

TRIP REPORT  
**Cape York DIFO (Drive In – Fly Out)**  
28<sup>th</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021



Magnificent Riflebird (*Ptiloris magnificentus*) © Jun Matsui

**CLIENTS:** Detlef Davies and Elizabeth Mackenzie

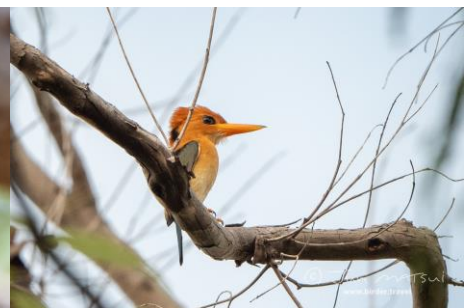
**GUIDE:** Jun Matsui



Papuan Frogmouth © Jun



Rufous Whistler © Jun



Yellow-billed Kingfisher © Jun

## ITINERARY

### **Day 1:**

This was a driving day. We started from Cairns after checking for the Rufous Owl. We broke our journey and birded at Mount Molloy and Possum Creek Crossing on the way. We also visited Artemis station where we had good views of Golden-shouldered Parrot before heading on to Musgrave Roadhouse for a 2 night stay.

### **Day 2:**

We went back to Artemis station in the morning. Later we headed to Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP and stopped at the Red Goshawk nest site on the way. Having Ice-Cream at Lotusbird Lodge was a very nice treat. We went spotlighting at night.

### **Day 3:**

Another driving day from Musgrave to Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP.

### **Day 4:**

Birding at Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP. We started from Lockhart River town and visited the local, sewage pond and Quintel Beach. Then we headed to the Eclectus Parrot nest site. We went birding around Gordon Creek after the lunch.

### **Day 5:**

**AM:** Rainforest Campsite, Cooks Hut Campsite, Gordon Creek Campsite.

**PM:** We drove to Chilli Beach, very windy and chilly.

### **Day 6:**

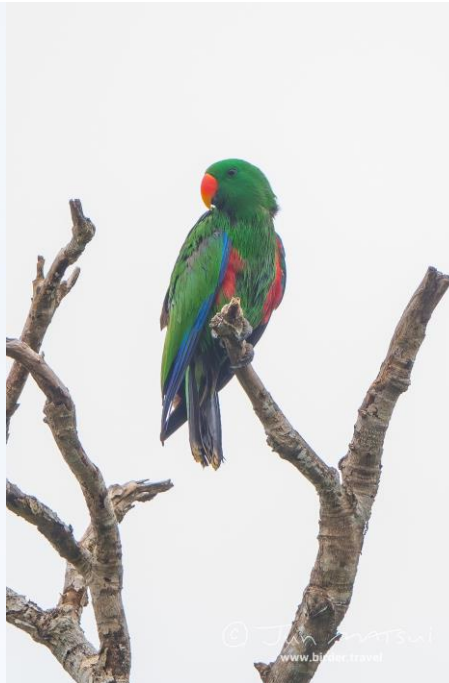
**AM:** Gordon Creek Campsite, Rainforest Campsite.

**PM:** We drove to Portland Roads. Dinner at Out of the Blue cafe. Spotlighting on the way back gave us great views of Marbled Frogmouth.

**Day.7:** We started birding near the 3-ways. Then we went back to the sewage pond, Quintel Beach and the Boat Ramp before returning to the airfield for Detlef and Elizabeth's flight back to Cairns.



*Palm Cockatoo © Jun*



*Eclectus Parrot © Jun*



*Rainbow Lorikeet © Jun*

## BIRD LIST

**DROMAEIIDAE**

- 1 Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*  
On the way to Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.

**MEGAPODIIDAE**

- 2 Australian Brush-Turkey *Alectura lathami*  
Common in rainforest area. Race *purpureicollis*.  
3 Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*  
Some at Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP

**ANSERANATIDAE**

- 4 Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*  
At Lotusbird Lodge.

**ANATIDAE**

- 5 Plumed Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*  
Good number at Musgrave Roadhouse.  
6 Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*  
Some at Possum Creek Crossing.  
7 Radjah Shelduck *Radjah radjah*  
Some at Lockhart River Sewage pond.  
8 Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus*  
Some at Possum Creek Crossing.  
9 Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*  
Some at Possum Creek Crossing.  
10 Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*  
Some at Possum Creek Crossing.

**PODICIPEDIDAE**

- 11 Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*  
Possum Creek Crossing, Lotusbird Lodge, Lockhart River Sewage pond.

