

O'Reilly's

47TH ANNUAL

Bird Week

NOVEMBER 10 - 16



**Australia's longest-running birdwatching event.
Spot over 200 bird species within the stunning
World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park.**



From 10th to 16th November, 2024 – 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 subtropical birds.

The seven-day event combines insightful live presentations from Australia's most reputable bird enthusiasts plus guided bird tours throughout O'Reilly's remarkable property, the adjacent World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park, nearby valleys and wetlands, the Southport Broadwater and South Stradbroke Island.

If interested to share your photos, be sure and tag [#oreillysbirdweek](#) for the chance to get your images posted on our social media channels with credit to you.

LEADERS & SPEAKERS

10 - 16 NOV 2024



Peter O'Reilly
Host

As a second-generation O'Reilly family member, growing up at O'Reilly's and later managing the guesthouse operations with his brother Vince, Peter has a deep knowledge of the plants and wildlife of Lamington National Park. In 2002, Peter was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his work with the Environment and Tourism.



Tim O'Reilly
Host

A third-generation family member with over 21 years of guiding experience in Lamington. His qualifications include working at the guesthouse for over 20 years, managing the activities department, collating the Mammal Guide and Guide to Birds of Lamington booklets, and guiding international birders to the park and surrounds over many years.

Tim studied a double degree in Environmental Science and has been birding in Asia, Africa and the UK. Recently he has been involved in environmental programs through 'Wild Mob' and other environmental based organisations taking groups on conservation projects targeting threatened species recovery programs. He will be the main host, MC and leader checking final numbers for all tours during the week.



Dr Bill McDonald
Leader

Bill has a long history of research and exploration of Lamington National Park and hence has long been a part of O'Reilly's and National Park history stretching back several decades. He loves coming to the area as much as possible. Bill is a qualified zoologist and an Honorary Research Associate at the Queensland Herbarium and has had a long career both there and in the field.

He is a leading authority on flora and in particular the flora of South East Queensland and has co-authored several books and digital resources on the identification of rainforest plants. This has also led to his detailed knowledge of local wildlife. Bill and Peter O'Reilly have undertaken what is believed to be the longest continual rainforest research study in the world.

His expertise will broaden our understanding of the role of birds in the rainforest ecosystem and how they are related. Bill has birded, worked, and travelled comprehensively around Australia and across the globe. Bill has led numerous Forest Week and Forest Weekend events at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat.



Dr Ian Gynther
Leader

Ian Gynther is a zoologist and works as a Principal Conservation Officer in the Threatened Species Unit of the Queensland Department of Environment, Science and Innovation. Ian is an expert on the vertebrate fauna of Australia but in particular Queensland.

Ian has been a leader in well over 20 Bird Weeks and has previously led Frog, Mammal and Wildlife Weeks. He is involved in fieldwork in Lamington National Park and across Queensland. Most recently, Ian co-edited the authoritative 'Strahan's Mammals of Australia', Fourth Edition, and has been regarded as knowing virtually everything that moves. Ian will be leading on most of the full day outings and facilitates the bird counts and record keeping register of Bird Week sightings.

LEADERS & SPEAKERS

10 - 16 NOV 2024



Barry Davies
Leader

Barry Davies owns and operates Gondwana Guides and is one of Australia's most experienced guides and the only person to twice be named Australian EcoGuide of the Year by Ecotourism Australia.

He is based at Beechmont on the edge of World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park and provides a range of birding services in Australia and overseas. He has extensive knowledge of Lamington National Parks and surrounds.



Todd Burrows
Leader

Todd Burrows is an ecologist and wildlife photographer, with a special interest in birds. Since 2012, he has been with the City of Gold Coast as a Senior Conservation Partnerships Officer working with private landholders across the city to help conserve and enhance biodiversity. Prior to this, he worked for a decade as an Environment Guide at Couran Cove Island Resort on South Stradbroke Island and enjoyed leading the early morning bird walks.

Todd's interest in the bird life of Australia was sparked at a young age during family trips to O'Reilly's, which led to a passion for bird watching and wildlife photography. Todd's photos have been published in several magazines and field guides and appear on park signage throughout the Gold Coast and further afield. Todd is also a keen user of eBird and iNaturalist and volunteers as an eBird reviewer for the Gold Coast LGA.



Glen Threlfo
Guide

Glen started working at O'Reilly's in Bird Week 40 years ago with a bird call workshop and has been working for O'Reilly's as a guide ever since. He has attended nearly all of the Bird Weeks. Glen has an affection and intimate knowledge of the ecosystems of the Lamington region and is a good friend to all the birds close to the Guesthouse Retreat area!

