including one sizeable female (right). New birds came in the shape of whimbrel (2) and grey-tailed tattler (1).



Our next boardwalk was at Dubuji and this one allowed a good look at paperbark swamp forest, a freshwater swamp formation dominated by weeping paperbark trees (*Melaleuca leucadendra*). A fantastic habitat. The sun shone down making butterflies an option again and we had good looks at *Nacaduba cyanea* and *Cupha prosope*. Birds were good too and we connected with shining flycatcher, more black butcherbird and fairy warbler. The botanists were busy too finding sea hibiscus, cassowary plum (*Cerbera floribunda*) and Rebecca tree fern (*Gymnosphaera rebeccae*). Towards the end of the walk Maggie found us a common keelback (a swamp-loving snake) but it quickly made itself scarce.



Our after-dinner wander tonight produced a Cape Tribulation tree snail (*Noctepuna mayana*, left) – a superb and highly range-restricted species (as the name suggests). At one point, huge huntsman spiders (an apparently undescribed *Typostoma* sp.) dropped around us on silken lines, like horrifying little ninja assassins. The moth light was starting to work at last, a few good moths were bagged and some great planthoppers, including the beautiful ricaniid *Armacia hyalinata*, right.



10/10 the Daintree

Our pre-breakfast foray this morning took us to nearby Thornton Beach where we spotted three or four very distant herons on an offshore island (white-faced?). There was no sign of the hoped-for channel-billed cuckoo or beach thick-knee sadly. But excitement was injected by a brief sighting of what was almost certainly a tawny nurse shark (*Nebrius ferrugineus*) hunting in very shallow water just off the beach. A skink on the top of the beach here was the awkwardly named closed litter rainbow skink (*Carlia longipes*, left). A small dawn flight of four o'clock moths along the beach was evident – they were either late or early! Driving back we were held up by out third cassowary at the lodge junction. We were doing well for this excellent bird.



After breakfast we photographed the scorpion that Peter and Maggie found in their bathroom – some people have all the luck. It was a tiny, little marbled scorpion (*Lychas marmoreus*, right). We then headed south to the Jindalba boardwalk. All three of the boardwalks in the Daintree offer different habitats. The Jindalba providing a



chance to get into some nice lowland forest. We enjoyed our walk, taking in the forest, a few birds and learning more about the botany of the forest. Butterflies kept us busy and we finally photographed *Neptis praslini*. Phil was pleased to photograph a single female *Lestoidea conjuncta*, an addition to the Odonata list for the tour. Back in the car park we were visited by our fourth and final cassowary – a fuzzy brown teenager.

A look at the Cow Bay beach was great. The local Men's Shed was doing a fundraiser BBQ with cold drinks and cakes. We added their wives homemade cakes and some drinks to our lunch and pumped them for info about the local wildlife. The beach looked glorious in the sun but had no new wildlife for us, although Brahminy kite and osprey were nice overhead.

Following the advice given above we headed back to Jindalba to search for Bennett's tree kangaroos, the highlight here though was a superb fruit-dove but the team were slow to gather to view it as they had found interesting people to chat to… We left without finding the elusive tree kangaroo but Phil at least determined to return after dark for a thorough check with the thermal imager.





Back at base Phil found a nice *Dromaeschna forcipata* (left) hanging up roosting in a pandanus near our rooms and down by the stream our first *Tetrathemis irregularis* perched in the shade.

Our nightwalk back to our rooms netted us the spiny rainforest katydid (*Phricta spinosa*, above) at last.

11/10 to Cairns and the homeward journey



We elected to leave early this morning and head to Cairns for a look around the place. The ferry crossing was tranquil. Mossman had a café open on Sunday mornings so we got our coffee and breakfast goods, the apple strudel sold well. Just outside Cairns we had red-tailed black cockatoos feeding on the roadside but could not stop safely. We continued on our journey and arrived at the park in good time. We had a look for the rufous owl but it was nowhere to be seen. We moved further along the narrow, linear park and enjoyed the sight of a large spectacled flying-fox roost (above left). Walking back to the van we continued to look for the owl until Madeline found some white-wash on the ground, we looked up into thick foliage and there was the owl (right). It looked rather indignant that we had found it but it soon got used to our presence.



