

TRIP REPORT
IRON RANGE FIFO (Fly In – Fly Out)
 13th – 17th December 2021



Trumpet Manucode (*Phonygammus keraudrenii*)

CLIENTS: Mark & James

GUIDE: Phil Gregory

This was our 11th **Sicklebill Safaris / Bellbird** Cape York trip this year, targeting the Far North Queensland and Cape York endemics plus other northern specials. The covid situation with the state borders made planning highly uncertain, but happily it all came together very nicely. The weather was kind, being hot and not too windy, quite dry and humid with relatively little rain, and that mostly at night. *Iron Range Cabins* has good air-conditioning, wifi, and was very convenient for the rainforest habitat and the airport. The forest was damaged in 2019 by cyclone Trevor, and thousands of trees were blown down, but regrowth is well under way. The main Portland Road was in very good condition, (unlike back in January when many areas were damaged or washed out) though many forest trails remain impassable. We primarily birded in the Portland Road forest from the road or large side tracks, exploring the Claudie

River road as well as the Portland Roads area, with the cooler early morning from 0600 to about 1000 the key time.

Palm Cockatoo was very unobtrusive this trip, a sharp contrast to two weeks earlier, but we got a great close flyover in the forest. **Eclectus** and **Red-cheeked Parrot** were quite vocal with good perched views of both, but **Double-eyed (Marshall's) Fig-Parrot** was only a flyby this time, I wonder where they go? **Marbled Frogmouth** called well on the first night but was inaccessible, though the second night we found a way in and (eventually) back out again! **Yellow-billed Kingfisher** was very vocal but took a bit of work to get a good look, though we saw several eventually. **Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo** showed really well on the first afternoon, but barely called the rest of the trip. I thought **Papuan Pitta** was not back yet as we did not hear any on the first couple of days, but some overnight rain seemed to spark them up and we heard 3 next day, getting reasonable looks at one bird along a dry creek bed. I think they have just got back and are not yet on territory. **Black-eared Catbird** was the big target for Jim who had missed it on several previous trips, and we got one on the first morning, with Mark getting a photo, and next day both managed photos of what I regard as the hardest of the Cape York specials. **Fawn-breasted Bowerbird** is always elusive, but we saw a fine large bower and the bird actually came in and posed for us, a real bonus. **White-streaked Honeyeater** called distantly at Tozer's Gap where there was virtually no blossom as yet, but we got lucky and found half a dozen feeding from the rounded white flowers of a tall roadside tree in the riparian forest. **Northern Scrub-robin** was furtive but showed reasonably well, always a very shy skulking species, as well as being a Cape York endemic. **Yellow-legged Flyrobin** gave good views on one occasion, always a hard bird, and we did well with **Green-backed Honeyeater**. We got lucky with **Black-winged Monarch** too, being seen several times. A male **Magnificent Riflebird** was perched in quite good view and good light, calling at times to a nearby rival, whilst a **Trumpet Manucode** landed bang in front of us and posed for what should be terrific pictures.

Overall it was as ever a fun trip and we had some outstanding sightings of all the endemics. Thanks to Jim and Mark for coming on the trip, Peter at *Bellbird* and to Sue and Rowan for setting it all up. Hannah at *Iron Range Cabins* was a helpful host and we enjoyed our last night dinner at the *Out of the Blue Café* at Portland Roads. Last but not least, an acknowledgement to the Kuuku-Ya'u people who are the custodians of Kutini-Payamu Iron Range NP.

Itinerary

Day 1 Monday December 13th

Skytrans to Lockhart River via Aurukun, depart Cairns 0700, arriving 0930.

Checked in at Iron Range Cabins, then Quintel Beach, the sewage ponds and Lockhart River settlement for shopping, PM 1500 to Portland Roads forest as an introduction

Day 2 Tuesday Dec 14th

Portland Road forest, Rainforest Camp ground, Cook's Hut area and Gordon Creek; pm Tozer's Gap and Claudie River Road forest. Spotighting near Rainforest Campground before returning to *Iron Range Cabins* by 2130.

