

O'Reilly's 40th Annual Birdweek 2017 Program

Overview

Join bird lovers from around the globe in Australia's longest running birding program – the 40th Annual O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat Bird Week.

From 5th to 11th November, 2017 birders will have the opportunity to rub shoulders with some of Australia's most well-known bird researchers, authors and photographers as they spot over 200 species of the 230 varieties residing in our World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park – which is home to Australia's largest collection of sub-tropical birds. The seven day event combines insightful live presentations from Australia's most reputable bird enthusiasts plus guided bird tours throughout O'Reilly's World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park, nearby Kerry Valley and Stradbroke Island.

Please note

The program is subject to change at short notice. Changes to the program are covered in bird call reviews at day end or often during dinner, so please attend to stay in the loop.

All activities are optional. Please feel free to be involved day and night or as casual as you wish. No one is obliged to attend everything if you are finding it hard to attend all activities on the program. If, however, any activities on the regular Discovery Centre program (reduced for Birdweek) also take your fancy please book and attend for these. Be sure to keep a track of your bird sightings for the bird call reviews.

Some birders don't have a luxury of time and will be attending single sessions, single days or several days. Of course, please make them feel welcome.

Lower Duck Creek Road may not be safely accessible due to damage, roughness, difficulty from the road condition. Tours will avoid descent below John Shepard Lookout and all valley tours will travel via Canungra main road unless conditions dramatically improve.

Day One

Annual Birdweek begins Sunday 5th November

4:00pm

Welcome and introduction to our 40th Birdweek in the Theatre.

We shall meet the leaders, mention special guest speakers, presenters and staff whom will be making this a special week. An overview of the week follows and how birdweek runs.

4:30pm

Birds of Lamington National Park workshop.

By popular demand Glen Threlfo will run us through many of the typical species and their calls to give the new (and often experienced!) birders to the area a good basis of the typical locations and differences between species

5:30pm

Toast to Birdweek with a view at sunset drinks.

We shall meet at the Rainforest Retreat's South-Western Observation Deck (above the Helipad clearing) to mingle with fellow birders, see some more birds passing by and we toast to the sunset (subject to weather).

7:30pm

Dinner in the Dining Room

There will be a Birdweek dining area section in dining room most days. Reminder to hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to the Discovery Centre this evening or tomorrow please, then advise as soon as possible for any future changes. Some tour options will have limited numbers so changes in advance will allow for leaders, logistics, catering and transport (and birds) to be planned.

Day Two

Local day mountain birding and birding workshops Monday 6th November



6:00am

Local Birdwalk Booyong and Border Track, 1.5hrs.

Meet at front door of the reception area for this walk each day. Seeking nearby rainforest birds. Our leaders will take several groups, depending on numbers to explore the birds of the surrounds. Each day we will have a similar birdwalk aiming to survey slightly different areas. It is always a very productive way to start the day.

7:30am

Breakfast.

9:00am

Wishing Tree Track walk. (1.5km), 3hrs.

Subtropical rainforest birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta, Pale Yellow Robin, Azure Kingfisher, Wompoo and Rose Crowned Fruit Dove. Uneven surfaces, mostly downhill. Bus return from Cedar Tree 12:00. Limited distance walkers may choose to bus in later on to the bottom of the track and work along Morans Creek to rejoin the group

9:00am

Python Rock Lookout Track. (3km), 3hrs.

Vehicle drop off and pick up at track start. A wonderful sub tropical rainforest walk. Most of the rainforest species are possible along here. Good nesting area. Potential Eucalypt species and raptor sightings along the Morans Valley escarpment at the lookout deck.

1:00pm

Lunch.

2:00pm

Walking The Border Track towards Picnic Rock, 2hrs.

More stunning subtropical rainforest with a chance of finding Lyrebird, Riflebird, Noisy Pitta, Catbird, Fruit Doves, Rose & Pale Yellow Robin.

2:00pm

Duck Creek road - Eucalypt Forest edge, 2hrs.

Seeking Red Browed Treecreeper, White Naped Honeyeater, Sittellas, Thornbills, Pardalotes, Cicadabird, Variegated Fairy Wrens, short walks near bus.

2:00pm

Painters workshop with Kathryn Castle.

You will be guided and encouraged to produce your own work of art. You may be surprised what you can produce. Meet at the Pavillion.

4:30pm

Guest Speaker - Nick Leseberg from Queensland University.

