

Tropical Birding Tours

Eastern Australia: Photo Tour



Tour Guide: Ben Knoot

The photos in this report were captured by both the guide and the guests. Please refer to the photo captions for details. Ben (the guide) is also the driver for this tour. This tour also included a Northern Territory extension, if you wish to read that report as well, please find it in the trip report archive or on the Northern Territory tour page.

Tour Introduction

Australia is a vast and incredibly diverse country, and this dedicated photo tour is designed to take in as much of the diversity found along this enormous island's east coast as possible in a relatively short period of time. We also take a nice little sojourn to the "interior" of Queensland. We drive nearly 7-hrs straight west and we still barely make it to the 'outback' but boy-oh-boy are the birds worth it! Some of the best photography, at least in my opinion takes place here, but before we get to that...

Our first section on this tour is the Cairns region. Here we cover a vast array of habitats and birds. Everything from subtropical rainforest to the sandy beaches of Michaelmas Caye. We then travel towards the tablelands which hold a slightly different set of rainforest types as well as melaleuca forests which of course means a whole new set of birds. The first SIX days of this tour are hot, sticky and fairly difficult in terms of bird photography. The birds are in dark dense forests and even though they are plentiful (this is typically the highest species section on the birding tours) they aren't overly easy to photograph.

The next section of the tour though still in Queensland couldn't be more different. After a quick flight down to Brisbane, we pick up our van and head west. We are heading into some of my favorite habitats for photography in Australia. Open Savanas and mulga. Here, the birds are plentiful, especially this year with the huge amounts of water that have dumped in Australia. We really get into some decent 'outback' in this section and for this trip especially (though it usually is on all trips) this is my favorite section of the tour, even though it is A LOT of driving. We end this section of the trip by visiting the world famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat where birds literally sit on your shoulder and dance around in front of you...don't believe me, just wait until you get to that section!

The last section of this tour is located in Tasmania. It is usually quite cold but boy-oh-boy did we have some fantastic weather. There is a lot of work to be done in Tasmania, specifically, we have TWELVE (12) endemic birds to try and photograph. Not all are very photogenic, especially the skulking little Scrubtit. However, Tasmania hosts birds that much easier to photograph there than on the mainland, birds like the glowing Flame Robin put on an amazing show for our cameras.

Overall, the tour was a big success. Everything went pretty much according to plan which is always nice. The weather cooperated even though most of Australia was going through some pretty mad weather and the birds were incredibly cooperative. There is a summary of species seen and photographed at the end of report. Enjoy!



Itinerary

- September 13th.....Arrival in Cairns/Afternoon around Cairns Hotspots
- September 14th.....Great Barrier Reef
- September 15th.....Cairns to Daintree via Mossman/Daintree Area
- September 16th.....Daintree River Cruise/Mareeba
- September 17th.....Atherton Tablelands
- September 18th.....Atherton Tablelands/Cairns Hotspots
- September 19th.....Cairns to Brisbane/Goondiwindi
- September 20th.....Goondiwindi to Cunnamulla
- September 21st.....Cunnamulla
- September 22nd.....Cunnamulla to Dalby
- September 23rd.....Dalby to Lamington NP (O'Reilly's Nature Retreat)
- September 24th.....Lamington NP (O'Reilly's Nature Retreat)
- September 25th.....Lamington NP (O'Reilly's Nature Retreat) to Hobart
- September 26th.....Bruny Island, Tasmania
- September 27th.....Tasman Peninsula
- September 28th.....Departure Day

Tour Summary

Day 1: September 13th - Arrival in Cairns and Cairns Hotspots

The first afternoon is a biggie, there is no denying that. And there is always a bit of fear on my part for this first target. It is a big decision to take a group of people over an hour and a half away from good birds to try and find one bird. A bird that while typically is quite predictable, can obviously decide “eh...I’m not showing up today” and then you’ve essentially wasted the whole afternoon and photographed nothing. Because the location of this bird in [Etty Bay](#), really doesn’t have a lot of other species around. Having said that and deciding to take the risk (I almost always do...) We arrived and I was extremely surprised to find a **Beach Thick-knee** wandering around the beach hunting in-between waves...EPIC! Normally this bird can be quite shy and quite a challenge to find so to have one in excellent light, be so accommodating and to not have to work very hard for it was a real treat. We continued our search and luckily, we didn’t have to wait long for the star of the day to arrive, a beautiful female **Southern Cassowary** (the cover image). Typically the bird of the trip, this towering, flightless beast of a bird graced our presence for about half of an hour or so and then just disappeared into the forest. We actually managed to see another one walking the road on the way out! Very cool afternoon!



Beach Thick-knee - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Beach Thick-knee - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Southern Cassowary - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Day 2: September 14th - Michaelmas Caye

Today was our day to go to [Michaelmas Caye](#), a seabird breeding sandy island in the middle of nowhere. However, before we did that, I took the group to the mall. “The mall?” you ask...well yes but you see I have a good reason. [Torresian Imperial Pigeons](#) use the fruiting trees next to the mall to feed in the morning. Luckily, the top level of the parking garage puts you at eye-level and in great light to photograph these stunning pigeons. We had some mixed light but overall, it was a great shoot before we grabbed breakfast and headed off for the boat.



