

Entry

Location: Full Day Encounter (Australia)

Date: Friday, 11 May 2012

Start Time: 7:00 AM

End Time: 6:30 PM

Weather: Fine and warm

Notes: Experience the Wild Darwin Birding and Nature Tours. Full Day Encounter, Guide - Mike Jarvis; Guests Jill from Adelaide, Tania from Sydney and Ian from Melbourne. We started at East Point Reserve in search of Rainbow Pitta and were rewarded with great views as one bird hopped around and on top of a large Orange-footed Scrubfowl's mound, displaying his colours beautifully in the dappled sunlight.

We then headed out to Bird Billabong in the hopes of seeing Gouldian Finches. Access to Bird Billabong is still closed due to flooding, and we searched around the entrance for a little while, without success. From there we went back to the Marrakai Track. As we drove along at a fairly slow pace, Jill spotted some movement in the bush so we stopped to investigate. Without getting out of the vehicle, we saw a family of Long-tailed Finches, including several immature birds, fluttering up and down from ground to low branches, then a pair of Diamond Doves landed in the small tree closest to the vehicle. We saw some Little Woodswallows hawking insects from a dead tree nearby. And then a resplendent male red-headed Gouldian flew up to branch in clear view, facing us, and sat there on the branch for a few minutes, giving us all great views. To say that each of us was moved by the gift of the sight of this fantastic little bird would be an understatement!

We continued down to the Margaret River crossing and set up the picnic lunch, which we enjoyed in the company of a pair of Shining Flycatchers, Leaden Flycatchers and Buff-sided Robins. The Robins regaled us (each other more likely) with their melancholy three note call and seemed to be engrossed in some pair-bonding behaviour.

After lunch and on our way back to Arnhem Highway, we saw some more Gouldians, a black-headed pair this time, plus many Masked Finches.

Fogg Dam was wonderful, as always, and we enjoyed some sunset drinks from the Pandanus lookout, while we used the spotting scope to obtain good views of each species in front of us. 'Bruce', the resident 3 metre croc surfaced a few times. A male Comb-crested Jacana was putting up with a sooky young one that was trying to get under his wing, even though he was nearly as big as dad. At times it looked like a four-legged bird... with two heads! Also a hilarious sight was the group of Royal Spoonbills with their backs to the breeze and nuptial headdress splayed out radially around and above their heads!

The final highlight of the day was a group of twenty or more Red-tailed Black Cockatoos roosting for the night in a large leafless tree, near the Arnhem Highway, Anzac Parade tee-junction. When we got out of the vehicle to look we had just enough light to discern family groups of males and females with youngsters close by.

Highlights were undoubtedly the Gouldian, with the Rainbow Pitta and Buff-sided Robin not far behind.

Number of Observers: 4

Photos

Orange-footed Scrubfowl



Orange-footed Scrubfowl



Gouldian Finch



Diamond Dove



Red-backed Kingfisher

Birds (66)

Megapodes *Megapodiidae*

Count Notes

Orange-footed Scrubfowl <i>Megapodius reinwardt</i>		At East Point, photos taken at East Point but on another occasion
---	--	---

Magpie Goose *Anseranatidae*

Count Notes

Magpie Goose <i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>		Arnhem Highway and Fogg Dam
---	--	-----------------------------

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl *Anatidae*

Count Notes

Wandering Whistling-Duck <i>Dendrocygna arcuata</i>		Fogg Dam
Radjah Shelduck <i>Tadorna radjah</i>	8	Fogg Dam
Green Pygmy-goose <i>Nettapus pulchellus</i>		At Beatrice Lagoon and Fogg Dam

Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae*

Count Notes

Diamond Dove <i>Geopelia cuneata</i>		Pair on Marrakai Track
Peaceful Dove <i>Geopelia striata</i>		In all areas
Bar-shouldered Dove <i>Geopelia humeralis</i>		Seen in all areas

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocoracidae*

Count Notes

Little Pied Cormorant <i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>		At Fogg Dam
Little Black Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>		At Fogg Dam