Some of the head researchers from Queensland University will give a riveting presentation outlining the dramatic developments in the research of the enigmatic Night Parrot, that continues to surprise everyone. This is not to be missed. Gather in the theatre promptly please

6:00pm

Dinner in the Dining Room.

A quality buffet selection tonight shall await us.

Reminder:

Full day tours commence tomorrow.

There are always local options each day.

Hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to the Discovery Centre this evening or tomorrow please, then advise as soon as possible for any changes.

Day Three

Mountain to valley day Tuesday 7th November



6:00am

Early birding walk towards Centenary Track, 1.5 hrs.

7:00am

Breakfast.

8:00am

Stockyard Creek track. (7km), 8hrs.

Full day walk, mostly downhill. Steep edges, loose underfoot medium-high fitness. Lunch out and remember to take extra water. Top to bottom birding. Historical cliff track route transitioning through many subtle habitat and species changes. Bus pickup about 3-4pm. Seeking Raptors, White Eared Monarch, White Throated Nightjar, Sittellas, Woodswallows, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Barred Cuckoo Shrike, Wompoo and Rose Crowned Fruit dove, Pale Yellow Robin.

8:00am

Beaudesert- Western Lagoons and Kerry Valley bus trip.

Starting from below the Canungra valley, over 200 possible species line this classic tour of the charming Beaudesert and Kerry Valley. Various habitats centred around parklands, bushland, farmland, roadsides and waterholes. Seeking; Plumed/ Wandering Whistling Duck, 12 raptors, Snipe and Sharpies, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Speckled Warbler, Kingfishers, Babblers, Sittellas, Parrots, Weebill, White Throated Gerygone, Jacky Winter, Bush Hen, Plum Headed Finch, Yellow Spoonbill and much more. Lunch stop with packed lunches. Limited spaces.

9:00am

Morans Valley vehicle based, short walks, 3hrs.

Various stops across diverse habitats such regrowth rainforest, open areas, escarpment. Stopping at flying fox, Morans clearing and towards Balancing Rock. Seeking raptors, Cuckoos, Pitta, Lyrebird, Pale Yellow Robin, Thrushes, Varied Triller and Eucalypt country species.

12:30pm

Lunch.

2:00pm

Painters workshop with Kathryn Castle.

You will be guided and encouraged to produce your own work of art. You may be surprised what you can do. Meet at the Pavillion.

2:00pm

Villa Track-Wishing Tree circuit. (2km), 3hrs.

Another combination walking track route seeking; Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta, Pale Yellow Robin, Grey Goshawk, Azure Kingfisher, and fruit doves. Uneven surfaces, exactly 50% up and 50% downhill travel.

6:00pm

Bird Review before Dinner.

Please keep in mind if you are going night birding you will have only 2 hours for dinner

8:00pm

Night Birding, approx 2hrs.

We shall explore the local area and Morans valley to locate the mysterious Marbled Frogmouth, Sooty Owl, Owlet-nightjar or any other possibilities. Bring a torch and binoculars, warm and wet weather equipment.



Day Four

Coastal Tour or searching for mountain species Wednesday 8th November



6:00am

Local Birdwalk towards Villa Track campground, 1.5hrs.

6:30am

Coastal Waders tour.

See what birds we can find at the nearby coastal habitats at the coastal extremity of the local river catchment area. Depart for Gold Coast, Coombabah and Stradbroke Island inter tidal and bushland areas, including boat charter. Full day, packed lunch out. Seeking Beach/ Bush Stone Curlew, Eastern Curlew, Godwits, Sandpipers, Stints, Whimberel, (or any waders), Terns, Raptors, Mangrove Kingfisher/ Honeyeater, waterfowl, bushbirds and shorebirds. Spaces limited.

7:00am

Breakfast.

9:00am

Birds and Botany workshop with Bill Macdonald. (1.5km), 2hrs.

Join Author, zoologist & Queensland Herbarium botany expert Bill McDonald on a walk through the Treetops Walk and Mountain Gardens area to explore the intricate relationships between birds and plants. A highly informative workshop delving deeper into rainforest ecosystems.

9:00am

Eucalypt forest bus to Duck Creek road-Shepards, Kerry Lookout area, 3hrs.

Seeking; Red Browed Treecreeper, White Naped Honeyeater, Sittellas, Collared Sparrowhawk, Painted Button Quail, Thornbills, Pardalotes, Cicadabird, Variegated Fairy Wrens, Glossy Black Cockatoo and maybe a koala. Short walks near bus up to 1km.

1:00pm

Lunch.

