



Summary of the Inaugural O'Reilly's Wildlife Week – January 2008

Vertebrate species recorded:

Mammals	37 species (35 native and two introduced species)
Birds	113 species (110 native and three introduced species)
Reptiles	23 species (22 native and one introduced species)
Frogs	23 species (22 native and one introduced species)

The first official 'Wildlife Week' was held at O'Reilly's from 21-26 January 2008. After 13 years of running 'Mammal Week' at O'Reilly's and almost the same number of 'Frog Weeks', this year the two events were blended, with reptiles and the odd bird thrown in for good measure, and a larger than usual team of four leaders was assembled to direct all the action. The resulting extravaganza was a resounding success!

The McPherson Range straddling the Queensland-New South Wales border is well recognised as being a biodiversity hotspot and so O'Reilly's, which sits atop this range like an island in a sea of Lamington National Park's forests, is a perfect place to hold an event celebrating the bountiful wildlife on offer. However, the problem when planning a program that aims to sample as much wildlife as possible is not finding things to do but deciding what activities to leave out. Even with what seemed a practical schedule, leaders and participants soon found that 24 hours a day were not enough, and day and night tended to merge into each other with remarkable regularity!

The main focus was on mammals, frogs and reptiles, with many of the species from these groups being recorded by using various live trapping techniques over the six days. In fact, without the specialised survey equipment and methods, it would not have been possible to get close and personal to so much of our normally nocturnal or otherwise cryptic fauna, including an amazing array of insectivorous bats. More than enough of nature's goodies were on offer to keep interest levels running high. Amid the general diversity of creatures, participants experienced first hand some of Queensland's threatened and hard-to-come-by species such as Long-nosed Potoroo, Large-eared Pied Bat, Stephens' Banded Snake, Fleay's Barred Frog and Pouched Frog.



Fleay's Barred Frog

A special feature of Lamington National Park and the subject of a special monitoring program each January – the Hastings River Mouse – went undetected this year, along with its close cousin the Eastern Chestnut Mouse. The most likely cause, whether direct or indirect, was a hot wildfire shortly after last year’s trapping program. Time will tell whether this threatened rodent is able to make a reappearance in the open forest along Duck Creek Road. Nevertheless, the efforts of Wildlife Week participants in setting and checking traps at the monitoring site each day made a valuable contribution to ongoing research aimed at determining the ecological conditions favoured by the species in Queensland.

Given that O’Reilly’s already holds two dedicated birding events each year, sampling the area’s ornithological delights was more of a sideline activity, and most birds were added to the week’s list incidentally while the group was engaged in other activities. Memorable sightings included some particularly obliging individuals: a ‘tame’ Albert’s Lyrebird along the Main Border Track and an Australian Owlet-nightjar perched over the mountain road allowing everyone full views through a spotting scope. Even species that often prove difficult to find during ~~Wildlife Week~~ – Painted Button-quail, Emerald Dove, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Barn Owl and Spotted Quail-thrush – were recorded along the way.



Albert's Lyrebird



Australian Owlet-nightjar

For those with a hankering for detail, a complete summary of the mammal, frog and reptile species recorded during the week, together with other fauna captured in the traps, is provided on the following pages.

The program for next year is already being prepared, with some tweaking to ensure that the second time around there should be more sleep and more species. So come along and experience the wonder of Wildlife Week in 2009!



Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Method	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A1	B1	C1	D1	E1	Total			
Mammals (cont.)																																						
Pteropodidae																																						
Black Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus alecto</i>	Lc	S																																		-	
Grey-headed Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Lc	S																																		-	
Rhinolophidae																																						
Eastern Horseshoe-bat	<i>Rhinolophus megaphyllus</i>	Lc	B		4				2																												6	
Molossidae																																						
White-striped Freetail Bat	<i>Tadarida australis</i>	Lc	He	✓												✓													✓	✓			✓				-	
Miniopteridae																																						
Little Bent-wing Bat	<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Lc	B		1				2						5																						9	
Vespertilionidae																																						
Large-eared Pied Bat	<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	R	B												1																						1	
Gould's Wattled Bat	<i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i>	Lc	B																								1										1	
Eastern False Pipistrelle	<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	Lc	B												3																						3	
Golden-tipped Bat	<i>Kerivoula papuensis</i>	R	B												1																						1	
Large-footed Myotis	<i>Myotis macropus</i>	Lc	Ha																																✓		-	
Gould's Long-eared Bat	<i>Nyctophilus gouldi</i>	Lc	B		5										2												4										11	
Large Forest Bat	<i>Vespadelus darlingtoni</i>	Lc	B		17				4						16												32										69	
Eastern Forest Bat	<i>Vespadelus pumilus</i>	Lc	B												8												6										14	
Muridae																																						
Water Rat	<i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i>	Lc	C						1																												1	
Fawn-footed Melomys	<i>Melomys cervinipes</i>	Lc	E,S					4																		✓											4	
Bush Rat	<i>Rattus fuscipes</i>	Lc	C,E	1				8	1																	8											18	
Swamp Rat	<i>Rattus lutreolus</i>	Lc	E																								13										13	
Canidae																																						
Dingo	<i>Canis lupus dingo</i>	I	S	✓																																	-	
Leporidae																																						
European Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	I	S																																✓		-	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Method	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A1	B1	C1	D1	E1	Total		
Reptiles																																					
Gekkonidae																																					
Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	I	Ha																																✓		-
Robust Velvet Gecko	<i>Oedura robusta</i>	Lc	Ha																															✓		-	
Southern Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Saltuarius swaini</i>	Lc	Ha,S	✓		✓																				✓										-	
Agamidae																																					
Eastern Water Dragon	<i>Physignathus lesueurii</i>	Lc	S						✓																											-	
Scincidae																																					
Beech Skink	<i>Harrisoniascincus zia</i>	Lc	P					1																												1	
Major Skink	<i>Egernia frerei</i>	Lc	E								1															6									7		
Land Mullet	<i>Egernia major</i>	Lc	Ha,S				✓	✓																												-	
Eastern Water Skink	<i>Eulamprus quoyii</i>	Lc	S	✓			✓	✓																												-	
Martin's Bar-sided Skink	<i>Eulamprus martini</i>	Lc	S								✓																									-	
Murray's Skink	<i>Eulamprus murrayi</i>	Lc	Ha,S			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓																							-	
Friendly Sunskink	<i>Lampropholis amricula</i>	Lc	P																										6						6		
Dark-flecked Garden Sunskink	<i>Lampropholis delicata</i>	Lc	F,Ha,S	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓														✓		1							1		
Short-limbed Snake-skink	<i>Ophioscincus truncatus</i>	R	Ha					✓																											-		
Three-toed Skink	<i>Saiphos equalis</i>	Lc	P																									1							1		
shadeskinks ²	<i>Saproscincus</i> spp.	Lc/R	Ha,S					✓			✓	✓	✓																						-		
Boidae																																					
Carpet Python	<i>Morelia spilota</i>	Lc	Ha																															✓		-	
Colubridae																																					
Brown Tree Snake	<i>Boiga irregularis</i>	Lc	Ha																															✓		-	
Elapidae																																					
Dwarf Crowned Snake	<i>Cacophis krefftii</i>	Lc	Ha								✓																									-	
Black-bellied Swamp Snake	<i>Hemiaspis signata</i>	Lc	R,S				✓																													-	
Stephens' Banded Snake	<i>Hoplocephalus stephensii</i>	R	Ha																															✓		-	
Red-bellied Black Snake	<i>Pseudechis porphyriacus</i>	Lc	S			✓				✓																										-	
Eastern Brown Snake	<i>Pseudonaja textilis</i>	Lc	Ha																															✓		-	
Rough-scaled Snake	<i>Tropidechis carinatus</i>	Lc	S																														✓		-		