Torresian Imperial Pigeon - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Once we got on the boat, it was about an hour and a half to the Caye. When we finally made it, the sun was shining and the birds were as active as usual. Photographic targets on the island included; [Brown Booby](#), [Brown Noddy](#), [Great and Lesser-crested Tern](#), [Sooty Tern](#), [Black-naped Tern](#) and [Great Frigatebird](#). We spent about an hour photographing these birds and then those who wanted to, jumped into the ocean for a bit of snorkeling of the Great Barrier Reef. This is obviously not a birding only outing but we think it is just too cool to take out! We returned to the mainland in the afternoon, had a lovely dinner and then called it an early night so that we could get an early start the next morning.



Lesser-crested Tern - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Great-crested Tern - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Brown Booby - Photo by guide: Ben Knoop



Great Frigatebird - Photo by guide: Ben Knoop



Brown Noddy - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Black-naped Tern - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Day 3: September 15th - Cairns to Daintree via Mossman

We began the morning by looking for one of the hardest fairywren species of our tour, the Lovely Fairywren. We went to [Machans Beach](#) and trails and though we found a nice family unit, we were unable to get photographs. We did however manage some great photos of [Mistletoebird](#) and [Varied Triller](#).



Varied Triller - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Mistletoebird - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

We then went up [Lake Morris Road](#) to see if we could photograph any forest specialties. We managed some good birds but highlights included; [Fairy Gerygone](#), [Yellow-spotted Honeyeater](#) and [Pied Monarch](#).



Yellow-spotted Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Fairy Gerygone - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Pied Monarch - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

When it was finally time to head up to the Daintree, we took the route through Mossman. We do this for one reason. Though this time, we needed to do some shopping so it just made extra sense this time. When we got into Mossman, I took the group to one of the many **Metallic Starling** colonies around town. This particular one I feel is the best based on light, proximity and height of the nests. So we spent about 15-20min with the colony and then we continued north towards our overnight halt. By the time we arrived it was too late to do anything so we had a fantastic dinner and called it an evening.



Metallic Starling - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Day 4: September 16th - Daintree River Cruise to Mareeba

The morning **Daintree River** cruise overall went pretty well. It was a lovely temperature and pretty darn good tidal situation. We ran the tour a bit late looking for a few more of the rarer species and since I was in the back of the boat, I wasn't able to photograph everything all in all, a lovely cruise. The photographic highlights were; **Azure, Sacred and Little Kingfisher, Shining Flycatcher, Australasian Darter** and a fun **Little Bronze Cuckoo**.



Sacred Kingfisher - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Shining Flycatcher - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Azure Kingfisher - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Little Kingfisher - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

The afternoon was spent at [Granite Gorge Nature Park](#). Here we photographed [Squatter Pigeon](#), [Crested Pigeon](#), [Laughing Kookaburra](#), [Australian Brush Turkey](#) and of course, the adorable little [Mareeba Rock Wallaby](#).



Squatter Pigeon - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Crested Pigeon - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

One member of the group opted for a night outing to see **Australian Owlet Nightjar**. After a bit of searching in **Davies Creek**, we found a few individuals who wanted to pose for some decent photo opportunities!



Australian Owlet Nightjar - Photo by guide: Ben Knot

Day 5: September 17th - Mount Hypipamee and Atherton Table Hotspots

Today we had another rainforest shoot. This meant dark situations but awesome birds. We began the day by spending about 30-min at a gas station on the way to Mt. Hypipamee. I know that may sound like an odd thing to do but there is a good reason. This year, the grass fields behind the gas station hosted a pretty large population of **Tawny Grassbird**. So we enjoyed photographing them conducting their display flight. Another big reason to visit the gas station are the 4-5 **Buff-banded Rails** that use the area to feed and likely breed. It is definitely not always the most beautiful places that lend the best photos and this is certainly the case but there can be no denying the sheer awesomeness of being able to photograph two normally difficult species with some relative ease. Pretty cool!



Buff-banded Rail - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Tawny Grassbird - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Our next stop was [Mount Hypipamee](#). First things first, we wanted to get over to “The Crater” to see this years nesting [Peregrine Falcon](#). Both parents were hanging around and the chicks were squirming around the rocky cliff edge. We hung out there for a minutes and enjoyed the loving family moments.



Peregrine Falcon - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

While we were watching, I heard the unmistakable call of a little [Spotted Pardalote](#). After a few minutes, we were able to get some pretty nice shots of this wonderful little bird. There was a hilarious moment I would love to share with you all. So, here we are photographing this bird on a small platform that over looks the crater and the Peregrine Falcon nest. There was no one else around at the time so we were all at the back of the platform photographing the pardalote in a small little tree on the other side of the platform. A man then walks up while we're shooting so I call to him and ask “Sir, if you don't mind, there's a Spotted Pardalote here we're just trying to photograph, you are welcome to come back and join us if you want.” He continued walking and completely ignored me (it is possible he did not hear, we later found out he is hard of hearing). When he got just feet away from the tree (the pardalote still singing and guests still shooting) he looks over at us and I KID YOU NOT SAYS THE FOLLOWING, “Ah, well you folks look like you've been here awhile so I am going to go ahead and step in front of you..” AND THEN DOES JUST THAT!! Hahaha - can you believe that?!?! Anyway, we managed some shots before he did that so no harm no foul, just hilarious.



