



# Wet Tropics

## Birding Tour — 4 days

Eyes on Wildlife

PO Box 839

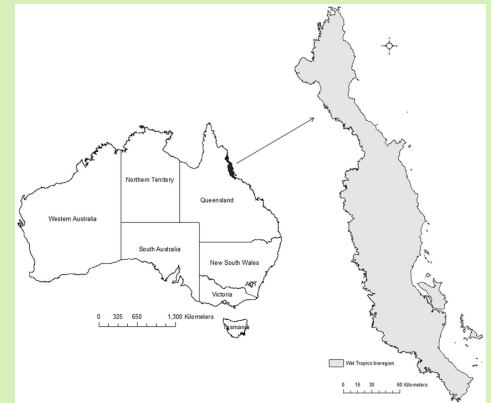
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The **Wet Tropics Bioregion of Queensland** in Australia is an area with an enormous diversity in fauna and flora. The larger part of this Bioregion was listed as World Heritage Area in 1988. There are more than 300 bird species that call the Wet Tropics home at least some time of the year. More than 150 species of reptiles, 40+ species of marsupials, 2 monotremes and more than 30 species of bats can be found in this relatively small area. Twenty-one species of frog are endemic to this area. The bioregion is also home to almost 60% of all butterflies that can be found in Australia. The Wet Tropics is the place to be to see Australian fern species with more than 60% of all Australian species found just there. It has the highest concentration (12 of the 19) of primitive flowering plant families (angiosperms) in the world. Imagine spending 5 days looking for birds in this special part of the world!



### Day 1 – Cairns - Atherton Tablelands

Pick up from your accommodation for a 7am start (or earlier) of our birding day in the Cairns area. We'll visit shore, mangroves, paperbark swamp and other coastal habitat to look for Mangrove Robin, Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, Crimson Finch, **Double-eyed Fig-parrot**, Olive-backed Sunbird, Papuan Frogmouth, Beach Stone-Curlew, Bush Stone-Curlew, Rose-crowned Fruit-dove, Torresian Kingfisher, Comb-crested Jacana, Varied Honeyeater and plenty of waders. Making our way to Innisfail for lunch, we'll look for Shining Flycatcher and Azure Kingfisher.

After lunch, we'll try to get close-up with **Southern Cassowary** in the Innisfail area. Late afternoon, we'll drive to the Atherton Tablelands for accommodation check-in. Stopping along the way a few times to find our first Wet Tropics endemics. During our first nocturnal tour (2.5 hrs) starting just after dinner, we'll target our Wet Tropics endemic **Lesser Sooty Owl**, try for the Wet Tropics subspecies of Southern Boobook (AKA Little Red Boobook) and we may get to see Eastern Barn Owl and Eastern Grass Owl.

Accommodation: Atherton Tablelands

### Day 2 – Atherton Tablelands

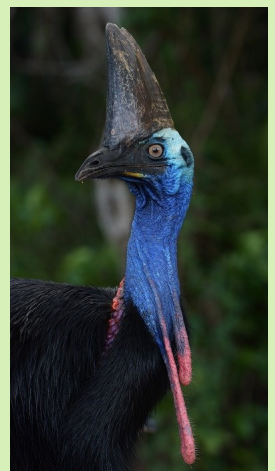
A visit to the local swamp will get us some ducks and other waterfowl. Latham's Snipe (depending on the time of the year) and Buff-banded Rail are possible there too. Swamp Harrier, Whistling Kite and sometimes even White-bellied Sea-eagle frequent the swamp looking for prey.

Visiting wet and dry sclerophyll forest will allow us to pick up some more birds: Noisy Friarbird, Dusky Woodswallow, White-cheeked Honeyeater, **Pacific Baza**, **Spotted Pardalote**, Brown Goshawk, Fuscous Honeyeater and possibly Painted Button-quail and Crested Shrike-tit amongst others.