Next stop was Centenary Lakes, it was rather quiet for birds on the lakes but we enjoyed the stroll through to the Flecker Botanical Gardens. Another major skink was nice along here. The team went in to the Gardens for an enjoyable one-and-a-half hour look at the botanical specimens. Phil slowly ambled back recording many new dragonflies for the tour (including excitingly *Neurothemis oligoneura*) and drove the car round to pick up the team.



Lunch was sorely affected by it being Sunday but we managed a reasonable meal at a nearby Subway and nipped down to the north end of the Esplanade to eat and enjoy the shorebirds on a falling tide. Grey-tailed tattler (left) were initially puzzling to the exhausted leader, not so the red-necked stint, bar-tailed godwit and whimbrel. The silver gulls were joined briefly by two Australian terns. Out on the mud another black-necked stork looked magnificent. In the trees around us we had our only varied honeyeater of the trip and two rose-crowned fruit-doves made a rapid exit at one point. A hungry Torresian kingfisher (our only record, right) regularly flew out onto the mud chasing prey. It was the end of our trip, we filled the vehicle with fuel for the last time and headed to the airport to get Phil onto his flight. The team were flying domestic and had a short wait before they could get airside and away on their journeys home.



Systematic list of birds recorded in Australia between 26th September and 11th October 2026

Southern cassowary	*Casuarius casuarius*	Djiru NP. Lake Eacham. Daintree.
Australasian grebe	*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Hasties Swamp.
Great crested grebe	*Podiceps cristatus*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Lake Barrine. Hasties Swamp.
Little pied cormorant	*Microcarbo melanoleucos*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Millaa Millaa falls. Hasties Swamp.
Little black cormorant	*Phalacrocorax sulcicrostris*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Hasties Swamp.
Australasian darter	*Anhinga novaehollandiae*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Hasties Swamp. Daintree.
Great cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	Lake Barrine.
Pied cormorant	*Phalacrocorax varius*	One at the sea end of the Barron River on the last day.
Australian pelican	*Pelecanus conspicillatus*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Lake Mitchell. Cairns.
Black-necked stork	*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*	Two at Lake Mitchell. One from Cairns Esplanade.
Brolga	*Antigone rubicunda*	A few in the crane flock in cane stubble near Atherton.
Sarus crane	*Antigone antigone*	Apparently the dominant species in the cane field flock near Atherton.
Eastern cattle-egret	*Ardea coromanda*	Widespread.
Plumed egret	*Ardea plumifera*	Widespread.
Great egret	*Ardea alba*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Hasties Swamp.
White-necked heron	*Ardea pacifica*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Hasties Swamp.
White-faced heron	*Egretta novaehollandiae*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Daintree. Cairns.
Little egret	*Egretta garzetta*	Lake Mitchell. Cairns.

Nankeen night heron	*Nycticorax caledonicus*	An adult and an immature at Hasties Swamp.
Royal spoonbill	*Platalea regia*	Hasties Swamp. Lake Mitchell.
Yellow-billed spoonbill	*Platalea flavipes*	Lockyer valley wetlands.
Straw-necked ibis	*Threskiornis spinicollis*	Widespread.
Australian ibis	*Threskiornis molucca*	Widespread.
Glossy ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	Lake Mitchell.
Radjah shelduck	*Radjah radjah*	Lake Mitchell.
Magpie goose	*Anseranas semipalmata*	Widespread.
Black swan	*Cygnus atratus*	Lockyer valley wetlands.
Plumed whistling-duck	*Dendrocygna eytoni*	Lockyer valley wetlands.
Australian wood duck	*Chenonetta jubata*	In transit around Brisbane.
Hardhead	*Aythya australis*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Hasties Swamp.
Pacific black duck	*Anas superciliosa*	Widespread.
Grey teal	*Anas gracilis*	Lockyer valley wetlands.
Collared sparrowhawk	*Tachyspiza cirrhocephala*	One between Mareeba and Mount Carbine.
Grey goshawk	*Tachyspiza novahollandiae*	One just outside Cairns on the last day.
Pacific baza	*Aviceda subcristata*	One on the Tablelands on our first afternoon.
Spotted harrier	*Circus assimilis*	One on the way up to the Tablelands.
Black kite	*Milvus migrans*	Lockyer valley wetlands.
Black-breasted kite	*Hamirostra melanosternon*	One on way to Cairns near Mossman on the last day.
Whistling kite	*Haliastur sphenurus*	Scattered records.
Brahminy kite	*Haliastur indus*	South Mission Beach. Daintree.
Osprey	*Pandion halietus*	Singles at Lake Barrine and Cow Bay (Daintree).
White-bellied sea-eagle	*Ichtyophaga leucogaster*	Atkinson Dam.
Wedge-tailed eagle	*Aquila audax*	Mareeba (1) and the lookout on the Granite Gorge (2).