Spotted Pardalote - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

On the way back towards the parking lot and main birding road, we ran into a cooperative **White-throated Treecreeper**. The main areas here are the trail, the parking lot and the main road in and out. Again, the forest environments of Australia are pretty tricky to shoot it. It is often very dark and you'll find yourself shooting in high ISO situations and pretty low shutter speeds. In my opinion the photography is really fun but frustrating, which really makes it even more fun, if you like that kind of self-torture - haha. In these various locations, we managed to photograph; **Large-billed Gerygone**, **Gray-headed Robin**, **Pale-yellow Robin**, **Yellow-breasted Boatbill**, **Gray Fantail**, **Bridled Honeyeater** and one member of the group who spent some alone time managed to photograph a **Golden Bowerbird**.



Gray-headed Robin - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Yellow-breasted Boatbill - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



White-throated Treecreeper - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Gray Fantail - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

We then ventured towards the [Nerada Tea Plantation](#) where after just a few minutes of searching, we found a small group of [Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo](#) lounging about in the tall dark trees. After a few minutes of shooting here we visited the [Allambah Pocket](#) for a very special critter, the [Duck-billed Platypus](#). We also managed to see a handful of [Spectacled Flying Fox](#). The sun set and we called it an evening.

Day 6: September 18th - Atherton Tablelands/Mount Carbine to Cairns

Today we began early and ventured towards Mount Carbine but first we stopped off at [East Mary Roads "Bustard Downs"](#). Here we photographed [Great Bustard](#) and [Red-backed Fairy-wren](#). Those were our only two targets really so after this success, we continued on towards [Mount Carbine](#) caravan park.



Red-backed Fairy-wren - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Here at the caravan park we found (but photography was oddly tough); **Galah**, **Blue-faced Honeyeater**, **Pale-headed Rosella**, **Tawny Frogmouth**, **Red-winged Parrot**, **Apostlebird**, **Rainbow Lorikeet**, **Blue-winged Kookaburra** and **Pied Butcherbird**. Our main target here is the Tawny Frogmouth which is readily accessible and usually perched in a nice position.

After we concluded our shoot here, we traveled back through **Mount Molloy**. Here we had a fun shoot with **Olive-backed Sunbird** and **Blue-faced Honeyeater**.



Olive-backed Sunbird - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Blue-faced Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

We ended our day and our time in the Cairns region by visiting [Cattana Wetlands](#). We walked around the wetlands for a good few hours until we found our targets; [Green Pygmy Goose](#) and [Comb-crested Jacana](#). I was however still looking for one target, Australia's only stork species. I was planning on heading to a spot where one had been reported but over 10-days ago...it was by no means guaranteed or even likely but upon leaving the wetlands, I took a left and headed towards the Yorkey's Knob area. And I kid you not, 50-meters after my turning and in the most random field there it stood...a magnificent and gorgeous [Black-necked Stork](#). HOW ABOUT THAT!?! I love it when things like this happen. Follow your gut, stay open-minded and stay observant...great things will happen! After this fantastic ended to our Cairns section, we grabbed one last dinner and hit the hay. Tomorrow we had an exceptionally early flight to Brisbane and our next trip section.



Black-necked Stork - Photo by guide: Ben Knot

Day 7: September 19th - Brisbane to Goondiwindi

After an exceptionally early flight, we landed in Brisbane. After we gathered our luggage, rental car and few provisions, we made our first stop at a nearby park; [Minnippi Wetland Park](#). Here the group got their first looks at; [Variegated Fairywren](#), [Australasian Grebe](#), [Gray Butcherbird](#), [Maned Duck](#), [Australasian Swamphen](#), [Little Black Cormorant](#), [Noisy Miner](#) and a host of other common birds. But after a while, we had to continue on, we had a very important search to conduct before we left for our long drive towards Goondiwindi.



Australasian Grebe - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Once we arrived at [Whites Hill Park](#) in Brisbane, we began our search. It didn't take long to find not one, not two but THREE [Koala](#). This surely is the most reliable spot for this animal. We also managed to find more [Variegated Fairy-wren](#), [Pale-headed Rosella](#), [Laughing Kookaburra](#), [Sacred Kingfisher](#), [Powerful Owl](#), [Pied Currawong](#). That was a wonderful stop and somewhere I wish to spend more time in in the future. We then took the long drive towards Goondiwindi. We pressed hard because it was a far drive but we did make a stop to try and find some new birds. [Durikai Water Hole](#) held, [Restless Flycatcher](#), [White-plumed Honeyeater](#) and [Superb Fairy-wren](#) but not much more so we called it an evening.