We'll end our morning with a visit upland rainforest around Atherton to look for some of the Wet Tropics endemics like **Victoria's Riflebird**, **Golden Bowerbird**, Bridled Honeyeater and **Pied Monarch**. Both Sarus Crane and Brolga will be around foraging on farm land between July and late November.

After a brief after-lunch rest, we'll visit some more rainforest to try for Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Wompoo Fruit-dove, Pale-yellow Robin, Chowchilla, Spotted Catbird and Eastern Whip-bird. After dinner, we'll go looking for Australian Owlet-nightjar, Rufous owl and White-throated Nightjar (depending on the time of the year).

Accommodation: Atherton Tablelands



## Day 3 – Atherton Tablelands — Carbine Tablelands

We'll start our day's birding in drier savannah country in the Mareeba area. Double-barred Finch, Pale-headed Rosella, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Striated Pardalote, Blue-winged Kookaburra, **Squatter Pigeon** and **Black-throated Finch** are some of the birds we'll get in drier habitats.

In the afternoon we'll explore the grounds of our accommodation. From late November Buff-breasted Paradise-kingfisher are common around the lodge, and the larger area. Red-necked Crake is often heard, and will sometimes show itself. **Lovely Fairy-wren** is around as well. Late afternoon, we'll target Australian Bustard, Red-winged Parrot, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Cryptic Honeyeater and other honeyeaters.

After dinner, we will go out for another nocturnal session to try and find the Wet Tropics subspecies of Southern Boobook, AKA Little Red Boobook and we might get Barking Owl and we'll have another go at Australian Owlet-nightjar.

Accommodation: Carbine Tablelands

## Day 4– Carbine Tablelands — Cairns

The final morning of our tour will be spent on Mt Lewis after having checked some local birding spots. From late December we might get Blue-faced Parrot-finch, but other species we'll be looking for (anytime of the year) are Bassian Thrush, our Wet Tropics endemic Spotted Catbird, Mountain Thornbill, Fernwren, **Chowchilla**, and Tooth-billed Bowerbird. We might come across Golden Bowerbird again, get Crimson Rosella, Satin Bowerbird, Red-browed Finch and maybe Superb Fruit-dove and Barred Cuckoo-shrike.

After lunch we'll make our way back to Cairns and stop along the way at birding hotspots. We'll have a look for more waders, but also for Comb-crested Jacana, Little Kingfisher, Crimson Finch, Brahminy Kite, Little Bronze-cuckoo and Olive-backed Sunbird, among others.

End of tour at 18.00hrs in Cairns.

## Tour dates, start/end

*This tour can be booked anytime of the year*, pending availability.

Start in Cairns at 7.00 hrs or earlier if guests are able and willing, and end in Cairns on day 4 at 18.00 hrs .

## Included in the tour price

The tour includes 4 full days and 3 nocturnal sessions. Breakfast (x3) from day 2 is included. Please, let Patrick know what breakfast items are required. Lunch or dinner are not included. Accommodation (for 3 nights) is included in the tour price. Guests will have to arrange accommodation in Cairns CBD for the night before day 1 of the tour, and for the night of day 4 of the tour. Drinks, and snacks are not included. Binoculars can be provided. Each day will have a 2 hrs lunch break.

## What to bring and how to be well prepared

The tour involves driving from wildlife hotspot to hotspot, to and from accommodation, and walks at the hotspots. The walks on gravel/dirt tracks and bitumen are easy to moderately difficult and are never longer than 1.5 kms, usually shorter. The state of the tracks will depend on weather conditions. Rubber boots, or a second pair of shoes are not a luxury as it can be wet any time of the year. Also recommended: a light rain jacket, warm jumper (nocturnal sessions from June-September), hat, long-sleeved shirt, long trousers, insect repellent, sunscreen, water. Please communicate any physical discomforts or health issues you may have well before the start of the tour.

**Tour cost**            **AU\$ 2,650 per person**    **min. 2 persons—max. 6 persons.**

Email [patrick@eyesonwildlife.com.au](mailto:patrick@eyesonwildlife.com.au), or phone on +61 439817214 if you wanted to book this tour, or wanted to inquire further.