Black-shouldered kite	*Elanus axillaris*	Recorded just twice; near Kumbia and on the cane field near Atherton.
Nankeen kestrel	*Falco cenchroides*	Large numbers at sites in the Lockyer valley. Other scattered records
Australian brushturkey	*Alectura lathami*	Widespread.
Orange-footed scrubfowl	*Megapodius reinwardt*	Widespread.
Bush stone-curlew	*Burhinus grallarius*	Yungaburra. Granite Gorge. Malanda. Mareeba. Cairns.
Australian bustard	*Ardeotis australis*	One displaying male and 8 others at the Mary River site.
(Black-breasted button-quail)	*Turnix melanogaster*	Neat feeding 'platelets' noted at Bunya Mountains NP were probably created by this species.
Comb-crested jacana	*Irediparra gallinacea*	Hasties Swamp. Lake Mitchell. Cairns.
Common coot	*Fulica atra*	Only recorded at Hasties Swamp.
Dusky moorhen	*Gallinula tenebrosa*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Hasties Swamp.
Australasian swamphen	*Porphyrio melanotus*	Narada T factory. Hasties Swamp.
Masked lapwing	*Vanellus miles*	Widespread.
Red-necked stint	*Calidris ruficollis*	One from Cairns Esplanade.
Sharp-tailed sandpiper	*Calidris acuminata*	Seen on photographs taken at Lake Mitchell.
Grey-tailed tattler	*Tringa brevipes*	One along Cooper Creek (Daintree). Two from Cairns Esplanade.
Bar-tailed godwit	*Limosa lapponica*	A few from Cairns Esplanade.
Eurasian whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*	Recorded at Cooper Creek (Daintree) and Cairns Esplanade.
Common greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	Cairns.
Pied stilt	*Himantopus leucocephalus*	Hasties Swamp. Cairns.
Silver gull	*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Cairns.
Australian tern	*Gelochelidon macrotarsa*	Two at Cairns. A recently split species (from gull-billed).

Crested tern	*Thalasseus bergii*	Daintree.
Caspian tern	*Hydropogne caspia*	One patrolling Atkinson Dam (Lockyer Valley).
Little tern	*Sternula albifrons*	A few offshore at Cairns Esplanade.
Squatter pigeon	*Geophaps scripta*	Five at Granite Gorge (Mareeba).
Crested pigeon	*Ocyphaps lophotes*	Scattered records.
Wonga pigeon	*Leucosarcia melanoleuca*	Singles seen well at O'Reillys (Lamington NP).
Feral pigeon	*Columba livia*	Occasional in towns.
Peaceful dove	*Geopelia placida*	Granite Gorge. Mount Carbine.
Bar-shouldered dove	*Geopelia humeralis*	Mount Carbine.
Spotted dove	*Streptopelia chinensis*	Mossman. Cairns.
Pacific emerald dove	*Chalcophaps longirostris*	Bunya Mountains NP. Wooroonooran NP. Lake Eacham.
Superb fruit-dove	*Ptilinopus superbus*	Lake Eacham. Daintree.
Rose-crowned fruit-dove	*Ptilinopus regina*	Two in flight at Cairns esplanade.
Wompoo fruit dove	*Megaloprepia magnifica*	Henrietta Creek (Wooroonooran NP). Lake Eacham. Malanda Falls. Lake Barrine. Daintree.
Brown cuckoo-dove	*Macropygia phasianella*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP. Lake Eacham. Tablelands. Daintree.
Torresian imperial pigeon	*Ducula spilorrhoa*	Cairns. Mission Beach. Daintree.
Topknot pigeon	*Lopholaimus antarcticus*	Lamington NP. Lake Barrine.
Galah	*Eolophus roseicapilla*	Widespread.
Sulphur-crested cockatoo	*Cacatua galerita*	Widespread.
Little corella	*Cacatua sanguinea*	Lockyer valley wetlands.
Red-tailed black cockatoo	*Calyptorhynchus banksii*	Sadly never seen well. Recorded at Granite Gorge and just outside Cairns.
Rainbow lorikeet	*Trichoglossus moluccanus*	Widespread.
Scaly-breasted lorikeet	*Trichoglossus chlorolepidotos*	Widespread in small numbers.
Double-eyed fig parrot	*Cyclopsitta diopthalma*	Lake Barrine. Cairns.