Variegated Fairy-wren - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Day 8: September 20th - Goondiwindi to Cunnamulla

Today we started in the Goondiwindi Botanic Garden. I love this spot. It is chock full of species and is so close to the hotel. Here we photographed; **Rainbow Lorikeet, Gray Shrike-thrush, Superb Fairy-wren, Purple-backed Fairy-wren, Noisy Miner, White-plumed Honeyeater, Double-barred Finch, Little Corella, Spotted Dove, Australian Reed Warbler, Crested Pigeon, Red-winged Parrot** and the biggest surprise for me was an amazing pair of **Plum-headed Finch!**



Rainbow Lorikeet - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Purple-backed Fairy-wren - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Double-barred Finch - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



White-plumed Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Gray Shrike-thrush - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Superb Fairy-wren - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Plum-headed Finch - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Noisy Miner - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

We finished here and then took one of our longest drives of the trip. We traveled towards Cunnamulla and from here on out, we would be shooting many species. This is perhaps the most photographic section of the tour. We would travel through Mulga, Grasslands and heaps of recently flooded fields. It was a truly remarkable portion of our journey as we witnessed hundreds and thousands of birds taking advantage of the newly flooded fields and flowering trees. I have never seen this territory so green and alive...it was a truly amazing and beautiful spectacle and the birdlife equally impressed! On the way into Cunnamulla, we photographed; **Noisy Friarbird, Little Friarbird, Yellow-throated Miner, Crested Pigeon, Black-tailed Native-hen, Rufous Songlark, Maned Duck, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Restless Flycatcher**, and we weren't able to photograph but we did see a **Spotted Bowerbird**. All the while, we were keeping on eye out for Echidna along the roadside. I can't quite remember if we saw any on this night but never fear reader...you're in for a shock if you continue!



Restless Flycatcher - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Rufous Songlark - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Yellow-throated Miner - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Noisy Friarbird - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Day 9: September 21st - Cunnamulla and Eulo Bore

Today we had an entire day around [Cunnamulla](#). We spent the whole day (we got lucky with a high overcast) shooting anything and everything we could. Before the afternoon we managed; [Striated Pardalote](#), [Yellow-billed Spoonbill](#), [Emu](#), [Chestnut-rumped](#), [Yellow-rumped](#) and [Yellow Thornbill](#), [Weebill](#), [Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater](#), [White-winged Fairy-wren](#), [Diamond Dove](#), [Cockatiel](#), [Red-backed Kingfisher](#), [Australian Reed Warbler](#), [Zebra Finch](#), [Australian Pelican](#) and heaps and heaps of [Budgerigar](#). We took a short lunch break and charged batteries before venturing out to [Eulo Bore](#) for the afternoon. We had some sensational light and incredible activity. We photographed; [White-browed](#), [Masked](#) and [Little Woodswallow](#), [Budgerigar](#), [Brown Treecreeper](#), [Hooded Robin](#), [Crimson Chat](#), [Bourke's Parrot](#), [Mulga Parrot](#) and a serious highlight on the way back to town, a [Short-beaked Echidna](#). What a day...



Emu - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Yellow-rumped Thornbill - Photo by guide: Ben Knot



Yellow Thornbill - Photo by guide: Ben Knot



White-winged Fairy-wren - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Striated Pardalote - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Chestnut-rumped Thornbill - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Australian Pelican - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Cockatiel - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Bourke's Parrot - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Hooded Robin - Photo by guide: Ben Knot



Crimson Chat - Photo by guide: Ben Knot



Little Woodswallow - Photo by guide: Ben Knot



Brown Treecreeper - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Short-beaked Echidna - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Day 10: September 22nd - Eulo Bore to Dalby

Today we visited Eulo Bore once more to try and have even more success. The morning was indeed a bit slower but we added; **Pink Cockatoo**, **Little Eagle**, **Striped Honeyeater**, **Singing Honeyeater** and **Red Kangaroo** to our growing list.



Red Kangaroo (female) - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Little Eagle - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Singing Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Striped Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

After our time at the bore, it was unfortunately time to head back. The drive back towards Dalby is exceptionally long. We made several opportunistic stops along the way photographing; **Red-kneed Dotterel**, **Black-fronted Dotterel**, **Australasian Grebe**, **Pied Stilt** and a stunning male **Red-capped Robin**. Eventually we pulled into Dalby during the late evening for a good nights rest.



Red-capped Robin - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Australasian Grebe - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Red-kneed Dotterel - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Black-fronted Dotterel - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Day 11: September 23rd - Dalby to Lamington National Park (O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat)

We had one target around Dalby, the stunning Painted Honeyeater. Upon our arrival to a row of flowering trees, I heard the unmistakable call of our quarry, not one but two beautiful Painted Honeyeater graced us with their presence. They were reasonably cooperative but just wouldn't come down the last 5ft we needed. We still managed some decent shots!



Painted Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Painted Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

We took the several hour drive towards O'Reilly's and after a serious delay (about 3hrs...) to check in, we managed a few decent birds around the grounds but we managed all of these birds again so I will note them a little later on in this report. Oh and I forgot to mention, on the way up to the lodge, we found and photographed a **White-naped Honeyeater**.