He has produced numerous publications and documentaries that showcase the spectacular flora and fauna of the park. He has travelled and filmed far and wide, including much of Australia (particularly the Top End of the Northern Territory) but also Africa, India and Antarctica. Glen's recent work involves filming Peregrine Falcons nesting in Sydney and weaving a new documentary from his catalogue of amazing footage. We hope to see Glen's latest work this week!



Matthew Kelly
Guide

Matthew Kelly originated from the Northern Beaches of Sydney. He has worked as a guide in Waratah National Park near Sydney, Kakadu in the Northern Territory and El Questro in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Matt first became a guide at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat in August 2010. He is part of the O'Reilly's Discovery Team as a part-time guide and is our resident e-Bike Guide. He also guides birding groups throughout the year.

He is passionate about our wildlife, rainforest and natural surroundings and enjoys being able to educate and show people from all over the world a place he loves and cares deeply about. Matt has been slowly discovering sites where our difficult-to-find rarer birds have been hiding out. This should be of interest during Bird Week.

LEADERS & SPEAKERS

10 - 16 NOV 2024



Rahula Perera
Guide

Rahula Perera is a biologist from Sri Lanka. Currently working as a storyteller in Australia, he is a certified EcoGuide and accredited Savannah Guide in Australia. Rahula is a member of the Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka (local BirdLife International partner), which works closely with BirdLife Asia, and BirdLife International to promote and plan bird tourism in the region.

He has first-hand experience in studying mixed species foraging flocks in Gondwana rainforest in Sri Lanka, including lowland, sub-montane and montane forests, and through collaboration with the other scientists in the country has produced numerous scientific publications.



Tamlyn Geiger
Artist

Artist/Textile Designer, Tamlyn Geiger is ready for her seventh year at the Annual Bird Week in 2024. The year's theme, 'Paint Me Wild!', will cover a variety of topics including watercolor, charcoal, and mixed media. Fun with sketching to warm up and a comprehensive exploration of bird anatomy, simplifying forms, and creating vibrant designs. Attendees are encouraged to bring an apron and their own bird photographs, though Tamlyn will also have images available for use. No prior experience is needed, and all equipment is provided.

Don't miss this chance to engage with Tamlyn and the Bird Week community at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat!
www.tamlyng.com.au.



Special Guest Speaker

Professor James Watson

James Watson is a Professor of Conservation Science at The University of Queensland. He leads the Research and Recovery of Endangered Species (RARES) Group (www.rares.org.au) whose mission is to work with partners to do applied research that is linked directly to the practice of site-based conservation of Australia's rarest species. James founded the International Union of Nature Conservation Climate Change Specialist Group in 2012 and served on the United Nation's International Panel for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Data and Knowledge Task Force. He is a Research Fellow for the United Nation's Environment Program, a Senior Technical expert for the United Nations Development Program's Global Programme on Nature for Development. He was also the first Australian to be the global president of the Society of Conservation Biology.



O'Reilly's
Bird Week
NOVEMBER 10 - 16

Special Guest Speaker

**Join us for an
informative talk by
Professor James
Watson**



**Monday 11 November
5:30pm**

**Uncovering Australia's
Least Known Birds**

Every day, birdwatchers across the nation head outdoors, seeking to spot some of Australia's 800+ bird species. Despite the enthusiasm and a long history of ornithological research, there is still so much to learn—especially as over 200 species face the threat of extinction, with many more possibly at risk.

In this engaging talk, Professor Watson will explore how citizen science data is helping to identify the birds we know the least about—species that may need urgent conservation efforts.

He'll take a deep dive into the top 10 least understood birds in Australia, sharing the groundbreaking research and conservation efforts aimed at protecting them for future generations.

Don't miss this opportunity to discover the science behind these remarkable species and learn how you can help.



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Artist Workshop: 3 Sessions Available

Paint Me Wild!

By Tamlyn Geiger

Tuesday 12 November 2pm

Wednesday 13 November 2pm

Thursday 14 November 11am

Immerse yourself in creativity and nature at Tamlyn Geiger's engaging workshop during Bird Week! Over the past five years, Tamlyn has captivated participants with her unique blend of mixed media, watercolors, and expert color mixing techniques. This year's sessions will cover a variety of topics including watercolor, charcoal, and mixed media, ensuring a fulfilling experience for all participants regardless of their skill level.

