



RAINFOREST RETREAT, VILLAS
& LOST WORLD SPA

AUTUMN BIRDING WEEK

MARCH 8TH - 13TH, 2009

Autumn Birding provides an opportunity to see many of the great birds of this famous area in comfortable autumn conditions. The program caters for birders of any local experience, from the novice to the seasoned spotter chasing the Lamington specialities.

LEADERS

TIM O'REILLY

As a regular guide at O'Reilly's, and a third generation family member, Tim is an expert at knowing where those difficult birds are hiding. He guides many overseas birding groups during the year, and his experience and easy-going style are appreciated by birders.

GLEN TRELFO

Glen's natural ability in the field is such that his groups are often rewarded with special sightings. His enthusiasm is infectious and he willingly shares his love of the natural world with guests.

THINGS TO BRING

- binoculars
- torch
- bird guide
- rain coat
- birding clothing (not too bright)
- camera
- a protective hat

Sometimes the nights can be a bit cool, so make sure you pack a warm coat!



SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH

- 2:00 pm Welcome to Autumn Birding 2009 - meet the leaders and fellow participants in the Theatre for an overview of the program.
- 2:30 pm **Introduction to the Birds of O'Reilly's (2 hours)** – an amble around the Guesthouse grounds and local rainforest tracks to become familiar with the locals.
- 4:30 pm **Afternoon tea birding!** – you'll be amazed at what a good bird list can be achieved sitting outside and enjoying a good cuppa!
- 5:15 pm **Dusk in the Canopy (1 hour)** – typically quiet early to mid-afternoon, the rainforest delivers a final chorus as the day nears an end. This evening we'll take a stroll along our famous Canopy Walk to witness the spectacle.
- 6:30 pm Dinner

MONDAY, MARCH 9TH

- 6:30 am **Pre-breakfast bird walk (1½ hours)** – an easy walk along the Border Track to take in the early morning activity.
- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am **Birds of the High Eucalypt Forest (3 ½ hours)**
We'll take a bus along the Duck Creek Road and into to the eucalypt country looking for **Spotted Quail-thrush**, **Red-browed Treecreeper** and maybe a **Glossy Black-Cockatoo**.
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm **Walk to Moran's Falls via the Wishing Tree (2½ km one way, bus return, 2 hours)**
This easy downhill walk passes through beautiful rainforest, home to **Logrunners** and **Paradise Riflebirds**, with some grassy edges around the creek and eucalypts near the falls.
- 6:30 pm Dinner

TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH

- 6:00 am Breakfast
- 6:30 am **The Kerry Valley: Farmland, Forest and Lagoons**
The Kerry Valley and Beaudesert areas boast a range of habitat that are home to a great variety of species. There are great patches of eucalypt woodland that have such dry country species as **Speckled Warbler** and **Striped Honeyeater**. We'll visit the low-level rainforest of Cainbale Creek for **White-eared Monarch**, **Little Shrike-thrush** and **Varied Triller**. These valleys are also dotted with dams and lagoons that attract a multitude of **waterbirds**. We'll get to the valley early to make the most of these bird-rich pockets before heading home for a late lunch.
- 1:30 pm Lunch
- 3:00 pm **Luke's Bluff bus trip (2 hours)**
The escarpment at Luke's Bluff is not only a spectacular spot but is also home to our resident pair of **Tawny Frogmouths** and a good spot for a **raptor watch**: **Peregrine Falcons** nest in the adjacent cliffs, while **Wedge-tailed Eagles** and **Grey Goshawks** are often seen soaring over the valley. We'll enjoy a cup of billy tea as we search.
- 6:30 pm Dinner
- 8:00 pm **Mid-week Bird Count** – you might be surprised how many species you've seen already.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH

- 6:30 am **Bradfield's farm bus trip** – the Hoop Pine forest near Bradfield's Farm is home to **Yellow Thornbills** and other species of the dry rainforest such as **Spectacled Monarch** and **Varied Triller**.
- 6:30 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am **Python Rock (3.4 km, 3 hours)**
Python Rock track passes through some of the best birding rainforest in Lamington and is home to George the **Albert's Lyrebird** as well as some **Paradise Riflebird** territories. Some eucalypt-dwelling species may be found near the escarpment while **Grey Goshawk** is always a possibility from the lookout.
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 2:30 pm **Moonlight Crag and Balancing Rock bus trip (2 hours)** – these areas offer rainforest edge, wet eucalypt forest and escarpment, giving as a range of species to look for and spectacular views.
- 6:30 pm Dinner
- 8:00 pm **Nocturnal Bird Search**
Tonight we're going to try for a couple of nocturnal species, **Southern Boobook** in the guesthouse grounds and that elusive dweller of the rainforest canopy, **Marbled Frogmouth**.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH

- 8:00 am **Coastal Lagoons and Swamps (lunch out)**
Today we'll head coastward to pick up several new species for our list. We'll visit the lagoons of the Canungra Valley and dry forest of Tamborine Village before heading east to several excellent waterholes and mangrove areas. This will be a relaxing day with plenty of good birds.
- 6:30 pm **Autumn Birding Final Dinner, Awards and Feedback Session**
After a busy week, tonight it's time to relax and reflect on all we've done and seen through Autumn Birding 2009. We'll be presenting the prestigious AB awards and also talking about the most enjoyable aspects of the week and any suggestions for next year.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH

- 6:30 am **Early morning in the eucalypts** - on our final morning we'll spend this great time of the day with the birds of the eucalypt forest along the Belson's Lookout road.
- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am **Friday morning 'clean up' (3 ½ hours)**
This morning we'll endeavour to catch up with any of the local species that have eluded us this week. Any special requests are welcome.
- 12:15 pm **Final species count**
Time to reflect on an enjoyable week with many great sightings. I'm sure the list for the five days will be impressive, and I hope everyone learnt a bit more about some of Australia's wonderful birds. See you next year!

Please note that this program is subject to change without notice

** Registration fee applies*



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For enquiries or bookings, please contact
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