



# TRIP REPORT

March 14th - 22nd 2009

Your guide: Phil Gregory

## Tropical North Queensland Participants Hazel Peters and Chris Trew

### Day 1 Mar. 14 2009

#### Pick-up from the Fig Tree Motel and then some local Cairns area birding.

March is an interesting time to come, with many migrants heading up to New Guinea. We were very lucky with the weather and had a basically sunny week, very unusual for the time of year.

Shorebirds on the Esplanade and at Machan's Beach were good, with Great Knot, Greater and Lesser Sandplover and Grey-tailed tattlers coming into breeding plumage, and Terek sandpipers dashing about. The vagrant Laughing Gull was still about too.

Centenary Park was excellent with Magpie Goose, a fine Collared Kingfisher, male Cicadabird, a family group of Lovely Fairywren and Yellow Oriole. The canefields north of the town had Crimson Finch and Pheasant Coucal.

### Day 2 March 15

#### Balloon flight over Mareeba/ Mareeba Golf Course & stockyard/ Floodwater/ Granite Gorge

Some dry country birding saw us find Channel-billed Cuckoo, Squatter Pigeon, Apostlebird, Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, Striated Pardalote and some amazingly tame Mareeba rock-wallabies.

### Day 3 March 16

#### Black Mountain Road area/ Barron River and Tinaroo Creek Road

Cassowary day, the start of a good run, then Double-eyed fig-Parrot, Victoria's Riflebird, Pied Monarch, Yellow-breasted Boatbill and neat Freshwater crocodile. A late pm visit inland got us Black-throated Finch and Varied Sittella.



Hazel and Chris meet Dad Cassowary



Spotted Catbird



Victoria's Riflebird male

All photographs:  
Phil Gregory

**Day 4 March 17**

**Henry Hannam Drive/ Hastie's Swamp/ Lake Barrine/ Cathedral and Curtain Fig-trees/ Yungaburra spotlighting.**

A wide range of habitats today got a good bird haul- both whistling duck species, White-headed Pigeon, Pale-headed Rosella, Red-winged Parrot, Grey-headed Robin, Scarlet Honeyeater, White-throated Treecreeper, Great Bowerbird and 3 species of possum on the spotlighting, with Eastern Barn Owl and Barking Owl on the drive home.

**Day 5 March 18**

**Black Mountain Road area/ Cairns Esplanade/ Machan's Beach**

Cassowary at breakfast, then some good shorebirds with Red-capped Plover and Pied Oystercatcher being new.

**Day 6 March 19**

**Herberton/ Wondecla/ The Crater/ Bromfield Swamp**

The high-altitude day, with Fernwren, Atherton Scrubwren, Mountain Thornbill, Bridled Honeyeater and Tooth-billed Bowerbird, plus Eastern Yellow Robin and Fuscous Honeyeater.

**Day 7 March 20**

**Daintree Boat trip/ Mossman Golf course/ Kingfisher Park area/ Mt. Molloy**

A very successful Daintree trip with Great-billed Heron and Black Bittern showing well. A surprise Banded Lapwing at Mossman was a neat pick-up, then Buff-breasted Paradise-kingfishers showed really well near Julatten, with a Papuan Frogmouth at last for good measure.

**Day 8 March 21**

**Black Mountain Road area**

A final look around for a few omissions got us Wompoo Fruit Dove at last, plus Chowchilla and White-eared Monarch.

Our thanks to Hazel and Chris for good company and a varied and enjoyable trip, we were very lucky with the weather too! It is a good time to come with many migrants about, but lots of water meant no concentrations of wetland birds and a number of things were just not around, egrets and grebes for instance!



Sacred Kingfisher



Black Bittern juvenile



Great-billed Heron









STRIGIDAE		Owls															
1	Barking Owl	<i>Ninox connivens</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

One was sat on the road sign along Mark's Lane near Atherton, and showed very nicely.

PODARGIDAE		Frogmouths															
1	Papuan Frogmouth	<i>Podargus papuensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

We tried on the Daintree and at Centenary Park without success, but then had a fine adult at Kingfisher Park.

APODIDAE		Swifts															
1	Australian Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus terraereginae</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CORACIIDAE		Rollers															
1	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A few odd migrants were around, mostly the dark-looking immatures, now en route to PNG.

ALCEDINIDAE		Kingfishers															
1	Azure Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx azureus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

We saw one on the Barron River, then one at Daintree

HALCYONIDAE		Tree-Kingfishers															
1	Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher	<i>Tanysiptera sylvia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Blue-winged Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo leachii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Forest Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus macleayii</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Fantastic looks at Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfishers at a site near Kingfisher Park, with a full plumage white tailed male sat by a fledged young., then another adult at KP itself. They leave shortly for PNG. Sacred kingfishers are also en route there, and we saw just 2 at Daintree. Collared is a big crab-eating thing, and we saw one very close at Centenary Park.

MEROPIIDAE		Bee-eaters															
1	Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PTILONORHYNCHIDAE		Bowerbirds															
1	Spotted Catbird	<i>Ailuroedus melanotis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Tooth-billed Bowerbird	<i>Scenopoeetes dentirostris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Great Bowerbird	<i>Chlamydera nuchalis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Spotted Catbird showed beautifully at the Curtain Fig, where at least one juv. was being fed by two adults; also seen at Cassowary House where they were unusually unobtrusive.

Tooth-bills were feeding on a fruiting vine at the Crater and gave very nice looks, they are always tricky out of the nesting season. Great Bowerbird at the bower was a lovely sight along Tinaroo Creek Road, well spotted Chris for the adult on the second day!

CLIMACTERIDAE		Australian Treecreepers															
1	White-throated Treecreeper	<i>Cormobates leucophaea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Brown Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

We did very well for White-throated Treecreepers at several sites, but Brown was elusive and was really only heard at Henry Hannam Drive and Mareeba wetlands