Day 3 Saturday Dec 15th

Portland Road rainforest areas and Gordon Creek; pm Claudie River rainforest. Spotighting before returning to *Iron Range Cabins* by 2300.

Day 4 Sunday Dec 16th

Lockhart River beach, Portland Road forest, Rainforest Camp, Cook's Hut and Gordon Creek area; pm visited Chillie Beach 1515-1545, before heading to Portland Roads via Packers Creek. We had a very

good farewell dinner courtesy of Sheree and Greg at the *Out of the Blue Café* then did some spotlighting on the return trip, back by 2030.

Day 5 Monday Dec 17th

0700-0830 Mango Farm Dam. Departed 1600 Skytrans to Cairns via Aurukun, arriving 1845.



Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo



Papuan Frogmouth



Keelback bathing



Spotted Cuscus

SPECIES LIST

Australian or Queensland endemics in bold, **red** denotes a Cape York endemic

* denotes a near-endemic

Anatidae

Ducks

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna*

90 at Mango Farm Dam Dec 17 was quite a large flock

Green Pygmy-Goose *Nettapus pulchellus*

22 at Mango Farm Dam Dec 17 was a good count.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Three at the sewage ponds on arrival day, then 42 at Mango Farm Dam.

Megapodiidae

Megapodes

Australian Brush-turkey *Alectura lathamii purpureicollis*

Up to 10 in day in the rainforest areas, this taxon has a purplish collar, not yellow like the southern nominate birds.

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*

A few were seen in the rainforest areas.

Columbidae

Pigeons and Doves

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia phasianella*

A few sightings from the forest areas.

Pacific Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps (indica) longirostris*

Heard daily, and a couple seen along the road.

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

Widespread in the eucalypt and open country areas as well as along the forest roads, this is one of the commonest birds. Peaceful Dove was absent.

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Megaloprepia magnificus*

Several sightings from the rainforest areas, with some calling too.

Superb Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

Oddly not really calling much this trip, the best being a very vocal but unseen bird along the Claudie River Road.

* Rose-crowned Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

One seen in riparian at Packers Creek, and heard again at Portland Roads.

Torresian Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa*

Small flocks flying over in the coastal areas, but not in the rainforest, we were seeing 40+ every day.

Podargidae **Frogmouths**

* Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus marmoratus*

We heard 5 calling on the clear moonlit night of Dec 14th, but only 2 were close by and were in a rather inaccessible spot. After a daylight recce next day, we tried again and got onto a fine male quite close to the road but in very dense thickets, which caused us some angst about getting back out. but happily it all ended well. This race is endemic to Cape York, and the complex of 5 subspecies is clearly several species.

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*

A fine bird spotlighted perched near the *Green Hoose* on Dec 14th.

Caprimulgidae **Nightjars**

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

Great views of 2 males at Portland Roads on Dec 16th. One also flushed up on our python recce at Chilli Beach that night

Apodidae **Swifts**

Australian Swiftlet *Collocalia terraereginae*

Seen on 3 days with 2 birds the most.

Rallidae **Rails & crakes**

Red-necked Crake *Rallina tricolor (H)*

Heard in the forest on Dec 14th and again at night on Dec 15th.

Cuculidae **Cuckoos**

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*

Heard most days and seen near Lockhart River.

Eastern (Pacific) Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus*

A female in a huge rainforest fig on Dec 15th was the only record.

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

A nice view of a male of Little Bronze-Cuckoo (presumably race *russatus*, Gould's Bronze) in forest along Portland Road, and heard most days.

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis castaneiventris*

A great view of a calling bird in the forest on the first afternoon Dec 13th, but otherwise curiously silent and only heard briefly next day.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

Quite vocal, with good views and photos of a couple of birds.

Podicipedidae **Grebes**

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

2 at the sewage ponds and 4 at Mango Farm Dam.

