



Rainforest Retreat, Villas
& Lost World Spa

Program
March 4 - 9

O'Reilly's Bird Week Autumn 2018

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Overview

Welcome to Autumn Bird Week at O'Reilly's! We're thrilled you're here to join us as we venture into Lamington National Park and surrounds searching for migratory birds that may be about to leave for wintering grounds further afield. As a group we will be able to explore a range of habitats from dry rainforests to lagoons, plus take in the magnificent scenery. You're in for a fun few days of bird watching with guided tours and presentations by local experts and O'Reilly's guides.

Please note: This program is subject to change without notice depending on weather and other variables, but will serve as a guide to help you know what to pack for the day ahead and what to look forward to as part of your Autumn Bird Watching experience at O'Reilly's.

Sunday March 4th

Welcome and Introductory Birding

2:00pm

Welcome to Autumn Birding 2018!
We will gather in the Theatrette to meet your leaders and summarise the program for the week ahead. We will play calls of local birds of the O'Reilly's area to help you familiarise.

3:00pm

An Introduction to the Birds of O'Reilly's (1.5km, 2.5hr, downhill, bus pickup at the Cedar Tree). We start our birding on the famous Wishing Tree Track for a couple of hours seeking rainforest birds and some edge-type species at the end of the track.

5:00pm

A short bus ride to the dramatic Moonlight Crag deck will follow from the cedar tree for welcome drinks as the sun sets (weather permitting). Hopefully we will sight a few good birds from this vantage point.
Return 6:30pm

7:00pm

Dinner in the Log Fire room. Glen Threlfo to welcome guests and introduce leaders and guides. Guides will include Glen himself, Duncan Fowler, Mark Watson, Matt Kelly, and leaders will include Dave Stewart, Annette O'Reilly, and potentially other O'Reilly family members (TBA).

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Monday March 5th Mountain-based Birding Sites

6:00am

Morning Bird Walk (1.5hrs)-we shall seek out rainforest species around the Rainforest Circuit area of the Border Track and Booyong Walk

9:00am

Eucalypt birding along the Duck Creek Road, Surveying around Maries Gate, Kurrajong Lookout and Belsons Road (Bus based short walks 3hrs). Morning can be quite active in the high Eucalypt forest as we target sightings of Red Browed Treecreeper, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Sittellas, Cicadabird, Fairy Wrens, Thornbills, Honeyeaters, Pardalotes and Raptors. Rainforest and farm birds also likely.

12.30pm – Lunch

2:00pm

Morans Falls Rainforest Birding (2km, 2.5hrs, bus return). Another classic walk targeting rainforest species such as Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta, Pale Yellow Robin, Wompoo Pigeon, Monarchs and some Eucalypt species at the end of the trail.

6:00pm – Dinner

8:00pm

Nocturnal Bird Spotlighting-(short walks, vehicle based-2hrs approximately)-a search of local area seeking any night-birds such as; Boobook Owl, Marbled Frogmouth, Owlet Nightjar and hopefully a Sooty Owl. Please bring a torch and suitable clothing.

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Tuesday March 6th Coastal Tour

8:00am

Eastern Coastal Lagoons-(bus based short walks-full day-lunch out)-Today will focus off the ranges and towards the bird rich lower end of the Albert River catchment. We shall explore the Tamborine, Eagleby, Oxenford and Coombabah sites which include farmland, riparian zones, lakes, surrounding bush sites, treatment works, mangroves and tidal zones. There is a huge array of interesting possibilities with expectations of some migratory species still present. Hopefully we shall find Reed Warbler, Black Kite, Forest Kingfisher, Magpie Geese, Mangrove warbler/ Kingfisher/Honeyeaters, Avocets, Sandpipers, Mangrove Kingfishers, Swifts, Owlet Nightjar, Jabiru, Terns, Shorebirds. Finches, Woodswallows, Swifts and much more.

7:00pm

Bird Review before Dinner
(please bring species list)

Wednesday March 7th Mountain-based Birding

6:00am

Morning birding (local area)

8:00am – Breakfast

9:00am

Python Rock Lookout Track (3.4km level walk, 3hrs)-A classic birding track offering rainforest species such as Thrushes, Lyrebird, Pitta, Riflebird, Catbird, Wompoo Pigeon, Rose Robin with some Eucalypt forest edge species and escarpment views.

12:30 – Lunch

2:00pm

Charlies Waterhole and Kamarun Lookout area-(bus based short walks, 3hrs)-another mix of habitats for a diverse afternoon birding. Dry rainforest and Eucalypt species. Targeting Monarchs, Yellow Thornbill, Little Shrike Thrush, Wompoo Pigeon, Bell Miner, Brush Cuckoo, Cicadabird, Raptors and Fairy Wrens

6:00pm – Dinner, Log Fire Room.

7:30pm

Guest Speaker Dave Stewart

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Thursday March 8th Kerry Valley Bus Tour

8:00am

Kerry Valley Bus Tour- (lunch out)-Full day out birding lower elevations of the scenic valley habitats toward Beaudesert and the delightful Kerry Valley. We shall be searching bushlands and waterholes for Snipe, Rails, Finches, Sittellas, Grassbirds, Kingfishers, Waterfowl, Raptors, Flycatchers, Bee-Eaters, Speckled Warbler, Honeyeaters, Babblers and much more. Always a great day out.

7:00pm – Dinner

Friday March 9th Mountain Morning

6:00am

Morning birding along the Villa Track and towards the Centennial Track (1.5hr)

9:00pm

Border Track 2.5hrs-we venture along the famous Border Track in case we have missed anything in that direction, seeking mainly rainforest species. Return via the same route.

1:00pm

Lunch and Final Species count. Please bring along your species list and we shall summarise the week that was and our birds, highlights and magic moments. We will have a prestigious award presentation for the best sighting of the week.

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Special Guest Speaker

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Dave Stewart

Dave will be joining us for Autumn Bird Week as an assistant leader as well as guest speaker.

As a long-time resident and birder of Northern New South Wales and SE Qld he has vast experience of the regional birdlife. Dave has been involved in birding and wildlife survey across all corners of Australia since the 1960's and more recently, internationally. He has familiarity with most Australian bird species accrued through travelling, surveying, researching, consulting and cataloguing wildlife, and in particular their calls.

Dave is the most renowned wildlife sound recordist in Australia and has the most comprehensive collection of quality digital Australian bird recordings, exceeding 700 species. His work is also catalogued in various natural history libraries and archives worldwide. David runs Naturesound (www.naturesound.com.au) providing sound services across various media. Dave has pioneered bird and frog recording (disc) series in different regions as well as all the 600 bird sound species represented on the original, ground-breaking, Michael Morcome - Birds of Australia 'app'.

Dave will soon release a Birdcalls of Australia (call only) app spanning nearly every species as a follow up to a recent Frogs of Australia app which covers all Australian frog species. He is also presently involved in surveying the indicated decline of small 'bush bird' species in the Brisbane region. Finally, Dave has a long affiliation with O'Reilly's and Lamington National Park and has been involved in over 16 past Bird Week events at O'Reilly's, so he will undoubtedly be a great asset to the week.