

## TRIP REPORT RINYIRRU (Lakefield) NP and MUSGRAVE)

20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020



Golden-shouldered Parrot (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*)

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GUIDE: Jun Matsui

A long weekend away to enjoy some of the specialities of this interesting area a days drive north of Cairns.

### Day 1 - 20<sup>th</sup> August

We met up in Cairns and spent much of the day driving up to Musgrave from Cairns with birding stops along the way. The first stop was in Cairns where we managed to get **Rufous Owl**. We then headed up to Mareeba where we stopped to pick up **White-browed Robin**. We carried on turning up the Cape Developmental road at Mt Malloy. Our next stop was Lakeland where we had lunch. On the way past we stopped in at Artemis Station and were lucky enough to find the **Golden-shouldered Parrots**.

### Day 2 - 21<sup>st</sup> August

Not satisfied with one view of the parrots we went back to Artemis Station in the early morning. We were after other birds as well as the parrots and were pleased with **Silver-crowned Honeyeater** and some other Honeyeaters. Morning tea was taken at Musgrave Roadhouse. And then we went to try for the Red Goshawk. We visited Marina Plain in the afternoon and in the evening, we tried some spotlighting

### Day 3 - 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Today we headed for the Nifold Plain with its amazing magnetic termite mounds. We were primarily interested in **Finches**. We ate a packed lunch at Saltwater Crossing. On our way back to the Roadhouse we visited Lotusbird Lodge.

#### Day 4 - 23<sup>rd</sup> August

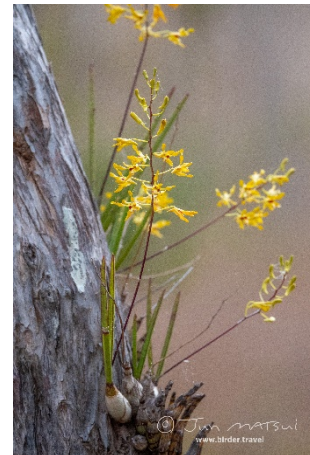
We headed back to Cairns by a different route, driving through Rinyirru NP. We stopped at several locations in the park to stretch our legs, take photographs and look at birds. We arrived in Lakeland in time for lunch. From here we headed back to Cairns.



Red Goshawk (*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*)



Billabong @ Lotusbird



Orchid



**BIRD LIST****Casuariidae****Emus and Cassowaries**

- 1 Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*  
 These were seen at Hann River rRadhouse, and also in Rinyirru NP.

**Anseranatidae****MagpieGeese**

- 2 Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*  
 These were seen on the billabong at Lotusbird Lodge.

**Anatidae****Ducks**

- 3 Plumed Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*  
 Some at Musgrave Roadhouse, and large flock at Lotusbird Lodge.
- 4 Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*  
 Seen on the billabong at Lotusbird Lodge.
- 5 Raja Shelduck *Radjah radjah*  
 These were seen as we travelled along the road and also at Lotusbird Lodge.
- 6 Green Pygmy Goose *Nettapus pulchellus*  
 Seen along the road and Lotusbird Lodge.
- 7 Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*  
 Seen att Lotusbird Lodge.

**Podicipedidae****Grebes**

- 8 Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*  
 Seen at Lotusbird Lodge.

**Ciconiidae****Storks**

- 9 Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*  
 Seen in Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- 9 Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*  
 Seen in Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.

**Threskiornithidae****Ibis and Spoonbils**

- 10 Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
 These were seen at Marina Plain, and also in Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP. They were not common in this area.
- 11 Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis moluccus*  
 They were always in small numbers but were but were common throughout the tour.
- 12 Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*  
 Thyese were mostly see as we drove along the road.
- 13 Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*  
 Seen on Nifold Plain, Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.

**Ardeidae****Hérons and Egrets**

- 14 White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*  
 At Nifold Plain, Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- 15 Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*  
 Reasonably common at the lakes we stopped at..
- 16 Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*  
 We saw some of these most days.
- 17 Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

One was roosting at Musgrave Roadhouse.