Charadriidae **Plovers**

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus novaehollandiae miles*

A few seen around Iron Range cabins, and 2 at Chilli Beach.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Singles seen daily at the airstrip and by the cabins, and also at Quintel Beach and Chilli Beach.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Two at Quintel Beach on arrival day, and 7 at Chilli Beach.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

Two at Chilli Beach.

Scolopacidae **Sandpipers and Snipes**

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

One at Chilli Beach.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One seen at Portland Roads.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

One at Quintel Beach was unexpected and may be my first up here.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Eight at Chilli Beach, feeding very actively on the tideline

Jacaniidae **Jacanas**

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

One seen at the sewage ponds.

Laridae **Gulls and Terns**

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

7 at Quintel Beach and 1 at Chilli Beach.

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

20 at Chilli Beach, flying about above the island offshore.

Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

6 at Chilli Beach.

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus benghalensis*

One with Crested Terns at Chilli Beach, the smaller size and orange bill showing nicely.

Ciconiidae **Storks**

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus australis*

One at Mango Farm Dam on the last morning.

Phalacrocoracidae **Cormorants**

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleuca*

Two at Mango Farm Dam Dec 17.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*
One at Mango Farm Dam Dec 17.

Anhingidae *Darters*
Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*
One at Mango Farm Dam Dec 17.

Threskiornithidae *Ibis & spoonbills*
Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*
16 at Mango Farm Dam Dec 17.

Ardeidae *Hérons, Bitterns and Egrets*
Great Egret *Egretta alba modesta*
2 at Mango Farm Dam.

Intermediate (Plumed) Egret *Egretta intermedia plumipes*
One at Mango Farm Dam and one along the Claudie River Road. This is a likely split as Plumed Egret, as already done by BirdLife.

Pied Heron *Egretta picata*
Two at the sewage ponds and 2 at Mango Farm Dam.

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*
One at Mango Farm Dam Dec 17.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta nigripes*
One at Mango Farm Dam Dec 17.

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*
One dark morph at Chillie Beach.

Accipitridae *Kites, Eagles and Hawks*
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
7 near Lockhart, and singles seen near the beach and around the sewage ponds.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*
A couple of single sightings near Lockhart River.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
One at Chillie Beach was the only sighting.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
Two fine birds at Mango Farm dam on the last morning

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus didimus*
One along the Claudie River Road late one afternoon. This small northern tropical race is a potential split.

Coraciidae **Rollers**

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Just one at Lockhart River on Dec 17th.

Alcedinidae **Kingfishers**

Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*

Heard daily in the rainforest and one or 2 seen well most days, plus also flying across the road.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*

Vocal and seen near Iron Range Cabins this trip, reoccupying the burned woodlands.

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayi*

Several regularly perched on wires near Iron Range Cabins.

Torresian Kingfisher *Todiramphus sordidus*

One seen and photographed and one heard in the mangroves at Portland Roads.

* **Yellow-billed Kingfisher** *Syma torotoro*

Seen nicely and photographed along Portland Road, plus a few heard every day.

Little Kingfisher *Ceyx pusillus*

One at Mango Farm Dam was quite distant but a welcome lifer for Mark nonetheless.

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus*

One at Mango Farm Dam on the last morning.

Falconidae **Falcons**

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Mark saw one flash over at Mango Farm Dam. Unusual here.

Cacatuidae **Cockatoos**

* **Palm Cockatoo** *Probosciger aterrimus macgillivrayi*

Very unobtrusive this trip, we heard it at the Claudie River bridge late one afternoon, and had a lovely flyby in the forest. on Dec 16th

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Seen most days in small numbers, even in the rainforest where they come to feed from fruiting trees.

Psittaculidae **Old World Parrots**

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Just 2 at Mango Farm Dam on the last morning this trip.

* **Red-cheeked Parrot** *Geoffroyus geoffroyus*

Vocal and quite widespread, the best being along Claudie River Road where we had perched views of a male and 2 nice orange-billed immature birds.