**CICONIDAE**

- 12 Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*  
Some around Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.

**THRESKIORNITHIDAE**

- 13 Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*  
14 Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis moluccus*  
Common in drier habitat.

**ARDEIDAE**

- 15 Striated Heron *Butorides striata*  
At Portland Roads.  
16 Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*  
Small flock at Lockhart River Sewage Pond.  
17 White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica*  
Saw some along the road.  
18 Great Egret *Ardea alba modesta*  
Saw some along the road.  
19 Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*  
Saw some along the road.  
20 Pied Heron *Egretta picata*

- At Lockhart River Sewage Pond, and some immatures around.
- 21 White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*  
Saw one on the road.
- 22 Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
At Lockhart River Sewage Pond.
- 23 Eastern Reef Heron *Egretta sacra*  
At Chilli Beach.

**FREGATIDAE**

- 24 Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*
- 25 Greater Frigatebird *Fregata minor*  
Small flock of mixed species at Portland Road.

**FALCONIDAE**

- Falcons*
- 26 Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*  
At Nifold Plain, Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.

**PHALACROCORACISDAE**

- 27 Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*
- 28 Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*  
Some in the Musgrave area.

**ANHINGIDAE**

- 29 Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

**ACCIPITRIDAE**

- 30 White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*  
One juvenile at Chilli Beach.
- 31 Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*  
Common through the tour.
- 32 Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*  
Saw some around town.
- 33 Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
Common through the tour.
- 34 Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*  
One fly over.
- 35 Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*  
Several fly overs.
- 36 Red Goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus*  
Female on the nest.
- 37 Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*  
One in the Musgrave area.
- 38 Black-breasted Buzzard *Hamirostra melanosternon*  
One in the Musgrave area.

**GRUIDAE**

- 39 Brolga *Antigone rubicunda*  
Some at Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.

**BURHINIDAE**

- 40 Bush Stone-curlew *Burhinus grallarius*  
Heard only at Musgrave Roadhouse.

**CHARADRIIDAE**

- 41 Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

- At Chilli Beach.  
42 Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*  
At Chilli Beach.  
43 Lesser Sand Plover  
At Chilli Beach.  
44 Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles miles*  
Common throughout the tour.

**JACANIDAE**

- 45 Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*  
At Lotusbird Lodge.

**SCOLOPACIDAE**

- 46 Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*  
At Chilli Beach.  
47 Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
At Lockhart River Sewage pond  
48 Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*  
At Chilli Beach.  
49 Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*  
Good view at Lockhart River town.

**LARIDAE**

- 50 Australian (Gull-billed) Tern *Gelochelidon macrotarsa*  
At Quintel Beach  
52 Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*  
At Chilli and Quintel Beaches  
53 Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*  
At Chilli Beach.  
54 Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*  
Off-shore at Chilli Beach.  
55 Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*  
At Chilli and Quintel Beaches.

**COLUMBIDAE**

- 56 Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*  
Only seen at Mareeba and Cairns.  
57 Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*  
Common in rainforest, mostly heard only.  
58 (Brown-capped) Emerald-Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris*  
Some at Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP.  
59 Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*  
Common in town.  
60 Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*  
Common in dry places.  
61 Torresian Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa*  
Common at Iron Range NP.  
62 Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*  
Mostly heard, saw some fly overs.  
63 Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina*  
Mostly heard, barely saw some fly overs.  
64 Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*  
Good view of female near Rainforest Campsite, Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP

**CACATUIDAE**

- 65 Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*  
Wasn't easy this trip. Had some good views.
- 66 Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii*  
Large flock near Lakeland, and Musgrave area.
- 67 Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus*  
Good number around Musgrave Roadhouse.
- 68 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*  
Common.

**PSITTACIDAE**

- 69 Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*  
Common in many places.
- 70 Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*  
At Mt. Molloy rest area.
- 71 Double-eyed Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*  
Calling. Saw some fly overs.
- 72 Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*  
Flew over us many times and good view at several places.
- 73 Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*  
Female on the nest, many fly overs.
- 74 Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*  
Some at Musgrave area.
- 75 Pale-headed Rosella *Platycercus adscitus*  
Some at Musgrave area.
- 76 Golden-shouldered Parrot *Psephotellus chrysopterygius*  
Good view at Artemis Station.

**CUCULIDAE**

- 77 Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*  
Several good views along the road.
- 78 Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis castaneiventris*  
Got a nice view at Rainforest Campsite, Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP.
- 79 Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*  
Could be one of the first arrivals for this season.
- 80 Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*  
Heard only at Musgrave area.

**TYTONIDAE**

- 81 Barn Owl *Tyto delicata*  
Good view on spotlighting at Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.