### Phalacrocoracidae

- 18 Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*  
Seen at Lotusbird Lodge.
- 19 Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*  
Seen at Lotusbird Lodge.

### Cormorants

### Anhingidae

- 20 Australian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*  
Seen at Lotusbird Lodge.

### Darter

### Accipitridae

- 21 Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus axillaris*  
One was seen at the Nifold Plain.
- 22 Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*  
No birds were seen but one was heard at Artemis Station.
- 23 Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*  
Seen from the road as we travelled.
- 24 White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*  
Seen at Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- 25 Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*  
Common throughout the trip.
- 26 Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*  
We saw only one on the drive.
- 27 Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
Common throughout the tour.
- 28 Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*  
Good views at Nifold Plain.
- 29 Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*  
Good views at Nifold Plain.
- 30 Red Goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*  
Great views of male and female at nest site.

### Hawks

### Otididae

- 31 Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis*  
There were never many at once but saw some most days.

### Bustards

### Gruidae

- 32 Sarus Crane *Antigone antigone*  
Some were on the way back.
- 33 Brolga *Antigone rubicunda*  
Several small flocks were seen in Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.

### Cranes

### Charadriidae

- 34 Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles miles*  
These were common at Musgrave.

### Plovers

### Jacanidae

- 35 Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*  
Seen at Lotusbird Lodge.

### Jacanas

### Columbidae

- 36 Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*  
Only seen in Cairns.
- 37 Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

### Pigeons and Doves

Seen at Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.

- 38 Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*  
Common throughout the tour.
- 39 Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*  
Common in many places.

#### Tytonidae

#### Barn Owls

- 40 Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto delicatula*  
Good views during the spotlighting.
- 41 Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*  
Decent views at Marina Plain, one flew across the road.

#### Strigidae

#### Owls

- 42 Rufous Owl *Ninox rufa*  
Good view at Cairns.

#### Podargidae

#### Frogmouths

- 43 Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*  
Seen at Lotusbird Lodge.
- 44 Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides*  
Seen at Mareeba.

#### Coraciidae

#### Dollarbird

- 45 Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*  
Seen at Lotusbird Lodge.

#### Alcedinidae

#### Kingfishers

- 46 Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*  
Reasonably common throughout the tour.
- 47 Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*  
Common around the Musgrave area.
- 48 Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*  
Common. Good views in Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- 49 Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*  
We saw some on the way back to Cairns.
- 50 Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*  
Saw several times at Salt water creek crossing.

#### Meropidae

#### Bee-eaters

- 51 Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*  
Reasonably common throughout.

#### Falconidae

#### Falcons

- 52 Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*  
Mostly along the road.
- 53 Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*  
Wasn't many, saw one at Nifold Plain.
- 54 Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*  
Good view sat Nifold Plain. They were possibly a nesting pair.

#### Cacatuidae

#### Cockatoos

- 55 Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*  
Expected to see more, but only saw some.
- 56 Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus*  
Noisy, roosting at Roadhouse.
- 57 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*  
Common.

**Psittaculidae****Parrots**

- 58 Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*  
Some were seen at Artemis Station.
- 59 Golden-shouldered Parrot *Psephotellus chrysopterygius*  
We had great views at Artemis Station including 3 adult males and lots of immatures.
- 60 Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus moluccanus*  
These were very common through the tour.
- 61 Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*  
Seen at Mount Molloy.

**PASSERIFORMES****Ptilonorhynchidae****Bowerbirds**

- 62 Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis*  
Good views at Musgrave Roadhouse.

**Maluridae****Fairywrens**

- 63 Red-backed Fairywren *Malurus melanocephalus*  
Good views at Nifold Plain.