Day 12: September 24th - O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat

Our time around **O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat** is quite special. There really isn't a lot of birds to photograph but the nature of the grounds and the birds make this a very special place. The grounds offered us; **Crimson Rosella, Australian King Parrot, Albert's Lyrebird, Green Catbird, White-browed and Yellow-throated Scrub-wren, Eastern Yellow Robin, Satin Bowerbird, Regent Bowerbird, Wonga Pigeon, Red-browed Firetail, Eastern Whipbird, Australian Logrunner, Australian Brush Turkey, Brown Gerygone, Rose Robin, Rufous and Gray Fantail, Eastern Spinebill, Superb Fairy-wren, Lewin's Honeyeater, Pied Currawong, and Bassian Thrush.**



Wonga Pigeon - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Regent Bowerbird - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Green Catbird - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Albert's Lyrebird - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Eastern Spinebill - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Satin Bowerbird - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Rufous Fantail - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Australian Logrunner - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Lewin's Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knot

Day 13: September 25th - O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat to Hobart, Tasmania

We spent one last morning in O'Reilly's and then headed for the airport. We caught our late afternoon flight to Hobart, Tasmania, picked up our rental and hit the hay. We spent the last section of the tour driving around Tasmania...one heck of a place...

Day 14: September 26th - Tasman Peninsula and Mt. Wellington

We opted to do the [Tasman Peninsula](#) and [Mt. Wellington](#). Most of this day is just driving around local hotspots and I will not name them all. But we did manage just about every target including; [Common Bronzewing](#), [Scarlet and Flame Robin](#), [Black Currawong](#), [Grey Currawong](#), [Eastern Spinebill](#), [Yellow-throated Honeyeater](#), [Yellow Wattlebird](#), [Tasmanian Scrub-wren](#), [Tasmanian and Brown Thornbill](#), [Green Rosella](#) and [Tasmanian Nativehen](#).



Black Currawong - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Gray Currawong - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Yellow-throated Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Eastern Spinebill - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Crescent Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Scarlet Robin - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Flame Robin - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Common Bronzewing - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Day 15: September 27th - Bruny Island and Tasman Coast

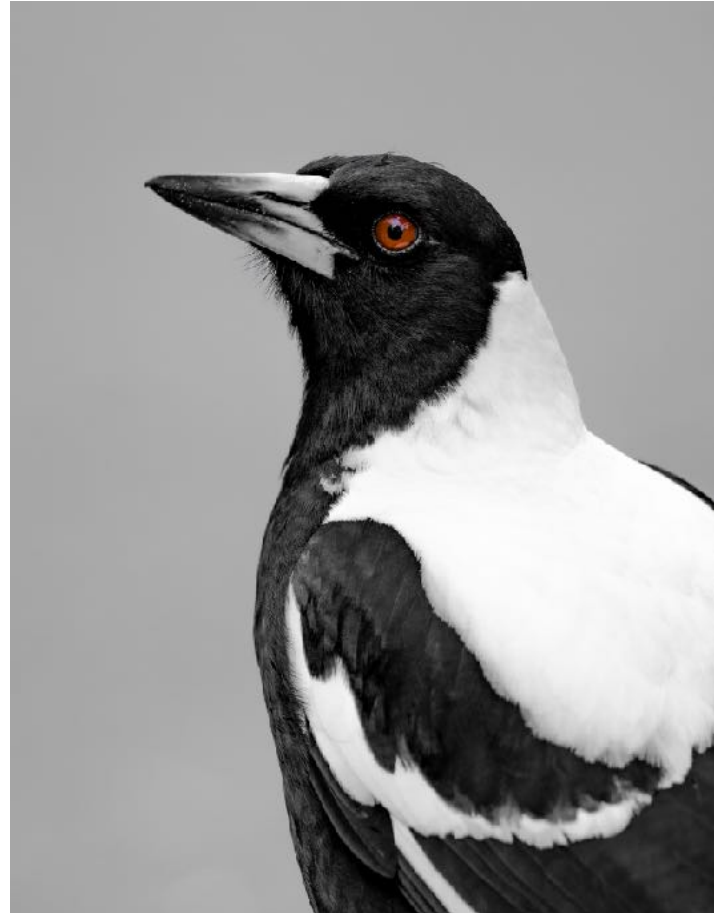
Today we took the early ferry and photographed as much as we could on [Bruny Island](#). We found; [Swift Parrot](#), [Hooded Plover](#), [Pink Robin](#), [Australian Magpie](#), [Gray Butcherbird](#), [Strong-billed Honeyeater](#), [Black-headed Honeyeater](#), [Chestnut Teal](#), [Sooty Oystercatcher](#) and [Black Swan](#). After we had done what we could on Bruny, we moved back towards mainland Tasmania and hit the coast areas. We found; [Masked Lapwing](#), [Long-billed Corella](#), [Black-faced Cormorant](#), [Kelp Gull](#), [Little Pied Cormorant](#), [Eastern Rosella](#), [White-faced Heron](#) and [Pied Oystercatcher](#). During our visit in Tasmania, we managed to find all of the endemic species (though we did not photograph all of them) of Tasmania. There are 12 in all and the [Scrubtit](#) is typically the hardest to photograph and that is indeed the only one we missed photographically.



Pink Robin - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Gray Butcherbird - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Australian Magpie - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Long-billed Corella - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Black-headed Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Strong-billed Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Black Swan - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Masked Lapwing (chick) - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Pied Oystercatcher - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Chestnut Teal - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Day 16: September 28th - Departure from Hobart

Guests depart this day...

