



Territory Discoveries  
Bird Watching in the Top End Tour  
10-17 September 2012



Trip Report

Bird Watching in the Top End Tour – September 2012

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EXPERIENCE THE WILD

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Guests

Lewis and Jeanette from Sydney  
Bob from Victoria  
Bruce from Canberra  
and Pauline from Golburn





## DAY 1

### 10th September, 2012: Afternoon Bird Highlights & Welcome Dinner

We met up as a group at 2.30pm on Monday 10th September and after brief introductions all round, headed down out to Knuckey Lagoon's. Here we saw a good number of wetland birds, some such as Radjah Shelduck and Pied Heron were lifers for those who had not visited Darwin before.

Then we visited the mangrove boardwalk at East Point, picking up several of the mangrove specialists, then searched the monsoon forest for the Rainbow Pitta. Unfortunately no Pitta was seen or heard, but we did see Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and Agile Wallabies.

We returned to the Novotel, enjoyed some drinks from the Jabiru Bar and did our first bird call for the trip. this was followed by an enjoyable three course meal at the Zest Restaurant.



## SIGHTINGS

### **Location:** Knuckey Lagoons

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*  
Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*  
Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*  
Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*  
Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus*  
Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*  
Hardhead *Aythya australis*  
Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*  
Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*  
Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*  
Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*  
Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*  
Eastern Great Egret *Ardea modesta*  
Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*  
Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*  
Pied Heron *Egretta picata*  
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*  
Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*  
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
Brolga *Grus rubicunda*  
Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseoyornis melanops*  
Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*  
Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*  
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*  
Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*  
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*  
Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*  
Paperbark Flycatcher *Myiagra nana*  
Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

### **Location:** East Point Mangrove Boardwalk

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*  
Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*  
Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*  
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*  
Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*  
Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*  
Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*  
Red-collared Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus rubitoquis*  
Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*  
Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*  
Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster* heard only  
Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*  
Green-backed Gerygone *Gerygone chloronota*  
White-gaped Honeyeater *Lichenostomus unicolor*  
Red-headed Honeyeater *Myzomela erythrocephala*  
Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*  
Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*  
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*  
Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*  
Yellow Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*  
White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*  
Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi* heard only  
Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*  
Paperbark Flycatcher *Myiagra nana*  
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster*

### **Mammals ( 1 )**

Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*

### **Reptiles ( 1 )**

Gilbert's Dragon; Ta-ta Lizard *Amphibolurus gilberti*

### **Location:** East Point Reserve

### **Birds ( 3 )**

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*  
Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*  
Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

### **Mammals ( 1 )**

Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*

### **Location:** Darwin Suburbs

### **Birds ( 3 )**

Pied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*  
Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

## DAY 2

### 11th September, 2012 Highlights: Fogg Dam & Leichhardt Point Sunset

After breakfast at accommodation we headed out to Fogg Dam. Even though the water level is very low at Fogg Dam, particularly from the Pandanus lookout, we still saw 32 species, including a Tawny Frogmouth on it's nest. We had coffee and tea at the Pandanus lookout and then moved on to the Adelaide River Bridge. Here we heard Mangrove Golden Whistler and saw a Buff-sided Robin.

We stopped briefly at the excavation pits near Mary River. Apart from a large number of Diamond Doves and a White-necked Heron, not much else was around. then we had lunch at Mary River Billabong before heading down to Bird Billabong. Being the middle of the day and very hot we didn't spend a lot of time here, but managed to see Northern Rosella, Rufous-throated Honeyeater and Banded Honeyeater.

From there we continued on to Point Stuart Road, and did the Brian Creek Monsoon Forest walk. The area around the forest was severely burnt, and even into the forest a little bit. We heard forest specialists such as Rainbow Pitta, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove and Emerald Dove, but failed to get good views of these.

We arrived at Wildman Wilderness Lodge on time and ready to settle into our accommodation and then head out to Leichhardt Point for sunset drinks and canopés. The way was unfortunately blocked by fallen trees so we pulled up at another nearby wetlands for drinks. On the way back to the resort we saw Bush Stone-curlews.