**STRIGIDAE**

- 82 Rufous Owl *Ninox rufa*  
Good view in Cairns.
- 83 Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*  
Good view when spotlighting at Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.

**PODARGIDAE**

- 84 Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus marmoratus*  
Took us while. eventually get good view at Cooks Hut Campsite.

- 85 Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*  
Good views at Lotusbird Lodge.

#### APODIDAE

- 86 Australian Swiftlet *Aerodramus terraereginae*  
Moderately common at Lockhart River.

#### ALCEDINIDAE

- 87 Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*  
Saw several fly overs at creek crossings.
- 88 Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae*  
Common in dry area and towns.
- 89 Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*  
Common in dry area and towns.
- 90 Yellow-billed Kingfisher *Syma torotoro*  
Good view at the Boat Ramp at Lockhart River, calling everywhere.
- 91 Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*  
Good views at Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- 92 Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*
- 93 Torresian Kingfisher *Todiramphus sordidus*  
Good view at Boat Ramp at Lockhart River, calling everywhere.

#### MEROPIIDAE

- 94 Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*  
Common throughout the tour.

#### PITTIDAE

- 95 Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*  
Heard only at Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP

#### PTILONORHYNCHIDAE

- 96 Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis*  
Common around the Musgrave area.
- 97 Fawn-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera cerviniventris*  
Decent view at the Cabins.

#### MALURIDAE

- 98 Red-backed Fairywren *Malurus melanocephalus*
- 99 Lovely Fairywren *Malurus amabilis*

#### MELIPHAGIDAE

- 100 Yellow-spotted Honeyeater *Meliphaga notata*  
Common in rainforest.
- 101 Graceful Honeyeater *Meliphaga gracilis*  
Common in rainforest.
- 102 Yellow Honeyeater *Stomiopera flava*  
Some around Musgrave area.
- 103 Yellow-tinted Honeyeater *Ptilotula flavescens*  
At Red Goshawk nest site.
- 104 Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor*  
Heard some at Portland Roads.
- 105 Brown-backed Honeyeater *Ramsayornis modestus*

Some at lunch stop on Day 3.

- 106 Green-backed Honeyeater *Glyciphila fallax*  
Common in rainforest, not easy to see.
- 107 Dusky Honeyeater *Myzomela obscura*  
Very common and abundant in rainforest.
- 108 Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta*  
Some around Musgrave area.
- 109 White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*  
Common in dry area.
- 110 White-streaked Honeyeater *Trichodere cockerelli*  
Took a while, eventually got decent views at Tozers Gap.
- 111 Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*  
Common around Musgrave Roadhouse.
- 112 Hornbill Friarbird *Philemon yorki*  
Common in rainforest.
- 113 Silver-crowned Honeyeater *Philemon argenticeps*  
At Artemis Station.
- 114 Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*  
Common in dry areas.
- 115 Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*  
On the way to Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- 116 Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer*  
Reasonably common in rainforest. Not easy to see.

#### **PARDALOTIDAE**

- 117 Red-browed Pardalote *Pardalotus rubricatus*  
Good views at Artemis Station.
- 118 Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*  
Brief views at Musgrave area.

#### **ACANTHIZIDAE**

- 119 Tropical Scrubwren *Sericornis beccarii*  
Moderately common, not easy to see.
- 120 Fairy Gerygone *Gerygone palpebrosa*  
Common in rainforest.
- 121 White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*  
Singing well in dry areas.

#### **POMATOSTOMIDAE**

- 122 Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*  
At a water hole near Musgrave Roadhouse.

#### **CRACTICIDAE**

- 123 Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*  
Portland Roads.
- 124 Black-backed Butcherbird *Cracticus mentalis*  
Good view at Artemis Station and Musgrave Roadhouse.
- 125 Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*  
Some around Musgrave area.
- 126 Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*  
On the way to Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP



**MACHAERIRHYNCHIDAE**

- 127 Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*  
Some good views, common in rainforest.

**ARTAMIDAE**

- 128 White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*  
At Chili Beach.
- 129 Black-faced Woodswallow *Artamus cinereus*  
On the way to Musgrave.

**CAMPEPHAGIDAE**

- 130 Barred Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata*  
At Rainforest Campsite, Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP.
- 131 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*  
Very common through the tour.
- 132 White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*  
Common in the Musgrave area.
- 133 Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*  
Common through the tour. Mostly heard.