King parrot	*Alisterus scapularis*	Lamington NP.
Red-winged parrot	*Aprosmictus erythropterus*	Tablelands. Near Mary River.
Cockatiel	*Nymphicus hollandicus*	Lockyer valley wetlands.
Pale-headed rosella	*Platycercus adscitus*	Lockyer valley wetlands. Granite Gorge. Mount Carbine.
Crimson rosella	*Platycercus elegans*	Lamington NP.
Fan-tailed cuckoo	*Cuculus flabelliformis*	Lamington NP.
Pheasant coucal	*Centropus phasianus*	Near Innisfail.
Pacific koel	*Eudynamys orientalis*	Surprisingly scarce but perhaps silent. Seen at Jindalba (Daintree) and heard in Cairns.
Blue-winged kookaburra	*Dacelo leachii*	A family group seen well at Mount Carbine caravan park.
Laughing kookaburra	*Dacelo novaeguineae*	Widespread.
Torresian kingfisher	*Todiramphus sordidus*	One at Cairns Esplanade.
Sacred kingfisher	*Todiramphus sanctus*	Widespread.
Forest kingfisher	*Todiramphus macleayi*	Recorded!
Azure kingfisher	*Ceyx azureus*	Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra).
Rainbow bee-eater	*Merops ornatus*	Widespread.
(Sooty owl)	*Tyto tenebricosa*	Heard once at Lamington NP.
(Southern boobook)	*Ninox novaeseelandiae*	Heard at Lamington NP.
Rufous owl	*Ninox rufa*	A roosting bird in Cairns tracked down by Madeline.
Tawny frogmouth	*Podargus strigoides*	Adult on nest at Mount Carbine.
(Papuan frogmouth)	*Podargus papuensis*	Heard at Jindalba (Daintree).
Australian swiftlet	*Collocalia terraereginae*	Wongaling Beach. Tablelands.
Welcome swallow	*Hirundo neoxena*	Widespread.
Noisy pitta	*Pitta versicolor*	Heard frequently at dawn and dusk at Lamington NP and Bunya Mountains NP. One flew in front of the van on our way out of Lamington.
Russet-tailed thrush	*Zoothera heinei*	Lamington NP.

Bassian thrush	*Zoothera lunulata*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP.
[Rufous scrub-bird]	*Atrichornis rufescens*	Pair heard at Lamington NP, singing from thick vine scrub.
Black-faced cuckooshrike	*Coracina novaehollandiae*	Widespread.
White-bellied cuckooshrike	*Coracina papuensis*	Widespread.
Varied triller	*Lalage leucomela*	Singles at Djiru NP and Dubuji boardwalk (Daintree).
Rose robin	*Petroica rosea*	A female briefly for Phil at Bunya Mountains NP.
Grey-headed robin	*Heteromyias cinereifrons*	Common in Tableland wet forests.
Eastern yellow robin	*Eopsaltria australis*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP. Hasties Swamp.
Pale yellow robin	*Eopsaltria capito*	Nominate *capito* subspecies at Lamington NP. *nana* subspecies at Djiru NP.
Golden whistler	*Pachycephala pectoralis*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP. Daintree.
Little shrikethrush	*Colluricincla megarhyncha*	Djiru NP. Tablelands.
Bower's shrikethrush	*Colluricincla boweri*	Hasties Swamp.
Grey shrikethrush	*Colluricincla harmonica*	Lamington NP.
Australian spectacled monarch	*Symposiachrus trivirgatus*	Lamington NP. Djiru NP. Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra). Lake Eacham. Daintree.
Black-faced monarch	*Monarcha melanopsis*	Lamington NP. Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra). Lake Eacham. Daintree.
(White-eared monarch)	*Carterornis leucotis*	Picked up by *Merlin* at Lake Eacham.
Yellow-breasted boatbill	*Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*	Lake Eacham. Tablelands. No good views sadly.
Shining flycatcher	*Myiagra alecto*	Dubuji boardwalk (Daintree).
Grey fantail	*Rhipidura albiscapa*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP.
Australian rufous fantail	*Rhipidura rufifrons*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP.
Willy wagtail	*Rhipidura leucophrys*	Widespread.
Eastern whipbird	*Psophodes olivaceus*	Widespread.