## SIGHTINGS

**Location:** Arnhem Highway

### **Birds ( 5 )**

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*  
Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*  
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*  
Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

**Location:** Fogg Dam

### **Birds ( 32 )**

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*  
Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*  
Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*  
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina* heard  
Pied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*  
Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides* on nest  
Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*  
Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*  
Pied Heron *Egretta picata*  
Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*  
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*  
Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*  
Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*  
Brolga *Grus rubicunda*  
Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*  
Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*  
Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*  
Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*  
Australian Pratincole *Siltia isabella*  
Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus*  
Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*  
Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*  
Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*  
Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*  
Yellow Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus* heard only  
Black-faced Woodswallow *Artamus cinereus*  
Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* on nest  
Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*  
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster*  
Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*  
Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*

### **Reptiles ( 2 )**

#### **Dragons Agamidae Notes**

Gilbert's Dragon; Ta-ta Lizard *Amphibolurus gilberti*  
Yellow-spotted Monitor *Varanus panoptes*



**Location:** Adelaide River Bridge

### **Birds ( 3 )**

Mangrove Golden Whistler *Pachycephala melanura* heard  
Broad-billed Flycatcher *Myiagra ruficollis*  
Buff-sided Robin *Poecilodryas cerviniventris*

**Bird Billabong**

### **(Birds 9 )**

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* imm.  
Northern Rosella *Platycercus venustus*  
Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*  
Weebill *Smicronis brevirostris*  
Rufous-throated Honeyeater *Conopophila rufogularis*  
Banded Honeyeater *Cissomela pectoralis*  
Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*  
White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*  
Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris* heard

**Location:** Brian Creek Monsoon Forest

### **Birds ( 6 )**

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*  
Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* heard  
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina* heard  
Rainbow Pitta *Pitta iris* heard  
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*  
Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

### **Mammals ( 1 )**

Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*



## DAY 3

### 12th September, 2012 Highlights: Mary River Cruise & Shady Camp

We rose early and met for early morning birding down at the Home Billabong and back for breakfast. then we met up with Kym and travelled down for the Rockhole cruise. this cruise was excellent, with the lotus lilies in their prime, Johnstone's and Estuarine Crocs and plenty of water birds. we had lunch back at camp then drove down to Shady Camp. The highlight of this trip were the three Australian Bustards seen on the Point Sturt Road on the way back.

We went out to Leichhardt Point, this time via a different route, and three of had a glimpse of a Rufous Owl.

After an enjoyable dinner and bird count we retired to bed for another early start the following morning.



## SIGHTINGS

**Location:** Point Stuart Road  
Sightings made on trip to Shady Camp

Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis*  
Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus*  
Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*  
Black-tailed Treecreeper *Climacteris melanura*  
Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*  
Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*  
Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*  
Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

Wildman Wilderness Resort

### **Birds (55)**

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*  
Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*  
Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*  
Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*  
Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus*  
Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*  
Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*  
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*  
Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*  
Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*  
Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*  
Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*  
Eastern Great Egret *Ardea modesta*  
Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*  
Pied Heron *Egretta picata*  
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*  
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*  
Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*  
Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*  
White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*  
Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*  
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*  
Brown Falcon *Falco berigora* At Leichardt Point  
Brolga *Grus rubicunda*  
Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*  
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*  
Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*  
Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*  
Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*  
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*  
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*  
Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea*  
Red-collared Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus rubitorquus*  
Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*  
Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*  
Rufous Owl *Ninox rufa* Seen and heard at Leichardt Point  
Barking Owl *Ninox connivens* Heard only, at Leichardt Point  
Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*  
Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*  
White-gaped Honeyeater *Lichenostomus unicolor*  
Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*  
Dusky Honeyeater *Myzomela obscura*  
White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*  
Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*  
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*  
Varied Triller *Lalage leucomele*  
Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*  
Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*  
Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula* male  
Paperbark Flycatcher *Myiagra nana*  
Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*  
Australasian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

### **Mammals**

Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*

### **Reptiles**

Johnstone's Crocodile *Crocodylus johnstoni*  
Estuarine Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*

**Location:** Shady Camp

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*  
Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*  
Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*  
Eastern Great Egret *Ardea modesta*  
Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*  
Striated Heron *Butorides striata*  
Pied Heron *Egretta picata*  
Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*  
Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*  
Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus*  
Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*  
Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*  
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*  
Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*  
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*  
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster*

## DAY 4

### 13th September, 2012 Highlights: Billabong Cruise & Kakadu National Park

The Home Billabong Cruise began at dawn, with the early morning light engulfed in a combination of fog and smoke haze. The cruise on the billabong was nevertheless beautiful with highlights being lovely views of two Azure Kingfishers and White-bellied Sea-eagles in pursuit of one another and honking.