²Three species of *Saproscincus* (Challenger Shadeskink *S. challengerii*, Rose's Shadeskink *S. rosei* and Gully Shadeskink *S. spectabilis*) occur in the forests near O'Reilly's but making a positive identification would require taking a series of voucher specimens for the Queensland Museum. As a consequence, no attempt was made to differentiate between these species and the three are lumped together in this list.

Search locations and survey effort

Total trapping effort:

1,150 Elliott trap-nights* (ETN)	For microbats only -
100 cage trap-nights (CTN)	23 bat trap-nights (BTN)
90 pitfall trap-nights (PTN)	
30 funnel trap-nights (FTN)	(*A trap-night is one trap set for one night)

Location codes:

Site codes used in the preceding tables refer to the locations listed below. General habitat information is provided in brackets and, where relevant, the total trapping effort at particular sites is indicated (see abbreviations above).

A	O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat and environs (buildings, lawns, trees and rainforest edge) – 12 CTN
B	Old roadway to start of Tree Top Walk (rainforest) – 9 BTN
C	Botanic Gardens (cultivated garden set in rainforest)
D	Main Border Track and Elabana Falls Track to Picnic Rock (rainforest and stream)
E	Upper Wishing Tree Track (rainforest) – 50 ETN, 12 CTN, 40 PTN
F	Morans Creek beside lower Wishing Tree Track (stream through rainforest) – 4 CTN, 6 BTN
G	Morans Creek near Red Road crossing (stream through regenerating rainforest) – 4 CTN, 2 BTN
H	QPWS car park area (rainforest and regenerating rainforest)
I	Morans Falls Track (rainforest and moist eucalypt forest with stream)
J	Python Rock Track (rainforest and moist eucalypt forest)
K	Old Pats Bluff Track (rainforest)
L	Luke's Farm Road (rainforest) – 2 BTN
M	Stockyard Creek near lower boundary of Luke's Farm (stream through pasture and rainforest)
N	Lamington National Park Road between Python Rock Track car park and Duck Creek Road junction (rainforest)
O	Lamington National Park Road near Bradfield's Farm (rainforest at edge of pasture, incl. pond)
P	Lamington National Park Road at Alpaca farm (cleared land adjacent to rainforest)
Q	Charlie's Waterhole and small pool adjacent to Lamington National Park Road below Alpaca farm (swampy ponds set in dry rainforest)
R	Lamington National Park Road from Mt Cainbale area to lower mountain slopes (eucalypt forest)
S	'Lake Cainbale' adjacent to Lamington National Park Road (dam in eucalypt forest)
T	Beechmont Road, Witheren (treed gully in rural residential area)
U	Biddadaba and Boyland areas (cleared farmland)
V	Upper Duck Creek Road near start of Cainbale Falls track (rainforest) – 20 CTN
W	Upper Duck Creek Road just inside rainforest/eucalypt forest ecotone (rainforest)
X	Upper Duck Creek Road west of ecotone (eucalypt forest) – 1100 ETN, 48 CTN, 4 BTN
Y	Kurrajong Lookout Road near turnoff on Duck Creek Road (eucalypt forest)
Z	Rose and Joe's Dam area (dam and surrounding slopes in eucalypt forest) – 50 PTN, 30 FTN
A1	Duck Creek Road from Kerry Lookout to Mick's Ridge (eucalypt forest and woodland)
B1	Lower Duck Creek Road at Wyers Crossing (stream through cleared farmland)
C1	Darlington Park, Kerry Valley (treed parkland adjacent to river)
D1	Kerry Valley from Darlington Park north to Nindooibah House Road (mostly cleared farmland, including culvert under road)
E1	Beaudesert outskirts (mostly cleared farmland)