Australian logrunner	*Orthonyx temminckii*	Lamington NP.
(Chowchilla)	*Orthonyx spaldingii*	Heard only at Lake Eacham.
Grey-crowned babbler	*Pomatostomus temporalis*	Pairs at Atkinson's Dam and Granite Gorge.
Superb blue fairywren	*Malurus cyaneus*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP.
Variegated fairywren	*Malurus lamberti*	Kumbia.
Red-backed fairywren	*Malurus melanocephalus*	Good views at Lockyer valley wetlands and Bunya Mountains NP. Adults feeding young in a nest below the hide at Hasties Swamp.
White-browed scrubwren	*Sericornis frontalis*	Ridiculously tame at Lamington NP, often perching on offered fingers! Also at Bunya Mountains NP.
Atherton scrubwren	*Sericornis keri*	Mount Hypipamee.
Large-billed scrubwren	*Sericornis magnirostra*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP. Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra).
Yellow-throated scrubwren	*Neosericornis citreogularis*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP.
Brown gerygone	*Gerygone mouki*	Lamington NP.
Large-billed gerygone	*Gerygone magnirostiris*	Daintree.
Fairy gerygone	*Gerygone palpebrosa*	Granite Gorge. Daintree.
Striated thornbill	*Acanthiza lineata*	Lamington NP.
Yellow-rumped thornbill	*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*	Kumbia.
Mountain thornbill	*Acanthiza katherina*	Mount Hypipamee.
Brown thornbill	*Acanthiza pusilla*	Lamington NP.
White-throated treecreeper	*Cormobates leucophaea*	Lamington NP. Lake Eacham.
Red-browed treecreeper	*Climacteris erythrops*	Duck Creek Road (Lamington NP).
Little friarbird	*Philemon citreogularis*	Kumbia.
Helmeted friarbird	*Philemon buceroides*	Mareeba. Mossman.
Noisy friarbird	*Philemon corniculatus*	Widespread, eg White Hills, Brisbane Lockyer valley wetlands and Granite Gorge.
Blue-faced honeyeater	*Entomyzon cyanotis*	White Hills, Brisbane. Lockyer valley wetlands. Mount Carbine.

Yellow-throated miner	*Manorina flavigula*	White Hills, Brisbane.
Noisy miner	*Manorina melanocephala*	Atkinson's Dam (Lockyer Valley).
(Bell miner)	*Manorina melanophrys*	Heard only at Lamington NP.
White-naped honeyeater	*Melithreptus lunatus*	Lamington NP.
Lewin's honeyeater	*Meliphaga lewinii*	Widespread.
Yellow-spotted honeyeater	*Meliphaga notata*	Lacey's Creek (Djiru NP).
Bridled honeyeater	*Bolemoreus frenatus*	Mount Hypipamee.
Yellow honeyeater	*Stomiopera flavus*	Granite Gorge.
Yellow-faced honeyeater	*Caligavis chrysops*	Lamington NP.
Varied honeyeater	*Gavicalis versicolor*	Cairns Esplanade.
White-cheeked honeyeater	*Phylidonyris nigra*	Hasties Swamp.
Dusky myzomela	*Myzomela obscura*	Wongaling Beach. Lake Eacham.
Scarlet myzomela	*Myzomela sanguinolenta*	Lake Eacham. Mareeba.
Eastern spinebill	*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP. Tablelands.
Macleay's honeyeater	*Xanthotis macleayana*	Mount Hypipamee.
Brown honeyeater	*Lichmera indistincta*	Kumbia. Granite Gorge.
Sahul sunbird	*Cinnyris frenatus*	Widespread.
Silvereye	*Zosterops lateralis*	Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra).
Mistletoebird	*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*	Lake Eacham. Granite Gorge.
Spotted pardalote	*Pardalotus punctatus*	Lamington NP.
Red-browed finch	*Neochmia temporalis*	Road up to and at Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP.
Double-barred finch	*Stizoptera bichenovii*	Kumbia.
Chestnut-breasted munia	*Lonchura castaneothorax*	Hasties Swamp. Daintree ferry.
House sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Mossman. Cairns.
Metallic starling	*Aplonis metallica*	Djiru NP. Daintree.
(Green oriole)	*Oriolus flavocinctus*	Heard at Daintree.
Olive-backed oriole	*Oriolus sagittatus*	Whites Hill, Brisbane. Granite Gorge.