2:00pm

Painters workshop with Kathryn Castle.

2:00pm

West Cliffs/ Pats Bluff circuit. (5km), 3hrs.

A variety of habitats towards the western escarpment seeking; Lyrebird, Pitta, Riflebirds, Sittellas, Red Browed Treecreeper, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Pardalote, White Naped Honeyeater, Wompooos. Eucalypt, Farm, edge, escarpment species. ½ uphill.

2:00pm

Vehicle based birding around Charlies Waterhole and Bell Miner Colony, 3hrs.

See a 'lerp based'- Bell Miner colony! Nearby waterholes, dry rainforest and Eucalypt country will keep us busy. (short walks around bus). Seeking: Little Shrike Thrush, Yellow Thornbill, Owlet Nightjar, Striated Thornbill, Sittella, Wompoo Pigeon, 3 Monarchs, Variegated FairyWren, White Naped Honeyeater, Brush Cuckoo, Leaden Flycatcher and Bellbirds.

6:30pm

Special 40th Birdweek Dinner and Presentation

The history of birdweek-looking back 40 years. Bus shuttle to Lost World Conference Centre from reception. There will be a Black and Gold theme for this event. There are many birdweeks in many places now, however, O'Reilly's birdweek is 40 years strong. We will have a special birdweek 40th dinner to reflect on 40 years of the longest running birdweek. Speeches, a charity raffle and a walk through time display will be happening to outline how things were done and how birdweek came to be and how it has endured to this day. It should be a memorable event and a thankyou for everyone whom has been a part of this event over many years. You should expect a few other pleasant surprises. The prestigious Annual birdweek awards night dinner will still be on Saturday evening as a weekly summary.

Day Five

Eastern Lagoons, Eagleby and Mountain birding Thursday 9th November



6:00am

Birding Locally Border Track and Booyong areas, 1.5hrs.

7:00am

Breakfast.

7:30am

Bus departs for Eastern Lagoons and Eagleby Wetlands via Oxenford.

Journey from the top of the range to the end of the Albert River catchment. Many birding possibilities including Jabiru, Reed Warbler, Red Necked Avocet, Kingfishers, many Raptors, Magpie Geese, Snipes, waders, waterfowl, bush birds and the 10 Duck challenge! Lunch out, full day, short walks. (limited places, bring a scope if you have one)

9:00am

Python Rock Lookout Track. (3km), 3hrs.

A wonderful sub tropical rainforest walk. Most sought after rainforest species are possible along here. Good nesting area. Potential Eucalypt species and raptor sightings along the Morans Valley escarpment at the lookout.

9:00am

Main road birding middle Lamington National Park Road, 4hrs.

Bus based tour-short walks nearby. You would have already passed this country but not stopped to seek out its birds. Seeking out Cicadabird, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Painted Button Quail, Striated and Buff Rumped Thornbills, Sittellas, 3 Fairywrens, White-Naped Honeyeater, Spotted Quail Thrush and more.

1:00pm

Lunch.

2:00pm

Wishing Tree Track walk. (1.5km), 3hrs.

Downhill birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta, Pale Yellow Robin, Azure Kingfisher, Wompoo and Rose Crowned Fruit Dove. Uneven surfaces, Bus return from Cedar Tree area. Limited distance walkers may choose to bus in to the bottom of the track and work along Morans Creek to rejoin the group

2:00pm

Walking Moonlight Crag to O'Reilly's. (4km), 3hrs.

Vehicle drop off, walk back. Some loose underfoot sections. Scenic views over; Lost World, Morans Valley and the Scenic Rim. Chance of sighting; Raptors, Owlet Nightjar, Lyrebird, Riflebird, Noisy Pitta, rainforest species and Eucalypt species. Medium fitness.

6:00pm

Review.

6:15pm

Dinner in dining room.

7:45pm

Glen Threlfo's audio visual. Theatre.

Join legendary cinematographer, Glen Threlfo, in a session to showcase some of Glenn's Threlfo's latest achievements in filming, wildlife, latest projects and any other must see footage!

Day Six

Local areas and Top of the range trek, the Scrub Bird and Olive Whistler challenge Friday 10th November



6:00am

Local Birding down the main road, 1.5hrs.

7:00am

Breakfast.

8:00am

Border Track to higher altitude Cool Temperate Beech forests, (16km).