Storks *Ciconiidae*

Count Notes

Black-necked Stork <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	3	At Fogg Dam
--	---	-------------

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

Count Notes

White-necked Heron <i>Ardea pacifica</i>	2	Lovely views of one on a floodplain stretch of the Marrakai Track as he took off, flew around low and came back in towards as to land again
Eastern Great Egret <i>Ardea modesta</i>		Many at Fogg Dam, also lovely close view of one alight and walk through

		the flowing water on the Margaret River crossing
Intermediate Egret <i>Ardea intermedia</i>		Fogg Dam
Cattle Egret <i>Ardea ibis</i>		Anzac Parade, near Fogg dam
Pied Heron <i>Egretta picata</i>		Many at Fogg Dam
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>		Fogg Dam
Eastern Reef Egret <i>Egretta sacra</i>	1	At East Point, grey phase
Nankeen Night-Heron <i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>		At Fogg Dam, mature and some juvenile

Ibises and Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

Count Notes

Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		At Fogg Dam
Australian White Ibis <i>Threskiornis molucca</i>		At Fogg Dam
Royal Spoonbill <i>Platalea regia</i>		At Fogg Dam

Hawks, Eagles and Allies *Accipitridae*

Count Notes

White-bellied Sea-Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	1	Arnhem Highway, near Fogg Dam
Whistling Kite <i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>		In all areas, observed one fly across the road in front of us on the Marrakai Track, with a mid sized snake
Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>		In all areas
Wedge-tailed Eagle <i>Aquila audax</i>	1	Quartering over Arnhem Highway

Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae*

Count Notes

Nankeen Kestrel <i>Falco cenchroides</i>		Several on Arnhem Highway
Brown Falcon <i>Falco berigora</i>		Several along Arnhem Highway and Marrakai Track, juvenile (dark bird) observed near Adelaide River

Stilts and Avocets *Recurvirostridae*

Count Notes

Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	7	At Fogg Dam
---	---	-------------

Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*

Count Notes

Masked Lapwing <i>Vanellus miles</i>		At East Point and Fogg Dam
--------------------------------------	--	----------------------------

Jacanas *Jacanidae*

Count Notes

Comb-crested Jacana <i>Irediparra gallinacea</i>		Male with 3 large chicks. At Fogg Dam
--	--	---------------------------------------

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers *Laridae*

Count Notes

Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>		At Fogg Dam
--	--	-------------

Cockatoos *Cacatuidae*

Count Notes

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo <i>Calyptorhynchus banksii</i>	20+	Near corner of Anzac Parade and Arnhem Highway
Galah <i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>		Arnhem Highway
Little Corella <i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>		Arnhem Highway
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo <i>Cacatua galerita</i>		At Bird Billabong

Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

Count Notes

Brush Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>	1	At East Point Reserve, nice view in a
---	---	---------------------------------------

		Yellow Flame Tree
--	--	-------------------

Tree Kingfishers <i>Halcyonidae</i>		Count	Notes
Blue-winged Kookaburra <i>Dacelo leachii</i>			Marrakai Track and Anzac Parade
Forest Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus macleayii</i>			Seen in most areas
Red-backed Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus pyrrhopygius</i>	1		Good view of RBK on powerlines beside Marrakai Track

Bee-eaters <i>Meropidae</i>		Count	Notes
Rainbow Bee-eater <i>Merops ornatus</i>			Seen in all areas

Pittas <i>Pittidae</i>		Count	Notes
Rainbow Pitta <i>Pitta iris</i>	2		Seen at East Point and heard at Fogg Dam (monsoon forest car park), lovely view of Pitta on the OFS mound

Australasian Treecreepers <i>Climacteridae</i>		Count	Notes
Black-tailed Treecreeper <i>Climacteris melanura</i>	3		Pair seen in woodland on Marrakai Track

Fairywrens <i>Maluridae</i>		Count	Notes
Red-backed Fairy-wren <i>Malurus melanocephalus</i>	3		Fleeting views of 2 breeding males and a female, on Marrakai Track