Australian figbird	*Sphecotheres veilloti*	Bunya Mountains NP. Mission Beach. Granite Gorge. Mossman.
Common myna	*Acridotheres tristis*	Scattered records.
Spangled drongo	*Dicrurus bracteatus*	Wongaling Beach. Granite Gorge. Daintree.
Magpie-lark	*Grallina cyanoleuca*	Widespread.
Apostlebird	*Struthidea cinerea*	Kumbia. Mount Carbine.
White-breasted woodswallow	*Artamus leucorhynchus*	Widespread.
Pied butcherbird	*Cracticus nigrogularis*	Widespread at scattered locations.
Black butcherbird	*Melloria quoyi*	Wongaling Beach. Djhiru NP. Daintree.
Pied currawong	*Strepera graculina*	Scattered records.
Australian magpie	*Gymnorhina tibicen*	Mostly seen in transit in small numbers.
Green catbird	*Ailuroedus crassirostris*	Lamington NP.
Spotted catbird	*Ailuroedus maculosus*	Lake Eacham. Tablelands.
Great bowerbird	*Chlamydera nuchalis*	Granite Gorge. Mount Carbine.
Regent bowerbird	*Sericulus chrysocephalus*	Lamington NP.
Golden bowerbird	*Prionodura newtoniana*	A male at bower at Mount Hypipamee.
Satin bowerbird	*Ptilinorhynchus violaceus*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP.
Victoria's riflebird	*Ptiloris victoriae*	Lake Eacham. Malanda Falls. Mount Hypipamee.
(Paradise riflebird)	*Ptiloris paradiseus*	Heard just once at Lamington NP.
Albert's lyrebird	*Menura alberti*	Phil had two males fighting at Lamington NP.
Torresian crow	*Corvus orru*	Widespread.
Australian raven	*Corvus coronoides*	Bunya Mountains.

Systematic list of mammals recorded in Australia between 26th Sept and 11th Oct

Platypus	*Orntihorhynchus anatinus*	A pair watched on Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra).
Fawn-footed melomys	*Melomys cervinipes*	Photographed at night at Djiru NP.
White-tailed giant rat	*Uromys caudimaculatus*	Djiru NP. Lake Eacham.
Queensland barred bandicoot	*Parameles pallescens*	Fantastic views at Lake Eacham.
Koala	*Phascolarctos cinereus*	Four on the first day, at White Hills (Brisbane).
Short-eared brushtail possum	*Trichosurus caninus*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP.
Striped possum	*Dactylopsila trivirgata*	Lake Eacham.
Krefft's glider	*Petaurus notatus*	Lake Eacham.
Eastern ringtail possum	*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP.
Green ringtail	*Pseudochirops archeri*	Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra), a female with joey sold to us by a passerby as a tree kangaroo... It took an embarrassing amount of time before the penny dropped.
Eastern grey kangaroo	*Macropus giganteus*	Kumbia.
Agile wallaby	*Notamacropus agilis*	Cairns. Mission Beach area. Near Granite Gorge
Red-necked wallaby	*Notamacropus rufogriseus*	Bunya Mountains NP.
Mareeba rock wallaby	*Petrogale mareeba*	Granite Gorge.
Red-legged pademelon	*Thylogale stigmatica*	Lamington NP. Lake Eacham. Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra).
Red-necked pademelon	*Thylogale thetis*	Lamington NP.
Lumholtz's tree kangaroo	*Dendrolagus lumholtzi*	Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra).
Musky rat-kangaroo	*Hypsiprymnodon moschatus*	Djhiru NP. Lake Eacham.
Spectacled flying-fox	*Pteropus conspicillatus*	Jindalba (Daintree), Cairns.
(Pig)	*Sus scrofa*	Widespread sign but none seen.
Red deer	*Cervus elaphus*	Bunya.