No prior experience is needed, and all equipment is provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring an apron and their own bird photographs, though Tamlyn will also have images available for use.

The workshop aims to offer fun with sketching to warm up and a comprehensive exploration of bird anatomy, simplifying forms, and creating vibrant designs.

Don't miss this chance to engage with Tamlyn and the Bird Week community at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat!





NOTE: Activities and workshops are subject to change on short notice.

Sunday 10 November

Day 1

Forest Weekend closes, Bird Week begins

3pm -
3.50pm

Welcome

Shuttle buses will be departing to the Lost World Conference Centre. Please meet outside the Discovery Centre

4pm

Welcome and Introduction to Bird Week in the Lost World Conference Centre. Meet the leaders and hear a brief overview of the program.

4:30pm

Introduction

Birds of Lamington National Park presentation. As an introduction to the birds of O'Reilly's, we'll run through some images and sounds of several of the local species you will be likely to encounter.

5:30pm

Drinks

6:30pm

Shuttle buses back to Reception

7pm

Dinner in the Dining Room



Hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to Reception

this evening or early tomorrow. Then advise as soon as possible of any future changes. Some tour options will have limited numbers so changes in advance will allow for leaders, logistics, catering and transport to be planned.

Please check the Notice Board in the Discovery Centre for tour lists, information and changes.

Local Day Mountain Birding

6am

Local rainforest bird walk (1½ hr) Meet outside the front door of the Reception area for this walk each day. Today we'll split into groups along the Border Track, Booyong Walk and main road. Back for Breakfast.

7:30am

Breakfast



REMINDER: HAND IN YOUR SELECTED FIELD TRIP ITINERARY OPTIONS TO RECEPTION BY THIS MORNING.

9am
(Repeat)
2pm



Wishing Tree Track
(1.5km, 3hr) Subtropical rainforest birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta and other birds. Downhill, some uneven surfaces, bus return from Cedar Tree.



Python Rock Lookout
(3km, 3hr) Vehicle drop off and pick up at track start. A wonderful subtropical rainforest walk, with possibilities including Paradise Riflebird and Noisy Pitta, and also potential eucalypt species and raptor sightings along the escarpment from the lookout deck.



Duck Creek Road
(3hr) Eucalypt forest edge, seeking Red-browed Treecreeper, Variegated Fairy-wren, White-naped Honeyeater, etc. Short walks near bus.

1pm

Lunch

1:45pm

Group photo. Meet outside Discovery Centre



2pm

Wishing Tree Track
(As above)



Python Rock Lookout
(As above)



Duck Creek Road
(As above)

5:30pm

Special Guest speaker: Professor James Watson (The University of Queensland)
His talk is entitled 'Uncovering Australia's Least Known Birds'.

7pm

Dinner in the Dining Room

8:30pm

Night birding (2 hr). We shall explore a few sites within easy reach of the guesthouse in search of the Sooty Owl and Marbled Frogmouth. Bring a torch or headlamp and don't forget your binoculars.

Eastern Lagoons OR Searching for Mountain Species

6am

Local bird walk (1½ hr) Tree Top Walk and Botanic Gardens

7am OR
7:30am

Breakfast

7:30am

Bus departs for **Eastern Lagoons** and **Eagleby Wetlands** - Lunch out, full day, short walks. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

OPTION
1

9am

Walking the Border Track towards Picnic Rock- (2½ hr, up to 4.5km – turn around whenever you want) More stunning subtropical rainforest with a chance of finding Albert's Lyrebird.

OPTION
2

Birds and Botany walk with Bill McDonald (1-2km, 3hr)

1pm

Lunch

OPTION
1

2pm

Charlies Waterhole (2½ hr) Vehicle-based birding and a short walk to a Bell Miner colony. Diverse mix of dry rainforest and eucalypt forest birds.

OPTION
2

West Cliffs/Pats Bluff circuit (5km, 3½ hr, rough underfoot with some uphill sections). Habitats towards the western escarpment including rainforest and open eucalypt forest and a spectacular escarpment that is home to the Peregrine Falcon.

OPTION
3

Painters' workshop with Tamlyn Geiger. 'Paint Me Wild!' Meet at the Pavilion

6:30pm

Bird count. Meet in the Theatrette to review what bird species have been seen so far.