*Many of the guests opted on their own to stay two extra days and I asked them if they'd like to go out and do some more shooting. This is not typical or to be expected on our tours but the following images are just a few more examples of what you may be able to photograph on this tour.



Little Wattlebird - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Musk Lorikeet - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Masked Lapwing - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



New Holland Honeyeater - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Silvereye - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Shining-bronze Cuckoo - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Australian Shelduck - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot



Kelp Gull - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

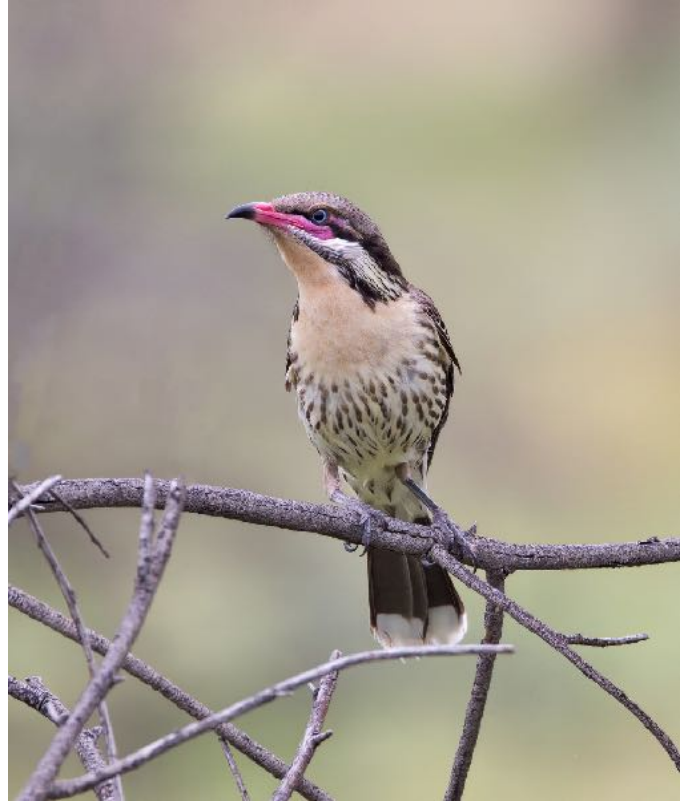


Fan-tailed Cuckoo - Photo by guide: Ben Knoot

Guests Top 5









Species Account

- *Seen - Species was seen but from the guides perspective, it was not a great photo opportunity
- *Photographed - Species presented a good photographic opportunity in the opinion of the guide

Special Note:

Every participant (with the exception of one member) on this tour was also participating on the “Northern Territory Extension” to this Eastern Australia Photo Tour. Some of the “seen-only” birds are easier to photograph and were photographed well on one or the other tours. Those species are indicated as such on both of the trip reports so please view them both for a broader overview of everything we were able to photograph during this incredible month through Australia. Below is a summary for this tour as well as a summary for the combined tours (Northern Territory Extension and Eastern Australia Photo Tour).

Summary (Eastern Australian Tour):

- 241 Bird species with good photographic opportunity
- 292 Bird species seen overall

Summary (Northern Territory Extension Tour):

- 124 Bird species with good photographic opportunity
- 183 Bird species seen overall

Summary (COMBINED: NT Extension and Eastern Photo Australian Tour):

- 281 Bird species with good photographic opportunity
- 361 Bird species seen overall

***A whopping ~ 78% ratio of birds seen/photographed!**

Species	Seen	Photographed
Birds		
<i>Cassowaries and Emu</i>		
Southern Cassowary		
Emu		
<i>Magpie Goose</i>		
Magpie Goose		
<i>Ducks, Geese and Waterfowl</i>		
Black Swan		
Australian Shelduck		
Radjah Shelduck		
Green Pygmy Goose		
Maned Duck		
Pacific Black Duck		
Gray Teal		
Chestnut Teal		
<i>Megapodes</i>		
Australian Brush Turkey		
Orange-footed Scrubfowl		
<i>Grebes</i>		
Australasian Grebe		
Hoary-headed Grebe		
<i>Pigeons and Doves</i>		
Rock Pigeon		
White-headed Pigeon		
Spotted Dove		
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	GUIDE ONLY	