**Meliphagidae****Honeyeaters**

- 64 Graceful Honeyeater *Microptilotis gracilis*  
Seen at Saltwater Crossing.
- 65 Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*  
Seen at Mount Molloy.
- 66 White-gaped Honeyeater *Lichenostomus unicolor*  
Good views at Marina Plain.
- 67 Yellow Honeyeater *Stomiopera flava*  
Good views at Artemis Station.
- 68 Brown-backed Honeyeater *Ramsayornis modestus*  
At Mount Molloy.
- 69 Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*  
Decent views on the Nifold Plain.
- 70 Rufous-throated Honeyeater *Conopophila rufogularis*  
Seen at Lotusbird Lodge.
- 71 Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela obscura*  
Very common.
- 72 Scarlet Myzomela *Myzomela sanguinolenta*  
Seen at Mount Molloy.
- 73 Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*  
Very common.
- 74 White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*  
Common in dry habitat. Good views at Mount Molloy.
- 75 Banded Honeyeater *Cissomela pectoralis*  
Good views at Artemis station.
- 76 Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*  
Common around Musgrave.
- 77 Silver-crowned Friarbird *Philemon argenticeps*  
Good views at Artemis Station.
- 78 Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*  
Common at Artemis Station.

**Pardalotidae****Pardalotes**

- 79 Red-browed Pardalote *Pardalotus rubricatus*  
Good views at Artemis Station.

- 80 Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*  
Reasonably common throughout but were mostly only heard rather than seen.
- Acanthizidae** **Gerygones**
- 81 Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*  
Seen at Saltwater Creek crossing.
- 82 White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*  
Seen on the Nifold Plain.
- 83 Fairy Gerygone *Gerygone palpebrosa*  
Seen at Saltwater Creek crossing.
- Pomatostomidae** **Babblers**
- 84 Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*  
Seen at Artemis Station.
- Cracticidae** **Butcherbirds**
- 85 Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*  
Good views at Saltwater Creek.
- 86 Black-backed Butcherbird *Cracticus mentalis*  
Reasonably common throughout the trip. We had very close views at the Roadhouse.
- 87 Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*  
Mostly seen on the road.
- 88 Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*  
Some were seen on the road.
- Campephagidae** **Cuckooshrikes and Trillers**
- 89 Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*  
Not many, but they were seen on several occasion.
- 90 White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis*  
Common throughout the tour.
- 91 Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*  
Some seen in Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- Pachycephalidae** **Whistlers**
- 92 Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*  
Good views on the Nifold Plain.
- Oriolidae** **Orioles**
- 93 Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*  
Reasonably common.
- 94 Green Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*  
Reasonably common. Good views had at Saltwater Creek.
- Dicruridae** **Drongoes**
- 95 Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*  
Brief views at Saltwater Creek.
- Rhipiduridae** **Fantails**
- 96 Grey Fantail *Rhipidura albiscapa*  
Good views in Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- 97 Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*  
Very common as usual.
- Monarchidae** **Monarchs and Flycatchers**
- 98 Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*  
One of the most common birds on the trip.

- 99 Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*  
Reasonably common in various habitats.

**Corvidae****Crows**

- 100 Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*  
Common, especially around the Roadhouse.

**Petroicidae****Australian Robins**

- 101 White-browed Robin *Poecilodryas superciliosa*  
Good views at Mareeba.
- 102 Lemon-bellied Flyrobin *Microeca flavigaster*  
Good views at Saltwater Creek.

**Cisticolidae****Cisticolas**

- 103 Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*  
Seen on the Nifold Plain, Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP

**Sturnidae****Starlings**

- 104 Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*  
Seen in Cairns.
- 105 Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*  
Common between Cairns and Mareeba.

**Dicaeidae****Mistletoebird**

- 106 Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*  
Seen on the Nifold Plain.

**Nectariniidae****Sunbirds**

- 107 Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*  
Good view at Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.

**Estrildidae****Finches**

- 108 Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*  
Good views on the Nifold Plain.
- 109 Masked Finch *Poephila personata*  
Good views on the Nifold Plain.
- 110 Black-throated Finch *Poephila cincta*  
Good views on the Nifold Plain.

**Motacillidae****Pipits and Wagtails**

- 111 Australian Pipit *Anthus australis*  
Some seen on the Nifold Plain.