After breakfast we packed up and headed to Kakadu, with a brief stop at South Alligator River then on to the Mamukala wetlands birdhide.

We had lunch at Ubirr and got good views of a pair of Varied Lorikeets feeding in the treetop near Cahill's crossing. On the Manggarre monsoon forest walk we had glimpses of the Rainbow Pitta and later, at the Bardedjildji Sandstone walk we searched for the Chestnut-quilled Rock-pigeon. We dipped out on the walk but then and got great views on the roadside as we drove out.

We arrived at our accommodation at Coinda after dark and saw Bush Stone-curlew as we arrived. We were given a very pleasant welcome, sat down to nice dinner, and reviewed our sightings for the day.



## SIGHTINGS

**Location:**Home Billabong Cruise with Kym.  
All the usual water birds seen with the following notable ones

Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis* One seen in breeding plumage  
Striated Heron *Butorides striata* observed catching flies  
White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* Pair observed chasing each other and honking  
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*  
Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus* Great views of two  
Rainbow Pitta *Pitta iris* Heard only  
Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

**Location:**Mamukala

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*  
Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*  
Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*  
Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*  
Hardhead *Aythya australis* 70+ seen  
Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*  
Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*  
Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*  
Eastern Great Egret *Ardea modesta*  
Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*  
White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*  
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*  
Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*  
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*  
Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus*  
Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*  
Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*  
Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*  
Paperbark Flycatcher *Myiagra nana*  
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster*

**Location:**Ubirr

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus* Nesting on Arnhemland side of river  
Varied Lorikeet *Psitteuteles versicolor* Two seen feeding at the top of *Melaleucas* near Cahills Crossing

**Location:** Manggarre Monsoon Forest Walk

Rainbow Pitta *Pitta iris*  
Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

**Mammals**

Black Flying-fox *Pteropus alecto*  
Little-red Flying-fox *Pteropus scapulatus*

**Reptiles**

Estuarine Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*





## DAY 5

### 14th September, 2012 Highlights: Yellow Waters Sunset Cruise

After an early breakfast we head off for Burrungui and search for more escarpment endemics. We succeed in finding White-lined Honeyeater and Partridge Pigeon but dip on Banded Fruit-Dove and Sandstone Shrike-thrush. We get a brief glimpse of the lone Rainbow Pitta flying overhead after calling repeatedly for some time. We had some great views of a male and female Black Wallaroo.

We enjoyed a picnic lunch at Anbangbang Billabong and went back to Coinda. Most of us needed a rest so we had a break until it was time to join the 4.30pm Yellow Waters Cruise. This was a highlight for the whole trip! We had the 'Balanda', eight seat fishing vessel, for our exclusive use. Our skipper, Margaret, did a great job taking us around the Yellow Waters billabong and South Alligator River. There were great views of Little Kingfishers, a pair of Barking Owl, and a Buff-sided Robin, as well as all the usual water birds. Dozens of Brolga and Magpie Geese filled the sky on sunset.



## SIGHTINGS

### **Location:** Burrungui

Partridge Pigeon *Geophaps smithii*  
Rainbow Pitta *Pitta iris* Lone bird, seen flying overhead after long wait and watch  
Great Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus nuchalis*  
White-lined Honeyeater *Meliphaga albilineata*  
Dusky Honeyeater *Myzomela obscura*  
Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides* Sandstone race  
Silver-crowned Friarbird *Philemon argenteiceps*  
Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*  
Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus* Two near nest  
Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*