Species	Seen	Photographed
Pacific Emerald Dove	GUIDE ONLY	
Common Bronzewing		
Crested Pigeon		
Squatter Pigeon		
Wonga Pigeon		
Diamond Dove		
Peaceful Dove		
Bar-shouldered Dove		
Rose-crowned Fruit Dove		
Torresian Imperial Pigeon		
Topknot Pigeon		
<i>Bustards</i>		
Australian Bustard		
<i>Cuckoos</i>		
Pheasant Coucal		
Channel-billed Cuckoo		
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo		
Shining-bronze Cuckoo	Guide Only and After Tour	
Little Bronze Cuckoo		
<i>Frogmouths</i>		
Tawny Frogmouth		
Papuan Frogmouth		
<i>Owlet-nightjars</i>		
Australian Owlet-nightjar		
<i>Swifts</i>		
Australian Swiftlet		
<i>Rails, Gallinules and Coots</i>		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Buff-banded Rail		
Australasian Swamphen		
Dusky Moorhen		
Black-tailed Native-hen		
Tasmanian Native-hen		
<i>Cranes</i>		
Brolga		
<i>Thick-Knees</i>		
Bush Thick-knee		
Beach Thick-knee		
<i>Stilts and Avocets</i>		
Pied Stilt		
<i>Oystercatchers</i>		
Pied Oystercatcher		
Sooty Oystercatcher		
<i>Plovers and Lapwings</i>		
Masked Lapwing		
Red-kneed Dotterel		
Black-fronted Dotterel		
Hooded Plover		
<i>Jacanas</i>		
Comb-crested Jacana		
<i>Sandpipers and Allies</i>		
Whimbrel		
Ruddy Turnstone		
Marsh Sandpiper		
<i>Gulls, Terns and Skimmers</i>		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Silver Gull		
Pacific Gull		
Kelp Gull		
Brown Noddy		
Sooty Tern		
Little Tern		
Black-naped Tern		
Lesser Crested Tern		
Great Crested Tern		
<i>Penguins</i>		
Little Penguin		
<i>Storks</i>		
Black-necked Stork		
<i>Frigatebirds</i>		
Great Frigatebird		
<i>Boobies and Gannets</i>		
Brown Booby		
<i>Anhingas</i>		
Australasian Darter		
<i>Cormorants and Shags</i>		
Little Pied Cormorant		
Great Cormorant		
Little Black Cormorant		
Black-faced Cormorant		
<i>Pelicans</i>		
Australian Pelican		
<i>Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns</i>		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Pacific Heron		
Great Egret		
Intermediate Egret		
Little Egret		
Cattle Egret		
White-faced Heron		
Striated Heron		
<i>Ibis and Spoonbill</i>		
Australian Ibis		
Straw-necked Ibis		
Royal Spoonbill		
Yellow-billed Spoonbill		
<i>Hawks, Eagles and Kites</i>		
Black-shouldered Kite		
Pacific Baza		
Little Eagle		
Wedge-tailed Eagle		
Swamp Harrier	GUIDE ONLY	
Spotted Harrier		
Black Kite		
Whistling Kite		
Brahminy Kite		
White-bellied Sea-eagle		
<i>Owls</i>		
Rufous Owl		
Southern Boobook	GUIDE ONLY	
<i>Kingfishers</i>		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Azure Kingfisher		
Little Kingfisher		
Laughing Kookaburra		
Blue-winged Kookaburra		
Red-backed Kingfisher		
Forest Kingfisher		
Sacred Kingfisher		
<i>Bee-eaters</i>		
Rainbow Bee-eater		
<i>Falcons and Caracaras</i>		
Australian Hobby		
Black Falcon		
Brown Falcon		
Peregrine Falcon		
<i>Cockatoos</i>		
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo		
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo		
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo		
Galah		
Long-billed Corella		
Little Corella		
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo		
Cockatiel		
<i>Old World Parrots</i>		
Australian King Parrot		
Red-winged Parrot		
Bourke's Parrot		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Swift Parrot	Yes	No
Green Rosella	No	Yes
Crimson Rosella	No	Yes
Eastern Rosella	No	Yes
Pale-headed Rosella	Yes	No
Greater Bluebonnet	Yes	No
Mulga Parrot	No	Yes
Budgerigar	No	Yes
Double-eyed Fig Parrot	Yes	No
Rainbow Lorikeet	No	Yes
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	Yes	No
<i>Pittas</i>	No	No
Noisy Pitta	Yes	No
<i>Lyrebirds</i>	No	No
Albert's Lyrebird	No	Yes
<i>Bowerbirds</i>	No	No
Green Catbird	No	Yes
Great Bowerbird	No	Yes
Golden Bowerbird	No	Yes
Regent Bowerbird	No	Yes
Satin Bowerbird	No	Yes
Spotted Bowerbird	Yes	No
<i>Australasian Treecreepers</i>	No	No
White-throated Treecreeper	No	Yes
Brown Treecreeper	No	Yes
<i>Fairywrens</i>	No	No
Purple-backed Fairywren	No	Yes