**PACHYCEPHALIDAE**

- 134 Grey Whistler *Pachycephala simplex*  
Common in rainforest.
- 135 Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*  
At Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- 136 Rufous (Little) Shrikethrush *Colluricincla rufogaster*  
Common and good view at Iron Range.
- 137 Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*  
At Artemis Station.

**ORIOLIDAE**

- 138 Australian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*  
Common through the tour.
- 139 Yellow Oriole *Orioles flavocinctus*  
Heard many times in rainforest.
- 140 Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*  
Saw several locations.

**RHIPIDURIDAE**

- 141 Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*  
Uncommon. Only around town.
- 142 Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*  
Reasonably common in rainforest.

**DICRURIDAE**

- 143 Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*  
Common.

**MONARCHIDAE**

- 144 Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*  
Saw several places.
- 145 Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*  
Good view at Gordon creek bridge.
- 146 Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha t. albiventris*

- Good view at rainforest near 3-ways.
- 147 White-eared Monarch *Carterornis leucotis*  
Good view at Rainforest campsite.
- 148 Black-winged Monarch *Monarcha frater*  
Good views in rainforest near 3-ways. Early returns or over wintering.
- 149 Frill-necked Monarch *Arses lorealis*  
Good views in rainforest at several locations.
- 150 Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*  
Common and many seen through the tour.

#### PARADISAEIDAE

- 151 Trumpet Manucode *Phonygamus keraudrenii*  
Surprisingly good views near Rainforest Campsite. Heard/saw at several locations.
- 152 Magnificent Riflebird *Ptiloris magnificus alberti*  
Good views near Gordon creek.

#### PETROICIDAE

- 153 Lemon-bellied Flyrobin *Microeca flavigaster*
- 154 Yellow-legged Flyrobin *Microeca griseiceps*  
Good view at Rainforest Campsite.
- 155 White-faced Robin *Tregellasia leucops*  
Good view at Gordon Creek Campsite.
- 156 Northern Scrub-Robin *Drymodes superciliaris*  
Decent view at Rainforest Campsite.

#### HIRUNDIDAE

- 157 Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*  
At Lockhart River Sewage Pond

#### CISTICOLIDAE

- 158 Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*  
Singing on top of a tall tree.

#### ZOSTEROPIDAE

- 159 Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis*  
Common through the tour.

#### STURNIDAE

- 160 Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*  
Good number at Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP
- 161 Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*  
Only at town when we start the tour.

#### DICAEIDAE

- 162 Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

#### NECTARINIDAE

- 163 Yellow-bellied (Olive-b) Sunbird *Nectarinea jugularis*  
Good view at Portland Road.

#### ESTRILDIDAE

- 164 Star Finch *Neochmia ruficauda*  
Over 100 at Nifold Plain, Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.

- 165 Black-throated Finch *Poephila cincta*  
80 or so at Nifold Plain, Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- 166 Double-barred Finch *Taeniopygia bichenovii*  
Heard some at Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- 167 Red-browed Finch *Neochmia temporalis*  
Surprisingly common at Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP

### **MAMMALS**

- Echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*  
Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP
- Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*  
Common through the tour.
- Northern Brown Bandicoot *Isodon macrourus*  
Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- Spotted Cuscus *Spilocuscus maculatus*  
Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP
- Feral Pig *Sus scrofa*  
Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP. And Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP
- Spectacled Flying-fox *Pteropus conspicillatus*  
Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP

### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

- Freshwater Crocodile *Crocodylus johnstoni*  
At Musgrave roadhouse.
- Coastal Taipan *Oxyuranus scutellatus*  
Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP
- Water Python *Liasis fuscus*  
Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP, I think I mentioned it 'Olive Python'.
- Sand Monitor *Varanus gouldii*  
Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- Cane Toad *Bufo marinus*  
Common through the tour.

### **BUTTERFLIES**

- Ulysses Swallowtail *Papilio ulysses*  
Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP
- Orchard Swallowtail *Papilio aegaeus*  
Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP
- Clearwing Swallowtail *Cressida cressida*  
Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.
- New Guinea Birdwing *Ornithoptera priamus*  
Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range)
- Broad-margined Grass-yellow *Eurema puella*  
Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP
- Hamadryad *Tellervo zolius*  
Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP

Common Crow		<i>Euploea corinna</i>
	Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.	
Bordered Rustic		<i>Cupha prosope</i>
	Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP	
Blue Argus		<i>Junonia orithya</i>
	Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.	
Meadow Argus		<i>Junonia villida</i>
	Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.	
Chocolate Argus		<i>Junonia hedonia</i>
	Kutini-Payamu (Iron Range) NP	
Varied Eggfly		<i>Hypolimnna bolina</i>
	Rinyirru (Lakefield) NP.	