### **Mammals**

Black Wallaroo *Macropus bernardus*  
Great views of one male, females and joey

### Yellow Waters Cruise

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*  
Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*  
Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*  
Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus*  
Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*  
Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*  
Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*  
Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*  
Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*  
Eastern Great Egret *Ardea modesta*  
Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*  
Striated Heron *Butorides striata*  
Pied Heron *Egretta picata*  
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*  
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*  
White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*  
Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*  
Brolga *Grus rubicunda* 25+. Beautiful views of Brolgas flying over in front of sunset  
Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*  
Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*  
Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea* Many seen, including a male with 3 chicks, two being held under his wings while the third tried to find a way to get in too  
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*  
Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*  
Barking Owl *Ninox connivens* Two flew to tree at riverside then moved on  
Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus* 6 seen  
Little Kingfisher *Ceyx pusilla* At least two individuals  
Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*  
Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*  
Arafura Fantail *Rhipidura dryas*  
Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*  
Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*  
Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*  
Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*  
Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*  
Paperbark Flycatcher *Myiagra nana*  
Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*  
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster*  
Buff-sided Robin *Poecilodryas cerviniventris*

### **Mammals**

Horse *Equus caballus*

### **Reptiles**

Estuarine Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*  
Gilbert's Dragon; Ta-ta Lizard *Amphibolurus gilberti*



## DAY 6

15th September, 2012 Highlights: Pine Creek & Katherine

We left Coinda early and travelled along the Kakadu Highway towards Pine Creek. Our first main stop was Edith Falls creek, where we staked out a vantage point over the water in the hopes of seeing some Gouldian Finches coming to drink. We did see some juveniles, and planned to get back to the same location early the next morning.

Some of us enjoyed a swim at Edith Falls and we had lunch. Special sightings here included Yellow-tinted Honeyeater.

After lunch we headed down to Mataranka in the hopes of seeing the rare Red Goshawk. We saw it's nest but the bird was nowhere in sight. We did see a White-bellied Sea-eagle feeding on carrion on the side of the highway! We travelled back to Katherine where we stayed at Knott's Crossing for the night.



## SIGHTINGS

**Location:**  
Kakadu Highway

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*  
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*  
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*  
Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus*  
Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*  
Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*  
Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*  
White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*  
Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*  
Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*  
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*  
White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*  
Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*

**Location:**Stuart Highway  
White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*  
Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*  
Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

**Location:** Edith Falls  
Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*  
Striated Heron *Butorides striata*  
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
Varied Lorikeet *Psitteuteles versicolor*  
Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*  
Great Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus nuchalis showing crest*  
Weebill *Smicromis brevirostris*  
Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*  
White-gaped Honeyeater *Lichenostomus unicolor*  
Yellow-tinted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus flavescens*  
White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*  
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*  
White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*  
Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*  
Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*  
Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*  
Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*  
Paperbark Flycatcher *Myiagra nana*  
Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*  
Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*  
Long-tailed Finch *Poephila acuticauda*  
Masked Finch *Poephila personata*  
Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*  
jGouldian Finch *Erythrura gouldiae juveniles only*

**Location:** Mataranka  
Varied Lorikeet *Psitteuteles versicolor*  
Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*  
Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

**Reptiles**  
Keelback *Tropidonophis mairii* in water at Bitter Springs





## DAY 7

### 16th September, 2012 Highlights: Katherine to Darwin

Again, an early start, in the hopes of getting to Edith Fall's Creek in time to see birds coming to drink. We did see Gouldians and one female Hooded Parrot. Pauline spotted a mature Black headed morph amongst the immature Gouldians.

Next we visited Ferguson River which was dominated by Friarbirds, but there were some Banded Honeyeaters, then we went on to Pine Creek. No Hooded Parrots to be seen this time but we got nice views of Grey-crowned Babblers in the town sports ground. After a lunch stop near Bridge Creek we continued on our way back towards Darwin, with a swimming stop at the beautiful Berry Springs.

Then we visited Howard Springs and managed to get good views of a Rainbow Pitta at last! And a brief glimpse of a Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove... Then it was back to the Novotel for the last night in Darwin for most of the group.