Species	Seen	Photographed
Variegated Fairywren		
Lovely Fairywren		
Red-backed Fairywren		
White-winged Fairywren		
Splendid Fairywren		
Superb Fairywren		
<i>Honeyeaters</i>		
Eastern Spinebill		
Pied Honeyeater		
Yellow-spotted Honeyeater		
Lewin's Honeyeater		
Cryptic Honeyeater		
Yellow Honeyeater		
Yellow-faced Honeyeater		
Varied Honeyeater		
Noisy Miner		
Yellow-throated Miner		
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater		
Little Wattlebird		
Yellow Wattlebird		
Singing Honeyeater		
White-plumed Honeyeater		
Brown-backed Honeyeater		
Crimson Chat		
Dusky Myzomela		
Scarlet Myzomela		
Brown Honeyeater		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Crescent Honeyeater		
New Holland Honeyeater		
White-cheeked Honeyeater		
Yellow-throated Honeyeater		
Blue-faced Honeyeater		
White-throated Honeyeater		
White-naped Honeyeater		
Black-headed Honeyeater		
Strong-billed Honeyeater		
Macleay's Honeyeater		
Striped Honeyeater		
Painted Honeyeater		
Little Friarbird		
Helmeted Friarbird		
Noisy Friarbird		
<i>Pardalotes</i>		
Spotted Pardalote		
Striated Pardalote		
Forty-spotted Pardalote		
<i>Thornbills and Allies</i>		
Yellow-throated Scrubwren		
White-browed Scrubwren		
Tasmanian Scrubwren		
Atherton Scrubwren	GUIDE ONLY	
Large-billed Scrubwren		
Scrubtit		
Brown Thornbill		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill		
Tasmanian Thornbill		
Yellow-rumped Thornbill		
Yellow Thornbill		
Weebill		
Brown Gerygone		
Fairy Gerygone		
Large-billed Gerygone		
<i>Pseudo-Babblers</i>		
Gray-crowned Babblers		
<i>Logrunners</i>		
Australian Logrunner		
<i>Cuckoo-shrikes</i>		
Barred Cuckooshrike		
Black-faced Cuckooshrike		
White-bellied Cuckooshrike		
White-winged Triller		
Varied Triller		
<i>Whipbirds and Wedgebills</i>		
Eastern Whipbird		
<i>Australo-papuan Babbler</i>		
Crested Bellbird		
<i>Shrike-tits</i>		
Eastern Shrike-tit	GUIDE ONLY	
<i>Whistler's and Allies</i>		
Rufous Shrikethrush		
Gray Shrikethrush		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Bower's Shrikethrush		
Gray Whistler	GUIDE ONLY	
Golden Whistler		
Rufous Whistler		
<i>Old World Orioles</i>		
Olive-backed Oriole		
Green (yellow) Oriole		
Australasian Figbird		
<i>Boatbills</i>		
Yellow-breasted Boatbill		
<i>Woodswallows and Bellmagpies</i>		
White-breasted Woodswallow		
Masked Woodswallow		
White-browed Woodswallow		
Little Woodswallow		
Dusky Woodswallow		
Black-faced Woodswallow		
Pied Butcherbird		
Gray Butcherbird		
Black Butcherbird		
Pied Currawong		
Black Currawong		
Gray Currawong		
Australian Magpie		
<i>Fantails</i>		
Northern Fantail		
Willie-wagtail		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Rufous Fantail		
Gray Fantail		
<i>Drongos</i>		
Spangled Drongo		
<i>Birds-of-Paradise</i>		
Victoria's Riflebird		
<i>Monarch Flycatchers</i>		
White-eared Monarch		
Pied Monarch		
Spectacled Monarch		
Black-faced Monarch		
Magpie-lark		
Restless Flycatcher		
Shining Flycatcher		
<i>White-winged Chough and Apostlebird</i>		
Apostlebird		
White-winged Chough		
<i>Jays, Crows and Magpies</i>		
Torresian Crow		
Australian Raven		
Forest Raven		
<i>Australasian Robins</i>		
Scarlet Robin		
Red-capped Robin		
Flame Robin		
Rose Robin		
Pink Robin		

Species	Seen	Photographed
Hooded Robin		
Dusky Robin		
Pale-yellow Robin		
Eastern Yellow Robin		
White-browed Robin		
Gray-headed Robin		
<i>Cisticolas and Allies</i>		
Golden-headed Cisticola		
<i>Reed Warblers and Allies</i>		
Australian Reed Warbler		
<i>Grassbirds and Allies</i>		
Brown Songlark		
Rufous Songlark		
Tawny Grassbird		
<i>Swallows</i>		
Welcome Swallow		
Fairy Martin		
Tree Martin		
White-backed Swallow		
<i>White-eyes, Yuhinas and Allies</i>		
Silvereye		
<i>Flowerpeckers</i>		
Mistletoebird		
<i>Starlings</i>		
Metallic Starling		
European Starling		
Common Myna		

Species	Seen	Photographed
<i>Thrushes and Allies</i>		
Bassian Thrush		
Eurasian Blackbird		
<i>Sunbirds</i>		
Olive-backed Sunbird		
<i>Waxbills and Allies</i>		
Red-browed Firetail		
Plum-headed Finch		
Zebra Finch		
Double-barred Finch		
Chestnut-breasted Munia		
<i>Wagtails and Pipits</i>		
Australasian Pipit		
<i>Finches, Euphonias and Allies</i>		
European Goldfinch		
<i>Old World Sparrows</i>		
House Sparrow		
Mammals/Other Fauna		
Short-beaked Echidna (8 SIGHTING!!!)		
Duck-billed Platypus		
Northern Brown Bandicoot		
Koala		
Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo		
Agile Wallaby		
Eastern Gray Kangaroo		
Red Kangaroo		
Bennett's Wallaby		



Species	Seen	Photographed
Swamp Wallaby		
Mareeba Rock Wallaby		
Rufous-bellied Pademelon		
Red-necked Pademelon		
Spectacled Flying Fox		
Australian Fur Seal		
European Hare		
European Rabbit		
Black-tipped Reef Shark		
Rusa Deer	GUIDE ONLY	
Common Green Snake		