* **Eclectus Parrot** *Eclectus roratus*

Quite vocal but wary, we saw them in flight daily, and had lovely views of 3 perched males and a female on Dec 17th. Several likely nest sites were located.

* **Double-eyed Fig-Parrot** *Cyclopsitta diophthalma marshalli* (H)

One flashed over the Claudie River Road on Dec 15th, but we saw no others, this is the distinctive race *marshalli*. Surprisingly hard to find here and seems uncommon, I was surprised BirdLife did not split the species up like they did with other fig-parrots in New Guinea.

Pittidae *Pittas*

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

Heard daily in small numbers, and Mark saw one fly across the road right by him.

* **Papuan Pitta** *Pitta macklotii*

We heard none calling for the first couple of days, but an overnight rain sparked a response and we heard some 3 birds on Dec 15th. One of them was quite mobile, and Mark and I tracked it down along a dry creek bed. They do not seem to be on territories as yet and may be newly arrived.

Ptilonorhynchidae *Bowerbirds*

* **Black-eared Catbird** *Ailuroedus melanotis joanae*

We heard them along Portland Road at two spots, and we saw one on Dec 14th, and another on Dec 15th and Dec 16th. Some photos were even obtained, and it was success at last for Jim on his 4th Cape trip, which shows how hard they can be. I reckon this to be the hardest of all the Iron Range specials, a Double Black Diamond bird to borrow a skiing term, being very shy and elusive and not calling much. It is a split from the Australian endemic Spotted Catbird, with this Iron Range taxon *joanae* now part of the New Guinea complex of Black-eared Catbird, which it resembles in its very shy behaviour.

* **Fawn-breasted Bowerbird** *Chlamydera cerviniventris*

One heard at Packer's Creek, then a fabulous bird at a very nice bower at Portland Roads, just terrific, this one has large platform and sparse decoration of bones and shells plus some dry green berries. It is odd how this bird is so elusive here as so much suitable habitat exists.

Meliphagidae *Honeyeaters*

Green-backed Honeyeater *Glycichaera fallax*

Seen well along the forest road and at Rainforest Camp. It is an elusive low-density species that only occurs here in Australia, and is by no means easy to find in New Guinea either. Once you know the call however it becomes much easier.

* **Brown-backed Honeyeater** *Ramsayornis modestus*

2 seen along the road to Claudie River and 6 at Mango Farm Dam.

Dusky Honeyeater *Myzomela obscura*

Just a few in the forest this trip, unlike two weeks ago when they were very common.

Hornbill (Helmeted) Friarbird *Philemon buceroides yorki*

The common friarbird here, this taxon *yorki* is split by the IOC as Hornbill Friarbird, though the recent Australian Bird Guide treats it as Helmeted Friarbird, despite supposedly following IOC taxonomy!

Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer filiger*

Quite vocal in the forests, we saw it well each day; this race is endemic to the Cape.

White-streaked Honeyeater *Trichodere cockerelli*

Heard in the distance at Tozer's Gap, where there was little or no blossom, then luckily we found 5 or 6 feeding in white blossoms of a large roadside tree by the Claudie River. They move around quite a bit locally after food sources when the heaths are lacking flowers.

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*

A few at Mango Farm Dam and heard near the cabins.

Yellow-spotted Honeyeater *Meliphaga notata notata*

Vocal and quite frequent in the rainforest but hard to see well. This race sounds a bit different to the subspecies *mixta* around Cairns/Kuranda too.

* **Graceful Honeyeater** *Microptilotis gracilis gracilis*

One of the commonest honeyeaters, vocal and frequent in the rainforest and also at Mango Farm Dam. This is now monotypic, occurring here and in S. PNG, but birds from Cooktown south, which were formerly Graceful Honeyeater race *imitatrix*, are now split as Cryptic Honeyeater, so the Cairns, Cassowary House and coastal birds belong to this new species.

Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor (H)*

Heard in the mangroves at Portland Roads, but curiously unresponsive.