## SIGHTINGS

### **Location:** Edith Falls

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*  
Nankeen Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*  
Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*  
Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*  
female or immature Hooded Parrot *Psephotus dissimilis*  
Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*  
Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*  
Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*  
Great Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus nuchalis*  
Weebill *Smicromnis brevirostris*  
White-gaped Honeyeater *Lichenostomus unicolor*  
Yellow-tinted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus flavescens*  
Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*  
Banded Honeyeater *Cissomela pectoralis*  
White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*  
White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*  
Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*  
Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*  
Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*  
Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*  
Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*  
Gouldian Finch *Erythrura gouldiae* mostly immature, one mature black headed male seen by Pauline

### **Location:** Ferguson River

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*  
Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*  
Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*  
Banded Honeyeater *Cissomela pectoralis*  
Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*  
White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*  
Silver-crowned Friarbird *Philemon argenteiceps*  
Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*  
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*  
Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*

### **Location:** Pine Creek

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*  
Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*  
Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*  
White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*  
Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieillotii*  
Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*

### **Location:** Bridge Creek

Lunch spot next to small lake  
Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*  
Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*  
Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*  
Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*  
Black-fronted Dotterel *Elsayornis melanops*  
Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*  
Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*  
Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*

### **Location:** Berry Springs

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*  
Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*  
Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*  
Yellow Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*  
Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*  
Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

### **Location:** Howard Springs

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*  
Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*  
Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina* Brief glimpses in tree top, only view for the trip though we heard them in many places  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*  
Rainbow Pitta *Pitta iris* Nice views at last!  
White-gaped Honeyeater *Lichenostomus unicolor*  
Dusky Honeyeater *Myzomela obscura*  
Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*  
Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarrhyncha*  
Yellow Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*  
Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*



## DAY 8

17th September, 2012 Highlights: Depart Darwin

With the usual early start, we head down to Buffalo Creek and search out shorebirds, mangrove specialists and monsoon forest birds, all occurring in the near vicinity of our stop. We had an impromptu snake rescue when the women's toilet was found to be occupied by a lovely Common Tree Snake.

Then there was a great view of some Red-winged Parrots in the ficus trees near the main carpark area. We heard but did not see at least one Chestnut Rail.

Then we went up to Lee Point and were amazed to see a Lesser Frigatebird flying directly overhead! From there we went down to Rapid Creek and were treated to an impromptu presentation of Aboriginal culture by a traditional owner from the Blue Mud Bay area in Arnhemland. We saw quite a few birds in the area too, bringing our total sightings for the trip to 156 by my reckoning. (This number includes the ones heard only)

So then it was back to the Novotel for a 12.00pm check out, bringing the tour to a close. It was a great tour and a pleasure to lead, we started as strangers and finished as friends. It will be nice to remain in touch.



A \*star\* bird we would like to have seen more of...

## SIGHTINGS

### Location: Buffalo Creek

Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae* - In the mangroves next to the creek  
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* - On the beach  
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* - In the mangroves  
Chestnut Rail *Eulabeornis castaneiventris* - Heard calling strongly but not able to see in the mangroves  
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* - On the beach, one seen in breeding plumage  
Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*  
Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*  
Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*  
On the beach Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*  
Red-collared Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus rubitorquis*  
Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* - Great views, perched high in the branches but in clear view  
Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chalcites minutillus* - In the mangroves  
Red-headed Honeyeater *Myzomela erythrocephala*  
Yellow Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*

### Location: Lee Point

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* - 1 Flying over  
Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*  
Black Kite *Milvus migrans* - huge numbers  
Sooty Oystercatcher *Haematopus fuliginosus*  
Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*  
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*  
Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*  
Red-collared Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus rubitorquis*  
Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*  
Dusky Honeyeater *Myzomela obscura*  
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*  
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

**Location:** Rapid Creek - Met Conway Bush-Blanasi, from Blue Mud Bay, who gave us a short, dynamic overview of his culture first hand. And then we met Charlie and Ricki Yunupingu, who pointed out the Tawny Frogmouths to us.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*  
Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*  
Pied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*  
Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides* - 2 Perched in Casuarinas  
Striated Heron *Butorides striata*  
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*  
Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*  
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*  
Red-collared Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*  
Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus* - heard only  
Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*  
Mangrove Gerygone *Gerygone levigaster* heard only  
White-gaped Honeyeater *Lichenostomus unicolor*  
Red-headed Honeyeater *Myzomela erythrocephala*  
Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*  
Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*  
Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*  
Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*  
Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* - pair  
Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*  
Long-tailed Finch *Poephila acuticauda*