7pm

Dinner in the Dining Room

Historic Track and Valley Birding with local options

3:30am

Dawn chorus (500m, 2hr) Meet outside Reception

6am

Local bird walk (1½ hr) Down the main road

7am

Breakfast

8am



Stockyard Creek track. Full day walk (mostly downhill!) 7-8km, 8hr. This track was the original access to O'Reilly's for guests and supplies. Steep edges, very loose underfoot, uneven terrain, medium-high fitness necessary. Lunch out and remember to take extra water. Top to bottom birding, seeking eucalypt forest birds such as Glossy Black-Cockatoo and lowland rainforest species such as White-eared Monarch and fruit-doves. Travel home by bus. Packed lunches.



Beaudesert- Western Lagoons and Kerry Valley bus trip. This full day tour targets lowland species in the farmland, parkland and drier woodland areas around Canungra and Beaudesert, as well as waterbirds at numerous dams in the area. Birding is from the bus and on short nearby walks. Packed lunches.

9am

Moran's Valley (3hr, back for lunch – vehicle-based, short nearby walks). Various stops across diverse habitats such as regrowth rainforest, wet eucalypt forest and escarpment country. Stopping at the Flying Fox, Moran's clearing and Balancing Rock.

1pm

Lunch *Those not going on full day trips can collect a packed lunch from Reception*



2pm

Luke's Bluff and Marie's Gate. (3hr) A mix of rainforest and edges, eucalypt forest and escarpment country. Great scenery, with several nearby sites visited, and a chance of seeing raptors.



Painters' workshop with Tamlyn Geiger.
'Paint Me Wild!' Meet at the Pavilion

6:30pm

Midweek Bird Count. Meet in the Theatre to review what bird species have been seen during the week so far.

7pm

Dinner in the Dining Room

Local Birding OR Tweed Caldera Trek

6am **Local bird walk** (1½ hr) Towards Centenary Track

7am **Breakfast**

8am **Border Track to Antarctic Beech forest** (13–16km return, 8-9hr). Search among the ancient Antarctic Beech trees for the elusive Rufous Scrub-bird and Olive Whistler. Many rainforest species will be found along the way. Lunch out.

OPTION
1

9am **Moran's Falls** (2.3km downhill, bus return, 2½ hr). Rainforest walk, ending in wet eucalypt forest and clifftop with waterfall. Chance of Noisy Pitta, Red-browed Treecreeper and raptors.

OPTION
2

Eucalypt forest bus to Duck Creek Road - Shepard's and Kerry Lookout areas (3hr) Seeking open forest birds. Short walks near bus up to 1km.

11am **Painters' workshop with Tamlyn Geiger.**
'Paint Me Wild!' Meet at the Pavilion

1pm **Lunch** *Those not going on full day trips can collect a packed lunch from Reception*

OPTION
1

2pm **Birding along the Lamington National Park Road.** (3hr, bus-based tour with short nearby walks). You would have already passed this country but not stopped to seek out its birds. A diverse array of species is possible.

OPTION
2

Wishing Tree Track (1½km, 3hr)
Subtropical rainforest birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta and other birds. Downhill, some uneven surfaces. Bus return from the Red Cedar Tree.

6:30pm **Bird Count.** Meet in the Theatrette to review what bird species have been seen during the week so far.

7pm **Dinner in the Dining Room**

8:30pm **Night birding (2hr).** We shall explore a few more sites within easy reach of the guesthouse in search of the Sooty Owl and Marbled Frogmouth. Bring a torch or headlamp and don't forget your binoculars.

Coastal Tour OR Mountain Birding

6am

Local bird walk (1½ hr) Towards Centenary Track Track and Booyong Walk

6am OR
7:30am

Breakfast

6:30am

Coastal Waders Tour. See what birds we can find in the coastal habitats at the eastern extremity of the local river catchment area, where the waders feed and roost. Depart for Gold Coast, including boat charter. Full day, packed lunch out. (Spaces limited)

9am



West Canungra Creek track (3hr, up to 5km, turn around whenever you want, gradual ascent on the way home). Lovely subtropical rainforest on the descent towards West Canungra Creek.



Birds and Botany walk with Bill McDonald (1-2km, 3hr)

1pm

Lunch

2pm



Python Rock Lookout (2½ hr, 3km) Vehicle drop off and pick up at track start. A wonderful subtropical rainforest walk, with possibilities including Paradise Riflebird and Noisy Pitta, and also potential eucalypt species and raptor sightings along the escarpment from the lookout deck.



Walking Moonlight Crag to O'Reilly's (3hr, 4 km, loose underfoot, some uphill sections). Scenic views over Lost World, a mix of rainforest, wet eucalypt and escarpment habitat. Medium fitness required.