Search among the ancient and mysterious domain of the elusive Rufous Scrub Bird and Olive Whistler. Many rainforest species will be found along the way. Up to 16km (return towards Mt Wanungra. Lunch out. Medium to high fitness recommended. Wet weather clothing and backpack needed. All walkers required to carry own packed lunch and provisions. Same route out and back so go as far as you can capably return.

9:00am

Birding bus to Charlies Waterhole and beyond, Bell Miner Colony and Lake Cainbale, 3hrs.

Some often busy watering sites. Searching for; Bell Miner, Owlet Nightjar, Cicadabird, Glossy Black Cockatoo, 3 Monarchs, 3 Thornbills, Wompoo Pigeon and Brush Cuckoo.

1:00pm

Lunch.

2:00pm

Raptor Watch-Maries Gate, Pats Gate, Lukes Bluff. Approx 2hrs.

A chance at trying to locate any birds of prey however many other possibilities along the way. Great scenery assured, several nearby sites visited. Bring a scope if you have one!

6:00pm

Review before Dinner in Dining Room.

8:00pm

Night Birding main road (weather permitting).

A drive and spotlight mission for night birds. Target species; Any!-such as; Sooty Owl, Owlet Nightjar, Marbled Frogmouth, Boobook Owl and Barn Owl. Wear warm/ wet weather clothes, binoculars and bring a torch. May be out a couple hours. Sometimes a local check around the Guesthouse environs reveals these species too.



Day Seven

Top to bottom and all around - the last chance 'clean up day' to boost the species sightings.
Saturday 11th November



6:00am

Local Birdwalk villa track area/ campground, 1.5hrs.

6:00am

Early Breakfast begins.

7:00am

Canungra Valley and Beyond Bus, 6hrs.

The valley 'clean up bus' targeting the many other things we somehow can miss. Time is of the essence on this tour so will be prioritising target species but can also be quite fun! Seeking; Koel, Brush Cuckoo, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Grey Crowned Babbler, Wandering Whistling Duck, Snipe, Black Falcon, Plum Head Finch, Cockatiel, Honeyeaters, Martins, Quails, Jabiru, Speckled Warbler.

8:30am

Bus drop off departs for (Upper) Cainbale Falls off track walk, 7hrs.

Take a trek along the old horse riding route down to Cainbale falls-and take all day! Starting at Lukes Farm we trek 4km down a Hoop pine forest ridge to Cainbale Creek Falls. Then a 2km gradual uphill journey to Duck Creek Road at Belsons Ridge for return transport. Drier rainforest, riparian sections, Eucalypt and escarpment habitats will be encountered. Usually a half day walk 6km but a bit more time today to seek out: Noisy Pitta, Little Shrike Thrush, Brush Cuckoo, Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo, Wompoo and Rose Crowned Fruit Doves, Sooty Owl, Pale Yellow Robin, Monarchs, Sittellas, Red Browed Treecreeper, Painted Button Quail. Interesting country with views along escarpment. Lunch out. High fitness, rough underfoot.

9:00am

West Canungra Creek track - Darraboola Falls.

Border Track towards Picnic Rock if This Track is still closed from Floods. It is 2km down the West Canungra Circuit to the minor Darraboola falls. A less travelled and lower elevation gives birders a greater chance of Rose Crowned Dove, Paradise riflebird, Lyrebird, Pale Yellow Robin, Rose Robin, with a descent into the valley sides.

1:00pm

Lunch.

2:00pm

Villa Trail (shortcut) to Morans Falls, Centenary Track Circuit Walk. (4.5km), 3hrs.

Another rainforest birdwalk seeking fruit doves, Riflebird, Pale Yellow Robin and eucalypt species. 100 stairs returning but gradual ascent. New centenary trail back.

2:00pm

Eucalypt forest bus to Duck Creek road-Kerry Lookout area, 3hrs.

Seeking the Cainbale walkers! and Red Browed Treecreeper, White Naped Honeyeater, Sittellas, Collared Sparrowhawk, Painted Button Quail, 3 Thornbills, Pardalotes, Cicadabird, Leaden Flycatcher, Fairy Wrens and Glossy Black Cockatoo.

6:30pm

Birdweek Final Count.

BBQ Dinner in Pavillion, speeches, reflections and THE prestigious Birdweek Awards ceremony.

Day Eight

Departure Day

Sunday 12th November

6:00am

A last ditch attempt at birding in the Morans Valley (short bus ride) near the Cedar Tree for anything special or missed.

7:30am

Breakfast and depart with long goodbyes.

Until we bird again, thankyou all for a great week and travel well.

- O'Reilly's Family.