Thornbills and Allies <i>Acanthizidae</i>		Count	Notes
Weebill <i>Smicrornis brevirostris</i>			At Bird Billabong, heard and brief glimpse

Honeyeaters <i>Meliphagidae</i>		Count	Notes
White-gaped Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus unicolor</i>			Seen and heard in all areas
Rufous-banded Honeyeater <i>Conopophila albogularis</i>			Seen or heard in all areas
Banded Honeyeater <i>Cissomela pectoralis</i>			Glimpsed at Bird Billabong

Cuckoo-shrikes <i>Campephagidae</i>		Count	Notes
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike <i>Coracina papuensis</i>			Seen in most areas
White-winged Triller <i>Lalage sueurii</i>	1		Good views of a bird in cryptic plumage, at Bird Billabong

Old World Orioles <i>Oriolidae</i>		Count	Notes
Yellow Oriole <i>Oriolus flavocinctus</i>			At East Point and Margaret River

Woodswallows <i>Artamidae</i>		Count	Notes
White-breasted Woodswallow <i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>			At East Point
Little Woodswallow <i>Artamus minor</i>	3		On Marrakai Track

Bellmagpies and Allies <i>Cracticidae</i>		Count	Notes
Grey Butcherbird <i>Cracticus torquatus</i>	1		Top End race is 'Silver-backed', seen at Mary River excavation pits

Drongos <i>Dicruridae</i>		Count	Notes

Spangled Drongo <i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i>		Seen and heard in all areas
--	--	-----------------------------

Fantails <i>Rhipiduridae</i>	Count	Notes
Northern Fantail <i>Rhipidura rufiventris</i>		Heard but not seen, at East Point
Willie Wagtail <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>		Marrakai Track and Fogg Dam

Monarch Flycatchers <i>Monarchidae</i>	Count	Notes
Leaden Flycatcher <i>Myiagra rubecula</i>	2	Pair at Margaret River
Shining Flycatcher <i>Myiagra alecto</i>	2	Pair at Margaret River
Magpie-lark <i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>		In all areas

Australasian Robins <i>Petroicidae</i>	Count	Notes
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher <i>Microeca flavigaster</i>		Seen at East Point and Margaret River. Observed (and heard) at Margaret River one singing a complex song that seemed to be imitation of other birds, a song I have not heard from LBF before.
Buff-sided Robin <i>Poecilodryas cerviniventris</i>	2	Nice views of pair at Margaret River

Swallows <i>Hirundinidae</i>	Count	Notes
Tree Martin <i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>		At East Point

Waxbills and Allies <i>Estrildidae</i>	Count	Notes
Long-tailed Finch <i>Poephila acuticauda</i>	6+	On Marrakai Track
Crimson Finch <i>Neochmia phaeton</i>		Fogg Dam
Gouldian Finch <i>Erythrura gouldiae</i>	3	On the Marrakai Track. Great view of male red-headed as he sat on a branch quite close to the vehicle, later we saw a black-headed pair

Butterflies (4)

Nymphs <i>Nymphalidae</i>	Count	Notes
Dingy Bush-brown <i>Mycalesis perseus</i>		At Mary River excavation pits
Orange Lacewing <i>Cethosia penthesilea</i>		At Fogg Dam
Chocolate Argus <i>Junonia hedonia</i>		On Marrakai Track
Common Crow <i>Euploea core</i>		Seen in all areas

Mammals (2)

Kangaroos, Wallabies, Tree Kangaroos <i>Macropodidae</i>	Count	Notes
Agile Wallaby <i>Macropus agilis</i>		Seen at East Point Reserve, along Arnhem Highway and on the Marrakai Track.
Antilopine Wallaroo <i>Macropus antilopinus</i>	6	Glimpse of group hopping away as we travelled along the Marrakai Track.

Reptiles (2)

Crocodiles *Crodylus*

Count Notes

Estuarine Crocodile <i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	1	Lagoon near Pandanus lookout
---	---	------------------------------

Colubrid Snakes *Colubridae*

Count Notes

Common Tree Snake <i>Dendrelaphis punctulata</i>	1	On Arnhem Highway
--	---	-------------------