Acanthizidae **Scrubwrens and Gerygones*** **Tropical Scrubwren** *Sericornis beccarii*

This proved as elusive as ever, we saw 2 along Portland Road on Dec 15th and heard it another day.

Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris (H)*

Heard at Portland Roads mangroves.

Fairy Gerygone *Gerygone palpebrosa personata*

Heard daily, and seen on the Claudie River road, this is the black-throated *personata* race.

Machaerirhynchidae **Boatbills**Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*

Common by voice, and after being initially troublesome it was seen several times

Cracticidae **Butcherbirds**Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi jardini*

Heard daily and seen a couple of times in the rainforest.

Artamidae **Woodswallows**White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Frequent around the airport and cabins, also at Lockhart River in small numbers

Campephagidae **Cuckooshrikes**

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis*

Just a couple of singles this trip, in the drier country.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

One or two seen most days.

Pachycephalidae **Whistlers and Shrike-thrushes**

Grey Whistler *Pachycephala simplex peninsulae*

This unobtrusive species was seen well at Portland Road forest, a life bird for Mark. The quiet disyllabic call is a good pointer to its presence.

Rufous Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

The former (Not so) Little Shrike-thrush was seen well at Portland Road forest on several days, the species now being split into 8 species, with 2 (Arafura and Rufous) in Australia. It is one of the commonest species by voice.

Oriolidae **Oriolidae and Figbirds**

Australian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti flaviventris*

Seen on 3 days, with 5 birds the most, this is the northern race with the males bright yellow below.

Green (Yellow) Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*

Very common and noisy in the rainforest areas, Green Oriole is a far more appropriate name than the old one, which is preoccupied by some South American icterid anyway.

Dicruridae **Drongos**

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

Small numbers in the various woodlands and a small flock of 6 going through looked like migrants even now.

Monarchidae **Monarch flycatchers**

Spectacled Monarch *Symphysistichus trivirgatus albiventris*

The race here has a sharp cut-off between the orange throat and white underparts, rather different to the southerly taxa. We heard them daily but sightings were few and far between.

Black-winged Monarch *Monarcha frater canescens*

This Cape York wet season special showed well on Dec 13th and 14th, and again at Rainforest Camp on Dec 16th, they seem to arrive quite late. It is much paler and more silvery than Black-faced Monarch, with black wings and tail, but the voice is very similar to that of Black-faced Monarch. During the writing of my *Lynx New Guinea Field Guide*, I realised there seem to be no records of this form *canescens* from that island despite many books saying it winters there. So, does it winter in remote parts of the Cape, or somewhere in New Guinea? I also don't think it belongs with Black-winged Monarch which is a hill forest species with very different voice, this may be a Cape York race of Black-faced or just possibly an endemic in its own right.

White-eared Monarch *Carterornis leucotis*

A pleasing find was this elusive canopy bird, it is uncommon and difficult to locate at the tops of the trees, and the call here is unlike the tablelands disyllabic version.

Frill-necked Monarch *Arses lorealis*

Seen daily in the rainforest, creeping along trunks and branches like Pied Monarch does. It is endemic to Cape York Peninsula.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

Heard near Iron Range cabins and one male at Mango Farm Dam.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

Heard in the forest, and a male at Portland Roads on Dec 16th.

Paradisaeidae**Birds of Paradise*** **Trumpet Manucode** *Phonygammus keraudreni gouldii*

This one is always a challenge, and was not calling very much, but it was heard and called in very nicely on Dec 15th, when it called and spread the wings very nicely as is did so, with 2 birds being present. This is another complex that surely consists of several species, and I would not be surprised to see this split as an endemic Cape York Manucode at some point. *Manucode* means bird of the gods in Malay, though quite why it is applied to this black plumaged species assemblage I have no idea!

* **Magnificent (Cape York) Riflebird** *Ptiloris magnificus alberti*

Good views of a male at Cook's Hut one morning, and a couple seen briefly in the forest. This is another potential split too as the voice is different to the New Guinea birds, and more resembles the western New Guinea Magnificent Riflebird than the geographically much closer Growling Riflebird.