Session on wildlife photography with Glen Threlfo. Meet in the Theatre

7pm

Dinner in the Dining Room

Top to bottom and all around

6am

Local bird walk (1½ hr) Villa track area/ campground

6am OR
7:30am

Breakfast

6:30am

Canungra Valley and beyond bus. The valley 'clean-up bus', targeting birds we may have missed in the valleys. Time is of the essence on this tour so we will be moving quickly and prioritising target species. Packed lunches.

9am



Bus drop off departs for (Upper) **Cainbale Falls off-track walk**. Take a trek along the old horse-riding route down to Cainbale Falls and take all day! Starting at Luke's Farm, we trek 4km down a Hoop Pine forest ridge to Cainbale Creek, which we follow down to Cainbale Falls. Next is a 2km gradual uphill journey to Duck Creek Road at Belson's Ridge for return vehicle transport. Drier rainforest, eucalypt and escarpment habitats will be encountered. Packed lunches, rough and slippery underfoot, with some steep sections, medium to high fitness and agility required.



Eucalypt forest bus to Duck Creek Road - Shepard's Lookout, Kerry Lookout and Belson's Road area (3hr) Seeking open forest birds. Short walks near bus up to 1km.

1pm

Lunch

2pm



Villa Trail (shortcut) to Moran's Falls, Centenary Track Circuit (4.5km, 2½ hr – rough underfoot in places, gradual ascent on the way home) Interesting circuit combining rainforest, rainforest edge and escarpment habitats.



West Cliffs/Pats Bluff circuit (5km, 3hr, rough underfoot, with some uphill sections). A variety of habitats towards the western escarpment, including rainforest and open eucalypt forest and a spectacular escarpment that is home to the Peregrine Falcon.

7pm

BBQ Dinner in Pavilion

Bird Week final dinner with speeches, reflections and presentation of the prestigious Bird Week Awards. A final Bird Count will be included to bring the species list up to date. Thank you everyone for being part of a great week!

O'Reilly's Bird Week

TERMS AND CONDITIONS



Hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to Reception in advance to avoid missing out on your preferred options.

Please Note:

* The program is subject to change at short notice. Changes to the program are covered during dinner, so please attend to stay in the loop. Information will also be on the noticeboard in the Discovery Centre.

* All activities are optional. Please feel free to be involved day and night or as casually as you wish. No one is obliged to attend all activities on the program. If, however, any activities on the regular Discovery Centre program (reduced for Bird Week) also take your fancy, please book and attend for these. Be sure to keep a track of your bird sightings for the bird count 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 too.

* 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 the Canungra main road unless conditions dramatically improve.

Tides: Southport Broadwater, 10-16 November 2024

Sun 10	2:56 AM AEST 0.97 m	8:30 AM AEST 0.50 m	3:06 PM AEST 1.44 m	10:05 PM AEST 0.32 m		4:48 AM AEST	6:12 PM AEST	12:04 PM AEST	12:50 AM AEST	
Mon 11	4:07 AM AEST 1.10 m	9:49 AM AEST 0.45 m	4:11 PM AEST 1.44 m	10:52 PM AEST 0.25 m		4:47 AM AEST	6:13 PM AEST	1:08 PM AEST	1:26 AM AEST	
Tue 12	5:06 AM AEST 1.26 m	10:58 AM AEST 0.38 m	5:11 PM AEST 1.44 m	11:35 PM AEST 0.19 m		4:47 AM AEST	6:13 PM AEST	2:13 PM AEST	2:00 AM AEST	
Wed 13	5:57 AM AEST 1.42 m	11:59 AM AEST 0.30 m	6:04 PM AEST 1.43 m			4:46 AM AEST	6:14 PM AEST	3:19 PM AEST	2:33 AM AEST	
Thu 14		12:17 AM AEST 0.13 m	6:45 AM AEST 1.57 m	12:55 PM AEST 0.24 m	6:55 PM AEST 1.39 m	4:46 AM AEST	6:15 PM AEST	4:27 PM AEST	3:08 AM AEST	
Fri 15		12:58 AM AEST 0.10 m	7:31 AM AEST 1.68 m	1:49 PM AEST 0.21 m	7:42 PM AEST 1.33 m	4:45 AM AEST	6:16 PM AEST	5:38 PM AEST	3:46 AM AEST	
Sat 16		1:39 AM AEST 0.10 m	8:17 AM AEST 1.75 m	2:42 PM AEST 0.22 m	8:29 PM AEST 1.25 m	Full Moon	4:45 AM AEST	6:16 PM AEST	6:51 PM AEST	4:29 AM AEST