Systematic list of reptiles recorded in Australia between 26th September and 11th October

Slaty-grey snake	*Stegonotus australis*	Lake Eacham.
Common keelback	*Tropidonophis mairii*	Dubuji boardwalk (Daintree).
Saltwater crocodile	*Crocodylus porosus*	Cooper Creek (Daintree).
Australian water dragon	*Intellagama lesuerri*	Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra).
Pale-lipped shadeskink	*Saproscincus basiliscus*	Djiru NP. Lake Eacham. Daintree. Only found sleeping!
Eastern water skink	*Eulamprus quoyi*	Lamington NP.
Blue-speckled forest skink	*Silvascincus murrayi*	Lamington NP.
Major skink	*Bellatorias frerei*	Daintree.
Land mullet	*Bellatorias major*	A huge trip highlight for some, was the two encounters we had with this monster skink at Lamington NP.
Closed litter rainbow skink	*Celia longipes*	Thornton Beach (Daintree).
Southern red-throated rainbow skink	*Carlia rubrigularis*	Djhiru NP.
Yellow-spotted monitor	*Varanus panoptes*	One across the road on the way to Kumbia.
Asian house gecko	*Hemidactylus frenatus*	Widespread.
Eastern saw-shelled turtle	*Myuchelis latisternum*	Djhiru NP. Mount Hypipamee.
Green sea turtle	*Chelonias midas*	Lovers Beach (South Mission Beach).

Systematic list of amphibians recorded in Australia between 26th September and 11th October

Southern ornate nursery frog	*Cophixalus australis*	Djiru NP.
Striped marsh frog	*Limnodynastes peronii*	Lake Eacham.
Green-eyed treefrog	*Spicicalyx serrata*	Lake Eacham. Daintree.
Cane toad	*Rhinella marina*	Wongaling Beach. Daintree.

Systematic list of butterflies recorded in Australia between 26th September and 11th October

Ornithoptera euphorion	the Cairns birdwing, only seen well at Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra).
Cressida cressida	Yungaburra.
Papilio aegis	Daintree.
Papilio demoleus	Lockyer Valley.
Papilio ulysses	Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra). Daintree.
Graphium agamemnon	Daintree.
Graphium macleayanum	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP.
Catopsilia pomona	Mount Carbine. Daintree.
Delias mysis	Tablelands.
Delias nigrina	Bunya Mountains NP. Djiru NP.
Pieris rapae	Bunya Mountains NP.
Danaus plexippus	Lamington NP. Bunya Mountains NP.
Cupha prosope	Lacey Creek (Djiru NP).
Hypolimnas alimena	Tablelands. Daintree.
Hypolimnas bolina	Narada T. Daintree.
Vanessa itea	Bunya Mountains NP.
Vanessa kershawi	Bunya Mountains NP.
Junonia hedonia	Mareeba. Granite Gorge.
Junonia orithya	Mossman. Mount Carbine.
Junonia villida	Lockyer Valley. Bunya Mountains NP.

Pantaporia consimilis	Daintree.
Yoma sabina	Jack Bethel (Mareeba). Cairns Botanical Garden.
Melanitis leda	Lovers Beach (South Mission Beach).
Mycalesis terminus	Lacey Creek (Djiru NP). Mount Carbine. Daintree.
Mycalesis perseus	Granite Gorge. Mount Carbine.
Lampides boeticus	Bunya Mountains NP.
Nacaduba cyanea	Daintree.
Zizina otis	Mount Carbine.
Ocybadistes walkeri	Lamington NP.
Notocrypta waigensis	Lacey Creek (Djhiru NP). Daintree.

Systematic list of Odonata recorded in Australia between 26th September and 11th October

Diphlebia euphoeoides	Recorded at Henrietta Creek (Wooroonooran NP) and Daintree.
Lestoidea conjuncta	A single female along the Jindalba boardwalk (Daintree).
Austroargiolestes icteromelas	Single at Lamington NP.
Nososticta coelestina	Granite Gorge.
Nososticta solida	Granite Gorge.
Nososticta solitaria	Daintree.
Argiocnemis rubescens	Cairns.
Archibasis mimetes	Cairns.
Ceriagrion aeruginosum	Cairns.
Pseudagrion crenatum	Granite Gorge.
Dromaeschna forcipata	Daintree.
Anax papuensis	Lockyer Valley.
Agrionoptera insignis	Madja boardwalk and Jindalba (Daintree).
Agrionoptera longitudinalis	Madja boardwalk and Jindalba (Daintree).
Brachydiplax duivenbodei	Cairns.
Camacinia othello	Cairns.
Diplacodes haematodes	Granite Gorge.
Hydrobasileus brevistylus	Cairns - sight record.
Neurothemis oligoneura	Cairns.
Rhodothemis rufa	Cairns.
Rhyothemis variegata	Cairns.
Orthetrum caledonicum	Granite Gorge.
Orthetrum villosovittatum	Daintree. Cairns.
Tetrathemis irregularis	Daintree. Cairns.
Zyxomma elgneri	Jindalba (Daintree).