Petroicidae**Australasian Robins**Lemon-bellied Flyrobin *Microeca flavigaster*

A bird nesting on a dead tree at Mango Farm Dam, with a tiny cup nest and the mate nearby. Also heard in the savanna along the Claudie River road.

Yellow-legged Flyrobin *Kempiella griseoiceps*

One of the most difficult specials, we saw one nicely on Dec 14th but no-one got any photos, and we only heard it there next day.

White-browed Robin *Poecilodryas superciliosa (H)*

Heard at Packers Creek near Portland Roads.

White-faced Robin *Tregellasia leucops albigularis*

Quite vocal in the rainforest, and seen nicely several times, this race is endemic to the Cape, (and the complex of races in New Guinea is overdue to be split into several species).

Northern Scrub-Robin *Drymodes superciliaris*

Another elusive and very local Cape York endemic special, we got quite good looks at two furtive birds on Dec 14th. Now split from Papuan Scrub-Robin as quite distinct in voice and behaviour.

Zosteropidae**White-eyes**Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*

Just a few seen along Portland Road in the forest, this is about as far north as they go in Queensland.

Sturnidae **Starlings and Mynas**Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*

Common in the rainforest with a large colonial nest colony seen

Dicaeidae **Flowerpeckers*** Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

Our only flowerpecker was seen several times in the forest areas.

Nectariniidae **Sunbirds**Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis frenatus*

Seen at Portland Roads and in the forest near the start of the birding.

Estrildidae **Finches and Mannikins****Red-browed Finch** *Neochmia temporalis*

15 along Portland Road in grass on the forest edges.

Mammals**Macropodidae** **Kangaroos**Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*

One near the Green Hoose.

Phalangeridae **Cuscus**Spotted Cuscus *Spilocuscus maculatus*

A lovely view of a greyish individual feeding on figs in the forest along Portland Road.

Nesomyidae **Mosaic-tailed rats**Giant White-tailed Rat *Uromys caudimaculatus*One of this large small cat size rodent was nicely spotlighted in the forest on Dec 14th and we saw a female with a young one on Dec 15th.ReptilesKeelback *Tropidonophis mairii*

Just one snake this trip, a diamond patterned slender creature over a metre long with a distinctly separate head basking in the shallow creek.

Yellow-spotted Monitor (Goanna) *Varanus panoptes*

One around the barbecue area at Iron Range cabins, standing upright one day like a Frilled Lizard!

Canopy Monitor *Varanus keithhomei*

This uncommon slender species was seen at Cook's Hut, thanks to Jim.

Also known as Canopy Goanna, Keith Home's Monitor, Blue-nosed Tree Monitor or Nesbit River Monitor. It is endemic to the Iron and McIlwraith Ranges of the Cape York Peninsula.

Otherwise just a few skinks, which I hope Mark can advise me about in due course.

Amphibians

Cane toads were very common, and there were some lovely White-lipped green tree frogs at Iron Range cabins

Butterflies

New Guinea Birdwing, Ulysses Swallowtail, Fuscous Swallowtail, Green-spotted Triangle, Blue Tiger, Hamadryad, Bordered Rustic, Chocolate Argus, Dingy Bush-brown, Black-eyed Plane, Orange Plane, Pied Ringlet, Orange Ringlet, Varied Eggfly, Blue-banded Eggfly, Broad-margined Grass-yellow, Shining Oak-blue, Pale Cerulean.

Dragonflies

We photographed a few species and Mark identified the following with the help of i-naturalist:

Australasian Slimwing *Lathrecista asiatica* ssp. *fasta*

Cape York Tiger *Ictinogomphus paulini*

Fiery Skimmer *Orthetrum villosovittatum*

Plants

Cape York Pitcher-plant *Nepenthes mirabilis*

One fine flowering plant out on the white sand in the heath at Tozer's Gap. We also saw some fine very small sundews *Drosera* sp. by the lookout.

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